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Arboricultural Implications Assessment and Method Statement for Land at Yapton Lane, Walberton

Arboricultural Implications Assessment and Method Statement

Land at Yapton Lane, Walberton

Produced by:

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **Instruction:** I am instructed by Land Quest UK (Southern) Ltd to report on trees that could be affected by a development proposal for land at Yapton Lane, Walberton and prepare an Arboricultural Implications Assessment (AIA) and preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) to support an outline planning application on the site.
- 1.2 **Document disclosure:** I was provided with a topographical survey (drawing reference 'Yapton Lane-1'). This showed the positions of the significant trees on or near the access into the site, together with other site features. Subsequently, I was supplied with a copy of the proposed layout, (drawing reference '20-1092- SK10B Concept Layout') showing a new site configuration and access.
- 1.3 **Scope of report:** All my tree observations are of a preliminary nature, with the tree survey carried out from ground level without any investigations using invasive or diagnostic equipment. I have not checked the accuracy of the positions of the trees shown on the provided plans and I have estimated all dimensions unless otherwise indicated.
- 1.4 **The Tree Protection Plan:** This is included in Appendix 1 and is a composite drawing derived from the information provided. It shows the existing landscape features (from the land survey) in grey superimposed over the proposed layout shown in colour. This allows the relationship between the two to be clearly seen and an appropriate analysis of the implications of the proposed site changes to be undertaken. The Tree Protection Plan has also been annotated to show protection measures for the trees which could realistically be affected by the proposed development. It shows any activities in Root Protection Areas (RPAs) and if trees are to be removed these are indicated with a red circle corresponding to tree stem positions.
- 1.5 **Ecological issues and statutory tree protection:** Providing guidance on ecological issues is not within my sphere of expertise. However, trees and other vegetation can often provide nesting, roosting and feeding opportunities for protected species. Therefore, before any tree work proceeds on site, I advise that appropriate advice is sought to see whether the trees to be removed are being utilised by any protected species. At the time of writing, I understand that there is a confirmed Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in force on site (council reference: 'TPO/WA/1/21'). Therefore, any person intending to carry out any operations involving trees (before a formal planning consent is issued) should consult the council before any such works are undertaken.

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- 1.6 **Qualifications and experience:** This report is based on my site observations and I have come to my conclusions in the context of my experience as a former local government tree officer and a private practice arboricultural consultant. I have qualifications in both arboriculture and forestry and details of these, together with a career summary are provided in Appendix 5.

2 SITE VISIT, DESCRIPTIONS, OBSERVATIONS AND SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 **Site visit and description:** I visited the site most recently on 30 November 2021 to gather some tree data. The site is located in Yapton Lane, which is situated to the south of the village of Walberton. It is positioned on the western side of the road and consists of an area of agricultural land, with a linear grouping of trees located on the eastern boundary. This belt of trees runs in a north/south orientation and is positioned between the agricultural land and the highway. The tree cover in this area is dominated by young sycamore, with occasional maturing and mature lime, beech and hornbeam.
- 2.2 **Description of proposed development:** This development proposal is for the construction of 48 new residential dwellings.
- 2.3 **Soil assessment:** British Standard (BS) 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations advocates that a soil assessment should be carried out to inform decisions relating to Root Protection Areas (RPAs), tree protection, new planting and foundation design. I have consulted the British Geological Survey (BGS) website and their Geology of Britain viewer and this advises that the bedrock geology for the site is London Clay Formation – Clay, Silt and Sand. I did not undertake any excavations on site to confirm this and a full geotechnical site investigation may need to be undertaken to provide a more in-depth level of information regarding soil type for the site.
- 2.4 **Tree survey methodology:** My inspection of the trees was visual and did not involve any climbing or exploratory investigations. During my visit, I identified individual trees and obvious groups where this was appropriate and I assigned an identification number to each, as shown on the plan in Appendix 1. I then collected the tree data included in Appendix 2 and placed the vegetation in one of four categories (U, A, B or C), as set out in British Standard (BS) 5837: 2012. I have included the BS categorisations in Appendix 4 for easy reference. Although this document is not a full and detailed report on tree health and safety, any significant visible structural defects or physiological conditions identified, together with preliminary tree works, are also noted in the appropriate columns in the tree schedule. However, this report is not a tree condition survey and a full post development tree inspection is recommended to establish that the trees retained pose acceptable levels of risk once the development has been completed.

