Sharon Hosegood
ASSOCIATES

# Trees at land east of Layer Road, Colchester CO2 0HR

**Introduction:**

The tree survey was carried out by Sharon Durdant-Hollamby Chartered Arboriculturist on 21.05.25 in fair weather. All trees and hedges are on, or near, the boundaries. The site is framed on the eastern and western boundary by a high quality landscape of mature and early mature native trees with an understorey of shrubs. There is a mature oak close to the boundary in the garden to the south, and to the north. There is one veteran tree (SHA T23) on the road side. The detail in this report is appropriate for a pre-application planning submission and for design iteration.



**Methodology:**

Tree survey using Visual Tree Assessment carried out in accordance with BS 5837:2012 '*Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*' (BS). All investigations were from ground level only and binoculars were used when necessary. All trees with a trunk diameter of 75mm or above were surveyed in proportionate to the level of survey required at this early stage. Individual trees were not measured or examined, but best estimates based on experience were made. Obvious hedges and shrub masses were identified where appropriate. Information collected is in accordance with recommendations in subsection 4.4.2.5 of BS and include species, height, diameter, branch spread, crown clearance, age class, physiological condition, structural condition and remaining contribution, proportionate to the level of survey required at this stage. Each tree was then allocated one of four categories (U, A, B or C). In the absence of a topographical survey, the trees were plotted using the National Tree Map purchased from Map Serve.

**Legal information:**

There are no Tree Preservation Orders, and the site is not in a Conservation Area. Felling Licence regulations apply. The site is not a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland, or Ancient Replanted Woodland. There is one veteran tree which has particular protection under the National Planning Policy Framework December 2024.

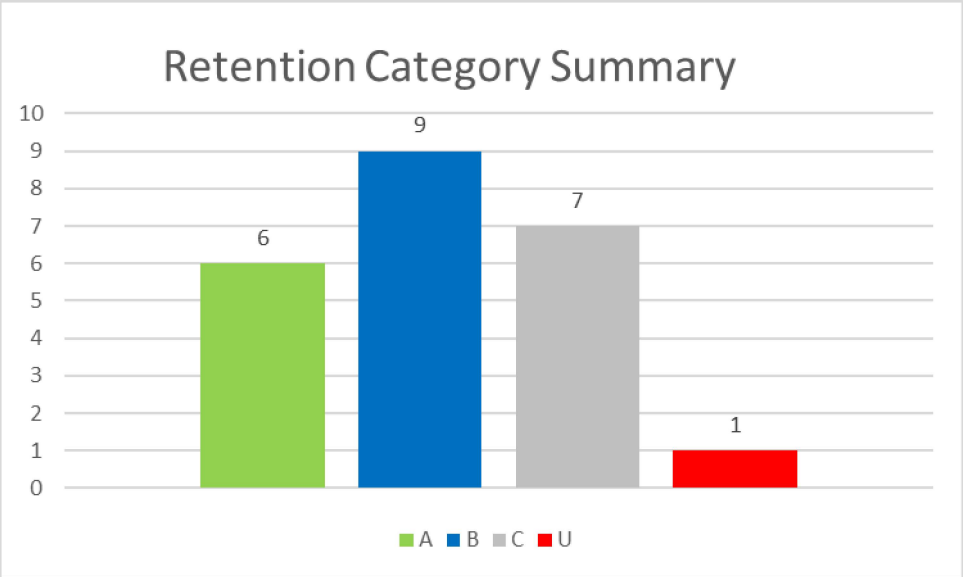


*Table 1 – Retention category for groups/individuals*
*A – high quality*
*B – moderate quality*
*C – low quality*
*U – unsuitable for retention*



