

Combined Arboricultural Impact
Assessment/ Method Statement
Alway School
Newport
NP19 9QP



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10/04/25

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Introduction

This assessment was overseen by Ben Clark, Arboricultural Consultant, and Director at Tree Check Arboriculture Ltd. with over 9 years' experience in the arboriculture industry and holding the following qualifications:

- Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture
- BSc. Geology (University of Southampton)
- LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection Certificate (PTI)
- Various NPTC qualifications in tree surgery.

Ben is a technician member of the arboricultural association and attends regular training and seminars to remain up to date with current arboricultural practices.

This assessment was undertaken by Josh Clark, Arboricultural Consultant, and Director at Tree Check Arboriculture Ltd. with over 9 years' experience in the arboriculture industry and holding the following qualifications:

- LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection Certificate (PTI)
- Various NPTC qualifications in tree surgery.

The methodology of this report is based on the recommendations provided by the British Standards Institute document BS5837: Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations, as well as other recommendations provided by institutions such as the Arboricultural Association.

Brief

Tree Check has been instructed by Gail Bishop, Senior Building Surveyor at Newport Norse to carry out a tree survey and categorisation at Alway School, Newport to carry out an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement at Alwayn School. The purpose of this report is as follows:

- To quantify any tree losses required to make way for the proposed development.
- To quantify and prescribe any pruning works required to make way for the proposed development.
- To assess the impact that the proposed development may have on retained trees on site and to provide control measures to prevent or minimize damage to retained trees.
- To consider whether design changes could prevent or reduce tree losses on site, and whether such changes are reasonable and proportional to the retention value of affected trees.
- To provide recommendations for mitigating tree losses where appropriate.

Baseline

This report was based on the findings outlined in our baseline report: BS5837 Tree Survey and Categorisation Report at Always School Tree Check 2025

The following information was available:

- NPS-DR-A-(**)-000 Alway Primary School Site Location Plan (Newport Norse 2025)
- NPS-DR-A-(**)-000 Alway Primary School Safeguarding Fencing Plan (Newport Norse 2025)

It should be noted that this assessment is based on tree locations as recorded in the base line survey relative to the proposed design layout. These tree locations were plotted using tree locations on the topo if available, and GPS, satellite and known features on site. In any case there exists potential for inaccuracies in the locations of trees relative to the development.

The site was visited on the 27-Mar-2025 during overcast but dry weather conditions considered favourable for this type of survey.

Interpretation

See [appendix v](#) for a glossary of the terms commonly used in tree reports.

BS Categories

Trees have been assigned retention categories in accordance with BS5837. These are as follows:

Category A- Trees with a high retention value which are either arboriculturally important, important within the landscape, or culturally/ecologically important.

Category B- Trees with a moderate retention value i.e. they are good examples of their species, provide some notable amenity value to the area, or provide significant ecological or cultural value.

Category C- Trees with a low retention value. Including trees with defects which reduce their amenity value or expected lifespan but not to the extent that they cannot be realistically retained within the development.

Category U- Trees of which retention is considered unrealistic within the context of the development due to poor condition and low life expectancy.

See [Table 1](#) in the appendices of this report for more information on the allocation of categories and subcategories.

Tree Age Ratings

Y- Young trees in their early stage of growth, have undergone minimal secondary thickening and are still primarily composed of active tissue.

EM- Early mature trees that have started to show characteristics of maturity such more developed crowns and increased stem thickness.

M- Mature fully developed trees.

OM- Over mature trees that are starting to show signs of decline.

A- Ancient trees that have reached a notably old age for their species and are therefore considered to be important.

V- Veteran trees with notable features such as wounds, cavities, cracks, etc. that provide significant habitat value. These are usually older trees.

Root Protection Areas (RPA's)

Root Protection areas have been calculated according to BS5837 and represent the estimated minimum rooting area required by the tree to carry out its functions.

