

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Land off Hawthorne Place Clitheroe BB7 2HP

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Ascerta

P.1239.19

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Land off Hawthorne Place Clitheroe BB7 2HP

For

Persimmon Homes & Charles Church Lancashire
Persimmon House
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3RQ

September 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A survey of the existing trees on and adjacent land off Hawthorne Place, Clitheroe, BB7 2HP has been carried out by a suitably qualified and competent Arboriculturist in accordance with British Standard 5837: 2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.

The purpose of the survey and of this report is to identify the impact of the proposed development of the site on trees, both within and immediately adjacent the site, in accordance with the provisions of BS5837: 2012.

The development of the site will involve the construction of 50 residential dwellings which will require the removal of a number of low arboricultural value trees and in the absence of suitable controls, also has the potential to have an indirect impact on a number of the trees proposed for retention.

Mitigation for the impact of the development can be provided in the form of the following:

• The erection of protective fencing in advance of the commencement of the development to safeguard the root systems of retained trees.

Compensation for the impact of the development, together with landscape and biodiversity enhancements can be achieved by way of the following:

- The planting of trees, shrubs and where applicable hedges as part of a comprehensive landscape scheme to replace any vegetation lost and to integrate the development into the wider landscape; and
- The use of a mixture of native and ornamental species within planting schemes, where those species are suited to the site and local landscape.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Ascerta has been instructed to carry out a survey of the trees within and immediately adjacent land off Hawthorne Place, Clitheroe, BB7 2HP and to assess the potential impact of the development as proposed on trees within / adjacent the site in accordance with British Standard 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations.
- 1.2 The site was visited on 28th August 2019 by Helen Millner, a competent and qualified arboriculturist with nine years of experience of the UK and European arboricultural and landscape industries within the context of the planning system. During the site visit, a survey was carried out of the trees growing both on and immediately adjacent the site to the standards contained within BS5837: 2012. This report presents the results of the survey, provides an assessment of the impact of the development and includes recommendations for further actions, where applicable, to mitigate any potentially negative effects of the development on tree cover within the local landscape.

2.0 Objectives

- 2.1 Our client's objective is to develop the site by the construction of 50 residential dwellings.
- **2.2** Our objectives are as follows:
 - Identify what arboricultural features exist presently within and adjacent the site and to record and categorise them in a manner consistent with BS5837: 2012;
 - Identify which trees will need to be removed directly as a result of the proposed development of the site;
 - Identify any indirect impact from the proposed development on trees proposed for retention;
 - Provide an indication of what protection measures can be implemented as part of the development of the site to ensure the physical protection of retained trees;
 - Provide recommendations for mitigation and compensation in terms of new planting or enhancement of existing features of arboricultural, landscape or ecological interest or importance; and
 - Provide any other recommendations to assist our clients in achieving their objectives whilst satisfying current legislation or policy guidance in relation to the woody vegetation on site.

3.0 Planning Policy & Relevant Legislation

- 3.1 The revised National Planning Policy Framework, updated on 19th February 2019, sets out the government's planning policies for England and Wales and how these are expected to be applied. This revised Framework replaces the previous National Planning Policy Framework published in March 2012, and revised in July 2018. It provides a Framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be designed and produced.
- 3.2 The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

- a) an economic objective- to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure:
- b) a social objective- to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
- c) an environmental objective- to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

These objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in this Framework; they are not criteria against which every decision can or should be judged. Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area.

- 3.3 The site lies within the Ribble Valley Borough Council administrative area and is subject to the policies contained within its Local Plan, which have been considered when writing this report.
- 3.4 Checks made with the Local Planning Authority on 3rd September 2019 via telephone conversation with the Council's Tree Officer, Mr David Hewitt confirmed that none of the trees within our survey are statutorily protected by a Tree Preservation Order and the site is not located within a Conservation Area. In advance of the commencement of any works to trees within or adjacent the site, those instructing and proposing to carry out such works should satisfy themselves that all appropriate consents are in place to prevent potential breach of legislation.

