



12 april 2026

TREE SURVEY

Christopher Hill Bsc (Hons)

Pant y Phillip quarry

Scleddau

Sa659rh



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Introduction

This report has been prepared by Chris Hill Tree Services on behalf of Carl vaughan to set out the findings of a tree survey and development implications review, undertaken to ascertain the overall health and safety of a group of cypress trees at the entrance of the quarry (Hereafter referred to as the 'site').

The site is centred on Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference SM94718 33539

The findings and recommendations included within this report are informed by survey work, which involved collecting data relating to the tree stock to ascertain the baseline arboricultural context in order to inform the owner of any hazards or potential health and safety issues in the use of the quarry and the surrounding area near the trees in question. Where appropriate, recommendations for the removal of trees or tree management are made in order to facilitate development, or to improve the overall condition of the existing tree stock.

Tree Survey

No invasive investigations or climbing inspections were necessary to confirm visual or audible signs of defect or debility and no tissue or soil samples were undertaken. Where identified, signs of substantial defects or debility significant to the pre-development context have been recorded.

The tree survey comprises of a row of cypress trees (23) adjacent to the main a40 trunk road to Fishguard

Survey Methodology

The pre-development survey and assessment was undertaken in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations' (hereafter BS5837:2012).

In accordance with the above recommendations, Topographical survey data was used to inform the tree survey. The tree survey included all trees within and aligning the site boundary that were over 7cm diameter at breast height (dbh) within the survey map.

The tree survey involved collecting the following data:

- ☐ Tree Number / Group Reference;
- ☐ Species;
- ☐ Height and Branch Spread (in metres taken at the four cardinal points);
- ☐ Crown Clearance (in metres above the adjacent ground level);
- ☐ Age Class;
- ☐ Physiological and Structural Condition;
- ☐ Estimated Remaining Contribution (in years);
- ☐ Management Recommendations; and
- ☐ Notes.



Tree Categorisation

The quality and value of each tree or group of trees has been recorded in accordance with the Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment. The purpose of the tree categorisation method is to identify the quality and value of the existing tree stock, allowing informed decisions to be made in conformity with BS5837:2012, concerning which trees should be removed or retained, should development occur.

Categories A, B and C deal with trees that should be a material consideration in the development process and are divided into subcategories that reflect arboricultural, landscape and cultural values. Category U trees are those which would be removed in the short term for reasons connected with their physiological or structural condition. For this reason, they should not be considered in the planning process.

- ☐ **Category Grading A:** Trees of high quality and value, which are in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution from an arboricultural, landscape or cultural perspective.
- ☐ **Category Grading B:** Trees of moderate quality and value, which are in such a condition as to make a significant contribution from an arboricultural, landscape or cultural perspective;
- ☐ **Category Grading C:** Trees of low quality and value, which are currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm
- ☐ **Category Grading U:** Trees which are in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.

The subcategories included within the Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment are intended to reflect arboricultural, landscape and cultural values respectively.

Findings for each tree and group surveyed are illustrated on the **Tree Quality Survey** contained in this report and listed within the Tree Survey Table

Preliminary Management Recommendations

Any recommendations made for management of the trees (e.g. tree works) are not a detailed 'specification' for tree work and should not be considered as such.

These recommendations are proposed on the basis that they are advised and undertaken by a qualified arboricultural contractor working in accordance with best practice as, for instance, embodied in BS3998:2010 Recommendations for Tree Work, or in the European Tree Pruning Guide, published in 2001 by the Arboricultural Association.

Limitations

The comments made are based on observable factors present at the time of inspection and are based on maximising the trees' safe life expectancy given their existing context. Although the health and stability of trees in their current context is an integral part of their suitability for retention, it must be stressed that this report is not a tree risk assessment and should not be construed as such. While every attempt has been made to provide a realistic and accurate assessment of the trees' condition at the time of inspection, it may have not been appropriate, or possible, to view all parts or all sides of every tree to fulfil the assessment criteria of a risk assessment.

No tree is entirely safe, given the possibility that exceptionally strong winds could damage or uproot even a mechanically 'perfect' specimen. It is therefore usually accepted that hazards are only recognisable from distinct defects or from other failure-prone characteristics of the tree or the site.



Assessment of the potential influence of trees upon buildings or other structures resulting from the effects of trees upon shrinkable load-bearing soils or the effects of incremental root or branch growth, are specifically excluded from this report.

Stem measurements were taken using a diameter tape. Where this was not possible or reasonably practical, measurements have been estimated by eye.

Un-assessable Risks

Any alteration to the application site or development proposals could change the current circumstances and may invalidate this report and any recommendations made.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) makes it an offence to disturb nesting birds or recklessly endanger a bat or its roost. Bats are also a European protected species and are additionally protected under the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994 and 2010 (as amended).

A lack of recommended work does not imply that a tree does not pose an unacceptable level of risk and likewise, it should not be implied that a tree will present an acceptable level of risk following the completion of any recommended work.

