



**T** 01454 227458   **F** 01454 227458   **M** 07775 576738   **E** [chris@silver-back.co.uk](mailto:chris@silver-back.co.uk)

Arboricultural Survey  
Tormarton Pond, Tormarton  
October 2009  
SAC 041

**silverback**  
arboricultural consultancy



## **1.0 Instructions/Scope**

- 1.1. I have been instructed by John Wells, to conduct an arboricultural survey of the trees situated around the village pond at Tormarton.
- 1.2. I have been asked to assess the health and safety of the trees and recommend any necessary treeworks. Recommendations for the long term management of the trees are contained within the accompanying management plan.
- 1.3 All inspections were made from ground level, using binoculars where necessary. Should a more detailed inspection, by climbing or by elevated platform, be required then this will be highlighted within survey recommendations.
- 1.4 Except where stated, all dimensions are estimated. I surveyed the site on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009. The weather was wet and overcast, visibility was fair .

## **2.0 Survey Limitations and Methodology**

- 2.1 Trees are living, dynamic organisms that can be affected by external conditions. It is therefore not possible to state with any certainty that a tree is safe.
- 2.2 This survey is valid for 12 months from the time of writing. The content of the report could be invalidated by changes in the condition of the tree or the surrounding area.
- 2.3 The recommended works contained within this report are aimed to address immediate health and safety issues with the trees. Recommendations for the long term management of the trees are contained within the accompanying management plan
- 2.4 Reference should be made to the management plan prior to the commencement of any works recommended in this report

### **3.0 Legal duty**

- 3.1 It is the responsibility of the tree owner to ensure that their tree(s) is in a safe and stable condition, including the effects of root activity, through duty of care in the *Occupiers Liability Act (1984)*.
- 3.2 The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 makes it an offence to disturb a nesting bird or recklessly endanger a bat or its roost. Professional advice should be sought, where relevant, before undertaking any recommended works.

## **4.0 Findings (to be read in conjunction with the survey sheets)**

- 4.1 The majority of significant trees on the site were found to be within a very narrow age range, being either mature or over-mature. It was also found that there is minimal species diversity with the majority of trees being Ash
- 4.2 Thirty three individual trees were surveyed. Twelve trees were found to require urgent works (1). Two trees need essential works (2). Other trees require non essential works which are contained within the accompanying management plan.
- 4.3 The trees deemed to require urgent works mainly require remedial or formative pruning, to address possible health and safety issues
- 4.4 Branches which encroach over the road or footpath, restrict access for people under the canopies or around the base of the trees. Crown lifting and cutting back will allow clear access under and around the tree, whilst not affecting the overall visual amenity.
- 4.5 Deadwood within the canopy of trees, whilst offering ecological advantages, poses a health and safety risk and should therefore be removed in areas of public access
- 4.6 Ivy was found in the canopies of the majority of the trees surveyed. Ivy is not a parasitic plant, it uses the trees as a climbing frame to gain more light. Dense Ivy growth ties tree branches together increasing the sail effect and making the trees liable to wind damage or failure. The weight of excessive Ivy growth can cause branches to snap. Ivy growth can also covers possible defects within the tree which could affect their structural integrity.

- 4.7 T33- Over-mature Ash. The tree appears to be in serious decline with a large proportion of the upper crown having died. There is a large cavity approximately 1.5m up the north western side of the main stem which extends over 0,5m inwards, upwards and downwards through the stem. This is a serious weakness in a main structural part of the tree. There is dense Ivy growth covering the majority of the structural framework of the tree therefore it was impossible to inspect the tree for any possible defects
- 4.8 T17-Mature Ash. This tree has three stems originating at ground level which has created a potential compression fork. As the girth of the stems increases they exert pressure upon each other possibly leading to one or more stems failing. Due to the position of the tree, adjacent to the road and neighbouring property there is a serious health and safety issue.
- 4.9 Reducing the crown weight of the stems will reduce the leverage exerted by each stem but will only provide a temporary solution
- 4.10 There were fungal fruiting bodies found at the base of T2. Unfortunately the fungus was too badly desiccated to allow positive identification. An area of Honey fungus (*Armillaria spp*) was found close to the tree therefore it is fair to assume the desiccated fungi is Honey fungus.

