Arboricultural Method Statement

Demolition of existing Community Centre and construction of new building with associated parking and landscaping
Community Centre
Prices Lane
Wrexham
LL11 2NB

Commissioned by:	**Surveyed and reported on by:**	**Report Date:**
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Arboricultural ASSOCIATION Professional Member

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1.0 Aims and requirements

1.1 This arboricultural method statement (AMS) is prepared to ensure retained trees are adequately protected before and throughout the construction phase of the development and are carried out to the required standard.

1.2 Planning permission has been granted[1] for the proposed work at the site. Conditions 3, 4 and 5 relate to trees requiring an AMS to be created and include:

i) Specifications for protective fencing
ii) A tree protection plan
iii) Specification for any special engineering near to trees
iv) Details for general arboricultural matters
v) Supervisory visits
vi) Tree protection during demolition
vii) Details of tree works
viii) Tree replacement
ix) Replacement tree maintenance to ensure they succeed

[1] Wrexham County Borough Council Planning Permission P/2025/0828

1.3 This arboricultural method statement brings these matters together. It is produced to guide contractors on how to carry out work close to trees and to show the local planning authority that the proposed works will not harm the large and important retained trees and that replacement trees will reach maturity.

1.4 Construction activities close to trees have the potential to seriously damage or kill them. This AMS is produced to ensure that if followed, trees on site will not be significantly harmed by the work carried out on them.

1.5 This AMS aims to guide developers and contractors in the best way possible to protect the trees that are scheduled to be retained due to their arboricultural, landscape or ecological value. Retaining trees within a development is a purposeful act to provide high amenity to owners, break up the hard lines of buildings and add value to the properties. Retained trees are an important benefit to the development and should be treated so.

1.6 A designated person, usually the site foreman, is to be made responsible for seeing through this method statement. They should understand it and be happy with all aspects of its requirements. Additionally, the designated person should be able to explain to anyone working on site the need to protect retained trees and how to achieve this. If staff or contractors act in a way that damages trees, the designated person needs to be able to stop the activity and take the required disciplinary measures. The designated person is to be made known to the Council.

1.7 Should the correct sequence and manner of operations not be followed, it may result in damage to trees which could be held as a breach of planning consent, opening up the possibility of legal consequences.

1.8 Experience has shown that the lack of timely installation of correctly designed and placed protective fencing that has been suitably secured and its retention throughout the construction phase is the primary reason for damage to retained trees. This can lead to work stoppages, enforcement notices, fines, and expensive remediation programmes.

1.9 Although correctly placed, constructed, secured and maintained fencing prevents the majority of common problems, it does not cover every eventuality. Diligent care for the trees and consideration for them are required of all those working on site.

1.10 If at any time, there appears to be a problem with trees or damage is likely to happen to them, then the work should not be carried out until the opinion of an arboriculturist is sought.

2.0 Some basic useful facts

2.1 Appendix F is a schedule of all trees found on site at the time of the tree survey. It may be useful to refer to should the category, dimensions or condition of trees is required.

2.2 Given the strong nature of wood and the impressive structure of trees, it would be easy to think that they are tough organisms that can suffer much abuse. However, despite strong trunks and branches, trees can easily be severely harmed. While damage to above-ground parts of the tree is easy to envisage, more often than not, trees are usually damaged below ground. Here, digging through fairly fragile roots, compacting the soil in which they exist, or poisoning is easy to do, and often no immediate sign of the damage can be easily detected.

2.3 Tree roots do not mirror the above-ground part of the tree. In areas with good soil conditions, they are unlikely to be found much deeper than 1m below the ground and will often extend to twice the crown radius or more. Most roots are very thin.

2.4 In areas that make rooting difficult, such as within the urban environment where compacted soil, foundations, paved areas and services limit natural rooting patterns, then trees will adapt to best utilise whatever resources they can obtain. This may involve rooting to much deeper depths, in one direction only, or following a complicated and unlikely path to reach resources.

2.5 Within the planning process, trees are categorised to reflect the quality they possess in the landscape. Appendix B, taken from BS5837:2012, shows how this categorisation is determined, although arboriculturists will sometimes upgrade or downgrade trees for site-specific reasons. In short, the higher the category, the more important it is to ensure the tree is not damaged by construction work.

