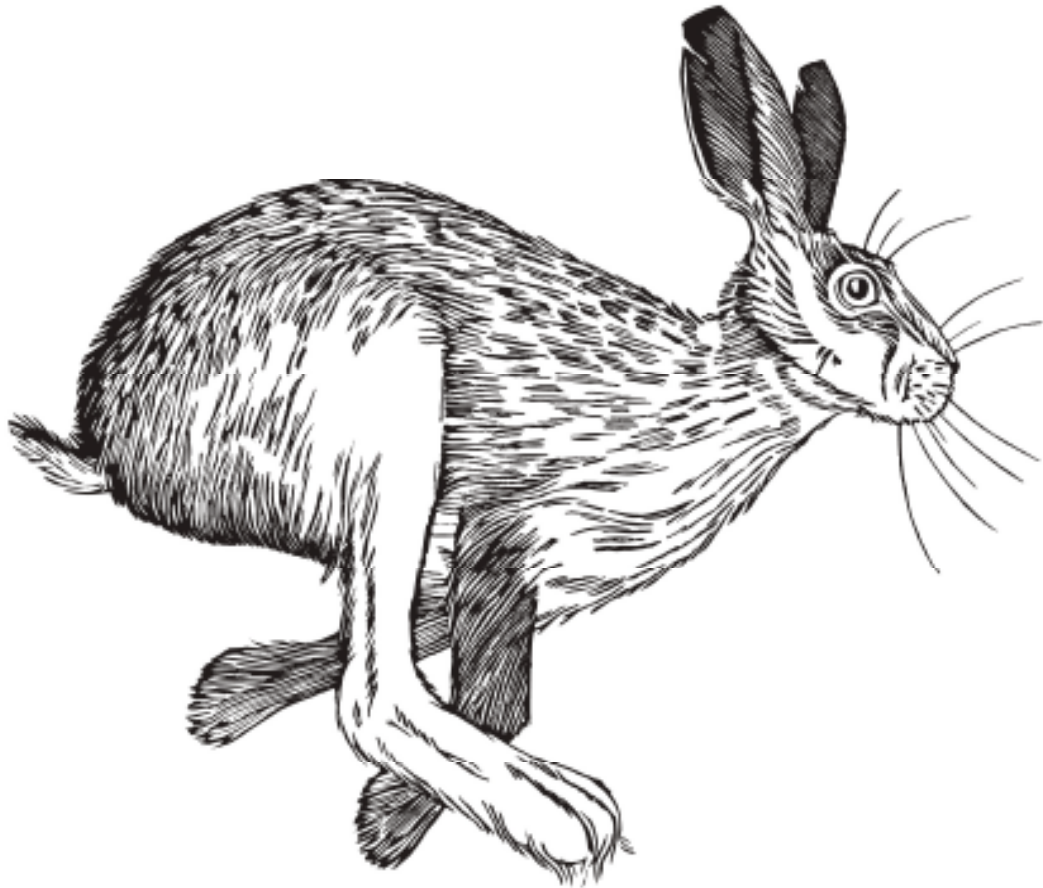


Arboricultural Report

76 Archway Road, Huyton
Liverpool L36 9XE

Lepus Consulting



Date: 28th April 2023

Lepus Consulting

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Appendix 1

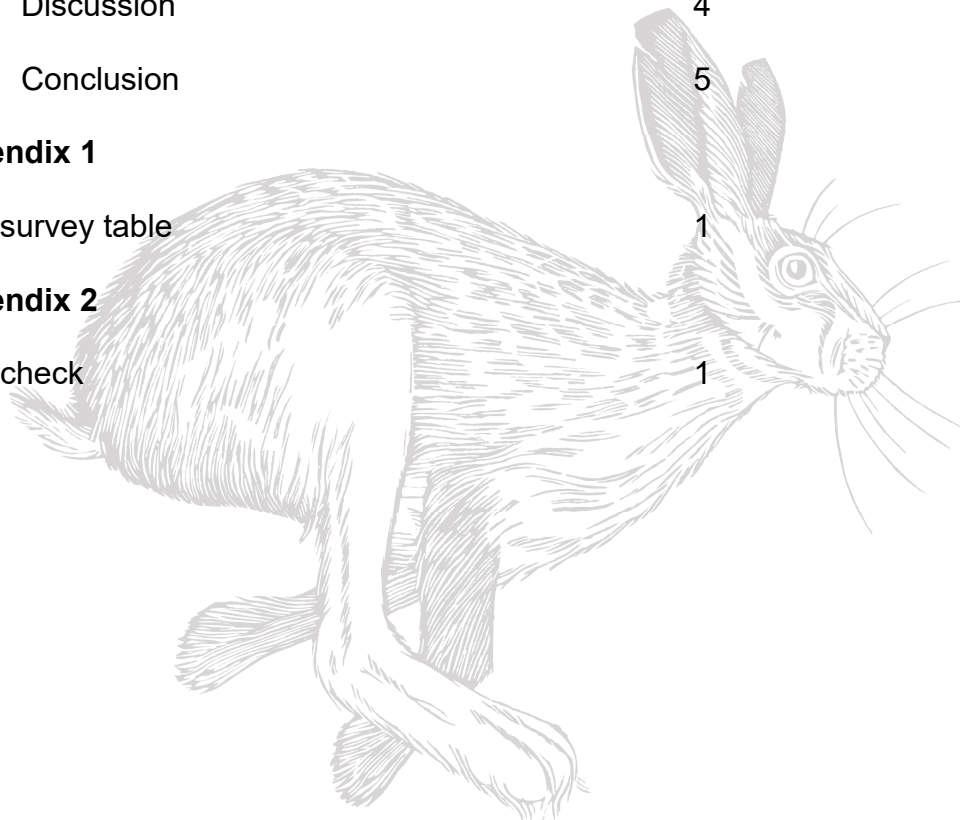
Tree survey table

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Appendix 2

TPO check

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 **Brief:** Initial inquiries regarding the production of an arboricultural report to BS5837-2012 were received on the 17th of April 2023. Details of the scheme were examined and a fee proposal made and accepted on the 19th of April 2023.
- 1.1.2 **Limitations:** The detail and recommendations contained within this report are valid for a period of 12 months from the date of survey. Trees are dynamic living structures and are subject to rapid changes due to internal and external influences. Even apparently healthy trees can be damaged by extreme climatic conditions or can fail without the presence of readily identifiable defects. Although every effort has been made to identify defects within trees surveyed no guarantee can be given as to the safety or otherwise of any individual tree.
- 1.1.3 **The author:** The author of this report (Gareth Hare) has qualifications and experience in Arboriculture and Forestry. Any observations and recommendations are based on those qualifications and experience. Any observations or comments in relation to other disciplines are made as a layman.

2 SITE VISIT

- 2.1.1 **Site visit:** Gareth Hare carried out an unaccompanied site visit on the 28th of April 2023. Conditions were overcast and dry with good visibility.
- Site description:** The site comprises a bungalow and garden with a detached garage. Immediately adjacent to the site is the mainline railway embankment which is elevated from the site level by around 10m. Along the base of the retaining wall of the embankment is a Leylandii hedge (H1) which is the subject of this report.
