

Yew Tree and Gardens

Client: Mr A. Yates.

– Holden Clough House, Holden Clough, Bolton by
Bowland Lancs.

Tree Report for Proposed Solar Array

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TREE SURVEY

1. Site

a. Site Description

The survey area comprises an area of land situated to the North East of Holden Clough House.

This area comprises of an unmaintained scrub grass area with a scattering of minor trees. Tree stock within the surveyed area is comprised of mature trees, these trees are a mixture of introduced examples i.e fruit varieties / conifers and native species. See Appendix1, Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 for detailed tree list, site layout detail and images.

b. Survey Details

The site was surveyed on 23/01/13, tree heights were estimated via use of clinometer (Suunto PM-5) measurements of DBH taken at 1.5m height and crown spread was taken by ground measurements. The position of trees and crown extents are taken from the site survey supplied to ourselves. All images were taken at the same date with Nokia N8. Weather conditions were overcast with moderate winds.

All surveying of tree stock on the site was carried out visually from the ground only. Where ivy cover was encountered on trees then only limited visual checking of structure and potential defects was possible.

At the time of surveying all trees were recorded on standard tree record sheets, see Appendix 1 : Tree Schedule. Trees were surveyed throughout the entire site, detailed individual details were recorded for all significant trees within the existing site. Where larger numbers of smaller trees were encountered in the survey area these are included as a Group record which includes the approximate height range and maximum Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of trees within the group, these groups are referred to by group i.e. Group 2 (G2).

The surveyed trees are categorized by the standard retention categories as defined in BS5837:2012. Such retention categories seek to inform the design process of trees which may be worthy of consideration for inclusion within the proposed development All work recommendations relate to trees within the context of the current site layout and usage.

Trees requiring removal to facilitate the proposed development are indicated in red on the Tree Location Plan and are further identified in the work recommendation section of the Tree Schedule.

2. Existing Structures and Proposed Development

a. Existing Structures

At the time of survey there are no permanent structures in the surveyed area.

b. Proposed Development

To the best of our knowledge the current development proposal undergoing design consideration is for the erection of a solar panel array in the approximate position indicated in Appendix 2; Tree Location Plan.

3. Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas

a. Site Description

We understand that the site is not located within a Conservation Area. At the time of the report we have not verified the status of all tree within the site in respect of Tree Preservation Orders. The status and ownership of all the trees on the site would need to be confirmed and appropriate permissions obtained prior to any works being undertaken on the surveyed trees, as listed in Appendix 1: Tree Schedule.

4. Tree Constraints

a. Overview

The need to survey and report on the condition and useful life expectancy of existing trees has been requested by Ribble Valley District Council to accompany a planning application for the proposed development.

b. Proposed Development

As can be seen from Appendix1; Tree Schedule, Appendix 2; Tree Location Plan and Appendix 3: Images; trees covered within this survey and report are located immediately adjacent to the proposed site of the solar panels.

Tree references T1 and G1 are indicated for removal in order to create an area which is suitable for the location of the solar panels. We are informed that this is the ideal location for the panels due to its position upon the Southwest facing slope and its screened position from both distant and near viewing points.

As can be seen from Appendix 1 and Appendix 3 tree references T1 and G1 are of low retention value, furthermore they are not visible from any distant vantage points. Their removal will not therefore be significant in terms of either landscape or woodland value.

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4b. Proposed Development (Cont)

Tree reference T2 is the only significant tree reference in close proximity to the proposed solar panels. As can be seen from Appendix 2; Tree Location the proposed position of the solar panel array is close to the Western extremity of T2 calculated RPA. Any incursion is likely to be very minimal. As this tree is open grown any incursion will be significantly less than the maximum recommended incursion in one direction up to a maximum of 20% of the RPA radius as per the guidance in BS5837:2012.

No other significant retained trees will be affected by the proposed scheme.

All above ground issues are addressed in 4c and 6..

c. Existing structures

As previously noted there are no existing structures within the surveyed areas.

Recommendations for works and monitoring are contained in Appendix 1: Tree Schedule.

5. Tree Constraints – Development

Due to the nature of the proposed development and the location of the surveyed trees it should be possible to retain all suitable trees and ensure protection of same during the construction process.

Tree Protection Fences should not be required for the development phase, this is due to the nature of the proposed development and its location in relation to retained trees. See Appendix 2; Tree Location Plan.

An indicative list of recommended practices during construction phase is listed below:

Once installed tree protection must remain in place and be observed at all times.

No fires within 10m of the crown of any retained trees.

Soil levels in rooting areas to be retained with minimal level changes, no greater than 300mm.

