OMC Associates

BSi 5837 Tree Survey for Development

CLIENT:

SITE: Land East of 27 And 29 Ravenshoe, Godmanchester, PE29 2DE

OUR REF: 01928SV/CJO/1609

DATE OF REPORT: 16 September 2022

Prepared by [redacted] MSc Arb, BA (Hons), ANC (Dist), M, Arb. A
Checked by [redacted] ND (Arb), QCF L4 Dip (Arboriculture)



28 Shelford Road, Cambridge, CB2 9NA
Tel: 01223 842253 Email: info@omc-associates.co.uk

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report plots, identifies and grades the existing tree population on and adjacent a 2 acres, former car dismantlers site on Long Drove to the east of Cottenham. The quality of the trees is graded in accordance with BS 5837 and plotted on a tree survey plan that shows their driplines. The root protection areas (RPAs) and shade segments are identified and illustrated on the tree constraints plan. The purpose of the report is to inform layout. Nine trees are noted. All are fruit trees. Three are B grade, T1, T3 & T7 and of these T3 is most retention worthy. The remainder C or U grade. B grade trees are of material significance in planning terms.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief

We are instructed to provide a tree survey at Land East of 27 And 29 Ravenshoe, Godmanchester, PE29 2DE to accompany a planning application for the site. The survey is carried out for the purposes of planning and is in accordance with BS 5837:2012 "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations".

The survey represents an objective account of the tree and notable vegetation population. It is neither a tree management report nor a tree safety survey though obvious defects will be noted.

The tree survey plan at Appendix C shows all existing trees with their canopies. The tree constraints plan at Appendix D illustrates the adjusted Root Protection Areas (RPAs) as defined by BS 5837 and shade segments.

This does not constitute an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA), Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) or a Tree Protection Plan (TPP). It does, however, serve as a document to inform on an optimal layout that will have least impact on retention worthy trees.

1.2 Documents

The trees have been plotted onto the site by OMC Associates.

1.3 Site Description

The site is located on the eastern periphery of Godmanchester and comprises the rear gardens of two semi detached houses within a 1970/80s housing development.

The gardens are long, rectangular areas that extend south easterly to the A1198. These have been fenced off and merged into a single plot.

The grass is now long and a number of established fruit trees are noted on both plots.

The land to the south is under development and that to the north remains gardens.



Site extents (Google earth)

1.4 Root Protection Areas (RPAs)

An RPA is defined in BSi 5837 (2012) as "the area surrounding a tree that contains sufficient rooting volume to ensure the survival of the tree".

The 2012 British Standard formula for calculating the RPA has been used in conjunction with existing site conditions that can affect root morphology and dispositions such as the presence of roads, structures and underground apparatus; topography and drainage and the soil type and structure to determine likely RPAs.

The resultant RPAs are shown at Appendix D and serve to inform on an optimal layout for any development.

Though encroachment upon the RPA should always be avoided, it can be acceptable in certain conditions. This involves assessment of the tolerance levels of the tree based on a variety of factors.

2.0 TREES

2.1 Trees data

Dimensions relating to height, crown spread (at four cardinal points where considered necessary), girth at 1.5m as well as age class, structural and physiological condition and BS 5837 (2012) quality category are noted. The inspection assesses the height of the crown and suitability to develop near to it.

The quality categories are defined in Appendix E and serve to highlight the retention worthy trees.

This survey does not include a detailed assessment of the health of the tree, but clear faults are noted in the tabulated tree schedule and factored into the structural and physiological assessment.

2.2 Trees and legislation

We have not ascertained the status of trees on the site at the time of writing this report. Trees may be subject to Tree Preservation Orders or protected by virtue of being within a Conservation Area.

No works around trees should be carried out without the approval of the Local Planning Authority unless planning permission has been granted that indisputably necessitates the removal or pruning back of any of these trees and the planning consent has not expired.

Section 197 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 states that it shall be the duty of the local planning authority to ensure whenever it is appropriate, that in granting planning permission, "*adequate provision is made, by the imposition of conditions, for the preservation or planting of trees*". Even when no specific legal protection exists, it may be necessary to obtain a felling license from the Forestry Commission if the volume of timber removed exceeds felling license quotas.

