

Tree Survey and Impact Assessment

*for land west of
Ashington CE Primary School,
Ashington*

Client

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1780-KC-XX-YTREE-TreeSurvey-and-ImpactAssessment-RevA

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Document history

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Rev0	Final	Initial combined Tree Survey and Impact Assessment	JK / 06 December 2022
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This tree survey sets out the information about trees to inform the planning process about the quality of trees on site. Following the tree survey the information is extended to consider the impact to them from the proposed development and how construction may proceed whilst ensuring trees are successfully retained.
- 1.2 In this report we consider the proposals for development of the site. We consider those proposals in relation to the survey of trees we conducted as part of the site analysis.
- 1.3 The area subject to this survey consists of a broadly L shaped site situated to the west of Ashington Village, Sussex.
- 1.4 The site consists primarily of arable field that are bisected by hedgerows.
- 1.5 The hedgerows consist primarily of hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel.
- 1.6 The main tree species is English oak, as is typical of this part of the country, together with some ash and field maple.
- 1.7 Outside the northern boundary of the site is a relatively young copse of mixed broadleaves.
- 1.8 Along part of the southern boundary is a broad tree belt of established oak and ash with a primarily hawthorn understory.
- 1.9 Outside the remainder of the boundary is a copse of young natural regeneration that appears to have risen as a result of no longer farming the field.
- 1.10 Within the church grounds, at the entrance to the site, is a collection of typical yew trees as well as some larger English oaks.
- 1.11 To the south of the access from Church Close is row of Leyland cypress of mixed height.

- 1.12 We have checked the online portals, including Horsham District Council for statutory protection of trees applicable to the site. Online portals are not always reliable so before works are undertaken to trees a direct enquiry with the Council should be made.
- **TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS** - details were available online and showed that there are NO Tree Preservation Orders protecting trees upon the site.
 - **CONSERVATION AREAS** - details were available online and confirmed that the site IS NOT within a Conservation Area.
 - The MAGIC information portal revealed that Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland IS NOT located within/adjacent to the site. Land upon the site IS NOT listed on the Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)
 - The online portal of the Woodland Trust, Ancient Tree Inventory, revealed that there are NO veteran trees recorded on site.
- 1.13 Nationally adopted guidance has been followed in the preparation of this report. *BS5837:2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* sets out a structure approach to considering trees during the development process. Guidance is given on the surveying of trees, the protected space that should be allocated to trees, what elements may give rise to harm to trees and what techniques can be deployed to minimise harm.
- 1.14 Sustainable development requires the coordination between disciplines throughout the project, accordingly the package of arboricultural information supports the design process and follows through to construction ensuring effective tree protection. We recognise the need to integrate with other disciplines to achieve a balanced approach to development proposals.
- 1.15 We set out how our key elements interact with others at [Appendix1](#) of this report. The appendix provides comprehensive information about the stages of providing tree information within the planning process.
- 1.16 Further explanatory notes about tree survey information are given in [Appendix2](#).

2.0 Tree survey

2.1 The objective of this tree survey is to assess the significant trees and woody vegetation on the site to obtain dimensions, assess their quality and evaluate their condition to provide sufficient information to enable decisions to be made on planning aspects of the site and its potential development.

2.2 The tree survey:

2.2.1 was conducted on the 13 January 2022 by Jago Keen, MSc, Dip.Arb., MArborA, MICFor from ground level, in accordance with the guidance in British Standard *BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*;

2.2.2 is intended for planning purposes only;

2.2.3 is not intended for the detailed design of foundations (further information upon vegetation can be provided upon request);

2.2.4 is not a detailed health and safety condition survey of trees;

2.2.5 recommends only preliminary works. Tree works required to achieve the scheme of development will be considered as part of the Impact Assessment and detailed on the Tree Protection Plan;

2.2.6 places reliance on the topographical survey.

2.3 Details of each tree are recorded in the Schedule of Trees at [Appendix3](#).

2.4 Site soil investigations have not been conducted. The (online) 'Geology of Britain Viewer' that contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [2018] reveals the following soil information:

2.4.1 Bedrock geology: Weald Clay Formation – Mudstone.

2.4.2 Superficial deposits: Head – Clay, Silt, Sand And Gravel.

- 2.5 Survey information is used to prepare the constraints posed by trees on development. These constraints are shown on the Tree Constraints Plan. The Plan shows root protection areas prescribed by the guidance within BS5837 paragraph 4.6.2 and adjusted where appropriate as recommended in subsequent paragraph 4.6.3. The root protection area (RPA) is the minimum extent of rooting required to sustain the tree.
- 2.6 Trees change over time hence the contents of this survey can only be relied upon for a period of up to two years. The survey should be refreshed after two years or immediately prior to the design of detailed site layouts where they are phased.

3.0 Application of survey information

- 3.1 Trees place constraints on sites but they also provide opportunities in order to achieve optimum use of the site and location of built structures. This is set out below:

Avoid

The starting point of site layout design should be to avoid the RPA. Ideally, structures should be outside the root protection area to provide working space for construction however protection measures can be taken if such clearance, in isolated cases, is not achievable.

Mitigate

Where intrusion within the RPA is unavoidable then its impact on the tree can be mitigated by specialist measures:

- a) Foundations that avoid trenching e.g. screw piles, suspended floor slabs or casting at ground level for lightweight structures such as bin and cycle stores.
- b) Limited use may be made for parking, drives or hard surfaces within the root protection areas, subject to advice from a qualified arboriculturist. Cellular confinement systems that enable hard surfaces to be built above existing soil levels are acceptable methods.
- c) Service runs that cannot be routed outside the root protection area(s) can be installed by, for example, thrust boring, directional drilling, air excavation or hand digging. These operations often require supervision by the project arboriculturist.

