

PENMACHNO

PEX HILL

CRONTON

WA8 5QN

Report Prepared by

A L Smith M Arb CEnv MICFor F Arbor A

Chartered Arboriculturist

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Report on trees at Penmachno, Pex Hill, Cronton, WA8 5QN

For Mr & Mrs Middlehurst

Tree Health Consulting Ltd Ref: THC/2022/02/08AS– 8th February 2022

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a survey of the trees within influencing distance of a planning proposal at Penmachno, Pex Hill, Cronton, WA8 5QN. The survey will be the basis of a report based on BS5837 Trees in Relation to Demolition, Design and Construction (2012) and concludes that the proposal can be achieved with no detriment to the tree.

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **Brief:** I am instructed by Mr & Mrs Middlehurst to survey the trees within influencing distance of a planning proposal at Penmachno, Pex Hill, Cronton, WA8 5QN. The survey will form the basis for an arboricultural report on them to fulfil the requirements of BS5837 Trees in Relation to Demolition, Design and Construction (2012) -Recommendations.
- 1.2 **Qualifications and experience:** I have based this report on my site observations and the provided information, and I have come to conclusions in the light of my experience. I have experience and qualifications in arboriculture and include a summary in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 **Documents and information provided:** I was supplied the following information and documents by Mr Middlehurst
- Proposal plans for the site.
- 1.4 **Scope of this report:** This report is only concerned with surveying the trees on site and within influencing distance of the proposal to BS5837. It includes a preliminary assessment based on the site visit and the documents provided, listed in 1.3 above.

2 SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS

- 2.1 **Site visit:** I carried out an unaccompanied site visit on the 16th December 2021. All my observations were from ground level without detailed investigations, and I estimated all dimensions unless otherwise indicated. I only surveyed trees that were within influencing distance of the proposal. The weather at the time of inspection was clear and dry.
- 2.2 **Brief site description:** The site is a detached property served by an in and out drive laid to hard standing. There are shrubs screening the property from Pex Hill and on the south-eastern boundary. There are residential properties on all sides except the northeast where it abuts Pex Hill. The site topography is reasonably level and not considered exposed.
- 2.3 **Identification and location of the trees:** The tree in question is located within site boundaries. I have indicated the tree on a location plan to show its approximate position at Appendix 3 to this report. This plan is for illustrative purposes only and should not be used for directly scaling measurements. No detailed topographical survey was available

as this was out of proportion with the scale of the site. All the relevant information on it is contained within this report and the provided documents.

- 2.4 **Collection of basic data:** I inspected the tree and have indicated the numbering on the site plan extract enclosed as Fig 1 in Appendix 3. I identified obvious hedges and groups where appropriate. For each individual tree, I collected information on species, height, diameter, maturity and potential for contribution to amenity in a development context. I have recorded this information in the tree schedule at Appendix 2 to this report. I stress that my inspection was of a preliminary nature and did not involve any climbing or detailed investigation beyond what was visible from accessible points at ground level. I only surveyed trees which were in influencing distance of the potential development area.
- 2.5 **Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas:** Using the Knowsley Interactive mapping it was determined the tree was not protected by a Tree Preservation Order or was within a Conservation area.

3 APPRAISAL

- 3.1 **Relevant references:** I have based the Tree Protection Zone measurements listed in Appendix 3 on BS5837 Trees in Relation to Demolition, Design and Construction (2012)
- 3.2 **Trees on site:** There is 1 individual tree within the site. This is a Birch located at the edge of the access drive on the front boundary of the property. Having reasonable form, the tree represents good visual amenity to users of Pex Hill. The tree is located 8m from the frontage of the property and does not overhang the building.
- 3.3 **The Proposal:** It is proposed to extend the property across its whole width by 2.6m to the south-east boundary. This extension will be come within 6.5m of the tree T1. This is well out of the calculated Root Protection Area of the tree even allowing for the offset given the tree is adjacent to a road.
- 3.4 The hard standing at the front of the property can be used for storing inert materials and any mixing of mortar should be carried out on waterproof materials to prevent both leaching and absorption of toxic materials into the soils below the driveway. Welfare facilities can also be stored in this area.

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- 3.5 Because of the proximity of the tree to the driveway and the driveway having a hard surface no fencing will need to be erected to further protect the tree. The existing hard surface will prevent compaction in this area.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 On the basis of the above information and discussions, I summarise my conclusions as follows:-

- To achieve the proposal no tree works are required
- The existing driveway will serve to protect the tree from compaction during the construction process. Protective fencing will not increase the security of the tree during the development process.
- Welfare and storage of materials can be sited out of the Root Protection Area of the tree and steps taken to prevent leaching of toxic materials into the underlying soils.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 **Present requirements:** Tree works listed within the data sheets are based on arboricultural needs alone and do not take into consideration development proposals. No works have been recommended for development purposes.