2.6 A design tool called the root protection area (RPA)[2] is used by arboriculturists to show where, if all other roots outside it were to be removed, the tree could survive with no significant harm to it and enable it to continue its growth. It is calculated as an area of 12x the diameter of the trunk at 1.5m from the ground or its mathematical equivalent for multi-stemmed trees[3].

2.7 Sometimes, due to the reasons for asymmetrical rooting as described in para. 2.3, an RPA may be drawn differently to show the required area in a position where the tree can gain a good rooting potential.

2.8 RPAs are primarily set aside for the tree. They require uncompacted, healthy soil to allow the tree to access air, water and nutrients. Therefore, on a construction

[2] BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction: recommendations, section 4.6
[3] BS5837:2012 section 4.6.1 a) & b)

site, the RPAs are fenced off to prevent any damage to the soil or roots within them.

3.0 Avoiding damage

3.1 Soil can be easily compacted; just a few passes of a vehicle can compact pore space within a soil to begin to have a substantially negative impact on a tree. Repeated walking on the same section of soil can also have a significant impact over time. This is an important reason to fence off RPAs.

3.2 As already mentioned, the designated person, usually the site foreman, is responsible for the retained trees on site. They should work with those planning the work on site to ensure it is carried out carefully and logically, with due consideration for the protection of retained trees. Any operations that could damage trees should be carried out in a way that avoids damage, with steps in place to ensure this. If damage is likely and no other way is envisaged, an arboriculturist should be consulted before the operation takes place.

3.3 Breaches of planning control in relation to trees can often be very difficult, or impossible, to put right. This can result in large fines, the implementation of emergency tree preservation orders, stop-work notices, expensive remediation, and, in the case of trees covered by preservation orders, criminal convictions and fines.

3.4 It is therefore imperative to correctly fence off RPAs, and no attempt should be made to use them as building stores, parking or storage areas, shortcuts or refuse piles.

3.5 Should the need to enter an RPA occur, then this should be done by the responsible person, or under someone under their supervision.

3.6 No trenching should occur within the RPA unless this is done using trenchless techniques. Set-off and retrieval pits should be outside any RPA.

3.7 No fire is to be lit within 10 metres of the crown of any tree. No plastics, chemical containers or items suspected of being noxious should be burnt to ensure fumes do not damage trees.

4.0 Sequence of events

4.1 The order of events should be:

1. Pre-commencement discussions with arboriculturist
2. Tree work
3. Setting out tree protection
4. Demolition and construction
5. Removal of protective fencing
6. Landscaping and tree planting

4.2 The sequence of events has been drawn up to ensure trees remain protected throughout the build. Should the developer need to alter the sequence, then plans will need to be drawn up with the arboriculturist to ensure trees remain protected.

5.0 Method statement

5.1 Pre-commencement discussion with arboriculturist

1. Before any activity takes place on site, a meeting will occur between the site foreman and/or person responsible for day-to-day tree protection. This will take place, ideally, as a site meeting, but could also occur as a conference call.

2. The main points of the discussion will be a run-through of the method statement including:

3. The legal requirements driving the protection of the trees, including the importance of maintaining protective fencing and ensuring RPAs are not compacted or poisoned.

4. Areas for parking, storage of plant fuel and equipment as well as a mixing area.

5. Method of working to ensure trees are protected, including mixing areas and any special engineering that may be specified.

6. Possible unexpected occurrences which may require actions to ensure the safety of trees. i.e. spill kits for mixing areas to neutralise harmful spills quickly.

7. Contact details for an arboriculturist should their advice be needed.

8. Any other questions or required points.

5.2 Tree work

1. Appendix A, the tree work plan provides a comprehensive list of trees to be felled and retained. This will be useful for obtaining quotes for tree work and for on-site reference by the tree work contractor. The arboriculturist's telephone number is on this document, and should there be any queries, contact them to clarify.

2. Tree work vehicles are to park on the existing parking within the site; items such as a tracked chipper are not to drive over root protection areas of retained trees.