Compensate

Replacement planting can ensure the continuity of tree cover where tree removal is unavoidable. Offsite provision may be considered in some circumstances but this will require negotiation with the local planning authority.

4.0 Assessment of impact upon trees

- 4.1 This assessment will consider the impact upon trees of implementing the proposals shown on the drawings listed below:

Table 1 - List of drawings referred to in the impact assessment

Originator	Drg No	Title
dha Architecture Ltd	062009-BEL-SL-01-26.01.23	Proposed Site Layout
Keen Consultants	1780-KC-XX-YTREE-TCP01Rev0	Tree Constraints Plan
Keen Consultants	1780-KC-XX-YTREE-TPP01RevB	Tree Protection Plan

- 4.2 Site proposals considered in this application include:

- 4.2.1 Residential dwellings
- 4.2.2 Sports facilities and open space provision
- 4.2.3 Access, parking and other hard surfaces
- 4.2.3 Utilities, services and SuDS schemes
- 4.2.4 New and replacement tree planting

- 4.3 The proposals are considered with reference to the following guidance documents referred to in this report:

Table 2 - List of documents used to inform the impact assessment

Originator	Title/Reference
British Standards Institute	<i>BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations</i>
Trees and Design Action Group	<i>Trees in the townscape: A guide for decision makers</i>
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	<i>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</i>

- 4.4 National planning policy (paragraph 131 of the NPPF refers) makes clear the important contribution made by trees to the character and quality of built environments. Trees help to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The application proposals are respectful of the benefits trees provide and have been developed to ensure the retention of trees and the incorporation of new trees within the layout.
- 4.5 In summary, the proposals seek to retain virtually all trees and are generally located remote from root protection areas. Generous new tree planting is proposed

Impact of application proposals

- 4.6 The proposed layout of the site has been respectful of the presence of trees and has sought to retain all significant tree features.
- 4.7 The layout of development makes use of the open field areas that are mostly devoid of trees. The tree lines, tree belts and woodland blocks are all retained with no material change to their appearance; they will remain strong landscape components.
- 4.8 The site entrance makes use of an existing roadway serving the site. The proposed roadway makes minor revisions to the line to provide greater separation from the adjoining Church and a large oak, tree 3, within the grounds. The revised line requires the loss of tree group 1 and a section of tree group 6. Both consist of a ubiquitous conifer species, Leyland cypress, and are not of sufficient merit to constrain a scheme of development.

- 4.9 The proposed access lies within the root protection area of tree 3, the oak within the church grounds. However, the proposed road coincides mostly with the existing road. Or further from the tree, so, subject to construction technique, presents little change to the growing environment of the tree. To further minimise impact to the tree, the proposed road can be constructed using specialist methods.
- 4.10 BS5837 provides guidance within section 7.4 on what are acceptable methods to achieve hard surfacing within a root protection area. The conditions and ground levels on this site are favourable to achieving these levels.
- 4.11 In this instance there is scope to achieve the hard surfaces by building them above existing levels. The depth of sub-base and surfacing can be minimised by using cellular confinement systems. This follows the principles of 'no-dig' construction to achieve hard surfaces that do not require excavation, do not result in the loss of roots, and do not result in harm to the rooting environment once the surfaces are in use.
- 4.12 Site specific drawings have been produced to show the areas where the principles of no-dig construction are required. Typical construction details of these surfaces are shown on the Keen Consultants' Tree Protection Plan.
- 4.13 As the entrance passes in to the site so it is remote from trees, other than some small saplings, so avoids impact to the tree cover.
- 4.14 At the southern tip of the site a sports pitch is proposed. It is proximate to hedgerow 15 but is not close enough to result in harm to it. An access track immediately east of the hedge can also be achieved without material harm. The pitch and access track is remote from trees to the east and south resulting in no material change to their environment.
- 4.15 A section of hedgerow 17, a hawthorn and blackthorn hedge, is removed to accommodate the layout of dwellings in the southern parcel. This section of hedgerow has been regularly managed by cutting back. It is therefore of diminutive proportions, contributing little to the landscape character and then only from intimate views within the site.
- 4.16 A small opening is made through another section of hedgerow 17 to provide access to a path that will meander through the adjoining copse/scrub (number 20) to link with the pedestrian network to the north east. The opening in the hedgerow results in minimal impact and the path can be located and constructed to avoid material harm to the copse.

- 4.17 Tree 69, an oak, is retained. The road and proposed parking bays lie marginally within the very outer edge of the notional, circular shaped root protection area. Given that the land in this area has been cultivated for many years, for arable production, and therefore modifying the rooting environment of the tree I consider the road and parking can be achieved without material harm to it.

- 4.18 Tree 19 is retained within an open space between the arrangement of dwellings. There is marginal intrusion within the outer fringes of the notional root protection area of this tree but, as with tree 69, the land has been regularly cultivated, hence the proposals can be achieved without material harm. An area of proposed parking can adopt specialist construction measures to further reduce the chances of harm.

- 4.19 Small openings are proposed within hedgerows 21 and 28 to accommodate access. These openings are small in extent and do not materially detract from the retained hedgerows.

- 4.20 Along the northern boundary of the site is a proposed road serving the sports pavilion. It passes within the outer edge of the root protection area of trees 65 and 66. To avoid material harm to the trees the road can be constructed using a no-dig form of construction, as set out in paragraphs 4.10 to 4.12 above.

- 4.21 In occasional places around the site, as shown on the Tree Protection Plan, footpaths coincide with the root protection area of retained trees. As with the service road, to avoid material harm to the trees the paths can be constructed using a no-dig form of construction, as set out in paragraphs 4.10 to 4.12 above.

- 4.22 The proposed scheme has been carefully designed to ensure trees are retained with generous separation from dwellings and their external spaces. This ensures they can successfully be retained in the long term with pressure to prune or remove them being unlikely.