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- 2.5 **BS 5837 tree quality designations:** Because attributing arboricultural values to intimate group mixtures in a tree belt is not particularly helpful in assessing their importance, I have categorised trees based mainly on their visual importance using the BS 5837 (2012) landscape criteria. Consequently, those trees which I felt were the more significant components of the tree belt on the eastern site boundary have been assigned to the BS Category A2 accordingly.
- 2.6 **Data interpretation:** The Root Protection Area (RPA) figures are included in Appendix 2. As set out in paragraphs 4.6.2 and 4.6.3 of the BS, the RPAs may have been adjusted as a matter of arboricultural judgement to indicate the estimated likely position of important tree roots. These modified (or unmodified) RPAs dictate the location of the tree protection barriers and also determine the position of any ground protection measures. Tree protection details are shown on the plan included in Appendix 1. Where there is a need for incursions into RPAs, an assessment of the implications of these activities is set out in Section 3 (Arboricultural Implications Assessment) of this report. Where appropriate, details of suitable work methodologies to protect trees and also mitigate any impact are set out in Section 5 (Arboricultural Method Statement).
- 2.7 **Council discussions and agreements:** During the recent pre-application process, I had a site meeting with the council's tree officer and we agreed that the more important trees on the site were amongst the lime, beech and hornbeam species and that the position of these trees should take precedence when determining the optimum position of the new site access. Consequently, the position of the access has been conceived with these pre-application discussions in mind and my comments on the access and tree losses are set out in section 3.2.1 of this report.

3 ARBORICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 **Introduction to the implications of the development proposal on trees:** BS 5837: 2012 sets out in some detail how trees on development sites should be managed. It is usually accepted amongst arboriculturists that Category A (high quality) and Category B (moderate quality) trees are potential constraints on any development proposal, whereas vegetation belonging to Category C (low quality) is considered to be generally less important. Category U trees/hedges are in such poor condition that they are considered unsuitable for retention. This is because they cannot realistically be retained as living entities in respect of the current land use for longer than 10 years. Therefore, these can be effectively discounted in the context of a planning application. On this site a total of SIX individual trees and groups were recorded during the tree survey and were assigned to the BS 5837 (2012) categories, as set out in Table 1 below:

Category A and B trees	Category C trees	Category U trees
A total of TWO trees (T1 and T5) were rated Category A	A total of FOUR trees and groups (T2, T3, T4, and G6) were rated Category C	No trees or groups were rated Category U

Table 1: Tree numbers and BS categories

I have focussed on the implications of the development proposal on the tree losses required to allow the new access to be formed. Of the total of SIX trees/groups surveyed, a number of sycamore trees and a single beech tree will need to be removed to allow the new access to be formed. I have summarised the development related implications on trees in Table 2 below and set out my views on the site tree issues in more detail in the following paragraphs.

Trees to be removed for development		Activities in RPAs arising from the development proposal	
Category A and B	Category C	Category A and B	Category C
n/a	T2 and trees from group G6	n/a	n/a

Table 2: Trees lost and activities in RPAs arising from the development proposal

3.2 Direct implications of the development proposal - Tree removals

3.2.1 **Trees to be removed arising from the access positioning:** Tree T2, along with some trees from amongst group G6 are indicated to be removed to allow the new access to be formed. I set out my views on the loss of these trees, as follows:

