



WE KNOW SERVICES

TECHNICAL NOTE

Address

Old Wood North, Whiston

Client

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

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Version

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We Know Services
Court Hey Park, Roby Road, Huyton L16 3NA
E: info@weknowservices.co.uk
www.weknowservices.co.uk

Ref: OLDWOOD/TECH
Author: Jonathan Henderson
Qualifications: B.Sc Hons, TechArborA

Technical Note – Old Wood North TWA



An image showing the watercourse in the foreground and dense Rhododendron clusters in the background.

Quality Assurance

The information which the author has prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Arboricultural Association's Code of Ethics and Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed within this report are true and represents the author's professional opinions.

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1 Introduction

My name is Jonathan Henderson. I am an arboricultural consultant for We Know Services acting on behalf of the applicant Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

I hold a Bachelor of Science with honours degree in Arboriculture and I am a technical member of the Arboricultural Association.

The following technical note is to support a Tree Works Application to undertake tree works within Old Wood North, Whiston.

2 Site Details

Old Wood North is a section of woodland located in Whiston, Merseyside L35 3PY. The site is classified as an Ancient Woodland (DEFRA, 2022) and has a Tree Preservation Order covering the woodland (Knowsley Council Ref: 07/00004/TPO). The woodland predominantly consists of Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) but has a mixture of native species (Birch and Oak) within. The understory predominantly consists of Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) with Yew (*Taxus baccata*) sporadically present. There is a watercourse that runs through the centre of the woodland from Big Water Pond to a culvert that runs underneath the M62 motorway.

The woodland is surrounded by grassland to the north-west and east, the M62 motorway to the south, a residential development to the west and Big Water Pond to the North-East.

Photographs of the site are presented in *Appendix 2.0* and a tree survey schedule is included in *Appendix 3.0*.

3 Tree Works

To enable de silting works to the watercourse, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council requested that the author undertake a survey to remove any trees in a 'dangerous state,' and to allow access for the machinery required for the de silting works. The results of the survey can be found in *Appendix 3.0* and the required works are as follows:

Dead Trees

During the survey, three dead trees were found within the woodland. These are G1 (x2 trees), T5 and T10.

Because of the locations of G1 and T5 which are adjacent to desire lines, it is recommended that these two trees are felled.

Upon inspection of T10, it was found to be dead. It is of the inspector's opinion that this tree has ecological value to the area and the main stem should remain to decay naturally. However, to ensure the safety of the tree's surroundings, the tree should be reduced to a standing dead stem with no branches or limbs remaining.

Dead trees are exempt from the current Tree Preservation Order legislation (UK Government, 2022) and these trees will not be included in the tree work application. Their removal is considered necessary to ensure the safety of the surrounding area.

Trees in poor condition

During the survey, several trees within the woodland were found to have varying levels of stem decay. These were T6, T7, T8 and T9. Because of the amount of decay within these trees, it is highly likely that they are structurally compromised and present a risk to the users of the woodland. Therefore, it is recommended that these trees are removed as soon as practicable to ensure the safety of the users of the woodland.

T2

During the survey it was noted that T2, a Yew (*Taxus baccata*), had an extensive lean. Upon further inspection of the base of the tree, it was found to have a moderate amount of basal damage and a crack within the exposed heartwood of the tree. Considering the overall condition of the tree and the noted defects, it is recommended that this tree is removed as soon as practicable to ensure the safety of the tree's surroundings.

T11

Upon inspection of T11, a multi-stemmed Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), one of the stems was found to have partially hollowed from the base of the tree to 3m. The hollowed area had suffered from suspected fire damage and had some fungal fruiting bodies on the edge of the burnt area (*Bjerkandera adusta*), because of this the structural integrity of this stem is likely to be compromised and now presents a risk to the users of the woodland. It is recommended that this stem is removed as soon as practicable. The other stems were found to be in good condition and can remain, it is expected that the loss of one limb will not have a detrimental effect to the tree.

Access Requirements

The client informed the author that access to the watercourse within the woodland will be from an area on the western side of the woodland (Ref: OldWood/TWA). To enable access to the watercourse, two trees need to be felled. T3, a twin stemmed Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), upon inspection was found to have one failed stem that was hung up in an adjacent tree. At the base of the failed stem, there was Turkey Tail (*Versicolor trametes*) fungal fruiting bodies from the base to the location of the failure at 1m. It was estimated that the stem had failed some time ago due to the presence of flaking bark and fungal fruiting bodies, which are saprophytic and only feed off dead

wood. The remaining stem was in fair condition and the crown had minor deadwood (>50mm diameter) within but does require removal to enable access to the watercourse. It is considered that the loss of this tree will not have a detrimental impact to the woodland because of its overall condition.