Impact of drainage and services

- 4.23 The proposed drainage and services, apart from SuDs attenuation, are not shown on the proposed layout however there is ample scope to locate them outside of root protection areas and require no specialist measures for their installation.

- 4.24 The SuDs attenuation basin in the north western tip of the site has been located remote from trees and therefore results in no impact to them.

- 4.25 If services do need to be installed within root protection areas then specialist techniques for their installation will be needed. Such specialist techniques include moling, thrust-boring, broken trench or excavation by AirSpade.
- 4.26 No other installations, including mechanical and electrical equipment, are proposed in an area that would be of detriment to trees.

5.0 New and replacement tree planting

- 5.1 The development proposals bring forward opportunity to plant a selection of trees throughout the development. Trees can be provided within the streets and open spaces to result in a net gain of tree cover at the site.
- 5.2 Retaining existing trees and introducing new trees ensures a resource of trees in places where residents and visitors alike will enjoy multiple benefits provided by the tree stock. In so doing the tree stock will be able to withstand climate change, protecting and enhancing the resources of soil, air, water, landscape, amenity value, culture and biodiversity, and increasing the contribution that trees make to the quality of life. In that respect the proposals are in line with the very latest guidance, in terms of integrating trees with built form, contained in *Trees in the townscape: A guide for decision makers* produced by the Trees and Design Action Group and the requirement of paragraph 131 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 5.3 Those multiple benefits of this new tree planting, as part of the site's green infrastructure, include contribution to open space, enhancement of sustainable drainage systems, and enhancement of biodiversity. In addition, as those new trees develop, so they will further contribute to local climatic regulation and, where they stand within the sun path of proposed buildings or surfaces within the re-development, they will minimise solar gain during summer months, and provide an accessible choice of shade and shelter.

6.0 Protection of trees during construction

- 6.1 To ensure the retained trees are safeguarded a tree protection plan has been prepared to show the location of protective measures. These measures need to be implemented in advance of construction and maintained until such time as soft landscape proposals require their removal.
- 6.2 In some instances specialist construction techniques or approaches are indicated on the protection plan. These shall be implemented in accordance with site progress.

- 6.3 In order to ensure the protective and specialist measures are understood, implemented and maintained a scheme of monitoring and supervision shall be put in place.
- 6.4 A scheme of supervision/monitoring shall typically include:
- a pre-commencement meeting;
 - a site visit by an arboriculturist at no more than one month intervals;
 - a report to be prepared after each site visit and presented to the Council within 7 days of the visit.

7.0 Summary of impact assessment

- 7.1 The proposed development results in the loss of very few trees. None of the trees to be removed are of such quality that they should constrain a scheme of development.
- 7.2 The proposed access coincides with root protection areas but specialist measures can be deployed to minimise harm to trees.
- 7.3 Services and utility installation can be sited remote from trees but if they do need to be located within root protection areas specialist measures can be deployed for their installation to minimise harm to retained trees.
- 7.4 New and replacement tree planting can be provided as part of these development proposals. This new cohort of trees can provide a diverse portfolio of tree cover to ensure sustainability of green infrastructure in the future and deliver a net gain of trees within the site.
- 7.5 The application proposals recognise the important contribution trees make to the character and quality of built environments, and the role they play to help mitigate and adapt to climate change. The proposals seek to retain existing trees and integrate new trees in accordance with the requirement of local and national planning policy.

Appendix 1

Introduction to key elements of tree information

Sustainable development requires the coordination between disciplines throughout the project, accordingly the package of arboricultural information supports the design process and follows through to construction ensuring effective tree protection.

Keen Consultants break the process down to coordinate with the key elements within both the RIBA Plan of Work (2013) and 'British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations', this is set out in the table and explained below.

Figure 1 - Keen Consultants co-ordinated approach with cross references to key guidance.

Keen Consultants Tree Information	RIBA Stage	BS5837
Tree Survey ↓	Concept ↓	Feasibility ↓
Impact Assessment ↓	Developed design ↓	Proposals ↓
Method Statement ↓	Technical design ↓	Technical Design ↓
Site Monitoring	Construction	Demolition and construction

This cross referenced approach ensures trees are a material consideration and those to be retained will be safeguarded.

Tree Survey and Tree Constraints Plan

To inform the design and layout of the proposed development a tree survey has been undertaken to identify the size and quality of trees both within the site and immediately offsite. We have then used this information to prepare the Tree Constraints Plan drawing that shows the location of each tree, its size and the area around each tree that needs to be considered during the design process. Once prepared this information has been provided to the design team so that they know what constraints the trees pose.

Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan

During the design process the design team has consulted with the arboriculturist to ascertain if constraints may be breached, consider options emerging from the design and what spaces for new trees are needed.

Once the design was finalised an impact assessment has been prepared to accompany the planning application. The impact assessment demonstrates the proposals meet national and local planning policy and guidance. It demonstrates the benefits of the retained trees and incorporates new tree planting.

Another essential element of any application is the Tree Protection Plan.

Method Statement

This statement sets out in words how each element of work is undertaken in relation to the trees. It dictates when activities occur and the method that will be used to achieve them. It will also set out a scheme of monitoring and supervision.

Site Monitoring

Following the receipt of planning consent, it is a requirement that the installation of the protective barriers and ground protection are supervised, together with operations such as excavations or surfacing close to trees.

This varies according to the intensity of development near trees, the process is set out to ensure what is planned for in the Tree Protection Plan and method statement is delivered.

Appendix 2

Tree Survey Explanatory Notes

The survey of trees has been carried out in accordance with the criteria set out in Chapter 4 of *British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction-Recommendations* (BS5837). The survey has been undertaken by the qualified and experienced arboriculturist detailed at Table 1 of this report and they recorded information relating to all those trees within the site and those immediately adjacent to the site which may be of influence to any proposals.