- **Access design and configuration:** This has been carefully considered in order to help reduce the visual implications of the development, with the road conceived to provide a pleasing sylvan entrance to the site and the road curvature intended to reduce direct views of the development when observed from the adjacent highway. I have indicated the likely tree losses on the plan included in Appendix 1 and the position of the tree removals and retained trees are based on a recent topographical survey of the immediate access area.
- **Tree T2:** As discussed, during the pre-application meeting with the council's tree officer we agreed that the retention of the non sycamore tree species on the site should take precedence when determining the optimum position of the access road. Tree T2 is a beech tree and it is indicated to be removed to allow the access bell mouth to be achieved. It also occupies a prominent position adjacent to the highway and consequently I have considered whether it would be possible for it to be retained with an alternative access configuration. However, I did not feel the tree was in the best condition, with a canopy heavily unbalanced over the highway. Looking at other trees in the vicinity, repositioning the entrance either further to the north or south would

seem to have implications for additional non sycamore trees, with any movement of the entrance southwards taking it closer to tree T1 (lime), which I have graded as being an important tree. Whilst the loss of tree T2 will be noticeable, I feel that the retention of the trees close to its position will assist in buffering its loss. Consequently, weighing up all the issues, I feel that the position of the access is probably optimal, despite the loss of tree T2. Nonetheless, if the council disagree, then there would always be scope for this issue to be revisited to see if there is the possibility for the access to be reconfigured to allow this particular tree to be retained.

- **Group G6 (partial removal):** Most of the trees to be removed to allow the new access to be formed are from amongst the sycamore trees on the site. The curvature of the road means that to a large extent these tree losses will be obscured by retained trees further to the east (trees T3 and T4 and the remaining parts of G6). Consequently, accepting of the need to form an access into the site, I feel that the tree losses envisaged from group G6 are acceptable from an arboricultural perspective, subject to new replacement tree planting being provided on the site in mitigation (see below).
- **Replacement tree planting:** There is some scope for significant new tree planting on the site. The existing eastern boundary is proposed to be strengthened with new trees, along with new planting within the site and also along the southern boundary (as shown on the architects drawing and detailed in the landscape strategy submitted under a separate cover). The introduction of new tree species and diversification of tree age class would be welcome, adding some resilience to the tree cover of the area. Consequently, I feel at the tree losses indicated to allow the new access to be formed could indeed be successfully mitigated with the new tree planting envisaged.

3.3 Additional site tree issues

- 3.3.1 **Tree protection during development:** A preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement is included in Section 5 and it details the various issues associated with successful tree protection in a development context on this site. If deemed appropriate by the council, this can be specifically referred to (and/or updated) via a suitably worded planning condition attached to any subsequently issued planning consent.

4 SUMMARY OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON TREES

- 4.1 **Summary:** Of the total of SIX trees/groups surveyed, a number of sycamore trees and a single beech tree will need to be removed to allow the new access to be formed. Some implications arising from the position of the access are inevitable. However, its location and configuration have been given careful consideration to reduce landscape and tree implications. Provided adequate tree protection measures (as set out in this report) are deployed during the construction phase, then the proposal is considered acceptable from an arboricultural perspective, subject to appropriate new tree planting being implemented to mitigate the tree losses.

5 PRELIMINARY ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

5.1 Tree protection issues

5.1.1 **Tree Protection Plan (TPP):** The plan in Appendix 1 is illustrative, but is based on the layout drawings and topographical survey provided. Therefore, all scaled measurements should be checked against the original design documents. The attached plan and all other information in this report should only be used for dealing with the tree protection issues and all other uses are prohibited, unless authorised by ecourban ltd. All the existing trees in the vicinity of the new access have been numbered, with any higher categories (A and B) highlighted in green and blue rectangles and any low categories (C and U) highlighted in grey and red respectively. The plan also shows the locations of the proposed protective measures and any trees to be removed are indicated with a red circle corresponding to tree stem positions. The TPP is an important document and a copy of it should be kept on site for reference whilst the development is under construction.