3.0 Planning Policy & Relevant Legislation (Continued)

- 3.5 British Standard 5837: 2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations* provides current recommendations and guidance on the relationship between trees and design, demolition and the construction processes. It sets out the principles and procedures to be applied to achieve a harmonious and sustainable relationship between trees and structures.
- 3.6 Notwithstanding the aforementioned policies and legislation, consideration should also be given to any impacts from the proposed development in respect of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 and the Forestry Act 1967 (and specifically the potential need for a felling licence), as well as existing UK and European legislation relating to wildlife and nature conservation.

4.0 Survey & Survey Methodology

- 4.1 We have been supplied with a digital copy of the topographical map for the site, which satisfies the relevant part of section 4.2 of BS5837: 2012. Features of arboricultural or landscape interest that have been excluded from the original plan (for example trees on or located off site but within a distance from the boundary of the site equal to or less than 12 times the stem diameter of that tree) have been added to the plan manually.
- 4.2 Our assessment of the soils within the site, based on local site conditions, geography, available soil maps and our own experience of soils across the United Kingdom, indicates that the soils on site are likely to contain a clay element, and that this will have a plasticity index in the low to medium range. Any further details or confirmation of the exact nature of soil conditions on site will require further, more rigorous sampling and analysis. It is not however anticipated that the clay content will cause specific issues relating to retention of trees given the impact of the development proposals, providing that consideration is given to this aspect in advance of and during the construction phase of the development. Provision will need to be made for the protection of soil structure in key areas during the construction phase and the repair of any damage post construction. Further details are provided throughout this report and final details can be secured via planning condition.
- 4.3 Our survey of the trees within and adjacent the site was carried out by a qualified and competent arboriculturist in accordance with sections 4.4 and 4.5 of BS5837: 2012 on 28th August 2019 during rainy weather conditions. Those trees surveyed have been numbered sequentially, although for the purposes of this project they have not been tagged. The trees have also been categorised in accordance with section 4.5 and Table 1 of the Standard.
- 4.4 Where relevant and where the quality of shrub masses and hedges justifies recording, details have been recorded to the tree survey plan and tree data tables.

4.0 Survey & Survey Methodology (Continued)

- 4.5 Where trees are surveyed that require immediate attention, for example to abate a nuisance, prevent a serious hazard to life or property, or are affected by a pathogen or pest that could cause widespread damage unless it is controlled, notification will be issued to the relevant person or organisation such that appropriate action can be taken.
- 4.6 Root Protection Areas for those trees surveyed have been calculated in accordance with the formulas within section 4.6 and Annex C of the Standard and can be found within the tree data tables that accompany this report. The tree data tables also contain a key to abbreviations used and the rationale for determining Root Protection Areas for groups of trees and woodlands (where applicable).

5.0 Survey Results & Impact Assessment

- **5.1 Existing Tree Cover:** One individual tree (T1), five groups of trees (G1-G5) and one hedge (H1) were recorded during our survey, the details of which can be found within Appendix 1 to this report and cross referenced with drawing P.1239.19.01 *Tree Survey*.
- **5.2 Direct Impact on Trees:** The development of the site as proposed will directly require the removal of G1, G2 (in part), G3, H1 (in part), G5 and T1. One tree from G4 is also recommended for removal due to poor condition.
- 5.3 Compensation: Compensation for the loss of trees and the impact on canopy cover can be provided by way of planting new trees at the landscape stage of the project. Where applicable, opportunities for new planting are indicated on the drawings accompanying this report. Given the nature of the proposals, the context of the site in the local landscape and the opportunities for new planting and landscaping, it is considered that in terms of canopy cover, the medium to long term impact of the development will be neutral.
- **5.4 Indirect Impact on Trees:** In the absence of suitable controls, the development may well have an indirect impact on a number of trees on and adjacent the site. Measures are therefore required during the construction phase, as described throughout this report and on supporting drawings, in order to safeguard retained trees for the long-term benefit of the landscape.
- 5.5 Hedgerows: In accordance with the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, 'important' hedgerows (in the context of the Regulations) should not be removed without a Hedgerow Removal Notice issued by the relevant Local Authority, unless that removal is subject to an appropriate consent under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In this instance however, there are no hedgerows within or immediately adjacent the site that could be considered important in the context of the regulations. Therefore, there are no arboricultural implications associated with such work.

