

# Penarth Heights Tree Report

ON BEHALF OF CREST NICHOLSON (SW)



FEBRUARY 2007

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A survey has been carried out by Nicholas Pearson Associates (NPA) on behalf of Crest Nicholson (SW) Ltd of existing trees at the Penarth Heights site and adjoining land.
- 1.2 The site, located on a prominent hillside overlooking Cardiff Bay, currently comprises a number of residential blocks, associated external gardens and courtyards/ parking areas together with areas of open space generally laid to grass with a range of trees. The residential blocks are for the most part empty and have been for a number of years. The site is framed to the north and west by unmanaged woodland. Crest Nicholson has acquired an interest in redeveloping the residential interest of this site in association with the Vale of Glamorgan Council (VGC).
- 1.3 The purpose of the survey was to establish the species and general condition of trees to inform emerging development proposals for the site and to provide supporting information as part of a planning application. Careful consideration has been taken as to the value of the trees and their suitability for retention given the comprehensive nature of the redevelopment proposals. Where trees are proposed for retention, appropriate aligned protective fencing is indicated.
- 1.4 Further arboricultural assessment may be required if trees proposed for retention represent health and safety issues.
- 1.5 The scope of the survey was limited to the development site, or those immediately adjacent, Plassey Square and Arcot Triangle. Woodland areas beyond the site boundary are not included within this report. Small trees located within courtyards close to existing buildings are also not included since these would need to be removed as part of the demolition works.
- 1.6 The appraisal work has included due reference to 'Trees and Development SPG' prepared by VGC. This document sets out the Council's policy regarding trees and woodlands in relation to construction.

## METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The site was visited in May 2005 by experienced landscape architects. The tree positions were checked on the site survey plan and numbered in accordance with the schedule below (see figure 1).

### 3.0 EXISTING TREES

- 3.1 The existing trees on site comprise a range of species of varying age and for the most part were planted as part of existing housing development. As such many are likely to be approximately 30 –35 years of age, although a number of trees have been planted more recently.
- 3.2 It is understood that the site is not within a Conservation Area and that none of the trees are subject to Tree Preservation Orders
- 3.3 Other trees included within the survey comprise those planted on Plassey Square (ref. 1 and 2) and Arcot Triangle (ref 37 – 46) and a few others associated with the adjacent woodland areas likely to be self-sown.
- 3.4 The trees within the site tend to occur in scatted groups of varying species. The most significant trees are those located to the north of the allotments – a group of mature Sycamore (ref. 24). A single Pine tree is locally important towards the south of the site (ref. 7).
- 3.5 The trees within Plassey Square are locally important, especially the mature Lime trees (ref. 1). The trees within Arcot Triangle have, to an extent, been planted in close proximity to each such that canopies are overlapping and growth restricted. However they present a visual softening of the urban environment and are locally important. It is understood that they were planted as part of a previous urban renewal project linked with other features at Arcot Triangle.
- 3.6 Generally the trees provide local landscape amenity for the immediate site area and are not a significant element in the wider landscape. Due to the elevated position of the site any trees in exposed positions are affected by ‘wind pruning’ leading to restricted growth. The coastal position also exacerbates the problems of growth. Tree growth appears to be

variable. This may be a result of the exposed position but may also be due to poor ground conditions, poor planting specification and/ or maintenance and vandalism.

#### **4.0 HABITAT VALUE**

- 4.1 The majority of trees are native species and therefore have some habitat potential. However, within the development site, due to their age the trees are not considered to have significant value in terms of nature conservation.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Overall it is considered that none of the trees within the development site are of such significance, in terms of their landscape or visual value, that they should necessarily be retained if the proposed development requires their removal. However, during the design evolution the potential to retain individual trees has been reviewed. The trees appraised proposed for retention are:

- Trees within Plassey Square – these are of local value and should be retained;
- Five trees to the north of Arcot Triangle (ref. Nos. 28, 32 and 33) – these could be retained as part of the proposals, subject to final detailed proposals in this area;
- Two trees (ref. No. 37 and 46) within Arcot Triangle – these are considered to be the best specimens and worthy of retention;
- Two copses along the north facing bank (ref no 21 and 22) – these to be thinned as part of woodland management works.

- 5.2 Trees within Arcot Triangle are of local importance; however some tree removal is proposed to allow better growth for those to be retained.