Root protections areas are shown as orange circles or polygons for all trees except those with a retention category of U in the Tree Constraints Plan. In the Tree Loss/Retention and Protection Plan, RPA's are not shown for trees proposed for removal to make way for development.

Tree and Group Prefixes

Trees and groups are numbered with the following prefixes:

- **T-** individual trees.
- **G-** groups of trees with similar characteristics and rooting areas.
- **H-** Hedgerows.
- **W-** woodland groups, designated as such due to the presence of woodland features such as natural regeneration,

Arboricultural Impact Assessment/Method Statement

1. Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas

No TPO information is available, the client is advised to check the TPO status of trees before proceeding with any tree works.

2. Areas of Caution

A number of areas on site have been highlighted as areas of caution, these are areas where there is a heightened risk of damage to the above ground structure or root system of retained trees through the proposed works. Certain methodologies in this document will state that they must be followed within areas of caution. The location of all areas of caution can be found on the [Tree Protection Plan](#) within the appendix section of this report.

3. Project Arboriculturalist

A project arboriculturalist must be appointed to oversee certain aspects of the work and to provide consultation should the design or site conditions change in a way that produces unexpected conflict between retained trees and the development.

The project arboriculturalist must be in attendance on site for the following:

- Installation of fencing within areas of caution.

4. Schedule of Tree Works

The below schedule includes trees on site that require works throughout the course of the proposed development. For a full schedule of all trees that exist on site, please refer to BS5837 Tree Survey and Categorisation Report at Alway School Tree Check 2025.

	Ref	Tag	Species	Comments	Life Stage	Retention Category	RPA Radius (m)	Photo
Pruning	T1	2342	Wild cherry	Crown raising to achieve 4-5m clearance removing secondary branches only.	M	B	10.2	1
	T2	2343	Wild cherry	Crown raising to achieve 4-5m clearance removing secondary branches only.	M	B	5.4	/
	T7	240	Sweet chestnut	Crown raising to achieve 4-5m clearance removing secondary branches only.	M	B	7.9	2
	G1	N/A	Common Holly Laurel Cherry	1m crown reduction on the northern side of the group to bring the crown clear of the construction zone and prevent damage.	EM	C	1.4	3
	G2	N/A	Small Leaved Lime London Plane	Crown raising to achieve 4-5m clearance on branches overhanging the boundary only.	M	B	7.8	4

5. Pruning Works

Pruning works, as outlined in the [Schedule of Tree Works](#) are proposed on site.

Poor pruning techniques can cause a large reduction in the amenity value of a tree, reduce its lifespan or lead to significant structural and physiological issues, requiring extensive remedial work. The following methodology must be followed during all pruning works:

5.1. Control Measures for Pruning Works

- All pruning is to be carried out by competent, trained individuals in accordance with BS3998.
- All pruning cuts should be made to the nearest suitable growth points utilising natural target pruning. Suitable growth points where a section equal to less than the prescribed dose is removed are preferable, growth points where the cut is more than 3x the diameter of the retained growth point are undesirable.
- Contractors must be made aware of relevant legal constraints such as tree preservation orders or conservation areas, where they apply to trees that are to be pruned. Work shall not be carried out on such trees until approval is granted by the local planning authority.
- No cuts greater than 100mm in diameter are to be made on the main stem of the tree unless otherwise specified.
- All cuts made on to the main stem must be to the branch collar utilising natural target pruning and ensuring that the branch collar is retained as this provides vital protection from pathogen entry into the main stem.

6. Construction Exclusion Zones

Given the low-impact nature of the proposed works—characterised by minimal construction traffic, limited machinery use, and only lightweight operations—physical construction exclusion zones (CEZs) delineated by tree protective fencing are not considered necessary. However, the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) and crown spreads of trees must still be clearly identified on site, and the following control measures must be implemented to ensure protection of retained trees throughout the construction phase:

Control Measures for Construction Exclusion Zones

- A site briefing shall be conducted by the project arboriculturalist prior to the commencement of works. During this briefing:
- RPAs will be measured and marked out on site.
- All contractors will be briefed on the following restrictions:
 - Tracked machinery exceeding 1.5 tonnes must not enter or operate within RPAs.
 - No materials are to be stored within RPAs.
 - Where materials (e.g. fencing) are to be installed beneath tree canopies, they must be transported into position as disassembled components and constructed in situ. This is to minimise the risk of contact with crown structures and avoid mechanical damage.

