

Heron Eccles Playing Fields

Arboricultural Report

December 2015

ACS Consulting is a UK industry leader in arboriculture. We offer a range of services involving trees, woodlands and forestry in the built and rural environment:

Planning

Hazard Evaluation

Management

Law

For further information contact:

Ian Murat 01565 755422 irm@acsconsulting.co.uk

ACS Consulting
Suite 1
9 – 11 Princess Street
Knutsford
WA16 6BY
Manchester@acsconsulting.co.uk

Limitation

ACS Consulting (ACS) has prepared this Report for the sole use of Liverpool City Council in accordance with the Agreement under which our services were performed. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this Report or any other services provided by us. This Report may not be relied upon by any other party without the prior and express written agreement of ACS. Unless otherwise stated in this Report, the assessments made assume that the sites and facilities will continue to be used for their current purpose without significant change. The conclusions and recommendations contained in this Report are based upon information provided by others and upon the assumption that all relevant information has been provided by those parties from whom it has been requested. Information obtained from third parties has not been independently verified by ACS, unless otherwise stated in the Report.

CONTENTS

	Page
Chapter 1 Introduction	5
Chapter 2 Background	7
Chapter 3 Tree Survey	8
Chapter 4 Development Aspects	9
Chapter 5 Conclusions	11
 DRAWING(S)	
3283/100 Arboricultural Plan	
 APPENDICES	
1 Tabulated Tree Data	
2 Tree Work Specification	

Document Revision Record

Issue No	Date	Details of Revisions
1	December 2015	Original Issue

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.01 A. C. S. Consulting is instructed by Liverpool City Council to report on trees and the constraints on development at Heron Eccles Playing Fields, Liverpool. The assessment and report was undertaken by Ian Murat, Registered Consultant of the Arboricultural Association.

1.02 The assessment identifies trees and discusses their suitability to be retained on the site.

The survey identifies:

- Trees that are undesirable to be retained because of structural or other defects.
- Trees that can be retained with an acceptable level of risk and the measures that are required to ensure their long term retention.

1.03 The site was visited during December 2015 and a survey of the trees was completed recording; *species type, age, height, crown spread, diameter-at-breast-height, and condition*. The survey was undertaken in cold overcast conditions. The trees were without leaves which gave a good view of their upper canopies but a poor indication of their physiological condition.

1.04 Under the UK planning system, local authorities have a statutory duty to consider the protection and planting of trees when granting planning permission for proposed development. The potential effect of development on trees, whether statutorily protected or not, is a material consideration that is taken into account in dealing with planning applications. The report contains information regarding the trees and the protection requirements of those trees considered desirable or highly desirable to be retained.

1.05 The report is compliant with Table B.1 - Pre-application. It is an aid to developing the site with trees. It may not be considered suitable to be submitted as part of a full application for planning permission by some Local Planning Authorities.

- 1.06** All the trees have been summarised in the tables in Appendix 1 and are to be read in conjunction with the Arboricultural Constraints Plan No.3283/100.

Copyright of ACS Consulting. All rights described in Chapter IV of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 have been generally asserted ©, December 2015.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Site

- 2.01** The site comprises a rectangular shaped parcel of land located in the West Allerton district of the urban conurbation of Liverpool.

Statutory Protection/Planning Policies

- 2.02** The application is subject to the saved Planning Policies of Liverpool City Council. The site is not located within a Conservation Area. The application is not the subject of the National Planning Policy Framework in terms of trees. This document is concerned with ancient woodland and Veteran Trees. These do not appear at this site.

3.0 TREE SURVEY

3.01 I have identified seventeen individual trees, three groups and two hedgerows. The group classification is intended to identify trees that form cohesive arboricultural features either aerodynamically, visually or culturally.

Off-site trees and groups that could influence the development potential of the site, have been recorded. An Arboricultural Plan (3283/100) has been produced.

3.02 The trees were surveyed for *species type, age, height, crown spread, diameter-at-breast-height, condition*, and their suitability for retention from ground level. Heights were measured with a Hypsometer and diameters were taken, where possible, with a diameter tape to give an average stem measurement. Canopy spreads have been measured at the cardinal points or where they significantly extend in other directions.

Each tree has been assessed using the BS 5837 2012 category ratings (a copy can be found in Appendix 1).

