

Spa Pods – Raithwaite Hall  
Tree survey and  
Arboricultural assessment  
August 2012



NYM / 2012 / 0 4 4 2 / F L 4

Landscape Architects ■ Urban Designers ■ Ecologists ■ Horticulturists

## CONTENTS

### ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY

1.0	Introduction	Page 3
	1.1 Site description	Page 3
	1.2 Legal status of trees	Page 3
2.0	Aims and Methodology	Page 4
	2.1 Aims	Page 4
	2.2 Survey methodology	Page 4
3.0	Key to tree survey schedules	Page 5
	3.1 Individual trees survey schedules	Page 6
4.0	Summary	Page 7
	<b>Figures:</b>	Page 7
	Figure 1 – T1	Page 7
	Figure 2 – T2 + T3	Page 7
	Figure 3 – T5	Page 7



NYM / 2012 / 0442 / FL 4

## TREE SURVEY

### 1.0 Introduction

This tree survey has been commissioned by The Skelwith Group and carried out by Smeeden Foreman Ltd on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2012. The purpose of the report has been to assess the quality of certain trees, and thus their suitability for retention, with regard to proposed development on land at Raithwaite Hall, North Yorkshire.

### 1.1 Site description and development proposed

The proposed site is situated off the A174/Sandsend Road, near Whitby in North Yorkshire. Refer to drawing SF 1919 SL01: Site Location, for a plan of the whole site and which shows the existing and proposed buildings and roads.

The areas surveyed are as follows:

- those trees located within area 3, to the west of the main hall building, totalling 5 individual trees (see drawing SF 1919 TS04: Root Protection Areas);

The site is bordered by the A174/Sandsend Road to the north, open farmland to the east, the wooded valleys of Newholm Beck and Dunsley Beck to the south and farmland to the west. It comprises steep sided valleys within the ravine, which become gentle slopes and rolling hills at the edge and then outside of the site. Levels range from approximately 60m Ordnance Newlyn Datum (OND) along the south western edge of Raithwaite Gill, to 59.5m OND south of the main parking area on the eastern boundary of the site, and drops to its lowest point, at 4.95m OND, where Dunsley and Newholm Becks pass under the A174/Sandsend Road.

### 1.2 Legal status of surveyed trees

Following a phone conversation with Graham Wilkinson in the Planning Services Department at Scarborough Borough Council on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011, and letter received from them on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011 (reference 11/02318/TR), there are no trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) in the part of Raithwaite estate within Scarborough Borough Council's jurisdiction. Enquiries have been made to Scarborough Borough Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2012 to determine if this information is still correct and a response is expected within 21 days. The National Park Portal Geographic Information System of the North York Moors National Park (NYMNP) was accessed on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and there are no trees subject to TPOs in the part of the site within the NYMNP Authority's jurisdiction.

Trees may also be subject to legal protection under a range of other legislation, much of which is aimed at wildlife and habitat protection, particularly nesting birds and bats. No work should be done to any trees until either suitable permission has been granted or it has been verified that the intended work does not require permission.

NYM / 2012 / 0442 / PL  
NYMNP  
- 8 AUG 2012

## 2.0 Aims and Methodology

### 2.1 Aims

The aims of the survey are to undertake a non-invasive survey of the identified trees and any trees which have the potential to be affected by future works within the vicinity. The Tree Survey Plan shows the location and category of the surveyed trees.

### 2.2 Survey Methodology

The survey was carried out to British Standard 5837:2012 using the categories explained below:

- 2.2.1 The trees were assessed visually from ground level. Where potential problems were identified, further inspection by tree climbing is recommended. No digging or drilling methods were employed during this survey
- 2.2.2 The tree numbers or group numbers within the schedules refer to the order in which the trees were recorded and shown on the tree survey plan
- 2.2.3 The approximate height of each tree is measured from ground level to top of canopy using a clinometer;
- 2.2.4 The diameter of each tree is measured at 1.5m above ground level. Where a tree stem divides below 1.5m each stem is measured at 1.5m above ground level in accordance with Annex C of the British standard. The diameter of trees where the trunk was inaccessible have been estimated and marked as such within the survey schedules.
- 2.2.5 The age of each tree is based upon our experience and is divided into young, semi-mature, early-mature, mature, over mature and veteran.
- 2.2.6 The physiological condition of the trees is based upon our experience and is an assessment of the health and vigour of the tree.
- 2.2.7 The structural condition and description is also based on our experience.
- 2.2.8 Both the approximate expected lifespan remaining and category / rating of each tree is based on our experience;
- 2.2.9 The retention category of each tree or group of trees is based upon the information detailed above using the following categories:

- A** Trees of high quality and estimated life expectancy of at least 40 years (Light green on plan)
- B** Trees of moderate quality and estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years (Mid blue on plan)
- C** Trees of low quality and estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm (Grey on plan)
- U** Trees cannot realistically be retained as living trees in context of current land use for longer than 10 years (Dark red on plan)

- 2.2.10 The following subcategories have been used in rating tree value:

- 1** Mainly arboricultural value
- 2** Mainly landscape value
- 3** Mainly cultural values, including conservation



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### 3.0 Key to survey schedules:

**Tree no.** Tree number as recorded on the plan: T1, T2 etc and for tree groups: G1, G2 etc. Hedges: H1, H2 etc.

**Species** Common name

**Height** Overall estimated height of the tree in metres (rounded up to the nearest metre for trees over 10m high).

**Stem Dia** Stem diameter measured in millimetres at 1.5m above ground (on sloping ground measured on the upslope of the stem) in accordance with Annex C of BS5837:2012-05-23

**Branch spread** measured in metres (rounded up to the nearest half metre) along the four cardinal points: north, east, south and west to derive an accurate representation of the crown.