7. Tree Locations

Consideration of the potential impact of development on proposed trees is based on the location of trees (as plotted in the baseline survey) relative to the proposed layout provided by the clients. Due to the potential for inaccuracies and discrepancies between drawings and realities on site, the site manager or project arboriculturalist must mark out root protection areas and the extents of proposed structures on site to verify the following:

- Where this report specifies that RPAs or tree crowns will be encroached upon, the actual on-site distances between trees and the conflicting features must be measured and verified to ensure they match the figures stated in this report.

If discrepancies exist, the project arboriculturalist is to be informed, so that updated assessments can be made.

8. Schedule of RPA and Crown Incursions

The schedule below outlines trees that cannot be fully segregated from the development area and describes the type and significance of the incursions that occur.

Reference	Tag	Life Stage	Retention Category	RPA Radius (m)	RPA Area (M ²)*	Type of Incursion	Incursion Area (M ²)	Proportion of RPA Affected	Impact or Risk	Methodology Applied	Photo
T1	2342	M	B	10.2	326	I - RPA access required.	<1m	<3%	Minimal risk of soil compaction as work is to be carried out on foot or with machinery <1.5t. Risk of root severance through excavations such as digging fence posts. Risk of mechanical damage to the crown, scaffold structure or stem through contact with machinery or materials.	9.1. Method for Installing Fencing Within RPAs. 10.1. Method for the Control of Chemicals Potentially Harmful to Trees	1
T2	2343	M	B	5.4	91	I - RPA access required.	<1m	<3%	Minimal risk of soil compaction as work is to be carried out on foot or with machinery <1.5t. Risk of root severance through excavations such as digging fence posts. Risk of mechanical damage to the crown, scaffold structure or stem through contact with machinery or materials.	9.1. Method for Installing Fencing Within RPAs. 10.1. Method for the Control of Chemicals Potentially Harmful to Trees	3

Reference	Tag	Life Stage	Retention Category	RPA Radius (m)	RPA Area (M ²)*	Type of Incursion	Incursion Area (M ²)	Proportion of RPA Affected	Impact or Risk	Methodology Applied	Photo
GI	N/A	EM	C	1.4	6	I - RPA access required.	<1m	<3%	Minimal risk of soil compaction as work is to be carried out on foot or with machinery <1.5t. Risk of root severance through excavations such as digging fence posts. Risk of mechanical damage to the crown, scaffold structure or stem through contact with machinery or materials.	9.1. Method for Installing Fencing Within RPAs. 10.1. Method for the Control of Chemicals Potentially Harmful to Trees	3
T7	240	M	B	7.8	197	I - RPA access required.	<1m	<3%	Minimal risk of soil compaction as work is to be carried out on foot or with machinery <1.5t. Risk of root severance through excavations such as digging fence posts. Risk of mechanical damage to the crown, scaffold structure or stem through contact with machinery or materials.	9.1. Method for Installing Fencing Within RPAs. 10.1. Method for the Control of Chemicals Potentially Harmful to Trees	2
G2	N/A	M	B	7.8	191	I - RPA access required.	<1m	<3%	Minimal risk of soil compaction as work is to be carried out on foot or with machinery <1.5t. Risk of root severance through excavations such as digging fence posts. Risk of mechanical damage to the crown, scaffold structure or stem through contact with machinery or materials.	9.1. Method for Installing Fencing Within RPAs. 10.1. Method for the Control of Chemicals Potentially Harmful to Trees	4

*RPA's for groups represent the area per individual tree of the group, not the group as a whole.

