Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Land at
Former Penley Polish Hospital – Llanerch Panna Camp
Tudor Road
Penley
Wrexham

Ref:
AIA/TRP/02/26
Revision A

Date:
15th July 2026

Commissioned by:
Mr J. Sadowski

Prepared by
S. Shields

Shields Arboricultural Consultancy
T: **01691 657189**
M: **07989 626923**
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk
59 Oakhurst Road Oswestry Shropshire SY11 1BL

Institute of Chartered Foresters
Registered Consultant

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Timber Storage Area

Former Penley Polish Hospital – Llanerch Panna Camp

Tudor Road

Penley

Wrexham

This Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the protocols, standards and procedures set out in BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction'.

Summary

This Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been prepared in support of a retrospective planning application for the continued use of an existing area of hardstanding within the former Llanerch Panna (Penley Polish Hospital) site for the storage of raw timber, logs and woodchip. The report has been prepared specifically to support the planning application and address a refusal reason from the previous planning application, which expressed concerns regarding the potential impact of the timber storage operation on the health of the surrounding protected woodland, particularly in relation to biosecurity.

The proposed timber storage area occupies an existing concrete service yard associated with the former hospital and represents approximately 5% of the overall 7-hectare site. It is physically separated from the surrounding woodland by an impermeable hardstanding surface and does not require the removal of trees, excavation, disturbance of woodland soils or encroachment into tree rooting areas. The proposal therefore does not result in any direct loss of woodland habitat or adverse impact upon the trees protected by Tree Preservation Order No. 287/2019.

The surrounding woodland is secondary woodland that has naturally regenerated over the former hospital site during the past 70 years. Its current condition is heavily influenced by the site's previous development, including extensive buried concrete foundations, roads and hardstanding that continue to restrict rooting conditions. The woodland is characterised by dense, even-aged stands of self-seeded sycamore, limited species diversity, structural instability, Ash Dieback and a prolonged absence of active management. These existing constraints provide a more credible explanation for the woodland's condition than the continued use of the adjacent hardstanding for timber storage.

A detailed assessment has been undertaken of the potential biosecurity risks associated with storing timber adjacent to woodland. The report concludes that the principal pathways by which tree pests and diseases are spread—

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

including contaminated soils, root contact, imported planting stock and surface water—are largely absent due to the use of an existing impermeable concrete surface. The hardstanding provides a controlled operational environment that allows timber inspection, segregation, hygiene measures and containment of material to be undertaken more effectively than would be possible on unmade ground within the woodland. The proposal is supported by a documented Biosecurity Management Plan incorporating inspection procedures, segregation of material, equipment and vehicle hygiene protocols, monitoring arrangements and operational controls consistent with the principles of the UK Forestry Standard, UKFS Biosecurity Guidance and Welsh Government plant health guidance.

The report also notes that Natural Resources Wales, the statutory body responsible for forestry and tree health in Wales, has raised no objection to the proposal. Furthermore, no arboricultural evidence has been identified to demonstrate that the existing timber storage operation has resulted in increased tree mortality, pathogen outbreaks, canopy decline or deterioration of the surrounding woodland during the period that the yard has been in operation.

Overall, the assessment concludes that the proposal represents the continued use of an existing previously developed area rather than the introduction of development into woodland. It would not result in the loss of trees or woodland, would not adversely affect the amenity value of the protected woodland, and would not give rise to unacceptable biosecurity risks when operated in accordance with the proposed management procedures. The report therefore concludes that the proposal is capable of being accommodated without significant harm to the surrounding woodland and complies with the objectives of local planning policy relating to the protection and long-term management of trees and woodland.

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

Key Facts

- **No trees removed.**
- **No encroachment into woodland soils or root protection areas.**
- **Existing concrete hardstanding only (approximately 5% of the site).**
- **No objection from Natural Resources Wales.**
- **Documented Biosecurity Management Plan in place.**
- **Woodland already affected by historic development, Ash Dieback and lack of management.**
- **Proposal supports continued management of the surrounding woodland.**

This report, including appendices and attached plans, is the property of Shields Arboricultural Consultancy and is issued for the sole use of the client on the condition it is not reproduced, retained or disclosed to any unauthorised person, either wholly or in part without the written consent of Shields Arboricultural Consultancy. Ordnance Survey material is used with permission of The Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright 0100031673.