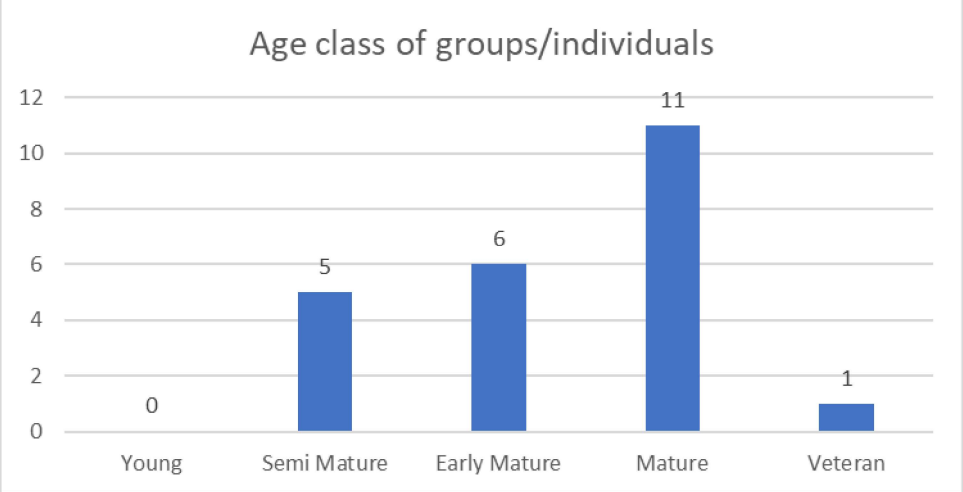


Table 2 – age class of trees/groups

Y – young
SM – Semi mature
EM – early mature
M – Mature
OM – Over mature
V - Veteran

**Findings and recommendations**

- Good potential for development
- All trees to be retained to remain in public realm which ensure that the tree population are managed holistically without pressure to prune or individual tree management. This will maintain the integrity of the tree belt, which is important for screening, ecological connectivity and, in the case of the roadside trees, pollution mitigation.
- The trees will provide a sense of maturity to any future development.
- Minor tree works and further inspections must be budgeted for.
- There is scope for infill planting on the boundary where there are gaps.
- Option B is a good solution for the site in terms of arboriculture and a natural location for the access, as there is a dead tree and lower quality trees at this point. There are no conflicts with trees for this layout.

**Next steps**

- A topographical survey to be carried out
- A detailed BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction. Recommendation tree survey to be carried out based on the topographical survey
- Close design team collaboration
- An Arboricultural Impact Assessment to be carried out
- Arboricultural Method Statement and Site Supervision Schedule to be carried out post planning consent.



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**Specific report caveats**

1. At the time of writing this report, the protected tree status is correct. However, this can change. Therefore, I advise that a further check is made with Colchester City Council before any works to trees take place.
2. This survey is a 'light' survey, and not a tree health survey or a full BS survey. It at a proportionate level for the stage of development so far.
3. The survey was not based on a topographical survey, but on a purchased National Tree Map which has limitations. A full tree survey, based on a topographical survey will be required for the Arboricultural Impact Assessment for a planning application.
4. The survey is concerned solely with Arboricultural issues.
5. Any changes in ground level, or excavations near to tree roots not discussed within this report may change the stability and condition of the trees and a further examination would be required.
6. As trees are a dynamic living organism this report is only valid for a period of 12 months, in respect to their health and condition.
7. Only the trees listed in this report have been examined.
8. The measure of offsite trees has been estimated, except any crown within the site overhang which is measured. Where the crown of an onsite tree overhangs the boundary, the crown spread in this direction is also estimated.
9. The base and trunk of the offsite trees could not be examined, and therefore a full assessment of the trees condition could not be made.
10. Dense ivy and undergrowth prevent a full condition survey being carried out. The vegetation may be hiding structural defects. This applies to nearly all trees on this survey.
11. The tree information is from the time of the survey. Some pests, diseases and fungi only appear seasonally; therefore, it is possible not all issues that may affect the health of the trees could be observed.

**Explanation of the tree survey sheets**

The tree survey has been carried out in accordance with BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'. Below is an annotation of the abbreviations in the sheet and their meanings.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tree Number | Botanical Name (Common name) | Age | Dia (mm) | Stems | Height (crown height) | Ult ht (m) | N | E | S | W | Cond | Life Exp | BS Cat | RPR (m) | RPA ($m^2$) | Comments | Recommendations |

1 Tree

**T** - Tree, **G** - Group of trees, **H** - Hedge and **S** -shrub mass

2 Species - Botanical name and (Common name)

3 Age

**NP** – Newly planted, **Y** – Young - an establishing tree that could be easily transplanted

**SM** - Semi-mature - an established tree still to reach its ultimate height and spread with considerable growth potential.

