



Arboricultural impact assessment

Sabden, St Nicholas, Heyhouses
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TREWORKS ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES

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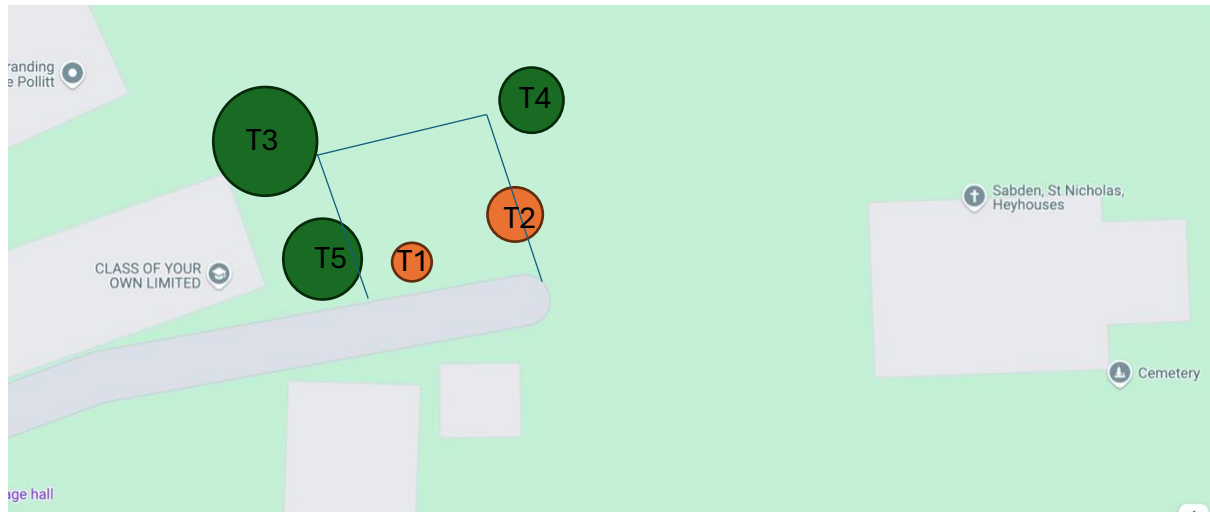
1. Project Overview

- **Objective:** Development of a new car park within church grounds.
- **Tree Impact:** Removal of the semi-mature Cherry (T1) and the semi mature beech (T2, 9m tall) to accommodate the development.
 - **Trees Retained:** Mature Beech (T3) and mature Oak (T4, 7m tall).
- **Mitigation:** Implement strategic hard and soft landscaping design with tree-safe root protection zones (RPZ) to preserve retained trees.

Tree Ref	Species	Maturity	Height (m)	Circumference (cm)	Notes
T1	Cherry	Semi-mature	5	50	Proposed for removal
T2	beech	Semi - Mature	9	90	Proposed for removal
T3	Beech	Mature	10–12	130	To be retained and protected
T4	Oak	Mature	7	70	To be retained and protected
T5	Oak	Semi - Mature	8	70	To be retained and protected

Trees to be Removed

Tree ID	Species	Height (m)	Circumference (cm)	Reason for Removal
X1	Cherry	5	50	Located within proposed car park footprint; removal necessary for development.
X1	Beech	9	90	Situated in area required for parking spaces and access. Removal essential for site layout.



2. Arboricultural Impact Assessment Summary

The development proposal for a new car park within the grounds of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church necessitates selective tree removal and the preservation of key specimens. Each tree has been assessed based on its maturity, species characteristics, and spatial relationship to the proposed works.

Two trees are to be removed:

- **Tree T1 – Cherry (*Prunus* spp.), semi-mature, 5 m tall, 50 cm circumference:** Located directly within the proposed car park footprint. While the tree is in fair condition, its size, location, and expected growth pattern present a long-term constraint to hard surfacing. Its removal poses minimal arboricultural impact due to its moderate ecological and amenity value.
- **Tree T2 – Beech, mature, 9 m tall, 90 cm circumference:** This tree, though of higher amenity value, is sited such that it significantly overlaps the car park's access zone. Root disturbance during construction would be unavoidable, and preservation would compromise vehicle access. Accordingly, removal is justified to facilitate sustainable development, and mitigation through soft landscaping is advised.

Both removals are considered unavoidable due to fixed design constraints and the spatial demands of vehicle circulation and parking.

Tree Retention and Protection

The following trees are to be retained and protected in situ:

- **Tree T3 – Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), mature, 10–12 m , 15m radius, 130 cm circumference:**