9. Protection Measures for RPA and Crown Incursions

The following methodologies have been applied against trees in the [Schedule of RPA and Crown Incursions](#) and must be followed in the areas indicated on the [Tree Protection Plan](#).

9.1. Method for Installing Fencing Within RPAs.

- All proposed pruning work is to be carried out prior to carrying out the below works.
- These works take place within the RPA's and beneath the crowns of retained trees, though since the works can be carried out on foot, or with machinery of 1.5t or less further restrictions for working within the RPA or crown areas of trees do not apply here.
- Fencing within areas of caution must be transported into position as disassembled components and constructed in situ. This is to minimise the risk of contact with crown structures and avoid mechanical damage.
- The fencing must incorporate a flexible design with allowance for the distance between posts to vary. Rigid designs involving pre constructed fence panels are not suitable as they require a uniform distance between fence posts.
- The project arboriculturalist is to supervise all excavations within RPA's and test each site by driving a steel rod into the ground prior to excavation in order to detect or rule out the presence of large roots.
- Spots containing no large roots are to be selected prior to any post holes being excavated on the entire fence line. With excavations only occurring once the project manager and project arboriculturalist agreeing on all post sites within the area of caution.
- Posts holes may be excavated by hand using twin handled post hole spades (conventional spades are unsuitable as the lead to larger excavations than necessary), driven into the ground by hand or excavated with an auger on a 1.5t excavator.
- All post holes are to be lined with an impermeable membrane prior to prevent leaching of concrete chemicals into the surrounding soil.

10. Impact Through Chemical Damage

There is a risk of chemical damage to trees from the mixing and storage of cement and other damaging chemicals.

All retained trees on site are at significant risk of chemical damage during development works and the methodology outlined below must be followed in order to prevent such incidents from occurring:

10.1. Method for the Control of Chemicals Potentially Harmful to Trees

- Materials that may have an adverse effect on the health of trees will not be stored or transported within the RPA. E.g., oil, bitumen, cement, and concrete.
- Concrete and cement will not be mixed within 10m of the base of trees.
- Cement and concrete will be mixed downhill from the base of trees or watercourses to avoid the risk of contamination to runoff.
- Where it is not possible to mix and store concrete downhill from trees and watercourses, sediment barriers will be used to prevent runoff from storage and mixing areas.

Appendix

Appendix i: Photographs taken on site.

Appendix ii: Tree protection/loss/retention plan showing the location of trees, their root protection areas and their retention category in relation to the proposed development.

Appendix iii: A cascade chart from BS5837: 2012- Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction– Recommendations explaining the categorisation of trees.

Appendix iv: A Glossary of terms and phrases commonly used in tree reports.

Appendix i: Photos

Photo I- [T1](#)- Crown raising is required for fencing beneath the canopy.



Photo 2- [T7](#)- Crown raising is required for fencing beneath the canopy.