3.03 The trees are located along the site's boundaries in small pockets.

3.04 The trees within the site comprise largely structure planting with genera that reflect the landscaping preferences of the decade in which they were planted. Overall, the trees have a moderate to high visual amenity enhanced by the lack of other trees in the location when viewed from public vantage points. One tree, beech 5691, has a significant stem injury. Whilst the wound margins have reasonable adaptive growth giving some strength, beech has a modified sap wood that can be easily colonised by decay fungi. There is the possibility the current decay extends some way into the tree. In view of the tree's location, adjacent to Booker Avenue Infant School, the decay should be tested with decay detection equipment to determine its spread and the tree's overall suitability to be retained or pruned.

4.0 DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS

- 4.01** The Arboricultural Plan (3283_101) identifies tree quality and corresponding gross Root Protection Areas (RPA).
- 4.02** Development should be located outside the RPA. Development should seek to retain and integrate trees identified as category A or B. Category C and U may be retained where they pose no constraint on development. Off-site trees should also be considered. Where trees cannot be retained, often appropriate mitigation measures can off-set the loss of the tree(s).
- 4.03** The RPA has been extended into the tarmac areas and pavements. Whilst such features can be a barrier to root development, there is the possibility that roots can develop underneath. Tree roots directly below a paved or tarmaced surface often experience conditions that are much more favourable for growth than conditions encountered by deeper roots. For example temperatures can be higher and water condenses on the underside of the hard surface, making the adjacent soil particularly suitable for root growth.

Tree Protection

- 4.04** Tree Protection measures should be implemented as stated in BS 5837:2012 and placed in the positions indicated on the Arboricultural Plan. A suitably qualified arboriculturalist should be retained to monitor and report on tree related development issues to ensure the continued protection of trees. A method statement should be prepared by the Arboricultural Consultant prior to commencement at the site in accordance with BS5837 - 2012. A full scheme of protective fencing, its location, and type should be agreed with the Arboricultural Consultant.

Definitive plans are to be produced by the Arboricultural Consultant showing the location of the haul routes, cabins and storage areas prior to commencement on site.

Management

- 4.05** The trees have been assessed for management with appropriate works identified in the Tree Tables at Appendix 1 and the Tree Works Specification at Appendix 2. A number of trees are in a mediocre condition and require remedial pruning to reduce the risk of failure. One specimen present with decay symptoms and should be further inspected.
- 4.06** The trees were without leaves which allowed a good view of their upper canopies but gave a poor indication of their physiological condition. The trees at the site are clearly principal components of the site enhancing and giving scale and maturity as landscape features. A long-term management strategy will be to undertake additional planting with broadleaved trees to give some age diversity. This can be undertaken where it is considered appropriate without reducing amenity areas. The continued well-being of trees and site occupiers can be met through regular inspection dealing with issues as and when they arise.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.01** The site comprises a rectangular shaped parcel of land located in the West Allerton district of the urban conurbation of Liverpool. The site contains a number of significant specimen trees that are considered desirable to retain which add to and enhance the treed character of the locale. Trees that are to be lost are for management reasons or, are trees that are not considered to be suitable for long term retention and are identified in the tree tables in Appendix 1.
- 5.02** The Arboricultural Plan identifies the Root Protection Zone for trees considered suitable to be retained. This area should not be breached. Limited works may be undertaken with arboricultural supervision and detailed method statements of working.
- 5.03** Detailed method statements associated with the following issues should be obtained to ensure the protection of trees: demolition, ground clearance, earth works, drainage, fencing, site storage/compounds/site cabins, tree works, monitoring and reporting.
- 5.04** The trees require surveying on a regular basis as noted in the spreadsheets. Leaf size, colour and overall canopy density are good indicators of tree health and give early indications of physiological problems that allow for appropriate management prescriptions. A detailed survey should be undertaken within two years with brief inspections being undertaken following winds in excess of Force 7/8.

