

Notton House School
Bs5837 Survey

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Brief:** I am instructed by Ben Reysenn, Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership, to provide details of the existing trees within the grounds of Notton House School toward planning for expanded on site parking for schools transport vehicles.
- 1.2** I have carried out a survey of the trees on the site that will be impacted by this proposal. The survey provides information on the arboricultural and landscape value of the trees, root protection areas required and protective fencing distances in accordance with BS5837 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations. This British Standard offers the best guidance to protect trees on development sites. I was provided with plans of the site, showing the location of the trees within the that would be impacted.
- 1.3** Information included in this report;
- Basic dimension data, condition assessment, retention categories and root protection areas for the relevant trees;
 - General guidance on dealing with trees in a development context;
 - Guidance on tree protection measures
 - Recommendations
- 1.4** This report provides data and advice outlined in BS5837:2012 only. It must not be substituted for a tree risk assessment. Detailed tree inspection including decay mapping, aerial inspection, soil analysis, etc. was not undertaken.
- 1.5** Qualification and experience: I have based this report on my site observations and the information provided. The conclusions I have come to are based on 30 years' experience in arboriculture and my technical qualifications and training in arboriculture and forestry.

2 Site Visit and Observations

- 2.1 Site visit:** I carried out a site visit on 11/6/2026. All my observations were from ground level without detailed investigations, and I estimated all dimensions unless otherwise indicated. The weather at the time of inspection was fine.
- 2.2 Brief site description:** The site is a part of the grounds of Notton House School, bounded to the north and west by school perimeter fencing and otherwise open to school site users with short mown grass. The site is crossed by an overhead 240v power distribution line.
- 2.3 Data Collection:** I inspected each tree numbered on the appended plan. For each individual tree, I collected information on species, height, spread, stem diameter, crown clearance height, age class, physiological and structural condition, life expectancy, recommendations, and retention category. From this data I calculated the root protection areas for trees with stem diameters of 150mm or above at 1.5m above ground level, and the minimum protective fence distances required to protect the tree and root system from damage. Trees with stems diameters below 150mm have not all been recorded on the schedule and I have not calculated the root protection areas as these shouldn't form a constraint to the design due to their age and size.

3 Tree Constraints Plan

- 3.1 The Root Protection Areas (RPA)** are shown on the Tree Constraints Plan in Appendix 3 which shows the locations, canopies and root protection areas of all the Category A, B and C trees surveyed. This is included in the report to show the below ground constraints the trees present. Any RPA mentioned in this document refers to them as they are shown on this plan as circular in shape
- 3.2 Definition of Root Protection Area (RPA)** in BS5837:2012 layout design tool indicating the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability, and where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority

4 Discussion

- 4.1** For individual and group tree details see appendix 1, and photos of the group can be found in appendix 4.
- 4.2** Appendix 2, General Guidance for Dealing with Trees in a Development Context provides information on the categorisation of the trees surveyed and the categories are listed in Tables 1 & 2. The trees at this location have been categorised; 10 trees and one tree group categorised B, desirable for retention, and one tree category C, which should not warrant alteration of preferred layout due to short life expectancy.
- 4.3** The Root Protection Areas of the trees extend over up to 50% of the site, most of which are categorised as A and B so their retention is desirable
- 4.4** The trees at this location contribute to the local amenity and also the wider landscape. The large Lime 3087 in particular makes an outstanding contribution to visual amenity, not just within the school grounds but as a part of the local landscape, and as a contextual link to the history of the site.

5 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 5.1** Trees on this site are generally of a good quality as part of the group which they form. However, the contribution to the landscape, general form and condition mark out lime tree 3087 as an outstanding specimen of exceptional value, and this should be considered carefully when planning works nearby which may impact on its surroundings.
- 5.2** When digging the ground to prepare for the installation of the proposed parking area, no digging should take place within the root protection area of the lime tree 3087. The maximum root protection area specified in BS5837 is a circular area of 707m² with a radius of 15m, centred on the base of the tree. I would propose that no dig options are explored to minimise potential impacts from the work to the ongoing health of the tree, for example spreading the load of new surfacing using cellular containment matrix, such as cellweb, and surfacing with permeable, resin bound hard surface or self-binding gravel. Having studied the plans for the proposed parking area, other root protection areas will not be affected.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Site tree survey form