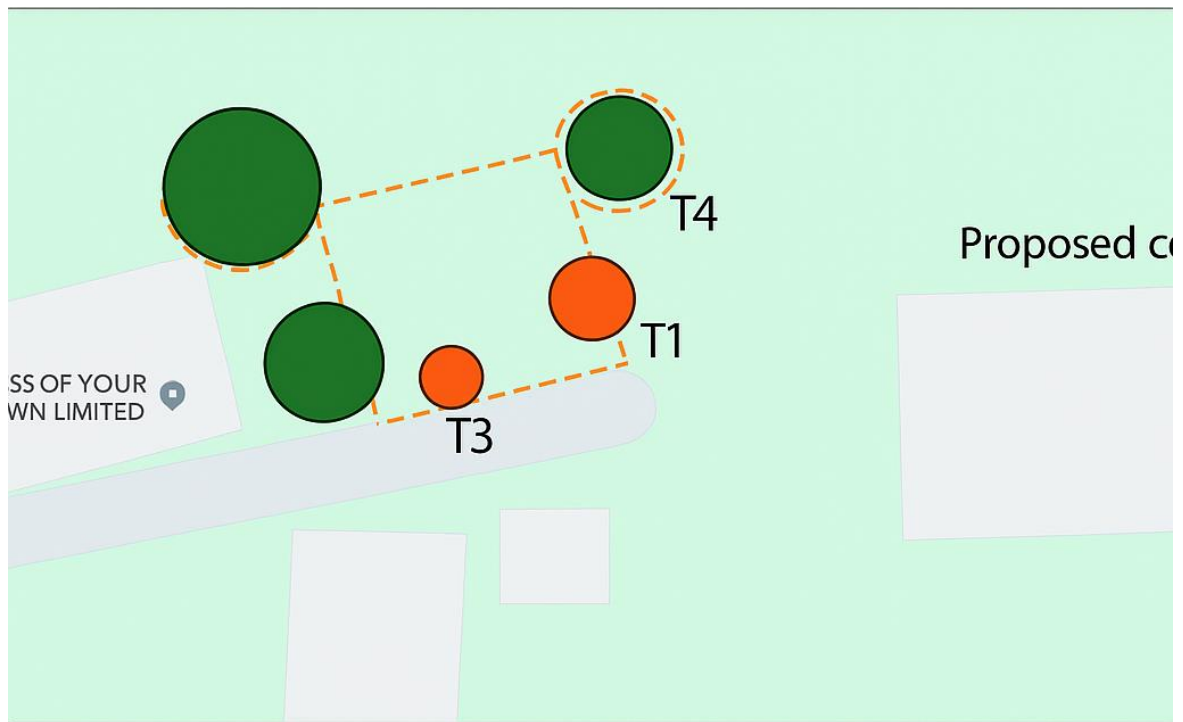
This tree contributes significantly to the site's visual and environmental value. Its Root Protection Area (RPA), calculated at approximately **15.6 m radius**, will be fully respected. Protective fencing and strict machinery exclusion will be enforced. Landscaping around this specimen will be softened with mulch rings and minimal ground compaction to maintain soil structure and root function.

- **Tree T4 – Oak (*Quercus robur*), mature, 7 m tall, 70 cm circumference:**

With an RPA of **8.4 m radius**, this tree will be safeguarded using high-visibility barrier fencing and tree-safe construction methods. Its proximity to the proposed works requires vigilance during surfacing operations; permeable materials and root-friendly edging will be used in any adjacent hard landscaping.

- **Tree T5 – Oak (*Quercus robur*), mature, 8 m tall, 70 cm circumference:**

With an RPA of **8.4 m radius**, this tree will be safeguarded using high-visibility barrier fencing and tree-safe construction methods. Its proximity to the proposed works requires vigilance during surfacing operations; permeable materials and root-friendly edging will be used in any adjacent hard landscaping.



 Tree to be retained

 Tree to be removed

 Protective fencing

Landscape Strategy and Tree Integration

The site design integrates retained trees into a multifunctional landscape framework. The following measures will ensure ongoing compatibility between tree health and site use:

- **Permeable surfacing** will be installed where hard landscaping approaches RPAs, allowing for gaseous exchange and water infiltration.
- **Soft landscaping beds and mulched zones** will buffer RPAs and reduce soil compaction.
- **Post-construction monitoring** is recommended for retained trees to detect signs of stress or disturbance.
- **Replacement planting** may be considered for the removed trees, where space allows, using smaller species compatible with built infrastructure.

3. Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

6.1 Protective Fencing

- Install **robust, high-visibility fencing** around the full Root Protection Areas of retained trees (T3 and T4) prior to any site works.
- Fencing to comply with **BS 5837:2012** guidelines for tree protection.
- Fencing to remain in place until all construction activity is complete.

6.2 Site Access and Working Practices

- Prohibit any vehicle or machinery movement within fenced RPZs.
- If access near RPZs is necessary, use **temporary ground protection systems** (e.g., scaffold boards, root protection mats).
- Avoid storage of materials, chemicals, or spoil within RPZs.

6.3 Excavation and Utility Works

- No excavation or trenching within RPZs unless approved and carried out by arboricultural supervision using specialist methods (e.g., hand digging, air spading).
- Utility routes to be planned outside RPZs or constructed with root-sensitive methods.

6.4 Soft Landscaping

- Planting of new vegetation around retained trees to improve soil structure and reduce compaction.
- Mulching recommended around tree bases, avoiding soil build-up against trunks.

7. Tree Removal Schedule

Task	Description	Responsible Party	Timing
Pre-removal survey	Document condition of all trees pre-removal	Arborist	Prior to works
Protective fencing	Erect fencing around retained trees	Contractor	Before demolition
Tree Removal	Remove Cherry T1 and Oak T2 safely	Licensed Arborist	Early phase
Stump Grinding	Grind stumps to below ground level	Licensed Arborist	Immediately post-removal
Site Clearance	Remove debris and prepare ground	Contractor	Post removal
Landscaping Works	Implement soft/hard landscaping and RPZ measures	Landscape Contractor	Following clearance
Monitoring	Regular inspection of retained trees' health	Arborist	Throughout project and 12 months post-completion

8. Summary

This plan balances the necessary tree removals to allow for the church car park development while safeguarding the health and longevity of the remaining mature trees. Through strategic design and strict adherence to root protection measures, the retained trees can continue to thrive alongside the new infrastructure.