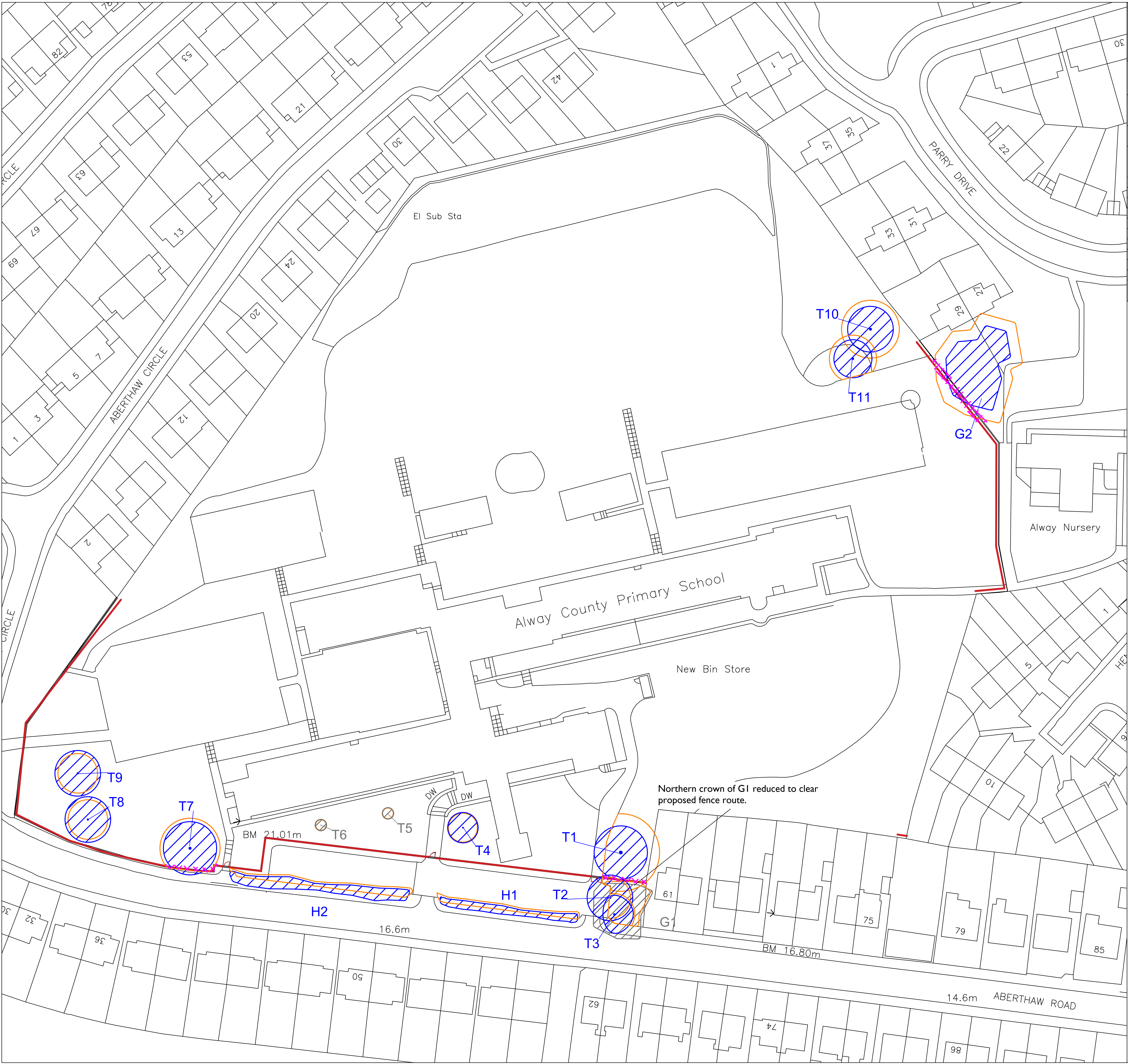


Photo 3- [T2](#) and [G1](#)- Crown raising is required for fencing beneath the canopy.



Photo 4- [G2](#)- Crown raising is required for fencing beneath the canopy.





Ref	Tag	Species	Height	Stem Diam (mm)	Life Stage	Life Expectancy	Retention Category	RPA Area (m ²)	RPA Radius (m)
G1	N/A	Common holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>), Laurel cherry (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>)	8	120	EM	10-20	C2	6.5	1.4
G2	N/A	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>), London plane (<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>)	13	650	M	20-40	B2	191	7.8
H1	N/A	Common beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	2	80	M	20-40	B2	2.9	1
H2	N/A	Common beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>), Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	2	80	M	20-40	B2	2.9	1
T1	2342	Wild cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>)	10	850	M	20-40	B2	327	10
T2	2343	Wild cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>)	10	450	M	20-40	B2	92	5.4
T3	2344	Wild cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>)	10	240	M	20-40	B2	26	2.9
T4	2345	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsa</i>)	7	320	M	20-40	B2	46	3.8
T5	2347	River birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>)	5	120	Y	20-40	C2	6.5	1.4
T6	2346	River birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>)	5	120	Y	20-40	C2	6.5	1.4
T7	240	Sweet chestnut (<i>Castanea sativa</i>)	9	660	M	20-40	B2	197	7.9
T8	4809	Maritime pine (<i>Pinus maritima</i>)	9	430	M	20-40	B2	84	5.2
T9	139	Maritime pine (<i>Pinus maritima</i>)	8	430	M	20-40	B2	84	5.2
T10	2348	Black pine (<i>Pinus nigra</i>)	15	630	M	20-40	B2	180	7.6
T11	N/A	Common beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	11	520	M	20-40	B2	122	6.2

