



**Arboricultural Impact Assessment  
for  
Caerphilly Magistrates Court  
Caerphilly**

*Inspected by:-  
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## 1. **BRIEF**

I have been instructed by Mr Michael Southall of GVA Planning to prepare an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) in relation to a proposed development at Caerphilly Magistrates Court, Caerphilly.

## 2. **TREE SURVEY AND PLAN**

The information within this document is based on the Treescene Tree Survey 19/06/17 and the attached Treescene AIA Plan 09/2017.

## 3. **TREES TO BE REMOVED**

### a) Arboricultural Reasons

Trees T3, T13, T15, T23, T26, T29, T31, T37, T40, T45, T51, T53, T55, T57 and T64 are recommended for removal in the Tree Survey due to poor quality (U category).

### b) To Facilitate Development

The following trees are intended for removal to facilitate the proposed development on the site: T1, T2, T4, T5, T6, T7, T35, T46, T48, T50, T65 and T66.

These trees are proposed for removal in winter 2017/18 in order to avoid the bird nesting season.

In addition to the tree removals detailed above it may be necessary to undertake selected thinning in tree groups G20, G36, G39 and G47 to accommodate the drainage connection and to improve the quality of the retained trees in these groups.

## 4. **TREE PRUNING**

Some of the trees to be retained contain structural defects/deadwood or may impede vehicle/pedestrian movements within the site. Works to improve tree safety or remove a potential source of nuisance are detailed in the Preliminary Management Recommendations within the Tree Survey. All pruning and felling works are to be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced Arboricultural Contractors working to BS3998:2010 Recommendations for Tree Work.

## 5. **ROOT PROTECTION AREA (RPA) INCURSIONS**

There is some potential limited conflict between the central car parking area and the RPAs of trees T18, G20 and T21 due to the installation of retaining structures. In this instance some hand digging and root pruning may be required to limit any detrimental impacts upon the trees in question; this to be detailed in a site specific Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS).

Care must be taken in relation to the access road and the RPAs of trees T61-T63 inclusive. At present the existing tarmacadam surface provides protection to the roots of the trees from compaction by vehicular traffic. It is important that the existing hard surface for vehicle access is retained during construction and that no attempt is made to remove or replace the existing access road without installing suitable ground protection measures under the direct supervision of the Consulting Arborist.

**6. PROTECTION OF RETAINED TREES**

All trees to be retained should be protected by fencing in accordance with the details in BS5837:2012. The implementation of the tree protection on site should be in compliance with a site specific Tree Protection Plan (TPP) and Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS).

A draft TPP is attached indicating proposed locations for tree protective barriers.

**7. IMPACT ON LOCAL AMENITY**

Some trees are proposed for removal on the Mountain Road site frontage in order to engineer the scheme. The initial tree loss will impact negatively on landscape amenity but it is proposed to install a robust tree planting scheme in this locality following completion of the construction phase. Details of the site frontage tree planting scheme are to be included in the Landscaping Proposals/Plans for the site.

There is some limited tree loss from the interior of the site but as this will take place on lower ground and the three main tree belts on the south, east and northern boundaries are to be largely retained intact it is presumed that this limited tree loss will not impact upon local landscape amenity. Tree planting as part of the site Landscape Proposals will mitigate any tree loss from within the site.