- 5.2 **Implementation of works:** All tree works should be carried out to BS 3998 2010 *Recommendations for Tree Work* or as modified by more recent research. It is advisable to select a contractor from the local authority list and preferably one approved by the Arboricultural Association. Their Register of Contractors is available free from The Malthouse, Stroud Green, Standish, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3DL website www.trees.org.uk/contractors.htm

- 5.3 **Statutory wildlife obligations:** The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provide statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees. All tree work operations are covered by these provisions and advice from an ecologist must be obtained before undertaking any works that might constitute an offence.

A. L. Smith M. Arb. CEnv. MICFor. F. Arbor A
Chartered Arboriculturist.

Appendix 1

Qualifications and experience of Andrew L Smith

1. Qualifications:

Certificate in Arboriculture Royal Forestry Society 1986

Technicians Certificate Arboricultural Association 1988

Master of Arboriculture Royal Forestry Society 1989

Advanced Diploma in Arboriculture and Community Forestry 2001

Cardiff University Accredited Expert Witness 2006

Licensed Practitioner of Quantified Tree Risk Assessment 2006

Professional Tree Inspection, Arboricultural Association / Lantra 2007

2. Professional Body memberships

Fellow of the Arboricultural Association

Chartered Arboriculturalist, Institute of Chartered Foresters

Chartered Environmentalist, Society of the Environment

3. Practical experience:

I have been involved in arboriculture for 47 years and have experience of private and local authority work practices.

4. Continuing Professional Development:

This is collated and monitored by the professional associations to which I belong and reaches an agreed amount of hours per year.

Appendix 2 Tree Data and Works Required

Table 1 Tree Data

Tree No	Species	Crown Spread as radii from Trunk (M)				Height (M)	Age Class	Stem Diameter (mm)	Lowest Branch	Life Estimate	Condition
		N	S	E	W						
1	Birch	3	3	3	3	9	M	320	3	20	F

Table 2 Comments and Works Required

Tree No	Species	Comments	BS 5837 Class	Works Required	RPA (M)	RPA(m²)
1	Birch	Reasonable Form No outstanding features	C1	No tree works required	3.8	46

Explanatory Notes

- **Measurements/estimates:** All dimensions are estimates unless otherwise indicated.
- **Species:** The species identification is based on visual observations and the common English name of what the tree appeared to be is listed first. In some instances, it may be difficult to quickly and accurately identify a particular tree without further detailed investigations. Where there is some doubt of the precise species of tree, it is indicated with a '?' after the name in order to avoid delay in the production of the report. The species listed for groups and hedges represent the main component and there may be other minor species not listed.
- **Mathematical abbreviations:** > = Greater than; < = Less than
- **Height:** Height is estimate height to the nearest metre.
- **Spread:** The maximum crown spread is visually estimate to the nearest metre from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches.
- **Diameter:** These figures relate to 1.5m above ground level and are recorded in centimetres. If appropriate, diameter is measure with a diameter tape. 'M' indicates trees or shrubs with multiple stems.
- **Estimated Age:** Age is estimated from visual indicators and it should only be taken as a provisional guide. Age estimates often need to be modified based on further information such as historical records or local knowledge. Y = < 20Yrs, SM = Half the expected mature age, EM = Two Thirds the expected mature age, M = Mature age, OM = Over mature going into senescence, V = Veteran
- **Distance to Structures:** This is estimated to the nearest metre and intended it as an indication rather than a precise measurement.
- **BS 5837** Trees in Relation to Construction- Recommendations 2012 lists 4 categories that trees should be placed into to aid in the Design, Planning and Implementation of Construction works near trees, these categories are as follows
- **Category U Trees (less than 10 Years)**
- Those trees that are 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
- **Category A Trees (More than 40 Years)** Those of such high quality and value, that they are able to make a substantial contribution to the finished development.
- **Category B Trees (minimum of 20 years)** Those of moderate quality and value and that are able to make a significant contribution to the finished development.
- **Category C Trees (Minimum of 10 years)** Those of low quality and value and can remain until new planting can be established or young trees below 150mm diameter.
- Categories A B and C have 3 sub categories to cover either Arboricultural (1) Landscape (2) or Conservation (3) values
- **Condition** P = Poor F = Fair G = Good
- **Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) M²** The area needed surrounding a tree that contains sufficient rooting volume to ensure its survival.

