

46-1043-BPA  
Land adjacent to Damask Way  
4<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Wiltshire Council  
Bythesea Road  
Trowbridge  
Wiltshire  
BA14 8JN

By email: [developmentmanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:developmentmanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk)

**RE: PL/2026/03045 and BS5837 tree survey data in relation to G1**

Our client, Backhouse Housing Limited, has asked us, FLAC, to review G1 (subject to Tree Preservation Order) as to its condition with respect the safe use of the highway and the proposed development as detailed in PL/2026/03045.

This correspondence is an update to the BS5837:2012 tree survey (within 2201-AIA-MU by GE dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026) submitted to the planning authority with respect G1 and its sub-components.

Following my site on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026, please find following an updated description of G1:

*A linear group of trees mainly consisting of high canopy sycamore with occasional spruce, birch, ash. Abrupt canopy form of the west end of G1 commensurate with tree removals previously carried out to implement the pedestrian access to Upper Marsh Road from Damask Way. Series of trees from the lower side of the group closest to Upper Marsh Road with phototropic (growth towards light) development leading to leaning stems and asymmetrical canopies towards the highway and adjacent residential properties. Series of tree stumps (four to six) on the lower side of G1 adjacent to Upper Marsh Road commensurate with tree failure or removal associated with lean and/or asymmetrical canopies towards the highway and adjacent residential properties. Understorey of predominantly holly, laurel, with occasional hawthorn with development adjacent to the pathway within the woodland (additional 2nd pathway higher up within the group) encroaching within the highway narrowing the width of the useable carriageway.*

Works, regardless of the proposed development, to G1 are identified as:

- *Removal and/or crown reduction of mature trees within 5m of the highway to reduce the potential for uncontrolled failure towards the highway<sup>1</sup> and residential properties<sup>2</sup>.*
- *Removal and/or coppicing of understorey planting within 5m of the highway to remove encroachment impeding the safe use of the highway.*
- *Removal and treatment to prevent regrowth of 90% of holly and 100% of laurel within G1 to increase light to the herbaceous layer to improve biodiversity of the group.*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/section/154>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/3/section/1>

Please can the planning authority advise whether the works appropriate for the safe use of the highway and in accordance with the landowner's duty of care can be implemented within the normal exceptions<sup>3</sup>, or as part of a tree works application, or within the determination of PL/2026/03045. Please let me know if the (Arboricultural) representative from the council would like to meet on site to discuss the proposed works to aid an agreed common description to be formed that meets our client's legal responsibilities whilst retaining, as far as reasonable, trees subject to Tree Preservation Order. Please can the planning authority issue a copy of the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) (2018/00003/WOOD Land adjacent to Homefield 83A Upper Marsh Road) (in PDF format preferably) to FLAC.

Additionally, the BS5837 data for G1.2 is updated to a single stem of stem diameter of 855mm with a corresponding root protection area (radius) of 10.3m. This alternative root protection area (radius) can be reviewed in relation to the s278 vehicle access for the proposed development. There are two minor stems at the base of G1.2, but they are a separate tree from G1.2 with stem diameters of 427mm and 397mm from a common point of origin together.

**Ben Abbatt**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/605/regulation/14/made> see s14(1)(a)(ii)



46-1043 Image 1 Abrupt vertical canopy edge to G1 (G1.2 identified by red arrow). G21 is below and to the right of G1.



46-1043 Image 2 G1.2 identified by red arrow with G21 to left and in front of G1.2.



46-1043 Image 3 Asymmetrical canopy from G1 over Upper Marsh Road. Redline shows approximate canopy extents and, to the lower right, the tree stem growing out of the embankment.



46-1043 Image 4 Leaning tree and asymmetrical canopy from G1 over Upper Marsh Road and immediately adjacent to residential property.



46-1043 Image 5 Vegetation encroachment towards and within the highway.



46-1043 Image 6 Holly, hawthorn and other vegetation above and adjacent to Upper Marsh Road encroaching on the highway.



46-1043 Image 7 Path within G1 on embankment above Upper Marsh Road. 83A Upper Marsh Road visible at the end of the path.



46-1043 Image 8 Images of tree stumps on the top edge of the embankment between Upper Marsh Road and the lower path within G1.



46-1043 Image 9 G1.1 with prop root development down the embankment edge adjacent to Upper Marsh Road.



46-1043 Image 10 Pedestrian link from Damask Way with Upper Marsh Road with sheet piling on the edge of the footpath and adjacent to two mature oak trees.