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Arboricultural Survey - BS5837:2012

Tom Freeman

3 Briar Close
Reading
RG4 7QH

18 September 2025

Anthony Jones BSc (Hons) TechArborA

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1 Introduction

Arbtech Consulting Limited (Arbtech) received written instruction on 04 August 2025 from Tom Freeman to attend 3 Briar Close, Reading, RG4 7QH to undertake an arboricultural survey to BS5837:2012 guidance to assess trees, hedges and major shrub groups growing on and within influencing distance of the site and to produce a Schedule of trees and Tree Constraints Plan.

I am Anthony Jones, an Arboricultural Consultant for Arbtech Consulting Ltd. I have worked within the arboricultural industry for over 8 years, I have qualifications including a BSc Hons in Environmental Resource Management, Level 4 certificate in arboriculture, and a LANTRA professional tree inspection certificate. I am an ISA certified arborist and technician member of the Arboricultural Association.

The advice below and appended is underwritten by our Professional Indemnity insurance for the business practice of Arboricultural Consultancy in the sum of one million Pounds Sterling in each and every claim.

Table 1: Documents referred to.

Document	Reference No.
Survey base drawing	25003.PP-01
LPA pre-app comments	N/A
British Standard 5837:2012	“BS5837”
Tree Survey Schedule	Arbtech TS 01
Tree Constraints Plan	Arbtech TCP 01

2 Survey

Survey: An arboricultural survey to BS5837 of all trees within impacting distance of the site was undertaken by Anthony Jones on 11 September 2025.

During the survey, I categorised the trees using "Table 1 – Cascade chart for tree quality assessment" of the BS5837:2012 (see Appendix 1).

A total of 10no. individual trees, 1no. groups of trees and 1no. woodland group were surveyed. Details for each are provided in the Schedule of Trees (Appendix 2).

Multiple other small trees and shrubs occupy the site, none of which meet the minimum diameter requirements to be considered for this survey.

Table 2: Documents upon which this tree survey has been based.

Document	Originator	Reference Number	Title
Survey base drawing	HAC Design	25003.PP-01	Existing Ground Floor Plan

Limitations: The survey was made at ground level using visual observation only. Detailed examinations, such as climbing inspections and advanced decay detection equipment, were not employed, though may form part of the survey's management recommendations. Measurements were taken using specialist tapes, lasers, and GPS devices. Where this was not possible, measurements are estimated.

Scope: Pre-development tree surveys make arboricultural management recommendations based exclusively upon the individual tree or group of tree's condition relative to their present context (*i.e. not in relation to the proposed development*).

Legal Status: No statutory protection check has been performed. BS5837 does not draw any distinction between trees subject to statutory protection, such as a Tree Preservation Order ("TPO"), and those trees without. This is principally because detailed planning consent overrides any TPO protection. Consequently, we do not seek to offer any comparison between or infer any difference in the quality or importance of TPO trees and other trees.

Site Description

The site is an occupied property located in a suburban residential area north of Reading. To the north of the site is Beech Wood.

Figure 1: Aerial Image of the site with approximate red line boundary (Google Earth).

3 BS 5837:2012 - Scope

This standard recognises that there can be problems for development close to existing trees which are to be retained, and of planting trees close to existing structures. This standard sets out to assist those concerned with trees in relation to construction to form balanced judgements. It does not set out to put arguments for or against development or for the removal or retention of trees. Where development, including demolition, is to occur, the standard provides guidance on how to decide which trees are appropriate for retention, on the means of protecting these trees during development, including demolition and construction work, and on the means of incorporating trees into the developed landscape.

4 Methodology

The methodology used to assess the trees was the British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Construction' tree survey method. The aim of the survey is to establish which trees are moderate and good quality, suitable for retention and justifying protection. And which trees are low or poor quality, either undesirable or unsuitable to retain and protect.

The tree survey includes all trees included in the land survey red line boundary plan, as well as any that may have been missed, and it should categorize trees or groups of trees, including woodlands, for their quality and value within the existing context in a transparent, understandable, and systematic way. Where the arboriculturist has deemed it appropriate, the trees have been tagged with small metal or plastic tags, placed as high as is convenient on the stem of each tree.

