ETHICAL ARBORICULTURE

Land North of 80 Wisbech Road Long Sutton

Tree survey, report and recommendations

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Terms of reference

1.1.1 Ethical Arboriculture has been commissioned by Alexandra Design to prepare a Tree Survey/report for the trees under the ownership/management of her client Mr Gaskin.

1.1.2 In accordance with instructions from Alexandra Design, this report provides an overview of all the relevant trees.

1.1.3 The site survey was carried out on the 20th of October 2022. The relevant qualitative tree data was recorded in order to assess the condition of the existing trees, in relation to their existing environment and the risk they pose to persons and property in the immediate vicinity.

1.2 Scope of Works

1.2.1 The trees were inspected from ground level with no climbing inspections undertaken. No samples have been removed from the site for analysis. The survey does not cover the arrangements that may be required in connection with the removal of existing underground services.

1.2.2 Whilst this is an arboricultural report, comments relating to non arboricultural matters are given, such as built structures and soil data. Any opinion thus expressed should be viewed as provisional and confirmation from an appropriately qualified professional sought. Such points are clearly identified within the body of the report.

1.2.3 An intrinsic part of tree inspection is the assessment of risk associated with trees in close proximity to persons and property. Most human activities involve a degree of risk with such risks being commonly accepted, if the associated benefits are perceived to be commensurate. In general, risk relating to trees tends to increase with the age of the trees concerned, as do the benefits. It will be deemed to be accepted by the client that the formulation of the recommendations for all the management of the trees will be guided by the cost-benefit analysis (in terms of amenity), of the tree work that would remove all the risk of tree related damage.

2.0 Site

The site is positioned to the east of Wisbech road and North of Mr Gaskins residence known as 80 Wisbech road, Long Sutton.
A number of trees have been felled and stacked prior to my site visit, mainly poplars.

2.1 Soils

2.2.1 The data provided for the soil types have been obtained from a desk top study which provides indications of likely soil types. By its definition, this information is not comprehensive and therefore any decisions taken regards the management, usage or construction on site should be based on a detailed soil analysis.

2.2.2 Further to item 2.2.1 this report provides no information on soil shrink ability. It may be necessary for practitioners in other disciplines to obtain this data as required.

2.2.3 The superficial soil type commonly associated with the area is described as *Tidal Flat deposits- Clay and Silt,* with the bedrock geology being *Ampthill Clay formation – Mudstone.*

2.3 Statutory Tree Protection

2.3.1 It is understood that the trees on this site are covered by a Tree Preservation order and are outside of the Conservation area.

2.4 Felling License

All trees within the United Kingdom are protected under the forestry acts. In general, anyone felling more than 5 cubic metres of timber in any one calendar quarter requires a Felling License from the Forestry Commission. There are however exemptions, and these are as follows: -

A felling license is not required in the following instances:

- To fell trees in a garden, an orchard, a churchyard, or a designated open space (Commons Act 1899)
- To carry out surgery operations such as pruning, reduction, dead wooding or pollarding.
- To fell less than 5 cubic metres in a calendar quarter. (Note that not more than 2 cubic metres can be sold in a calendar quarter)
- To fell trees that are 8 centimetres or less in diameter when measured at 1.3 metres from the ground. Trees removed for thinning may have a diameter of up to 10 centimetres and trees managed under a coppice regime may have a diameter of up to 15 centimetres.
- To fell trees previously approved for removal under a dedication scheme, or where detailed planning permission has been granted.

Substantial fines exist for not complying with the requirements of a felling license.

3.0 Tree Survey

3.1 Each tree on site has been surveyed in sufficient detail to meet the needs of the health and safety audit assessment along with the guidelines set out in BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to Design, demolition and construction-Recommendations.

3.2 This complies with a methodology devised by David Carmichael in 2002 and approved by the Health and Safety Executive. The abiding principal, to which this methodology adheres, is one of concentrating resources on areas of greatest risk. To this end, the system of inspection by exception has been utilised – i.e. inspecting all trees, but only recording details of trees that require action in the form of surgery, further investigation or increased monitoring.

3.3 In accordance with items 3.1 and 3.2 a total of 10 trees have been identified, spread across the site.

3.4 An accurate topographical survey was not available at the time of inspection, therefore the position of the trees have been marked on the attached map with the positions recorded using GPS survey software.

