

ARBORICULTURALIST'S REPORT

Terms of Reference

- 1.1 This report was requested by John Cowley, Director, Mineral & Resource Planning Associates Ltd.
- 1.2 The instruction to carry out an inspection of trees and hedges on farmland close to Samlesbury was received by email.
- 1.3 My report is to cover the species, age, dimensions, health, recommendations for any remedial work and suitability for retention in relation to any development that may take place and to include root protection areas for each tree.

Limitations

- 2.1 The content of this report is valid for a period of three years from the date shown above.
- 2.2 The report is for the sole use of the client and its reproduction or use by anyone else is forbidden unless written consent is given by the author.
- 2.3 This is not a full arboricultural survey. This can be supplied but will be subject to a further fee. Any safety implications identified during the inspection are of course noted within this report.
- 2.4 This is an arboricultural report and as such, no reliance should be placed on comments relating to buildings or soil data. My observations and comments are based upon experience with previous cases. I have no formal engineering qualifications.
- 2.5 No tree can ever be guaranteed to be 100% safe and even trees in good condition can suffer damage under normal conditions. Any tree can be hazardous due to decay or structural weakness, but the risk posed by that hazard is determined by its size and location in relation to the potential target. Frequent inspections can help to identify potential problems before they become acute and allow for intervention to mitigate against a risk posed by hazard.

- 2.6 Trees are living organisms that live, die and are capable of being wounded or infected by objects or other organisms. As self-optimising structures, trees will make as much economic use of materials as possible to ensure that any stresses are uniformly spread over the entire surface area. This means that even a mechanically perfect tree could be damaged or caused to fail by extreme events, such as weather, that overload specific areas (break points).

The Site

- 3.1 The site is the route of a new access road from the A59 to the River Ribble across farmland, close to trees and hedges. I surveyed the route of road and adjacent works, and of adjacent land to a distance of up to 10m either side, capturing all trees within that distance.
- 3.2 I carried out the survey on 5th July 2021 and collected data regarding trees and vegetation, including the species, age class, dimensions, condition and category for retention. Height data was gathered using a laser clinometer. DBH (diameter at breast height) was measured using a metric girthing tape. Age and condition were estimated by examining the trees.
- 3.3 My inspection was of a visual nature, using the principles of visual tree assessment and was carried out from ground level. I looked for signs of decay, disease, structural weakness, internal dysfunction and instability.

Trees & Development

- 4.1 The integration of trees within a development relies heavily on careful planning when locating properties and retaining trees nearby. Provided these points are considered, a harmonious relationship between people, the development and existing trees is possible.

4.2 The seventy three trees or groups of trees have been categorised according to Table 1 of BS5837 2012 Trees in relation to construction - Recommendations:

Category	No of Trees	Definition
A	Two	Those of a high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40yrs
B	Forty Four	Those of a moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20yrs
C	Twenty	Those of a low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10yrs, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.
U	Seven	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 yrs.

4.3 Any development proposal should consider that trees identified as retention categories A, B or C are generally those that should be retained. However, category C trees will usually not be retained where they would impose significant constraint on development.

4.4 Retention categories for trees are usually based on the visual amenity they will provide to owners/occupants of homes and businesses. In this case, the proposal is neither residential nor business, but an access road for mineral extraction across farmland, with very little human traffic. The retention categories for these trees are therefore based on the condition of the trees, rather than their amenity value.

4.6 Retained trees must be protected with protective fencing in line with BS 5837 : 2012 at the distance specified for the Root Protection Areas in the attached schedule. The British Standard BS5837 : 2012 Guide for Trees in Relation to Construction gives clear guidance as to the Root Protection Area (RPA) using Table 2 of the document.

4.7 There are above ground constraints that may limit development close to trees. This includes the crown spread of the tree and, in some cases, it may be necessary to increase the extent of tree protection barriers to contain and thereby protect the spread of the crown. This consideration should also allow for future growth.