Whilst master plan proposals for the development of the site might be available, the trees have been surveyed without taking these into consideration. All detailed design work on site layout should take into consideration the results of the tree survey (and the TCP).

Trees forming groups and areas of woodland (including orchards, wood pasture and historic parkland) are identified and considered as groups where the arboriculturist has determined that this is appropriate, particularly where they contain a variety of species and age classes that could aid long-term management. It is often expedient to assess the quality and value of such groups of trees as a whole rather than as individuals. However, an assessment of individuals within any group has been undertaken if they are open-grown or if there is a need to differentiate between them.

The quality and value of each tree or group of trees have been recorded by allocating it to one of the four categories: A, B, C, or U (highest to lowest quality, respectively). The categories are differentiated on the tree survey plan by colour or by suffixing the category adjacent to the tree identification number on the TCP.

The survey schedule lists all the trees or groups of trees. The following information is also provided:

a) reference number (to be recorded on the tree survey plan);

b) species (common or scientific names);

c) height in meters (m);

d) stem diameter in millimetres (mm) at 1.5m above adjacent ground level or immediately above the root flare for multi-stemmed trees;

e) branch spread in meters taken at the four cardinal compass points;

f) height of crown clearance above adjacent ground level in meters (m);

g) age class (newly planted, young, semi-mature, early mature, mature, over mature);

h) physiological condition (e.g. good, fair, poor, decline and dead);

i) structural condition (e.g. good, fair, poor or not visible);

j) comment about the tree, its location and preliminary management recommendations, including further investigation of suspected defects that require more detailed assessment and potential for wildlife habitat;

k) The retention category referring to the quality and useful contribution in years; **U** = <10yrs; **A** = >40yrs; **B** = >20yrs; **C** = >10yrs. The retention subcategory referring to the type of amenity; 1 = Arboricultural; 2 = Landscape; 3 = Cultural including conservation (see Appendix 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment).

5 Definitions

Arboriculturist

An arboriculturist (or arboricultural consultant) is a person who has, through relevant education, training, and experience, gained recognized qualifications and expertise in the field of trees in relation to construction.

Tree Survey

A tree survey should be undertaken by an arboriculturist and should record information about the trees on a site independently of and prior to any specific design for development. As a subsequent task, and with reference to a design or potential design, the results of the survey should be included in the preparation of a tree constraints plan, which should be used to assist with site layout design.

Tree Constraints Plan

A TCP is plan, typically delivered as an AutoCAD drawing (.DWG file format), prepared by an arboriculturist for the purposes of layout design showing the root protection area and representing the effect that the mature height and spread of retained trees will have on layouts through shade, dominance, etc.

Root Protection Area

An RPA is a layout design tool indicating the area surrounding a tree that contains sufficient rooting volume to ensure the survival of the tree, shown in plan form in m^2.

Construction Exclusion Zone (also termed Tree Protection Zone)

A construction exclusion or tree protection zone is an area based on the RPA (in m^2), identified by an arboriculturist, to be protected during development, including demolition and construction work, by the use of barriers and/or ground protection fit for purpose to ensure the successful long-term retention of a tree.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

This is a study, undertaken by an arboriculturist, to identify, evaluate and possibly mitigate the extent of direct and indirect impacts on existing trees that may arise as a result of the implementation of any site layout proposal.

Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

A TPP is plan, typically delivered as an AutoCAD drawing (.DWG file format), prepared by an arboriculturist showing the finalized layout proposals, tree retention and tree and landscape protection measures detailed within the arboricultural method statement, which can be shown graphically.

Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

This is a methodology for the implementation of any aspect of development that has the potential to result in loss of or damage to a tree. The AMS is likely to include details of an on-site tree protection monitoring regime.