The results are recorded in the Schedule of Trees at Appendix 3.

Schedule of trees

Appendix 3 presents details of the individual trees, groups and hedgerows including heights, diameters at breast height, crown spread (given as a radial measurement of cardinal points from the stem), age class, comments as to the overall condition at the time of inspection, BS5837 category of quality and suitability for retention, and the root protection area information.

General observations particularly of structural and physiological condition for example the presence of any decay and physical defect and preliminary management recommendations have also been recorded where appropriate.

Details of the individual trees, groups and hedgerows

All trees were assessed for their quality and benefits within the context of proposed development in a transparent, understandable and systematic way.

Individuals

The default position is to record each tree as an individual for its unique contribution to the landscape

Groups and woodlands

Trees have been assessed as groups where it has been determined appropriate by the surveyor. The term group has been applied where trees form cohesive arboricultural features either aerodynamically, visually or culturally.

Hedges and shrub masses

We consider a hedgerow to typically comprise a line of trees or shrubs that currently is subject to, or has undergone, a pruning regime to contain its dimensions.

For the tree survey hedgerows and substantial internal or boundary hedges (including evergreen screens) have either been recorded in the Tree Schedule, including lateral spread, height and stem diameter(s), or indicated on the Tree Constraints Plan.

A tree survey in accordance with BS5837 does not assess hedgerows against *The Hedgerow Regulations 1997* or specifically from an ecological perspective, as such would be outside the scope of the British Standard assessment.

Shrub masses are collectives of woody plants, rather than trees, and are recorded where they are a significant feature of the site. They have either been recorded in the Tree Schedule or indicated on the Tree Constraints Plan.

Individual trees within groups, woodlands and hedges

An assessment of individual trees within the groups has been made where there has been a clear need to differentiate between them for example, in order to highlight significant variation between attributes including physiological or structural condition or where a potential conflict may arise.

BS5837 Categorisation

Trees have been divided into one of four categories based on Table 1 of BS5837, 'Cascade chart for tree quality assessment'. For a tree to qualify under any given category it should fall within the scope of that category's definition (see below).

Category U trees are those which would be lost in the short term for reasons connected with their physiology or structural condition. They are, for this reason not considered in the planning process on arboricultural grounds. Categories A, B & C are applied to trees that should be of material considerations in the development process. Each category also having one of three further sub-categories (i, ii, iii) which are intended to reflect arboricultural, landscape and cultural or conservation values accordingly.

Please note that the estimated remaining life expectancy figures are taken for BS5837 and relate to their categorisation. The life expectancy figures are therefore arbitrary and may vary in reality.

Category (U)

Trees that have a serious irremediable structural defect such that their early loss is expected due to collapse and includes trees that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees.

Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate or irreversible overall decline.

Trees that are infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/ or safety of other nearby trees or are very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality.

Certain category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which may make it desirable to preserve.

Category (A)

Shown green on Tree Constraints Plan: Trees that are considered for retention and are of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years and with potential to make a lasting contribution. Such trees may comprise:

Sub categories

- 1) trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual, or are essential components of groups such as formal or semi-formal arboricultural features for example the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue.
- 2) trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features.
- 3) trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value for example veteran or wood pasture.

Category (B)

Shown blue on Tree Constraints Plan: Trees that are considered for retention and are of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years and with potential to make a significant contribution. Such trees may comprise:

Sub categories

- 1) trees that might be included in category A but are downgraded because of impaired condition for example the presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage.
- 2) 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.
- 3) trees with material conservation or other cultural value.

Category (C)

Shown grey on Tree Constraints Plan: Trees that are considered for retention and are of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm. Such trees may comprise:

Sub categories

- 1) unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories.
- 2) trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value or trees offering low or only temporary/transient screening benefits.
- 3) trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.

Devising BS5837 root protection areas

Default situation

The root protection area is a function of the stem diameter, it is multiplied by 12 to give a radius. For multi-stemmed trees the stems are combined to provide an effective diameter figure which is then multiplied.

Initially the root protection area should be plotted as a circle, and in many situation it remains a circle.

Influenced situation

Adjustments to the root protection area are made where pre-existing site conditions that would influence root distribution are present. Typically this will be buildings and retaining walls, lighter structures such as hard surfacing, sheds and garages generally do not have the same influence.

Ponds, rivers and watercourses will also influence root distribution as waterlogged soils are not conducive to root growth. Rainwater attenuation and ditches are likely to have a lesser impact if they are dry for significant periods.

Veteran trees

Natural England have introduced Standing Guidance that requires the allocation of buffer zones to veteran (including ancient) trees. They have prescribed that a buffer zone of 15 times the stem diameter of the tree is allocated. This will result in a buffer zone of larger diameter than the root protection area. Where veteran trees are identified during the tree survey they are allocated a Natural England buffer zone on the Tree Constraints Plan.

The Guidance is silent on what can and cannot be done within the buffer zone but it is reasonable to assume that it is prescribed to avoid material harm to the tree. It is also silent on what can and cannot be done when the land within the buffer zone is previously developed.

With this added layer of protection it is important to establish if a tree is veteran or not. The Guidance was not intended to be applied to all mature trees but to the sub-set of trees that are of great age. This is analogous with the NPPF requirement to safeguard trees that have attained an age where they are worthy of veteran or ancient status.

It is therefore important to establish a basis for defining trees as veteran as opposed to those trees that may have veteran characteristics or those trees that are mature.