## **5.0 Recommendations**

- 5.1 Trees that require crown lifting or cutting back from the road/footpath are T5, 7, 9, 10, 23. These are essential works to remove the health and safety implications of trees overhanging footpaths and roads and should be undertaken as soon as possible.
- 5.2 Trees requiring the removal of deadwood are T13, 15, 16, 25, 27, 30, 33. These are essential works to remove the health and safety implications posed by deadwood in the canopy of the trees and should be undertaken as soon as possible.
- 5.3 T2 should be monitored for the regrowth of any fungal bodies.(contact Silverback if they re-occur) This will allow positive identification of the fungi which could dictate the future management of the trees.
- 5.4 The structure of T17 poses a high health and safety risk. To remove the risk it is recommended that the tree is removed. Replacement planting recommendations are contained within the management plan.
- 5.5 Alternatively, if it is felt T17 should be retained, a 30% crown reductions should be undertaken to reduce the canopy weight and wind resistance. If this course of action is undertaken it must be repeated on a regular basis to retain the trees reduced size.
- 5.6 T30 Ash. This tree has been pollarded in the past. It has a major basal cavity and is in a generally poor condition. Re-pollarding the tree will reduce the stress on the main stem and hopefully prevent it splitting.

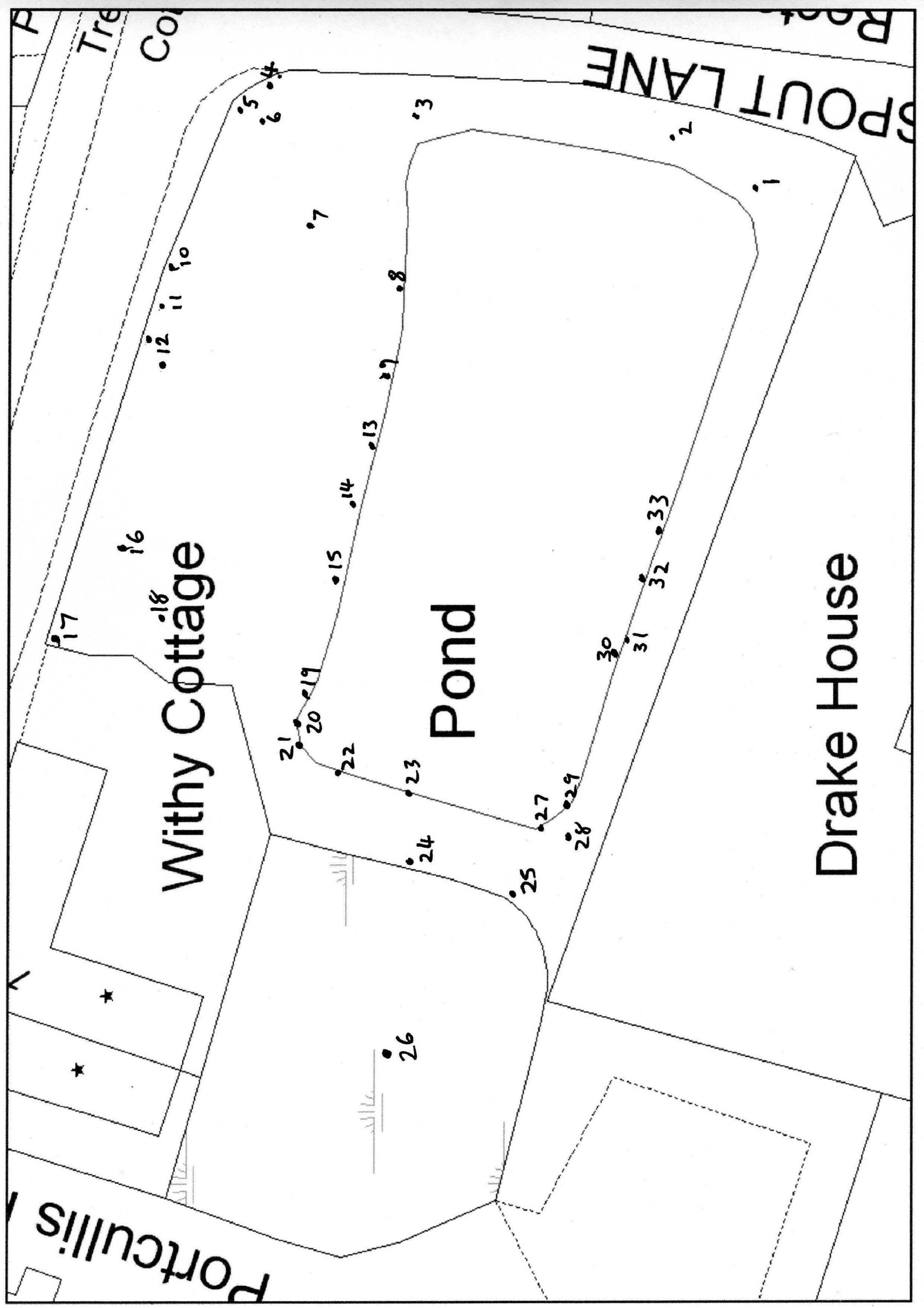
- 5.7 T33 is in a poor structural condition with a major cavity in the main stem of the tree. The tree is covered in Ivy making further investigation of the structural integrity of the tree impossible. There is also extensive deadwood in the upper canopy. It is recommended that this tree is reduced to a 4m pollard. This will remove the risk posed by the compromised main stem.
- 5.8 The recommended works should be undertaken by a suitably qualified arboriculturalist or forester, and should be in accordance with BS3998. Recommendations for tree work 1998