3.5 Within the inspection a small number of trees and features require intervention, and these have been included below in section 4

4.0 Tree Works

4.1 All tree works should be carried out in line with British Standard 3998:2010 – British standard recommendations for Tree Works.

4.2 If the trees proposed for work are included in any statutory protection no intervention will take place until written permission has been obtained from the relevant authority.

4.3 The trees inspected and detailed within this report have been selected for inclusion due to their influence on the site. Where works have been recommended to trees outside the ownership of the site, these can only progress with the agreement of the owner, except where it involves portions of the tree that overhang the boundary.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 We are recommending the removal of ten trees, please see survey schedule and map for positions and identification. This is based on their physiological and structural condition being poor rendering their suitability for retention as LOW.

5.2 There are recommendations for replacement plantings to offset the trees loss and increase the biodiversity of the area. These recommendations are based on the suitability for long term retention given the soil conditions of the site as well as it’s proposed future use.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 Given all of the above, it is considered that the trees discussed within this report are an attractive, important visual amenity, which provide a wide variety of benefits including, but not limited to, aesthetic quality, screening historic importance and wildlife habitat. The trees are located within an area of high public access of frequent use and therefore have the potential to cause a serious incident if they suffer a catastrophic structural failure.

6.2 Any proposed works have been prioritised based on the situation, type and scale of the problem, and the perceived risk of harm/failure. Inevitably this is a subjective matter, but it is based on an amalgamation of knowledge and experience.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 As can be seen on the Appendix survey sheets, a variety of tree surgery, felling and maintenance operations have been identified. These works should be carried out in line with the details set out in section 4 at the owners earliest possible convenience.

7.2 It is recommended that routine 5 yearly inspections be undertaken to ensure the trees are maintained to reduce the risk of failure to a figure as low as practically possible given the balance between wildlife habitats, historic importance, landscape value and personal safety. Some trees may require enhanced monitoring to ensure their safe retention.

7.3 The tree surgery works proposed as part of the survey/report are recommended to mitigate any identified health and safety problems, to promote longevity in retained trees, and to consider long term landscaping implications. To this end, should these recommendations be overruled, this survey stands as the opinion of Ethical Arboriculture and therefore any damage or injury caused by trees recommended by this practice for felling or tree surgery works, to which the proposed schedule of works has been altered or the tree has been requested to be retained by the local planning authority, cannot be the responsibility of this practice.

8.0 Limitations & Qualifications

Tree inspection reports are subject to the following limitations and qualifications.

General exclusions

Unless specifically mentioned, the report will only be concerned with above ground inspections. No below ground inspections will be carried out without the prior confirmation from the client that such works should be undertaken.

The validity, accuracy and finding of this report will be directly related to the information made available prior to and during its production. No checking of third-party data will be undertaken. Ethical arboriculture will not be responsible for the recommendations within this report where such information has not been made available or is inaccurate.

This report will remain valid for one year from the date of inspection, and only whilst site conditions remain unaltered. It will become invalid if for example construction works or changes in soil level take place within the sphere of influence of the tree or trees concerned. It must also be appreciated that the recommendations proposed within this report may be superseded by extreme weather, or any other unreasonably foreseeable events.

If site conditions change as referred to above, it will be necessary to undertake a new tree inspection to ensure the recommendations reflect the most current situation.

It will be appreciated and deemed to be accepted by the client and their insurers, that the formulation of the recommendations for the management of trees be guided by the following: -

1 The need to avoid reasonably foreseeable damage.

2 The arboricultural considerations- tree safety, good arboricultural practice (Tree work) and aesthetics.

The client and their insurers are deemed to have accepted the limitations placed on the recommendations by the sources quoted in this report. Where sources are limited by time constraints or by the client, this may lead to an incomplete quantification of the risk.