**EM** – Early mature – a tree reaching its ultimate height and whose growth is slowing, however it will still increase considerably in stem diameter and crown spread.

**M** – Mature – a tree with limited potential for further significant increase in size, although likely to have a considerable safe useful life expectancy

**OM** – Over-mature – of an age where the mature size of the tree can no longer be maintained, and adaptive growth strategies such as 'retrenchment' (growing down) are commencing. These strategies should not be confused with senescence or a moribund condition, as a good life expectancy can remain.

**V** – Veteran/Ancient – either a tree older than typical for the species, or a tree showing signs of age, and of great ecological, cultural or aesthetic value.

4 Dia (mm)

Diameter of the stem in millimetres at 1.5m above ground level for single stemmed tree or in accordance with Annex C of BS 5837 for multi-stemmed trees or trees with low forks or irregular stems.

5 Stems

Number or stems. Multi-stemmed is m/s

6 Height (Crown height)

Height in metres from the ground to the top of the crown

(Crown height) – height of canopy above ground level

7 Ult ht (m)

Height in metres that could be reasonably expected for the species given its condition, past management and location.

8 NSEW

The crown spread from the trunk to the tips of the crown at the four cardinal points

9 Cond

Physiological condition. Good, fair, poor or dead

10 Life Exp

Estimated remaining contribution in years; <10, 10+, 20+ and 40+.

11 BS Cat

Category in accordance with Table 1 and section 4.5 of BS

**U** – unsuitable for retention. Existing condition is such that they cannot be realistically retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years. Note, category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which might be desirable to preserve.

**A** – high quality and value (non-fiscal) with at least 40 years remaining life expectancy

**B** – moderate quality and value with at least 40 years remaining life expectancy

**C** – low quality and value with at least 10 years remaining life expectancy, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm

A, B and C category trees are additionally graded into: 1 – mainly arboricultural values, 2 – mainly landscape values and 3 – mainly cultural values including conservation

12 RPR (m)

RPR – Root protection area radius (m)

13 RPA – Root protection area ($m^2$)

14 Comments

Detailed comments about the tree

15 Preliminary recommendations

Recommendations based on the tree's conditions and its current surroundings.