Stem size is a useful guide and, in combination with size, so are characteristics of the tree. If we consider the guidance on stem size being a suitable guide to classifying trees as veteran we see:

- a) The most up to date (2013) guidance is that in ¹*Ancient and other veteran trees: further guidance on management* edited by David Lonsdale and published by The Tree Council in conjunction with The Ancient Tree Forum. Lonsdale considers that many trees may have veteran characteristics at any age however proposes, at a species level, size thresholds when a tree may be considered a veteran. A chart (see Figure 1 below) lists, species by species, the size criteria for trees reaching veteran status and then moving on to the later, ancient stage of life. Of those species listed in the chart we only need consider oak. We see that until trees attain a stem girth of around 4.6m (equivalent stem diameter of 1.46m) then an oak is only considered to be 'Locally notable'
- b) A somewhat older (1999) publication, ²*Veteran Trees: A guide to good management* edited by Helen Read and published by English Nature et al, is very similar in its definition by setting out three distinct bands for oak trees:
 - i) those with a diameter of more than 1.0m are potentially interesting
 - ii) those with a diameter of more than 1.5m are valuable in terms of conservation
 - iii) those over 2.0m in diameter are truly ancient
- c) English Nature's own ³*Development of a veteran tree site assessment protocol (Report Number 628)* of 2005 sought to give more structure to grading sites where veteran trees were present. It considered that trees over 1.0m diameter could be classed as veteran.

¹ *Ancient and other veteran trees: further guidance on management* edited by David Lonsdale and published by The Tree Council in conjunction with The Ancient Tree Forum

² *Veteran Trees: A guide to good management* edited by Helen Read and published by English Nature et al

³ *Development of a veteran tree site assessment protocol (Report Number 628)* of 2005

In summary, a tree may enter its veteran stage at 1.0m diameter but a more reliable size threshold, as held out by the latest guidance on the matter, is 1.5m diameter.

The other factor, tree characteristics, is also worth considering as veteran tree characteristics can be found on even young trees. Of course, if we count every tree with veteran tree characteristics as veteran we do a disservice to those truly veteran trees that warrant protection.

Read (1999), as set out above, considers veteran tree characteristics as:

- large girth for species
- major trunk cavities or progressive hollowing
- naturally forming water pools
- decay hollows
- physical damage to trunk
- bark loss
- large quantities of deadwood within the crown
- sap runs
- crevices in the bark, under branches or on the root plate sheltered from direct rainfall
- fungal fruiting bodies
- high number of interdependent wildlife species
- epiphytic plants
- an 'old' look
- high aesthetic interest

Lonsdale (2013) adds to this list:

- progressive narrowing of successive annual increments in the stem
- changes in crown architecture
- progressive or episodic reduction in post-mature crown size, often known as retrenchment

Lonsdale also states that "In order to qualify as a veteran, the tree should show signs of crown retrenchment and signs of decay in the trunk, branches or roots, such as exposed deadwood or fungal fruit bodies".

The English Nature Report Number 628 refers to Read (1999) for a list of veteran features but does add that in addition a tree may also:

- have a pollard form or show indications of past management
- have a cultural/historic value
- be in a prominent position in the landscape

These three criteria, when examined, are not truly indicative of a veteran tree on their own as these criteria could be applied to street trees in peri-urban locations that date from the mid-20th century - many of those are of pollard form, have cultural and historic value and a prominent position in the landscape.

In summary, it is important to consider the size of the tree and its characteristics. Just because a tree is mature does not mean it is veteran neither does the presence of veteran characteristics alone.

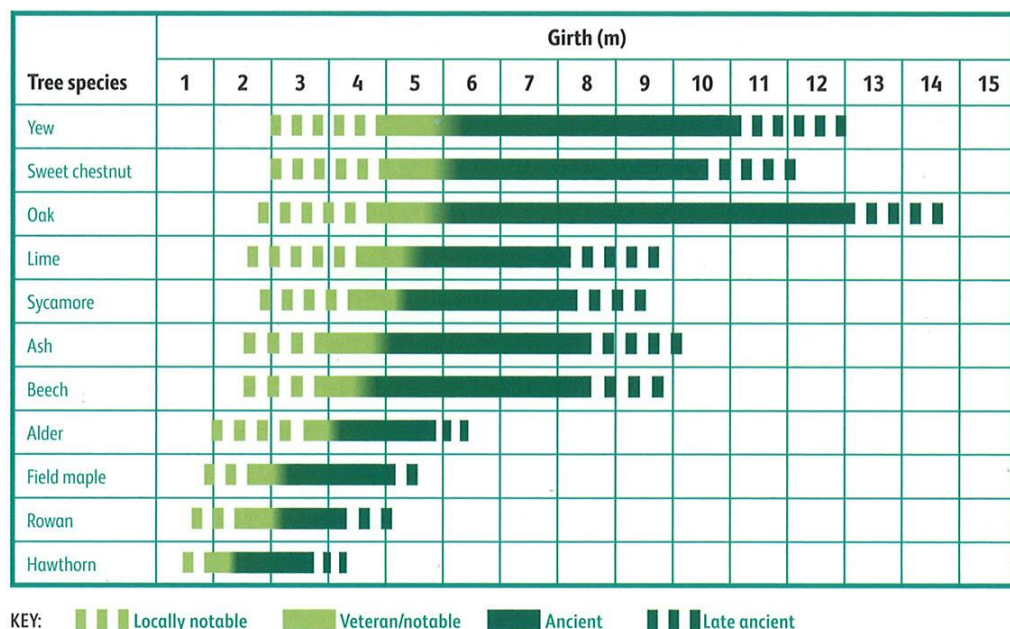


Figure 1- Chart of girth in relation to age and developmental classification of trees