10.0 Appendix

Survey Sheets

Aerial overview

References

BS5837 Survey Data

Ref.	Species	Measurements	General Observations	Category	Recommendations
G001	Mixed Broadleaves x90 (Mixed Broadleaves)	Height (m): 3 90 stems Spread (m): 1N, 1E, 1S, 1W Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Recently topped hedgeline. Consists of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Ash and Sycamore. Field side has been maintained with flail to prevent encroachment.	C1 RPA Area: 0 sq m, plus a 1m buffer.	Pre construction: No action required. Post construction: Continue with the existing maintenance schedule
G006	Mixed Broadleaves x42 (Mixed Broadleaves)	42 stems Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: 30+ Years	Mixed hedge/roadside windbreak. Consists of mature Hawthorn, early mature Ash and Sycamore. Provides good wind and noise break from adjacent roadside	C1 RPA Area: 7 sq m, plus a 1m buffer.	Pre construction: Localised pruning to allow access Post construction: Supplementary planting with a mix of Cork Oak and Chestnut-leafed holly.
G014	Mixed Broadleaves x14 (Mixed Broadleaves)	14 stems	Mix of over mature and immature Sycamore, Blackthorn and Hawthorn with a single Walnut. Walnut has poor bio-mechanical form. Group is not worthy of retention.	U RPA None - due to Retention Category of U.	Pre construction: Removal of trees that are within the site while retaining boundary trees. Post construction: Plant entire boundary with a mix of hawthorn and common holly.
T002	Common Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	Height (m): 18 Stem Diam (mm): 750 Spread (m): 5N, 5E, 5S, 5W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Life Stage: Over Mature Rem. Contrib.: <10 years	Altered exposure. Dieback - poor foliage. Prolific ivy. Not Suitable for retention due to poor health and structural condition.	U RPA None - due to Retention Category of U.	Remove tree.

