

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSMENT (AIA)
For
Proposed Construction of a Single Detached Dwelling
Unit, means of Access and Parking

At

Land at Lower Road, Halewood L26 3UB

For Submission to
Knowsley Council

On Behalf of:
MSJ Garage

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Disclaimers

General - Trees

Unless otherwise stated tree inspections have been undertaken from ground level and using non-invasive techniques only. Comments on the condition and safety of any tree relate to the condition of the tree at the time of survey. It should be recognised that tree condition is subject to change due to, for example, the effects of disease, wind or nearby development works. Changes in land use are also significant in respect of risk assessment. Trees should therefore be inspected at intervals relative to identified site risks.

Unless otherwise specified, no checks have been carried out in respect of statutory controls that may apply, e.g. Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas or planning conditions. In addition, prior to undertaking any tree works, it is necessary to ensure due diligence is followed in respect of protected species and habitats.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 An full planning application for consent to erect a single detached dwelling house together with means of access and a parking area is to be submitted to Knowsley Council. The Council has concerns that trees on and adjacent to the site would be impacted by the proposed development.
- 1.2 This report is an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) report which sets out the impact of the proposed development on the trees on and adjacent to the site; and the relevant tree protection measures that would be implemented using methodologies that conform to the guidance contained in the current relevant British Standard **BS5837: 2012** '*Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*'; and **BS3998: 2010** '*Tree work – Recommendations*'.

2 The Site and Surroundings

- 2.1 The site is located on the north side of Speke Road (A562) in Halewood. The site is bounded to the north by farm buildings and farmland to the east and west by Lower Road and farmland beyond, and to the south by Speke Road (A562), (Photograph 1).



Photo 1: An aerial view of the site, outlined in red, from Google Maps™ dated August 2019.

2 The Site and Surroundings (Continued)

- 2.2 As far as can be determined, the trees on the site are not protected by any tree preservation orders (TPO), nor are they located within a Conservation Area.
- 2.3 The site is relatively flat, but slopes steeply upwards towards Speke Road. The current land use is a small industrial storage unit half of the roof of which was blown off during Storm Eunice in February of 2022.

3 The Trees & Impacts

- 3.1 The tree survey identified eight (8) individual trees and five (6) groups of trees on the site and adjacent to it. The details of the trees are contained in the schedule attached to this AIA report and are numbered **T1** to **T8**, and **TG1** to **TG6** in the schedule and on the tree survey drawing, DTCL.292 TS.01.
- 3.2 The trees and the group of trees have been categorised in line with the requirements of BS5837: 2012 as set out in Table 1 of the Standard *'Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment'*. The categories of tree quality are colour coded and set out as:

Trees unsuitable for retention – Category **U**; and
 Trees to be considered for retention – Categories **A**, **B** & **C**

The numbers of trees and groups of trees in each category are shown in Table 1 below, and the detail on each tree and group is set out in the tree schedule attached to this report.

None of the individual trees or groups on site are classified as category '**A**'; *'Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40-years.'*

None of the individual trees or groups on site are classified as category '**B**'; *'Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20-years.'*

Seven (7) individual trees and four (4) group trees are category '**C**'; *'Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10-years, or young trees with a stem diameter less than 150 mm.'*

One individual tree and one group of trees are category '**U**'; *'Trees 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.'*

3 The Trees & Impacts (Continued)

Table 1: The numbers of the trees and groups in each category

Description	Cat.	Tree Numbers	Groups	Totals
Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years.	A	0	0	0 Trees
Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years.	B	0	0	0 Trees
Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm.	C	T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6 & T7	TG2, TG3, TG4, TG5 & TG6	7 Trees 5 Groups
Trees 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.	U	T8	TG1	1 Trees 1 Group

3.3 The single Category '**U**' tree, (**T8**) and the mixed species in **TG1** are recommended for removal, and this is because of their condition and not to accommodate the proposed development. **T8** is a mature ash that is covered in dense ivy, has shed a large branch in the past, and is infected with *Kretzschmaria deusta* at the base, DTCL. 292.TS.01 and the attached schedule.

3.4 **TG6** is comprised of 14 cypress trees and is categorised as '**C**'. These trees are on the boundary of the site at the base of the embankment leading to the A562 (Speke Road), Photograph 2. They form a good acoustic barrier for the site.