5.0 Survey Results & Impact Assessment (Continued)

- **Potential Mitigation for Development Impacts:** Mitigation of the direct impacts from the development of the site can be provided in the form of the erection of protective fencing as indicated on the attached drawings.
- 5.7 Potential for Shading & Nuisance: Mature trees in urban and suburban areas add significant value and environmental benefits to properties; however, it is acknowledged that some land / property owners are averse to retaining trees close to buildings and areas of public use because of shading and other potential nuisances (leaf / fruit drop for example). Whilst efforts can be made to minimise the impact from shading by trees, it is almost inevitable that in some situations, whether in the short term from existing trees or in the long term from new trees, trees will cast shade on parts of properties, whether that be buildings, garden / open space or other areas of general use during part of the day. Generally, any shade cast from trees will be for relatively short periods and entirely acceptable given the accepted co-existence of large trees in an urban context. The acceptability or otherwise of shade is a somewhat subjective issue driven largely by land or property owner / occupier perceptions and in the majority of cases is not necessarily something that should be determined by a local planning authority. We do not consider in this case that shade will be excessive, or that any other ordinary circumstance arising from the presence of trees, for example from leaf or fruit drop, will constitute an unacceptable nuisance.
- 5.8 Long Term Spatial Constraints: The proposed layout has been designed to meet the standards set by the local planning authority as well as current best practice guidance. Where applicable, and subject to the possibility of an element of acceptable pruning, there should generally be adequate space between new buildings and trees to limit the potential for future pressure to remove trees. Acknowledgement should however be given to the fact that property owners are largely free to plant trees as close to their property as they wish, therefore any requirement for future maintenance of existing or future vegetation should not be given any weight in the determining of this application. Whilst it is not possible to predict what actions future occupiers will seek to take in respect of trees within or adjacent properties, the existing layout, together with any vegetation management prescriptions either at this stage or in the future, is considered acceptable from a design perspective.
- **5.9 Existing Areas of Hard Standing:** There are no existing areas of hard standing located close to trees proposed for retention, therefore subject to the agreement and implementation of physical protection for those trees throughout the ground works / remediation stage of the project, there should be no arboricultural implications associated with the removal of such surfaces.
- **5.10 Existing buildings / structures to be removed:** There are no buildings to be demolished and therefore there are no arboricultural implications associated to demolition.