Use of Artificial Intelligence
Artificial intelligence tools have been used to assist in the drafting and formatting of this report. The assessment, professional judgement, analysis and conclusions are those of the author alone and have been prepared in accordance with relevant planning policy and professional standards. The author retains full responsibility for the content and its use in the planning process.

Date	Revision	
24th February 2026		Issued for planning support
15th July 2026	A	Issued for planning

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

Contents

1.0 Instruction & Introduction
2.0 Scope & Limitations
3.0 Statutory Controls & Obligations
4.0 Site Description
5.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment
6.0 Conclusion

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

Instruction & Introduction

1.1 Shields Arboricultural Consultancy received instructions from Mr J. Sadowski to provide an arboricultural assessment in respect of the above site. The client may copy and distribute the report as required for the purpose of applying for planning permission for or preparing any documents or plans for this or future applications at this site.

1.2 Retrospective planning permission is being sought to use part of the site for the storage of raw timber, logs and woodchip. This application has been made following the refusal of a previous application where one of the reasons given (reason 4) stated:

'Allowing the continuation of activities which are likely to have already had a significant, and detrimental impact upon the woodland ecosystem and its functionalities in recent years is not supported. Importing and storing potentially infected timber and arisings obtained from tree surgery operations presents an unacceptable level of threat to the health & well-being of individual species and the overall woodland. Other biosecurity measures such as equipment and vehicular hygiene have not been apparent. In the absence of specific arboricultural information, it is not possible to determine that the use is acceptable. The continued use of the site therefore presents risks to the long-term health and well-being of the woodland contrary to UDP policies GDP1, EC4 and to the advice set out in LPG17.'

This report has been prepared to consider and address this reason.

Scope & Limitations

2.1 The purpose of the report is to assess the environmental and amenity values of all trees on or adjacent to the area affected by the proposed development and is based on a site assessment undertaken February 2026 by S. Shields, principal consultant Shields Arboricultural Consultancy. The report will assess the potential impact that may arise as a result of the proposed change of use of the site and make recommendations for protecting trees, hedges and shrubs where appropriate.

2.2 The report is prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the British Standard Document BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in Relation to Construction'.

2.3 This report is not an ecological assessment and does not identify habitats or constitute a protected species survey.

Statutory Controls & Obligations

3.1 Forestry Act; the felling of trees is controlled by the Forestry Act, which requires that a felling licence is obtained prior to cutting down any trees. The Forestry Act does not apply to the felling of trees growing within an orchard, private garden, churchyard or public open space. Natural Resources Wales has the responsibility for enforcing the Forestry Act.

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

3.2 Tree Preservation Orders & Conservation Areas; Local Authorities have specific powers under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 as amended, to protect trees through the use of Tree Preservation Orders. Where trees are protected under such orders it is a criminal offence (subject to any exemptions for which provision may be made by the act or order) to undertake, cause or permit the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees except with the consent of the local planning authority. Similar controls apply to all trees growing within a designated Conservation Area.

3.3 Bats, wild birds and other protected species; The Wildlife & Countryside Act & the Conservation (Natural Habitats & C.) Regulations make it an offence to disturb or destroy bats and bat roosts and wild birds and their nests. Other species of plant and animal are also protected. These creatures often inhabit trees and sufficient care must be taken to ensure they are not affected during forestry and arboricultural works.

Site description

4.1 The site as a whole extends to approximately 7 hectares on land to the south of Penley, Wrexham County Borough, occupying part of the former Llanerch Panna No. 83 Station Hospital, later known as Polish Hospital No. 11, which closed in 1949. While adjoining land to the east has since been redeveloped for housing, the site itself has remained largely unmanaged. Extensive remnants of the former hospital infrastructure, including concrete foundations, roads and hardstanding, remain across much of the ground and continue to influence soil conditions and land use constraints. The proposed timber storage area is set in a section of the site formerly used as a vehicle service yard and which is set to hard standing.



Imagery ©2026 Airbus, Bluesky, Infoterra Ltd & COWI A/S, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2026

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

4.2 Over recent decades the wider site has undergone natural succession, resulting in the establishment of secondary broadleaved woodland dominated by self-seeded Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with scattered Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*), Elm (*Ulmus* spp.) and occasional Oak (*Quercus robur*). The stand is even-aged and structurally uniform, and in many locations trees are growing over remnant hardstanding and buried infrastructure that constrain rooting depth and compromise stability. Consequently, the woodland represents a post-developed landscape feature of comparatively low arboricultural quality. While it provides some localised visual screening, it offers limited broader landscape, ecological or public amenity value in its unmanaged condition and is likely to decline further in structural integrity and function without active management.