- 5.3 Trees have been surveyed by an experienced landscape architect to collate the following information considered relevant to the project:

- a. Tree number – each tree has been numbered as illustrated on the accompanying plan.

- b. Height, crown spread (radii) and trunk diameter –dimensions are provided and are approximate. Crown spread is assessed radially from a nominal center of trunk to outer limit of canopy. Main trunk diameter (Dbh) is measured at 1.5m above ground.
- c. Maturity based upon following age class – JU = juvenile; EM = early mature; SM = semi mature; MA = mature; FM = fully mature; V = veteran.
- d. Condition/ vitality – Information is based upon survey made in spring 2005.
- e. Retention code

*Tree protection fencing*

- 5.4 Trees to be retained within the development site will be protected as appropriate in accordance with BS 5837:2005. This to comprise fencing located to the extent of the root protection zone.
- 5.5 Due to the limited number of trees proposed for retention within the site, it is proposed that tree protection fencing is located as indicated on figure 1.



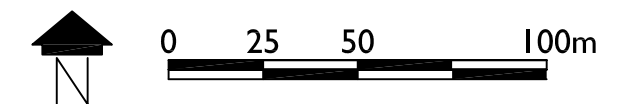
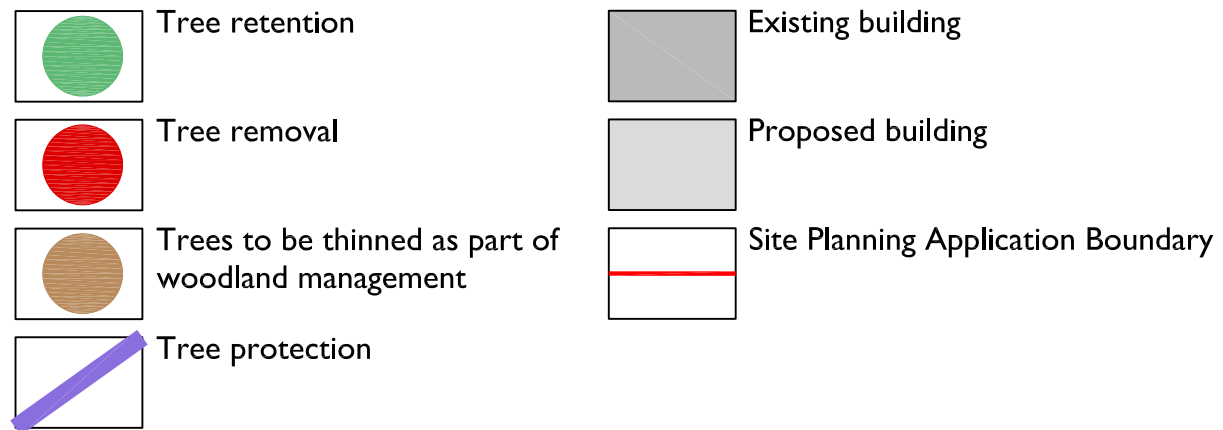
**6.0 TREE SCHEDULE:** (note – those in bold are proposed for retention or management as indicated)

Ref	Species	Common name	Maturity	Height (m)	DBH (cm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Comments
<b>1</b>	<b>4 no. Tilia sp.</b>	<b>Lime</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Plassey Square - Retention of trees proposed.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3 no. Tilia sp.</b>	<b>Lime</b>	<b>SM</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Plassey Square - Retention of trees proposed.</b>
3	Prunus sp.	Cherry	SM	6	50	5.0	Poor	Tree to be felled.
4	Populus alba	White poplar	MA	15	120	8.0	Average	Tree to be felled.
5	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	SM	9	90	7.0	Good	Tree to be felled.
6	Betula sp.	Birch	SM	9			Good	Tree to be felled.
7	Pinus nigra	Corsican Pine	MA	12	120	7.0	Good	Tree to be felled.
8	Prunus sp.	Cherry	SM	8	70	6.0	Good	Tree to be felled.
9	Acer campestre	Field maple	SM	6	60	5.0	Poor	Tree to be felled.
10	Populus alba	White poplar	MA	15	120	8.0	Average	Tree to be felled.
11	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	SM	10	110	8.0	Average	Tree to be felled.
12	Dead tree.						Dead	Tree to be felled.
13	Prunus sp.	Cherry	SM	8	70	7.0	Average	Multi stem. Tree to be felled.
14	Corylus avellana	Hazel	M	6	30	5.0	Good	Tree to be felled.
15	Prunus sp.	Cherry	SM	8		7.0	Poor	Group of trees to be felled.
16	Acer campestre, Fraxinus excelsior, Crateagus monogyna, Prunus spinosa	Field Maple, Ash, Hawthorn, Blackthorn	EM	8-10	various		Average	Copse to be felled.
17	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	SM	11	110	7.0	Average	Tree to be felled.
18	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	SM	11	110	7.0	Average	Tree to be felled.
19	3 no. Populus alba	White poplar	M	15	120	8.0	Average	Tree to be felled.
20	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	SM	9	90	7.0	Average	Tree to be felled.

