

Arboricultural Method Statement (Preliminary)

Land at Bilsham Road
Yapton
West Sussex

24th July 2018



PJC ref: 3867/15-03 Rev 01

This report has been prepared by
PJC Consultancy Ltd
on behalf of
Gleeson Strategic Land

**Prepared
by**

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Peter has a Foundation Degree in Arboriculture from the University of Brighton and is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association. He has over ten years experience in the arboricultural industry, originally working as a groundsman and feller, and progressing into consultancy. He is a Lantra accredited professional tree inspector.

**Checked
by**

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Nick has attained an HND in forestry management and is a professional member of both the Arboricultural Association and the Consulting Arborists Society. He has worked in the arboricultural and forestry industries for 17 years. He started his career as a forestry worker before qualifying as a tree surgeon, working in both the private and commercial sectors. He has been a practising consultant since 2004. He is a Lantra accredited professional tree inspector.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This method statement is written in conjunction with arboricultural impact assessment ref. PJC/3867/15-02.

1.2 **Instruction:** PJC Consultancy has been instructed by Gleeson Strategic Land to provide a preliminary arboricultural method statement in accordance with BS5837: 2012 '*Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*', to accompany the outline planning application for a proposed residential development on land adjacent to Bilsham Road in Yapton.

1.3 **Objective of this report:** In order to safeguard retained trees on site during development works it is necessary to implement a tree protection strategy. The objective of the following preliminary arboricultural method statement is to explain the principals of the tree protection methodology to be implemented during the construction phase of development. This report is concerned with the protection of all retained trees at the site including the above ground and below ground parts of the trees as well as their rooting medium.

1.4 **Limitations of report:** This is a preliminary arboricultural method statement based on the information available on the date of the report. The preliminary arboricultural method statement shall be updated to a detailed arboricultural method statement following the detailed design stage of planning, which shall take into account the final site layout, the routing of services and the construction management plan.

1.5 **Contents of report:** This report includes the following:

- Preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement
- Preliminary Tree Protection Plan

2 PRELIMINARY ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

2.1 **General requirements:** The arboricultural method statement and Tree Protection Plan shall remain on site for the duration of construction and landscaping works and be available to site operatives at all times. All operatives at the site shall be briefed about tree related factors as part of their site induction.

2.2 Any variation from the methodology described in the detailed arboricultural method statement shall be discussed with the supervising arboriculturalist and agreed with the local authority arboricultural officer.

2.3 **Initial tree works:** The tree removals listed in the arboricultural impact assessment shall be carried out as the first stage of development. Any requirements for access facilitation pruning which have not been anticipated prior to commencement shall be discussed at the pre-commencement meeting with the project arboriculturalist and agreed with the local authority arboricultural officer.

2.4 Tree stumps and vegetation located within the root protection areas of retained trees shall be cleared with controlled hand tools (e.g. stump grinder/brush cutter). Plant machinery shall not be used to scrape vegetation or 'grub out' tree stumps within root protection areas, or access the site until the tree protection barriers have been installed.

2.5 If bonfires are lit to dispose of arising's from the vegetation or tree clearance works, an assessment of wind direction and strength shall be made to ensure flames cannot extend within 5m of any part of a retained tree. No bonfires shall be lit within a root protection area.

2.6 Trees should be checked for protected species before works are undertaken. It is against the law to disturb bats or their roosts under the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations. Nesting birds are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act. If protected species are discovered, Natural England should be contacted for advice.

2.7 The tree works contractors should carry out all tree works to BS3998: 2010 '*Tree works – recommendations*' as modified by research that is more recent. They should also carry relevant, adequate and up to date insurance.

2.8 It is recommended that an Arboricultural Association approved contractor carry out all tree works. Approved contractors are expected to work to industry best standards. The Arboricultural Association website (www.trees.org.uk) contains contact details and information on engaging a suitable contractor.

2.9 **Tree protection barriers:** The root protection areas of retained trees must be left free from disturbance, and protected from contamination or compaction during the proposed works. Protection shall comprise the formation of construction exclusion zones through the installation of tree protection fencing.

2.10 Tree protection fencing shall be installed in the locations shown on the Tree Protection Plan. Example specifications for tree protection fencing are included in Appendix 2. The detailed specification for tree protection fencing shall be described in the detailed arboricultural method statement.

2.11 Signs shall be affixed to the tree protection fencing as shown in Appendix 3 to explain its purpose. The signs shall be affixed at a reasonable size and frequency to ensure they are easily visible to operatives at the site.

2.12 The areas protected by tree protection fencing (highlighted yellow on the Tree Protection Plan) shall be referred to as the construction exclusion zones. The following actions shall be prohibited within the construction exclusion zones:

- Vehicular access.
- Regular pedestrian access unless on suitable ground protection following prior agreement with the project arboriculturalist.
- Storage of construction materials.
- Storage or handling of harmful chemicals.
- The lighting of bonfires.
- Any change in ground level unless undertaken under the supervision of the project arboriculturalist.
- Construction activities including installation of new permanent hard standing unless otherwise stated in the detailed arboricultural method statement.

2.13 The tree protection fencing shall be installed following the initial tree works, prior to construction traffic entering the site. It shall remain in place for the duration of the construction and hard landscaping period unless otherwise agreed with the project arboriculturalist or local authority arboricultural officer.