I Murat M.Sc., F.Arbor.A, CEnv, MCIEEM
ACS Consulting
December 2015

Appendix 1

CONTENTS

Key

BS5837: 2012

Tree Tables

KEY

Age	<p>Y – Young: Out-planted trees that have not yet established</p> <p>SM – Semi-mature: Established trees up to 1/3 of expected height and crown</p> <p>EM – Early mature: Between 1/3 and 2/3 of expected height and crown</p> <p>M – Mature: Between 2/3 and full expected height and crown</p> <p>FM – Fully mature: Full expected height and crown</p> <p>OM – Over mature: Crown beginning to break-up and decrease in size</p> <p>S – Senescent: Crown in advanced stage of break-up</p>
Physiological Condition	<p>Good – Very few defects a reasonable long life expectancy depending on age class</p> <p>Fair – Some defects giving the tree a shortened life expectancy</p> <p>Poor – Limited life with major problems</p>
Structural Condition	<p>Good – Very few defects</p> <p>Fair – Some defects rectifiable with minor tree surgery</p> <p>Poor – Significant defects rectifiable with major tree surgery or felling</p>

Table 1 – Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on Plan
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)				
Category U 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other U category trees (i.e. 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. <p><i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7</i></p>			RED
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation.	
Trees to be considered for retention				
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 essential components of groups, or of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dormant 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)	GREEN
Category B Tress 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 remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for 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.	BLUE
Category C Tress of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm.	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 benefits.	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural benefits	GREY

Tree Ref No.	Species	Height M	Stem Diameter MM	Branch Spread M				Height of Crown Clearance M	Clear Branch Height M	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Management Recommendations/ Comments	Estimated Remaining Contribution Years	Category Grading
				N	E	S	W								
5682	Poplar	30	1320	13	13	12.5	10.5	2	3	FM/OM	Good	Good	Multi-stemmed at 4/5m. Dead wood due to natural branch suppression. Significant specimen. Limited life expectancy due to age. A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape. Work Crown clean.	20+	B1/2
5683	Sycamore	13	635	6	6	5.5	3.6	3	3	M	Fair	Good	Severely suppressed by adjacent poplar. A tree of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
5684	Sorbus	13	515	1	0.5	3	4	3	4	M	Fair/Poor	Fair	Eastern canopy has been removed leaving a single stem. Poor specimen of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
5685	Sorbus	13	505	4	#6	5	5	3	5	M	Fair	Fair	Outbreak of Pholotia around the northern stem. A tree of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
5686	Sycamore	12	845	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	6	6	M	Fair	Fair	Recently pollarded. A tree of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
5687	Sorbus	12	540	5	#7	5	6	4	4	M	Good	Fair	Past pruning wounds with decay. A tree of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2

Tree Ref No.	Species	Height	Stem Diameter	Branch Spread M				Height of Crown Clearance M	Clear Branch Height M	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Management Recommendations/ Comments	Estimated Remaining Contribution Years	Category Grading
		M	MM	N	E	S	W								
5688	Sorbus												Poorly pruned and extensively decayed.	-	U
5689	Sorbus	12	480	4	#6	3	5	5	5	M	Good	Good	Slightly suppressed by adjacent sycamore. A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
5690	Sycamore	18	815	6	#6	6.5	6	6	5	M	Good	Fair	Multi-stemmed at 4m. Partly included stem unions. Significant specimen of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
5691	Beech	20	1010	6	#10	#10	5	6	6	FM	Good	Fair	Stem injury to south east with decay. Reasonable wound occlusion. No evidence of fruiting bodies of known decay fungi. A tree of low quality and value in the landscape. Work Re-asses decay with decay detection equipment due to location adjacent to Primary school.	10+	C1/2
5692	Horse-chestnut	15	890	4	5	#5	1	4 (E)	5	M	Good	Good	Small amount of decay on south western stem at ground level with good wound occlusion. Crown asymmetry due to the influence of adjacent tree. A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2

Tree Ref No.	Species	Height M	Stem Diameter MM	Branch Spread M				Height of Crown Clearance M	Clear Branch Height M	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Management Recommendations/ Comments	Estimated Remaining Contribution Years	Category Grading
				N	E	S	W								
5693	Sycamore	15	600	6.5	2	#8	5	6	6	M	Poor	Poor	Large stem injury on south western stem with advanced decay. Poor wound occlusion. Poor distribution of buds and twigs throughout the canopy. Decay at pruning wounds and storm tears. A tree of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
5694	Sycamore	18	945	7	5.5	#8	6.5	5	5	M	Good	Good	A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
T1	Lime	18	#500	4	4	4	4	2 (N)	3	M	Good	Good	Located within the grounds of the school. A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
T2	Alder	13	450	5	2	#6	6	3 (N)	3	M	Good	Good	Located within the grounds of the school. A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
5695	Sycamore	14	380, 260	3	3	4	3	3	3	EM	Good	Fair/ Poor	Twin stemmed. Defective stem union at ground level. Stem injuries. A tree of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
5696	Lime	18	920	6	6	6	7	2 (N)	3	M	Good	Good	Profusion of epicormic growth in the canopy and around base – typical of species. Damage to surface roots from grounds maintenance. A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2

