APP/J4423/W/20/325855 Land at Moorthorpe Way, Sheffield

Rule 6 Note on Survey Data for Ancient and Veteran Trees

The purpose of this note is to understand the discrepancies shown in Table 2 of Mr Topping's evidence Appendix 11 (CD4.9.1.12), in terms of girth measurements of veteran and ancient trees in Ochre Dyke Woodland.

OAG originally measured and numbered 41 trees in Ochre Dyke Woodland. The measurements were taken using the methodology according to Tree Register guidance (appended here for reference) which is used by the Ancient Tree Inventory. This includes a number of examples for how to measure trees with different shaped and split trunks.

The Woodland Trust independently assessed the trees from photographic evidence and verified the status of each tree before uploading them to the Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI).

The Woodland Trust IT system has been down for some time, which means we are unable to access the Ancient Tree Inventory to check which ATI reference is for which OAG tree number.

OAG have produced photographic evidence of the measurements taken on 10th January 2021 for 18 trees that are on or close to the site E boundary, and these are appended to this note. Without the ATI system being accessible, it is not possible to be 100% confident that OAG and BWB have measured the same trees, but OAG numbered the trees during their original survey and so are 100% confident that they have re-measured the same trees they measured and submitted to the Woodland Trust.

The two most significant discrepancies Mr Topping identifies are as follows.

- ATI 204052 – this is an alder which corresponds in location and description to OAG tree 16
- ATI 202105 – this is oak which corresponds in location and description to OAG tree 18

ATI ref	OAG ref	OAG original measurement	BWB measurement	OAG measurement 10/01/21
204052	16	3.8m	1.07	3.36m
202105	18	3.7m	1.73m	3.8m

All of the measurements taken and shown in the photographs below are within reasonable tolerance of the original measurements, and there are no findings that show the order-of-magnitude discrepancy shown in Mr Topping's table 2.

In conclusion, OAG is confident that its measurements are correct when taken in accordance with the Woodland Trust guidance, and it remains unclear why the BWB measurements would be so different.