

LIZARD

Landscape Design and Ecology

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND METHOD STATEMENT

**THE GRANGE, WESTERGATE STREET,
WOODGATE, ARUN**

On behalf of Smith Simmons & Partners Ltd.

Prepared by	CF
Checked by	GS
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned to undertake a dendrological survey and produce arboricultural documentation for the proposed development at The Grange, Westergate Street, Woodgate, Arun District.
- 1.2 The Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement report provides assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the proposed design and where necessary recommends mitigation.
- 1.3 The Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement report for the development at The Grange has been prepared by Caleb Fry (*BSc (Hons); ACIEEM; Project Ecologist*) and reviewed by George Sayer (*MArborA; MCIEEM; Senior Ecologist*) at Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology, Worthing.
- 1.4 This written Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement should be read in conjunction with the associated tree survey documentation, including *LLD2168-ARB-DWG-001-00 – Tree Constraints Plan*, *LLD2168-ARB-SCH-001-00 – Existing Tree Schedule* and *LLD2168-ARB-DWG-002-00 – Tree Retention and Protection Plan*.

Existing Site Information

- 1.5 The site covers an area of c. 0.2ha and consists of an irregular shaped plot. An unnamed access track at the south of site connects the site to Westergate Street to the west (*Grid Reference: SU 94003 04386 – hereafter referred to as 'the site'*). The site contains areas of hardstanding used for car parking and access, as well as buildings associated with the current landowner, used for vehicle maintenance and storage. The north of the site is bounded by a dry ditch and a narrow strip of woodland / treeline, directly south lies an area of ephemeral / short perennial vegetation, towards the east of this area tall ruderals proliferate. To the north of sites lies an unmanaged field where rank grasses, scrub and ruderal vegetation proliferate. To the west of site lies existing properties with associated gardens. The site lies within a Tree Preservation Order area, TPO Reference: TPO/AL/2/16. No other Landscape or Ecological designations for this site exist, and the site is not in a *Conservation Area*.

Existing Site Vegetation

- 1.6 The treeline / woodland strip which bounds the north of site is composed of a dry ditch, with a treeline running parallel either side of it. The ground cover is dominated by ivy, with occasional other plants associated with woodland. The tree assemblage includes mature and semi-mature ash, semi-mature hazel, hawthorn, elder and mature crack willow. To the south of this area lies ephemeral / short perennial / tall ruderal vegetation of a diverse assemblage, including plants associated with woodland, wet ground, and colonizing species. The entire site lies within a Tree Protection Order area (Ref: TPO/AL/2/16).

Development Proposal

- 1.7 It is understood that proposals are for the removal of the existing structures for the construction of two new residential housing units, alongside associated access and infrastructure, with access provided by the existing entrance to the unnamed road, to the south of site.

2.0 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts of Development Proposals on Existing Vegetation

- 2.1 The proposed development can have an adverse impact on the existing trees by removing them to facilitate the development, or in the future, by adversely affecting their potential for retention through disturbance in Root Protection Areas (RPAs) or through post development pressures to prune or remove.
- 2.2 The development proposals would involve the following site operations that could impact upon the existing trees:
- Contractor movements; site access and operations;
 - Storage and compound;
 - Plant, vehicle and material cleaning;
 - Installation of construction elements; ground work / general site operations;
 - Construction in proximity to trees;
 - Demolition/ removal of existing structures;
 - Installation of services and underground apparatus;
 - Future maintenance;
 - Removal of existing vegetation not for retention;
 - Removal of protective measures.
- 2.3 Proposals are for the retention of the majority of trees, including a single category A mature ash tree, which is located towards the north east of site. Three category C tree are proposed for removal, including 2 prostrate early mature crack willows and a young ash tree. Some adverse impacts are anticipated to trees within the site associated with impacts arising from construction. However these impacts will be temporary, and with the implementation of some standard tree protection and mitigation measures, likely to be nonsignificant. Overall, proposals are likely to increase the arboricultural value of the site owing to increased tree and shrub planting. All trees on site fall within TPO area (Ref: TPO/AL/2/16).

Tree Retention and Protection

- 2.4 All trees are scheduled for retention and will be protected in line with standard tree protection measures (*BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations*), which will include Tree Protection Barriers and Ground Protection Zones. Tree Protection Barriers will extend around the circumference of the site, skirting the RPA's and canopies of the retained trees. Tree Protection Barriers will briefly extend into RPA's of **T11** and **T13** to create Ground Protection Zones, facilitating ground works, footings and scaffolding for Plot 2.