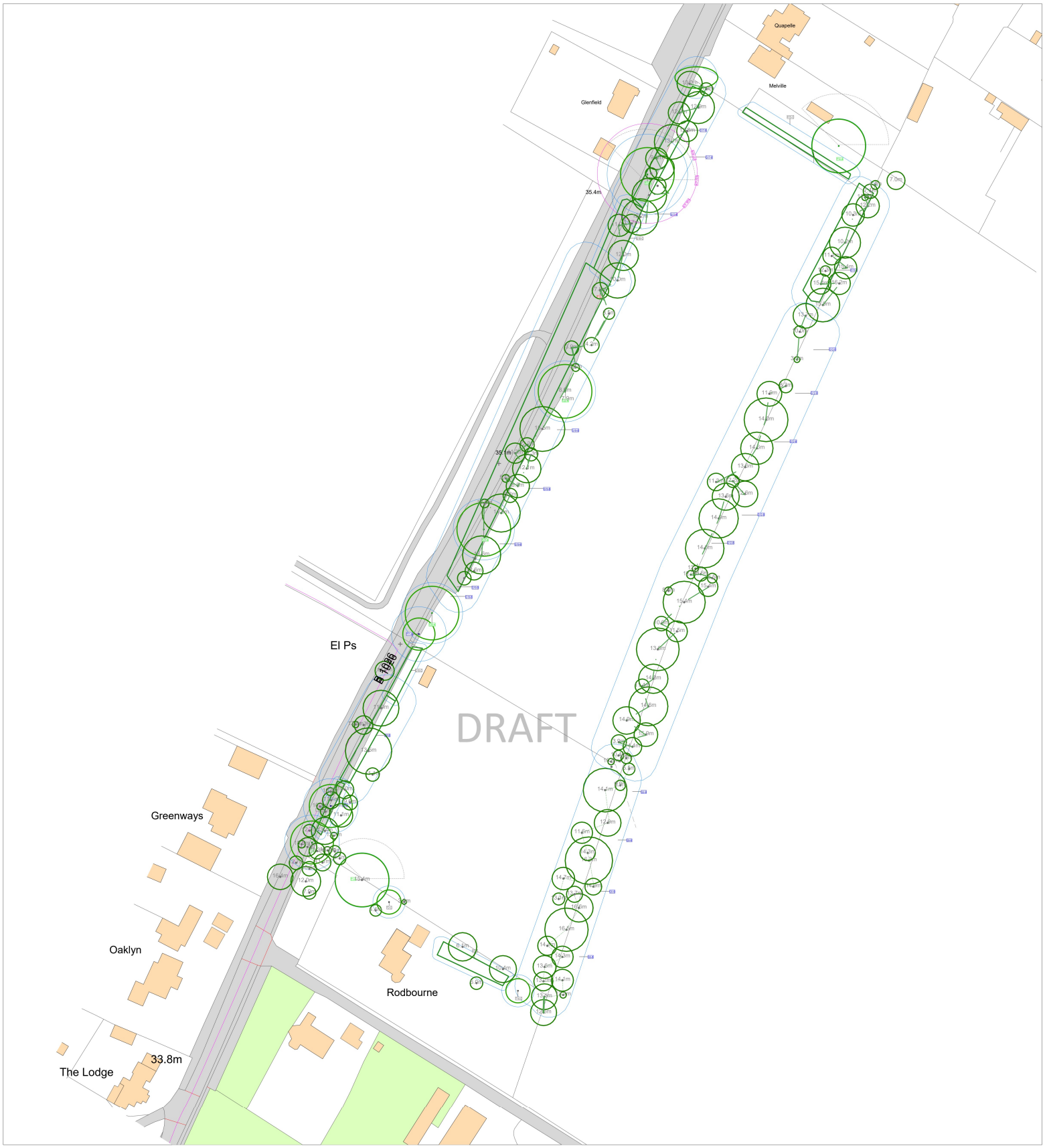
| Tree Number | Botanical Name (Common name) | Age | Dia (mm) | Stems | Height (crown height) | Ult ht (m) | N | E | S | W | Cond | Life Exp | BS Cat | RPR (m) | RPA ($m^2$) | Comments | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T1 | Quercus robur (Common Oak) | M | 850 | 1 | 16(2) | 25 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | Good | 40+ | A2 | 10.2 | 326.89 | Prominent tree. Offsite tree. Good form and condition.Focal point. Viewed from a distance due to live fence. | |
| T2 | Cuppressus macrocarpa (golden monterer Cypress) | M | 500 | 1 | 12(2) | 20 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | Good | 40+ | C2 | 6 | 113.11 | Offsite tree. Reasonable form and condition. Collective, rather than individual, visual amenity. | |
| H3 | X Cupressocyparis leylandii (Leyland Cypress) | SM | 150 | 1 | 4(0) | 4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | Good | 20+ | C1 | 1.8 | 10.18 | Forms a dense screen. Well maintained neat rectangular hedge. | |
| T4 | Cuppressus macrocarpa (golden monterer Cypress) | M | 500 | 1 | 12(2) | 20 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | Good | 40+ | C2 | 6 | 113.11 | Offsite tree. Reasonable form and condition. Collective, rather than individual, visual amenity. | |
| G5 | Quercus robur (Common Oak),Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn) | EM | 650 | 1 | 16(2) | 25 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | Good | 40+ | B2 | 7.8 | 191.16 | Provides a high level of visual amenity. Good form and condition. Collective, rather than individual, visual amenity. Part of linear group. Ivy on tree. Major deadwood in crown. Crown distorted due to group pressure. Small amount of twig sized dead wood interspersed in the crown. Line of oaks growing close together to form a strong landscape feature. | |

