

GHA Trees
5 South Drive
High Wycombe
Bucks
HP13 8JU



Glen Harding MSc (Forestry), MA Arboriculture

Mr G Love
Climping Mill
Climping Street
Climping
West Sussex

22nd March 2021

Dear Mr Love,

RE: Trees at Climping Mill, Climping Street, Climping, West Sussex

Instructions:

Thank you for your instruction to undertake an assessment of the trees at the above site. You asked me to undertake a visual assessment of the trees health, following the installation of soil bunds at the site, and make recommendations for their future management.

I duly visited the site on the 16th March 2021 and can now advise as follows.

Background:

The site is in the process of being redeveloped, work that involves the upgrading and renovation of several existing buildings that have been derelict for many years.

Given the proximity to the coast line, the site has been the subject of several flooding incidents in the past. The most recent was in the winter of 2019/2020 when much of the site was under water for 2 months.

In light of this flooding issue, you informed me that you have undertaken to improve flood defences at the site. These measures include a new pond, new soil bunds on the site boundaries and a new gate at the site entrance to restrict water entering the site.

The bunds have been installed for over two years and they are now well formed with most sections having well established grass cover. They were constructed using inert material removed when excavating the pond.

You informed me that none of the trees on site are covered by any statutory protection.

Tree assessment:

During my visit, I surveyed the trees that may have been affected by the bund, both those growing on the bund and also those in close proximity.

The attached table and site plan outlines the information I recorded. I graded each tree / group in line with BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendation to assess the quality of each tree / group.

This assessment also allowed me to assess the root protection area (RPA) for each tree to evaluate the impact of the bund.

Impacts of bund installation:

Some trees have been the subject of some minor bark damage as a result of the bund installation. This is perhaps inevitable when moving the volumes of soil involved in this essential flood defence installation. I did however not see any major bark damage of concern on any of the trees.

The bund is within the assessed RPA of several trees. The bund is now established and the most trees have responded well its presence.

G12 are the only trees of any value (B Grade in line with BS5837) and these have the bund within their RPAs. However, the percentage of the RPA affected is minor and the trees will have roots growing in all directions which will assist in their response to the change of conditions in their rhizosphere. I did not see any deterioration in the crown vitality of these trees.

Some small and insignificant trees are in decline but it is not clear that the bund installation was the sole cause as many appear in a poor overall condition due to the harsh environment of the site, in close proximity to the coastline.

In summary, whilst some minor damage has occurred, I do not feel the removal of the bund at this stage would be of benefit to the trees. Instead, it would be best to remove the small number of declining trees and continue to plant new trees in their place.

G12 is responding well and the remedial works outlined below and in the tree table will further assist their response to the changes in their rooting environment.

Summary of recommendations:

Most of the trees on site are of limited landscape value. Their size and current form has led me to conclude that the installation of the bund has not lessened their landscape value as most are of poor form due to their exposed location or have been damaged through many years of exposure to salt water and flooding (such as G2 which has previously sat under water for many months). However, some of these lower value trees can be retained and incorporated into the scheme as I have noted in the tree table.

Some such trees on the bund would benefit from coppicing as this would allow them to develop new crowns whilst also allowing their roots to grow within the bund and increase its stability.

The trees within G12 which now grow on / within the bund have adapted to their new environment and to remove them now would cause further damage. Some localised bark damage has occurred on a small number of trees however these wounds are occluding well and the tree canopies are of good health and normal vigour. As noted in the table I believe it would be prudent to clear the bund away from the stems of these trees to give 0.5m radius.

This must be undertaken using hand tools only. I would also remove the crushed

concrete away from these trees to another part of site. Finally, to protect the trees against movements around the site, I would install a no-dig road on boundary to reduce future damage (erosion / compaction).

Photos:



The left-hand photo above shows G3 – two trees heavily impacted by the harsh coastal environment. Several other trees on site are of similar form. The right-hand photo shows T6 and G7. T6 looks to have been in decline to many years. G7 have had some stress from the bund installation but are sending new shoots from near ground level; the coppicing of G7 will allow new growth to develop and assist with root growth and bund stabilisation.

Therefore, there are five categories of trees on site as below:

- Trees which are unimpacted by the new bund: **G1, G2, G13 and T14**
- Trees which are growing in / near the bund which can be retained but should be coppiced to allow increased bund stability: **T4, G7, T8, G10 and G11**
- Trees which are growing in / near the bund where no work is required at this stage: **T5**
- Trees which are growing in / near the bund where some remedial work is needed to improve their growing conditions: **G12**
- Declining / low value trees which are not worth retaining: **G3, T6 and G9**

Mitigation:

When on site I noted several hundred new hedging trees ('whips') have been planted on the bund. These will establish as a hedge and if maintained at an appropriate height will increase the bunds stability. These hedges are competing with the new bunds grass growth and I would recommend some localised spot spraying to eliminate weed competition.

