



ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

**at:
Whittle Fold Farm
Whittle Lane
Greater Manchester**

OL10 2RD

Special Branch Tree Surgeons LTD

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1.1 This report details the findings of an arboricultural safety inspection and risk assessment of the trees at **Whittle Fold Farm**.
- 1.1.2 This report details the relevant arboricultural information which is required to inform the owners of the condition of their trees and provides specific management actions that, once undertaken, demonstrate that a duty of care has been taken with regards to tree management, in line with BS 3995: Tree Recommendations.

1.2 Terms of Reference

- 1.2.1 Special Branch are instructed by **Whittle Fold Farm**, to visit the site and prepare our findings in a report.
- 1.2.2 For this purpose, we have obtained a plan of the site. The tree locations are indicative however and this plan should not be scaled from.

1.3 Scope of the Report

- 1.3.1 This report, and any recommendations made is compiled in accordance with current industry standards and best arboricultural practice.
- 1.3.2 The trees have been inspected in order to assess and, if necessary, reduce their potential risk of harm.
- 1.3.3 This report offers no guarantees as trees are living organisms and can fail at any time. No indemnity or insurance is covered.

1.4 Survey Details

- 1.4.1 The survey was conducted during on 29th August 2024 by **Ryan Slack (Cert Arb)**
- 1.4.2 Inspection was made visually from ground level, in order to assess the trees condition and potential to cause harm. Where necessary, management recommendations have been made. This may include tree removal, pruning, future monitoring or the need for a further detailed inspection, such as climbed inspections or decay detection surveys.

2. Explanation of Tree Descriptions

2.1 Measurements

- 2.1.1 *HEIGHT* of the tree is measured from the stem base to the top of the canopy.
- 2.1.2 *CROWN HEIGHT* is an indication of the height at which the main crown begins above ground level.

2.2 Evaluations

- 2.2.1 *AGE CLASS* of the tree is described as young, semi-mature, early-mature, mature, or over-mature.
- 2.2.2 *PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION* is classed as good, fair, poor, or dead. This is an indication of the health of the tree and takes into account vigour, presence of disease and dieback.
- 2.2.3 *STRUCTURAL CONDITION* is classed as good, fair or poor. This is an indication of the structural integrity of the tree and takes into account significant wounds, decay and quality of branch junctions.
- 2.2.4 *TARGET VALUE* is classed as high, moderate or low. This is an indication of the likelihood of persons or objects, the latter having variable significance, being within falling distance of a tree or its branches.
- 2.2.5 *PRIORITY*. A priority rating is given concerning the time periods in which the recommended works should be undertaken. LOW priority works should be undertaken within 12 months of the survey, MOD (moderate) priority works should be undertaken within 6 months and HIGH priority works should be completed as soon as practically possible. If no works are recommended, N/A (not applicable) will be used.
- 2.2.6 *RE-INSPECTION TIMING* is classed as; 6 months (0.5), 1 year (1), 2 years (2), or within 5 years (5). This is an indication of the timescale in which a tree should be re-inspected; a specific time of year for the inspection may also be detailed in the recommendations.

2.3 Safety Categories

2.3.1 *SAFETY CATEGORY* values for the trees are as follows:

- 2.3.2 *N/A = posing no immediate risk: no action required.* These trees are considered to be in an acceptable condition at present and require no action at this time. However, these trees may require future management in order to ensure that they remain safe.
- 2.3.3 *M = posing a potential risk: action required.* These trees pose a potential risk and therefore require active management. This may include remedial pruning (crown cleaning) or target management.

Such trees may also require a further, more detailed, investigation (such as a climbing inspection or a decay detection analysis) or may require future monitoring (re-surveying and re-assessing) at a timescale specified within this report.

- 2.3.4 *H = Action to be taken urgently*

These trees require urgent attention to make sure or remove.

3. Status of the Trees

- 3.1 A check was made in August 2024 with **Rochdale Council**.
- 3.2 We are informed that at present, there are no Tree Preservation Order's (TPO's) in force, nor is the site within a Conservation Area.
- 3.3 However, due to the large potential penalties for illegally carrying out work to protected trees, it is advised that those instructing and proposing to carry out the work should satisfy themselves that all appropriate consents are in place to prevent potential breach of legislation. This is especially relevant as the Local Authority is able to serve a TPO at any time.

4. Tree Descriptions

- 4.1 Full details of all individual trees surveyed are recorded in the tables at **Appendix 1**. Please refer also to the site plan for tree locations and **Section 2** for a full explanation of the tables.