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) (1990) in conjunction with Historic England empowers local authorities to designate areas of special architectural or historical interest as 'Conservation Areas', to preserve their character and appearance. Trees can form an intrinsic part of the character and appearance of such areas and the Act prohibits any works to trees within them with a stem diameter measuring in excess of 75mm at a height of 1.5 metres from ground level.

Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework adopted in July 2021 states that, "Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment" and Section 12 states that, "Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments are.....visually attractive" and "sympathetic to local landscape and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change".

Policies within the adopted Local Plan also require the need to protect and retain trees in development.

2.3 Tree details

Details of trees are provided in the tabulated information at Appendix A.

A number of fruit trees of young maturity and full maturity are noted. Three are good specimens warranting a B grade classification, T1, T3 and T7 and of these the large cherry tree T7 and the shapely apple tree T3 are the most notable.

The remainder of the trees have either been heavily cut back and are poor specimens or simply neglected and developed into trees of indifferent quality. These are C or U grade trees of no material planning significance.

3.0 CONCLUSION

All the trees noted across the combined gardens are fruit trees. Only three would be deemed retention worthy, the B grade T1, T3 & T7 and this is based on health and form and visibility from the highway. Of these, the apple tree T3 is considered the best due to it the absence of historic tree surgery and its future life expectancy.



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Appendix A - Tree Schedule

ID	Species	Height (m)	Dia. at 1.5m (mm)	Crown Radius				Age Class	SULE	Condition Structural	Condition Physiological	RPA radius (m)	Quality Category (BS:5837)	Space below Crown		Tree-work	Comments
				N	S	E	W							Y/N/NA	Position 1st branch		Land East of 27 And 29 Ravenshoe, Godmanchester, PE29 2DE
T1	*Malus domestica* (Apple)	6	470	4.1	4.2	3.7	2.3	M	20-40	G	G	5.64	B2	(1.5)	1.3(W)		Main scaffold based on 4 principal stems emerging from a union at 0.9m; all lopped 5-10 years ago but subsequently developed a large crown; good health; fine specimen; visible from highway
T2	*Pyrus edulis* (Pear)	2.6	140	2.6	2.7	1	0.2	EM	<10	G	G	1.68	U	-	-		Suppressed by dominant cherry tree; Fire Blight (*Erwinia amylovora*) on pear
T3	*Malus domestica* Apple)	5.3	310	4.3	4	3.1	4.3	M	>40	F	F	3.72	B1/2	(1.7)	1.4(W)		Fine specimen; shapely; well structured; good health and prominence; not compromised by former tree work
T4	*Malus domestica* (Apple)	2.9	220	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	EM	10-20	F	P	2.64	C2/U	-	-		Topped at 1.7m; vigorous reshooting but structure permanently damaged
T5	*Prunus cerasus* (Cherry)	2.6	300	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	M	<10	G	G	3.6	C2/U	-	-		Topped at 2m; suckering to 2.6m; structure damaged permanently
T6	*Prunus cerasifera* (Cherry Plum)	2.3	140	1.2	0.8	1	0.8	EM	<10	G	G	1.68	U	-	-		Lopped at 2.3m; epicormic suckering from base
T7	*Prunus cerasus* (Cherry)	9.6	644	5.8	8.3	7.1	4	M	20-40	G	G	7.73	B2	(1.7)	3.2(W)		Fine, large specimen; shapely; high prominence; good health; trifurcation at 0.9m with further bifurcations at 2m
T8	*Prunus dulcis* (Almond)	5	230	1.3	2.5	3.9	1.8	EM	20-40	G	G	2.76	C2	-	-		Twisted stem; bifurcation at 2m; natural deadwood in lower crown; good health; asymmetric form
T9	Picea abies (Norway Spruce)	4	200	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	EM	<10	G	G	2.4	C2/U	-	-		Engulfed in ivy