5.1.2 **Protective barriers:** The approximate location of the barriers is illustrated on the plan in Appendix 1 and information on barrier design based on BS 5837 (2012) guidance is included in Appendix 3. The protective barriers will be erected before any materials or machinery are brought onto the site, and before any clearance or construction activities occur. Once the protective barriers have been positioned, these will stay in situ for the duration of the construction, unless previously agreed with the arboricultural consultant or council's tree officer. There will be no access into the protected areas and the storage of excavated debris and building materials will be prohibited in RPAs, unless authorised by the arboricultural consultant, after discussion with the council's tree officer. No fires or fuel storage will be allowed within or near to protected areas under any circumstances.

5.2 Additional tree-related issues

5.2.1 **Site supervision:** Site personnel will be properly briefed regarding the tree protection issues before any work starts, and the tree protection will be inspected periodically to ensure the retained trees are protected in accordance with this document and any conditions imposed by the council.

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- 5.2.2 **Material storage areas and site compounds:** All construction material storage areas, cement silos or cement mixing areas, fuel storage points and compounds for machinery etc. will be outside protected areas, unless otherwise agreed with the council.
- 5.2.3 **Installation of new services or upgrading of existing provision:** Where practicable, all new services will be outside the protected areas indicated on the plan in Appendix 1, but where existing services within RPAs require upgrading or new provision is needed, great care will be taken to minimise any disturbance. Trenchless installation will be the preferred option, but if this is not feasible, any excavation will be carried out by hand in accordance with the guidelines set out in NJUG Volume 4 - Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees.
- 5.2.4 **Contractors car parking, site offices and welfare facilities:** Whilst it is possible to have site offices and welfare facilities within RPAs, care is needed in their positioning and also in the connection of water, electricity and drainage to service them. Therefore, these will generally be sited outside the tree RPAs, unless agreed previously with the council. Contractor's car parking facilities will also be located away from retained trees.
- 5.2.5 **Tree works:** Any tree pruning or tree removal operations are set out in the tree schedule included in Appendix 2. Additionally, those trees indicated for removal are also shown on the Tree Protection Plan included in Appendix 1.
- 5.2.6 **Planning, communication and preliminary timing of events:** It is not unusual for the details of timing of operations that could impact on important trees to only be finalised once planning consent has been given. Site managers, clearance and construction teams and other important personnel are normally only appointed at this stage and it is these people who will be crucial in delivering the tree protection detailed in this report. My experience is that the pre commencement site meeting is critical in terms of avoiding damage to trees and this particular aspect, along with tree protection issues can be specifically referenced in a suitably worded planning condition imposed by the council. In the intervening time, I propose the following preliminary cascading timetable of events to help minimise the risk of impact on important trees. However, the following schedule may be modified at the pre-commencement meeting, subject to discussion with all parties and agreement with the council:

1. Pre-commencement site meeting
2. Extent of any arboricultural supervision agreed

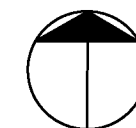
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3. Tree works undertaken
 4. Protective barriers erected before any clearance or construction activities occur on site and notification to the council that this is in place
 5. Tree protection only removed at the end of the construction phase when there is no longer any risk to trees