3. The Category U Rowan Ro1 is to be removed as it is in very poor shape and not suitable for a park. A new extended parking area will also require the removal of Ch4, Ch5 and Ch6. Additionally, Hb16, which lies within the footprint of the new building, will need to be removed

4. Tree workers are to be experienced, qualified and insured. All work is to comply with BS3998:2010[4] and any deviation from these standards will require sufficient justification.

5.3 Setting out tree protection

1. Protective fencing is to be used to protect areas where access is temporarily forbidden to ensure soil and roots are not damaged during the demolition and construction phase of the development. Experience shows that poor attention to the timely and correct installation of protective fencing is the main reason for damage to trees proposed for retention, which can lead to the highly undesirable problems as set out in para 3.3.

2. Before any demolition or construction activity, such as the arrival of plant, machinery, site buildings or materials being delivered to the site, the protective fencing should be installed and approved with the project arboriculturist.

3. The protective fencing should comply with or be comparable with the specifications as set out in BS5837:2012[5], examples of which are shown in Appendix D. The use of on-site features such as an existing building or natural features can help to reduce the need for fencing, but the character of

[4] BS3998:2010 Tree work: recommendations

[5] BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction: recommendations Figures 2 & 3 – protective fencing. Reproduced in appendix D.

the barrier will need to be the same. It should not be movable or easily breached without tools.

4. The positioning of protective fencing is shown in Appendix B, the tree protection plan. With this, minimum distances of the protective fencing are shown in purple.

5. Every second fencing panel needs to warn of the need to maintain protective fencing around trees. Every second panel needs to have the note from Appendix E placed on it. It will need to be laminated to prevent damage from the weather.

6. Should the design need to be altered for site-specific reasons, the approval of the project arboriculturist and local planning authority (LPA) will need to be specified in writing.

7. A check needs to be made that no RPAs will need to be entered during the building phase. Once fenced off, the RPAs should remain this way.

8. Before any demolition, groundworks, levelling, excavation or demolition, photographs to show the fencing, how it has been made immovable and the distance from the tree should be taken. They should be sent to the project arboriculturist and the LPA tree officer to demonstrate that the fencing is in place and fit for purpose.

9. Protective fencing should remain in place and be unbreeched throughout the construction period.

10. At the same time as the installation of the protective fencing or perhaps just before to allow full access to the site, the surveyor is to set out the site. This will aid the placement of protective fencing where it will need to interact with built features on the site.

11. Once all the ground protection is in place, demolition and construction work can begin.

5.4 Demolition and construction

1. Apart from the removal of trees on the site, there will be a need to demolish the existing building. This should take place once protective fencing has been installed. Machines used for demolition can operate from the current car park, and vehicles used to remove rubble have space to be efficiently loaded there. All materials are to be folded into the site rather than outside of it where protective fencing will be damaged.

2. Once the demolition and removal of material have ceased, deliveries of materials are to be unloaded and stored away from trees. Delivery areas should be placed in positions that are naturally easy to access and will avoid the need for hi-abs to conflict with trees.

3. Builders' vehicles are to be parked in the parking area. Protective fencing is not to be moved to allow parking within protected areas.

4. A mixing area is to be designated for the mixing of all cement and preparation of all chemicals. Mixing of fuels and fuelling of all small-engine machinery, such as Stihl saws, are to be carried out in the mixing area. It should have an impenetrable floor and a bund of at least 50mm to catch any spills. This will prevent any tree from being contaminated by chemicals from the construction phase. A visquine barrier would be perfectly suitable for such a purpose.

5. Appendix B, the tree protection plan shows the location of the storage, mixing and parking areas.

6. Services for the new building will already be on site. Should new services need to be dug, they can enter or exit the site through the middle of the entrance drive. Should they need to enter an RPA, a site-specific method statement must be produced.

7. Should protective fencing be damaged, it should be repaired immediately.

5.5 Removal of protective fencing

1. Protective fencing is to remain in place throughout the build. Once all construction work and hard landscaping have ceased, and all plant, site buildings, skips, building spoil, and materials have been removed, can protective fencing be dismantled and removed?

1. Care must be taken to not harm the soil within the RPA at this late stage. Vehicles collecting protective fencing are to remain on hard standing and strictly not enter RPAs. Pins driven into the ground to secure fencing should be drawn out cleanly without tearing into the soil and damaging roots

5.6 Tree planting to add into Landscaping plan

2. While the tree planting plan does not encapsulate the entire landscaping plan, it provides the nuanced details of tree selection, planting and aftercare. It should be incorporated into the landscaping plan.

