



Sylvan Ecology

ARBORICULTURAL
REPORT:

BS 5837 – 2012

TATA STEELWORKS,
PONTARDDULAIS

For:



WALTERS

Project: Tata Steelworks, Pontarddulais

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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	4
2	METHODOLOGY	5
3	RESULTS	7
4	APPENDIX A	0



1 INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1 Sylvan Ecology were commissioned to prepare a tree survey report for *TATA Steelworks, Pontarddulais*, in order to inform the development design process as part of a proposed development planning application.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to identify the quality of the trees on this site, as categorised by the *British Standard 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction – Recommendations*. The survey and findings, as reported here, represent an unbiased third-party opinion, offering professional advice as to the value of the trees on site. To illustrate the constraints trees, pose to the design of any future development, a tree constraints plan can be found in Appendix A.

Site description

1.3 The site lies within *Pontarddulais*, approximately 12km northwest of Swansea. All associated land for the proposed development (herein referred to as the site) is located at:

- central OS grid reference: SN 59066 04270;
- nearest post code: SA4 8RX.

1.4 The site comprises of approximately 16 acres of amenity grassland, semi-improved grassland, scattered trees, woodlands, scrub, ephemeral vegetation, hedgerows and introduced shrubs. The immediate surrounding area is predominantly agricultural; there are also large sections of woodland (some of which could be ancient) and a relatively intact network of hedgerows. The surrounding landscape has good potential for roosting, foraging, and commuting bats.

Proposed works

1.5 The site is proposed for a residential development, a final site design is currently unavailable.



2 METHODOLOGY

Field Survey

2.1 The survey was carried out in accordance with the guidance set out in British Standard 5837:2012, *Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction – Recommendations*. This standard gives a systematic, consistent, and transparent evaluation method to tree surveys. The survey was undertaken in accordance with standard methodology by David Price TechArborA, Alice Wheeler and Katherine Wickens on 7th April 2023. Weather conditions on the day of the survey were suitable, dry, clear, with good visibility and a light breeze (Force 1 on the Beaufort Scale).

2.2 The survey involved a site walkover of the area falling within the site boundary shown on the map in *Appendix A* and approximately 12m beyond where accessible and/or appropriate. All observations were made from the ground using short focal range binoculars where appropriate. No invasive decay detecting instruments were utilised. Detailed notes were made in relation to any features considered important to the health, viability, or ecology of the trees. This information was used to inform the associated classification system as per the guidance. All trees, where appropriate and accessible, were tagged with metal identification tags, on the north side of the tree at 2m.

2.3 The survey was extended to include assessment of the potential of the site to support protected and/or notable species. Although this approach supports an initial analysis of the likely presence of protected or notable species, a comprehensive assessment may require season-critical survey techniques, which fall beyond the scope of this study. The presence of protected species was noted where possible, but walkthrough surveys cannot usually confirm species presence or absence; only the likelihood of presence can be assessed.

Soil Assessment

2.4 A soil assessment should be undertaken by a competent person to inform any decisions relating to the design process. The assessment should determine whether the soil is shrinkable. If it is, trees and other vegetation have the potential to cause indirect damage to structures. In such cases, desiccation assessments should be carried out at a specialist laboratory to check the extent to which existing vegetation has dehydrated the soil.



- 2.5 Soil structure, composition and pH should be included in the assessment for the purpose of designing new planting and landscape proposals.

- 2.6 **Limitations**
While every effort is made to ensure that an accurate assessment of the tree's condition is made during the survey, no responsibility can be taken for resultant damage or injury occurred by a failing tree. The survey only gives a snapshot of what is visible and not obscured on the day of survey.



3 RESULTS

Arboricultural Summary

- 3.1 The trees on site are dominated by areas of overgrown willow scrub; as result, many have grown too close to each other adversely impacted their growth, and or been subject to unsympathetic pruning. The condition of these trees and the groups has been classified in line with B.S.5837; the table below, summarises the results of the survey.

Species Diversity

- 3.2 Species diversity is low as the majority of the trees on site are from overgrown scrub and consist primary of willow or other fast growing species.