5.0 Survey Results & Impact Assessment (Continued)

- **5.11 Proposed Areas of Hard Standing**: There are no areas within the proposed development where proposed hard surfaces encroach within root protection areas of retained trees; therefore, there are potentially no indirect impacts from the development process providing that all other recommended safeguards as outlined in this report are implemented.
- **5.12 Proposed Buildings Located Adjacent / Within Root Protection Areas:** The drawings appended to this report indicate areas where proposed built structures are located immediately adjacent root protection areas of retained trees. Provided that a level of care is exercised during excavations and tree protection fencing is erected as shown within attached drawings there should be no further requirements to further protect retained trees.
- **5.13 Proposed Drainage & Domestic Services:** At the planning application stage of the project, details of proposed drainage arrangements and provision of utility services are generally not known. During the installation process however, general guidance can be obtained from the National Joint Utilities Group Publication *Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees Volume 4 such as to minimise the impact of works on retained trees.*
- **5.14 Working Space During the Construction Phase:** The site is of a size such that there will be adequate working space throughout the construction phase, with little if any potential impact on retained trees. However, it is essential that construction exclusion zones created to safeguard retained trees are not breached without prior consideration and implementation of control measures to limit any potentially negative impacts on trees.
- **5.15** Access Facilitation Pruning: There may be a limited number of areas within the site where an element of access facilitation pruning may be required, as indicated on the attached drawings. Providing that these works are controlled and carried out to a minimum of the standards as contained within BS3998: 2010 *Tree work Recommendations*, then the visual impact of the work will be minimal and will not detract from the overall landscape value of the site. Our preliminary recommendations for arboricultural works are stated within the Tree Data Tables at Appendix 1 of this report.
- **5.16 Protection of Planting Areas:** It is often desirable to fence off areas that are to be newly planted to protect the soil structure; however, works will be required across the majority of the site, therefore there is little scope to set aside areas for such treatment. Provided that adequate provisions are made for ground preparations in advance of the landscape stage, there is unlikely to be a negative impact on the viability of newly planted stock.

5.0 Survey Results & Impact Assessment (Continued)

- **5.17** Requirement for an Arboricultural Method Statement: Provided that protective fencing is erected in advance of the commencement of the development and retained intact throughout the construction phase, there should be no specific requirement for an Arboricultural Method Statement in this case. The erection of protective fencing in accordance with a suitable tree protection plan should however, be subject to a suitably worded condition attached to the planning consent notice.
- 5.18 Planning for New Landscaping: If not considered carefully at the design stage, new planting and landscaping can have an adverse impact on existing trees and cause long term problems for the built environment. Care should be taken in the design of new landscapes to prevent physical damage to retained trees during the planting process, and to ensure that schemes are designed to survive and thrive rather than compete for resources. Similarly, new trees and shrubs should not be planted where they will cause damage to structures, either directly or indirectly in the future. Table A1 at Annex A of the Standard gives advice on minimum distances for new trees from structures to avoid direct damage from future tree growth. Further advice should be sought from the project arboriculturist and a suitably qualified and experienced engineer as to the potential indirect impact of trees on structures in the long term (from clay shrinkage subsidence).

6.0 Tree Protection Measures

Based on the proposed layout and those trees proposed for retention, the drawings attached to this report show our preliminary recommendations for the physical protection of retained trees throughout the construction phase. The plans indicate the location of protective barriers, as well as the specification for construction of the protective fencing in accordance with Figures 2 & 3 of the Standard. These barriers will form construction exclusion zones around the retained trees. Provided that these measures are implemented in advance of, and throughout the course of the construction phase, there should be no specific requirement for an Arboricultural Method Statement.

7.0 Summary of Impacts & Potential Mitigation Factors

7.1 Table 1 below summarises the impacts of the development as proposed on tree cover within and immediately adjacent the site. Comments are also provided on potential mitigation, compensation or special measures required to minimise the impact of the development and safeguard trees proposed for retention.

Table 1: Summary of the impacts of the development on trees within / adjacent the site.

Issue	Affecting	Mitigation / Compensation / Special Procedures						
Trees / hedges to be removed	G1, G2 (in part), G3, H1 (in part), G5 and T1. One tree from G4 due to poor condition.	Appropriate compensation can be provided by way of new / replacement planting at the landscape stage of the project. Biodiversity enhancements can also be achieved through the landscape proposals.						
Indirect physical impact on retained trees	Retained trees.	Tree protection fencing should be erected to an agreed specification in advance of the commencement of the development.						
Construction of new buildings / structures	H1 and trees located off-site (adjacent plot 7).	, ,						
Provision of drainage / services	Unknown	Where existing services cannot be utilised, NJUG principles must be adopted to and adhered to.						
Access Facilitation Pruning	See Tree Data Tables at Appendix 1	All pruning works should be carried out to a minimum of the standards contained within BS3998: 2010 <i>Tree work – Recommendations</i> .						
Protective Fencing		reed specification in advance of the commencement of trained in-situ throughout the course of the construction						

7.2 On the basis of the above and the contents of this report, we do not consider the production of an Arboricultural Method Statement necessary at this stage. The erection of tree protection fencing in advance of the commencement of the development, ensuring it is retained in-situ throughout the entire construction phase, with works carried out carefully within the influencing distance of retained trees should ensure no particular adverse impact on retained trees from the proposed development.