- **Radius of Tree Protection Zone (M)** Suggested minimum radius of a circular enclosure that ensures the tree has sufficient rooting volume left undisturbed. This may be offset by 20% in one direction providing the total area of root protection is increased elsewhere to achieve the total TPZ area.
- **Works Required**
 - Formative prune generally entails cleaning through the canopy to remove dead, dying, crossing and rubbing branches. It also includes the removal of epicormic and basal growth, the removal of any unbalanced or misshapen limbs, this will leave the tree in a safe attractive and desirable form
 - Crown lift to a specified height is when lower branches are removed to allow either highway access or pedestrian access. This work is specified where the author has felt that damage may occur to the tree if lower branches are left as they are.
 - Remove ivy instructions mean that at least 300mm should be removed from the base of any ivy growing into a trees canopy; the ivy should be allowed to dieback and then be removed from the tree.
 - Monitor refers to an annual check on the condition of a fork that may be prone to movement within it.

Appendix 3 Plan

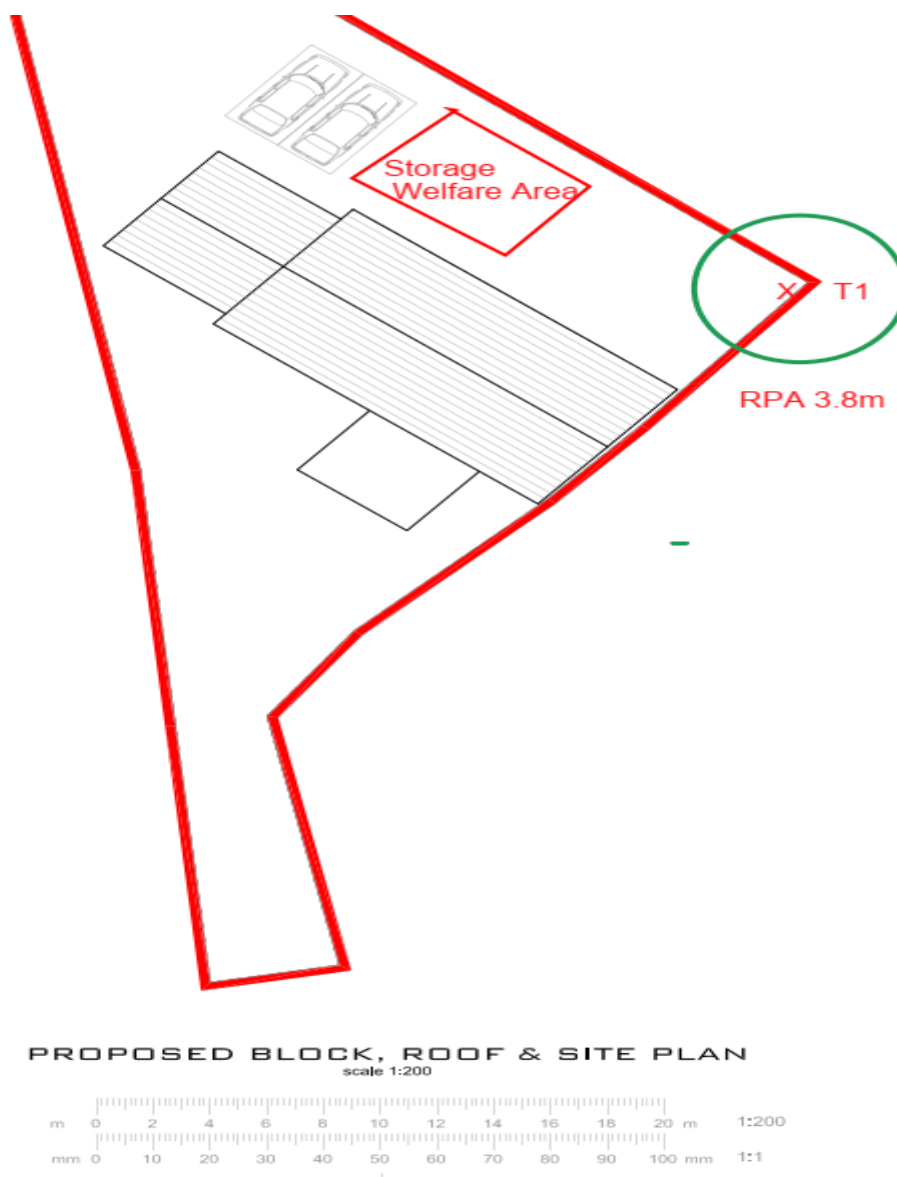


Fig 1 Tree Constraints Plan

LIMITING CONDITIONS/DISCLAIMERS

Unless stated otherwise

1. The Service

1.1 Tree Health Consulting Ltd agrees to supply arboricultural consulting services of a preliminary nature or a more thorough service as advised or as commissioned.

