

Mr Southcott
Imperial Homes
The Barn
Calcot Mount Business Park
Calcot Lane
Curdridge
Southampton
SO32 2BN

Our Ref: 211379 - Let 1 - Aldingbourne

16 June 2021

Dear Mr Southcott

Re: Tree issues at land at Springfield Hook Lane, Aldingbourne, PO20 3TE

I write with regard to my recent instruction concerning the above project. You asked me to visit the site, review the tree protection regime in place at that time and then provide comments on the protection measures in terms of positioning and appropriateness.

You provided me with the following documents prior to my site visit:

- Lizard Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement (reference 'LLD1680 05')
- Vivid Design Studio Proposed Hedgerow Protection Plan (reference '200053 02')
- Decision Notice (council reference 'AL/64/20/PL')
- Tree Officer comments (email dated 4 June 2021)

Prior to visiting, I prepared a drawing (see attached plan 'ECO 1') which was an adapted version of the Vivid Design Studio Proposed Hedgerow Protection Plan. This drawing included dimensions relevant to the tree protection barriers and was issued to assist site operatives in positioning the barriers in accordance with the Vivid Design Studio drawing. I visited the site on 14 June 2021 to assess the tree protection measures being implemented at that time and during my visit I took a number of photographs, some of which I have appended to the end of this report for reference.

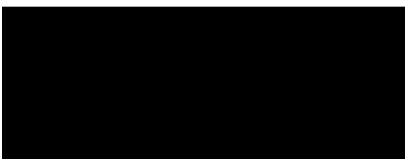
The erection of the tree protection barriers was ongoing when I visited, but was nearing completion (photograph 1). I observed and sample checked the barrier positions on site using a laser measuring device against the dimensioned drawing that I had prepared previously. I noted that the barriers appeared to be generally in the positions shown on the tree protection plan. Where significant trees were growing along the northern site boundary, the weld mesh panels were appropriately braced with a vertical and horizontal scaffold framework and rear facing stabiliser struts (photograph 2).

Where there were less significant trees (or areas of scrub), then a lesser specification was being utilised, which incorporated mesh panels on rubber block trays, with rear facing stabiliser struts pinned in position (photograph 3). Tree protection notices were being attached to the panels during my visit (photograph 4). The tree protection barriers on the eastern site boundary (and where trees have been removed previously) appeared to be in roughly the correct positions, but the protection consisted of weld mesh panels placed on their rubber block trays.

In my view, the tree protection I noted on site is adequate in terms of protecting the more important trees during the construction phase. The two types of barriers I observed would be broadly in line with figures 2 and 3 set out in *BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*. Consequently, I would suggest that you now contact the councils Tree Officer, send him a copy of this report and seek his views on whether he is content with the tree protection measures shown. However, I would draw your attention to condition 5 (as set out in the Decision Notice) which requires ongoing site monitoring and supervision to ensure that the provided tree protection remains ‘fit for purpose’ during the construction phase.

I trust the above information is helpful, but please get back to me if you need to discuss in more detail.

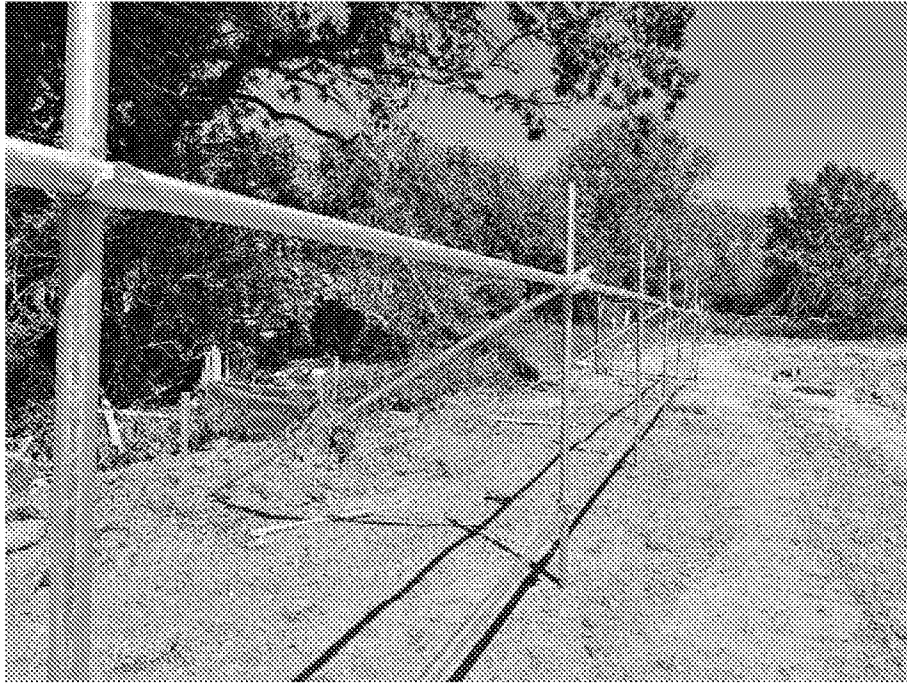
Yours sincerely



Barrie Draper BSc (Hons) Arb TechCert(ArborA) CertArb(RFS)
Arboricultural Consultant

Attached: 1: Photographs
2: Dimensioned Tree Protection Plan (ECO 1)

Photographs



Photograph 1 – Tree protection being erected during my visit



Photograph 2 – Tree protection scaffold braced adjacent to areas of significant tree activity



Photograph 3 – Tree protection on rubber bock trays (with struts) adjacent to areas of lesser tree activity



Photograph 4 – Tree protection signage