Tree No	Tree Tag ID	Spp	Diameter mm	Height (m)	Crown Spread (m)				Category	Life stage	Life Exp	Low Branch and direction	Observations
					N	S	E	W					
1	1958	Birch	215	13	2#	3	3.5	2	C1	SM	20-40	2m NE	Trees form part of group
2	1957	Willow	300; 280; 220	11	4#	7.5	5	4	C1	SM	20-40	1m S	Small cavities in trunk, low bat potential
3	-	Ash	180#	4	2#	1#	1#	1#	C1	SM	10-20	1.5m W	Trees part of scrub boundary
4	-	Hawthorn	180#	3.5	3.5#	3.5#	3#	3#	C1	SM	20-40	1m SE	
5	1955	Birch	290; 220	14	1.5#	4#	3.5#	5#	C1	SM	20-40	0.5m W	Pollarded birch – part of previous hedgerow.
6	1956	Birch	130; 180; 50; 50; 50	13	3#	4.5#	4#	4#	C1	SM	20-40	0.5 S	Pollarded birch – part of previous hedgerow
7	1954	Willow	260; 210	8	5#	4#	2#	5#	C1	SM	20-40	1m S	Trees part of group, all trees have impacted each other.
8	1953	Willow	370; 300; 320	15	5.5	7	6.5	6	C1	SM	20-40	1m S	Trees part of group, all trees have impacted each other.
9	1952	Willow	500#	15	6.5	5	5	2	C1	M	40+	2.5m W	Some small rot holes, possible bat potential
10	1951	Willow	120; 150	8	4.5	3.5	4.5	4	C1	SM	20-40	0.5m S	
11	1950	Oak	500#	10	4	4	5	4	C1	SM	>40	1.5m S	Two stem oak on boundary, one of the stems are off site
12		Oak	500#	10	4#	4#	4#	4#	C1	SM	>40	#	Oak tree off site, access and visibility restricted.
13		Cherry	100#; 100#; 100#	7	2#	2#	2#	2#	C1	Y	20-40	#	Cherry, off site.
14	1940	Oak	350#	10	4#	5.5#	4#	5#	B1	SM	40+	2m NW	Young, attractive oak on railway embankment, access and visibility restricted



15	-	Oak	350#	10	4#	6.5#	6#	3#	C1	SM	40+	2m S	Oak on railway embankment, access and visibility restricted
16	-	Oak	400	9	4.5#	3	5	3	C1	SM	40+	1m N	Oak on railway embankment, access and visibility restricted
17	1934	Birch	360; 220; 160	10	5	3.5	3	1.5	C1	SM	10-20	2.5m N	
18	1931	Willow	610	12	5.5#	4	5	1	C1	M	40+	3m N	Heavy ivy growth, tree in contact with building
19	1937	Willow	650	9	5.5	3	5#	3.5	C1	M	20-40	2.5m S	Heavy ivy growth, tree in contact with building
20	1936	Willow	260; 190; 180	7	6#	8	5#	7#	C1	M	20-40	1m W	Large multistem willow, tree in contact with security fence
21	1932	Birch	200	9	4	1	3.5	2	C1	SM	<10	2.5m W	Spindly tree, impacted by surrounding vegetation.
22	1935	Birch	580	12	6.5	6	5.5	5	C1	SM	10 - 20	2n NE	
23	1933	Willow	220; 300#	6	4	6	6	6	C1	M	10-20	1m N	Tree Has many snapped branches, could offer potential roosting spots for bats
24	1930	Willow	450#	10	6	3	5	4	C1	SM	10-20	1m W	Tree Has many snapped branches, could offer potential roosting spots for bats
25	1908	Willow	350	8	3	4	4.5	2	C1	SM	40+	3m E	
26	-	Sycamore	370	8	2.5#	7	4.5	5	C1	SM	20-40	1m E	Hollows in branch, low bat potential
27	-	Birch	250	9	2.5#	4	3#	4	C1	M	40+	1m S	
28	1909	Willow	450	6	0.5	8	6	7.5	C1	SM	20-40	1m W	
29	1910	Willow	600; 160	8	6.5	5	7.5	7.5	C1	M	20-40	0m E	
30	1911	Willow	80; 100	6	2	4	3.5	1	C1	SM	40+	1m E	
31	1912	Birch	370	9	3.5	2	2	2.5	C1	M	20-40	3m N	Dense ivy cover, moderate bat potential
32	-	Birch	450	10	4#	4.5#	4#	4.5	C1	M	20-40	4m S	Birds nest / bat potential – partially felled
33	1913	Willow	350; 320	10	6.5	4	6	5	C1	M	10-20	1.5m N	Birds nest / bat potential – partially felled
34	1914	Willow	500; 630	9	5	3	4	1	C1	M	10-20	1m E	Partially felled
35	1916	Willow	550; 260	9	1.5#	2#	5#	4	C1	M	20-40	2m E	Partially felled
36	1918	Willow	230	9	2#	1.5#	1#	1#	C1	M	10-20	2.5m S	Partially felled
37	1917	Willow	330; 370	9	3#	8.5#	7.5#	1	C1	M	20-40	2m N	Partially felled