Key

- Category A. Trees with high retention value.
- Category B. Trees with moderate retention value.
- Category C. Trees with low retention value.
- Category U. Trees unsuitable for retention due to condition.
- Root Protection Area (RPA)

Tree Key

- Canopy extents, hatched area represents area within the canopy.
- Location of tree base, taken from position on TOPO or GPS.
- Reference number (T for trees, G for groups, W for woodlands, H for hedges).

RPA- an indication of the estimated minimum rooting area required by the tree. Calculated in accordance with BS5837.

Areas of Caution where measures outlined in the Alway Primary School Combined AIA and Method Statement must be observed.

Alway Primary School

Tree Protection Plan

I:400 at A1

Client	Newport Norse
Survey Code	25028
Drawn by	BC
Surveyed by	JC
Date	09/04/2025

Tree Check

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Appendix iii: Cascade Table for the Categorisation of Trees (BS5837)

Table 1 – Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)		
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 a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other U category trees (i.e. 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 NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7		
	1 Mainly Arboricultural values	2 Mainly landscape values	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation
Category A Those 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 essential components of groups, or of 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)
Category B Those 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 remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for 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 benefits
Category C Those of low quality with an estimated remaining life 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 benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value

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Appendix iv: Glossary

Aerial Inspection: A close inspection of the aerial part of a tree, either by mobile elevated work platform (MEWP) or by a tree surgeon (climbing inspection). **Adaptive Growth;** The growth of new wood in response to a stress concentration in the structure of a tree

Adventitious; A shoot which arises from tissue other than a growing shoot apex or bud, for instance in callus associated with a wound.

Anchorages; The holding of the structural root system of a tree with in the soil,.

Architecture; the formation and distribution of a trees branch system.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment: That part of the BS 5837 (2012) procedure that evaluates the tree-related constraints to a development (loss of trees, encroachment into root protection areas etc.).

Arboricultural Method Statement: That part of the BS 5837 (2012) procedure that sets out how site works should be carried out near trees to avoid accidental damage.

Arboriculturalist: A person skilled or knowledgeable in the field of arboriculture. The alternative term 'arboriculturalist' is sometimes used. A Person trained and experienced in the management of trees, and trees in relation to construction.,

Assessment; The process of examining the variables involving a trees condition and location in order to assess the risk posed by an individual tree.

Bole (trunk): The main , vertical stem or trunk of a tree.

Branch: a limb extending from the main stem or parent branch of a tree

Canopy: the combined foliage of a group of trees or a woodland, i.e. the combined area of numerous crowns.

Construction Exclusion Zone; The part of a development site from which all pedestrian and vehicular movements are excluded by protective fencing, typically to ensure the wellbeing of trees, during site works. Usually determined by the RPA of a tree.

Crown: in arboriculture the main foliage-bearing portion of a tree containing the leaves and branches

Defect: Any feature of a tree that is likely to make it less safe (in the case of a structural defect) or otherwise to reduce its health, longevity, landscape prominence or conservation value for any other reason.

Dysfunction: The cessation of physiological function in woody material, especially vascular functions such as water and sap transportation.

Failure: Fracture or deformation in any load bearing part of the tree, compromising stability or causing loss of support for part of, or all of the tree structure,

Group: More than one tree in close proximity that possess sufficient similarity or cohesiveness that they can be treated as a single entity for the purpose of this report.

