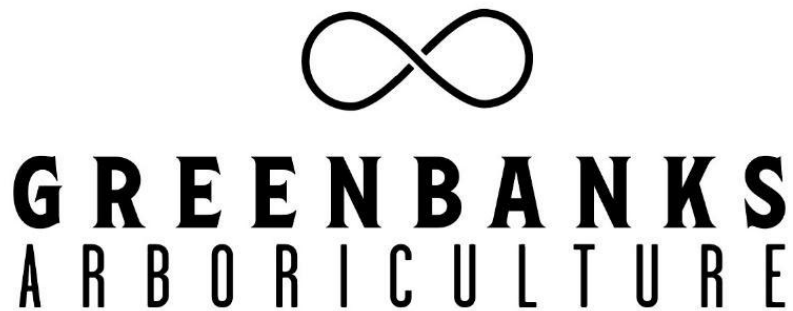




Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) January 2025

Report no.: TWR-0123

Client: Paul Flood, Greenhalgh & Williams Ltd.

Site Address: St Cecilia's RC High School, Chapel hill, Longridge, Preston, PR3 2XA

Agent: Thomas Banks t/a Greenbanks Arboriculture Limited

Report type: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The proposal is to extend the existing staff car park situated to the south westerly of the school grounds, to provide additional car parking spaces.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Agent

- 2.1. My name is Thomas Banks. I am a professional arboriculturist. I am RFS certified, competent and experienced in tree surveying, consultations and operational contractual tree works. I provide annual tree risk assessments for a number of commercial and domestic clients. I have worked in arboriculture for over 10 years. During this time I have been a director of a successful arboricultural business, managed large and small scale projects for local councils, property management companies (such as HDAK and Hurstwood holdings), a variety of domestic clients, and our local Zoo (Bowland wild boar park). I began my professional career as the lead climbing arborist at Fylde borough council. I continue to subcontract for several large tree consultancy and contracting companies both here in the UK and in Munich, Germany.

Brief from Client

- 2.2. To carry out an Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

Description of the Proposed Development

- 2.3. Development of existing staff car park to increase the overall capacity

Documents Referred to

- 2.4. The British Standard Institute publication BS 5837:2022 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations' is referred to throughout this report. This is a nationally recognised standard typically used by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to assess planning applications. It is frequently referred to in planning conditions to enforce protection or control of works that may be harmful to trees both on and off the site.

3. ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Findings

- 3.1.** A site visit was carried out by the agent on Monday 13th January 2025. A total of six trees were recorded. Five of the trees (T17, T18, T23, T24, T27) are located on the southerly and south-westerly boundary of the school grounds. One other (T28) is situated several meters in from the entrance to the existing car park.

Please see the table below for further information on the trees and their species, category, RPA, etc.

	Species		Condition	Category (see reference 3.5)	Root Protection Area (RPA) (meters)	Comments
	Common Name	Botanical name				
T17	Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Fair	B	3.5	n/a
T18	Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Fair	B	7	# Storm damage # RPA previously encroached
T23	Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Good	B	2.5	n/a
T24	Western red cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Good	B	9	# RPA previously encroached
T27	Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Fair	B	7	n/a
T28	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Fair	B	10	# RPA previously encroached

Recommendations

- 3.2.** To prevent any potential damage to the health of the trees, contractors should avoid spillages and the use of contaminants within the RPA of any of the six trees listed.

Observation

- 3.3.** Three of the trees were found to have had their RPA's previously encroached (see table above). Foundations for hard standing areas have been excavated and compacted with MOT type 1. This does not seem to have had any negative effect on either the tree's health.

Conclusion

- 3.4.** The arboricultural impact is relatively low. No further excavation or compaction is required within the RPA's for any of the six trees located around the proposed development of the staff carpark. Trees should be protected during each phase of the development (see reference 4.2) . This should be done by arboricultural methodology, barriers and ground protection where necessary. The project includes the development of a wild flower meadow surrounding the car park. It is recommended to avoid laying turf/sewing seed up to and within an area of approximately one meter radius to each tree. Allow an area for mulch in order for each tree to absorb sufficient nutrients with limited competition from grasses and wild flowers alike.

3.5. Reference

Category A	Trees of high value including those that are particularly good examples of their species and/or those that have visual importance or significant conservation or other value
Category B	Trees of moderate value including those that do not qualify as Category A due to impaired condition and/or those that collectively have higher value than they would as individuals; also trees with material conservation or other value
Category C	Trees of low value including those with very limited merit or impaired condition; trees offering transient or temporary landscape benefits
Category U	Trees with irreparable defects and anticipated early loss due to collapse; dead trees or those in immediate decline and those with infectious pathogens that threaten other trees.

Summary of BS 5837 tree quality categorisation criteria

4. Tree protection scheme-

4.1. Root protection areas



4.2. Tree protection plan

Protective Fencing and Exclusion Zones Site-wide tree protection measures will be required during development to ensure tree retention. This will include temporary protective barrier fencing to demarcate a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) around retained trees. This should be put in place prior to the commencement of any further development works, including bringing machinery or materials onto site, the erection of site huts or demolition.

The CEZ should protect both tree roots and branches and should be designed to incorporate canopy spread where appropriate. All of the CEZ should be protected throughout the construction process by either an approved working methodology, ground protection, or protective fencing.

The fencing must be fixed into the ground to withstand accidental impact from machinery and to ensure that a sufficient protective area is maintained.

A weatherproof notice identifying the Construction Exclusion Zone should be fixed to the fencing panels as necessary.

Any alteration to the fencing alignment to allow for approved activities should only be made in agreement with the council's Arboricultural Officer.

The protective fencing must not be removed until the physical construction phase has been completed and all vehicles/machinery have been removed from site, to the satisfaction of the council's Arboricultural Office.

4.3. Pictures of trees that have been taken into consideration due to their close proximity to proposed development.



Picture 1: (from left to right) T18 Horse chestnut and T19 Silver birch.

Greenbanks arboriculture

Tree report undertaken: January 2025



Picture 2: T23 Silver birch.

Greenbanks arboriculture

Tree report undertaken: January 2025



Picture 3: T24 Western red cedar

Greenbanks arboriculture

Tree report undertaken: January 2025



Picture 4: T27 Hornbeam.

Greenbanks arboriculture

Tree report undertaken: January 2025



Picture 5: T28 Beech.