JCA LIMITED
ARBORICULTURAL & ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

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Arboricultural & Ecological Consultants

Kirklees Council (Planning Department)

JCA Ref: 22667f/ChC
Planning Ref: 2026/90702
Date: 30th July 2026

Arboricultural Supporting Document relating to T11 at Fieldhead, Snelsins Road, Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, BD19 3UE.

1.1 Introduction / Purpose of this Letter

1.1.1 JCA Ltd have been instructed by our client to assess the current condition of **T11** (as identified our Arboricultural reports previously submitted as part of the planning documentation package).

1.1.2 The purpose of this letter is to provide an independent review of the current condition of the tree, its potential risk to the occupiers, its Retention Category in accordance with BS5837: 2012 and to clearly set out new risk management recommendations for this tree, irrespective of any development proposals.

1.1.3 This letter is to be read in conjunction with the revised Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 30th July 2026 (JCA Ref: 22667e/LW/CC – Rev 1).

1.2 The Tree

1.2.1 The tree in question is an over-mature Ash, identified as **T11** in our reports, which is protected by an individual Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

1.2.2 Since we surveyed this tree back in February 2025, its health and condition has deteriorated significantly. In recent weeks, the tree has shed multiple very large branches (which could have caused major injury or even death) and this is unacceptable for a rear garden location which is frequently used by the occupiers.

1.2.3 In addition, there are now multiple *Inonotus hispidus* brackets on one of the main stems, indicating internal decay and the potential for further limb loss in the near future. Given the recent limb failure and presence of this fungi, future limb failures are foreseeable and given the owners duty of care, requires urgent attention to deal with the associated risks.

1.2.4 Please refer to **Appendix 1** of this letter for photographic evidence of the recent branch failures and the *Inonotus hispidus* fungi on the main leading stem.

1.3 Recommendations

1.3.1 Given that this tree is clearly in decline, shedding large limbs within a garden location and the presence of a wood rotting fungi, we have made the decision to downgrade the Retention Category of this tree to 'U' in accordance with BS5837: 2012, essentially meaning that it should be removed irrespective of any proposals for development on site.

1.3.2 We therefore recommend that this tree is removed now and suitably replaced. The felling of the tree should take place now, before it fails naturally, potentially causing structural damage or posing a threat to life. In our view, this is the most proactive and proportionate management option.

1.3.3 Given that this tree is protected by a TPO, and given the statutory requirement to replace protected trees which are felled, it is proposed to replant two new trees within the rear garden to mitigate the immediate loss over time (one Small-leaved Lime and one Hornbeam).

1.3.4 A Replacement Planting Scheme Plan has been prepared by JCA Ltd, which shows the proposed indicative locations of these two replacement trees. This can be viewed at **Appendix 7** within the revised Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

I hope this document provides you with all the information you require and that our intentions regarding this tree are clear, and have been made in accordance with best practice and public health and safety, irrespective of the development proposals at the property.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this document, please contact the author.

Yours sincerely

Charles Cocking *FdSc (Arboriculture) MArborA, Lantra Accredited PTI.*
Managing Director, JCA Ltd

Appendix 1: Photos

Photo 1: A general view of **T11** (an over-mature Ash tree, the subject of this report).

Photo 2: Showing evidence of recent branch failure.

Photo 3: Showing evidence of recent branch failure.

Photo 4: Showing *Inonotus hispidus* bracket fungi on one of the main stems.