Findings of the Tree Survey

Site Description

The site consists of a quarry with access to the main a40 road, the trees in question are on the roadside and entrance of the quarry with a gateway underneath the northern side of the trees

Arboricultural Planning Context

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) the requirement to consider trees as part of development is a material planning consideration and will be taken into account in the determination of planning applications.

The current adopted development plan for the site consists of the saved policies of the adopted local development plan (LDP) for Pembrokeshire and related supplementary planning guidance (SPG). A summary of the local planning policy context pertaining to trees, hedgerows and woodlands is provided in GN.37 Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity.

Age, Health, Condition and Quality

The survey involved ground level examination of the external features of the trees. Growing conditions were noted together with the presence of dead branch wood and die-back or obvious signs of decay. Definitions and criteria for assessing a tree's physiological, structural condition and age are included in the Tree Survey.



Key to tree survey

Hgt (m):

Height of the tree in metres rounded up to the nearest half metre. DBH 3.3.3 'Diameter at Breast Height' – the stem diameter measured in millimetres at 1.5m above ground level. Where the ground around the base of the tree is not level this is taken 1.5m above the upper side of the slope.

DBH

Measurement of stem diameter at breast height to calculate root protection area

Branch Spread

The crown spread is given to four cardinal points, rounded up to the nearest half metre.

Clr

The height of crown clearance of the lowest branch above ground level, with the general direction it is growing to a cardinal point.

Life stage

The age of each tree is defined as follows:

Young - within the first third of life expectancy

Young-Mature - within the second third of life expectancy

Mature - within the last third of life expectancy

Over mature - Tree in decline

Veteran – tree that, by recognised criteria, shows features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of, but not exclusive to, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species concerned. For the purpose of this report the term 'ancient tree' and 'veteran tree' are interchangeable.

General observations

Will include notes on structural defects, physiological problems, special features, including the surrounding area.

The physiological or structural condition of each tree is defined as either; good, fair, poor or dead. For each tree, where appropriate, notes on the structural integrity are provided on form, taper, forking habit, storm damage, decay, fungi, pests, etc. An assessment of a tree's physiological condition is defined as:

Good – fully functioning biological system showing expectant vitality for the species i.e. normal bud growth, leaf size, crown density and wound closure.

Fair – fully functioning biological system showing below average vitality i.e. reduced bud growth, smaller leaf size, lower crown density and reduced wound closure

Poor – a biological system with limited functionality showing clear physiological decline, disease or significantly below average vitality i.e. limited bud growth, small and chlorotic leaves, low crown density and limited wound closure.

ERC

Means 'estimated remaining contribution', recorded in a range of years. It is the amount of time the tree can realistically be retained for.

<10	Unsuitable for retention
10 - 20	Can be retained in the short term
20 - 40	Will continue to offer benefits for the foreseeable future
40+	Good longevity potential



Cat

Means 'category grading', a full explanation of the categories is given in an excerpt from BS 5837:2012 in the Tree Survey Schedule section.

Category and Definition	Criteria	Identification on plan
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	• 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 category U 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. (NOTE: Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve)	red 

Category and Definition	Criteria sub categories			Identification on plan
	1. Mainly Arboricultural Values	2. Mainly Landscape Values	3. Mainly Cultural Values, including Conservation	
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 those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape feature	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	LIGHT GREEN 
Category B Trees 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 remedial 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 that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remedial 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 with material conservation or other cultural benefits.	MID BLUE 

Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm	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 temporary/transient landscape benefit.	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	GREY 
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Tree survey

REF	SPECIES	HGT (m)	DBH (mm)	Branch spread				CLR (m)	LIFE STAGE	ERC	Category
				N	E	S	W				
G1	Leylandii	15-20	Average of 30- 40cm	3	5	3	4	East <0.5m all trees leaning east. West 6m	mature	<10	U

General observations

A group of mature, tall trees in poor condition, situated on a man-made embankment, exhibiting visible symptoms of root plate disturbance and structural instability. Two of the trees at the southern end of the group have visible root plate movement and have a significant lean also the northern most tree has cracks and soil heaving.

A large branch has snapped out on the western side (roadside) together with multiple low branches on the eastern side.



Photo of man made embankment and lean of trees





photo of exposed roots on the embankment

PLAN



Management Recommendations

G1. – section/fell group of leylandii trees

Removal of the group of trees is advisable due to the unstable root plates of a number of the trees in the row, this has developed as the root plate area for the root system is considerably smaller than the height and spread of the trees. Together with being in a fairly exposed site and having a high sided man-made embankment. Any tree removal or management must be subject to wildlife and planning considerations / constraints. Ideally work should be timed to avoid the bird nesting season wherever possible (1st March to 31st August). If not, each tree will need to be searched for nesting birds prior to clearance. If a nest is found the tree and its immediate surroundings will need to be left undisturbed until nesting is complete.

Any arboricultural recommendations are proposed on the basis that they are advised and undertaken by a qualified arboricultural contractor working in accordance with best practice as, for instance, embodied in BS3998: 2010 Recommendations for Tree Work, or in the European Tree Pruning Guide, published in 2001 by the Arboricultural Association.