Heave: deformation of shrinkable clay soil related to the expansion caused by rehydration.

Leader: the dominant, vertical shoot or stem of a tree.

Pruning: The cutting off or cutting back of tree branches or foliage to direct growth, remove an obstructing part, mitigate a nuisance, make safe, remove a diseased part, increase longevity, simulate natural damage, enhance habitat for wildlife etc.

Retained Tree: a tree that has been considered suitable for retention and therefore selected to remain as part of the final site layout.

Risk: the likelihood of a hazard to cause actual harm to people or property,

Root Protection Area (RPA); The area around the base of a tree that contains sufficient root volume to ensure the future well-being of the tree in the event of nearby soil disturbance (as on a development site). It is calculated according to guidelines in BS 5837 (2012).

Subsidence (branch): Branches, especially if spreading, tend gradually to subside under their own weight, and may eventually reach ground level in large open-grown trees. Rapid subsidence may result in crown separation or congested bark and can lead to branch failure where there is no support within the elastic limit of a given branch.

Subsidence (soil): Broadly, the downward movement of ground and an affected foundation influenced by soil properties, weather, foundation depth and nearby vegetation.

Targets: An element of tree risk: the subject of injury or damage within range of a hazard.

Tree: The definition of 'tree' is a composite of tree species, tree form and tree size. The blue book offers the following: A perennial plant with a self-supporting woody main stem, usually developing woody branches at some distance from the ground and growing to a considerable height and size. This definition has the three main elements in general form. **For the purposes of 5837 surveys, only plants with a stem diameter of 75mm or above are considered trees.**

Tree Constraint Plan (TCP): Site plan showing the tree-related constraints to development as envisaged in BS 5837 (2012). Common constraints are the loss of trees, encroachment into a tree's root protection area.

Tree Condition Inspection/Survey: A procedure to inspect a tree or trees. Variables used to describe a tree include position (if not already plotted on a topographical survey), species identity, maturity, various dimensions (main stem diameter, height, crown radius etc.), aspects of form, vigour, condition, incidence of pests, diseases, damage and defects, evidence of past management etc. Site factors, position in the landscape and site usage may also be relevant, usually including its position, species identity, dimensions, age class, condition, conservation value etc. as appropriate, and to identify and evaluate defects. It is also common to make management recommendations (see schedule of works). Tree inspection is a fundamental of tree management and advisory practice in arboriculture.

Tree Preservation Order: (UK) an order made by a local authority or other planning authority to protect a tree, group of trees, area of (scattered) trees or woodland under Part VIII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. There have been several amendments, the latest being the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012. An order is generally made on the grounds of amenity and expediency. Anyone proposing works to a TPO tree must seek prior consent from the authority using the form IAPP. With the advent of the 2012 regulations, some of the detail in existing TPOs in England has been revoked.

Tree Protection Plan: scale drawing prepared by an arboriculturalist showing the final layout proposals, tree retention and tree and landscape protection measures detailed within the arboricultural method statement (AMS), which can be shown graphically.

Trunk: see bole.

Vigour: The health and resilience of a tree (from the Latin 'to be strong'), reflected in the capacity of the whole tree to grow (see growth rate). The term is often used as a description of overall condition on a qualitative scale from 'high' to 'low'.

Visual Tree Assessment (VTA): The standard approach to tree risk assessment consisting of the diagnosis of structural defects and the evaluation of their significance from visible signs and the application of biomechanical criteria. Simple equipment such as a sounding mallet, probe and binoculars are commonly used.

Wind exposure: the degree to which a tree or other object is exposed to wind, with regard both to duration and velocity, often taking into account prevailing wind directions.

Windthrow: the blowing over of a tree at its roots.

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Terms and conditions

The Client is the party commissioning and funding the survey. The Consultant is any person(s) employed by Tree Check Arboriculture LTD to carry out any related works, as well as Tree Check Arboriculture LTD as an entity.

