

**Arboricultural Report**

in support of an application for a

**Planning Application**

@ 34 Taylor Avenue, Kew, Richmond, London, TW9 4ED

**Document No. 24**

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## **Arboricultural Impact Assessment**

- Tree Survey
- Tree Protection Plan
- Arboricultural Method Statement

### **For:-**

**New Garden Walls in Front  
Garden**

### **At:-**

34 Taylor Avenue  
London  
TW9 4ED

### **On behalf of:-**

Ian Upton Architects  
The White House  
Bonnington  
Kent  
TN25 7BP

### **Prepared by:**

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Survey Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022  
Report Date: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Project no: 2226

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- A Tree Protection Plan: drawing no: 2226-01
- B Tree Schedule
- C BS 5837:2012 - Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction, Table 1
- D Site photos

## 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been instructed by Ian Upton Architects, on behalf of the owners to specify tree protection measures and assess the arboricultural impact of the proposed construction of boundary brick walls to the front garden of 34 Taylor Avenue.
- 1.2 Trees were surveyed, with findings shown in the Tree Schedule in Appendix B and plotted on the Tree Protection Plan in Appendix A. This also shows tree protection measures, which are specified in the Arboricultural Method Statement in section 5 below. The arboricultural impact is assessed in section 6, which assumes that these measures are followed.
- 1.3 The tree survey was undertaken, and this report has been prepared, by Simon Stephens MA Oxon, Dip Arb (RFS), MArborA, C Env, MICFor a Registered Consultant with the Arboricultural Association, with over 20 years relevant experience.
- 1.4 This survey and report have been prepared in accordance with the recommendations of BS 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations.
- 1.5 Documentation supplied:
  - Ian Upton Architects, Proposed Site Plan: drawing no 100

## 2 SURVEY DETAILS AND SCOPE

- 2.1 The site survey included trees and shrubs, within influencing distance of the proposed new boundary walls to the front garden, with a stem diameter over 75mm at 1.5m height, as shown located on the Tree Protection Plan, included as Appendix A.
- 2.2 Tree inspection took place from ground level with the use of binoculars, sounding hammer and metal probe using the Visual Tree Assessment method (Mattheck & Breloer 1994). The presence and condition of bark and stem wounds, cavities, decay, fungal fruiting bodies and any structural defects that could increase the risk of structural failure were noted.
- 2.3 Tree diameters were measured using a girthing tape and tree heights were measured using a hypsometer. Where use of a tape was restricted by site factors, diameters were estimated, with the diameter recorded in the tree schedule as eg “est 300”.
- 2.4 At the time of the survey, the weather was overcast, but with no restrictions to visibility. Broadleaf trees were not in leaf.
- 2.5 Tree details are shown on the Tree Protection Plan included as Appendix A. Tree locations have been taken from the topographical survey provided. Where not included on the topographical survey, they have been determined by measuring distances from features shown on the plan, using a laser measuring device. The following information was recorded for each tree, and is shown in the Tree Schedule included as Appendix B:
- **Number:** an identity number for each tree, prefixed with a “T”, which cross references locations shown on the plan with the schedule in Appendix B. Where a number of trees are located close together and are similar in character and management requirements, they have been treated as a Group under a single number, prefixed with a “G”.
  - **Species:** common name.
  - **Tree height:** approximate height in metres.
  - **Stem diameter:** diameter in millimetres, taken at 1.5m above ground. Where there are a number of stems, stem diameters are recorded in the condition column.
  - **Branch spread:** approximate spread in metres to N,S,E and W of the trunk. The approximate branch spread is drawn on the plan.
  - **Canopy clearance:** approximate height of the canopy above ground. Where a significant, low lateral branch is present, its height and direction of growth is included in the Condition column.
  - **Age class:** Young, Semi-mature, Early mature, Mature, Over-mature, Veteran.
  - **Condition:** features that affect the safe useful life expectancy and amenity of the tree, including the presence of decay or any physical defect.
  - **Management Recommendations:** recommendations to ensure the health and safety of the tree, within the future development.
  - **Estimated Remaining Contribution:** <10 years, 5-15 years, 10-20 years, 15-30 years, 20-40 years, >40 years.