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Appendix B - Photographs



Photo 1

- T8



Photo 2

- T9



Photo 3

- T3- T5 foregrouns
- T7 background
- Looking south



Photo 4

- T3 foreground, T7 background



Photo 5

- T1



Photo 6

- T3

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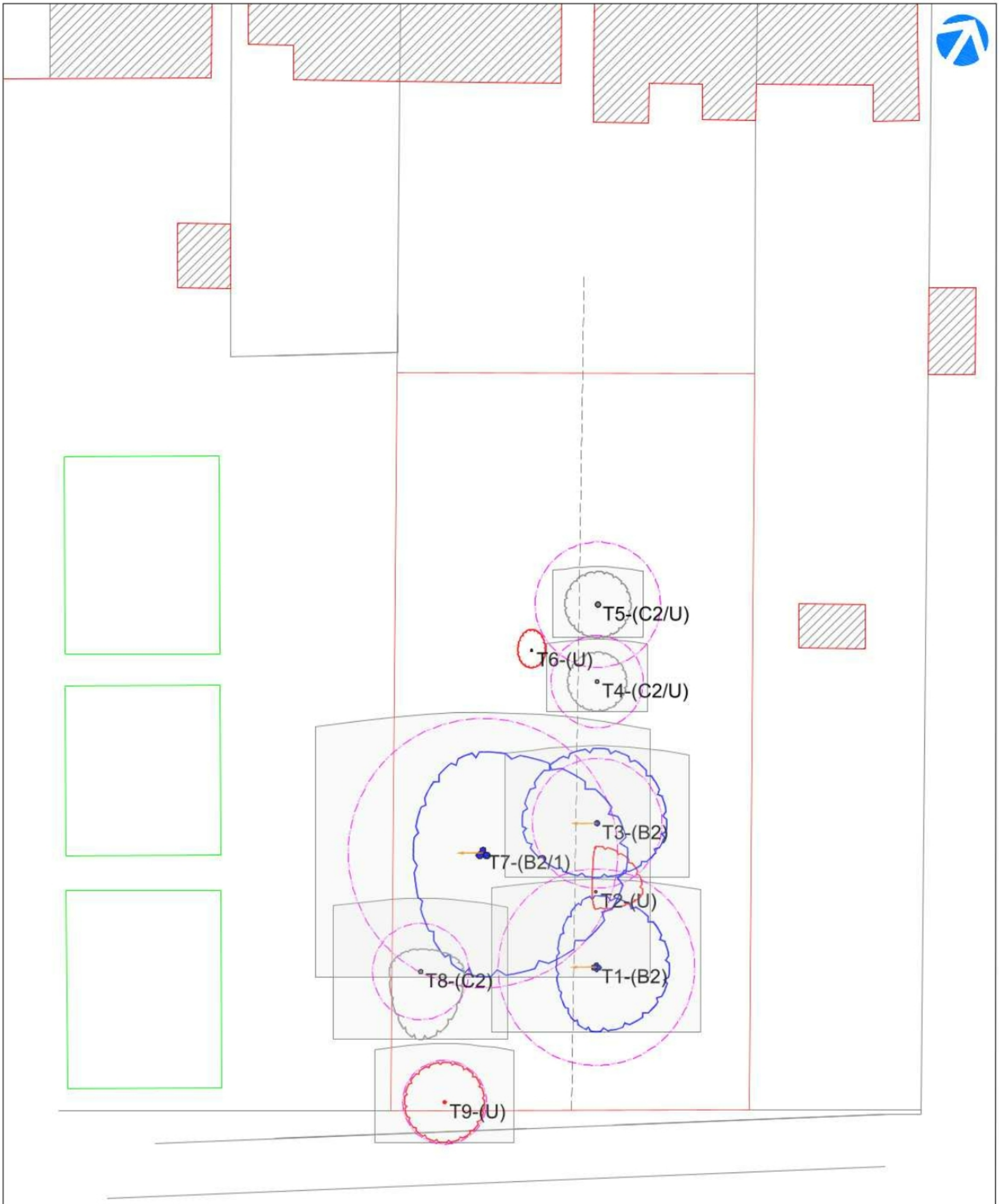
Appendix C - Tree Survey Plan



Title
Tree Constraints Plan

Client
JAYK Projects

Project
Land east of 27 & 29 Ravenshoe, Godmanchester, PE29 2DE

Date
16 September 2022

Drawn by
CJO

Project ref.
1928_TCP

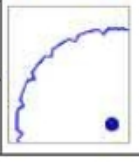
Scale
1:200 @ A3

DO NOT SCALE - Use only figured dimensions
To be read in colour

BS 5837:2012 TREE RETENTION CATEGORIES



Category A
Trees of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)



Category B
Trees of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested)

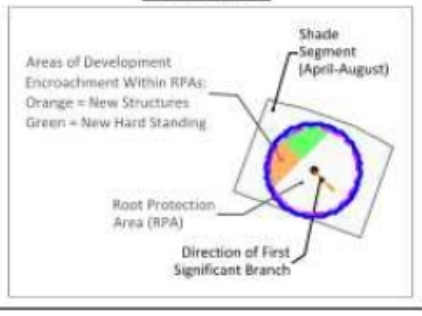


Category C
Trees of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.