Ref	Species	Common name	Maturity	Height (m)	DBH (cm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Comments
21	<b>Acer pseudoplatanus and A. platanoides</b>	<b>Sycamore and Norway maple</b>	<b>SM</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Group to be thinned as part of woodland management</b>
22	<b>Fraxinus excelsior</b>	<b>Ash</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Group to be thinned as part of woodland management</b>
23	Acer campestre,	Field maple	M	12	130	7.0	Good	Tree to be felled.
24	4 no. Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	M	15	130	8.0	Good	Trees to be felled.
25	Prunus laurocerasus	Cherry laurel	M	6-8	-	-	Poor	To be removed.
26	Carpinus betulus	Hornbeam	SM	6	70	4.0	Poor	Tree to be felled.
27	Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	EM	8	80	5.0	Poor	Tree to be felled.
28	<b>Aesculus hippocastanum</b>	<b>Horse chestnut</b>	<b>SM</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Tree to be retained subject to H&amp;S assessment.</b>
29	Dead tree						Dead	Tree to be felled.
30	2 no. Prunus sp.	Cherry	SM	13	100	6.0	Poor	Tree felled and replaced.
31	5 no. Prunus sp.	Cherry	SM	13	100	6.0	Poor	Trees to be felled.
32	<b>Amelanchier</b>		<b>M</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Proposed tree retention (subject to detailed path alignment).</b>
33	<b>4 no. Acer platanoides</b>	<b>Norway maple</b>	<b>SM</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Proposed retention of 3no. trees subject to detailed path alignment.</b>
34	Salix sp.	Willow	SM	10	80	9.0	Average	Tree to be felled.
35	Crateagus monogyna	Hawthorn	SM				Average	Tree to be felled.
36	Crateagus monogyna	Hawthorn	SM	4	60	1.5	Average	Tree to be felled.
37	<b>Fraxinus excelsior</b>	<b>Ash</b>	<b>SM</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Arcot Triangle - Proposed retention.</b>

Ref	Species	Common name	Maturity	Height (m)	DBH (cm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Comments
38	2 no. Sorbus aucuparia cv.	Rowan	SM	8	70	3.0	Good	Arcot Triangle – Proposed removal.
39	Betula sp.	Birch	SM	8	80	4.0	Good	Arcot Triangle - Proposed removal.
40	Prunus sp.	Cherry	SM	8	70	4.0	Average	Arcot Triangle - Proposed removal.
41	Sorbus aucuparia cv.	Rowan	SM	8	70	4.0	Average	Arcot Triangle - Proposed removal.
42	Betula sp.	Birch	SM	12	90	5.0	Average	Arcot Triangle - Proposed removal.
43	Sorbus aucuparia cv.	Rowan	SM	8	70	4.0	Average	Arcot Triangle - Proposed removal.
44	Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	SM	10	70	5.5	Average	Arcot Triangle - Proposed removal.
45	Betula sp.	Birch	SM	9	75	5.0	Average	Arcot Triangle - Proposed removal.
46	<b>Sorbus aria 'Lutescens'</b>	<b>Swedish Whitebeam</b>	<b>SM</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Arcot Triangle - Proposed retention.</b>
47	Crateagus monogyna	Hawthorn	SM	4	65	2.0	Average	Tree to be felled.
48	Sambucus nigra	Elder	SM	4.5	70	3.0	Average	Tree to be felled.
49	2no. Salix sp.	Willow	SM	8.0	65	5.5	Average	Tree to be felled.
50	Crateagus monogyna	Hawthorn	SM	4	65	2.0	Average	Tree to be felled.





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**PENARTH HEIGHTS**  
**LANDSCAPE APPRAISAL**

Figure 1 - Tree survey including removal, retention and protection plan

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## REVISION RECORD

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