- 2.1.2 **Methodology:** The trees were inspected using standard VTA (Visual Tree Assessment) techniques. No drilling, excavation or any other intrusive investigative techniques were used during the survey. Height was estimated, crown spread was estimated to the four cardinal points and diameter measured at 1.5m above ground level.
- 2.1.3 **Species:** The species is based on visual identification and the common English name of the tree is recorded. The scientific name of the tree is also given in the adjacent column.
- 2.1.4 **Tree Height:** This is measured using a clinometer to establish a baseline and thereafter estimated. This is recorded in metres.

- 2.1.5 **Trunk Diameter:** is recorded in centimetres and measured at 1.5m above ground level unless stated otherwise.
- 2.1.6 **Crown Spread:** estimated at the four cardinal points.
- 2.1.7 **Age Class:** Trees within the survey are classified according to their age class. This is abbreviated as Y (Young), E/M (Early Mature), M (Mature) or O/M (Over Mature).
- 2.1.8 **Physiological Condition:** This is given as Good, Fair or Poor
- 2.1.9 **Structural Condition:** Again, this is given as Good, Fair or Poor.
- 2.1.10 **Works Recommendations:** these contain the recommendations for work to the trees and detail the level of works required i.e., remove deadwood.
- 2.1.11 **Additional Comments:** Any comments that may be relevant i.e., pruning history or presence of notable dysfunction.
- 2.1.12 **Further information:** Recommendations for removal should be carried out at the earliest possible opportunity and certainly within 1 month of the receipt of this survey. Monitoring if recommended should be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced arboriculturalist.