Category U
Trees in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.

Tree Constraints



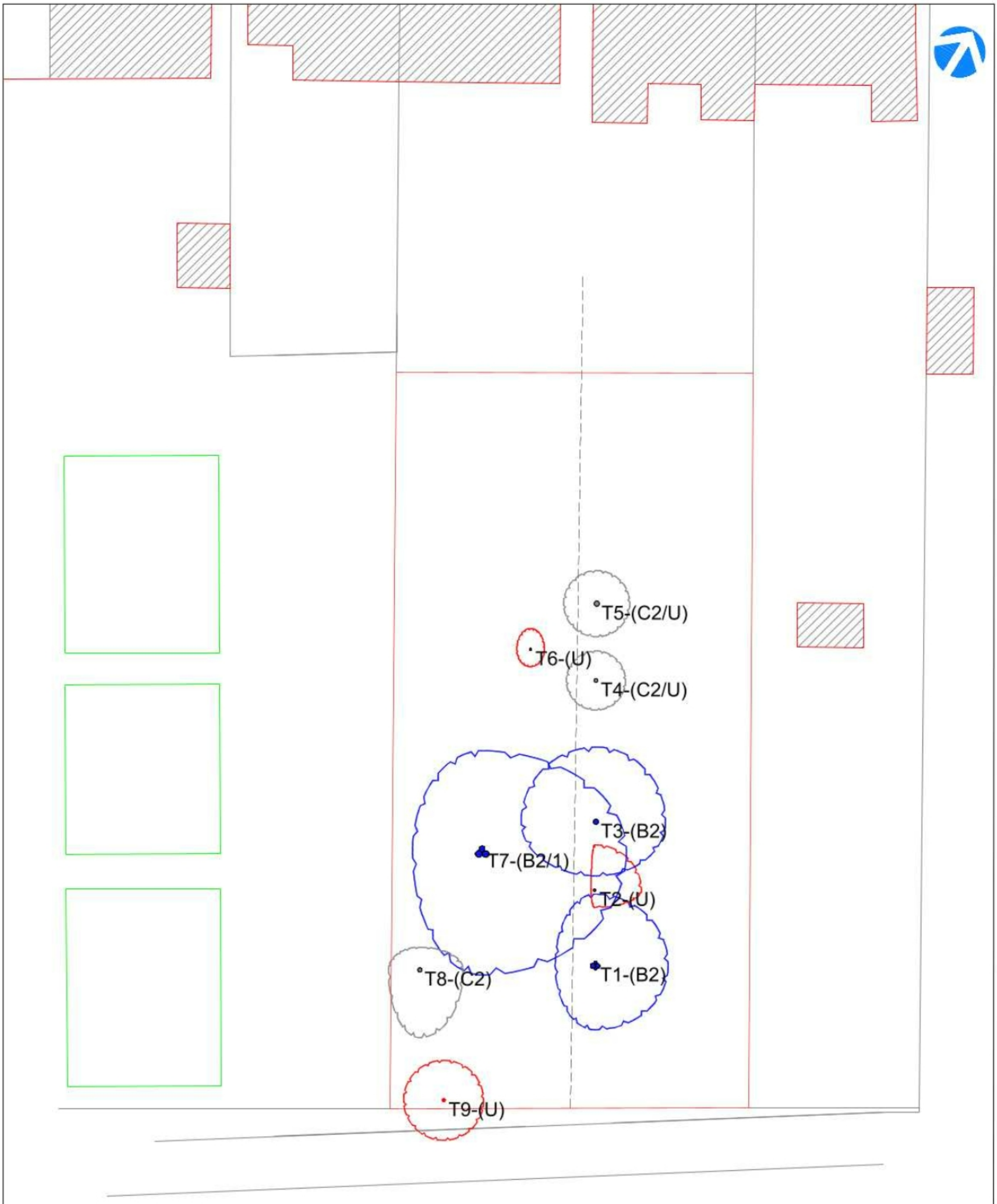
O M C
Arboriculture

28 Shelford Road, Cambridge CB2 9NA
Tel: 01223 842253 / 020 8252 7919
Fax: 01223 846870 Mob: 07771 708474
Email: info@omc-associates.co.uk