5. Discussion & Recommendations

- 5.1 In total **6** items of vegetation were surveyed (**6** individual trees).
- 5.2 Following is an overview of our observations and recommendations; please refer to **Appendix 1** for specific details on the condition of individual trees:
- 5.3 **T1**, a declining Willow has been recommended for removal for arboricultural reasons, as detailed at **Appendix 1**.

Tree Reference	Age Species <i>Latin Name</i>	Height (M)	Observations	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Life Expectancy (yrs)	Target Value	Recommendations	Priority	Reinspect time (yrs)
T 1	Semi-mature Goat Willow <i>Salix Caprea</i>	10-15	Single-stemmed and slightly leaning with a slightly unbalanced crown. Stem decay starting at 1.5 meters up to 4 meters.	POOR	POOR	< 2	LOW	Full tree removal	MOD	N/A
T 2	Semi-mature Goat Willow <i>Salix Caprea</i>	10-15	Single-stemmed which bifurcates at 2.5m. No major visible defects	GOOD	GOOD	20-40	LOW	No action required	N/A	2
T 3	Early-mature Goat Willow <i>Salix Caprea</i>	5-10	Single-stemmed which bifurcates at 1m. No major visible defects	GOOD	GOOD	30-50	LOW	No action required	N/A	2
T 4	Semi-mature Goat Willow <i>Salix Caprea</i>	5-10	Minor deadwood present.	GOOD	GOOD	30-50	LOW	No action required	N/A	2
T 5	Young Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	0-5	Young healthy tree.	GOOD	GOOD	40-50	LOW	No action required	N/A	2
T 6	Semi-mature Cedar <i>Cedrus</i>	5-10	Healthy tree, previously crown reduced by the electricity board.	GOOD	GOOD	20-40	LOW	No action required	N/A	2

Appendix 2: Explanation of Terms & Recommended Clearances

Canker	Disease damaged area of a tree, usually caused by fungus or bacteria.
Co-dominant Stem	A stem which has grown in direct competition to the main stem and which has formed a substantial size influencing the appearance of the tree.
Crown lift	The removal of the lowest branches, usually to a given height. It allows more residual light and greater clearance underneath for vehicles etc.
Crown reduce	The reduction of a tree's height or spread while preserving its natural shape.
Crown thin	The removal of some of the density of a tree's crown, usually 5-25% allowing more light through its canopy and reducing wind resistance.
Deadwood	The removal of all dead, dying and diseased branches from a tree.
Dieback	Where branches are beginning to show signs of death usually at the tips in the crown.
Epicormic shoots	Small branches that grow in uncharacteristic clusters around the base or the stem of a tree, usually as a result of bad pruning or some other stress factor.
Included bark	Where the bark on two adjoining branches or stems is growing tight together, forming a joint with limited physical strength.
Pollarding	A method of tree management in which the main trunk of the tree is cut at about 4m, and the resulting branches are then cropped on a regular basis.
Remedial pruning	The removal of old stubs, deadwood, epicormic growth, rubbing or crossing branches and other unwanted items from the tree's crown. Sometimes referred to as crown cleaning.

Appendix 3: General Guidelines

- A4.1 All work must be to BS 3998: 2010 - '*Recommendations for tree work*'.
- A4.2 Staff carrying out the work must be qualified, experienced and contractors should be covered by adequate public liability insurance.
- A4.3 This report is based upon a visual inspection. The consultant shall not be responsible for events which happen after this time due to factors which were not apparent at the time, and the acceptance of this report constitutes an agreement with the guidelines and the terms listed in this report.
- A4.4 Any defects seen by a contractor or the employer that were not apparent to the consultant must be brought to the consultant's attention immediately.
- A4.5 No liability can be accepted by the consultant in respect of the trees unless the recommendations of this report are carried out under his supervision and within his timescale.
- A4.6 It is advisable to have trees inspected by an arboricultural consultant regularly. In this instance it is recommended that these inspections are made as per the recommended reinspection timings at **Appendix 1**.

Tree roots are essential for the health and stability of trees, providing them with nutrients and anchoring them in the soil. During development projects, tree root protection is crucial to ensure the long-term survival and health of trees. This report will outline key concepts and strategies for protecting tree roots during development projects.

Key Concepts:

1. Understanding the Importance of Tree Roots:

Tree roots play a vital role in tree health by absorbing water and nutrients from the soil. They also provide structural support and stability to trees. Disrupting tree roots during development projects can have negative impacts on tree health and longevity.

2. Common Causes of Tree Root Damage:

Tree root damage can occur due to excavation, compaction of soil, changes in water availability, and exposure to chemicals or pollutants. Understanding these common causes can help developers implement appropriate protection measures.