**Ht crown clearance** the existing height, measured in metres, above ground level of: the first significant branch and direction of growth and the canopy.

**Age class** young (Y), semi-mature (SM), early mature (EM), mature (M), over-mature (OM), veteran (V).

**Physiological condition** Good (G), fair (F), poor (P), dead (D).

**Structural condition** overall form of tree, presence of any decay, any physical defects and observations

**Preliminary Management Recommendations** including any further investigations required, wildlife habitat potential, management or pruning works.

**ERC** the estimated remaining contribution measured in years: <10, 10+, 20+, 20-30+, 40+

**Cat** category U or A to C grading as defined in Table I BS 5837: 2012

**RPA** Root protection area measured in square metres and calculated according to BS 5837:2012

Other abbreviations used:

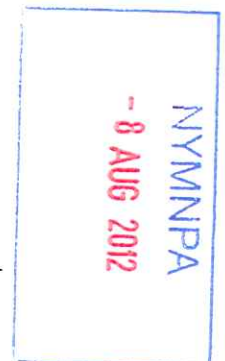
<b>GL</b>	Ground-level	<b>G</b>	Group		
<b>MS</b>	Multi-stem	<b>T</b>	Tree	<b>Est</b>	Estimate
<b>OSB</b>	Outside site boundary	<b>H</b>	Hedge	<b>AFP</b>	Access facilitation pruning (one-off pruning to allow access for construction)

NYM/NPA  
 - 8 AUG 2012

NYM / 2012 / 0442 / FL

Tree No.	Tag No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem Dia (mm)	Branch Spread (m)	Ht crown clearance (m)	Age Class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Preliminary management recommendations	ERC (years)	Cat	RPA (m <sup>2</sup> )
T1	0001	Copper Beech	20	955*	N 2 E 5.5 S 6 W 13	8	M	Good	Divides at 1.5m Stem to north east – vertical Stem to south west leans outwards towards south and drive	None	+40	A2	412.6
T2	0002	Scots Pine	16	720*	N 3 E 4 S 7 W 7	9	M	Good	Canopy reduced adjacent to copper beech.	None	+40	A2	234.6
T3	0003	Copper Beech	19	923	N 5.5 E 9.5 S 13 W 3	8	M	Good	Area to south side of trunk, decayed wood from 500 – 2000mm with bark occluding to either side. General moderate lean to south east. Major limb to south.	Monitor condition of stem cavity.	+40	A2	385.7
T4	Not Tagged	Irish Yew	9.5	-	N 2 E 2 S 2 W 2	0	EM	Good	Multiple stems from ground level. Canopy slightly suppressed on south west side by adjacent beech.	None	+40	A2	-
T5	0004	Pine	17	790	N 6 E 5.5 S 4 W 7	9	M	Good	Cavity on trunk to south west from 300mm – 600mm appears dry and superficial.	Monitor condition of stem cavity.	+40	A2	282.4

\* Figure slightly larger due to Ivy stems on trunk





#### 4.0 Summary

All of the trees within the study area T1-T5 (Figures 1, 2 and 3) are of a high quality (category A). They are located on a steep vegetated bank, adjacent to the main Hall buildings. Most of the trees (T1, T2, T3 and T5) are mature and have been allowed to generally develop a healthy and uninhibited spread however there is some leaning to the south west by T1 and to the north east by T3. T4 is early mature shrubby tree and located at the bottom of the bank next to the river.

These trees should be retained where possible and development should not take place within their root protection areas (RPAs), unless measures are taken to avoid damage to the roots. It would therefore be recommended that to avoid potential damage to the root system of the trees, the following measures are considered for works within the RPAs;

- The proposed access route should be of boardwalk style to minimise the need for foundation construction.
- Trenching for services should be avoided
- Excavations for foundations should be avoided
- Excavations to create terraces should be avoided
- Machinery should not be introduced beneath tree canopies where this could result in damage to limbs



Figure 1



Figure 2

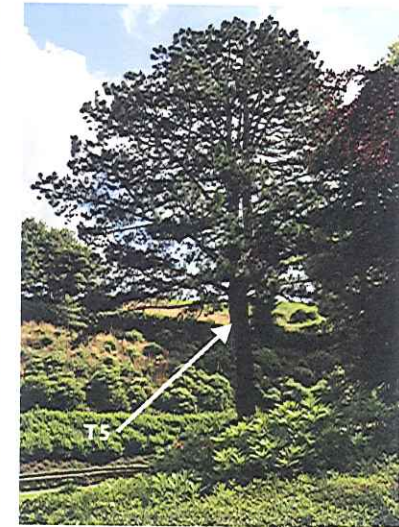


Figure 3