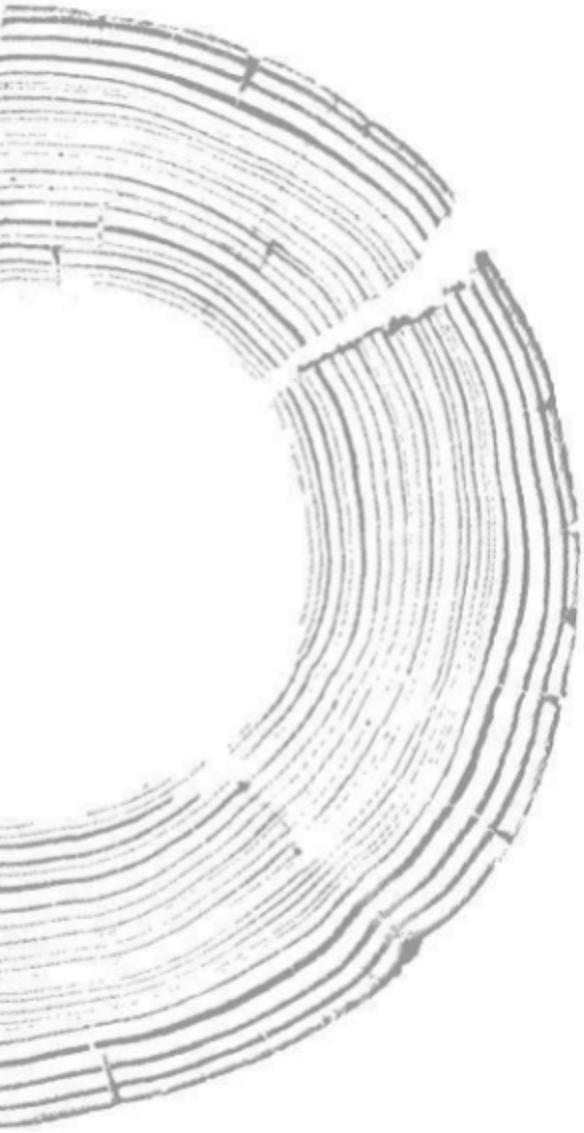
FRH CONSULTANCY

BS 5837:2012 Arboricultural Report & Tree Constraints Plan



Date of Inspection
4th October 2021

Site
Moorside, Whinney Lane, Langho
Blackburn, Lancashire BB6 8DQ

Client
Mr & Mrs Altschwager

Client Address
Moorside, Whinney Lane, Langho
Blackburn, Lancashire BB6 8DQ

FRH Ref
frh172021

Author
Paul Hodgson *RFS Cert Arb, FdSc Arb, MArborA*

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1. This report is required for **Moorside**, **Whinney Lane**, **Langho**, **Blackburn**, **Lancashire BB6 8DQ** to provide detailed, independent, arboricultural advice on the trees present, in the context of potential development.

1.2. The report will include a tree survey, undertaken in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition & construction – Recommendations, and an appraisal of the trees located within the site boundaries and any tree/s outside of the boundary which are likely to be affected by the proposed development.

1.3. Where necessary, this report will outline any tree works which are required within the current context of the site. It will also grade the trees in accordance with the British Standard; which will guide the design in terms of which trees should be retained and which trees could be removed.

1.4. Under the instruction from **April Altschwager**, **FRH Consultancy** are instructed to survey the site and to prepare a detailed report.

1.5. For this purpose, a topographical survey was provided in a dwg format (**TSH_10157_001 Survey September 2021**) and this forms the basis of the tree constraints plan.

1.6. The specific designs of the proposed development are not known at this stage or detailed within this report. This is to be detailed in an Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

2. Data Collection

2.1. The assessment was carried out on the **4th October 2021** by **Paul Hodgson** of **FRH Consultancy**. The inspection was carried out at ground level using a visual assessment of the tree canopy, stem and rooting area. No digging or drilling was carried out on this occasion.

2.2. The measurements were collected using the following instruments: clinometers for tree height, stem diameter tapes for diameter (measured at 1.5m above ground level) and electronic distometers for crown spread. Where access was limited or not achievable, measurements have been estimated.

2.3. Preliminary recommendations are given with a view to the long-term management of sustainable tree cover and to uphold the interests of health and safety. Therefore, to assist with the management recommendations the following colours denote the priority of works: **Red = works to be completed within 1 month**, **Amber = works to be completed within 6 months** & **Green = works to be completed within 12 months**.

2.4. Please see the tree schedule findings at **Appendix 1** and the tree locations in relation to the property at **Appendix 2**. A breakdown of the process used to determine tree retention categories can be found at **Appendix 3** and a key to terms & abbreviations used throughout the schedule and this document can be found at **Appendix 4**.

2.5. Protection Status

2.5.1. A TPO and conservation area check was carried out on **2nd November 2021** with **Ribble Valley Borough Council** and it was confirmed via email that **TPO NO 2 1989** is present and appears to protect the following trees: **T2**, **T3**, **T4**, **T5**, **T6**, **T7**, **T8**, **T9**, **T10**, **T11**, **T12**, **T13**, **T14**, **T15**, **T16**, **T17**, **T18**, **T19**, **W20**, **T32**, **T33** and **T43**. Please see the protected trees highlighted at **Appendix 2**. Therefore, an application form must be submitted to the local planning authority detailing the proposed works, justifications and a site plan. A decision period of eight weeks for a TPO is then required, before a decision is provided.