Another tree that requires removal to enable access to the woodland is T4, a Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Upon inspection this tree was found to be of reasonable shape and form with no major visible defects noted. The removal of this tree has been deemed necessary to enable access to the watercourse. No other trees require removal to enable access to the watercourse.

It is recommended that both trees are replaced on a 2:1 basis using tree species native to British woodlands.

Rhododendron

Surrounding the watercourse within Old Wood are dense clusters of Rhododendron which could prevent access to the watercourse. Rhododendron is classified as an invasive woodland species and has been proven to have an overall negative effect on woodlands (Forestry Commission, 2022). The removal of the Rhododendron within a 10m buffer zone of the watercourse is recommended, this will allow for access to the watercourse and should improve the overall condition of the woodland (Ref: OldwoodRhod/TLP). These works are classed as exempt from a tree preservation and will not be included within the tree works application.

4 Conclusion

To enable the de silting of the watercourse within Old Wood and to ensure the safety for the users of the woodland, it is considered that the tree works recommended within this document are necessary to achieve these objectives.

It is considered that these works will not have an overall detrimental effect on the amenity value of the woodland. However, before any works are undertaken, it is recommended that an ecologist's advice is sought to ensure that the works will not have a detrimental effect to the wildlife that use the woodland.

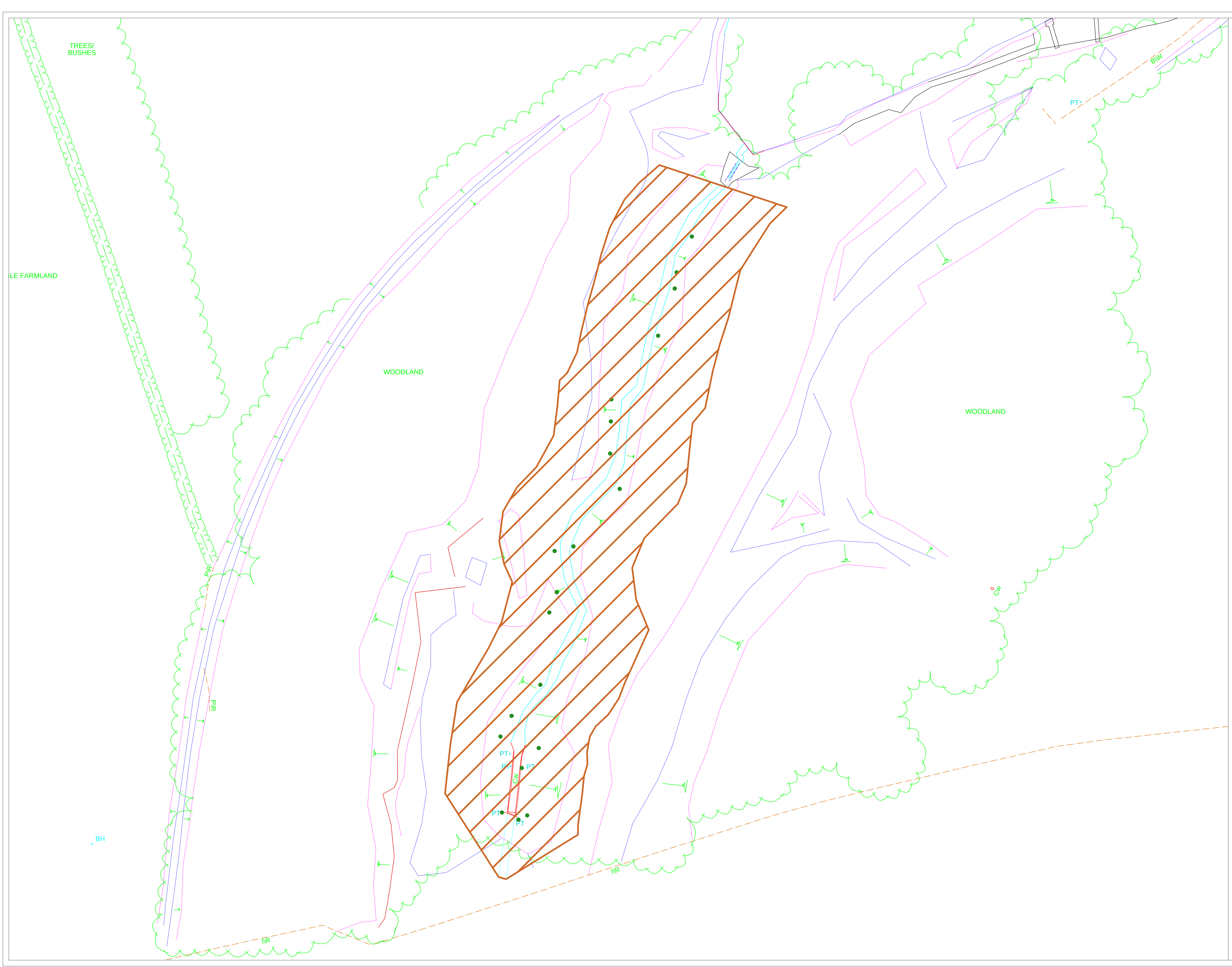
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Appendix I.0 Tree Location Plan