3. Appendix G is a separate tree planting plan and schedule.

6 Conclusion

1. The diligent following of this method statement will ensure the trees that are to be retained on site will not be significantly damaged by the construction work.

2. Should anyone have any questions in relation to this method statement or any operation where concerns may be raised about trees, then they should firstly consult an arboriculturist.

3. Correctly following the method statement will ensure the health and longevity of retained trees. This will bring instant maturity to the site, providing a desirable place to live and work.

Appendix A

Rhosddu Community Centre, Price's Lane,
Wrexham LL11 2NB

Tree Work Plan
Showing all trees, crown dimensions, tree categories and proposed work to trees

SCALE : 1 : 500 @ A3

DATE : 13/09/2026

David Bailey Old Oak Tree Care 01630 673216
07813 808174 oldoaktree@talktalk.net

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Plan reference:
PC26/877/TWP

Legend

Crown Spread

Root Protection Area

Category 'A' Category 'B' Category 'C' Category 'U'

0 40m

Tree Work

Ro1	Rowan	Fell
Ch4	Cherry	Fell
Ch5	Cherry	Fell
Ch6	Cherry	Fell

All tree work to be carried out to BS3998:2010 or above

Tree work contractors are to be insured to the minimim level for the opperations they carry out

Fell Trees

Fell Tree

Fell Tree

Ch2 B
Ro1
Ch4 B
Sy3 B
Ch5 B
Ch6 C
Hb16 C
Li7 B
Ch8 C
Ch9 B
Sy10 B
Ch12 B
FA11 C B
NM15 B
NM13 B
G14 C

PRICE'S LANE

73 75 29

Appendix B

Rhosddu Community Centre, Price's Lane,
Wrexham LL11 2NB

Tree Protection Plan
Showing all reained trees, crown dimensions, tree categories, RPAs and protective fencing

SCALE : 1 : 500 @ A3

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Plan reference:
PC26/877/TPP

Legend

Protective fencing | Woodchip | Ground protection | Minimum fencing distance

Crown Spread | Root Protection Area

Category 'A' | Category 'B' | Category 'C' | Category 'U'

0 40m

Storage area
Mixing area
Parking area
Community Centre
Shelter
Posts
TCB
El Sub Sta
To edge of crown
To edge of crown
7m
10m
Ch2 B
Sy1 B
Ch3 C
Ch9 B
Sy10 B
Ch12 B
FA11 B
NM13 B
G14 B
NM15 B
73
75
84.1m
L%%212N PRICE /PRICES LANE