3. Site Description

3.1. Land Use

3.1.1. The land forms the front and rear garden to the property with an additional section of land to the south which is currently left as a grassed area with trees and shrubs along the boundaries.

3.2. Topography

3.2.1. The site slopes downwards from the south to the north with a downward slope to the east where the brook is present. There are a few sections which level out which include, where the current property is located, the access road for the property to the east and a section to the south near to the top.

3.3. Treescape & Visual Amenity

3.3.1. The trees add to the surrounding land which is mostly agricultural to the east and south with residential properties to the north and west. The trees on this site contribute considerably to the local amenity value in particular **W20** and provide benefits to the local wildlife, natural screens between the properties and roads and assist with water management for the brook.

3.4. Age Class

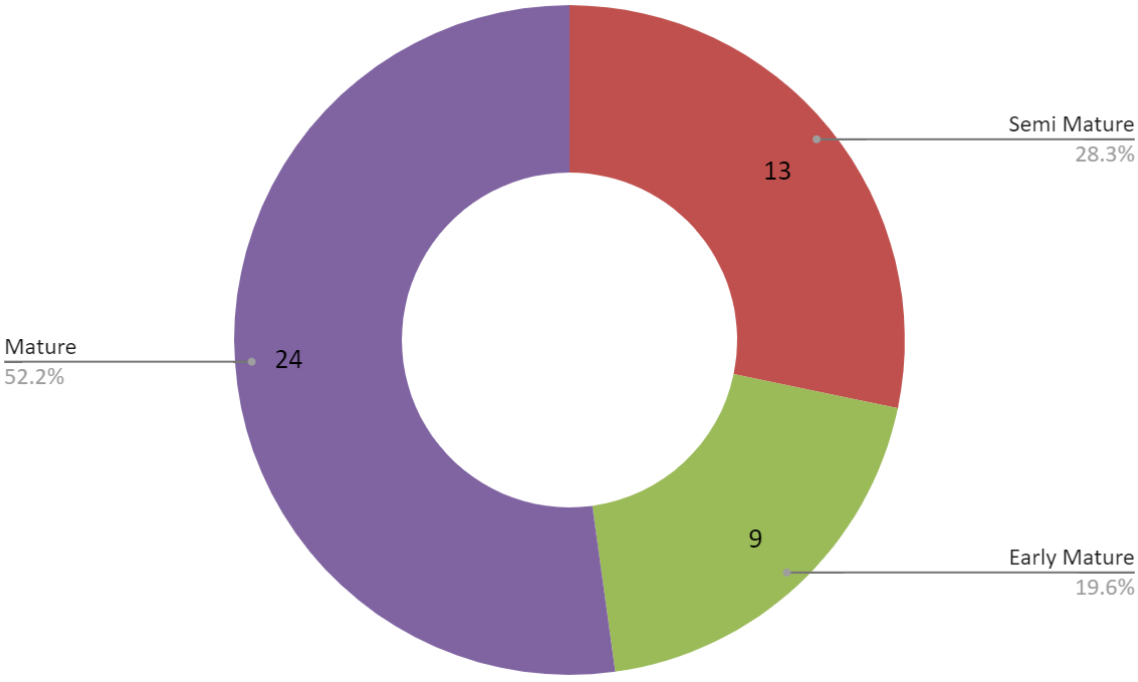


Figure 1: The age class of trees found at site, including trees which may be affected by the proposed development.