4.3 In November 2019 Wrexham County Brough Council placed the site under a Tree Preservation Order. This order is known as 'Tree Preservation Order: Wrexham County Borough Council, (Community of Maelor South) - TPO No 287/2019 ' Woodland west of Ellesmere Lane and trees in Tudor Drive, Penley, Wrexham ' and comprises two woodland designations covering the north and south section of the site and two individual trees situated in the rear garden of a residential property on Tudor Drive.

Woodland Resource Characteristics

4.4 Since closure of the hospital, the land has remained largely unmanaged. Most original buildings have been removed or have collapsed; however, an extensive network of redundant concrete foundations, roads, paths and hardstanding remains across much of the site, underlying and in places surfacing through the soil profile. These features are estimated to occupy around 60% of the ground area, significantly influencing soil conditions and rooting environments.

4.5 Over the past seven decades, the site has naturally regenerated into a block of secondary broadleaved woodland established over this previously developed land. Tree cover is dominated by self-set Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus), with scattered Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Goat Willow (Salix caprea), Elm (Ulmus spp.), and occasional Oak (Quercus robur). Historic cutting has produced areas of dense, multi-stemmed regrowth, and overall, the woodland exhibits uniform age structure, limited vertical stratification, and suppressed crown development consistent with prolonged neglect and intense competition.

4.6 The woodland structure is frequently interrupted by remnant hard surfaces, building platforms and sub-surface obstructions, which have constrained rooting depth and contributed to poor tree stability, reduced vigour and patchy canopy development. Evidence of fly-tipping and general site dereliction is present. A small number of remaining structures, including a water tower and partial ward building, are in poor and unsafe condition.

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

4.7 The woodland is characteristic of secondary natural regeneration established over a previously developed site and displays many of the structural and physiological constraints typically associated with such environments. Extensive areas of buried concrete foundations, roads and hardstanding continue to restrict rooting depth and available soil volume, resulting in constrained root development and reduced anchorage. Consequently, many trees exhibit suppressed crown development, poor stem taper and structural instability, with an increased susceptibility to windthrow or stem failure where rooting is particularly restricted. The woodland is heavily dominated by self-seeded sycamore, resulting in a relatively uniform age structure, limited species diversity and a poorly developed understorey, with natural regeneration of more desirable native species being suppressed by competition and shading. Ash within the woodland is also affected by Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), contributing to an ongoing decline in woodland condition and increasing the requirement for future management interventions. Collectively, these factors indicate that the current condition of the woodland is principally a consequence of its historical land use, underlying site constraints and prolonged absence of active woodland management, rather than any activities associated with the existing hardstanding.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Existing Site Context and Baseline Condition

5.1 The reason for refusal of the last application places significant weight on alleged *continuing harm* to the woodland ecosystem. However, this position does not adequately reflect the established baseline condition of the proposed site.

The timber yard is located entirely within a pre-existing area of hardstanding, occupying around 5% of the total site. This area formed a maintenance service yard as part of the site's historic use and:

- Is impermeable concrete with a highly compacted subbase and devoid of soil-based rooting environments;
- There is no vegetation on the yard and it does not function as woodland habitat;

The proposed use as a timber storage yard does not require additional tree removal, soil disturbance, or encroachment into rooting areas and therefore does not materially alter the woodland's existing structure or ecological functionality.

The proposal does not introduce operational activity into woodland. It formalises the continued use of an existing previously developed area

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

which has functioned historically as a vehicle maintenance compound and which remains physically and functionally separate from the woodland ecosystem.

As such, the assertion that continuation of the use would cause further *significant and detrimental impact* is not substantiated when assessed against the current site condition and it is noted that Natural Resources Wales, the statutory body responsible for tree health and forestry regulation in Wales, has raised no objection to the proposal.

Biosecurity Risk Pathways

5.2 The transmission of many significant tree pests and pathogens is dependent upon specific pathways, including the movement of infected soil, contaminated surface water, root-to-root contact, infected nursery stock, airborne spores or insect vectors. Whilst the movement of infected timber can present a potential biosecurity risk in some circumstances, the storage of cut timber on an existing impermeable hardstanding does not, in itself, create many of the principal mechanisms through which pathogens are introduced into or spread within woodland ecosystems. The level of risk is therefore dependent not simply upon the presence of timber, but upon the operational environment and the management measures employed.