Appendix 3

Schedule of Trees

for land at

*Ashington CE Primary School,
Ashington*

Key to Tree Schedule

Column Heading	Explanation
Tree No.	Unique number corresponding with number on plan
Species	English names
Ht (m)	Height in metres
Branch Spread	Crown radius in metres to cardinal points of the compass
Stem diameters (cm)	All measurements conform to Annex C of BS 5837:2012 Single stem - Stem diameter in centimetres measured at 1.5m above ground level. Multi-stemmed tree with 2 to 5 stems – Diameter of each stem Multi-stemmed tree with more than 5 stems – Average stem diameter and number of stems
Height of crown clearance	Height in metres between the ground and underside of canopy
Height of first major branch and direction of growth	Height from ground level to base of first major branch and the approximate direction of growth
Abbreviations as suffix to a dimension	<i>Suffix 'e' denotes an estimated dimension.</i> <i>Suffix 'av' denotes an average dimension</i>
Age class	Age Class definitions: Y = Young S = Semi-mature E = Early mature M = Mature O = Over mature
Category grading (see Appendix A2 for detailed explanation) and Estimated remaining contribution (yrs)	Summary of BS 5837: 2012 categorisation: 1. Trees that do not warrant consideration for retention: U = those in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management. 2. Trees to be considered for retention: A1, 2 or 3 = trees of high quality and value (substantial contribution >40 yrs) B1, 2 or 3 = trees of moderate quality and value (significant Contribution >20 yrs) C1, 2 or 3 = trees of low quality and value (but adequate, ie >10 yrs or young trees – until new planting can be established)
Estimated remaining contribution	Useful estimated remaining contribution of the tree or tree group
Condition	Brief description including physiological and structural defects
Preliminary management recommendations	Describes current arboricultural requirement for the tree in its current context and should be undertaken as soon as reasonably practicable.
Root protection radius	Radius of minimum root protection area in metres calculated from section 4.6 and Annex D of BS5837:2012
Root protection area	Total area of minimum root protection area extrapolated from root protection radius

Trees at land west of Ashington CE Primary School, Ashington

Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	Branch Spread (m)				Stem diameters (cm)							Height of crown clearance (m)	Height of first branch (m) and direction (compass point)	Age class	Category grading	Estimated remaining contribution (yrs)	Condition Physiological / Structural	Tree works to BS3998	Root protection radius (m)	Root protection area sq.m
							Single Stem	2-5 stems					More than 5 stems									
			N	E	S	W		Stem 1	Stem 2	Stem 3	Stem 4	Stem 5	Mean dia									
1	Row of Leyland cypress	6av	1av				10av							0	-	S	B2	>20	Established hedgerow alongside driveway.	Remove.	1.20	5
2	Irish yew	6	3	4	3	3						10	6	2	2N	S	B2	>20	Forms part of the typical plantings within the church yard.		2.94	27
3	English oak	19	10	10	10	11	124							5	5S	M	A1	>40	Visually significant tree within church yard. Numerous wounds associate with past branch loss. Some splits and cavities in main branch structure. Large area of dead bark on western side of trunk at ground level.		14.88	696
4	Yew	12	7	6	7	6	70e							2	2N	E	A2	>40	Part of typical church yard plantings.	Crown lift to 3m above proposed driveway.	8.40	222
5	Ash	13	6	5	6	6	35e							2	2S	S	C1	>10	Ivy smothered main stem. Showing signs of ash dieback.	Crown lift to 3m above proposed driveway.	4.20	55
6	Row of Leyland cypress	10av	3av				20av							0	-	S	C2	>10	Row of outgrown conifers outside driveway.	Remove section as shown.	2.40	18
7	Group of ash	15av	6av				30av							6	6N	S	C2	>10	Group of trees just outside site. All showing signs of Ash Dieback.		3.60	41
8	English oak	14	6	6	8	5	50e							2	4S	S	B2	>20	Forms part of a small group of trees on the northern boundary. Ivy covered main stem.		6.00	113
9	English oak	16	8	8	9	6		50	50	45				3	3S	E	B2	>20	Forms part of a small group of trees on the northern boundary. Ivy covered main stem.		10.06	318
10	English oak	16	7	3	7	7	55e							3	3W	E	B2	>20	Forms part of a small group of trees on the northern boundary. Ivy covered main stem.		6.60	137
11	Row of mixed broadleaves	13av	4av				25av							0	-	S	B2	>20	Row of established trees growing mostly beyond post and rail fence. Species include ash, English oak and field maple. Understory of hawthorn and blackthorn.		3.00	28
12	Group of alder and crack willow	16av	7av				45av							0	-	E	B2	>20	Established run of trees along edge of pond.		5.40	92
13	English oak	13	5	4	5	5	36							3	3S	S	B1	>20	Reasonably well formed tree adjoining pond.		4.32	59

Trees at land west of Ashington CE Primary School, Ashington

Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	Branch Spread (m)				Stem diameters (cm)							Height of crown clearance (m)	Height of first branch (m) and direction (compass point)	Age class	Category grading	Estimated remaining contribution (yrs)	Condition Physiological / Structural	Tree works to BS3998	Root protection radius (m)	Root protection area sq.m	
							Single Stem	2-5 stems					More than 5 stems										
			N	E	S	W		Stem 1	Stem 2	Stem 3	Stem 4	Stem 5	Mean dia										No. stems
14	Group of alder	14av	5av				35av								2	2N	S	B2	>20	Dense cluster of trees against edge of pond.		4.20	55
15	Blackthorn hedge	1.8av	1av				10av								0	-	E	B2	>20	Established and well maintained hedgerow between fields. Predominantly blackthorn but occasional hawthorn and hazel.	Remove section as shown.	1.20	5
16	English oak	15	6	7	7	7	75e								3	3N	E	C1	>10	Established tree growing in adjoining field. Shows advanced crown dieback.		9.00	255
17	Hawthorn and blackthorn hedge	1.8av	1av				10av								0	-	E	B2	>20	Established and well maintained hedgerow between fields. Mixture of hawthorn and blackthorn.	Remove section as shown.	1.20	5
18	English oak	7	6	4	6	5		45e	45e						2	2N	E	B1	>20	Larger component of hedgerow. Twin-stemmed with both stems partially smothered in ivy.	Crown lift to 3m above proposed driveway.	7.64	183
19	English oak	18	10	11	11	10	119								2	2S	M	A1	>40	Visually significant tree growing in field. Some sparsity of fine branching in upper crown.	Crown lift to 3m above ground level.	14.28	641
20	Mixed broadleaf copse	<12	<6				<30								0	-	S	B2	>20	Established copse of trees growing outside boundary of site. Species include English oak, willow, field maple, hazel, holly, ash together with some blackthorn and hawthorn.		3.60	41
21	Mixed broadleaf hedge	7av	2av				10av								0	-	E	B2	>20	Established but outgrown hedgerow between fields. Mixed species including hawthorn, hazel, blackthorn, goat willow and some English oak saplings.	Remove section as shown.	1.20	5
22	English oak	16	7	8	9	7	90e								2	2S	M	A2	>40	Prominent tree growing in hedgerow. Lower stem smothered in ivy. Some dead and broken branches within crown.		10.80	366
23	English oak	17	8	7	7	9	70e								4	4W	E	A2	>40	Prominent tree growing in hedgerow between fields. Lower stem and crown smothered in ivy. Some dead branches within crown.		8.40	222