BS 5837 tree survey form Norton House School
Client Midsummer Norton Schools Partnership
Surveyor Bath and North East Somerset Council Parks and Open Spaces J Nash
Date 11/6/25

Ref	Species	Height (m)	Stem Diameter	Crown Spread (m)	Crown Clearance	Age Class*	Phys. Condition*	Struct. Cond	Est. Life (yrs)	Category*	Preliminary recommendations	Protection Area (m ²)	Protective fence distance (m)	Notes
3088	Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa'	16	450	10	1.5 M		Good	Good	20 B	B	Retain	92	5.4	Ornamental willow
3089	Cupressus macrocarpa	6	350	6	2 Y		Good	moderate	40+	B	Retain	55	4.2	Typical Monterey cypress
3091	Cupressus macrocarpa	6	350	6	2 Y		Good	moderate	40+	B	Retain	55	4.2	
3092	Cupressus macrocarpa	6	350	6	2 Y		Good	moderate	40+	B	Retain	55	4.2	
3093	Cupressus macrocarpa	6	350	6	2 Y		Good	moderate	40+	B	Retain	55	4.2	
3094	Sambucus nigra	4	200	4	1 m		Moderate	Moderate	10 C	C	Retain	18	2.4	Elter
3095	Sambucus nigra	4	200	4	1 m		Moderate	Moderate	10 C	C	Retain	18	2.4	
3096	Robinia pseudacacia	15	800	10	4 M		Good	Moderate	40 A	A	Retain	290	9.6	False acacia
3098	Robinia pseudacacia	8	250	6	3 Y		Good	Good	40 B	B	Retain	28	3	
3099	Robinia pseudacacia	18	800	10	4 M		Good	Moderate	40 A	A	Retain	290	9.6	Tree in neighbouring property
3071	Fraxinus excelsior	15	200	7	2 Y		Good	Good	10 B	B	Retain	18	2.4	Cat B applied for ADB
3072	Fraxinus excelsior	15	200	7	2 Y		Good	Good	10 B	B	Retain	18	2.4	Cat B applied for ADB
3073	Fraxinus excelsior	15	200	7	2 Y		Good	Good	10 B	B	Retain	18	2.4	Cat B applied for ADB
3074	Fraxinus excelsior	15	200	7	2 Y		Good	Good	10 B	B	Retain	18	2.4	Cat B applied for ADB
3075	Fraxinus excelsior	15	200	7	2 Y		Good	Good	10 B	B	Retain	18	2.4	Cat B applied for ADB
3077	Prunus avium	6	300	6	1.5 Y		Good	Good	40 A	A	Retain	41	3.6	Wild cherry
3078	Prunus avium	6	300	6	1.5 Y		Good	Good	40 A	A	Retain	41	3.6	
3079	Prunus avium	6	300	6	1.5 Y		Good	Good	40 A	A	Retain	41	3.6	
3081	Prunus avium	6	300	6	1.5 Y		Good	Good	40 A	A	Retain	41	3.6	
3082	Tilia cordata	6	300	6	1.5 Y		Good	Good	80+	A	Retain	41	3.6	Small leaved lime
3083	Tilia cordata	6	300	6	1.5 Y		Good	Good	80+	A	Retain	41	3.6	
3084	Tilia cordata	6	150	6	1.5 Y		Good	Moderate	40 B	B	Retain	10	1.8	
3085	Cedrus deodara	6	300	6	1 Y		Moderate	Moderate	80+	B	Retain	41	3.6	Deodar cedar
3087	Tilia platyphyllos	24	1900	15	3 M		Good	Moderate	80+	A	Retain with root protection	707	15	

Key
DBH - Trunk diameter at 1.5m above ground level
Y- young, SM- Middle age, M- Mature, OM- Overmature
RPA and Protective distances see table D.1 Annex D BS 5837
Categories for retention see Table 1 BS 5837



Indicated (approximate) 15m radius from lime tree 3087 and root protection area.

Appendix 4

Photographs



Facing west. Young cherries in foreground, mature Robinias to right.



Facing NNW existing gate centre right.



Facing S, Lime 3087 centre left. Site of planned parking in foreground.