Disturbance to Root Protection Areas

- 2.5 Development will take place outside of the RPA's of retained trees on site. However, some Ground Protection Zones will be formed within the RPA's of **T13** and **T11** to permit temporary works, such as footing and scaffolding which would otherwise constitute disturbance within the RPA's. **T11** is a category B ash tree, whereas **T13** is a category C hawthorn tree. In the absence of mitigation these works could result in minor adverse impacts to the health and practicable lifespan of the trees, resulting from compaction and disturbance impacts. However, given the provision of the outlined mitigation, works are likely to result in nonsignificant impacts.
- 2.6 Services will be accessed via the existing service lines to the south associated with the neighbouring properties, such that excavation within RPA's will not be required. Should any excavation be required at the entrance of the site e.g., to facilitate resurfacing or new visibility splays, digging within the RPA of **T15** – a category C Lawson's cypress, will be done manually under watching brief from a suitably qualified arboriculturalist, to ensure the major roots are retained and protection, such that impacts would be likely to be nonsignificant. Any soakaway drainage features will be located outside of RPA's.

Construction in Proximity to Existing Trees

- 2.7 It is not anticipated that any pruning or crown lifting works will be required in order to meet proposals. The presence of the **T11** and **T13** may result in some shading to the garden of Plot 2. However, this is not likely to be substantial and any future works to the trees must be subject to prior written consent from the local planning authority, owing to the TPO designation (Ref: TPO/AL/2/16).

Tree Pruning, Canopy Reduction or Lifting

- 2.8 No impacts to retained trees are anticipated resulting from development proposals. The majority of the trees lie along the northern boundary of site which will be separated from development through the use of Tree Protection Barriers.

Removal of Trees and Vegetation

- 2.9 Three trees are proposed for removal. These are **T14**, **T03** and **T06**. **T14** is a small self-seeded ash tree. The tree is a category C tree with good form but is young with little arboricultural, ecological or cultural value. **T03** and **T06** are both category C early mature crack willows. As is often the case with these trees, their growth forms are difficult to manage and incorporate into landscaping proposals. Both trees lie prostrate on the ground and extend south, creating a dense willow scrub area at the north of site. Their removal is proposed for landscaping purposes and to permit works which would otherwise cause unavoidable impacts to their RPA's, likely to ultimately result in their failure.

Tree Loss Mitigation Measures

- 2.10 To compensate for the removal of **T14**, **T03** and **T06** proposals are to provide planting along the northern boundary of the site, and shrub and tree planting is proposed along the access route which runs down the centre of the site. Three trees and shrub planting will be provided on the western aspect of the access route, directly south of the Plot 1, and another three trees and shrub planting will be provided along the eastern aspect of the access route.

3.0 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Protection and Retention of Existing Trees and Habitats