No cement mixing/washout to take place within 15m of any retained trees.

No chemicals, bitumen etc to be stored within 10m of any retained trees.

Any spillage of fuel, chemicals or contaminated water occurring within 2m of the root protection areas to be reported to project supervisor.

No additional underground services have been indicated to us at this time but they may be safely routed along the tree free areas of the site, if additional services require routing through the root zones of trees for retention then appropriate sub-surface or micro tunnelling methods should be used. See BS3857:2012

6. Tree Constraints - Proposed Development and Juxtaposition with Trees

Due to the nature of the proposed development and the location of trees within the site no significant above ground issues should be created.

All significant retained trees are located to the North and East of the proposed location of the solar panels and as such will not cause any issues of light loss or overshadowing. It is unlikely that any retained tree will extend its canopy spread into the area of the solar panel array during the lifetime of the installation.

See Appendix1: Tree Schedule, Appendix2: Tree Location Plan, Appendix3: Images.

7. Proposed Tree Planting

At the time of this survey a requirement for replacement planting has been identified in direct relation to the proposed development. This planting would be located to the Southwest of the proposed solar panel installation to provide additional screening from the upper floor of Holden Clough House. Any planting will be of native varieties and will offset the previously stated requirement for limited tree removals to facilitate the proposed installation.

8. Scope of brief

Carry out a survey of trees within the site in accordance with BS5837:2012 and collect data in order to advise the development designer of key issues relating to trees, with options and strategies. Prepare a Report with associated data, site plans and imagery, in order to facilitate consideration of the tree issues both for existing structures and the proposed development.

9. Supporting Information

Site Plan: Scale 1:500 @ A1

10. Conclusions

It is concluded that

It is possible to retain suitable existing significant surveyed trees within the wooded area adjacent to the proposed scheme. It is also possible to complete the construction phase without additional damage/stress being placed upon trees to be retained within the site if guidance detailed in this report and recommendations contained in BS5837:2012 are followed.