3.5. Species List

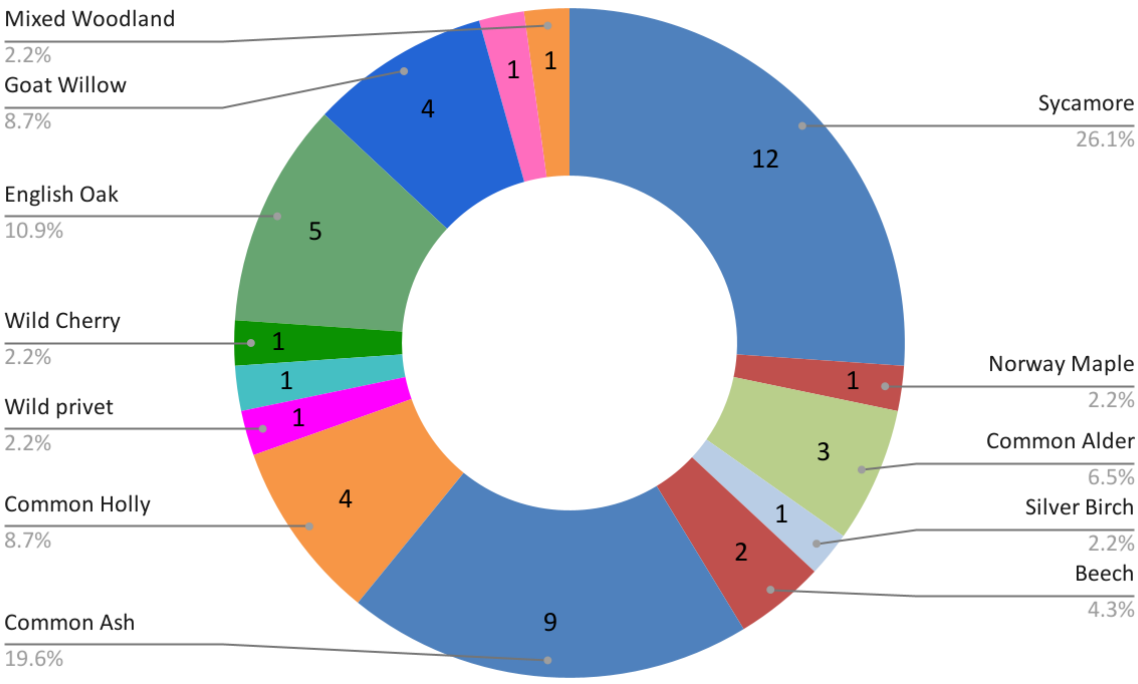


Figure 2: The species quantities found at site, including trees which may be affected by the proposed development.

4. Discussion

4.1. The survey revealed the following findings:

Table 1: Quantities for Tree Retention Categories.

Retention Category	Meaning	ID	Count	% of Trees Surveyed
A	High Quality & Value	T1, T6, T9, T10, T14, T19, W20, T22	8	17%
B	Moderate Quality & Value	T3, T4, T5, T7, T12, T13, T15, T16, T17, T18, T23, G24, T27, H30, T32, T34, G40, T41, T42, T43	20	43%
C	Low Quality & Value	T2, T8, T11, T21, T25, T26, T28, T29, G31, T35, T36, T37, T38, T39, T45, T46	16	35%
U	Very Low Quality (Removal advised)	T33, T44	2	4%

4.2. Within the survey, tree works have been identified for reasons of public safety, to ensure the long-term health of the trees or for arboricultural best practices. Such recommendations have been made without regard to any projected layout and should be undertaken irrespective of development.

4.3. Tree Management Recommendations

4.3.1. **Amber = works to be completed within 6 months**

4.3.1.1. **2** category **U** trees (**T33** & **T44**) were identified and recommended for removal due to their condition and proximity to Whinney Road and the access road for the property to the east. A further category **B** tree (**T32**) is recommended to have the Ivy severed which will provide better visibility for future inspections, due to its proximity to Whiney road.

4.3.2. **6** trees and **1** group (**T4**, **T22**, **T23**, **G24**, **T25**, **T32** and **T43**) have been recommended for biennial monitoring due to their condition and/or location.

4.3.3. The Ash trees around the property are showing symptoms of Ash Dieback and therefore, the larger specimens with visible symptoms have been included within the biennial monitoring. However, it may be prudent to have the entire site surveyed on a biennial basis to assess the younger Ash trees and reduce any hazards that they may cause.

4.4. Overview of Site Constraints

4.4.1. The precise details of the proposed development are not known at present. The specific implications of a proposed design should be assessed within an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA).

4.4.2. The retention categories of the trees surveyed are an indication of their overall values. The category of each item is listed at **Appendix 1** and an explanation of the retention categories is included at **Appendix 3**. As a general rule, those trees listed as retention category '**A**' or '**B**' are the most valuable trees and their removal is likely to be met with resistance by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The LPA is likely to accept the removal of trees in a poor condition or those with minimal safe useful life expectancy. This would normally include category '**U**' and some category '**C**' trees. Please note that the surrounding area's capacity for remedial planting of replacement trees should be considered when proposing tree removal. The above information should guide the design in terms of which trees are to be removed and which are to be

retained. However, it should be noted that the retention of trees is just one consideration in the design process and each development will be taken for its merits.

4.4.3. The location of each tree is plotted on the associated Tree Constraints Plan at **Appendix 2**. This plan identifies the retention category of each tree, the crown spread, and also the associated rooting zone (Root Protection Area or RPA shown in **dark yellow**). These construction exclusion zones (areas within the RPAs of retained trees) will be considered sacrosanct from any ground disturbance throughout the entire development process. Where access or construction is required within the RPA of any tree scheduled for retention, this should be completed in a sympathetic manner so as not to cause detrimental effect on the tree's health or specialist construction methods and materials will need to be used. Such issues should be discussed in an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) and the required techniques included within an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) & Tree Protection Plan (TPP).

4.4.4. Retained trees will require adequate protective measures during development and such measures typically entail temporary protective fencing installed to the full extent of the RPA. Where this is not entirely possible, ground protection may also comprise part of the protective measures. This includes a compaction reducing construction detail which enables a degree of construction traffic over/within the RPA.

4.4.5. Should excavation work or the installation of utilities be required, work should be completed in a sympathetic manner as advocated in section 7.6 of BS 5837 & NJUG 'Guidelines for the Planning, Installation & Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees' in order to minimise any root damage/severance.

4.4.6. No material storage is permitted within the RPA of retained trees unless confirmed to be acceptable by the consulting arboriculturalist. The exact details and location of protective measures should be included within an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS).