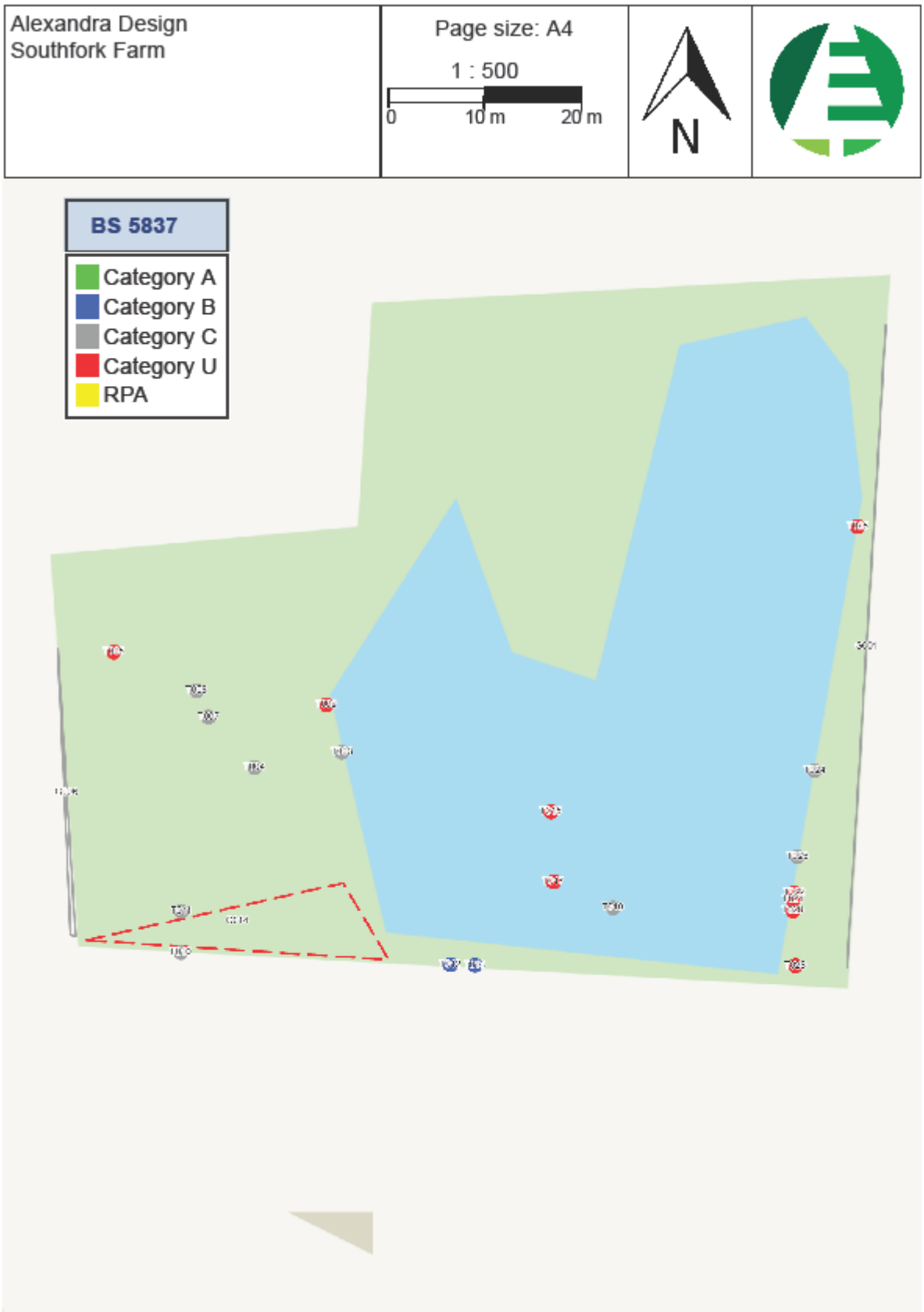
Ref.	Species	Measurements	General Observations	Category	Recommendations
T003	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Height (m): 10 Stem Diam (mm): 300 Spread (m): 1N, 1E, 1S, 1W Life Stage: Young Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Altered exposure. Fractured limbs - storm damage. Prolific ivy. Not suitable for retention due to form.	C1 RPA Radius: 3.6m. Area: 41 sq m.	Remove tree.
T004	Weeping Willow (Salix babylonica)	Height (m): 15 Stem Diam (mm): 1000 Spread (m): 4N, 4E, 4S, 4W Life Stage: Over Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Poor overall Physiological and Structural condition. Stem/limb decay. Fractured limbs - storm damage. Overall condition makes retention unviable.	C1 RPA Radius: 12.0m. Area: 452 sq m.	Remove tree.
T005	Common Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	Height (m): 14 Stem Diam (mm): 750 Spread (m): 4.5N, 4.5E, 4.5S, 4.5W Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: <10 years	Poor overall Physiological and Structural condition. Ionotus hispisidus fruiting bodies are visible. Deadwood. Prolific ivy. Retention is unrealistic based on condition.	U RPA None - due to Retention Category of U.	Remove tree.
T007	Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	Height (m): 12 Stem Diam (mm): 300 Spread (m): 1.5N, 1.5E, 1.5S, 1.5W Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Fair overall Physiological and Structural condition. Prolific ivy. Retention is viable	C1 RPA Radius: 3.6m. Area: 41 sq m.	Sever ivy at base.
T008	Common Holly (Ilex aquifolium)	Height (m): 8 Stem Diam (mm): 200 Spread (m): 1N, 1E, 1S, 1W Life Stage: Early Mature Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Good overall Physiological and Structural condition. Could be retained.	C1 RPA Radius: 2.4m. Area: 18 sq m.	No action required.
T010	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Height (m): 14 Stem Diam (mm): 650 Spread (m): 2.5N, 2.5E, 2.5S, 2.5W Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Included bark and compression forks. Multi-stemmed tree. Prolific ivy. Not suitable for long term retention based on the structural condition	C1 RPA Radius: 7.8m. Area: 191 sq m.	No action required.

Ref.	Species	Measurements	General Observations	Category	Recommendations
T011	Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	Height (m): 12 Stem Diam (mm): 400 Spread (m): 1.5N, 1.5E, 1.5S, 1.5W Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Fair overall Physiological and Structural condition. Prolific ivy. Remove ivy and retention will be viable.	C1 RPA Radius: 4.8m. Area: 72 sq m.	Sever ivy at base.
T012	White Willow (Salix alba)	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam (mm): 800 Spread (m): 2.5N, 2.5E, 2.5S, 2.5W Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 30+ Years	Minor dead wood	B1 RPA Radius: 9.6m. Area: 290 sq m.	No action required.
T013	White Willow (Salix alba)	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam (mm): 900 Spread (m): 2.5N, 2.5E, 2.5S, 2.5W Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Minor dead wood. Prolific ivy.	B1 RPA Radius: 10.8m. Area: 366 sq m.	No action required.
T015	Common Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	Height (m): 10 Stem Diam (mm): 750 Spread (m): 5N, 5E, 5S, 5W Life Stage: Over Mature Rem. Contrib.: <10 years	Poor overall Physiological and Structural condition. Reactive growth. Fractured limbs - storm damage. Dieback - poor foliage. Prolific ivy.	U RPA None - due to Retention Category of U.	Pre construction: Remove tree. Post construction: Replant with Alder, (Alnus glutinosa)
T017	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Height (m): 10 Stem Diam (mm): 350 Spread (m): 2.5N, 2.5E, 2.5S, 2.5W Life Stage: Early Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Poor overall Physiological and Structural condition. Prolific ivy.	U RPA None - due to Retention Category of U.	Pre construction: Remove tree. Post construction: Replant with Alder, (Alnus glutinosa)
T018	Weeping Willow (Salix babylonica)	Height (m): 10 Stem Diam (mm): 850 Spread (m): 3N, 3E, 3S, 3W Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Fair overall Physiological and Structural condition. Prolific ivy.	C1 RPA Radius: 10.2m. Area: 327 sq m.	Pre construction: Pollard to facilitate retention. Post construction: Pollard on five-year intervals.