6 Limitations

Trees were inspected from using visual observation from ground level only. Trees were not climbed or inspected below ground level. Inaccessible trees will have best estimates made about the location, physical dimensions, and characteristics. Trees have been grouped where BS5837 guides us that it is expedient to do so. Trees have been excluded from the survey if they are found by us to be sufficiently far away from the proposed developable area or if they are outside of the red line boundary plan showing the expectations of our client for the extent of the survey. BS5837 does not draw any distinction between trees subject to statutory protection, such as a Tree Preservation Order ("TPO"), and those trees without. This is principally because a detailed planning consent overrides any TPO protection. Consequently, we do not seek to offer any comparison between or infer any difference in the quality or importance of TPO trees and other trees.

7 Appendices

The following documents were released to the Client as appendices to this report:

- Survey Schedule (.PDF)
- Tree Constraints Plan drawing (.DWG & .PDF)

If you require clarification of the information contained herein, please do not hesitate to contact us via 01244 661170.

Yours Sincerely,

Anthony Jones BSc (hons), Cert Arb Lv4 (ABC), TechArborA.

Arboricultural Consultant

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Appendix 1: Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

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

Cascade chart for tree quality assessment - Table 1 - *(reproduced with permission of BSI Global)*

Category and Definition	Criteria including sub-categories where appropriate)			Identification on Plan
Category U ***(Trees unsuitable for retention - See notes)***. 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 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). • 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 might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.*			Dark red
Trees considered for retention	**1) Mainly arboricultural qualities**	**2) Mainly landscape qualities**	**3) Mainly cultural values (including conservation)**	
Category A **Trees 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 those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominate 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 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 remedial defects, including unsympathetic management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention of 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.	Mid blue
Category C **Trees of low quality** with an estimated remaining 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 value.	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.	Grey

Appendix 2: Tree Schedule

Client	Tom Freeman
Project	3 Briar Close, Reading, RG4 7QH
Date	11-Sep-25
Surveyor	Anthony Jones
Weather Conditions	Sunny