4.4.7. The position of the site compound is a major consideration. It is recommended that this, which typically includes the site office, facilities, toilets, storage of materials and parking, is located away from trees and outside the RPA.

4.4.8. If a planting scheme is proposed or required, potential planting locations should be protected in order to prevent soil compaction and/or contamination and should therefore form part of the construction exclusion zone. **FRH Consultancy** can provide planting schemes where required.

5. Conclusion

5.1. The trees surveyed were found to be in a reasonable condition and provide many benefits to the site and surrounding area. The wooded area **W20**, provides amenity, a natural screen between the properties, habitats for the local wildlife and assists with water management for the brook and therefore, it is a vital feature. The trees along the boundaries to the south and west are growing near or within the hedge line and shrubs, with several trees situated closer to the centre and a group of trees along the ridge and embarkment of the brook to the south east. Therefore, potential development is possible within the section to the south and to the current property to the north, south and west,

5.2. **T2**, **T3**, **T4**, **T5**, **T6**, **T7**, **T8**, **T9**, **T10**, **T11**, **T12**, **T13**, **T14**, **T15**, **T16**, **T17**, **T18**, **T19**, **W20**, **T32**, **T33** and **T43** are protected by **TPO NO2 1989**. The locations of the protected trees have been highlighted at **Appendix 2**, using the Tree Preservation Order map provided via email from **Ribble Valley Borough Council**.

5.3. Upon provision of specific proposals, site-specific advice can be given with regards to the impact on trees. As previously discussed, the next stage on this site should be the preparation of an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA), which will illustrate and discuss the impact of the proposals on the trees and to help to inform good design.

6. Caveat & Limitations

6.1. Any observations made with regards to the condition of built structures are from a layperson's view. No assessment of the potential influence of trees, upon buildings or other structures resulting from the effects of trees upon shrinkable load-bearing soils has been made.

6.2. The content of this report may become invalidated if a change of circumstance affecting the trees arises as a result of unusual weather conditions, particularly storms & high winds.

6.3. Structural or chemical soil disruption around the trees may invalidate the findings in this report, especially where there is significant damage to the rooting area of the tree.

6.4. The trees in question were surveyed using non-invasive methods (the trees were not exposed to any physical disruption such as drilling necessary for fractometer measurements). Recommendations regarding internal cavities and/or internal decay cannot be made from this report without further inspection. Chemical analysis of the soil was not undertaken. Comments made upon the structure of the tree are based upon inspection from ground level.

6.5. The content of this report may become invalidated by any 'Force Majeure' such as significant natural or man made disasters out of the control of any specific party.

6.6. The report is issued for the purposes of the instructing client in the form it is given and therefore no liability is accepted to any other party where reproduction, manipulation or reliance upon any incorrect representation of this report has been undertaken.

6.7. The data gained during the survey provides an indication of the health of the trees. However, it does not enable a comprehensive assessment of their condition over time. Trees are living organisms which are affected by many factors including weather conditions, diseases/disorders, light levels and human activities. Therefore, this report is only valid for a period of 1 year from the date of issuing. Should an update or revision of this report be required outside of this time period, **FRH Consultancy** may require a further site visit to ensure that the condition of the trees has not significantly changed. It is advised that the trees are inspected regularly, in the interests of risk management.

7. Signature

The information contained within this report is to the best of my knowledge and I hope it provides all the necessary information. If you require any further advice or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

P. Hodgson

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26 Nov 2021

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Appendix 1: Tree Schedule

Arboricultural Report at: Moorside, Whinney Lane, Langho, Blackburn, Lancashire BB6 8DQ
FRH Ref: frh172021

Notes:
1. Management recommendation colours denote priority of works: **Red = works to be completed within 1 month,** Amber = works to be completed within 6 months & Green = works to be completed within 12 months.
2. Management recommendations in *italics* are based on the requirements of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA), if applicable.
3. The number of HERAS panels are provided to help indicate the amount of fencing required to protect the tree/s.
4. Where data is available, the water demand of the species has been provided in accordance with NHBC.