 Rhododendron Removal Zone



Court Hey Park
Roby Road
Huyton
L16 3NA
Tel: 0151 443 2308
Email: info@weknowservices.co.uk

Client:
Knowsley Council
Site Address:
Old Wood
Whiston
L35 3PY

Drawing Title: Location Plan		Drawing No: OldWoodRhod/TLP	
Date: 10/01/2022	Scale: 1:250@A1	Drawn by: JH	

Note: Dimensions are not to be scaled from this drawing.
All written measurements are to be checked on site by the contractor. Copyright Weknow Services.
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Appendix 2.0 Photographs



An image showing T3.



An image showing the fallen stem of T3.



An image showing the decay on T7, a Sycamore.



An image showing the decay on T9, a Sycamore.



An image showing T10, a standing dead tree (centre).



An image showing the fire damage on T11, a Sycamore.

Appendix 3.0 Tree Survey Schedule

Technical Note – Old Wood North TWA

Tree No.	Species	Height (M)	Age	Condition Rating	Comments And Management Recommendations	Priority Rating
G1	Standing Dead	10 MAX	D	Dead	Two standing dead trees adjacent to a desire line. Fell	2
T2	Yew	16	EM	Poor	Poor shape and form. Extensive decay at base of stem on eastern side. Tree has heavy easterly lean. Limited long-term value. Fell.	2
T3	Sycamore	15	FM	Fair	Reasonable shape and form. Was twin stemmed, one stem has failed and is hung up in adjacent tree. Remaining stem has no major visible defects. Clear fallen stem and fell remaining stem.	2
T4	Sycamore	15	FM	Good	Reasonable shape and form. Minor deadwood in crown (>50mm diameter). No major visible defects. Fell to accommodate access to the site.	3
T5	Standing Dead	15	D	Dead	Standing dead tree. Fell.	2
T6	Sycamore	18	FM	Poor	Reasonable shape and form. Column of decay present from 0-3m, exposed wood has rot present. Limited long-term value. Fell.	2
T7	Sycamore	18	FM	Poor	Reasonable shape and form. Column of decay present from 0-2m, exposed wood has rot present with fungal fruiting bodies (<i>Flammulina velutipes</i>) present. Limited long-term value. Fell.	2

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Tree No.	Species	Height (M)	Age	Condition Rating	Comments And Management Recommendations	Priority Rating
T8	Sycamore	18	FM	Poor	Reasonable shape and form. Column of decay present from 0-3m, exposed wood has rot present. Limited long-term value. Fell.	2
T9	Sycamore	18	FM	Poor	Reasonable shape and form. Tri-stemmed. Extensive decay present at base of stems. Limited long-term value. Fell.	2
T10	Standing Dead	17	D	Dead	Standing dead tree. Tree has some ecological value. Reduce to monolith.	2
T11	Sycamore	18	FM	Fair	Reasonable shape and form. Tri stemmed from base. One stem has extensive hollowing, hollowed area has evidence of fire damage. The other stem has no major visible defects. Minor deadwood in crown. Fell fire damaged stem.	2

The following terms are concurrent with best Arboricultural practice and within the guidelines set by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the Arboricultural Association (AA) and the British Standards Institute (BSI).

Age Range (Age is site specific and categorised)	Young (Y)	Out-planted trees that have not yet established.
	Semi-Mature (SM)	Established trees up to 1/3 of expected height and crown.
	Early Mature (EM)	Between 1/3 and 2/3 of expected height and crown.
	Mature (M)	Between 2/3 and full expected height and crown.
	Fully Mature (FM)	Full expected height and crown.
	Over Mature (OM)	Crown beginning to break-up and decrease in size.
	Senescent (S)	Crown in advanced stage of break-up.
Height	Height was estimated and recorded in five metre intervals.	
Condition (Assessment of current physiological condition and structural morphology incorporating vigour and vitality and categorised)	Good	Tree needing little, if any attention.
	Fair	Tree with minor, but rectifiable defects, or in the early stages of physiological stress.
	Poor	Tree with significant structural and physiological flaws and/or extremely stressed.
	Dead	Tree that is dead, biologically/physically moribund, or dangerous.

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Priority Rating	1 - High	Action should be taken within one month.
	2 - Moderate	Work should be implemented in a programme of works and completed within 12 months.
	3 - Low	Work that would benefit the trees but is not essential.