Limitations

1. This survey reflects the condition of the trees as they were observed on 04/10/2023. The condition of trees can change quickly and if any significant change is observed then a qualified arboriculturist should be consulted regardless of the recommended reinspection period.
2. While every attempt has been made to provide accurate recommendations based on the condition of the observed trees, Tree Check Arboriculture Ltd. can accept no liability for damage, injury, or loss of property caused by faults that were not apparent at the time of inspection. These include but are not limited to faults that may only be visible seasonally such as fungal fruiting bodies, or faults that were obscured or inaccessible to the surveyor such as those high up in the crown or obscured by ivy.
3. During adverse weather conditions such as storms, otherwise healthy trees can fail. Trees should be visually inspected after any high winds.
4. This report cannot predict the reaction of inspected trees to external factors such as extreme climate events, accidents, or vandalism.
5. The author(s) can accept no liability for damages if the recommended works are not carried out as per this report in line with BS:3998.
6. Operational recommendations (e.g.) climb and dismantle, are for loose guidance only. It remains the responsibility of the assigned contractor to decide on the safest work method. Tree Check Arboriculture LTD. accepts no responsibility for damages occurring during the carrying out of recommended works.
7. This report does not cover any underground part of trees, nor does it consider any affect inspected trees may have on shrinkable clay soils since these issues are almost entirely restricted to areas of shrinkable clay soils and soil analysis was not specified in the brief.
8. **Recommendations made in this report do not override any legislation covering the affected trees. Trees in a conservation area, trees subject to preservation orders and groups of trees requiring felling licenses still require relevant permissions before work can be carried out. Unless otherwise agreed the Tree Check Arboriculture LTD will not be checking for the presence of this legislation or be applying for these permissions. The Client must contact the consultant if they are unsure on this matter.**
9. Certain areas of the site were inaccessible in the time scale of this survey due to dense vegetation cover. Areas and trees where this has been an issue are described in certain trees and groups in the survey table.
10. **The findings of this report cannot be relied upon after 12 months from the time of inspection or the recommended reinspection date (if sooner).**

Legal Constraints

1. The report is for use by the client and any reasonably involved third party advisors only. Rights to reproduce, publish, or broadcast the contents of this reports are reserved.
2. It is prohibited to make any amendments or omissions to this report under any circumstances. This report should be provided unaltered and in full to any third-party advisors, contractors or other involved parties to ensure that the hazards highlighted are understood and the necessary remedial works are commissioned. Failure to comply will invalidate the report and Tree Check Arboriculture Ltd. will accept no liability for damages occurring.
3. Tree Check Arboriculture LTD retains full title on this, and all subsequent reports until the relevant invoices are settled. Tree Check Arboriculture LTD accepts no liability relating to the contents of reports that have not been fully paid for.
4. This report only covers the scope described in the introduction of this report, as discussed with the client, Trees, and methods of inspection not described in the scope were not included, and it is the client's responsibility to bring it to the attention of Tree Check Arboriculture LTD if they feel the scope doesn't fully meet their requirements.
5. The consultant is under no obligation to inspect trees in areas that are not freely accessible. It is the client's responsibility to ensure that all relevant areas of site are legally and practically accessible to the consultant.
6. In some instances, the consultant may recommend that further professional opinions are sought. For example, structural engineers, geotechnical engineers, drain engineers etc. Tree Check Arboriculture LTD accepts no responsibility for losses occurring from the advice sought from these third parties, nor from damages caused from acting without the consultation of the recommended professionals.
7. Tree Check Arboriculture LTD. accepts no responsibility for losses occurring between the time of commissioning and the delivery of a written report. No responsibility is accepted for losses occurring where delays or failure to deliver a report on the agreed date where delays or failures occurred due to circumstances out of the control of Tree Check Arboriculture LTD.
8. Each provision of these conditions limiting or excluding liability operates and survives independently of the others