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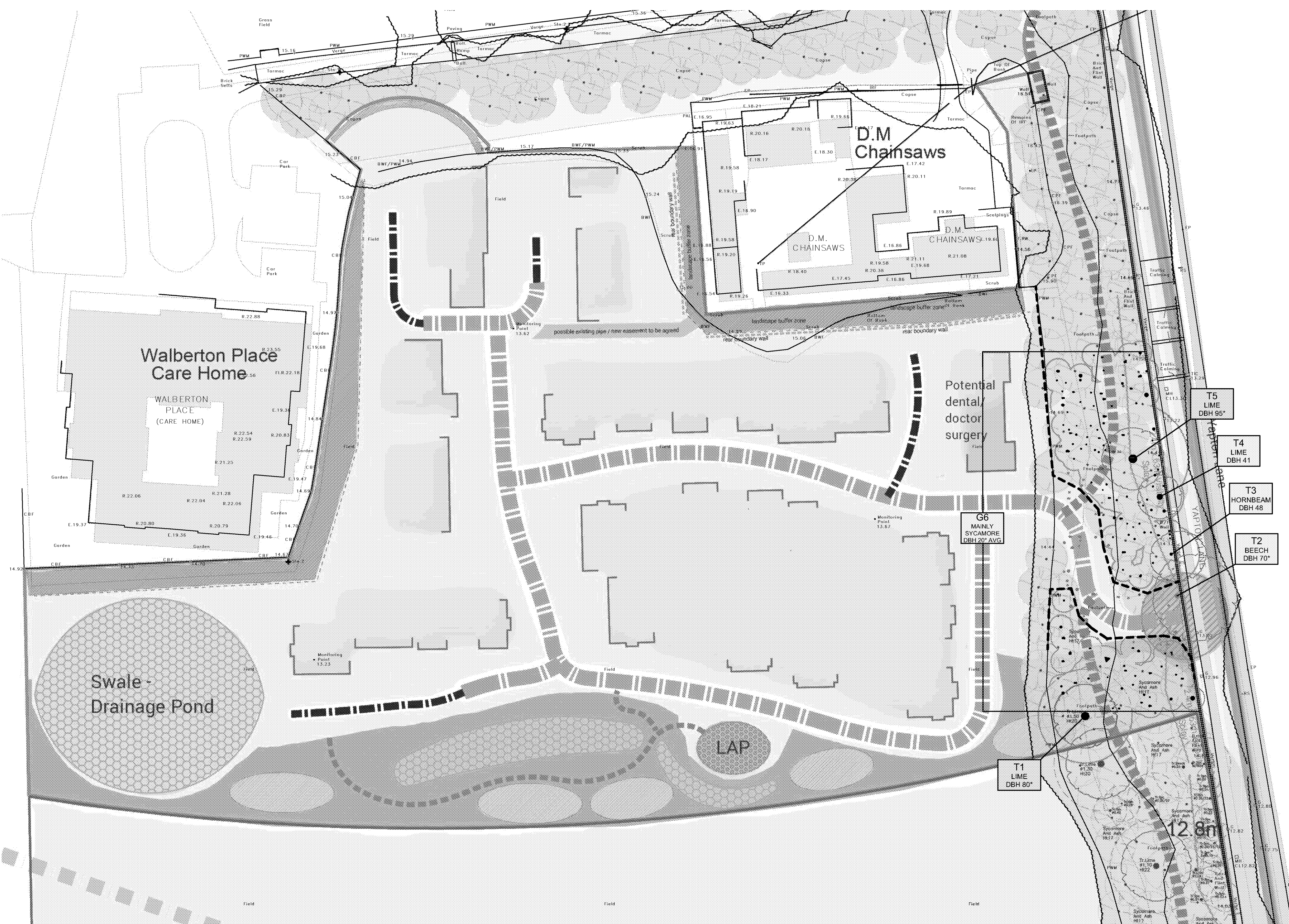
Date: **10 January 2022**

Appendix 1: Tree Protection Plan

1 A2 plan



Indicative
North



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ECO 9 - TREE PROTECTION FOR LAND AT YAPTON LANE, WALBERTON

SCALE: 1:500 @ A2

COMPOSITE PLAN: LAND SURVEY OUTLINED IN GREY,
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SHOWN IN COLOUR

T1

XXX
DBH (Dia. @1.5m)
BS Category A: Trees
of high quality

T1

XXX
DBH (Dia. @1.5m)
BS Category C: Trees
of low quality

BS Category C: Trees
of low quality



Root Protection Areas (RPAs):
Outline of below ground tree constraints for
retained trees based on BS 5837 guidance



Preliminary tree protection
barrier positioning



Preliminary tree removals
to facilitate access

This drawing was originally produced in colour, therefore any
subsequent monochrome photocopies should not be relied upon

Appendix 2: Tree Schedule and Inventory

Background fill colour represents BS 5837 (2012) categories: A Category trees have green backgrounds, B Category trees have light blue backgrounds, C Category trees have grey backgrounds and U Category trees have red backgrounds.

Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	Single stem dia. at 1.4m (cm)	Exc. Dia. (cm)	STEM DIAMETERS (MULTIPLE)								Branch spread (m)				Ht above ground (m)	Age class	Notes	Management proposals	HS cat.	RPA area (m²)	RPA radius (m)
					Multi-stemmed trees with 1 - 5 stems (cm)					Multi-stemmed trees with 1 - 5 stems combined (cm)	Multi-stemmed trees >5 stems												
					1	2	3	4	5		Mean stem dia. (cm)	No. of stems	N	E	S	W							
T1	Lime	19	80	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	3	5	4	M	Profuse epicormic/basal growth. Some deadwood in canopy and dieback of extremities.		A2	290	9.6
T2	Beech	17	70	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	11	8	4	5	MA/M	Roadside tree, heavily unbalanced over highway. Close to boundary wall. Ivy on main stem, limiting access to survey.	Fell.	C1	222	8.4
T3	Hornbeam	16	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	4	1	5	MA	Roadside tree, heavily unbalanced over highway. Close to boundary wall. Ivy on main stem, limiting access to survey.		C1	104	5.8

Appendix 2: Tree Schedule and Inventory

Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	Single stem dia. at 1.3m (cm)	Exc. Dia. (cm)	STEM DIAMETERS (MULTIPLE)								Branch spread (m)				Ht above ground (m)	Age class	Notes	Management proposals	HS cat	RPA area (m²)	RPA radius (m)
					Multi-stemmed trees with 1 - 5 stems (cm)					Multi-stemmed trees with 1 - 5 stems combined (cm)	Multi-stemmed trees > 5 stems												
					1	2	3	4	5		Mean stem dia. (cm)	No. of stems	N	E	S	W							
T4	Lime	19	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	5	1	5	MA	Roadside tree, heavily unbalanced over highway. Close to boundary wall. Profuse epicormic/basal growth lower stem, limiting access to survey.		C1	76	4.9
T5	Lime	19	95	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	4	3	4	M	Profuse epicormic basal growth. Some deadwood in canopy and dieback of extremities. Unbalanced.		A2	408	11.4
G6	Mainly sycamore	18	20	* Avg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	5	Y	Swath of self-sown trees with similar attributes. Closely spaced, with tall and drawn up form.	Fell selected trees from amongst group (see plan).	C1	18	2.4

Appendix 2: Tree Schedule and Inventory

Abbreviations:

Abbreviations	Meaning	Abbreviations	Meaning	Abbreviations	Meaning
T	Individual tree	M	Mature	>	More than
G	Groups of trees	MA	Maturing	<	Less than
H	Hedge	Y	Young	Lgst	Largest tree diameter within group
W	Woodland	RPA	Root Protection Area	Avg	Average tree diameter within group

Tree Schedule Notes:

Tree number	Assigned during the site visit and also referenced on the plan in Appendix 1.
Species	Common name and referenced to scientific name in the above list. Where I have some doubt over the actual tree species, the genus will have been noted followed by sp. Where trees are numerous and present in groups, not every individual species may have been noted.
Height	Measurement of total tree height using a laser hypsometer to nearest metre or where clear line of site is not possible then an estimate based on interpolation of heights of nearby measured trees.
Stem diameters	Measurement of stem diameter either at 1.5m above ground (or in accordance with BS guidance where trees have multiple stems) with a forester's girth measuring tape. Diameters followed by asterisk symbol indicate estimated diameters because of access difficulties, presence of ivy or other obstructions. Where trees are present in a group, the tree with the largest stem diameter within the group will have been measured/estimated.
Est. Dia.	Estimated diameters due to access restrictions are indicated with an asterisk
Branch spread	Where appropriate and where ground conditions allow, an estimate of the crown spread at each of the cardinal compass points. Where only part of the site is affected by trees, measurement may be in one or two directions only
Existing height above ground level	Distance in metres to first significant branch or canopy or a height above which crown lifting operations would not be appropriate
Age class	Simplistic estimate of tree age in one of FOUR categories (young, maturing, mature or over mature).