Ref.	Species	Measurements	General Observations	Category	Recommendations
T019	Common Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	Height (m): 12 Stem Diam (mm): 500 Spread (m): 2.5N, 2.5E, 2.5S, 2.5W Life Stage: Early Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Altered exposure. Unstable root plate. Dieback - poor foliage. Dead wood. Prolific ivy.	U RPA None - due to Retention Category of U.	
T020	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Height (m): 10 Stem Diam (mm): 450 Spread (m): 1.5N, 1.5E, 1.5S, 1.5W Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Unstable root plate. Fractured limbs - storm damage. Dieback - poor foliage. Dead wood. Prolific ivy.	U RPA None - due to Retention Category of U.	Pre construction: Remove tree. Post construction: Replant with Bald Cypress, (Taxonium distichum)
T021	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Height (m): 10 Stem Diam (mm): 350 Spread (m): 1.5N, 1.5E, 1.5S, 1.5W Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: <10 years	Unstable root plate. Fractured limbs - storm damage. Dieback - poor foliage. Dead wood. Prolific ivy.	U RPA None - due to Retention Category of U.	Pre construction: Remove tree. Post construction: Replant with Bald Cypress,(Taxonium distichum)
T022	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Height (m): 10 Stem Diam (mm): 450 Spread (m): 1.5N, 1.5E, 1.5S, 1.5W Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: <10 years	Unstable root plate. Dieback - poor foliage. Dead wood. Prolific ivy.	U RPA None - due to Retention Category of U.	Pre construction: Remove tree. Post construction: Replant with Bald Cypress, (Taxonium distichum).
T023	Common Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	Height (m): 10 2 stems, avg.(mm): 650 Spread (m): 4.5N, 4.5E, 4.5S, 4.5W Life Stage: Over Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Poor overall Physiological and Structural condition. Unstable root plate. Root decay (fungi). Stem/limb decay. Fractured limbs - storm damage. Dieback - poor foliage.	C1 RPA Radius: 11.0m. Area: 380 sq m.	Localised pruning to reduce wind load
T024	Common Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)	Height (m): 5 Stem Diam (mm): 250 Spread (m): 2.5N, 2.5E, 2.5S, 2.5W Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Good/Fair/Poor overall Physiological and Structural condition. Inclusive bark. Prolific ivy.	C1 RPA Radius: 3.0m. Area: 28 sq m.	Sever ivy at base.

Ref.	Species	Measurements	General Observations	Category	Recommendations
T025	Prunus (Prunus sp.)	Height (m): 5 4 stems, avg.(mm): 300 Spread (m): 4.5N, 4.5E, 4.5S, 4.5W Life Stage: Over Mature Rem. Contrib.: <10 years	Poor overall Physiological and Structural condition. Stem/limb decay. Dead wood. Prolific ivy. Multi stemmed from ground level, with old fail points.	U RPA None - due to Retention Category of U.	Pre construction: Remove tree. Post construction: Replant with multi-stemmed river birch (Betula nigra)
T028	Common Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	Height (m): 12 Stem Diam (mm): 500 Spread (m): 2.5N, 2.5E, 2.5S, 2.5W Life Stage: Early Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Altered exposure. Unstable root plate. Dieback - poor foliage. Dead wood. Prolific ivy. Retention is not viable given overall condition and health.	U RPA None - due to Retention Category of U.	Pre construction: Remove tree. Post construction: Replant with Alder, (Alnus glutinosa)

Aerial Overview.



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