G1	Cat C1	Area of scrub along railway embankment. Species composition is dominated by young birch, willow, oak, and ash with an average height of 8m. The understorey is dominated by gorse, buddleia, and bramble.
G2	Cat C1	Small area of scrub, with young birch, willow, oak with an average height of 8m. The understorey is dominated by gorse and bramble, partially behind fence
G3	Cat C1	Small area of overgrown and unmanaged willow scrub.
G4	Cat C1	Small area of hawthorn scrub on boundary.
G5	Cat C1	Small group of partially felled multistem willows on site boundary, with an average height of 10m and stem diameter of 300mm. The trees have been heavily cut back and have been impacted upon by neighbouring trees. It is recommended that the trees are removed.
G6	Cat C1	Small group of partially felled multistem willows on site boundary. The trees have been heavily cut back and have been impacted upon by neighbouring trees. It is recommended that the trees are removed.
G7	Cat C1	Small group of partially felled multistem willows on site boundary, with an average height of 10m and stem diameter of 300mm. The trees have been heavily cut back and have been impacted upon by neighbouring trees. It is recommended that the trees are removed.
G8	Cat C1	Small group of partially felled multistem willows on site boundary, with an average height of 10m and stem diameter of 300mm. The trees have been heavily cut back and have been impacted upon by neighbouring trees. It is recommended that the trees are removed.
G9	Cat C1	Small area of hawthorn scrub.
G10	Cat C1	Small cluster of semi mature birch trees off site. Access and viability a constraint.
G11	Cat B1	Large, mature oak trees, with small birch, and willow and railway embankment. The trees are too far down the embankment to make an accurate assessment of size etc.
G12	Cat B1	Large mature, oak and willow trees. Trees are down the railway embankment, so access and visibility are a constraint. Evidence of Japanese knotweed.
G13	Cat C1	Leyland cypress hedge C. 7m high and 3m wide. The hedge has been heavily and unsympathetically cut back leaving several large bare areas.
G14	Cat C1	Leyland cypress hedge C. 7m high and 3m wide. The hedge has been heavily and unsympathetically cut back leaving several large bare areas.



G15	Cat C1	Area of willow scrub, trees approximately 10m tall. Japanese knotweed throughout.
G16	Cat C1	Area of willow and birch scrub, trees approximately 5m tall, limited understory. Japanese knotweed present.
G17	Cat C1	Small stand of willow trees, approx. 10 m tall, low bat potential. Japanese knotweed
G18	Cat C1	Small stand of birch trees, approximately 9m tall. Japanese knotweed
G19	Cat C1	Area of overgrown willow and birch scrub, with Japanese knotweed throughout.
G20	Cat B1	Group of overgrown, scrub around pond. Species composition is dominated by mature willow, ash, and birch. There is little understorey, and there is evidence of Japanese knotweed. It is recommended that a management strategy is put together to, thin out the trees and allow the pond and the trees to be enhanced.
G21	Cat C1	Area of willow and birch scrub along railway embankment.



Photo 1: Overview of G6, G7 and G8.



Photo 2: Overview of G16



Trees

3.3

One tree (T14) and three groups on site were deemed worthy of a *Category B* grade; the remainder of the trees and groups were *Category C*. Trees or groups of a *Category B* grade should be considered as constraints and any loss mitigated/compensated for appropriately. Trees or groups of a *Category C* grade will not usually be retained where they would impose a significant



constraint to development. The majority of the trees on site have been designated Category C due to the damage they have received, their likely reduced lifespan or their low inherent value.

Lost trees

- 3.4 No final site design is available so the exact number of trees to be lost is currently unknown.

Tree constraints plan

- 3.5 The TCP attached overleaf, highlights the above and below ground constraints each tree poses to the future scheme design. The orange circle set out the RPAs, and the different coloured circled highlight the crown spread of the trees on site.



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TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN

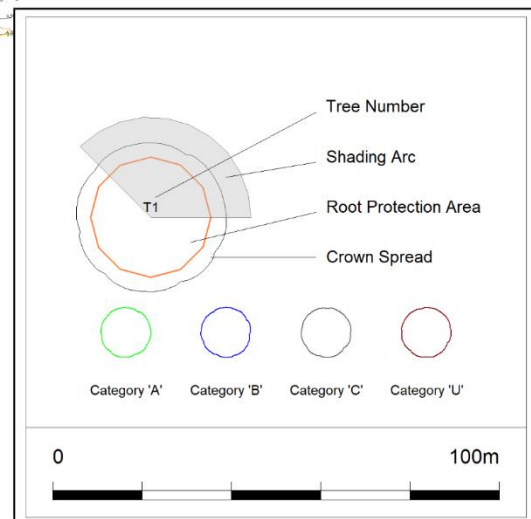
Pontarddulais Steelworks

Date: May 2023

Drawn by: D.P.
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Scale: 1: 1700 @A4

Drawing N^o: v1.1





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