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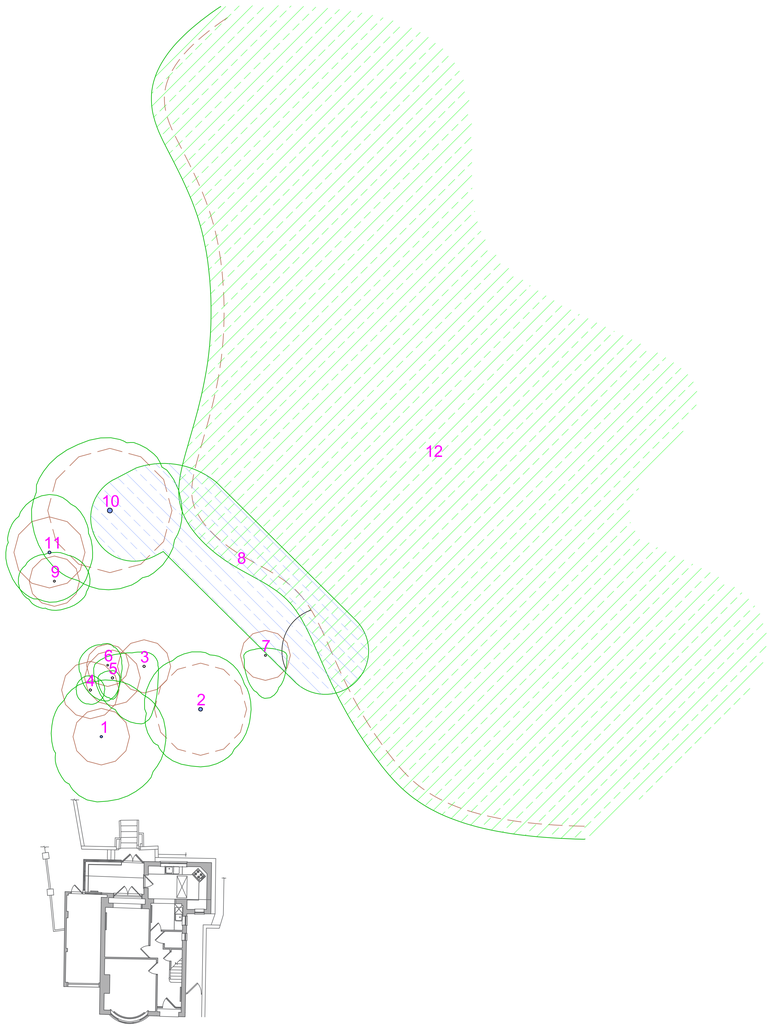
Tree No.	Common Name (Scientific Name)	Age Class	Height (m)	No. of Stems	Stem Diameter (mm)	Crown Spread (m)	Crown Clearance (m)	Condition	RPA		Comments	ERC	Category
									A (m2)	R (m)			
1T	Prunus 'Kanzan' Cherry	EM	6.5	1	160	N - 4 E - 4.5 S - 4.5 W - 3.5	N - 3 E - 2 S - 2 W - 3	Crown - Good Stem - Good Basal - Good Physiological - Good	11.58	1.92	Tree located onsite. Historic pruning consistent with crown lifting up to 3 m. Estimated Values:	20+ yrs	B.1
2T	Silver Birch	M	10	1	260	N - 4 E - 3.5 S - 4 W - 4	N - 2 E - 2 S - 1 W - 2	Crown - Good Stem - Good Basal - Good Physiological - Good	30.58	3.12	Tree located onsite. Two codominant stems at 2.5 m. Historic pruning consistent with crown lifting up to 2 m. Estimated Values:	20+ yrs	B.1
3T	Silver Birch	EM	5	1	150	N - 1 E - 1 S - 4 W - 3.5	N - 3 E - 3 S - 3 W - 3	Crown - Fair Stem - Good Basal - Good Physiological - Good	10.18	1.80	Tree located onsite. Asymmetrical crown due to neighbouring tree. Historic pruning consistent with crown lifting up to 3 m. Estimated Values:	10+ yrs	C.1
4T	Irish Yew	EM	2.5	3	162	N - 1 E - 1 S - 1 W - 1	N - 0 E - 0 S - 0 W - 0	Crown - Good Stem - Good Basal - Good Physiological - Good	11.85	1.94	Tree located onsite. No notable features observed. Estimated Values:	10+ yrs	C.2
5T	Corkscrew Hazel	EM	2.5	3	157	N - 0.5 E - 0.5 S - 1.5 W - 1	N - 0 E - 0 S - 0 W - 0	Crown - Good Stem - Good Basal - Good Physiological - Good	11.08	1.88	Tree located onsite. No notable features observed. Estimated Values:	10+ yrs	C.2
6T	Mountain Ash	EM	5	1	120	N - 1.5 E - 1 S - 2.5 W - 2	N - 2.5 E - 2.5 S - 2.5 W - 2.5	Crown - Good Stem - Good Basal - Good Physiological - Good	6.51	1.44	Tree located onsite. Historic pruning consistent with crown lifting up to 2.5 m Estimated Values:	10+ yrs	C.2
7T	Cultivated Apple	SM	5	2	141	N - 0.5 E - 1.5 S - 3 W - 1.5	N - 2 E - 2 S - 2 W - 2	Crown - Good Stem - Good Basal - Good Physiological - Good	9.05	1.70	Tree located onsite. Historic pruning consistent with crown lifting up to 2 m. Estimated Values:	10+ yrs	C.1
8G	Common Beech, Common Hazel, Common Hawthorn, Horse Chestnut	EM	8	1	250	N - 3 E - 3 S - 3 W - 3	N - 2 E - 2 S - 2 W - 2	Crown - Good Stem - Good Basal - Good Physiological - Good	28.27	3.00	Linear group of 10 trees located onsite next to boundary. Measurements estimated and indicative of largest individual tree in group. Estimated Values: Stem Diameter	20+ yrs	B.2
9T	Common Yew	SM	5	2	142	N - 2 E - 2.5 S - 2 W - 2.5	N - 1 E - 1 S - 1 W - 1	Crown - Good Stem - Good Basal - Good Physiological - Good	9.14	1.71	Tree located onsite. Two codominant stems with an included bark union at 0.5 m. Estimated Values:	10+ yrs	C.1

