## A arbtech

Arboricultural Survey to BS5837:2012
HSP Consulting Engineers Limited
Cardiff Airport Technology College site, Land off Port Road, Vale of Glamorgan,

Cardiff CF62 3BD

23 0ctober 2023
Thomas Ramm TechArborA

## Table of Contents

If this report has been released electronically the appendices referred to herein can be found in the annexed zip folder/s as .pdf files. If this report has been released in hard copy the appendices will be bound into the back of this report. Plans are annexed separately as AO, A1, A2 or A3 as appropriate.

1. Introduction ..... 2
2. Survey ..... 2
3. BS5837:2012 Scope ..... 6
4. Methodology .....  6
5. Definitions .....  8
6. Recommendations ..... 9
7. Limitations ..... 9
8. Appendices ..... 10
Appendix 1: Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment. ..... 11
Appendix 2: Schedule of Trees ..... 13
Appendix 3: Tree Constraints Plan ..... 24
9. Document Production Record ..... 30

## 1. Introduction

Arbtech Consulting Limited (Arbtech) received written instruction on 16 October 2023 from HSP Consulting Engineers Limited on behalf of WEPCo to attend Cardiff Airport Technology College site, land off Port Road, Vale of Glamorgan, CF623BD; grid reference, ST 07477 67666 (site) to undertake an arboricultural survey 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, Tree Constraints Plan.

I am Thomas Ramm, an arboricultural surveyor at Arbtech Consulting Ltd. I undertook the tree survey on 22 October 2023 and subsequently have produced this summary of my findings.

I have 13 No years of professional industry experience including an additional 4No years as an Arboricultural instructor \& technician at Warwickshire College Group. I hold a LANTRA award in professional tree inspection as well as a Level 3 qualification with an extended Diploma in Arboriculture and Forestry and I am a member of the Arboricultural Association at the Technician grade.

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 | 26417swg-01_06 |
| LPA pre-app comments | N/A |
| British Standard 5837:2012 | "BS5837" |
| Tree Survey Schedule | Arbtech TS 01 |
| Tree Constraints Plan | Arbtech TCP 01 |

## 2. Survey

Survey: An arboricultural survey to BS5837 of all trees within impacting distance of the site was undertaken by Thomas Ramm on 22 October 2023.

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 38 Noindividual trees and, $8 N$ groups of trees were surveyed. Details for each of the trees surveyed are provided in the Schedule of Trees (see Appendix 2).

Multiple small trees and shrubs occupy the site, none of which meet the minimum diameter requirements to be considered for this survey.

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

| Document | Originator | Reference Number | Title |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Survey Base <br> Drawing | Survey Solutions | 26417 swg-01_06 | Port Road Cardiff |

Limitations: The survey was made at ground level using visual observation only. Detailed examinations, such as climbing inspections and advanced 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 site is set within agricultural growing land adjacent north to Cardiff Airport. To the southeast of the site is Port Road with an aircraft tool hire supply shop to the southwest. The site is heavily populated with dense scrub with tracks for access around the site. The topography of the site is relatively level with no sudden or significant changes to ground level except for the southern boundary line where there is a sudden incline.

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Figure 1: OS Map showing site location (Bing Maps)


Figure 2: Aerial Image of site with approximate red line boundary area surveyed (Google Earth)

## Proposed scheme

The proposed scheme for the site is to construct a college site with associated parking.


Figure 3: Proposed scheme, drawing number VG0101-ALA-00-XX-DR-L-00001 (Areas Landscapes Architects LTD)

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

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## 3. 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.

## 4. 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:
a) reference number (to be recorded on the tree survey plan);
b) species (common or scientific names);
c) height in meters (m);
d) stem diameter in millimetres ( mm ) at 1.5 m above adjacent ground level or immediately above the root flare for multi-stemmed trees;
e) branch spread in meters taken at the four cardinal compass points;
f) height of crown clearance above adjacent ground level in meters (m);
g) age class (newly planted, young, semi-mature, early mature, mature, over mature);
h) physiological condition (e.g. good, fair, poor, decline and dead);
i) structural condition (e.g. good, fair, poor or not visible);
j) comment about the tree, its location and preliminary management recommendations, including further investigation of suspected defects that require more detailed assessment and potential for wildlife habitat;
k) The retention category referring to the quality and useful contribution in years; $\mathbf{U}=$ $<10 y r s ; ~ A=>40 y r s ; B=>20 y r s ; C=>10 y r s$. The retention subcategory referring to the type of amenity; 1 = Arboricultural; 2 = Landscape; 3 = Cultural including conservation (see Appendix 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment).

## 5. 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 plan, typically delivered as an AutoCAD drawing (.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 $\mathrm{m}^{2}$.

## Construction Exclusion Zone (also termed Tree Protection Zone)

A construction exclusion or tree protection zone is an area based on the RPA (in $\mathrm{m}^{2}$ ), 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 (AIA)

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 (TPP)

A TPP is 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 (AMS)

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 onsite tree protection monitoring regime.

## 6. Recommendations

With the benefit of making an assessment of your planning proposals, I 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).
c) A tree protection plan drawing (TPP).

## 7. 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.

## 8. Appendices

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

- Survey Schedule (.PDF)
- Tree Constraints Plan drawing (.DWG \& .PDF)

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

Yours Sincerely,

Thomas Ramm TechArborA<br>Arboricultural Surveyor

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
Trees unsuitable for retention (see
Category U
Those in such a condition that be
they cannot realistically be
retained as living trees in the
context of the current land use
for longer than 10 years.
Criteria (including subcategories when appropriate $\quad$ Identification on

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. | -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). <br> -Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline. <br> -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. <br> NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7. |  |  |  |
|  | 1 Mainly arboricultural qualities | 2 Mainly landscape qualities | 3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation |  |
| Trees to be considered for retention |  |  |  |  |
| Category A <br> 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 dominate 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 woodpasture). | Light green |
| Category B <br> 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 <br> Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm . | 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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\begin{gathered}
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\end{gathered}
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## Appendix 2: Schedule of Trees

## BS5837:2012 Tree Survey

Client: HSP Consulting Engineers Limited on behalf of WEPCo Project: Cardiff Airport Technology College site, CF623BD
Survey Date: 22/10/2023
Surveyor: Thomas Ramm


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

Group is situated the eastern with species to include保 cherry, hawthorn, field maple and dense scrub; Dimensions recorded represent maximum for group. comprised of circa 75+ stems with species to include ash, cherry, hawthorn, field maple, sycamore, hazel and dense

Estimated Measurements
C.1.2

解 hawthorn, field maple, with the majority of group being dens scrub; Dimensions recorded represent maximum for group

Estimated Measurements
B.1.2
is of ca $50+$ stems with species to include ash, comprised of dense scrub; Dimensions recorded represent maximum for group.








Page 8



## Appendix 3: Tree Constraints Plan



(3)




## 9. Document Production Record

| Document <br> number | Editor | Signature | Position | Issue <br> number | Date |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Arbtech TSR <br> 01 | Thomas Ramm | TomRamm | Arboricultural <br> Surveyor | 01 | $23 / 10 / 23$ |

## Limitations

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