Trees at land west of Ashington CE Primary School, Ashington

Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	Branch Spread (m)				Stem diameters (cm)								Height of crown clearance (m)	Height of first branch (m) and direction (compass point)	Age class	Category grading	Estimated remaining contribution (yrs)	Condition Physiological / Structural	Tree works to BS3998	Root protection radius (m)	Root protection area sq.m
							Single Stem	2-5 stems					More than 5 stems										
			N	E	S	W		Stem 1	Stem 2	Stem 3	Stem 4	Stem 5	Mean dia	No. stems									
24	English oak	17	4	8	9	8	70e								3	3S	E	A2	>40	Prominent tree growing in hedgerow between fields. Lower stem and crown smothered in ivy. Some dead branches within crown.		8.40	222
25	English oak	16	7	7	7	7	55e								3	3S	E	B2	>20	Prominent tree growing in hedgerow between fields. Lower stem and crown smothered in ivy. Some dead branches within crown.		6.60	137
26	Field maple	10	4	4	3	2		27	16	17					2	2S	E	B2	>20	Contributes to hedgerow.		4.28	58
27	Mixed broadleaf tree belt	<18	<9				<75								0	-	E	A2	>40	Prominent belt of trees between fields. Upper canopy consist of English oak with some ash. Understory is predominantly blackthorn and hawthorn with occasional holly.		9.00	255
28	Mixed broadleaf hedgerow	6av	2av				10av								0	-	E	B2	>20	Established but outgrown hedgerow between fields. Sparse in places. Contains primarily field maple, hawthorn and blackthorn.		1.20	5
29	English oak	18	7	7	6	8	71								4	4NE	E	A2	>40	Forms part of a row of similar size trees within hedgerow.		8.52	228
30	English oak	17	4	8	8	7	72								2	2E	E	A2	>40	Forms part of a row of similar size trees within hedgerow.	Crown lift to 4m above proposed pathway.	8.64	235
31	English oak	18	8	8	9	8	81								4	4SE	E	A2	>40	Forms part of a row of similar size trees within hedgerow.		9.72	297
32	Group of English oak	9av	3av				15av								0	-	S	C2	>10	Larger component of hedgerow.		1.80	10
33	English oak	16	7	8	7	7	61								2	2N	E	B2	>20	Established larger tree within hedgerow but younger than the other oaks. Broad spreading form. Partially smothered in ivy.	Crown lift to 4m above proposed pathway.	7.32	168
34	English oak	16	7	8	9	7	74								2	2N	E	B2	>20	Established tree within hedgerow. Broad spreading form.		8.88	248

Trees at land west of Ashington CE Primary School, Ashington

Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	Branch Spread (m)				Stem diameters (cm)							Height of crown clearance (m)	Height of first branch (m) and direction (compass point)	Age class	Category grading	Estimated remaining contribution (yrs)	Condition Physiological / Structural	Tree works to BS3998	Root protection radius (m)	Root protection area sq.m	
							Single Stem	2-5 stems					More than 5 stems										
			N	E	S	W		Stem 1	Stem 2	Stem 3	Stem 4	Stem 5	Mean dia										No. stems
35	Mixed broadleaf copse	<11	<4				<25								0	-	S	C2	>10	Patch of what appears to be natural regeneration following suasion of farming. Mixture of pioneer species including birch, hazel, English oak, goat willow.		3.00	28
36	English oak	16	7	5	7	7	71								2	2E	E	A2	>40	Part of a line of similar sized oaks along edge of field.		8.52	228
37	English oak	17	6	8	9	7	79								4	4S	E	A2	>40	Part of a line of similar sized oaks along edge of field.		9.48	282
38	English oak	17	8	7	10	8	77								4	4S	E	A2	>40	Part of a line of similar sized oaks along edge of field.		9.24	268
39	English oak	14	4	5	7	3		17	46						3	3S	S	U	<10	Primary failure of main stem. Unsited to long term retention.		5.88	109
40	English oak	16	7	7	9	7	69								3	3N	E	B2	>20	Part of a line of similar sized oaks along edge of field.		8.28	215
41	Group of English oak	17av	9av				70av								4	4S	E	A2	>40	Densely spaced group of trees at edge of field. Most trees contain some deadwood		8.40	222
42	Pair of field maple	13av	5av				50av								4	4N	E	B2	>20	Pair of larger examples of this species. Probably remanent of old hedge line.		6.00	113
43	Ash	16	7	7	8	10	73								5	5S	E	C1	>10	Prominent tree growing along ditch line. Showing signs of Ash Dieback. Unsited to long term retention.		8.76	241
44	English oak	18	11	8	11	12	110e								4	4SW	M	A2	>40	Visually significant tree being part of a line of trees extending north and south. Lower stem partial smothered in ivy. Some dead branches and cavities associated with past branch loss.		13.20	547
45	English oak	17	13	15	11	10	131								2	3E	M	A2	>40	Visually significant tree being part of a line of trees extending north and south. Lower stem partial smothered in ivy. Some dead branches and cavities associated with past branch loss.		15.00	707