- 4.8 BS5837 calls for Root Protection Areas to be shown on the plan accompanying the planning application. I have included the required data in the attached tree schedule and plan. For groups of trees, the data is an average for the trees within the group. However, you should be aware that Root Protection Areas will overlap considerably due to the proximity of the trees to each other within the group.
- 4.9 The following appendices are attached to this report:
- A Retention Categories
 - B Root Protection Areas
 - C How tree roots can be damaged during construction
- 4.10 Prior to commencing any arboricultural work to trees, it is essential to liaise with the Local Planning Authority as they may be protected by a Tree Preservation Order or within a Conservation Area.
- 4.11 Any arboricultural work should be carried out by a competent arborist in line with BS3998 British Standards for Tree Work. Should you require details of suitably qualified contractors, the Arboricultural Association maintains a list which is available by calling 01242 522 152 or via their website (www.trees.org.uk).
- 4.12 All wild birds, their young, eggs and active nests are protected under law and it is an offence to damage a nest intentionally while it is in use or being built. Non-urgent tree work or hedge cutting should not be undertaken during the bird nesting or breeding season (March to July, but depending on seasonal temperatures, some birds continue breeding into August and September).
- 4.13 All bats and their roosts are strictly protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Natural Habitats and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Where bats are suspected to be present, seek advice from a licensed bat specialist before carrying out any major tree work or hedge cutting.

Should you have any questions or require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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APPENDIX A Tree Retention Categories

- A.1 BS5837, the British Standards document for trees in relation to construction, gives guidelines for ensuring that trees on development sites are retained or removed according to their future potential to become an asset in harmony with the development or a potential threat to public safety.
- A.2 The early assessment of a site can ensure that trees to be retained can be afforded adequate protection from the onset of construction right through to completion and long into the future.
- A.3 Planning conditions and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 can be used following a survey to enforce the adequate protection for these trees in accordance with BS5387.
- A.4 Although existing trees should be retained wherever reasonable, unless such trees are well suited for incorporating within the new development, it may be preferable to favour new planting. New plantings can then be selected which are ideal for the situation and landscape.
- A.5 The tree survey carried out has assessed and given particular attention to:
- 5.1 the health, vigour and condition of each tree
 - 5.2 the structural defects in each tree and its life expectancy
 - 5.3 the size and form of each tree and its suitability within the context of the site development
 - 5.4 the location of each tree relative to existing site features, e.g. its value as a screen or as a skyline feature
- A.6 On the basis of this assessment, trees are divided into one of the following categories:

TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION

Category A	Those of a high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40yrs	
Criteria Subcategories		
1 Mainly arboricultural values	2 Mainly landscape values	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation
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).
To be indicated on plan: Light Green		

Category B	Those of a moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20yrs	
Criteria Subcategories		
1 Mainly arboricultural values	2 Mainly landscape values	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation
Trees that might be included in the high category but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of remediable defects including unsympathetic past management and minor storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention beyond 40yrs; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation.	Trees present in large number, usually 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.
To be indicated on plan: Mid Blue		

TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION (continued)

Category C	Those of a low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10yrs, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.	
Criteria Subcategories		
1 Mainly arboricultural values	2 Mainly landscape values	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation
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 landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefit.	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.
Note: Whilst C category trees will usually not be retained where they would impose a significant constraint on development, young trees with a stem diameter of less than 150mm should be considered for relocation.		
To be indicated on plan: Grey		

TREES FOR REMOVAL

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 yrs.
Criteria	
Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become inviable 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 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 might be desirable to preserve.	
To be indicated on plan: Dark Red	

APPENDIX B Root Protection Areas (RPA's)

- B1 For the roots to be retained undamaged, there must be only restricted and previously agreed excavation, soil stripping or site grading within the RPA.
- B2 In order to avoid damage to the roots or rooting environment of retained trees, the RPA should be plotted around each of the category A, B and C trees. This is a minimum area in square metres which should be left undisturbed around each retained tree.
- B3 The RPA for each tree, as determined in Table 2, should be plotted on the Tree Constraints Plan (TCP), taking full account of the following factors, as assessed by an arboriculturalist, which may change its shape but not reduce its area, whilst still providing adequate protection for the root system.
- B3.1 The likely tolerance of the tree to root disturbance or damage, based on factors such as species, age and condition and presence of other trees. For individual open grown trees only, it may be acceptable to offset the distance by up to 20% in one direction.
- B3.2 The morphology and disposition of the roots, when known to be influenced by past or existing site conditions (e.g. the presence of roads, structures and underground services).
- B3.3 The soil type and structure.
- B3.4 Topography and drainage.
- B3.5 Where any significant part of a tree's crown overhangs the provisional position of tree protection barriers, these parts may sustain damage during the construction period. In such cases, it may be necessary to increase the extent of tree protection barriers to contain and thereby protect the spread of the crown. Protection may also be achieved by access facilitation pruning. The need for such measures, including the precise extent of pruning, should be assessed by an arboriculturalist.
- B4 The guidelines for type and dimensions of protective barriers are given in BS 5837 2012, and are as follows:
- B4.1 Barriers should be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place around the retained tree(s). On all sites, special attention should be paid to ensuring that barriers remain rigid and complete.
- B4.2 The default specification for protective barriers is a vertical and horizontal scaffold framework, well braced to resist impacts with welded mesh panes securely fixed onto this framework. The vertical tubes should be spaced at a maximum interval of 3m and driven securely into the ground.
- B4.3 Where site circumstances and associated risk allow, an alternative specification should be prepared by the arboriculturalist and agreed with the Local Planning Authority. For example, 2m tall welded mesh panels on rubber or concrete feet, stabilised on the inside and joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers, installed so they can only be removed from inside the fence.