- **Category grading:** tree classification taken from BS 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction (see Appendix C for details), as follows:
  - Category U: Unsuitable for retention, trees with less than 10 years life expectancy, normally recommended for removal (Red)
  - Category A: high quality trees, able to make a substantial contribution for at least 40 years, normally retained unless there is an over-riding reason for removal and appropriate mitigation. (Green)
  - Category B: moderate quality trees, able to make a significant contribution for at least 20 years, normally retained. (Blue)
  - Category B/C: an intermediate category between categories B and C (not specifically described in BS5837). Trees, which should be retained wherever possible, providing retention does not unreasonably constrain the layout. (Blue)
  - Category C: low quality, in adequate condition to remain for at least 10 years, or young trees <150mm stem diameter. Trees which can be removed to allow the desired layout or new planting. (Grey)

For category A, B and C trees, a subcategory has been allocated, providing information on the reasons for selection of a specific category, as follows:

- Subcategory 1: mainly arboricultural values.
  - Subcategory 2: mainly landscape values.
  - Subcategory 3: mainly cultural values, including conservation.
- Trees have been classified irrespective of the possible proximity to future construction. The BS 5837 category is colour coded, as indicated above, on the plan included as Appendix A.
  - **Protection Distance:** the protection distance in metres required to provide the Root Protection Area recommended in BS 5837, assuming a circular area centred on the tree.
  - **Root Protection Area (RPA):** the area in m<sup>2</sup>, as recommended in BS 5837, to provide sufficient rooting area to ensure tree survival and which, in most situations, should be fenced off to prevent root damage from construction activities.

### 3 SURVEY LIMITATIONS

- 3.1 No internal decay devices, or other invasive tools to assess tree condition, were used.
- 3.2 No soil excavation or root inspection was carried out.
- 3.3 This survey has not considered the effect that trees or vegetation may have on the structural integrity of future building through subsidence or heave.

- 3.4 The tree survey has been undertaken for planning purposes. Although any obvious structural defects have been noted, a Tree Hazard Assessment has not been carried out. Mature trees close to highly populated areas or public highways should normally be checked for safety annually, by a suitably qualified person.

## **4 LEGAL PROTECTION OF TREES**

- 4.1 The London Borough of Richmond website was viewed on 08-02-2024, showing that the site does not contain any Tree Preservation Orders, nor does it fall within a Conservation Area. The presence of Planning Conditions currently attached to the site, was not checked.

## **5 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT**

### **5.1 Site Overview**

- 5.1.1 The proposal is for the construction of new boundary walls to the front garden. The proposed site plan is shown, along with tree details, on the Tree Protection Plan attached as Appendix A.
- 5.1.2 There are no trees in the front garden, however there is semi mature Field maple street tree (T4) outside the property, which is an attractive tree with good potential for the future.

### **5.2 Tree Work**

- 5.2.1 Details of proposed tree works are included in the Tree Schedule included as Appendix B.
- 5.2.2 A hedge of ivy (H1) is are proposed for removal, as detailed in section 6.1 below.
- 5.2.3 All tree work must be undertaken to the standards set out in BS 3998:2010 Tree work – Recommendations.

### **5.3 Root Protection Areas**

- 5.3.1 Root Protection Areas are shown for all trees in the tree schedule included as Appendix B. They are also shown for all retained trees, as circular areas centred on the trunk, on the Tree Protection Plan included as Appendix A. Where there are physical obstructions to root growth the Root Protection Area should be shown as an equivalent area that is more likely to reflect actual root growth. The Root Protection Area shows the area around a tree in which all construction activity must normally be excluded, unless appropriate protection measures are implemented.

## **5.4 Tree Protection Fencing**

- 5.4.1 To protect the stem of T4 heavy-duty plywood must be used to construct a solid 2m tall box, around the stem of the tree. No part of the box must be in contact with the tree, however polystyrene blocks can be wedged between the box and the tree stem to absorb any impact and to help keep the box in place.
- 5.4.2 After erection of Tree Protection, 2 days notice must be given to the Local Planning Authority before demolition or construction, including any ground work, starts on site.
- 5.4.3 Tree Protection must be maintained and retained for the duration of the works, or until such time as agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

## **5.5 Hand Dig Areas**

- 5.5.1 Excavation for the footings for the two end piers, where shown cross-hatched red on the Tree Protection Plan, must be dug to formation level by hand, neatly severing any roots found, using secateurs or a hand saw.
- 5.5.2 Heavy-duty polythene must be used to line the side of the holes adjacent to the tree, before concrete is poured, to avoid the toxic effects of cement on tree roots.