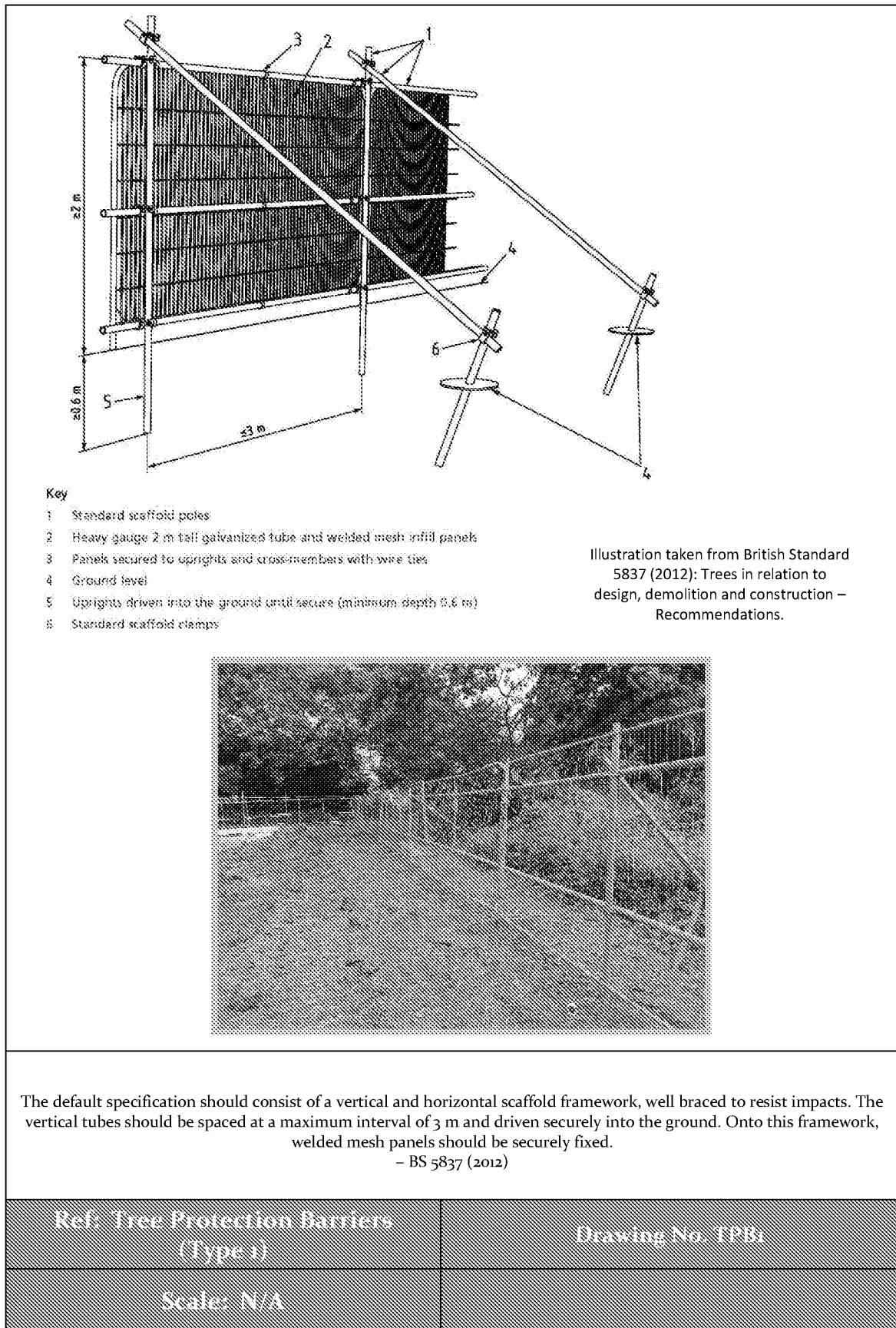
Appendix 2: Tree Schedule and Inventory

Notes	Although this document is not intended to be a full and detailed report on tree health and safety, any significant structural defects or physiological conditions have been identified where these were visible. Where no entries are recorded, this indicates no observable issues were identified. Where there is restricted access to the base of a tree, its attributes are assessed from the nearest point of access. Climbing inspections are not carried out during a walkover tree survey and, if heavy ivy is present, tree condition is assessed from what can be seen from the ground.
Management proposals	The inspection of all trees was of a preliminary nature and only defects visible from the ground have been identified. Each individual tree may not have been inspected closely because of access difficulties and only defects visible from the inspection point have been identified. Monitoring may be indicated where tree risk can be adequately managed by increased frequency of site inspections. Further investigation may be indicated where additional data may be required beyond a purely visual assessment. However, a full post development tree inspection is recommended to establish that the trees retained during construction pose acceptable levels of risk once the development has been completed.
BS 5837 (2012) Category	Either U, A, B or C based on the BS 5837 (2012) guidance.
RPA and RPA radius	RPA and RPA radius calculations have been undertaken in accordance with the guidance set out in BS 5837 (2012).

Tree Inventory:

Common Tree Names	Scientific Tree Names		Common Tree Names	Scientific Tree Names
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		Lime	<i>Tilia x europaea</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>		Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>

Appendix 3: Illustrative Specification for Tree Protection Barriers



Appendix 4: BS 5837 (2012) – Assessment Categories

TREES FOR REMOVAL				
Category and definition	Criteria			Identification on plan
<u>Category U</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 category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, 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 of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality <i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve.</i>			RED
TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION				
