



BS5837:2012

**Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction –
Recommendations**

Tree Survey

BE FIRST REGENERATION LTD.

Garage site on Keir Hardie Way

IG11 9NU

11 December 2020

Author: Jon Hartley BSc (Hons) MArborA

Introduction

Arbtech Consulting Limited (Arbtech) received written instruction on 15 September 2020 from Be First Regeneration Ltd. to attend Garage site on Keir Hardie Way IG11 9NU (site) to undertake an arboricultural survey a to BS5837:2012 guidance to assess trees, hedges and major shrub groups growing on and within influencing distance of the site and to produce a Schedule of trees and Tree Constraints Plan.

I am Jon Hartley, an arboricultural surveyor at Arbtech Consulting Ltd. I undertook the tree survey on 07 December 2020 and subsequently, have produced this summary of my findings.

I passed the RFS Certificate of Arboriculture in 2000 after a short time working in the industry. During a six-year spell in Australia, I passed the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level 5 Diploma in arboriculture. I also now hold a BSc (Hons) degree in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry and the obligatory LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector certification. I benefit from professional industry experience spanning 20 years. I have professional memberships with the Consulting Arborist Society and the Arboricultural Association and an associate membership with the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

The advice below and appended is underwritten by our Professional Indemnity insurance for the business practice of Arboricultural Consultancy in the sum of one million Pounds Sterling in each and every claim.

Table 1: Documents referred to.

Document	Reference No.
Survey base drawing	9952/KEIR/Rev0
LPA pre-app comments	N/A
British Standard 5837:2012	"BS5837"
Tree Survey Schedule	Arbtech TS 07
Tree Constraints Plan	Arbtech TCP 07

Tree Survey

Survey: An arboricultural survey to BS5837 of all trees within impacting distance of the site was undertaken by Jon Hartley on 07 December 2020.

During the survey, I categorised the trees using "Table 1 – Cascade chart for tree quality assessment" of the BS5837:2012 (see Appendix 1).

A total of 5No individual trees and 3No. groups of trees were surveyed. Details for each of the trees surveyed are provided in the Schedule of Trees (see Appendix 2).

Table 2: Documents upon which this tree survey has been based.

Document	Originator	Reference Number	Title
Topographical Survey	Laser Surveys	9925/KEIR/Rev0	Topographical Survey

Limitations: The survey was made at ground level using visual observation only. Detailed examinations, such as climbing inspections and decay detection equipment were not employed, though may form part of the survey's management recommendations. Measurements were taken using specialist tapes, laser and GPS devices. Where this was not possible, measurements are estimated.

Scope: Pre-development tree surveys make arboricultural management recommendations based exclusively upon the individual tree or group of trees condition relative to their present context (*i.e. not in relation to the proposed development*).

Legal Status: No statutory protection check has been performed. BS5837 does not draw any distinction between trees subject to statutory protection, such as a Tree Preservation Order ("TPO"), and those trees without. This is principally because a detailed planning consent overrides any TPO protection. Consequently, we do not seek to offer any comparison between or infer any difference in the quality or importance of TPO trees and other trees.

* For more information on the surveyed trees please see Arbtech Consulting Ltd, Tree Survey Schedule (Appendix 1), Tree Survey Report and Tree Constraints Plan.

Site description

The survey site consists of a number of garage blocks servicing the immediate residential area.

**Figure 1: Site Location (Google Earth)**

It is proposed to develop the site with housing.

It is likely that arboricultural impacts can be addressed with arboricultural methodology or minor amendments to the proposal.

BS5837:2012 Scope

This standard recognises that there can be problems for development close to existing trees which are to be retained, and of planting trees close to existing structures. This standard sets out to assist those concerned with trees in relation to construction to form balanced judgements. It does not set out to put arguments for or against development, or for the removal or retention of trees. Where development, including demolition, is to occur, the standard provides guidance on how to decide which trees are appropriate for retention, on the means of protecting these trees during development, including demolition and construction work, and on the means of incorporating trees into the developed landscape.

Methodology

The methodology used to assess the trees was the British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Construction' tree survey method. The aim of the survey is to establish which trees are moderate and good quality; suitable for retention and justifying protection. And, which trees are low or poor quality; either undesirable or unsuitable to retain and protect.

The tree survey includes all trees included in the land survey red line boundary plan, as well as any that may have been missed, and it should categorize trees or groups of trees, including woodlands for their quality and value within the existing context, in a transparent, understandable and systematic way. Where the arboriculturist has deemed it appropriate, the trees have been tagged with small metal or plastic tags, placed as high as is convenient on the stem of each tree.

Whilst master plan proposals for the development of the site might be available, the trees have been surveyed without taking these into consideration. All detailed design work on site layout should take into consideration the results of the tree survey (and the TCP).