Appendix C Tree Catagories

Table 1 of BS5837:2012

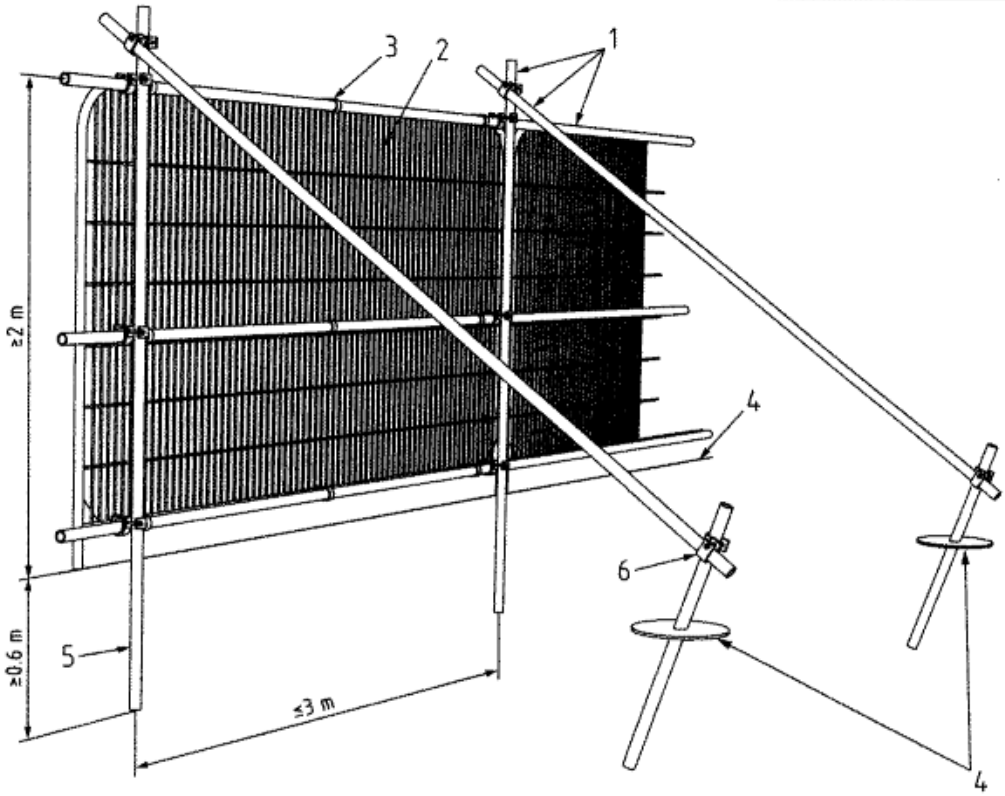
Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)				
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	• Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality *NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.*			See Table 2
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	**2 Mainly landscape qualities**	**3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation**	
Trees to be considered for retention				
Category A **Trees of high quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	See Table 2
Category B **Trees of moderate quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2
Category C **Trees of low quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2