If considered necessary, the scheme has the potential to provide several new feature trees which should be discussed with the Council. This should more than adequately compensate for the loss of G3, T6 and G9.

Conclusion:

The bund installation was a necessary undertaking to protect the buildings and their future occupants from the serious risk posed by flooding. Some tree removal and coppicing is required in response to the bund installation but this does not include the loss of any trees of any value.

G12 is responding well after 2 years and I expect this to continue, especially with the recommendations proposed above.

There has been and will continue to be large numbers of new trees and shrubs planted and these will ensure a net gain in tree numbers and enhancement of the site and local area for the future.

I hope this is of assistance to you, however should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards

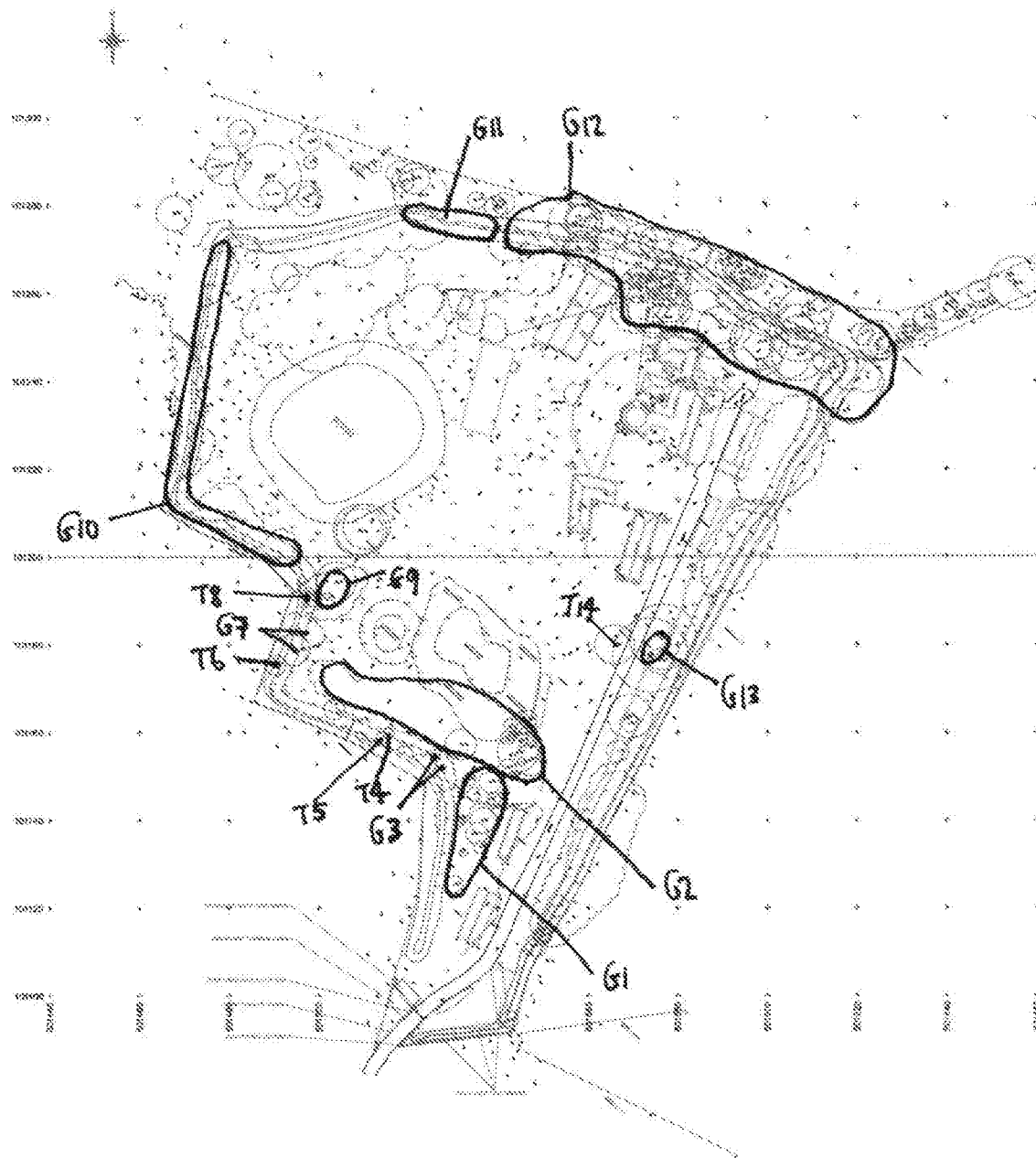


Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
For and on behalf of GHA Trees