3. Best Practices for Tree Root Protection:

- Conduct a comprehensive tree survey before starting any development project to

identify the location and extent of tree roots.

- Implement physical barriers such as tree protection zones (TPZs) to prevent root damage during construction activities.
- Use alternative construction methods such as root bridges or elevated walkways to minimize root disturbance.
- Maintain proper soil moisture and aeration to support root growth and health.
- Avoid using heavy machinery near trees and limit construction activities within the drip line of trees to minimize root damage.

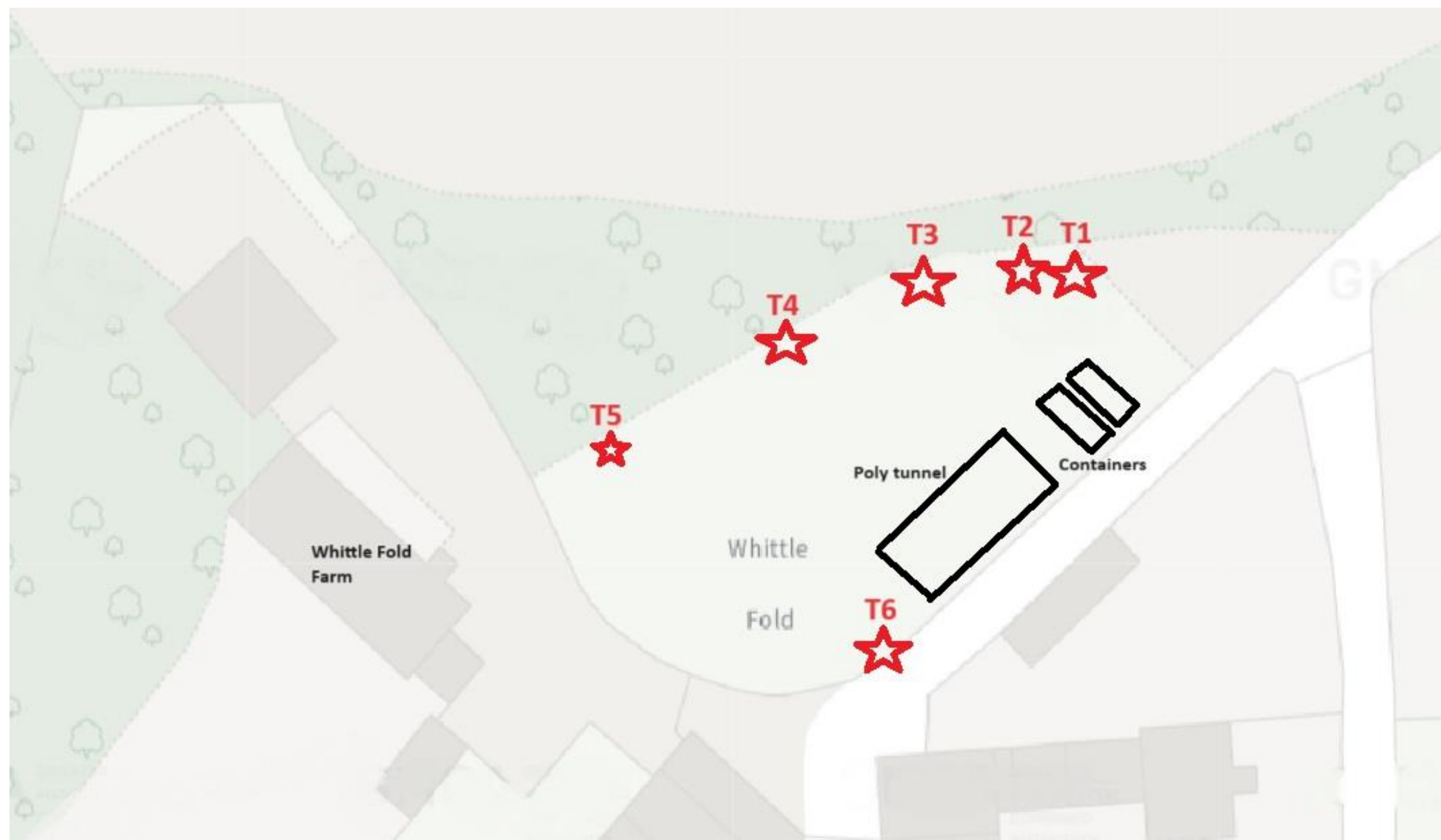
4. Innovative Techniques for Tree Root Protection:

- Use root pruning techniques to redirect root growth away from development areas.
- Implement advanced root protection systems such as root barriers or specialized soil treatments to protect tree roots during construction activities.