Basic Information												BS 5837 Information					
ID	Code	Species	Age	DBH (mm)	Crown Spread (m)				Height (m)	Condition	Observations	Management Recommendations	Water Demand	RPA (m)	No. of HERAS Panels	Lifespan (years)	Category Grade	Sub Category
					N	E	S	W										
T 1	fasy	Beech - Fagus sylvatica	Mature	360	3	3	3	3	13	Good	A single stemmed specimen with an excurrent symmetrical canopy. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	4.32	8	40+	A	1 2
T 2	prav	Wild Cherry - Prunus avium	Semi Mature	280	0	0	2	3	5	Fair	A three stemmed specimen with included sections at the base, no foliage on the lower scaffold branches and canopy present growing to the south west.	None required at present.	Moderate	3.36	7	20+	C	2
T 3	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Mature	350	2	3	3	2	13	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with a high canopy and part of the perimeter trees of the woodland. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	4.2	8	20+	B	2
T 4	frex	Common Ash - Fraxinus excelsior	Mature	380	3	3	4	3	15	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with a high canopy and minor deadwood throughout. Tip dieback on the canopy to the south west, possible Ash Dieback.	Monitor on a biennial basis due to its proximity to the gate entrance.	Moderate	4.56	9	20+	B	2
T 5	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Mature	360	3	3	2	2	14	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with a high canopy and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	4.32	8	20+	B	2
T 6	acpl	Norway Maple - Acer platanoides	Mature	390	3	2	4	5	13	Good	A single stemmed specimen with a decurrent habit and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	4.68	9	40+	A	2
T 7	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Semi Mature	320	4	4	5	6	14	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with a decurrent habit and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	3.84	7	20+	B	2
T 8	ilaq	Common Holly - Ilex aquifolium	Semi Mature	230	1	1	1	1	5	Fair	A single stemmed specimen forming part of the understorey with no major visible defects.	None required at present.	Low	2.76	5	20+	C	2
T 9	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Mature	420	3	3	5	6	12	Good	A single stemmed specimen growing up from the brook with large scaffold branches. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	5.04	10	40+	A	2
T 10	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Mature	430	4	4	5	5	15	Good	A single stemmed specimen with a decurrent habit and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	5.16	10	40+	A	1 2
T 11	ilaq	Common Holly - Ilex aquifolium	Semi Mature	240	1	1	1	1	4	Fair	A multi stemmed specimen forming part of the understorey and growing in to the canopy of T10. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Low	2.88	6	20+	C	2
T 12	quro	English Oak - Quercus robur	Mature	420	2	2	3	3	16	Fair	A single stemmed specimen growing from the brook with a high canopy and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	High	5.04	10	20+	B	2
T 13	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Mature	360	2	2	3	5	13	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with a decurrent habit and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	4.32	8	20+	B	2

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					N	E	S	W										
T 14	frex	Common Ash - Fraxinus excelsior	Mature	520	4	5	5	4	18	Fair	A single stemmed specimen which divides at approx. 3m from ground level with a high canopy. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	6.24	12	20+	A	1 2
T 15	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Mature	450	3	4	4	5	14	Good	A single stemmed specimen with a dense structure of growth and a decurren habit. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	5.4	10	40+	B	2
T 16	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Mature	340	4	3	3	4	14	Good	A single stemmed specimen with a high canopy and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	4.08	8	40+	B	2
T 17	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Mature	410	3	3	4	5	14	Good	A two stemmed specimen with a high canopy and majority of growth to the south west. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	4.92	9	40+	B	2
T 18	frex	Common Ash - Fraxinus excelsior	Mature	380	3	3	5	5	17	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with a high canopy and minor deadwood throughout. Tip dieback on the canopy to the south west, possible Ash Dieback.	None required at present.	Moderate	4.56	9	20+	B	2
T 19	quro	English Oak - Quercus robur	Mature	580	7	5	6	9	16	Good	A single stemmed specimen with the majority of growth to the west and minor deadwood present.	None required at present.	High	6.96	13	40+	A	1 2
W 20	MW	Mixed Woodland	Mature	300 - 600	See Plan				15	Good	A mixed woodland with a brook running through the centre containing a variety of specimens and providing habitat fo the local wildlife.	None required at present.	High	See Plan	0	40+	A	2 3
T 21	frex	Common Ash - Fraxinus excelsior	Semi Mature	240	1	1	1	1	5	Poor	A single stemmed specimen with a high canopy and tip dieback, possible Ash Dieback. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	2.88	6	10+	C	2
T 22	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Mature	340	5	9	6	8	14	Good	A single stemmed specimen with a decurrent habit and no major visible defects.	Monitor on a biennial basis due to its proximity to the road.	Moderate	4.08	8	40+	A	2
T 23	quro	English Oak - Quercus robur	Semi Mature	340	4	5	3	4	6	Good	A single stemmed specimen with a squat growth habit and decurrent habit. No major visible defects.	Monitor on a biennial basis due to its proximity to the road.	High	4.08	8	40+	B	2
G 24	pisy	Scots Pine - Pinus sylvestris	Mature	300	4	5	5	4	12	Fair	Two single stemmed specimens with excurrent habits with no major visible defects.	Monitor on a biennial basis due to its proximity to the road.	Moderate	3.6	7	20+	B	2
T 25	frex	Common Ash - Fraxinus excelsior	Mature	250	2	0	3	5	9	Fair	A single stemmed specimen growing over the road to the west due to the canopies of G24. No major visible defects.	Monitor on a biennial basis due to its proximity to the road.	Moderate	3	6	20+	C	2
T 26	ilaq	Common Holly - Ilex aquifolium	Early Mature	200	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	3	Fair	A single stemmed specimen growing within H30. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Low	2.4	5	20+	C	2