Chris Wright Tech Cert.(Arbor.A)

Principal Consultant

Silverback Arboricultural Consultancy

October 2009





Arboricultural Survey of trees around Tormarton Village Pond

Tree No	Species	Height (m)	Stem Structure	Stem Dia	Crown Spread				Age	Crown Clr (m)	Con	Vig	ULE	Observations	Preliminary Recommendations	Priority
					N	S	E	W								
1	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	3	Multi	#	1	1	1	1	Y	0	F	G	3	Multi-stemmed, bushy growth habit	No works	#
2	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	13	S	36	5	4	3	1	S/M	3	F	G	4	Asymetric crown, desicated fungal bodies around base, probably Honey fungus	Monitor for fungal growth to enable possible identification	2
3	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	10	S	40	4	5	4	5	S/M	2	G	G	4	Previously reduced to 8m	Refer to management plan	#
4	Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	6	S	21	0	1	1	1	Y	0	P	G	2	Poor form asymetric crown, Ivy in canopy	Refer to management plan	#
5	Yew <i>Taxus bacata</i>	8	S	46	3	1	3	3	M	1	G	G	4	Slightly asymetric crown overhanging footpath, Ivy within canopy	Crown raise to 2m over footpath	1
6	Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	6	Multi	#	1	0	1	1	S/M	0	P	F	1	Poor specimen growing into neighbouring Yew	Refer to management plan	#
7	Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> )	7	S	31	2	2	2	2	S/M	1	F	F	4	Low crown, Ivy throughout canopy	Crown raise to 2m, sever Ivy	1
8	Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	3	S	#	0	0	0	1	Y	0	P	P	1	Poor form, major lean over pond.	Refer to management plan	#
9	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	18	S	89	6	5	10	5	M	0	G	F	3	Asymetric crown overhanging pond, Ivy throughout canopy, Low canopy and epicormic growth	Crown raise to 2m and remove epicormic growth	1
10	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	19	S	58	5	5	5	5	M	1	G	G	4	Fine tree, low canopy	Crown raise to 2m	1
11	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	7	S	27	2	2	2	2	Y	0	P	G	1	Poor specimen heavy lean towards the road	Refer to management plan	#
12	Cockspur Thorn <i>Crataegus x lavallei</i>	3	Twin	#	3	3	3	3	Y	0	G	G	3	Bushy habit	Refer to management plan	#

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					N	S	E	W								
13	Crack Willow <i>Salix fragilis</i>	17	S	83	2	2	3	2	O/M	2	P	G	4	Poor branch structure, Deadwood in crown Covered in Ivy	Remove deadwood, sever Ivy	1
14	Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	4	Multi	#	1	1	1	1	Y	0	P	P	1	Poor specimen growing at the edge of pond	Refer to management plan	#
15	Crack Willow <i>Salix fragilis</i>	16	S	89	2	2	2	2	O/M	5	P	G	4	Poor branch structure, Deadwood in crown Covered in Ivy	Remove deadwood, sever Ivy	1
16	Ash <i>(Fraxinus excelsior)</i>	18	S	93	9	9	9	3	M	2	F	F	3	Slightly asymmetric crown, deadwood in canopy. Heavy, long limbs extending to the north and east	Remove deadwood, Reduce end weight on 2 limbs by 20%, cut back lower branch growing over Cherry	1 2
17	Ash <i>(Fraxinus excelsior)</i>	18	3	#	6	5	8	2	M	4	P	G	1	Three stems creating compression fork, major included bark at base	Fell / Crown reduce 30%	2
18	Cherry <i>Prunus spp</i>	6	S	12	1	1	1	1	Y	1	G	G	4	Young tree , good form	No works	#
19	Ash <i>(Fraxinus excelsior)</i>	16	S	48	2	1	1	7	M	3	P	G	2	Asymmetric crown, heavy lean over pond, Ivy throughout	Refer to management plan	#
20	Ash <i>(Fraxinus excelsior)</i>	16	S	40	6	1	1	1	M	0	P	G	2	Asymmetric crown, heavy lean over neighbouring property, Ivy throughout	Refer to management plan	#
21	Ash <i>(Fraxinus excelsior)</i>	16	S	36	6	0	0	1	M	0	P	G	2	Asymmetric crown, heavy lean over neighbouring property, Ivy throughout	Refer to management plan	#
22	Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	4	S	17	1	1	1	1	S/M	0	P	F	1	Poor specimen growing at the edge of pond, covered in Ivy	Refer to management plan	#
23	Hawthorn <i>(Crataegus monogyna)</i>	8	Twin	#	1	1	1	1	S/M	1	F	G	4	Low canopy, Ivy throughout	Crown raise to 2m, sever Ivy	1