## **5.6 General measures**

- 5.6.1 No construction activity whatsoever, including routing of underground services, storage of materials or on-site parking, must be allowed within Root Protection Areas, other than that specifically described above.
- 5.6.2 No mixing or storage of cement, concrete, oil, fuel, bitumen or other chemicals must be permitted within 10m of the trunk of any retained trees, nor in any position where the slope of the ground could lead to contamination of the Root Protection Area.
- 5.6.3 Fires must not be lit in a position where their flames could extend to within 10m of foliage, branches or trunk.
- 5.6.4 Landscape works carried out within Root Protection Areas must be undertaken with great care so as not to damage shallow roots. Tractor mounted rotovators or other heavy mechanical cultivation must not be used within the Root Protection Areas.

5.6.5 If any tree shown for retention is removed, uprooted or destroyed, another tree must be planted in the same location, at a size and species to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

5.6.6 A copy of this report and the Tree Protection Plan must be kept on site and must be fully understood by the Site Agent.

## **5.7 Bat roosts**

5.7.1 The current legislation makes it a criminal offence to disturb, damage or destroy any bat roost or hibernation area. Contractors must be reminded of their responsibilities and should contact the relevant authorities if any signs of bats are found.

## **5.8 Birds**

5.8.1 The current legislation makes it a criminal offence to disturb nesting birds. The nesting season is generally assumed to be from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> July, however this can vary depending on species and location. During these months a careful inspection must be made before work commences and works must be postponed if active nests are found.

# **6 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1 The following vegetation, categorised as per BS 5837 (see Appendix C for details), are proposed for removal:

- Category C – low quality: H1 – a hedge consisting entirely of ivy.

6.2 No trees are proposed for removal and excavation for footings for the new walls will be outside the Root Protection Area of the only adjacent tree, T4. As a precautionary measure, hand digging for excavation adjacent to the tree has been specified to minimise any possible damage. However, it is unlikely that any roots will be found. As can be seen from the photos in Appendix D, there is no sign of root disturbance adjacent to the front wall, probably as a result of past trenching for the service trench which runs between the wall and the tree.

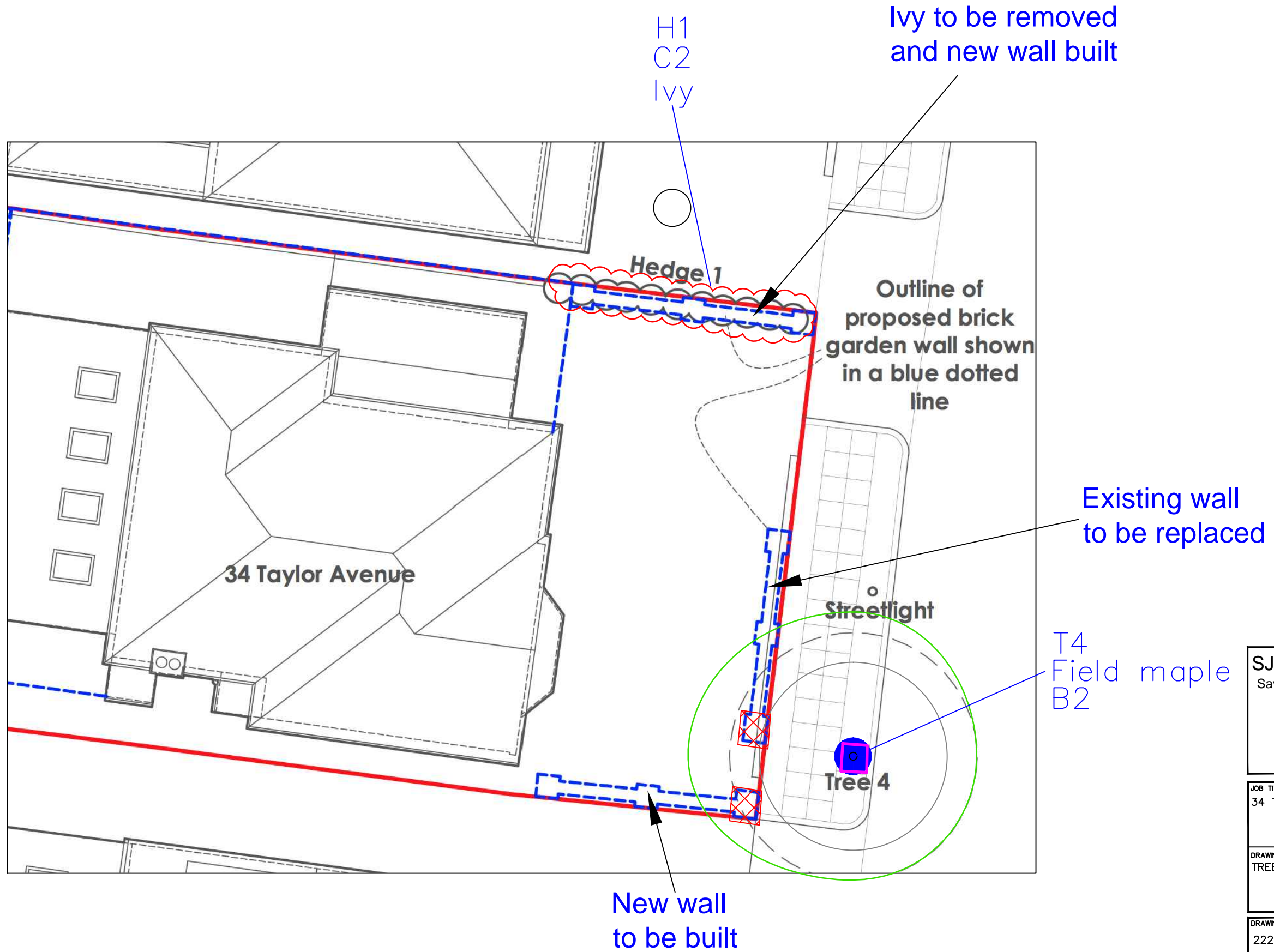
6.3 Provided the recommendations in this report are followed, there is unlikely to be any significant arboricultural impact as a result of these proposals.