8.0 Conclusions & Recommendations

- 8.1 The direct and indirect impacts on tree cover as a result of the development proposals are outlined within this report and mitigation proposed accordingly that seeks where possible to satisfy local and national planning guidance and policy. Where trees are proposed for removal, replacement planting should be undertaken as part of a landscape strategy for the site in line with local plan requirements and to integrate the development into the surrounding landscape. Arrangements for the safeguarding and physical protection of retained trees should be agreed and implemented in a manner consistent with current best arboricultural management practices to minimise any potentially negative effects on long term tree cover.
- **8.2** We recommend that a landscape proposal is prepared for the site, to include where feasible, provision for the planting of a mixture of native as well as ornamental trees, shrubs and hedges, implemented as a condition of planning consent. We also recommend that tree protection measures are implemented in accordance with the finalised versions of the drawings appended to this report.

9.0 References

Department for Communities and Local Government (March 2012) *National Planning Policy Framework*;

British Standard 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations;

National Joint Utilities Group Publication Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees – Volume 4.



Appendix 1

Site:	1239.19 Land off Hawthorne Place, Clitheroe,		
	BB7 2HP	Surveyor:	Helen Sullivan
Client:	Persimmon Homes	Survey Date:	28/08/2019
Brief:	Tree Survey to BS5837:2012	Survey	Rain
		Conditions:	



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T. No	Species	Ht (m)	Stem DBH	RPA Radius	E	Branch	Sprea	d	Ht Crown Clearance	Age Class (P Condition	Structural Condition & General Comments	Preliminary Recommendations	Est. (yrs)	Cat
NO		(m)	(mm)	(m)	N	s	E	W	(m)		Condition	Comments	(not to be actioned without a valid planning consent)		Grade
G1	Norway Spruce	12	200- 220	2.40-2.60	3	3	3	3	0.5	ЕМ	F	In reasonable condition for age and species. Typical form for species. Located outside of red line boundary but is under ownership of Persimmon Homes.	Remove to facilitate development proposals. Provide replacement planting as part of the wider Landscaping Scheme.	20+	C2
G2	Hazel Ash Hawthorn	6	<250#	3.00	2	2	2	2	0	Y	F	Off-site located within the garden of a neighbouring property, self-seeded stems extending into site.	Remove all stems within the site boundary. Reduce overhanging branches back to boundary-line.	20+	C2
G3	Hawthorn	6	<300#	3.60	3	3	3	3	0	EM-M	Р	In significant decline, moderate deadwood through crowns and all exhibiting significant reduced vigour.	Remove to facilitate development proposals. Provide replacement planting as part of the wider Landscaping Scheme.	<10	C2
G4	Hawthorn Ash Purple Beech	12 (max)	See plan for detail	See plan for detail	4	3	4	4	1	ЕМ	F	In reasonable condition for age and species.	Remove one dead-standing Hawthorn tree as identified on the drawings. Crown lift all retained trees to 3m.	<30	C2
H1	Hawthorn Blackthorn Whitebeam Birch	4	50- 150	0.60-1.80	1	1	1	1	0	EM/M	F/P	Gappy hedgerow. Unmaintained. One young / early mature Birch tree in significant decline.	Remove all stems within the boundary-line. Remove Birch (in-decline). Clip / prune back to boundary-line as necessary to create a more formal appearance.	30+	C2

NOTE: The Category Grade applied to trees surveyed is consistent with the recommendations within Table 1 of BS5837: 2012, however this does not necessarily correlate with the visual importance of a tree within the wider landscape, nor does it dictate which trees should be retained at the cost of quality development. Where trees are to be lost to accommodate a development, recommendations will be made such as to provide suitable mitigation and compensation, and to integrate the development into the wider landscape.