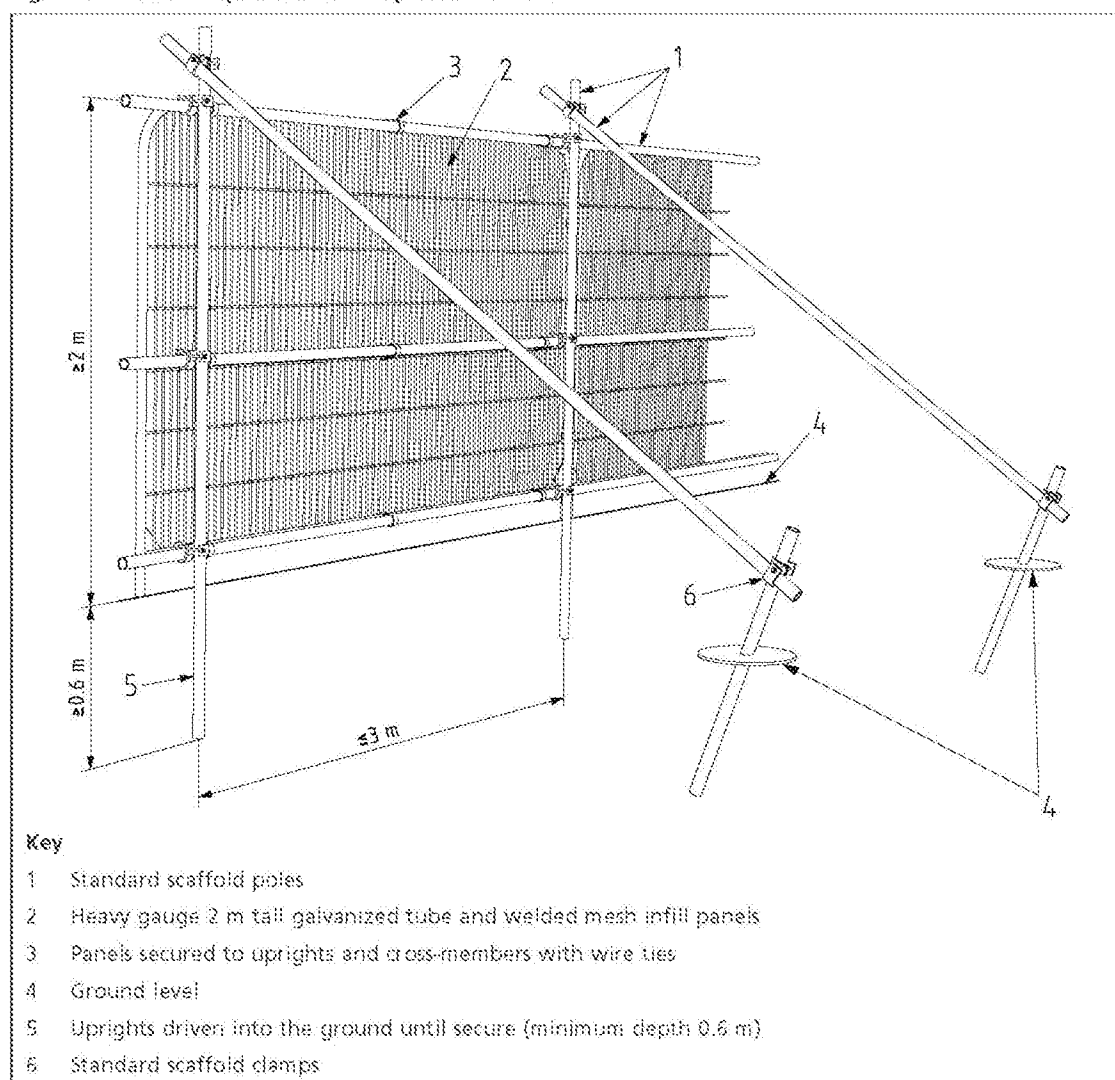
- 3.1 The Contractor shall exercise due care when performing operations beneath the canopy of existing mature trees and vegetation designated for protection and avoid at all times damage to the roots, trunk and branches.
- 3.2 The Contractor shall train all members of the construction workforce operating within the proximity of valued habitats and make such persons aware that there shall not be, without having sought prior notification, the following operations undertaken within the protected areas:
- Dumping of spoil or rubbish, excavation or disturbance of topsoil, parking of vehicles or plant, storing of materials or placing of temporary accommodation within an area which is the larger of the branch spread of the tree or an area with a radius of half the tree's height, measured from the trunk, and within the specified Root Protection Areas;
 - Severance of roots exceeding 25 mm in diameter. If unintentionally severed; notice shall be given and specialist arboricultural advice sought;
 - Changes to the level of the ground within the specified Root Protection Areas;
 - Vegetation clearance to site boundaries during the bird nesting season (nesting season: March-September inclusive). Any clearance must be undertaken outside nesting season or alternatively under a watching brief from a suitability qualified ecologist.

Tree Protection Barriers

- 3.3 The Contractor shall exercise due care when performing operations beneath the canopy of existing mature trees and vegetation and within the specified Root Protection Areas designated for protection and avoid at all times damage to the roots, trunk and branches of existing trees proposed to be retained.