3 STATUTORY CONTROLS

3.1.1 **Trees Subject to Statutory Controls:**

The interactive mapping operated by Knowsley Council was checked for the presence of tree preservation orders and conservation areas. At the time the check was carried out, the mapping indicated that there were no such restrictions in place.

A screen shot of the check is included at the end of the report.

However, before any work is carried out it is recommended that the Local Authority is contacted to verify the position immediately in advance of any works. If the situation has changed in the interim and tree preservation orders or conservation areas are in place, an application must be made or notice served in order to carry out any work. Severe penalties can result from unauthorised works or damage to a protected tree. If land is outside of the residential curtilage of a dwelling, then a felling licence may be required if more than 5 cubic metres of timber is to be felled. Advice may be obtained from the local Forestry Commission Woodland Officer.

- 3.1.2 **Wildlife:** Trees are the habitat of nesting birds and roosting bats. Many bird species and all British bat species are protected. Timing of works in terms of nesting birds is critical and if the presence of bats is suspected that Natural England should be contacted for advice.

3.1.3 **Implementation of Tree Works:**

The Arboricultural Association (The lead body for Arboriculture in the UK) publish guidance on hiring an Arborist. In addition, a register of approved contractors is available on their website www.trees.org.uk and free from: The Malthouse, Stroud Green, Standish, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3DL. The contractor should carry out work to a minimum standard of BS 3998-2010: Tree Work: Recommendations and their work should be informed by modern best practice.

4. Discussion

- 4.1.1 Tree survey: The tree survey table is included at Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 **Proposal.** A proposal exists for the demolition of the existing garage and replacement with a larger garage/store.
- 4.1.3 The proposed new garage would impinge of the Western end of H1 and would require the removal of at least two of the hedge specimens.
- 4.1.4 The report establishes the retention class of the trees (per BS5837-2012) the root protection areas of the retained trees and the associated protective measures required during any construction phase. It also makes observations regarding the condition of the trees and makes suggestions regarding their future management.
- 4.1.5 H1 is a hedge of around 25 metres comprised of specimens of Leylandii (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*) with variegated and plain foliated varieties used. The hedge has been irregularly managed and there are several dead or moribund specimens. Previously topped at c 5m and cut back hard on the embankment side with the largest specimen adjacent to the garage exhibiting some branch failures. H1 is classified as C1 within BS5837-2012 and is of no great significance or quality. The proposal would necessitate the removal of the end two specimens (actually likely three as the third specimen is moribund). This will be of little significance to anyone other than the householders. The householders may wish to retain the hedge in the short term to provide screening and noise amelioration from the adjacent railway. However, given the condition of the hedge and the difficulties with bring an unmanaged or irregularly managed Leylandii hedge back into active

management and attractive form, it would be more productive to remove and replace the hedge whilst planning for active and regular management from the start.

- 4.1.6 Protective fencing to figure 3 of BS5837-2012, as shown on the TPP will be required for the duration of any proposed construction if H1 is retained. The fencing will simply follow the line of the existing lawned area/kerb. Adequate space within the existing driveway exists for delivery, material storage and mixing areas which will not impact on the retained hedge. No trees outside the site will be affected as all trees on the adjacent railway bank are significantly elevated from the site and protected by the large stone retaining wall at the base of the embankment.
- 4.1.7 An arboricultural method statement will not be required as there will be no special construction measures and no works required other than the erection of fencing prior to construction.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 The proposed demolition of the existing garage and construction of the replacement will not unduly affect H1. The removal of the end three specimens will not be of great significance to anyone other than the householders. Erecting protective fencing prior to construction as defined within the TPP should adequately protect the hedge to be retained.
- 5.1.2 As identified in 4.1.5 the householders may wish to remove the hedge and replace with new whilst aiming to maintain in good form from the outset. Remediation in the form of replacement planting can be easily accommodated in the same location and with similar species/varieties.
- 5.1.3 Further advice regarding the contents of the report, proposed tree works, tree protection, liaison with the Local Planning Authority, arboricultural contractors or advice on tree planting can be provided on request.
- 5.1.4 The tree constraints plan and tree protection plan are provided under separate cover.