| Tree Number | Botanical Name (Common name) | Age | Dia (mm) | Stems | Height (crown height) | Ult ht (m) | N | E | S | W | Cond | Life Exp | BS Cat | RPR (m) | RPA ($m^2$) | Comments | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G6 | Quercus robur (Common Oak),Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn) | EM | 650 | 1 | 16(2) | 25 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | Good | 40+ | B2 | 7.8 | 191.16 | Provides a high level of visual amenity. Good form and condition. Collective, rather than individual, visual amenity. Part of linear group. Ivy on tree. Major deadwood in crown. Crown distorted due to group pressure. Small amount of twig sized dead wood interspersed in the crown. Line of oaks growing close together to form a strong landscape feature. Blackthorn to the south. | |
| T7 | Quercus robur (Common Oak) | M | 850 | 1 | 19(2) | 25 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | Good | 40+ | A2 | 10.2 | 326.89 | Prominent tree. Good form and condition. Dieback in crown. Focal point. | |
| T8 | Quercus robur (Common Oak) | M | 850 | 1 | 11(4) | 25 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | Fair | 40+ | B1 | 10.2 | 326.89 | Prominent tree. Good form and condition. Dieback in crown. Broad and squat | |
| G9 | Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn) | SM | 100 | 2 | 3(0) | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Fair | 20+ | C2 | 1.69 | 8.97 | Reasonable form and condition. Forms a dense screen.Scrubby. | |
| G10 | Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn) | SM | 100 | 2 | 3(0) | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Fair | 20+ | C2 | 1.69 | 8.97 | Reasonable form and condition. Forms a dense screen.Scrubby. | |
| T11 | Quercus robur (Common Oak) | M | 850 | 1 | 9(4) | 25 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | Fair | 40+ | B1 | 10.2 | 326.89 | Prominent tree. Good form and condition. Dieback in crown.Broad and squat. | |

| Tree Number | Botanical Name (Common name) | Age | Dia (mm) | Stems | Height (crown height) | Ult ht (m) | N | E | S | W | Cond | Life Exp | BS Cat | RPR (m) | RPA ($m^2$) | Comments | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G12 | Quercus robur (Common Oak),Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), Populus serotina (Hybrid Black Poplar) | EM | 650 | 1 | 16(2) | 25 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | Good | 40+ | B2 | 7.8 | 191.16 | Provides a high level of visual amenity. Good form and condition. Collective, rather than individual, visual amenity. Part of linear group. Ivy on tree. Major deadwood in crown. Crown distorted due to group pressure. Small amount of twig sized dead wood interspersed in the crown. Line of oaks growing close together to form a strong landscape feature. 7 poplars interspersed with oaks. | |
| G13 | Quercus robur (Common Oak),Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn) ,Populus serotina (Hybrid Black Poplar) | EM | 650 | 1 | 16(2) | 25 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | Good | 40+ | B2 | 7.8 | 191.16 | Provides a high level of visual amenity. Good form and condition. Collective, rather than individual, visual amenity. Part of linear group. Ivy on tree. Major deadwood in crown. Crown distorted due to group pressure. Small amount of twig sized dead wood interspersed in the crown. Line of oaks growing close together to form a strong landscape feature. 1 large poplar interspersed with oaks. Viewed from a distance due to live electric fence. | |

| Tree Number | Botanical Name (Common name) | Age | Dia (mm) | Stems | Height (crown height) | Ult ht (m) | N | E | S | W | Cond | Life Exp | BS Cat | RPR (m) | RPA ($m^2$) | Comments | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T14 | Quercus robur (Common Oak) | M | 850 | 1 | 15(2) | 25 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | Good | 40+ | A2 | 10.2 | 326.89 | Prominent tree. Offsite tree. Good form and condition.Focal point. Viewed from a distance due to live fence. | |
| H15 | X Cupressocyparis leylandii (Leyland Cypress) | SM | 150 | 1 | 2(0) | 4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | Good | 20+ | C1 | 1.8 | 10.18 | Forms a dense screen. Well maintained neat rectangular hedge. | |
| T16 | Quercus robur (Common Oak) | M | 800 | 1 | 8(0) | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Dead | <10 | U | 9.6 | 289.57 | Dead. | |
| G17 | Quercus robur (Common Oak),Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn) | EM | 650 | 1 | 16(2) | 25 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | Good | 40+ | B2 | 7.8 | 191.16 | Provides a high level of visual amenity. Good form and condition. Collective, rather than individual, visual amenity. Part of linear group. Ivy on tree. Major deadwood in crown. Crown distorted due to group pressure. Small amount of twig sized dead wood interspersed in the crown. Line of oaks growing close together to form a strong landscape feature. | |
| G18 | Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn) | SM | 100 | 2 | 3(0) | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Fair | 20+ | C2 | 1.69 | 8.97 | Reasonable form and condition. Forms a dense screen.Scrubby. Some dead trees. | |