Tree No.	Common Name (Scientific Name)	Age Class	Height (m)	No. of Stems	Stem Diameter (mm)	Crown Spread (m)	Crown Clearance (m)	Condition	RPA		Comments	ERC	Category
									A (m2)	R (m)			
10T	Common Ash	M	15	1	350	N - 5 E - 5 S - 5.5 W - 5.5	N - 4 E - 4 S - 4 W - 4	Crown - Good Stem - Good Basal - Not visible Physiological - Good	55.42	4.20	Tree located off-site in neighbouring property. Restricted access survey measurements estimated. Estimated Values: Stem Diameter	20+ yrs	B.2
11T	Common Ash	EM	11	1	200	N - 4 E - 3 S - 3.5 W - 3	N - 4 E - 4 S - 4 W - 4	Crown - Good Stem - Good Basal - Not visible Physiological - Good	18.10	2.40	Tree located off-site in neighbouring property. Restricted access survey measurements estimated. Estimated Values: Stem Diameter	20+ yrs	B.2
12W	Common Beech, Common Ash, Common Hawthorn	M	21	1	600	N - 8 E - 8 S - 8 W - 8	N - 0 E - 0 S - 0 W - 0	Crown - Good Stem - Good Basal - Good Physiological - Good	162.86	7.20	Woodland group located off-site at rear of property. Measurements estimated and indicative of largest visible tree in woodland. Estimated Values: Stem Diameter, Height	40+ yrs	A.3

Appendix 3: Tree Constraints Plan



Indicative only

0m 1m 3m 5m 10m 15m 20m

Tree Categories

Trees are categorised in accordance with the cascade chart in Table 1 of the British Standard BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations'

Category 'U' - Trees in such condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in context of the current land use for longer than 10 years.
Category 'A' - Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years.
Category 'B' - Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years.
Category 'C' - Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.

Root Protection Area

In order to avoid damage to the roots or rooting environment of retained trees, the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) are plotted around each of the category A, B and C trees. This is a minimum area in m^2 which should be left undisturbed around each retained tree.

The RPA is calculated using the British Standard BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations.

The calculated RPA is capped to $707m^2$, which is the equivalent to a circle with a radius of 15m. Where there appears to be restrictions to root growth the root protection area is reshaped to more accurately reflect the likely distribution of the roots.

Tree Survey Report

Please refer to Arbtech Consulting Ltd. Tree Survey Report and Tree Schedule for full details on all surveyed trees, hedges, woodlands and groups of trees/shrubs.

All trees were surveyed and categorised in accordance with the guidance as set out in the British Standard BS5837:2012 Tree in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations.

We make the following recommendation to ensure that no conditions relating to arboriculture are attached to any planning consent secured:
Obtain and arboricultural report to include:
a) An arboricultural impact assessment (AIA).
b) An arboricultural method statement (AMS).
c) A tree protection plan (TPP).

Rev:	Date:	Notes:
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https://arbtech.co.uk, 01244 661170

Project:
3 Briar Close
Reading
RG4 7QH

Client:
Tom Freeman

Drawing:
Tree Constraints Plan

Based on:
25003.PP-01

Drawing No:		Rev:
Arbtech TCP 01		--
Date:	Scale:	Drawn:
Spet 2025	1:150 @ A0	AOJ

Key:

Tree Nos.:	1	Tree Canopies:		Trunks:	
RPAs:		Category 'A' groups:		Category 'B' trees:	
Category 'B' groups:		Category 'C' trees:			

All dimensions should be checked on site. No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing. Please notify us of any discrepancies found. Arbtech Consulting Ltd. cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies in the base drawing in which this plan is based.
This drawing is designed to reflect the principles of the layout or design only, and relates only to the protection of retained trees.
This drawing is not to be read as a definitive part of the engineering or construction designs or method statement. As such it should not be used as a reference or a contractual engineer should be contacted over any matters of construction, detailing or specification and for any standards or regulatory requirements relating to proposed structures, hard surfacing or underground services.
This drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

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8 Document Production Record

Document number	Editor	Signature	Position	Issue number	Date
Arbtech TSR 01	Anthony Jones		Arboricultural Consultant	01	18/09/25

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