

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Northcliff Lodge Penarth

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1. BRIEF

I have been instructed by Sam Courtney of LRM Planning to prepare an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) in relation to a proposed development at Northcliff Lodge, Penarth.

2. TREE SURVEY AND PLAN

The information within this document is based on the Treescene Tree Survey 08.06.15, the Treescene Tree Retention/Removal Plan 04/2017, the Treescene Arboricultural Impact Assessment Plan 04/2017 and the Landscape Proposals Plan 2015/101 Rev C.

3. TREES TO BE REMOVED

a) Arboricultural Reasons

The following trees are recommended for removal in the tree report due to poor quality (U category).

T5	Sycamore	T10	Beech
T12	Sycamore	G14	Ash
T16	Norway Maple	T21	Purple Plum
T30	Ash	T34	Poplar
T52	Magnolia	T55	Ash
T61	Goat Willow	T63	Ash

b) To Facilitate Development

The following trees are proposed for removal to facilitate development:

T3	Oak	G9	Yew		
T13	Corsican Pine	T15	Ash		
T17	Hawthorn	T18	Yew		
T19	Sycamore	T20	Lime		
T22	Beech	G23	Leyland Cypress		
T28	Sycamore	T29	Sycamore		
T31	Holm Oak	T32	Monterey Cypress		
G33	Leyland Cypress/Holly/				
	Sweet Bay				
G35	Leyland Cypress/Irish Yew	T40	Sycamore		
T41	Sycamore	T48	Sycamore		
T50	Yew	T51	Corsican Pine		
T53	Magnolia	G54	Cherry		
T56	Sycamore				
G58	(part - one Sycamore at west	(part - one Sycamore at western end of group)			
T62	Oak				

These are all C category trees in the tree report except trees T13 Corsican Pine and T40 Sycamore (B category)

The locations of the trees to be retained and removed are indicated on the attached Tree Retention/Removal 04/2017.

4. TREE PRUNING

Many of the trees to be retained contain structural defects/deadwood or may impede vehicle/pedestrian movements within the site. Works to improve tree safety or remove a potential source of nuisance are detailed in the Preliminary Management Recommendations within the Tree Survey.

All pruning and felling/coppicing works are to be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced Arboricultural Contractors working to BS3998:2010 Recommendations for Tree Work.

5. ROOT PROTETION AREA (RPA) INCURSIONS

There are some minor incursions into the RPAs of trees T11, G25 and T26 to accommodate the footpath adjacent to the access road. These are relatively minor (less than 5%) so could be offset away from the footpath under BS5837:2012 5.3.1a.

The construction of the access road and a retaining wall on the south-east boundary of the proposed development site potentially encroaches within the nominal RPAs of trees T24, T27, T38, T39, T44 and T64. Again, it would be possible to offset these RPAs under BS5837:2012 5.3.1a but it is proposed that any exposed roots would be pruned by hand in accordance with a site specific Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS).

6. PROTECTION OF RETAINED TREES

All trees to be retained should be protected by fencing in accordance with the detail in BS5837:2012. An initial proposal for the positioning of the tree protection barriers is indicated on the attached Arboricultural Implications Assessment Plan 04/2017.

The implementation of the tree protection on site should be in compliance with the site specific Tree Protection Plan (TPP) and Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS).

7. IMPACT ON LOCAL AMENITY

The quality of the trees on the proposed development site is generally poor. Most trees are categorised as C or U (there are only 6No. B category trees within or adjacent to the site) and many specimens are likely to continue to decline in health. There are only 2No. B category trees proposed for removal to accommodate the development and therefore the loss of good quality trees as part of the proposal is minimal.

In general, the removal of trees to accommodate the development is limited to internal trees and therefore tree removal does not impact on local amenity. Certainly, the views into the site from Cardiff Bay and the Marina to the north will not be affected in any way as a result of the development. The implementation of the access road off Paget Place will require the removal of some trees but several of these are U category and would have required removal on highway safety grounds in any case. The access road and reconformed car park is proposed for extensive landscaping (see Drawing No 2015/101 Rev C Landscape Proposals) with numerous good quality semi-mature trees proposed for installation in this area.

Any tree loss in the interior of the site will be mitigated by new tree planting. The long-term landscape amenity of the area will benefit from new planting as this will help to broaden the age class of the current tree population (mainly mature/semi mature at present) and ensure diversity of tree ages to maintain tree cover for the future.

8. CONCLUSION

The proposed development will require some tree removal of mainly C and U category trees (only 2No. B category trees require removal) which will be mitigated by new tree planting. The tree removal will not open up views into the site from the north but a new, quality landscaping scheme will mitigate for tree loss on Paget Place. The development proposal will enable the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to condition new tree planting which will diversify the age structure of the tree population within the site and ensure long term sustainability of local landscape amenity.