Conclusion:

Protecting tree roots during development projects is essential for preserving the health and longevity of trees. By understanding the importance of tree roots, identifying common causes of root damage, and implementing best practices for tree root protection, developers can mitigate the negative impacts of construction activities on trees. Incorporating innovative techniques and proactive measures can ensure successful tree root protection in development projects, promoting sustainable urban development and environmental conservation.

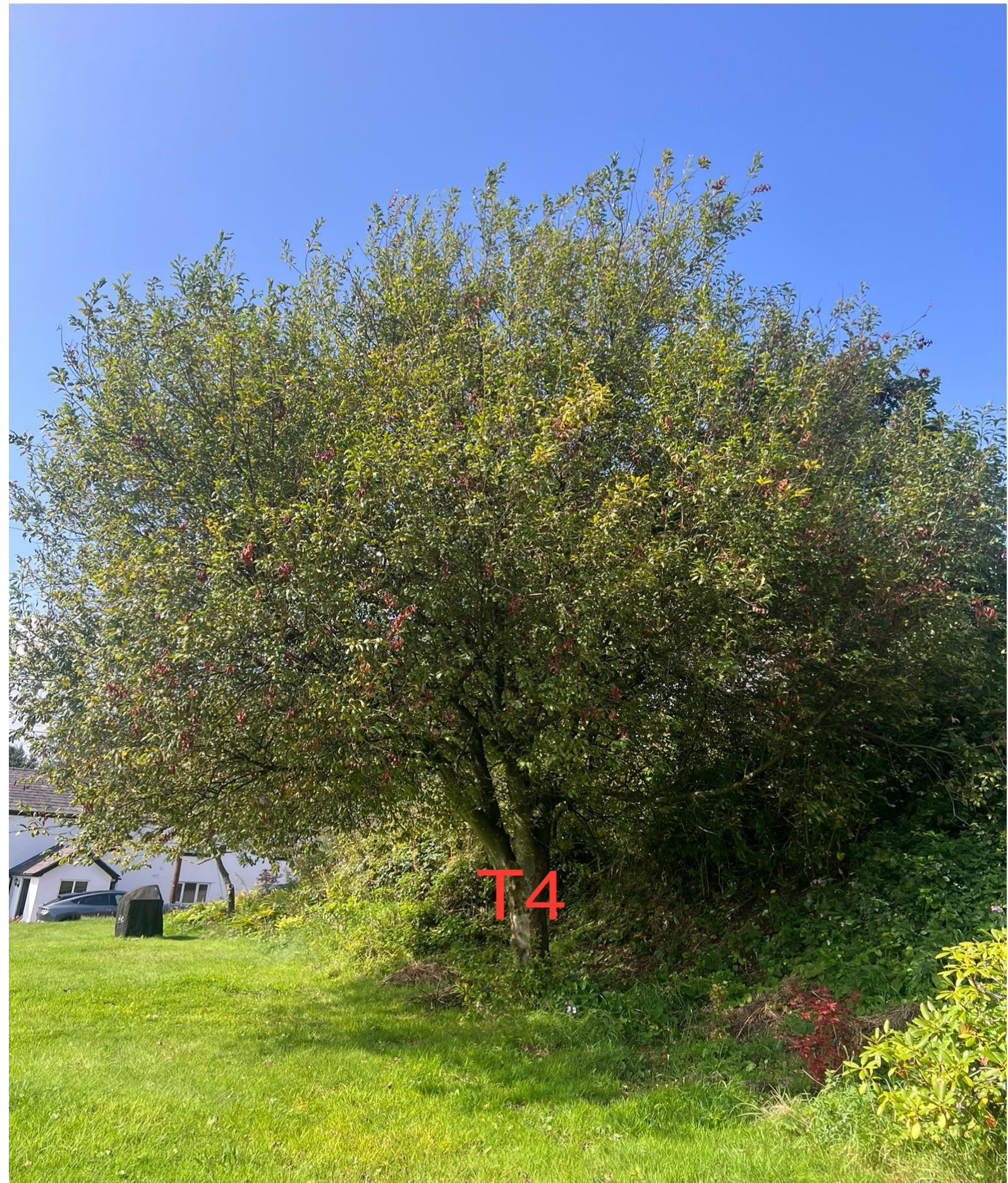
By following the strategies outlined in this report, developers can effectively protect tree roots and promote the coexistence of trees and urban infrastructure.















I hope that this report provides all the necessary information, but should any further advice be needed please do not hesitate to contact the author.

Signed



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Ryan Slack

29th August 2024

For and on behalf of *Special Branch*

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