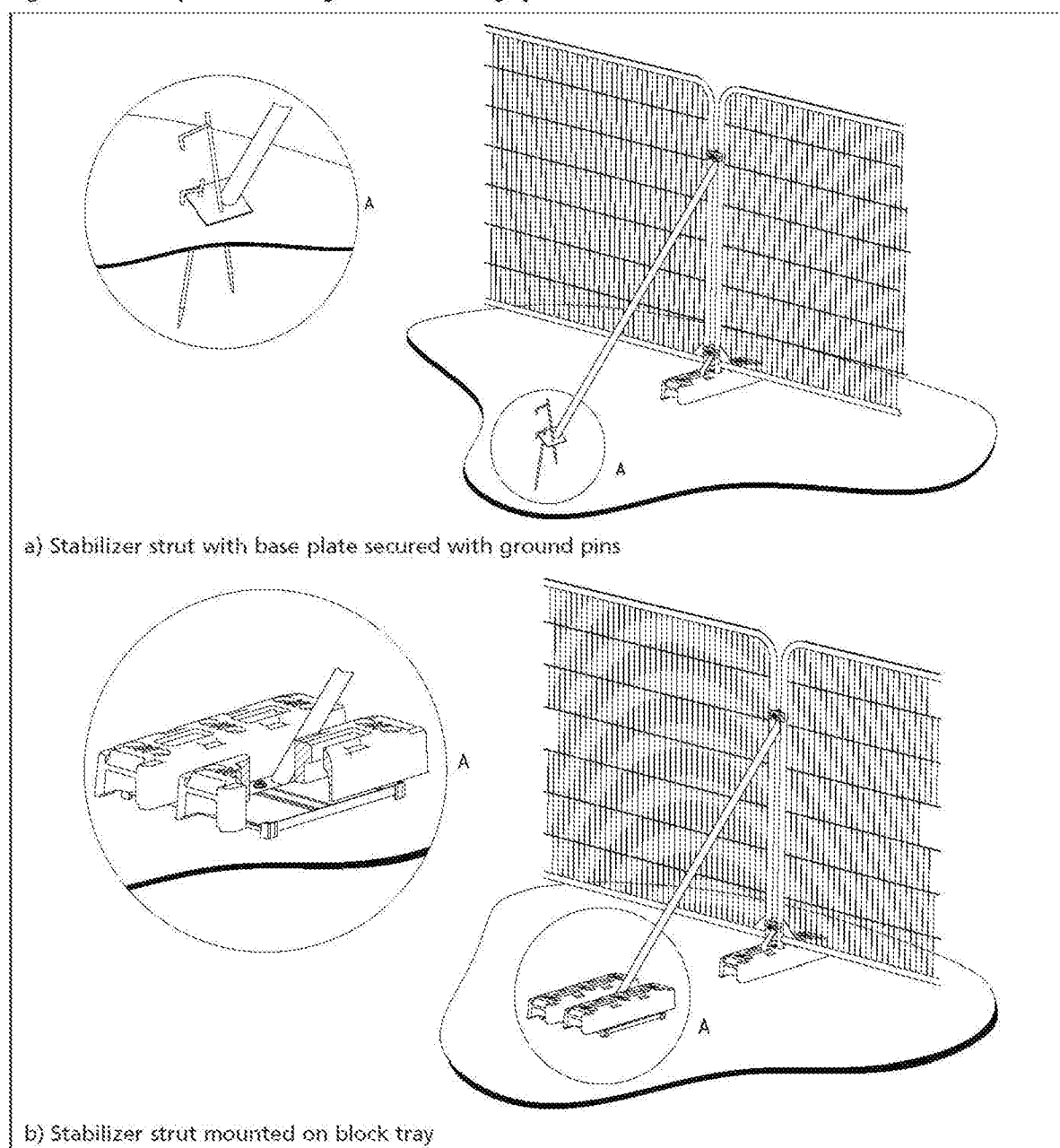
- 3.4 All trees to be retained on site shall be protected with barriers erected around the area of mature vegetation in accordance with *BS 5837: 2012; 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations'*. The barrier shall be installed, protected and maintained during the main works by the Contractor who shall be responsible for protecting any area beneath the canopy of the existing trees and within the specified Root Protection Areas.
- 3.5 The installed protective barrier shall be 2.0 metres minimum height 'Heras' Welded Wire Mesh Fencing secured to a scaffolding framework, set into the existing ground, and positioned to the outside edge of the existing Tree Root Protection Area. Where existing ground conditions do not allow for the above method, the Welded Wire Mesh Fencing Panels may be mounted on concrete or rubber feet, supported on the inner side with stabilizer struts fixed on a block tray or secured with ground pins; and positioned as specified. The barrier should be strained, and fixed to fences, walls, knee rails where possible to provide a complete protected area (*refer to Figure 2 and Figure 3 below; © British Standards Institute 2012*). All tree protection to be in accordance with *BS 5837: 2012; 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations'* set out as specified within drawings *LLD2168-ARB-DWG-002-00 – Tree Retention and Protection Plan*.