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					N	E	S	W										
T 27	fasy	Beech - Fagus sylvatica	Early Mature	200	5	5	3	3	8	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with elongated branches to the north east and growing within H30. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	2.4	5	20+	B	2
T 28	bepe	Silver Birch - Betula pendula	Early Mature	200	2	1	2	2	6	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with no major visible defect	None required at present.	Low	2.4	5	20+	C	2
T 29	ilaq	Common Holly - Ilex aquifolium	Mature	290	2	2	2	2	7	Good	A single stemmed specimen with an included section and a slight lean to the south. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Low	3.48	7	40+	C	2
H 30	livu	Wild privet - Ligustrum vulgare	Mature	N/A	See Plan				2	Good	Mainly a Privet hedge with Hawthorn, Sycamore, Elder and Ivy present.	None required at present.	No Data Available	N/A	0	40+	B	2
G 31	syal	Snowberry - Symphoricarpos albus	Mature	N/A	See Plan				1.5	Good	A dense growth of vegetation covering the area to the south west adjacent to York Lane.	None required at present.	No Data Available	N/A	0	40+	C	2
T 32	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Semi Mature	300	3	4	3	5	12	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with excurrent habit and Ivy covering the main stem.	Sever the Ivy and monitor on a biennial basis due to its proximity to the road.	Moderate	3.6	7	20+	B	2
T 33	frex	Common Ash - Fraxinus excelsior	Semi Mature	300	2	4	5	5	13	Poor	A single stemmed specimen with little canopy, tip dieback possible from Ash dieback, Ivy covering the main stem and minor and major deadwood throughout.	Remove due to its condition and proximity to the road.	Moderate	N/A	0	10+	U	N/A
T 34	quro	English Oak - Quercus robur	Early Mature	250	3	3	1	2	7	Good	A single stemmed specimen with a decurrent habit and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	High	3	6	40+	B	2
T 35	saca	Goat Willow - Salix caprea	Semi Mature	320	3	3	3	3	7	Good	A single stemmed specimen with decurrent habit and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	High	3.84	7	40+	C	2
T 36	saca	Goat Willow - Salix caprea	Semi Mature	300	3	3	3	3	8	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with decurrent habit and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	High	3.6	7	20+	C	2
T 37	frex	Common Ash - Fraxinus excelsior	Early Mature	250	2	2	2	2	7	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with decurrent habit, minor tip dieback and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	3	6	20+	C	2
T 38	frex	Common Ash - Fraxinus excelsior	Early Mature	260	2	2	2	2	7	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with decurrent habit, minor tip dieback and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	3.12	6	20+	C	2

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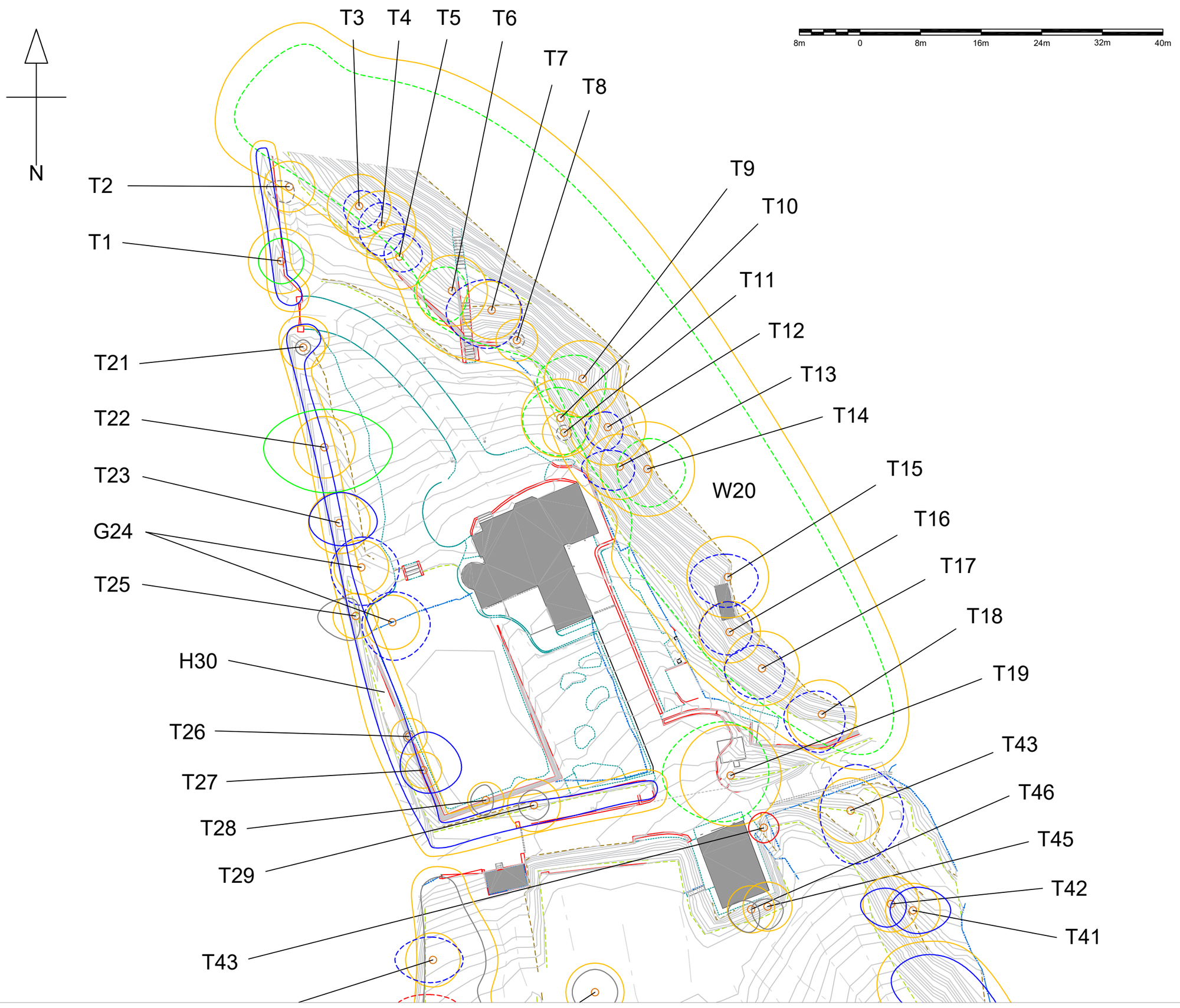
T 39	saca	Goat Willow - Salix caprea	Semi Mature	300	3	3	3	3	8	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with decurrent habit and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	High	3.6	7	20+	C	2
G 40	quro	English Oak - Quercus robur	Early Mature	250	3	3	3	3	6	Good	A group of single stemmed specimens situated on the embankment and along the brook, mainly English Oak with Common Ash, Hawthorn and Sycamore present.	None required at present.	High	3	6	40+	B	2
T 41	algl	Common Alder - Alnus glutinosa	Mature	300	3	5	3	3	10	Fair	Three stemmed specimen with excurrent habit and one stem leaning over the brook. No major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	3.6	7	20+	B	2
T 42	acps	Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus	Semi Mature	310	2	2	3	4	10	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with the majority of growth to the west and no major visible defects.	None required at present.	Moderate	3.72	7	20+	B	2
T 43	algl	Common Alder - Alnus glutinosa	Mature	360	6	7	7	4	13	Good	Three stemmed specimen with excurrent habit and no major visible defects.	Monitor on a biennial basis due to its proximity to the access road.	Moderate	4.32	8	40+	B	2
T 44	frex	Common Ash - Fraxinus excelsior	Early Mature	280	2	2	2	2	11	Poor	Two stemmed specimen with included section, minor deadwood and tip dieback, situated adjacent to the brick shed.	Remove due to its condition and proximity to the access road.	Moderate	N/A	0	10+	U	2
T 45	saca	Goat Willow - Salix caprea	Semi Mature	270	1	2	3	2	10	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with decurrent habit and no major visible defects, situated adjacent to the brick shed.	None required at present.	High	3.24	6	20+	C	2
T 46	algl	Common Alder - Alnus glutinosa	Early Mature	260	1	1	3	3	10	Fair	A single stemmed specimen with excurrent habit and no major visible defects, situated adjacent to the brick shed.	None required at present.	Moderate	3.12	6	20+	C	2