| Tree Number | Botanical Name (Common name) | Age | Dia (mm) | Stems | Height (crown height) | Ult ht (m) | N | E | S | W | Cond | Life Exp | BS Cat | RPR (m) | RPA ($m^2$) | Comments | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G19 | Quercus robur (Common Oak),Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), Sambucus nigra (Elder) | EM | 650 | 1 | 16(2) | 25 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | Good | 40+ | B2 | 7.8 | 191.16 | Provides a high level of visual amenity. Good form and condition. Collective, rather than individual, visual amenity. Part of linear group. Ivy on tree. Major deadwood in crown. Crown distorted due to group pressure. Small amount of twig sized dead wood interspersed in the crown. Line of oaks growing close together to form a strong landscape feature. Mix sizes. | |
| T20 | Quercus robur (Common Oak) | M | 950 | 1 | 19(2) | 25 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | Good | 40+ | A2 | 11.4 | 408.33 | Prominent tree. Good form and condition. Dieback in crown. Focal point. | |
| T21 | Quercus robur (Common Oak) | M | 950 | 1 | 19(2) | 25 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | Good | 40+ | A2 | 11.4 | 408.33 | | |
| T22 | Quercus robur (Common Oak) | M | 950 | 1 | 19(2) | 25 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | Good | 40+ | A2 | 11.4 | 408.33 | Prominent tree. Good form and condition. Dieback in crown. Focal point. | |
| T23 | Quercus robur (Common Oak) | V | 1,250 | 1 | 15(2) | 25 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | Good | 40+ | A2 | 15 ATF 18.75 | 706.95 | Prominent tree. Good form and condition. Dieback in crown. Focal point. | Carry out further inspection. |




T1-A Category A - high quality and value
T1-B Category B - moderate quality and value
T1-C Category C - low quality and value
T1-U Category U - unsuitable for retention

Crown spread of trees

RPA - root protection area as defined by Table 2 BS 5837:2012

Ancient Tree Forum RPA calculated as 15 x stem diameter

Group

Group

Shading arc

There are no Tree Preservation Orders and the site is not in a Conservation Area. Felling Licence Regulations apply.

Please note this is not based on a topographical drawing, and therefore tree locations need to be checked on site. Tree locations are based on National Tree Map based on satellite locations. It does not have the accuracy of a topographical survey/

Notes

1. Contractors to check all dimensions on site
2. Discrepancies must be reported to the Arboricultural Consultant before proceeding
3. The original of this drawing was produced in colour, a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.
4. It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure necessary consents for tree works are in place
5. This drawing is copyright © Sharon Hosegood Associates Ltd

| Rev : | Description : | Authorized : |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

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Client
Harding Landvest Ltd

Site Address
Land east of Layer Rd, Colchester

| Drawing Title | Orientation | Drawn | Authorized |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tree Survey Plan | | ND-H | SMD-H |
| **Date** | **Drawing Number** | **Scale** | **Drawing Status** |
| 22.5.25 | SHA 1966 TSP | 1:750@A3 | DRAFT |

Revision
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T1-A Category A - high quality and value

T1-B Category B - moderate quality and value

T1-C Category C - low quality and value

T1-U Category U - unsuitable for retention

Crown spread of trees

RPA - root protection area as defined by Table 2 BS 5837:2012

Ancient Tree Forum RPA calculated as 15 x stem diameter

Group

Group

Shading arc

There are no Tree Preservation Orders and the site is not in a Conservation Area. Felling Licence Regulations apply.

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| Rev : | Description : | Authorized : |
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Client

Harding Landvest Ltd

Site Address

Land east of Layer Rd, Colchester

| Drawing Title | Orientation | Drawn | Authorized |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tree Information Plan | | ND-H | SMD-H |
| **Date** | **Drawing Number** | **Scale** | **Drawing Status** |
| 03.06.25 | SHA 1966 TIP | 1:750@A3 | DRAFT |

Revision

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