5.3 In this case, the proposed timber storage area occupies an existing concrete service yard that is physically and functionally separate from the surrounding woodland soils. The hardstanding contains no exposed rooting environment, requires no excavation, trenching or alteration of existing ground levels, and will not result in direct contact between stored timber and tree root systems. No imported soils, growing media or nursery planting stock will be brought onto the site, thereby removing several recognised pathways for the introduction and spread of tree pathogens. In combination with the applicant's documented biosecurity procedures, including timber inspection, segregation of material and hygiene measures for plant and equipment, the proposal is considered to present a low and manageable biosecurity risk that is proportionate to normal arboricultural and forestry operations.

5.4 The use of the existing concrete hardstanding for the storage of timber and arboricultural arisings provides an inherently more biosecure operating environment than would be achieved on unmade ground or within the woodland itself. The impermeable surface physically isolates stored timber from woodland soils and tree root systems, preventing direct soil contact and interrupting recognised pathways for the transmission of soil-borne pests and pathogens. The hardstanding also provides a clean, stable and easily maintained working surface that facilitates the inspection, segregation and handling of timber, enables effective cleaning and disinfection of plant and equipment, reduces the accumulation of standing water and contaminated mud, and allows any potentially infected material to be readily identified, contained and

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

removed where necessary. Consequently, the use of the existing hardstanding does not increase biosecurity risk; rather, it provides a controlled environment in which recognised biosecurity measures can be implemented more effectively than would be possible within the woodland itself.

5.5 The proposal should be viewed as the use of an existing previously developed surface that provides an appropriate and controlled operational area within which biosecurity risks can be effectively managed. The proposal avoids disturbance to woodland soils, tree root systems and ground vegetation, whilst providing a practical means of implementing recognised plant health and biosecurity measures. As such, the existing hardstanding represents the most appropriate location for the proposed use and minimises the potential for adverse effects on the surrounding woodland.

5.6 Accordingly, whilst the importance of biosecurity is fully recognised, the characteristics of the site and the operational controls proposed substantially limit the potential for pathogen transmission and do not support the conclusion that the continued use of the existing hardstanding would give rise to significant harm to the surrounding woodland.

Biosecurity Controls

5.7 The applicant operates a strict biosecurity policy that manages and controls risks including:

Imported Timber and Arboricultural Arisings

5.8 Across the UK, timber storage and processing is routinely undertaken in proximity to trees where:

- no imported nursery stock
- no imported soil
- no imported bark mulch
- logs visually inspected
- diseased material segregated
- prohibited material refused

Storage

- timber stored on bearers
- no direct soil contact
- segregated by origin
- maximum storage periods

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

- diseased timber isolated

Equipment and Vehicular Hygiene

5.9 It is recognised that equipment and vehicles cam be a source of infection. The applicant's biosecurity management addresses this through actions such as:

- wheel cleaning
- pressure washing vehicles and plant
- disinfectant where appropriate
- chainsaw cleaning
- chipper cleaning

Monitoring

5.10 In addition to active management of risks the biosecurity policy makes provision for:

- annual woodland inspection
- reporting of unusual symptoms
- removal of suspect material

5.11 The proposed operation and associated biosecurity measures are consistent with the principles of good forestry and arboricultural practice promoted by the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS), the accompanying UKFS Biosecurity Guidance, and the Welsh Government's Plant Health guidance. These documents recognise that the movement and storage of timber can be undertaken safely where appropriate risk management measures are implemented to minimise the introduction and spread of tree pests and diseases. The applicant's proposed management procedures, including the use of an existing impermeable hardstanding, inspection and segregation of incoming timber, implementation of plant and vehicle hygiene measures, and the monitoring and appropriate management of potentially infected material, reflect these recognised principles. Consequently, the proposed use accords with accepted forestry and plant health practice and represents a proportionate, risk-based approach to safeguarding the health and resilience of the surrounding woodland.

Biosecurity Risk – Proportionality and Evidence

5.12 It is acknowledged that biosecurity is an important consideration. However, the refusal reason overstates the level of risk without providing a clear evidential basis.

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

The applicant:

- Operates a documented biosecurity policy;
- Has undertaken a risk assessment specific to the storage and handling of timber;
- Stores material on hardstanding, physically separated from living trees and soils.