End of Table



Appendix 2: Tree Constraints Plan
Arboricultural Report at: Moorside, Whinney Lane, Langho, Blackburn, Lancashire BB6 8DQ.
FRH Ref: frh172021

Surveyed & Drawn By: PH

Paper Size: A3	Survey Date: 04/10/2021
	Category A Tree
	Category B Tree
	Category C Tree
	Category U Tree
	Root Protection Area (RPA)
	Approx. trees which are protected by TPO NO 2 1989

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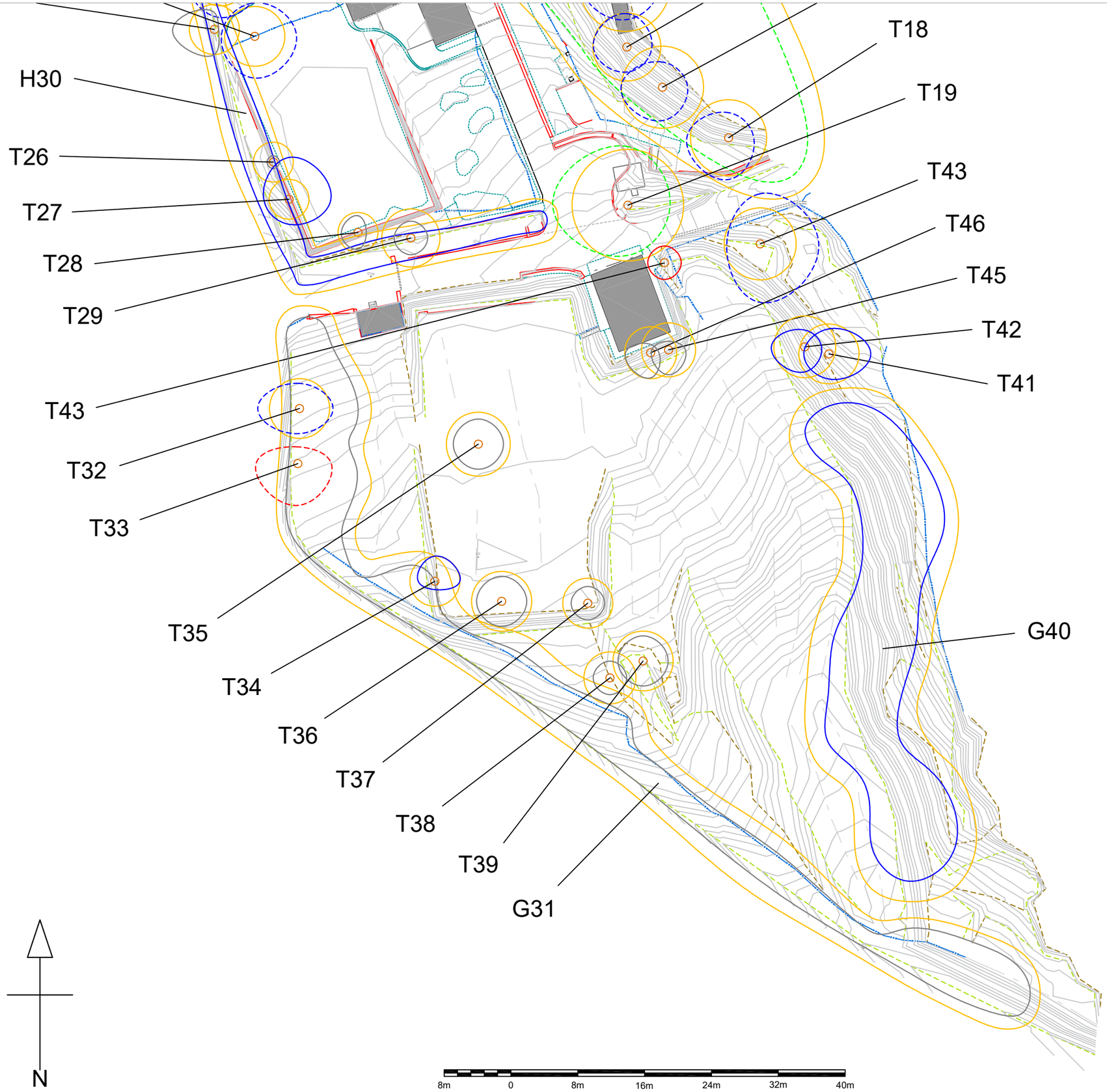