Tree Ref No.	Species	Height M	Stem Diameter MM	Branch Spread M				Height of Crown Clearance M	Clear Branch Height M	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Management Recommendations/ Comments	Estimated Remaining Contribution Years	Category Grading
				N	E	S	W								
5697	Beech	18	950	5	7	8	7	3	4	M	Good	Fair	Multi-stemmed at 3m. Defective stem unions. Included stem and branch unions - typical of species. Canopy bias to south. Dead wood. Root exposure and damage to surface roots from grounds maintenance. A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape. Work Remove dead wood over playground.	20+	B1/2
5698	Sycamore	18	800	6	6	3	6	4	4	M	Fair	Fair	Mediocre distribution of buds and twigs. The southern canopy has been extensively reduced over the playground. Large pieces of dead wood and cavities at pruning wounds. A tree of low quality and value in the landscape. Work Remove dead wood.	10+	C1/2
G1	Group	<12	<300	4	4	5	5	3 (N)	3	SM/EM	Good	Good	3 trees. Two oaks and one birch. Off site trees of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2

Tree Ref No.	Species	Height	Stem Diameter	Branch Spread M				Height of Crown Clearance M	Clear Branch Height M	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Management Recommendations/ Comments	Estimated Remaining Contribution Years	Category Grading
		M	MM	N	E	S	W								
G2	Group	<16	<500	4	6	6	6	2	2	SM-M	Good	Good/ Fair	Linear group of broadleaved trees – sycamore, prunus, hawthorn, birch and oak. Located with railway land with canopies extending into the site. Would benefit from crown lifting – in particular a large oak. A group of high quality and value in the landscape. Work Crown lift oak adjacent to football pitch to give 5m clear branch height, cutting back to suitable lateral branches of around 60mm in diameter.	40+	A1/2
5699	Group	<12	<300	4	4	4	4	2	2	SM/ EM	Good	Good	Mixed group of oak, sycamore, goat willow, elderberry and hawthorn located on raised bank. A group of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
H1	Cypress	9	150	2	2	2	2	0	0	M	Good	Good	Screen hedge of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
5700	Cypress	10	200	2	2	2	2	0	0	SM	Good	Fair	Multi-stemmed. Included stem unions - typical of species. A tree of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2

Tree Ref No.	Species	Height M	Stem Diameter MM	Branch Spread M				Height of Crown Clearance M	Clear Branch Height M	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Management Recommendations/ Comments	Estimated Remaining Contribution Years	Category Grading
				N	E	S	W								
5701	Poplar	25	1305	#5	10.5	12.5	8	2 (S)	5	FM	Good	Good	Northern canopy has been crown reduced. Storm damage and tears. Large pieces of dead wood up to 120mm in diameter. Large split limb on eastern canopy that has partially collapsed. A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape but low rating due to short life expectancy. Work Crown clean.	10+	C1/2
H2	Hedge	<3	<100	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0	M	Good	Good	Sporadic cypress and privet hedging marking the boundary with private housing. Of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
T3	Sorbus	6	200	2	2	2	2	2	2	SM/ EM	Good	Good	A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2

Appendix 2

CONTENTS

Tree Work Specification

Our Ref: 3283/DR.15

Heron Eccles - Tree Work Specification

Tag No.	Identity	Particular Schedule of Works Required	Cost
5682	Poplar	Crown clean	
5691	Beech	Re-asses decay with decay detection equipment due to location adjacent to Primary school.	
5697	Beech	Remove dead wood over playground.	
5698	Sycamore	Remove dead wood over playground.	
G2	Group	Crown lift oak adjacent to football pitch to give 5m clear branch height, cutting back to suitable lateral branches of around 60mm in diameter.	
5701	Poplar	Crown clean.	

Arboricultural Association Standard Conditions of Contract and Specifications apply.

Works in accordance with BS3998 – 2010

Not for planning control.

Any defects are to be reported to A.C.S. Consulting - 01565 755422

No deviation from the specification without written consent.

General Risk Assessment and Method Statement to be supplied.

Bat Risk Assessment to be supplied.

ACS Consulting
Suite One
9-11 Princess Street
Knutsford
Cheshire
WA16 6BY