OMC Associates

Appendix D - Tree Constraints Plan



Title	Tree Survey and Proposed Removals Plan
Client	JAYK Projects
Project	Land east of 27 & 29 Ravenshoe, Godmanchester, PE29 2DE
Date	16 September 2022
Drawn by	CJO
Project ref.	1928_TSP
Scale	1:200 @ A3

DO NOT SCALE - Use only figured dimensions
To be read in colour

BS 5837:2012 TREE RETENTION CATEGORIES

Category A
Trees of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)

Category B
Trees of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested)

Category C
Trees of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.

Category U
Trees in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.

Trees Proposed For Removal
(shown with dashed outline and red identification)

O M C
Arboriculture
28 Shelford Road, Cambridge CB2 9NA
Tel: 01223 842253 / 020 8252 7919
Fax: 01223 846870 Mob: 07771 708474
Email: info@omc-associates.co.uk

OMC Associates

Appendix E - Key to tree schedule and cascade chart explaining BS 5837 classification

KEY TO TREE SCHEDULE REFERENCES

Prefix: **T** – Tree **S** – Shrub/Climber **TG/SG** – Group/Hedge of **T**rees or **S**hrubs

***** Estimated

Dia.: **N/A** - Tree less than 100mm (for shrubs: young, semi-mature or mature)

Age Class:

Young:	Generally less than 10 years old and high life expectancy
Semi-mature:	Within first 30% of life expectancy and significant growth to be expected
Early-mature:	Typically 30-60% of life expectancy, full size almost reached
Mature:	Typically 60% or more of life expectancy, full size reached with very gradual, slight further increases in size
Veteran	A stage of development where intervention/management may be required to ensure the tree remains safe
Over-mature:	Where a tree is so senescent that management is not worthwhile

Life Expectancy: How many years before tree is likely to need removing (subject to human intervention)

Crown Radius: If crown is symmetrical, one dimension is given for the radius followed by "S"

B.S. Category: **See Appendix 2**

Physiological Condition:

Good:	Healthy tree with no symptoms of significant disease
Fair:	Some disease noted and/or vitality is below what would be expected
Poor:	Significant disease noted and/or very low vitality
Very Poor:	Tree is in severe decline

Structural Condition:

Good:	No significant structural defects
Fair:	Defects noted but not sufficient to warrant immediate work
Poor:	Significant defects. Monitoring and/or remedial works required
Very Poor:	Significant defects requiring immediate work or tree removal

Space Below Crown: A useful indicator to determine the practicality of developing below the crown. Rather than a measurement which can be misleading and open to interpretation.

Y	Potential to develop below the dripline with either no treework or removal of limbs that will not adversely affect the health and appearance of the tree
N	No scope to develop below the dripline of the tree
N/A	Tree to be removed

Treework: This is general since the report is not a tree-work specification. It indicates:

H	High priority. For trees to be retained and where work required to make safe
L	No urgent work required but would benefit from some intervention
N	No treework identified as necessary in the foreseeable future
P	Facilitation tree surgery advised
R	Remove – tree identified to be removed because "U" category tree
RA	Tree removed to accommodate development
WA	Treework to accommodate development
IV	Sever and remove ivy

B.S. Category:

A - Those of high quality and value i.e. make a substantial contribution;

B - Those of good/moderate quality and value, might be Cat. "A" but slightly impaired

C - Those of low quality i.e. adequate to remain until new planting is established or young trees with a stem diameter less than 150mm at 1.5m height

U - Those of such poor condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years

1 - Mainly Arboricultural value **2 - Mainly Landscape value** **3 - Mainly Ecological value**

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

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention				
Category U Those in such 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 to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other U category trees (e.g. 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 stability of other nearby trees (e.g. Dutch elm disease), 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.			DARK RED
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	**2 Mainly landscape qualities**	**3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation**	
Trees to be considered for retention				
Category A **Trees of high quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are of particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are 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)	LIGHT GREEN
Category B **Trees of moderate quality** with an estimated contribution of at least 20 years	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)	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 **Trees of low quality** with an estimated contribution 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 landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	GREY