Trees forming groups and areas of woodland (including orchards, wood pasture and historic parkland) are identified and considered as groups where the arboriculturist has determined that this is appropriate, particularly where they contain a variety of species and age classes that could aid long-term management. It is often expedient to assess the quality and value of such groups of trees as a whole, rather than as individuals. However, an assessment of individuals within any group has been undertaken if they are open-grown or if there is a need to differentiate between them.

The quality and value of each tree or group of trees has been recorded by allocating it to one of the four categories: **A**, **B**, **C**, or **U** (highest to lowest quality respectively). The categories are differentiated on the tree survey plan by colour, or by suffixing the category adjacent to the tree identification number on the TCP.

The survey schedule lists all the trees or groups of trees. The following information is also provided:

- I. reference number (to be recorded on the tree survey plan);
- II. species (common or scientific names);
- III. height in meters (m);
- IV. stem diameter in millimetres (mm) at 1.5 m above adjacent ground level or immediately above the root flare for multi-stemmed trees;
- V. branch spread in meters taken at the four cardinal compass points;
- VI. height of crown clearance above adjacent ground level in meters (m);
- VII. age class (Newly planted, Young, Semi-mature, Early mature, Mature, Over mature);
- VIII. physiological condition (e.g. good, fair, poor, decline and dead);
- IX. structural condition (e.g. good, fair, poor and ivy);
- X. preliminary management recommendations, including further investigation of suspected defects that require more detailed assessment and potential for wildlife habitat; and
- XI. The retention category referring to the quality and useful contribution in years; **U** = <10yrs; **A** = >40yrs; **B** = >20yrs; **C** = >10yrs. The retention subcategory referring to the type of amenity; 1 = Arboricultural; 2 = Landscape; 3 = Cultural including conservation (see Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment).

Definitions

Arboriculturist

An arboriculturist (or arboricultural consultant) is a person who has, through relevant education, training and experience, gained recognized qualifications and expertise in the field of trees in relation to construction.

Tree Survey

A tree survey should be undertaken by an arboriculturist and should record information about the trees on a site independently of and prior to any specific design for development. As a subsequent task, and with reference to a design or potential design, the results of the survey should be included in the preparation of a tree constraints plan, which should be used to assist with site layout design.

Tree Constraints Plan

A TCP is a plan, typically delivered as an AutoCAD drawing (.dxf or .dwg file format), prepared by an arboriculturist for the purposes of layout design showing the root protection area and representing the effect that the mature height and spread of retained trees will have on layouts through shade, dominance, etc.

Root Protection Area

An RPA is a layout design tool indicating the area surrounding a tree that contains sufficient rooting volume to ensure the survival of the tree, shown in plan form in m².

Construction Exclusion Zone (also termed Tree Protection Zone)

A construction exclusion or tree protection zone is an area based on the RPA (in m²), identified by an arboriculturist, to be protected during development, including demolition and construction work, by the use of barriers and/or ground protection fit for purpose to ensure the successful long-term retention of a tree.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

This is a study, undertaken by an arboriculturist, to identify, evaluate and possibly mitigate the extent of direct and indirect impacts on existing trees that may arise as a result of the implementation of any site layout proposal.

Tree Protection Plan

A TPP is a plan, typically delivered as an AutoCAD drawing (.dwg file format), prepared by an arboriculturist showing the finalized layout proposals, tree retention and tree and landscape protection measures detailed within the arboricultural method statement, which can be shown graphically.

Arboricultural Method Statement

This is a methodology for the implementation of any aspect of development that has the potential to result in loss of or damage to a tree. The AMS is likely to include details of an on-site tree protection monitoring regime.

Recommendations

We have not seen the proposed scheme and make the following recommendation to ensure that there are no irrevocable issues to the proposed retained trees and so that no conditions relating to arboriculture are attached to any planning consent secured; obtain an arboricultural report to include:

- a) An arboricultural impact assessment (AIA);
- b) An arboricultural method statement (AMS); and
- c) A tree protection plan drawing (TPP).

Limitations

Trees were inspected from using visual observation from ground level only. Trees were not climbed or inspected below ground level. Inaccessible trees will have best estimates made about the location, physical dimensions and characteristics. Trees have been grouped where BS5837 guides us that it is expedient to do so. Trees have been excluded from the survey if they are found by us to be sufficiently far away from the proposed developable area or if they are outside of the red line boundary plan showing the expectations of our Client for the extent of the survey. BS5837 does not draw any distinction between trees subject to statutory protection, such as a Tree Preservation Order ("TPO"), and those trees without. This is principally because a detailed planning consent overrides any TPO protection. Consequently, we do not seek to offer any comparison between or infer any difference in the quality or importance of TPO trees and other trees.

