Appendix D: BS 5837:2012 Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment

Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment				**ID on plan**
Category and definition	**Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)**			
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)				
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years.	- Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other U category trees i.e. where, for whatever reasons, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) - Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate and irreversible overall decline - Trees infected with pathogens or significance to health and/or safety of other trees nearby (e.g. Dutch elm disease, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality *NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see **4.5.7.***			**RED**
	1 Mainly arboricultural values	**2 Mainly landscape values**	**3 Mainly cultural values, inc. conservation**	
Trees to be considered for retention				
Category A **Those of a high quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual, or those that are essential components of groups, or of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	**GREEN**
Category B **Those of moderate quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	**BLUE**
Category C **Those of low quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater landscape value, and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	**GREY**