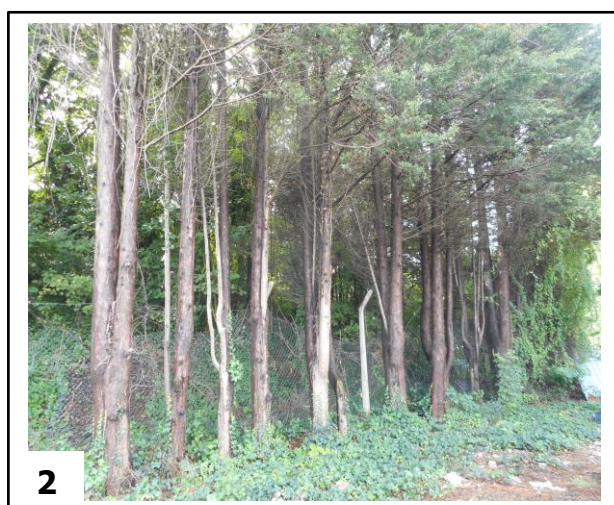


Photo 2: A view of some of the cypress trees in **TG6**, which would be retained and protected during construction.

3 The Trees & Impacts (Continued)

- 3.5 At the existing entrance to the site, the boundary fence between the site and Lower Road is overgrown by a mixed species group including sycamore, ivy, hawthorn, cherry, and hazel, (Photograph 3). This group (**TG1**) would be removed, and the area planted with new trees.



Photo 3: A view of **TG1** overgrowing the fence at the existing entrance to the site.

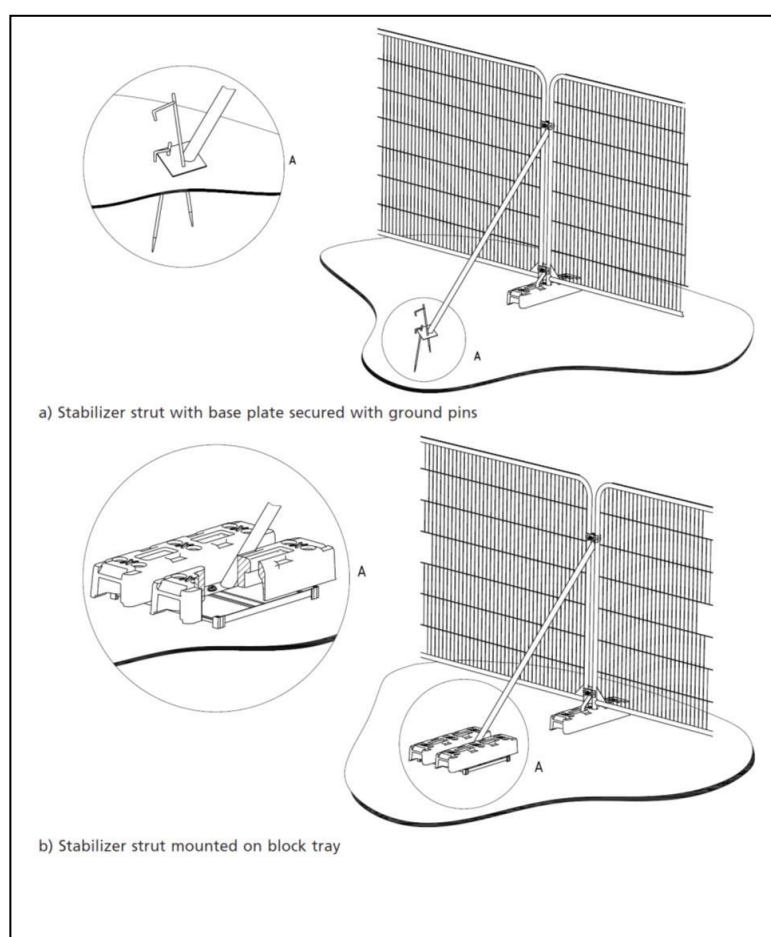
- 3.6 **TG4** is an informal woodland area on the embankment between the site and Speke Road. It is offsite and management of this feature is the responsibility of the Highway Authority.

3 The Trees & Impacts (Continued)

3.6 Tree protection during development

- 3.6.1 All the retained category 'C' trees would be protected by the erection of protective fencing as shown in Figure 1 below and on drawing number DTCL. 292. TS.02. The protective fencing would conform to that specified in BS5837: 2012, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Protective Fencing Construction – As per BS5837: 2012



3 The Trees & Impacts (Continued)

3.6 Tree protection during development (Continued)

Specification: Fence panels shall be 2m high x 3m long.

As Heras® type fencing can be moved easily, it must be mounted on rubber or concrete base plates and secured, to provide semi-permanent protection using stabilizing struts and base plates and the Heras sections secured by 'U-Bolts' or Scaffold Clamps.