2. Fees

2.1 The client(s) will settle the agreed fee in full, within 14 days of receiving the invoice. Reports will remain the property of Tree Health Consulting Ltd until full payment has been received. No liability is accepted for the contents of a report that is not paid in full. Any queries should be notified to Tree Health Consulting Ltd within 7 days of the invoice date.

2.2 If the client(s) fails to pay within the time specified in 2.1 then Tree Health Consulting Ltd shall charge the client(s) interest on the outstanding fee, both before and after any judgment, at the rate of 4% above the HSBC base rate, until payment is made in full (A part of a month being treated as a full month for the purposes of calculating interest).

2.3 In the event that it is necessary to recover any outstanding fees from the client(s), the client(s) will fully reimburse any costs and expenses incurred during the recovery period, including court costs. Tree Health Consulting Ltd reserves the right to make a charge for every letter sent and telephone/fax call made, in connection with the recovery.

2.4 Should the arboriculturist be unable to complete the site investigation as a result of conditions outlined in 3.5, then Tree Health Consulting Ltd will charge the client(s) the costs of travel and time spent.

3. Site Investigation

3.1 The scope of the site investigation is preliminary in nature, unless otherwise agreed with the client(s). Where a more detailed investigation is required, the client(s) will be advised accordingly.

3.2 No investigation will be made of any covered, inaccessible, or underground structures (unless specifically stated).

3.3 Investigation of Private Covenants is to be the responsibility of the client/landowner or agent.

3.4 Site investigations are undertaken by experienced and suitably qualified arboriculturists. Observations are taken from ground level only, within the curtilage of the site and public accessible areas, where this can be done safely and without undue difficulty. Binoculars are used where necessary. Tree heights, age range and future growth potential are approximate. Unless stated otherwise: 1) information contained within our reports covers only those trees that were examined and reflects the condition of those trees at the time of the inspection: and 2) the inspection is limited to visual examination of the subject trees from ground level only and without dissection, excavation, probing or coring. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the subject trees may not arise in the future.

3.5 During the site investigation if the arboriculturist considers their personal safety is at risk, or that they would breach the conditions of the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), then they are entitled to abandon the investigation and advise the client(s) accordingly.

3.6 The inspection may require on-site soil profile analysis and excavation and we cannot be held responsible for damage to any underground services not made known to us by the client/landowner or agent.

3.7 Identification of fungi, insects, or tree disorders is based on field observations and does not include a laboratory analysis (unless specifically stated).

3.8 Soil profile samples are extracted using a hand auger. The identification of soil profile types and soil conditions is based on field observations. No samples are taken for laboratory analysis (unless specifically stated).

4. The Report

4.1 If any part of the report is lost, or altered without the written consent of Tree Health Consulting Ltd, then the entire report becomes invalid.

4.2 The general format of reports is a licensed/certified product and cannot be shown, copied or distributed to third parties without the permission of Tree Health Consulting Ltd. No liability is accepted for the contents of the report, other than to that of the client(s).

4.3 The report will purport not to express any opinion or comment as to the condition or structural integrity of any building and no reliance should be made on any such comments.

4.4 The report does not represent legal advice and no reliance should be placed on any such comments.

4.5 If tree/s are on neighbouring land, the tree owner is ultimately responsible and therefore we would advise that the neighbouring tree owner check with his/her insurance company in order to ascertain if adequate building insurance cover is available in the event of any claims arising from the action of the tree/s.

4.6. Trees are dynamic living organisms and constantly change; therefore, all trees to be retained on site should be further inspected every two years by a qualified Consulting Arboriculturist.

4.7. Scale drawings, technical land surveys and accurate tree plotting data will be supplied if necessary and at extra cost. Non-scale sketch plan drawings may be included as part of the report.

5. Insurance Cover

5.1 All work carried out by Tree Health Consulting Ltd is covered by a £5,000,000 Third Party, Public Liability insurance and a £1,000,000 professional Indemnity insurance.

6. Quality of Craftsmanship

6.1 When appointing a Tree Contractor, please use only suitably qualified and experienced companies (The Local Authority Tree Officer may be able to provide a select list of such companies) and always check that they carry Public and Products Liability Insurance with a minimum of £2 million cover and the relevant Employers Liability Insurance. All tree works must conform rigorously to BS 3998 (1989) 'Recommendations for Tree Work' and as modified by research more recent. Any stump treatment (poisons) must be carried out by a licensed chemical operative.

6.2 Tree Health Consulting Ltd will not accept liability for any works undertaken by any other companies, or contractors.

7. Statutory Provisions

7.1 Before authorising these, or any other tree works, you should contact your Local Planning Authority to ascertain if the trees are the subjects of any Tree Preservation Order or if they are within a Conservation Area, as if either applies, statutory permission will be required before any works can take place