Appendices

The following documents were released to the Client as appendices to this report:

- Survey Schedule (.pdf)
- Tree Constraints Plan drawing (.dwg/.dxf & .pdf)

If you require clarification of information contained herein, please do not hesitate to contact us via 01244 660558.

Yours Sincerely,



Jon Hartley BSc (Hons) MArborA
Senior Consultant

07860951396
01227373287
jh@arbtech.co.uk

Appendix 1: Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations

Table 1

Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories when appropriate)			Identification on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)				
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trees that have 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 <i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.</i>			Dark red
	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)	Light green
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 remedial defects, including unsympathetic management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention of 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	Mid blue
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm	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 value	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	Grey

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Appendix 2: Schedule of Trees

BS5837:2012 Tree Survey

Arbtech Consulting Ltd.

Client: BE FIRST REGENERATION LTD
 Project: Garage site on Keir Hardie Way IG11 9NU
 Survey Date: 07/12/2020
 Surveyor: Jon Hartley




Unit 3, Well House Barns
 Chester Road
 Chester
 Cheshire
 CH4 0DH
 Phone: 01244661170

Tree and Tag No Species		Hght (m)	Stems		Crown		Age	RP A (m²) R (m)	Phys Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Recommendations		Cat ERC
			No	Ø (mm)	Spread (m)	Clear (m)					Survey Comment		
G01											Estimated Measurements		
Various		5	1	180	N	1.5	1	SM	A: 14.7	Good	C: Fair		C.2
See comments for details					E	1.5	1		R: 2.16		S: Not visible	Off site group including hazel, Leyland cypress, buddleja; all observations limited by restricted access as group is behind the garages; dimensions recorded are an estimate of the maximum within the group.	10+ yrs
					S	1.5	1				B: Not visible		
					W	1.5	3						
G02												Estimated Measurements	
Various		16	1	550	N	6	3	M	A: 136.9	Good	C: Good		B.1.2
See comments for details					E	6	3		R: 6.6		S: Not visible	Off site group; observations recorded are based on the common lime closest to site, however are estimated due restricted access; of fair quality and high value.	40+ yrs
					S	5	3				B: Not visible		
					W	7	3						
G03												Estimated Measurements	
Various		8	1	180	N	3	3	Y	A: 14.7	Good	C: Good		C.2
See comments for details					E	3	3		R: 2.16		S: Not visible	Off site group including sycamore and cherry; all observations recorded are estimated due to restricted access; of fair quality and value.	20+ yrs
					S	3	3				B: Not visible		
					W	3	3						
T01													
Common Horse Chestnut		5.5	1	420	N	2	3	EM	A: 79.8	Fair	C: Poor		C.2
Aesculus hippocastanum					E	2	3		R: 5.03		S: Fair	Off site tree; topped to 'high pollard'; of low quality and fair value.	10+ yrs
					S	2	3				B: Fair		
					W	2	3						
Age Classifications:	N	Newly planted	EM	Early Mature				Condition:	C	Crown	Stems:	Ø	Diameter
	Y	Young	M	Mature					S	Stem		(Eq)	Equivalent stem diameter using BS5837:2012 definition
	SM	Semi-mature	OM	Over Mature					B	Basal area	ERC:	Estimated Remaining Contributio	

Tree and Tag No		Hght (m)	Stems		Crown		Age	RP A (m²) R (m)	Phys Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Recommendations			Cat ERC
Species			No	Ø (mm)	Spread (m)	Clear (m)					Survey Comment			
T02														
Common Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>		5.5	1	450	N	1	3	EM	A: 91.6 R: 5.39	Fair	C: Poor S: Fair B: Fair	Off site tree; topped to 'high pollard'; of low quality and fair value.	C.2 10+ yrs	
T03														
Common Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>		5.5	1	550	N	1	3	EM	A: 136.9 R: 6.6	Fair	C: Poor S: Fair B: Fair	Off site tree; topped to 'high pollard'; of low quality and fair value.	C.2 10+ yrs	
T04														
Common Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>		8	1	410	N	6	2	EM	A: 76.1 R: 4.92	Good	C: Good S: Good B: Good	Off site tree; no significant features noted; of good quality and value.	B.1.2 40+ yrs	
T05												Estimated Measurements		
Common Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>		6	1	200	N	3	2	SM	A: 18.1 R: 2.4	Good	C: Good S: Not visible B: Not visible	Off site tree; position and dimensions estimated due to restricted access; of good quality and fair value.	C.1 40+ yrs	

Appendix 3: Tree Constraints Plan

Document Production Record

Document number	Editor	Signature	Position	Issue number	Date
Arbtech TSR 07	Jon Hartley		Senior Consultant	1	11/12/2020

Limitations

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