- B4.4 “Protected Trees No Entry” signs should be affixed to every fourth panel. The barriers should remain in place until completion of the construction phase and removed only on the consent of the Local Planning Authority.
- B5 Where it has been agreed during the design stage, and shown on the tree protection plan, vehicular or pedestrian access for the construction operation may take place within the RPA. The possible effects of construction activity should be addressed by a combination of barriers and ground protection. The position of the barrier may be shown within the RPA at the edge of the agreed working zone but the soil structure beyond the barrier to the edge of the RPA should be protected with ground protection.
- B6 For pedestrian movements within the RPA, the installation of ground protection in the form of a single thickness of scaffold boards on top of a compressible layer laid onto a geotextile, or supported by scaffold, may be acceptable.
- B7 For wheeled or tracked construction traffic movements within the RPA, the ground protection should be designed by an engineer to accommodate the likely loading and may involve the use of proprietary systems or reinforced concrete slabs.

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier

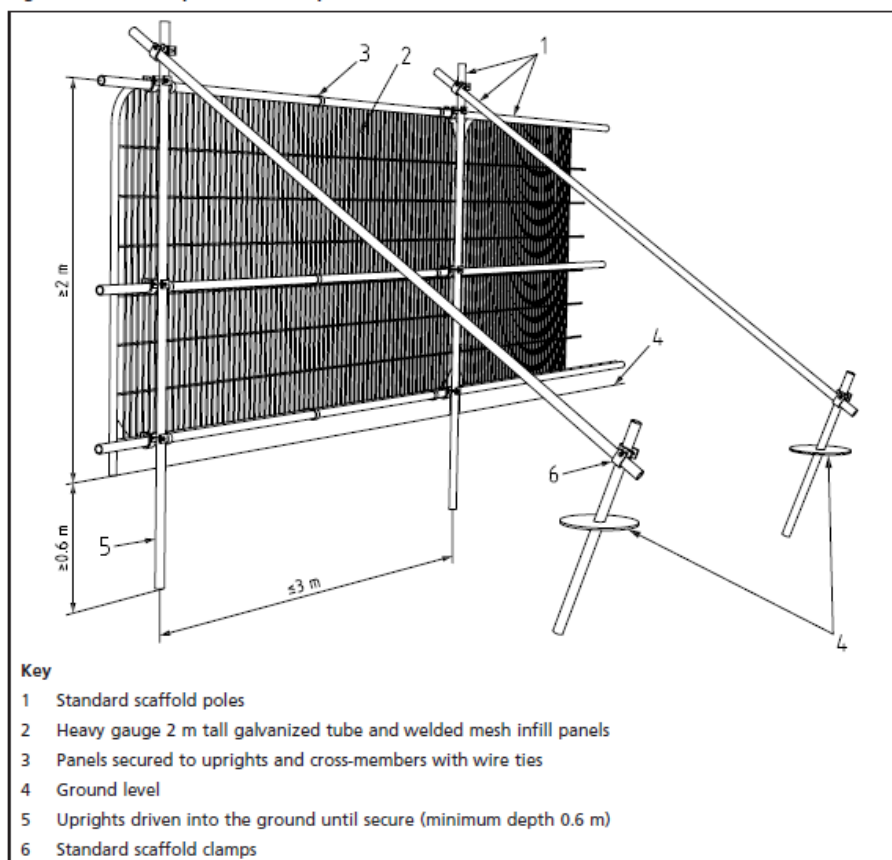
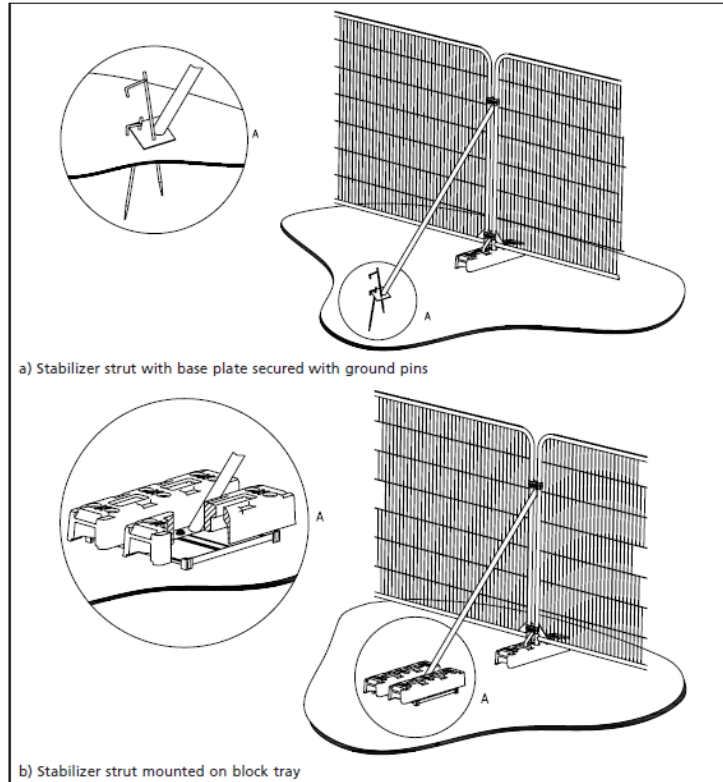


Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



Available for download from: www.aie.org.uk/download/pictures/avcc_sign.pdf

APPENDIX C How tree roots can be damaged during construction

- C1 Construction close to trees can be enormously damaging and detrimental to the tree's health, often leading to death and eventual removal. Most trees that have been growing undisturbed on a site for many years will have developed an extensive root system with the roots growing where the soil conditions are most favourable. There will be a balance between the development of the crown (which demands water) and the roots (which supply it). Any sudden alteration in the soil conditions within the tree's rooting area (a circle of radius equal to the tree's height) will therefore upset this balance.
- C2 Root systems can be damaged by:
- Repeated passage of machinery, which will squeeze the soil, closing up the pores causing compaction, especially in the upper levels, and so reducing the amount of oxygen available to roots and preventing them from growing through the soil. Surviving roots may then not be able to grow through the compacted soil. It is essential therefore that all but the immediate area of the development is protected from construction operations by fencing as recommended in BS5837.
 - Placing soil or other materials over the roots of a tree, which will impede air movement into and out of the soil and consequently reduce the availability of oxygen to the roots.
 - The severance of a root, for example by trenching, which will destroy all parts of the root beyond that point. Even roots less than 10mm in diameter may be serving the fine roots over a wide area. The larger the root severed, the greater the impact on the tree.
 - Damage to the bark on the root. The bark protects the root from decay and is also essential for further root growth. It is loosely attached and easily damaged. If damage to the bark extends around the whole circumference, the root beyond that point will be killed.
 - Alterations in soil level. Lowering the level will strip out the mass of roots near the surface. Raising the levels will have the same effect as soil compaction.
 - Incorrect application of herbicide. There is frequently a need for operational land to be kept clear of weed growth for safety and as a fire precaution. Herbicides provide an efficient method of killing both herbaceous and woody weeds. There are several types of herbicide with different modes of action and persistence, the most attractive of which tend to be those that can be applied to the ground, usually as a granule and which remain active in the soil for long periods. The wide-ranging root system of a tree may extend into the operational land from adjoining properties and may absorb some types of herbicides which have been applied to the ground. Material absorbed in one part of the root system can kill the whole tree.
 - Spillage of oils or other harmful materials which leach into the soil, can also damage the root system. For instance, oil spilled into the soil is broken down by soil bacteria which deplete the oxygen and so asphyxiate the roots. Other materials may also have a direct toxic effect on roots.