Key to Abbreviations & Headings

T. No.: Tree number (T = Tree, G – Group, W = Woodland, H = Hedge, Cpt. = Compartment)
Stem DBH (Diameter at Breast Height): Measured at 1.5m above ground level*

Ht Crown Clearance: Canopy ground clearance

Structural Condition: Description of any observed defects

Cat. Grade: Tree quality assessment in accordance with BS5837: 2012

Species: Common name used

Root Protection Area Radius: Root Protection Area as per BS5837: 2012 Age Class: Y = Young, EM =Early Mature, M = Mature, OM = Over mature, D = Dead

Preliminary Recommendations: Made in respect of known / intended use of the site

* For groups of trees, the stem diameter of the largest tree in the group is generally used # Denotes estimated DBH where access was not possible

Ht: Approximate height of tree from ground level in metres
Branch Spread: Extent of canopy spread in metres to each of the four cardinal points
P (Physiological) Condition: G = Good, F = Fair, P = Poor, D = Dead
Est. (yrs): Estimated remaining contribution in years

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Site:	1239.19 Land off Hawthorne Place, Clitheroe,		
	BB7 2HP	Surveyor:	Helen Sullivan
Client:	Persimmon Homes	Survey Date:	28/08/2019
Brief:	Tree Survey to BS5837:2012	Survey	Rain
		Conditions:	



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T.	Species	Ht	Stem	RPA Radius	I	Branch	Sprea	d	Ht Crown	Age	P	Structural Condition & General	Preliminary	Est.	Cat Grade
No		(m)	DBH (mm)	(m)	N	S	E	W	- Clearance (m)	Class	Condition	Comments	Recommendations (not to be actioned without a valid planning consent)	(yrs)	Grade
T1	Hawthorn	4	< 300	3.60	3	3	3	3	1	М	F	Typical form for condition and species.	Remove to facilitate development proposals. Provide replacement planting as part of the wider Landscaping Scheme.	30+	C1
G5	Beech Ash	4	50- 100#	0.6- 1.2	1	1	2	1	0	EM	F/P	Unmaintained remnant beech hedge. Large Ash stump with young re-growth.	Remove to facilitate development proposals. Provide replacement planting as part of the wider Landscaping Scheme.		

NOTE: The Category Grade applied to trees surveyed is consistent with the recommendations within Table 1 of BS5837: 2012, however this does not necessarily correlate with the visual importance of a tree within the wider landscape, nor does it dictate which trees should be retained at the cost of quality development. Where trees are to be lost to accommodate a development, recommendations will be made such as to provide suitable mitigation and compensation, and to integrate the development into the wider landscape.

Key to Abbreviations & Headings

T. No.: Tree number (T = Tree, G – Group, W = Woodland, H = Hedge, Cpt. = Compartment) Stem DBH (Diameter at Breast Height): Measured at 1.5m above ground level*

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Cat. Grade: Tree quality assessment in accordance with BS5837: 2012

Species: Common name used

Root Protection Area Radius: Root Protection Area as per BS5837: 2012 Age Class: Y = Young, EM =Early Mature, M = Mature, OM = Over mature, D = Dead Preliminary Recommendations: Made in respect of known / intended use of the site

 $\ensuremath{^*}$ For groups of trees, the stem diameter of the largest tree in the group is generally used # Denotes estimated DBH where access was not possible

Ht: Approximate height of tree from ground level in metres Branch Spread: Extent of canopy spread in metres to each of the four cardinal points P (Physiological) Condition: G = Good, F = Fair, P = Poor, D = Dead Est. (yrs): Estimated remaining contribution in years

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Appendix 2