Tree reference on plan	Species	Estimated height	Estimated stem diameter	Average crown spread radius	BS5837 grading	General comments on tree / trees	Assessed impact from bund	Recommendations
G1	Prunus	4 to 6m	100mm	3m	C2	Low value cluster of trees. Scruffy in appearance and poor overall form due to exposed location.	The bund is located at a sufficient distance from the tree stems and is not within the assessed RPA.	No work required.
G2	Holm Oak	5m	250mm	3m	C2	Low value cluster of trees. Declining crowns due to past flood damage.	The bund is located at a sufficient distance from the tree stems and is not within the assessed RPA.	No work currently required. Monitor health.
G3	Hawthorn	4m	200mm	2m	C2	Low value small cluster of trees. Scruffy in appearance and poor overall form due to exposed location.	Bund in close proximity to low value trees.	Remove trees and continue to plant compensatory trees elsewhere on site.
T4	Hawthorn	4m	200mm	2m	C1	Low value. Scruffy in appearance and poor overall form due to exposed location.	Tree is growing on side bank of new bund. Existing roots are likely to be growing in bund and contributing to its stability.	Coppice tree at 0.2m to allow regrowth at a lower level.
T5	Oak	4m	200mm	3m	C1	Small tree of reasonable value.	Tree growing on top of bund. Existing roots are likely to be growing in bund and contributing to its stability.	No work required. Retain and monitor condition.
T6	Birch	6m	100mm	2m	C1	Scruffy small tree with little live crown growth. There is little benefit to retaining this tree.	Tree growing on top of bund.	Remove tree and continue plant compensatory trees elsewhere on site.
G7	Willow	6m	300mm	4m	C2	Small trees of limited value.	Trees growing on top of bund. Existing roots are likely to be growing in bund and contributing to its stability. Vigorous new growth establishing from near ground level.	Coppice tree at 0.2m to allow regrowth at a lower level.

Tree reference on plan	Species	Estimated height	Estimated stem diameter	Average crown spread radius	BS5837 grading	General comments on tree / trees	Assessed impact from bund	Recommendations
T8	Hawthorn	4m	100mm	1m	C1	Small tree of limited value.	Tree growing on top of bund. Existing roots are likely to be growing in bund and contributing to its stability.	Coppice tree at 0.2m to allow regrowth at a lower level.
G9	Birch	5 to 7m	250mm	3m	C2	Scruffy small trees with little live crown growth. There is little benefit to retaining these trees.	Trees growing on top of bund.	Remove trees and continue to plant compensatory trees elsewhere on site.
G10	Elm, willow, hawthorn	4m	50mm	1m	C2	Vigorous young trees. Some elms have dead tops.	Trees growing on top of bund.	Coppice trees at 0.2m to allow regrowth at a lower level to form new hedge.
G11	Field maple, hawthorn	5 to 8m	200mm	3m	C2	Small trees of limited value.	Trees growing on top of bund. Existing roots are likely to be growing in bund and contributing to its stability. Vigorous new growth growing from near ground level.	Coppice tree at 0.2m to allow regrowth at a lower level.
G12	Alder, sorbus, sycamore, oak, elm	10 to 18m	300 to 500mm	5m	B2	Group of trees in north eastern corner. Several good quality trees in group.	Bund is near / touching some trees. Some minor bark damage caused by bund installation.	Clear sections of bund away from trees to give 0.5m radius and avoid future bark 'rotting'. HAND TOOLS ONLY! Safety survey of trees to be undertaken again prior to occupation. Remove crushed concrete away from trees to another part of site. Install no-dig road on boundary to reduce future damage (erosion / compaction) from vehicle movements.

Tree reference on plan	Species	Estimated height	Estimated stem diameter	Average crown spread radius	BS5837 grading	General comments on tree / trees	Assessed impact from bund	Recommendations
G13	Holm Oak	10m	4 x 400mm	8m	B3	Tree has been crown reduced in past.	The bund is located at a sufficient distance from the tree stems and is not within the assessed RPA.	No work required.
G14	Holm Oak	4m	500mm	2m	C1	Tree has been crown reduced in past.	The bund is located at a sufficient distance from the tree stems and is not within the assessed RPA.	No work required.



MR G LOVE
CLAPRING MILL
CLAPRING STREET
CLAPRING
WEST SUSSEX
BN17 6RN

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