The fencing will be further identified by 'Tree Protection' warning signs.

3.7 Hard surfaces & underground services

- 3.7.1 Because most of the site is currently hard standing, the construction of hard surfacing for the access road and parking areas would have no impact on the retained trees. Similarly, the underground services would be installed under the existing access road and would not impact on the retained trees.

3.8 New tree planting

- 3.8.1 The single tree and group of trees removed on account of their condition, **T8** & **TG1**, would be replaced with five new trees at suitable locations as shown on drawing number DTCL. 292.TS.02.

3 No. Irish yew (*Taxus baccata Fastigiata*) at the entrance to the site where the mixed species containing dense ivy (**TG1**) has been removed. This is a native evergreen species with an upright form and will provide an attractive screen from views into the property.

1 No. Columnar lime (*Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire') on the boundary with the farm track to replace the ash tree (**T8**). An upright form of the native small leaved lime which will fit into the existing line when **T8** has been removed.

1 No. Willow oak (*Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata') by the car parking area. An upright form of the native English oak which will provide an attractive landscape feature beside the car parking area providing a soft separation between the parking area and the new house.

All the proposed new trees are native species that will benefit pollinators and enhance the biodiversity of the site. All are rated highly for carbon sequestration performance.

3 The Trees & Impacts (Continued)

3.9 New tree planting (Continued)

3.8.2 **All trees would be sourced from a reputable nursery which has a demonstrated, auditable, implemented and nationally recognised Biosecurity Policy.**

3.8.3 The trees would be container grown/root balled at 12/14 cm girth at one metre above ground level; pit planted; supported and maintained in accordance with proper arboricultural practice and the guidance in **BS8545: 2014** '*Trees, from the nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations*'.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

It is concluded that:

- 4.1 The proposed development does not require the removal of any trees or groups of trees.
- 4.2 One tree **T8** together with one group of trees **TG1** would be removed for arboricultural reason irrespective of the proposed development.
- 4.3 The proposed development can be accommodated on the site without significant impacts on retained trees.
- 4.4 Trees retained on site can be protected and maintained in good health through the proper implementation of the guidance contained in BS5837: 2012
- 4.5 Installation of hard surfaces and underground services would not impact the retained trees.
- 4.6 The amenity of the site would be enhanced by the planting of five replacement trees as set out at §3.8.1 above, the locations of which are shown on drawing DTCL. 292.TS.02.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations (Continued)

It is respectfully recommended that:

- 4.7 Planning permission is granted for the proposed development subject to condition that requires replacement planting as set out in section 3.8.

Attachments: Lower Road Tree Schedule
Drawing DTCL. 292.TS.01 (Tree Survey Plan)
Drawing DTCL. 292.TS.02 (Tree Protection & Planting Plan)

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05 September 2022



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Trees Recorded on Land at Lower Road, Halewood L26 3UB – 27 August 2022

Tree No as in the TPO	Species	Height (m)	Stem Diam (mm)	Branch Spread (m)		Branch & Canopy Clearances	Life Stage	PC	General Observations and Comments	General Management Recommendations	Proposed works	ERC	BS5827 Cat. Grade
T1	Cypress	16.5	420	N S E W	5 5 5 5	0.5	M	M	▪ No significant visible defects	▪ None	No works proposed	20-40	C
T2	Cypress	16.5	300	N S E W	5 5 5 5	0.5	M	M	▪ No significant visible defects	▪ None	No works proposed	20-40	C
T3	Cypress	16.5	540*	N S E W	5 5 5 5	0.5	M	M	▪ No significant visible defects	▪ None	No works proposed	20-40	C
T4	Cypress	16.5	540*	N S E W	5 5 5 5	0.5	M	M	▪ No significant visible defects	▪ None	No works proposed	20-40	C
T5	Hawthorn	6.1	230*	N E S W	1.8 1.8 1.8 1.8	n/a	EM	M	▪ Topped at 3m historically	▪ None	No works proposed	20-40	C
T6	Sycamore	12	200*	N E S W	4.6 4.6 4.6 4.6	2*	EM	M	▪ Group of self-set sycamore	▪ None	No works proposed	20-40	C