Category and definition	Criteria — Subcategories			Identification on plan
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
<u>Category A</u> Trees of 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 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
<u>Category B</u> Trees 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
<u>Category C</u> Trees 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 collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	GREY

Appendix 5: Qualifications and Experience of Barrie Draper

- 1 Qualifications:** I have a BSc degree (with Honours) in Arboriculture from the University of Central Lancashire. I also hold a BTEC Higher National Diploma (HND) in Forestry (Lowland Management), the Arboricultural Association's Technician's Certificate in Arboriculture (Tech Cert), the Royal Forestry Society's Certificate in Arboriculture (Cert Arb) and the National Examinations Board Certificate in Forestry.

- 2 Career experience:** I began my arboricultural career in 1993 as an arborist with Portsmouth City Council. During my time with the council I worked for both the direct labour organisation and for a private contractor where I obtained valuable hands on experience in all aspects of arboriculture. From 1999 to 2002 I was employed as Senior Arborist by Parchment Housing Group, a housing association based near Portsmouth. I managed the Groups' tree stock on their behalf, carrying out tree inspections and practical management operations. I have also worked in local government, spending time with Thurrock Borough Council in Essex where I was the Tree and Landscape Officer, and with Winchester City Council, where I was Arboricultural Officer for a period of 2 years. During my time working in local government, I was responsible for making Tree Preservation Orders, administering applications to work on protected trees and advising on planning applications when trees were considered material constraints on development. Working within a planning environment allowed me to gain valuable experience in the management of trees in development situations and an understanding of the planning process and how it relates to trees. From January 2005 I worked for Barrell Tree Consultancy Ltd advising clients on a wide range of tree related issues. I left the company in September 2008 and set up **ecourban** ltd.

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