# **7 REFERENCES**

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



Key	
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	Category U
<span style="color: green;">●</span>	Category A
<span style="color: blue;">●</span>	Category B
<span style="color: grey;">●</span>	Category C
<span style="border: 1px solid green; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	Crown spread: retained trees
<span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	Trees For Removal
<span style="border: 1px solid grey; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	Root Protection Area
<span style="border-bottom: 1px solid magenta; width: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	Tree Protection Fence
<span style="border: 1px dashed red; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	Hand Dig Area



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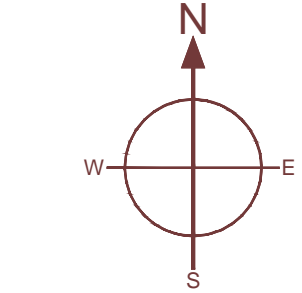
JOB TITLE  
 34 TAYLOR AVENUE

DRAWING TITLE  
 TREE PROTECTION PLAN

DRAWING NUMBER	REV
2226-01	

REVISIONS

SCALE	DATE	DRAWN BY
1:100 at A3	FEB 24	sjss



Tree/ Group No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem Diam. at 1.5m (mm)	Branch Spread (m)				Canopy Cleara- nce (m)	Age Class	Observations	Management Recommendations	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	BS 5837 Category Grading	Protect- ion Distnce (m)	Root Protect. Area (m2)
				N	S	E	W								
H1	Ivy	1.7	25	0	0	0	0	0	Mature	Ivy - cat back hard in garden of No34.	Remove to construct new wall	5-15	C2	0.3	0
T4	Field maple	6	190	3.5	3	3	4	2.5	Semi mature	Attractive tree showing good crown shape and vigour. Growing in 1.5 by 1.0 tree pit in pavement adjacent to road. Roots lifting pavement. Service trench between wall and tree.		20-40	B2	2.3	16

BS 5837:2012, Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
<b>Trees unsuitable for retention</b> (see Note)				
<b>Category U</b> 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"> <li>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 category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning)</li> <li>Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline</li> <li>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</li> </ul> <p><i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.</i></p>			Canopy coloured red
	<b>1 Mainly arboricultural qualities</b>	<b>2 Mainly landscape qualities</b>	<b>3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation</b>	
<b>Trees to be considered for retention</b>				
<b>Category A</b> <b>Trees of high quality</b> 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)	Canopy coloured green
<b>Category B</b> <b>Trees of moderate quality</b> 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 value	Canopy coloured blue
<b>Category C</b> <b>Trees of low quality</b> with an estimated remaining life 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 benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	Canopy coloured grey