Appendix D

Figure 2 of BS5837:2012

Figure 2 **Default specification for protective barrier**

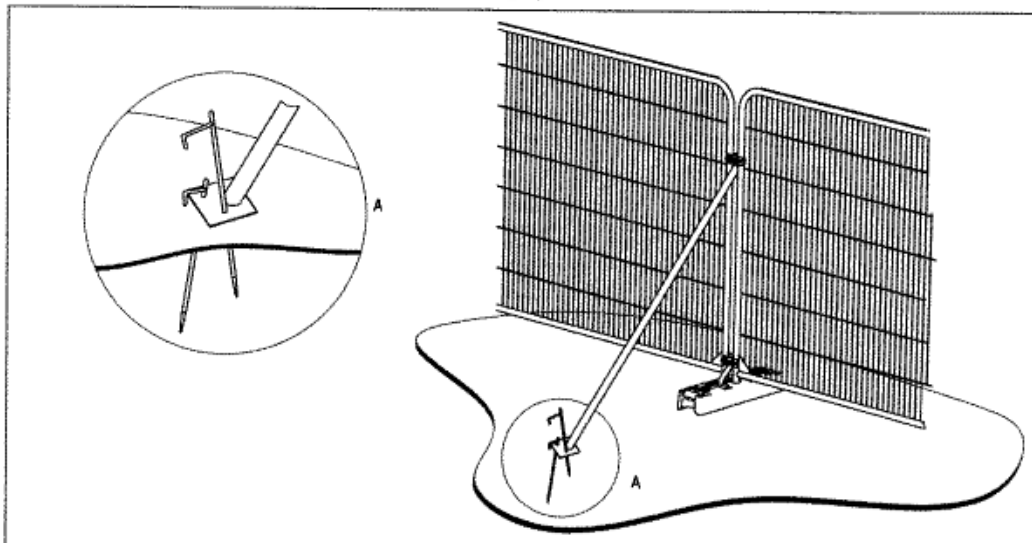


Key

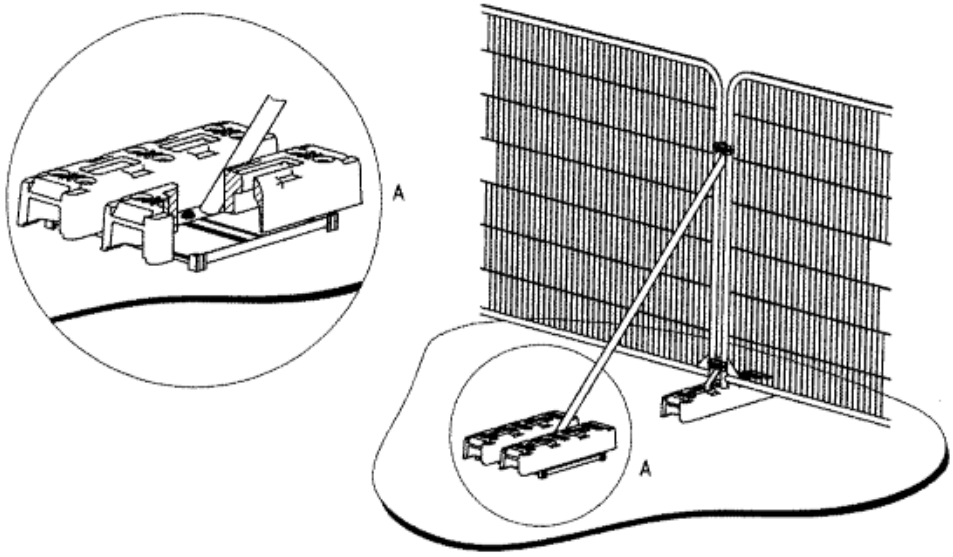
1 Standard scaffold poles
2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
3 Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties
4 Ground level
5 Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)
6 Standard scaffold clamps

Appendix D (continued) Figure 3 of BS5837:2012

Figure 3 **Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems**



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray



PROTECTIVE FENCING. THIS FENCING MUST BE MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED PLANS AND DRAWINGS FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT.



TREE PROTECTION AREA

KEEP OUT !

(TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)
TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY PLANNING CONDITIONS AND/OR ARE THE SUBJECTS OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER.
CONTRAVENTION OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER MAY LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

Appendix E			Tree Schedule																
Tree number	Species	Height (m)	Diameter (mm)	N Crown spread (m)	E	S	W	N Crown Height (m)	E	S	W	Age bracket	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Years remaining	Quality assessment	RPA radius(m)	RPA Area (m2)	Notes
Ro1	Rowan	9	300	3	0	2	3	3	3	3	3	mature	fair	fair	<10	U	3.6	41	0
Ch2	Cherry	16	575	8	8	7	7	1	1	1	1	mature	good	good	10 to 20	B	6.9	150	0
Sy3	Sycamore	20	500	8	9	10	7	2	2	2	2	mature	good	good	20 to 40	B	6	113	0
Ch4	Cherry	17	500	5	5	5	6	1	5	1	1	mature	good	good	10 to 20	B	6	113	0
Ch5	Cherry	16	525	7	8	5	6	3	4	5	1	mature	good	good	10 to 20	B	6.3	125	0
Ch6	Cherry	16	425	7	12	8	8	5	3	2	2	mature	good	good	10 to 20	C	5.1	82	Ganoderma species fungi at base of tree
Li7	Lime	16	425	6	6	4	5	2	3	5	2	mature	good	good	20 to 40	B	5.1	82	0
Ch8	Cherry	16	375	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	mature	good	good	10 to 20	C	4.5	64	supressed by larger trees
Ch9	Cherry	20	450	10	8	7	9	3	4	6	6	mature	good	good	10 to 20	C	5.4	92	forms a joint crown with Sy10
Sy10	Sycamore	20	450	5	7	7	6	10	2	2	2	mature	good	good	20 to 40	B	5.4	92	forms a joint crown with Ch9
FA11	False Acacia	19	825	4	10	12	5	10	4	4	10	mature	good	good	10 to 20	B	9.9	308	significant lean over road most likely caused by nearby tree, now missing
Ch12	Cherry	11	525	8	9	8	7	1	1	1	1	mature	good	good	10 to 20	B	6.3	125	0
NM13	Norway Maple	12	450	7	7	7	7	2	2	2	2	mature	good	good	20 to 40	B	5.4	92	var. Drumondii (purple leaves)
G14	Group	12	450	7	7	7	7	7	2	2	2	mature	good	good	20 to 40	B	5.4	92	Line of whitebeam, cherries and a sycamore
NM15	Norway Maple	12	400	7	7	7	7	3	3	3	3	mature	good	good	20 to 40	B	4.8	72	var. Drumondii (purple leaves)
Hb16	Hornbeam	5	100	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	young	good	good	>40	C	1.2	5	0