Tree No as in the TPO	Species	Height (m)	Stem Diam (mm).	Branch Spread (m)		Branch & Canopy Clearances	Life Stage	PC	General Observations and Comments	General Management Recommendations	Proposed works	ERC	BS5837 Cat. Grade
T7	<i>Ailanthus</i> (Tree of Heaven)	9.5	220	N S E W	4.5 4.5 4.5 4.5	2	EM	G	▪ No significant visible defects	▪ None	No works proposed	20-40	C
T8	Ash	10	700	N E S W	4.0 4.0 4.0 4.0	2	M	P	▪ In poor health ▪ Ivy covered ▪ Evidence of historic failure ▪ <i>Kretzschmaria deusta</i> present on the base	▪ Remove for Arboricultural reasons	Remove for Arboricultural reasons	0-10	U
TG1	Mixed species group including sycamore, ivy, hawthorn, cherry, hazel	Max 10 (Avg 7)	Max 200 Avg 100	N E S W	4.3 2.0 4.3 4.0	3.6 N	EM-M	P	▪ Located on the boundary of the site ▪ Unmanaged ▪ Predominantly self-set ▪ Possible remnants of hedge	▪ Remove & replace with new trees	Remove for Arboricultural reasons	20-40	U
TG2	Sycamore group	15'	Max 300	N E S W	5 5 5 5	1	EM	M	▪ Located on the site boundary ▪ Unmanaged	▪ Prune back to boundary	Prune back to boundary	20-40	C
TG3	Sycamore	7.5	110*	N E S W	2.5 2.5 2.5 2.5	1	EM-M	M	▪ Self-set woodland to the east of the site ▪ Offsite but adjacent to it ▪ Unmanaged	▪ None	No works proposed	20-40	C
TG4	Mixed Species	Max 10	250 Ave.	N E S W	N/A	N/a	EM-M	M	▪ Woodland group on the embankment to Speke Road ▪ Off site	▪ None	No work Proposed	20-40	C
TG5	Mixed species group on embankment. Includes Sycamore, cherry, ash, hazel, hawthorn, ivy	18	250*	N E S W	5 5 5 5	1	EM	M	▪ Located offsite ▪ Unmanaged	▪ Prune back to boundary	Prune back to boundary	20-40	C
TG6	14 No Cypress, laurel & hawthorn	7.5	150 ms	N E S W	3 3 3 3	0.5	EM	M	▪ No significant visible defects	▪ None	No works proposed	20-40	C

Headings and Abbreviations:

No.	Allocated sequential reference number - Tree ('T'), Group ('G'), Woodland ('W') or Hedge ('H') reference number - refer to plan and to numbered tags where applicable
	Common name
Height:	In metres, to half nearest metre – where possible approximately 80% are measured using an electronic clinometer and the remainder estimated against the measured trees. In the case of Groups and Woodlands the measurement listed is that of the highest tree
Stem Diam.:	Stem diameter in millimetres, to nearest 10mm - measured and calculated as per Annex C of BSS837:2012. MS = multi-stemmed, TS = twin-stemmed
Branch Spread:	Crown radius measured (or estimated where considered appropriate) from the four cardinal points (north, east, south, and west) to give an accurate visual representation of the crown
Branch & Canopy	Existing height above ground level, in metres, of first significant branch and direction of growth (e.g. ,2.5-N) and of canopy at lowest point – to inform on crown to height ratio, potential for shading, etc.
Clearances:	
Life Stage:	Estimated age class - Y = young, SM = semi-mature, EM = early mature, M = mature, PM = post-mature
PC:	Physiological Condition - a measure of the tree'(s)' overall vitality, i.e., D = Dead, MD = Moribund, P = Poor, M = Moderate, G = Good
General Observations	Comments relating to the tree'(s)' overall condition and any other pertinent factors including structural defects, current and potential direct structural damage, physiological decline, poor form, etc.
Management	Either Preliminary or In Consideration of the Proposal - In the case of Arboricultural Constraints Surveys the recommended management works only take exiting site and tree circumstances and conditions into account and not proposed developments. Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement
Recommendations:	related Surveys take the proposed development into consideration with recommendations made accordingly. More than one option may be given if considered appropriate
ERC:	Estimated Remaining Contribution - in years as per BSS837:2012 (i.e., <10, 10+, 20+, 40+)
Cat. Grade:	Category Grading - tree retention value listed as U, A, B or C - in accordance with BSS837:2012 Table 1
RPA m²:	Root Protection Area in m² - calculated area around the tree that must be appropriately protected throughout the development process in order avoid root damage
RPA Radius (m):	Root Protection Area Radius - in metres measured from the centre of the stem to the line of tree protection
* (Estimated	Where trees are located off-site, or are inaccessible for any other reason, and accurate measurements or other information cannot be taken then the information provided is estimated and is duly suffixed with a “#” symbol
Dimensions):	