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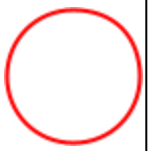
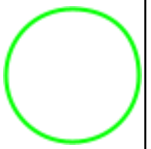
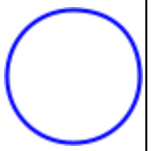
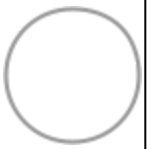
Appendix 3: BS 5837:2012 Tree Quality Assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			ID on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention[1]				
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.			
	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).	
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.	
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.	

[1] Category **U** trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve, if applicable, this will be recommended within **Appendix 1**.

Appendix 4: Glossary of Terms

Term	Explanation
Diameter at Breast Height	The diameter of the tree trunk in question, 'breast height' is taken to be 1.3 metres above ground level. Multi-stem trees have their stems measured separately and indicated as so in the tree schedule. Trees with abnormal growths, branch unions or other obstructions at 1.3 m will have their measurements taken immediately below said obstructions.
Root Protection Area (RPA)	Circular area surrounding tree with a radius based on the DBH of the tree, as calculated in BS 5837:2012. RPA Radius = 12 x DBH.
Scaffold Branches	Significant (relative to the canopy in question) 1st & 2nd order branches which support the tree's canopy.
Visual Tree Assessment	A system of tree inspection devised by Claus Mattheck using visual signs to read the body language of trees & aid with the diagnosis of potential defects.
Binomial name shorthand	First two letters of genus name & first two letters of species name as combined to give a shorthand species code. E.g. Sycamore - ACer PSeudoplatanus would be written as ACPS. Where cultivar or conflicting names are used, a six digit form will be used rather than four digit. E.g. Copper Beech - FAgus SYlvatica 'PUrpurea' would be written as FASYPU.
Crown Break	The point at which the main stem divides into a tree's canopy.
Basal/Stem Opening	Section of tree which has lost its bark coating & may or may not feature wood degradation, decay or an open cavity.
Young	Tree which has not yet established a significant rooting structure in the ground & has not developed a significant branching structure - its form is largely 'whip' like in nature & it could normally be easily transplanted or replaced.
Semi Mature	Tree which has established a significant rooting structure & could not easily be transplanted. The tree's structure will have begun to develop an internal scaffold structure but its structural form does not yet match that of a mature version of its specimen. Trees in this age class will still be developing significantly in height & spread.
Early Mature	Tree which has established a significant rooting structure & has developed a noticeable internal scaffold structure, differs from a mature version of its species only in size but not in relative proportions of its structure. Trees in this age class will still be developing significantly in height & spread.
Mature	Tree which has established a significant root-plate & which is over 50% of the way through its usual life expectancy. Trees in this age class will still be developing significantly in spread but less significantly in height.
Over Mature	Tree which has fully established & will no longer be able to continue increasing in size due to its age, it may be showing signs of decline such as localised dieback but does not need to do so by definition. However it should be expected that signs of structural deterioration will soon become apparent.
Veteran	Tree which is showing veteran tree characteristics such as very significant crown retrenchment, extensive internal cavitation & possess significant cultural, ecological &/or historical value. Size is a common indicator of these characteristics but is not an essential requirement, for example, ancient coppices may possess veteran tree characteristics but may have a stunted form. Age is a stronger indicator but again not essential as veteran characteristics can be encouraged in younger trees.
Minor Deadwood	Deadwood under 50 mm in diameter.
Major Deadwood	Deadwood which is equal to or greater than 50 mm in diameter.