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier



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Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



- 3.10 A temporary '*Ground Protection Zone*' shall allow for the passage of construction vehicles to the site and should be implemented without intrusion or change of existing ground levels within the defined tree Root Protection Areas of existing trees. The ground protection measures should be implemented prior to the main construction works.
- 3.11 The temporary ground protection measures should remain in place for the duration of the construction period.
- 3.12 Ground protection must be fit for the purpose of supporting the level of traffic entering or using the site within RPAs without being distorted or causing compaction of underlying soil. The appropriate solutions include:
- For pedestrian movements or the erection of scaffolding within the RPA – single layer of scaffold boards either on top of a driven scaffold frame, to form a suspended walkway, or on top of a compression-resistant layer, e.g. 100 mm depth of woodchip laid onto a geotextile;
 - For pedestrian-operated plant (up to a gross weight of 2 t) – proprietary, inter-linked ground protection boards or panels laid on top of a compression-resistant layer, e.g. 150 mm depth of woodchip laid onto a geotextile membrane;
 - For vehicular access (exceeding a gross weight of 2 t) – an alternative system subject to engineer's specification appropriate for expected loads, designed in consultation with the project Landscape/ Arboricultural Architect.
- 3.13 The surface material should be contained with edging type requiring no excavation. Where proposed levels of any new access routes do not ascertain minimum required depth for installation of traditional kerbs, other solutions should be sought:
- Timber edging boards and spikes would be considered appropriate for pathways;
 - Timber sleepers should be used as a kerb edge restraint for vehicular areas and anchored with non-intrusive pinning (such as road pins) in order to maintain the existing levels within the specified Root Protection Areas.
- 3.14 **Manual Excavation**
- 3.15 Where the development proposals necessitate the tying in and re-grading of existing and proposed levels for vehicular access or include the implementation of underground services such as services, cables, pipe work; a '*Manual Excavation*

Method' must be assumed using handheld tools to minimise the impact on existing trees. The excavation should be executed with due care and attention not to disturb exposed unmade ground and any existing tree roots present within it.

- 3.16** Roots over 25mm diameter or those occurring in clumps must not be severed without Arboricultural advice. Tree roots below such size should be cut cleanly using specialised hand tools only and to the minimum extent to allow provision. All exposed roots should be immediately wrapped in dry Hessian to avoid drying. On completion of the excavation and at the earliest opportunity the wrapping should be removed, and the roots surrounded and protected with a loose granular fill (clean washed sharp sand or topsoil free of contaminants or matter injurious to rooting systems) prior to backfilling the excavation to the desired levels.

New Structures in Proximity to Trees

- 3.17** The use of traditional strip footings can result in damage to roots and subsequent failure of trees and should therefore be avoided. For the purpose of retention of good quality trees, the application of specially engineered structures and solutions that would minimize impact on the existing trees are acceptable alternatives. A site-specific and specialist advice regarding foundation design should be sought from the Project Engineer.
- 3.18** In shrinkable soils, the foundation design should take account of the risk of indirect damage.
- 3.19** Root damage can be minimised by implementation of pile and beam construction techniques. The following aspects of the design should be accounted for:
- 3.20** Piles – optimal location determined through site investigation, to avoid damage to roots important for the stability of the tree, by means of hand tools or compressed air soil displacement (air lance), to a minimum depth of 600 mm. The smallest practical pile diameter should be used to minimize the risk of striking a major root. The smallest practical pile rig should be used to facilitate works within the canopy spread of existing trees. To protect the soil and adjacent roots from the potentially toxic effects of uncured concrete, the use of sleeved bored pile or screw pile should be accounted for;
- 3.21** Beams – laid at or above ground level and cantilevered as necessary to avoid tree roots identified by site investigation.