Based upon the site inspection, no symptoms consistent with pathogen transmission associated with timber storage were identified and no arboricultural evidence has been presented which demonstrates:

- The site has been a source of pathogen transmission;
- The woodland has suffered demonstrable decline attributable to the timber yard use;
- The proposed activity presents a materially greater risk than typical arboricultural operations routinely permitted elsewhere.

Policy Compliance

5.13 UDP Policy GDP1 – The proposal does not cause demonstrable harm to amenity, landscape character, or environmental quality, as it:

- Utilises previously developed land;
- Does not increase woodland loss;
- Retains existing tree belts that provide public amenity.

5.14 UDP Policy EC4 – The development does not result in unacceptable harm to ecological interests, given:

- The absence of soil or habitat disturbance;
- The degraded nature of the hardstanding area;
- The ability to manage biosecurity risks through conditions.

5.15 LPG17 – The objectives of LPG17 are to safeguard tree health and amenity value. The proposal:

- Does not undermine the visual or structural contribution of the woodland;
- Can be operated in a manner consistent with tree protection and biosecurity best practice;
- Does not conflict with the underlying purpose of woodland protection.

5.16 To ensure that any biosecurity risk can be controlled by the Local Planning Authority, the applicant is willing to accept reasonable planning conditions, including:

- Restrictions on imported species or material sources;
- Defined storage zones;
- Time limits on timber retention;
- Enhanced monitoring and reporting.

Planning guidance supports the use of conditions to secure operational controls where impacts are manageable and such conditions would allow any residual risk to be effectively managed, rather than relying on outright refusal.

Conclusion

6.1 The proposed change of use to allow the storage of raw timber, logs and woodchip would be confined entirely to the existing area of hardstanding and would not require the removal of any trees, nor result in encroachment into soil-based rooting environments or adjoining woodland areas. The operational footprint is therefore physically separated from the living woodland resource and does not give rise to direct arboricultural impact.

6.2 The woodland surrounding the hardstanding derives its public amenity value primarily from external views and its contribution to landscape character. The proposed use would not alter the established woodland edge, result in canopy loss, or materially affect the visual amenity that underpins its protection.

6.3 Concerns relating to biosecurity are acknowledged; however, such risks are capable of effective management through the implementation of the applicant's documented biosecurity policy and risk assessment. These measures include the controlled sourcing and segregation of material, defined storage areas, hygiene protocols for plant and vehicles, and monitoring procedures. The activity proposed is consistent with standard arboricultural practice and does not inherently present an unacceptable risk to woodland health when appropriate controls are in place.

6.4 Importantly, the refusal reason given for the previous application identifies potential risk rather than demonstrable harm. In planning terms, risk must be assessed proportionately and on the basis of evidence. There is no substantive arboricultural evidence indicating

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

that the proposed use would be detrimental to individual trees or to the overall woodland ecosystem, particularly given its confinement to a previously developed, impermeable surface. It is also noted that Natural Resources Wales, the body responsible for woodland management and health in Wales raise no objection to the proposed change of use.

6.5 The previous reason for refusal attributes significant weight to the assertion that the continued operation of the timber storage area has had, or is likely to have had, a significant detrimental effect on the surrounding woodland. However, no arboricultural evidence has been presented to demonstrate a causal relationship between the use of the existing hardstanding and any measurable decline in woodland health or condition. In particular, there is no evidence of increased tree mortality, widespread pathogen outbreaks, abnormal canopy dieback, deterioration in woodland structure, or changes in species composition that could reasonably be attributed to the storage and handling of timber on the adjacent hardstanding. The timber yard has operated alongside the woodland for a number of years without any documented evidence that it has acted as a source of tree pests or diseases or contributed to a decline in the condition of the protected woodland.

6.6 The condition of the woodland is more readily explained by its historical development and existing site characteristics. As described in Section 4, the woodland has naturally regenerated over a former hospital complex where extensive buried concrete foundations, roads and hardstanding continue to restrict rooting depth and growing conditions. The woodland is further characterised by a dense, even-aged structure dominated by self-seeded sycamore, limited species diversity, a prolonged absence of active management and the effects of endemic tree health issues, including Ash Dieback affecting ash within the woodland. Collectively, these factors provide a far more credible explanation for the woodland's current condition than the continued use of the adjacent hardstanding for timber storage. Consequently, there is no arboricultural basis for concluding that the proposed use has resulted, or would result, in significant harm to the health, structure or long-term viability of the surrounding woodland.