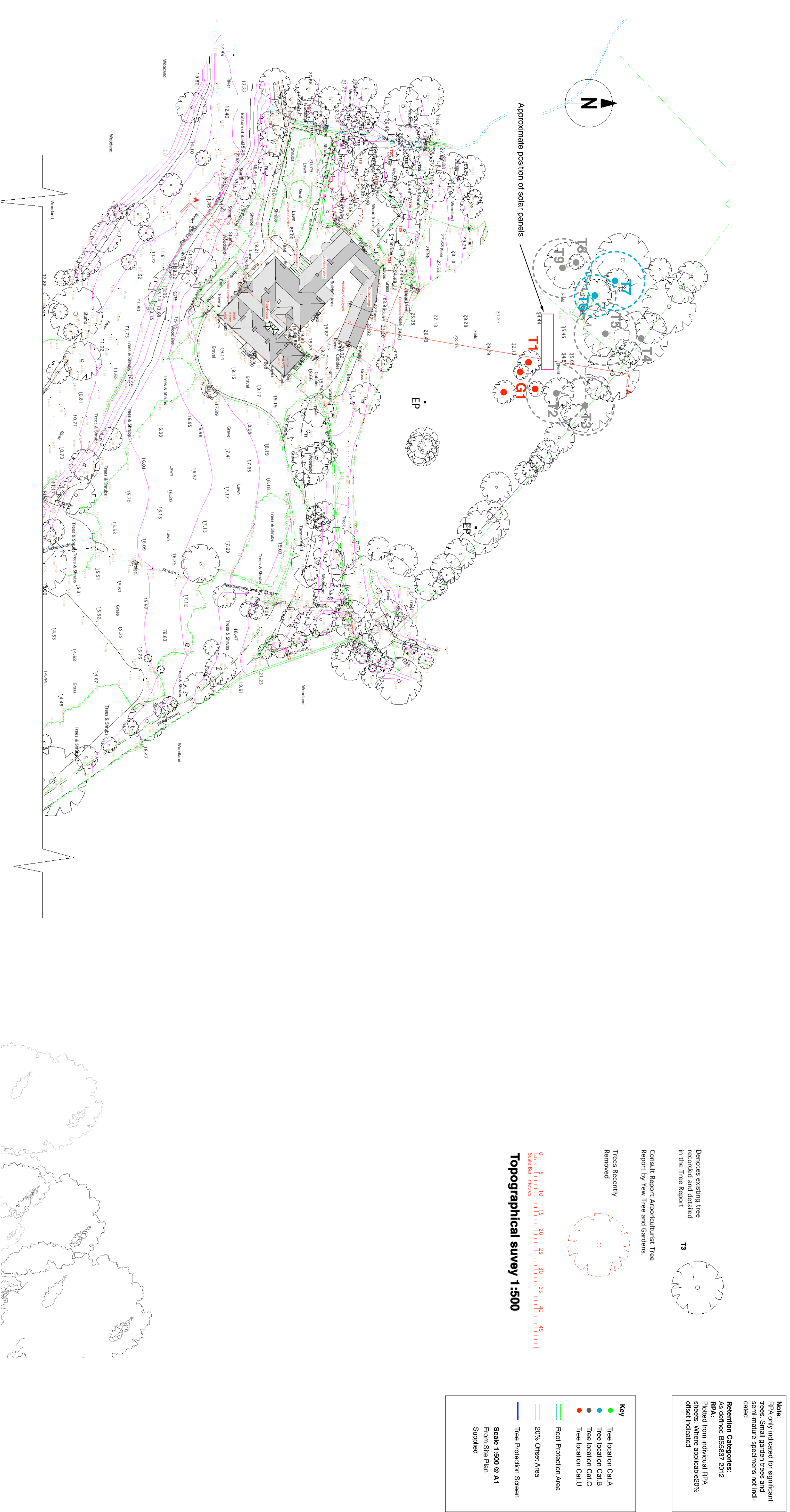
11. Recommendations

It is recommended that

The recommendations contained within this report both for the management of trees for retention and the protection of same during proposed development phase are taken into consideration.

That the Local Authority Tree Officer be consulted for input and professional guidance through the planning process.

Tree Ref.	Species	Height (est) m	Sread (est) m NSEW	Age Class	Vigour	DBH (mm)	Condition/Comments	BS5837 RetCat	Work Recommendations	
G1	<i>Mallus</i> sp	4	4	m	I	<430	Group of three Apple trees, extensive cankers and deadwood	U	will require removal in context of development	
1	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	9	7	m	n	na	Multi stem Hazel, possibly previously coppiced.	U	will require removal in context of development	
2	<i>Picea orientalis</i>	20	5	m	n	775 @ base	Oriental spruce bifurcates @ 1m	C1	regularly monitor condition - retain in context of development	
3	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	16	11	m	I	630	Single stem Ash, bifurcates @ 4m. Damage to one limbe, suppressed criown due to lapsed hedge	C3	regularly monitor condition - retain in context of development	
4	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	20	8	m	n	705	Single stem Sycamore. Bifurcates @ 8m, hanging deadwood, bark loss @ 1m	C1	regularly monitor condition - retain in context of development	
5	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	20	7	m	n	681	Single stem Alder all crown to W	C1	regularly monitor condition - retain in context of development	
H1	<i>Mixed hedge</i>	12	5	m	n	na	Lapsed hedge line	C1	regularly monitor condition - retain in context of development - consider copicing and replanting to rejuvenate	
6	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	18	4	m	n	460	Single stem Alder - balanced crown	B3	regularly monitor condition - retain in context of development	
7	<i>Picea abies</i>	23	3	m	n	645	Single stem Spruce, balanced crown	B3	regularly monitor condition - retain in context of development	
8	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	20	4	m	n	360	Single stem Alder all crown to N	C1	regularly monitor condition - retain in context of development	
9	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	23	6	m	n	575 530	Co dominant stem Alder - included bark union, all crown to SW	C3	regularly monitor condition - retain in context of development	



Appendix3 - Site Images



G1 - individual member



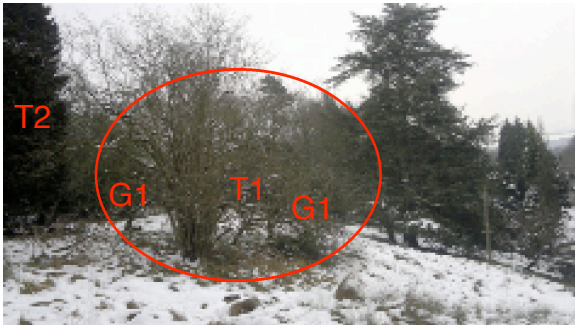
T1



T6 - T7



Tree locations to SE



G1, T1 - Location



T8 - T9

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Appendix 4

Reference List

The Body Language of Trees by Claus Mattheck & Helge Breloer (1994) London:HMSO.
Diagnosis of ill-health in trees by R.G. Strouts and T.G. Winter. (2000) London:HMSO
Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management by David Lonsdale.(1999) HMSO
BS5837:2012 British Standards Institute
Trees Their Use, Management, Cultivation and Biology Robert Watson 2006