New Surfacing and Means of Access within Root Protection Areas

- 3.22 Where new surfacing and means of access within Root Protection Areas have been proposed, the construction method should be implemented to avoid intrusion into or change of existing ground levels within the tree Root Protection Areas of existing trees.
- 3.23 A 'No Dig' Construction should allow for the paving of specified areas within or adjacent to tree Root Protection Areas to be constructed without disturbance to root systems.
- 3.24 Ground levels should not be raised or lowered within the existing tree Root Protection Areas. A permeable surface treatment should be laid over the existing ground allowing water to permeate, and allow for nutrient access and gaseous exchange.
- 3.25 The construction area / existing ground within the existing tree RPA is to be overlain with a geo-membrane and covered with a granular fill of no fines - open graded aggregate Type 3 incorporated within a 3-dimensional cellular confinement system. This should ensure a minimum supportive depth of 200mm for vehicular access / 100mm for pedestrian footpaths, above which a permeable surface treatment should be laid. The pH of the aggregate must be near neutral to avoid damage to pH-sensitive tree species.
- 3.26 Existing paving material overlying the RPA of existing trees should be left undisturbed during the construction period in order to protect the Root Protection Area of the tree to be retained. The existing paving/ hard standing can then be reused as a base for the proposed surfacing, subject to Engineer's specification.
- 3.27 All retaining kerb restraints / edge supports are to be secured above ground and no general excavation within existing tree RPAs should be permitted.
- 3.28 Where stepped or ramped access have been proposed within the RPAs of existing trees, this should be constructed with limited disturbance to the existing ground. A raised frame supported upon posts concreted in the ground is recommended. The holes for footing to posts should be dug out using handheld tools. The sides of the holes should be lined with an impermeable membrane to prevent the caustic and toxic effects of wet cement in the concrete from damaging tree roots.

Services in Proximity to Existing Trees

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- 3.29 The location and direction of new services should be designed to allow for services to be routed away from the RPAs of existing trees. Existing service runs should always be used wherever possible.
- 3.30 Where the proposed routing of services impinges upon the tree RPA of any existing tree to be retained; the routing should be undertaken as a minimum standard in accordance with *NJUG Volume 4, issue 2: 'Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees'*.
- 3.31 A 'Manual Excavation Method' to be followed to carefully hand dug and route the apparatus most directly to and from the exterior of the RPA radius.
- 3.32 Services are to be routed together wherever possible to create the minimum impact upon the roots of the existing trees to be retained. Trench excavation across the tree Root Protection Area radius beside an existing tree should be avoided, whereby tree roots would become severed. Where services are to cross the edge of an existing RPA, they should be routed via a hand dug ducting sleeve, avoiding damage to roots.

Contractor Movements. Site access and operations. Storage and Compound Areas

- 3.33 The Contractor Site Compound shall be located outside of any prescribed tree Root Protection Area and shall be permitted for the storage and securement of materials only within a temporary compound.
- 3.34 The compound area shall be located so as to not incur damage or injury to the root systems or canopy of any existing trees or vegetation within or adjacent to the site, in accordance with *BS 5837:2012 – 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations'*. All site operations associated with the usage of the compound area shall be undertaken with due care and attention so as to negate damage of the surrounding environment.
- 3.35 All site operations and construction procedures for the duration of the construction period shall seek to protect the existing site vegetation and root protection areas in accordance with *BS 5837:2012*.

Tree Surgery

- 3.36 Any significant defects found in the trees during the course of the scheduled work shall be reported to the Landscape Architect / Arboricultural Consultant. All scheduled and arising tree work shall be undertaken by an approved and qualified tree surgeon in accordance with *BS 3998: 2010 'Tree Work: Recommendations'*. Care should be taken to avoid damage to neighbouring trees to be retained. Branches in confined spaces shall be removed and taken down in sections. All arisings shall be transported and disposed of away from site to the Contractor's tip.

Removal of Existing Vegetation

- 3.37 All existing trees to be designated for removal are to be removed in accordance with the *LLD2168-ARB-DWG-002-00 – Tree Retention and Protection Plan*. All tree work and removal shall be carried out in accordance with *BS 5837:2012*. Trees designated for removal and felling shall be clearly marked on site with white paint. Prior to the removal and felling of trees, the required work and tree positions shall be agreed on site with the Landscape Architect / Arboricultural Consultant. Trees shall be felled prior to the erection of the Tree Protective Fencing. Care should be taken during the tree removal process to avoid any damage to any trees which are designated to be retained.
- 3.38 Stumps shall be removed and cut away so that the top of the stump shall be at least 450 mm below the final topsoil level in order that the site can be reinstated in accordance with the existing site levels. Stumps are to be treated with an approved herbicide to be agreed with the Landscape Architect. Where the depth is greater than 450 mm the areas shall be backfilled with topsoil to the required level.
- 3.39 The removal of shrub or scrub material within the Root Protection Area of any tree to be retained shall employ a Manual Removal method; the use of hand tools shall be used in order to maintain the ground surface of the Root Protection Area and reduce any damage to existing tree roots within the protected root zone. Adjacent trees shall not be utilised as anchors or levers to facilitate the removal of adjacent vegetation.
- 3.40 Vegetation clearance to site boundaries should take place outside the bird nesting season (*nesting season: March-September inclusive*) or alternatively under a watching brief from a suitability qualified ecologist.



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