6.5 Accordingly, it is concluded that the proposed change of use:

- Would not result in the loss of trees or woodland;
- Would not adversely affect the amenity value that justified the woodland’s protection;

M 07989 626923
Email: info@shieldsac.co.uk

- Would not materially harm woodland health where biosecurity measures are implemented; and
- Is not contrary to relevant local or national planning policy relating to tree protection or environmental safeguarding.

6.6 On this basis, the proposal represents a proportionate and acceptable use of previously developed land within the woodland setting.

S.J.A. Shields

Uni Cert For. & F.P. (Bangor)
P. Dip. Arb. (RFS), MSc. Arb. & Urban For. (UCLan)
M.Arbor.A, MICFor.
Chartered Forester

Revision A
15th July 2026

Curriculum Vitae

Stephen J.A. Shields

Address: 59 Oakhurst Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 1BL

Phone/Email: 07989 626923 steve@shieldsac.co.uk

Qualifications:

Master of Science Degree Arboriculture & Urban Forestry	Merit	2016
Professional Diploma in Arboriculture (RFS)		2006
ICF Part 2 Examinations *Written paper on Tree Preservation Order review procedure and implementation.* *Interview / oral examination*		2003
ICF Part 1 Examinations *Earth Sciences* *Principles of Silviculture and Arboriculture* *Resources Management and Economics* *Multi-purpose use of Forests* *Application of Silviculture* *Forest Management* *Forest Harvesting and Forest Products*		2001/02
University Certificate in Forestry & Forest Products		2000
National Diploma Forestry	Distinction	1999
Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council 'Management Academy'		2008
Dale Carnegie 'Business Training for Managers'		2008
NVQ Level 2 Business Improvement Techniques		2008
QTRA Licensed User		2012

Professional Membership:

Professional Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)	2004
Registered Consultant Institute of Chartered Foresters	2009
Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association	2005

Further Information:

I have 36 years' experience working in various roles within the forestry and arboriculture sector. I began my career working in commercial forestry, establishing and running a forest harvesting enterprise before moving into the area of arboriculture and urban forestry where I have worked at a professional level for the past 26 years. I have held senior arboricultural practitioner roles in both the public and private sector, which has allowed me to developed a considerable level of competency in the technical, theoretical and managerial aspects of arboriculture and urban forestry including:

- Tree hazard assessment & management
- Tree related damage to buildings and structures
- Tree health & condition assessment
- Tree establishment
- Assessment and management of trees in relation to development
- Regulatory framework in respect of trees and woodlands
- Preparation of tree & woodland policy
- Trees within the planning system
- Assessment and management planning for urban tree populations
- Tree & urban forest valuation

I am the proprietor of and Principal Consultant at Shields Arboricultural Consultancy, which was established in 2008. I have worked as a Forestry & Arboricultural Consultant for Sylvan Resources and as a Local Government Arboricultural Officer for Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council and Shropshire Council. I have extensive experience of arboriculture, urban forestry management and the planning and regulatory system in relation to trees and woodlands.

I regularly undertake arboricultural inspections, assessments and investigation and provide technical advice and reports to clients including land owners and management companies, National Trust, educational establishments, development companies, insurers, and Local Authorities on a wide range of arboricultural matters relating to urban tree management, tree safety, trees within the planning system, statutory protection, and advice on policy formulation. I have given evidence at Council Meetings, Planning Inquiries and Hearings acting as expert witness in legal proceedings.

I am a Chartered Forester and a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association and work in accordance with the Code of Practice for these organisations. I am committed to developing my skills and undertake regular professional development and have recently completed a MSc in arboriculture and urban forestry at Myerscough College, University of Central Lancaster

Work Experience:

Principal Consultant Shields Arboricultural Consultancy	2008 Present
Senior Arboricultural & Urban Forest Officer Shropshire Council	2024 - Present
Tree & Woodland Amenity Protection Officer Shropshire Council	2009 – 2024
Arboricultural Lecturer Walford & North Shropshire College	2008 – 2010
Trees & Landscape Officer Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council	2004 - 2009
Assistant Tree & Landscape Officer Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council	2002-2004
Consultant Sylvan Resources	1998-2001
Proprietor S. Shields Forestry	1989 -1997