G D Hare, 28/04/2023

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Appendix 1 Tree Survey Table

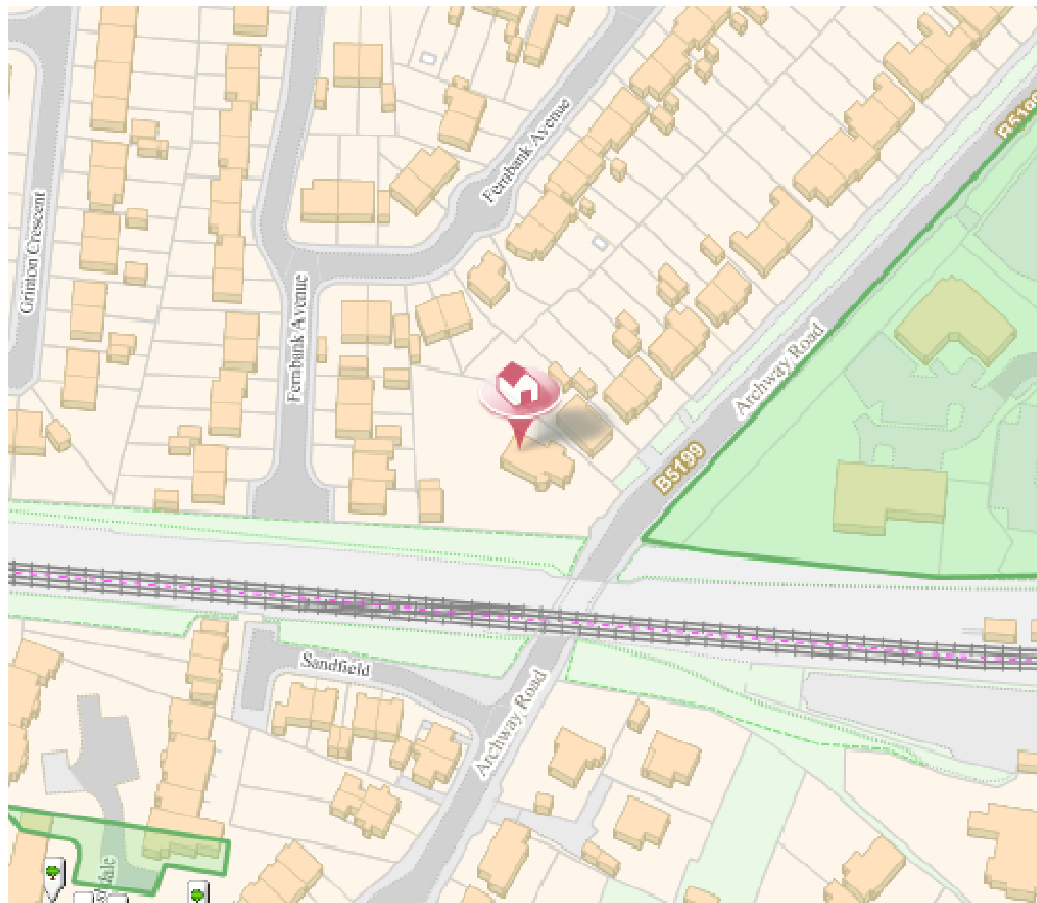
Tree No.	Species (Common Name)	Species (Botanical Name)	Dia (cm) RPA (M)	Height (m)	First branch	Crown Spread (m)				Phys Con	Struc Con	Age Class	Works recommendations/ comments	Retention Category/ Remaining Contribution years
						N	E	S	W					
H1	Leylandii	Cupressocyparis x Leylandii	36 (max)	19 (max)	8	5	2	2	3	F	P	M	Previously topped at 6m. 25m long. Irregularly managed. Will need end 3 specimens removed to facilitate development.	C1 10+

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Appendix 2 TPO/Conservation Area check

TCP -Tree Constraints Plan and Tree Protection Plan (TPP) are provided separately.



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