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Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	Branch Spread (m)				Stem diameters (cm)							Height of crown clearance (m)	Height of first branch (m) and direction (compass point)	Age class	Category grading	Estimated remaining contribution (yrs)	Condition Physiological / Structural	Tree works to BS3998	Root protection radius (m)	Root protection area sq.m	
							Single Stem	2-5 stems					More than 5 stems										
			N	E	S	W		Stem 1	Stem 2	Stem 3	Stem 4	Stem 5	Mean dia										No. stems
46	Mixed broadleaf hedge	7av	2av				10av								0	-	E	B2	>20	Established but outgrown hedgerow growing along ditch line.		1.20	5
47	Mixed broadleaf copse	14av	5av				25av								0	-	S	C2	>10	Cluster of small trees at corner of field. Species include hawthorn, field maple and ash. Ash showing signs of Ash Dieback.		3.00	28
48	Pair of field maple	14av	6av				45av								2	2N	M	B2	>20	Pair of close growing larger example of species. Stems partially smothered in ivy.	Remove 1 stem as shown.	5.40	92
49	English oak	16	8	8	9	8	73								6	6S	E	B2	>20	Established tree growing on corner of field. Broad-spreading form. Main stem partial smothered in ivy.	Remove.	8.76	241
50	English oak	19	15	14	15	15	155e								3	3N	M	A1/3	>40	Visually significant and large example of species growing beyond site. Broad-spreading form.		15.00	707
51	Row of English oak	18av	10av				75av								3	3E	E	A2	>40	Closely spaced trees growing along hedge line. Most trees covered in ivy.		9.00	255
52	English oak	17	7	9	8	8	80e								3	3W	E	A2	>40	Prominent tree growing long hedge line. Main stem smothered in ivy. Numerous dead branches. Some hollows associated with past branch loss.		9.60	290
53	English oak	13	6	5	2	5	74								4	4NE	S	C1	>10	Suppressed by larger tree.		8.88	248
54	Ash	13	5	6	6	5							15	6	3	3W	S	U	<10	Advanced Ash Dieback.		4.41	61
55	Field maple	14	4	6	7	5	41								2	2NE	E	B2	>20	Forms part of a group of trees at the edge of the field. Crown suppressed by adjoining larger oak.		4.92	76
56	English oak	18	6	7	7	7	76								4	4S	E	B2	>20	Forms part of group trees at edge of field. Main stem partially smothered in ivy. Some dead branches within crown.		9.12	261
57	Goat willow	9	7	5	5	6		39	16	21					0	-	S	U	<10	Partially failed stems that are resting in adjoining hedge and pond. Coppicing would promote low level regeneration.		5.65	100
58	English oak	13	5	3	6	4	43								2	2E	S	C1	>10	Small tree between field and pond.		5.16	84

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Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	Branch Spread (m)				Stem diameters (cm)								Height of crown clearance (m)	Height of first branch (m) and direction (compass point)	Age class	Category grading	Estimated remaining contribution (yrs)	Condition Physiological / Structural	Tree works to BS3998	Root protection radius (m)	Root protection area sq.m
							Single Stem	2-5 stems					More than 5 stems										
			N	E	S	W		Stem 1	Stem 2	Stem 3	Stem 4	Stem 5	Mean dia	No. stems									
59	English oak	18	8	10	12	10	90e								3	3N	M	A2	>40	Forms part of a row of similar size trees along Lancing Brook between fields. There are some decaying remanence of eiffel tower fungus between buttresses on northern side. Main stem smothered in ivy. Some dead branches within crown.		10.80	366
60	Group of English oak	18av	9av				75av								3	3E	E	A2	>40	Densely spaced group of trees that extends to the north beyond the survey area. All trees stand to the west of Lancing Brook.		9.00	255
61	English oak	12	5	5	0	4	41								4	4E	S	C1	>10	Exhibiting decline. Some splits in bark. Neighbouring tree has died.		4.92	76
62	English oak	10	3	5	7	5	44								3	3E	S	U	<10	Predominantly dead.		5.28	88
63	English oak	14	7	7	7	5	72								2	2N	E	B2	>20	Stands at corner of field. Has been pruned on western side to provide clearance for overhead wires. Some dead branches within crown.		8.64	235
64	Hazel hedge	3av	1av				10av								0	-	E	B2	>20	Established hedgerow along Lancing Brook. Predominantly hazel with occasional field maple. Previously managed at circa 1m in height.		1.20	5
65	English oak	17	9	8	8	8	79								4	4E	E	A2	>40	Prominent broad-spreading tree growing alongside Lancing Brook. Crown contains some deadwood.		9.48	282
66	English oak	14	6	6	4	4	57								3	3E	E	B2	>20	Established tree growing on stream bank. Lower stem partially smothered in ivy.		6.84	147
67	Yew	6	2	3	3	3	25e								2	2S	S	C1	>10	Small tree growing on hedge line.		3.00	28
68	English oak	7	2	2	3	2	14								2	2S	S	C1	>10	Small tree growing on hedge line.		1.68	9
69	English oak	15	9	8	9	9	95e								2	2N	M	A1	>40	Broad-spreading tree growing within hedge line. Appears to have been 2 stems that have coalesced at circa 2m above ground level. Partial covering of ivy on lower stem. Some deadwood in branches within crown.		11.40	408