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					N	S	E	W								
24	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	14	S	27	4	4	1	2	S/M	4	P	G	1	Poor form, asymmetric crown over pond, deadwood, Ivy throughout	Refer to management plan	#
25	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	14	Multi	#	3	6	6	6	S/M	3	F	G	4	3 stems, 1 stem major lean over withy bed, deadwood in crown	Remove deadwood	1
26	Willow	8	Multi	#	2	2	6	2	M	0	F	G	4	Growing in withy bed, previously pollarded at 8m	Refer to management plan	#
27	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	14	S	27	3	3	3	3	S/M	8	F	G	4	Asymmetric crown containing deadwood	Remove deadwood	1
28	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	12	Multi	#	3	4	0	6	M	0	P	P	1	Dead stems and deadwood, covered in Ivy	Refer to management plan	#
29	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	8	S	14	0	2	0	1	Y	6	P	G	2	Poor form, asymmetric crown over pond, Ivy throughout	Refer to management plan	#
30	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	12	S	86	3	3	3	3	O/M	2	P	P	2	Major basal cavity, heavily reduced in past, deadwood, Ivy throughout	Re-pollard at 4m	1
31	Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	3	Multi	#	1	1	1	1	M	0	F	F	1	Poor specimen growing at the edge of pond, covered in Ivy	Refer to management plan	#
32	Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	3	Multi	#	1	1	1	1	M	0	F	F	1	Poor specimen growing at the edge of pond, covered in Ivy	Refer to management plan	#
33	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	16	S	98	8	6	6	6	O/M	0	P	P	2	Major deadwood, large cavity at 1.5m. Ivy throughout Tree appears to be in serious decline	Remove deadwood, sever Ivy. Pollard to 4m	1 1

## Survey Abbreviations and Classifications

**All measurements are estimated in metres unless otherwise stated**

**Stem Dia-** stem diameter measured in centimetres at 1.5m from ground level or immediately above the root flare from multi-stem trees. [# = unable to measure stem dia]

	<b>Age</b>	<b>Condition (Structural)</b>	<b>Condition (Physiological)</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>ULE</b>
<b>Y</b>	young	<b>G</b> - good	<b>G</b> - good	<b>1</b> - urgent	<b>1-</b> Less than 10
<b>S/M</b>	semi-mature	<b>F</b> - fair	<b>F</b> - fair	<b>2</b> - essential	<b>2-</b> 10-20 years
<b>M</b>	mature	<b>P</b> - poor	<b>P</b> - poor	<b>3</b> - desirable	<b>3-</b> 20-40 years
<b>O/M</b>	over-mature		<b>D</b> - dead	<b>4</b> - non essential	<b>4-</b> 40+ years
<b>V</b>	veteran				

**ULE-** Useful Life Expectancy

**Crown Spread-** taken at the four main compass points

**Crown Clr** – height from the ground to lowest part of the canopy

**BS Cat-** category grading in accordance with British Standard 5837:2005

**A** - trees of high quality and value, able to make a substantial contribution for +40years

**B** - trees of moderate quality and value, able to make a significant contribution for +20years

**C** - trees of low quality and value, currently in adequate condition to remain whilst new planting becomes established +10years

Or young trees with a DBH below 150mm

**R** - trees in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years, or which should be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural practice.

**BS Sub** - sub-category grading in accordance with British Standard 5837:2005

**1-** mainly arboricultural values

**2-** mainly landscape values

**3-** mainly cultural values including conservation

**RPA** – **Root Protection Area** in accordance with BS5837:2005

RPA Radius - measured in metres from the tree stem

RPA Area – measured in m<sup>2</sup> around the tree