2.14 **Storage and handling of harmful chemicals:** Provision needs to be made to avoid the storage and handling of harmful chemicals in proximity to trees. Harmful chemicals include fuels, oils, builder's sand (which has a high salt content) and cement. Provision shall also be made to avoid fuelling or the handling of cement from occurring in areas proposed for further planting.

2.15 Cement mixing shall only occur where there is no potential for cement washings to leech into a root protection area. A designated fuelling station for plant machinery shall be selected that is either bunded or has provision to avoid spillages leeching into a construction exclusion zone.

2.16 **Contractor facilities:** A suitable location for site cabins, contractor parking and site facilities for operatives shall be agreed with the project arboriculturalist during a pre-commencement meeting (if not already specified in a construction management plan). These facilities should be located outside the root protection areas of retained trees. Provision must also be taken to prevent exhaust fumes or hot air from generators or kitchen facilities from damaging the canopies of retained trees.

2.17 **Installing new permanent fencing within root protection areas:** Installation of permanent fences within the above root protection areas (the site boundary fencing and garden fences) will require access into the construction exclusion zones. Only pedestrian access will be permitted into the construction exclusion zones and scaffold board pathways shall be used in wet weather conditions. Ideally these works shall occur during the soft landscaping phase of development when it is safe to dismantle the tree protection fencing.

2.18 The fencing specifications are to be confirmed on the date of this report. Within root protection areas a fencing type that requires only postholes (no trenching) shall be used. The levels of the fences must also consider existing ground levels as there should be no re-grading of levels within root protection areas.

2.19 The postholes shall be hand excavated with care taken to avoid damaging or severing roots with a diameter greater than 25mm (potentially requiring the position of the fence posts to be altered slightly). The postholes shall be sleeved with impermeable sheeting before any concrete is added to prevent alkaline burn to retained roots. Cement mixing shall occur outside the construction exclusion zones.

2.20 **Soft landscaping within root protection areas:** New soft landscaping within the root protection areas of retained trees shall occur as the final phase of development. The detailed specification for soft landscaping is to be confirmed but will likely include turfing and tree/shrub planting within root protection areas.

2.21 Where new turf is to be laid within the root protection areas of retained trees, topsoil will likely need to be imported. The existing soil may be lightly tilled by hand but use of rotavators will be prohibited. A maximum increase of 150mm of topsoil should be introduced to a root protection area to avoid suffocating root growth. Care must be taken to prevent soil being piled against tree buttresses or buttress roots.

2.22 When soil or other materials are transported across a root protection area, scaffold board pathways must be used to prevent compaction of the rooting medium. It should be noted that even pedestrian traffic can compact the soil, particularly in wet conditions.

2.23 All planting pits within root protection areas shall be individually hand excavated (no trench planting). Care must be taken to avoid severing or damaging roots with a diameter greater than 25mm.

2.24 All planting stock, top soil and other soft landscaping materials shall be stockpiled outside the root protection areas of retained trees. If the tree protection fencing has been dismantled then the extents of the root protection areas shall be made clear to operatives at the site by other means (e.g. ground marker paint or similar). The standard restrictions to works within the construction exclusion zones will still apply.

2.25 **Arboricultural supervision:** Arboricultural supervision will be required for the following stages of development:

- This preliminary arboricultural method statement shall be updated to a detailed arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan prior to commencement of the development.
- Prior to commencement of works, the project arboriculturalist shall review and where necessary provide input into the construction management plan. The detailed arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan shall take into account the requirements of the construction management plan.
- Prior to commencement of works, details of routing of all new services and drainage shall be provided to the project arboriculturalist. The detailed arboricultural method statement shall refer to the methodology for the installation of new services as appropriate.
- A pre-commencement meeting shall be held between the contractors and the project arboriculturalist. The local authority arboricultural officer shall be given reasonable notice of the pre-commencement meeting so they may also attend. The purpose of the pre-commencement meeting shall be:
 1. To clarify the tree protection methodology.
 2. To clearly identify the pre-commencement tree works.
 3. To mark out locations for the tree protection barriers.
 4. To discuss the phasing of works and agree locations for contractor facilities if not already specified in a construction management plan.
- The project arboriculturalist shall sign off that the pre-commencement tree works have been completed in full and as specified.
- The project arboriculturalist sign off that the tree protection barriers have been installed in the correct locations and to the agreed specification.

- The project arboriculturalist shall sign off that the prescribed methodology is followed for installing permanent fencing within root protections, as well as any further activities that are identified in the detailed arboricultural method statement.

2.26 In addition to the above, a system and programme of onsite monitoring by an appointed arboricultural consultant should be included in the detailed arboricultural method statement.

2.27 If significant root growth is disturbed during construction activities that are not within the scope of this report, the work shall cease until the project arboriculturalist has been consulted. Roots greater than 25mm in diameter or dense/matted fibrous roots shall be considered significant root growth. It should be remembered that whilst root protection areas are part of industry best practice, tree root growth is influenced by a number of factors and may not conform to expected ideals.

2.28 If at anytime during the construction process, damage is inadvertently caused to a tree, the project arboriculturalist shall be notified to assess the likely implications and to prescribe potential remedial measures to be implemented. Damage can be in the form of chemical or fuel spillage, mechanical damage to either the above ground parts of the tree or the roots, fire or any other unforeseen circumstance.

2.29 The supervising arboriculturalist shall be appointed by the contractor. It will be necessary for the arboriculturalist to report to the local planning authority on the outcome of the site visits as well as any unforeseen tree related issues.

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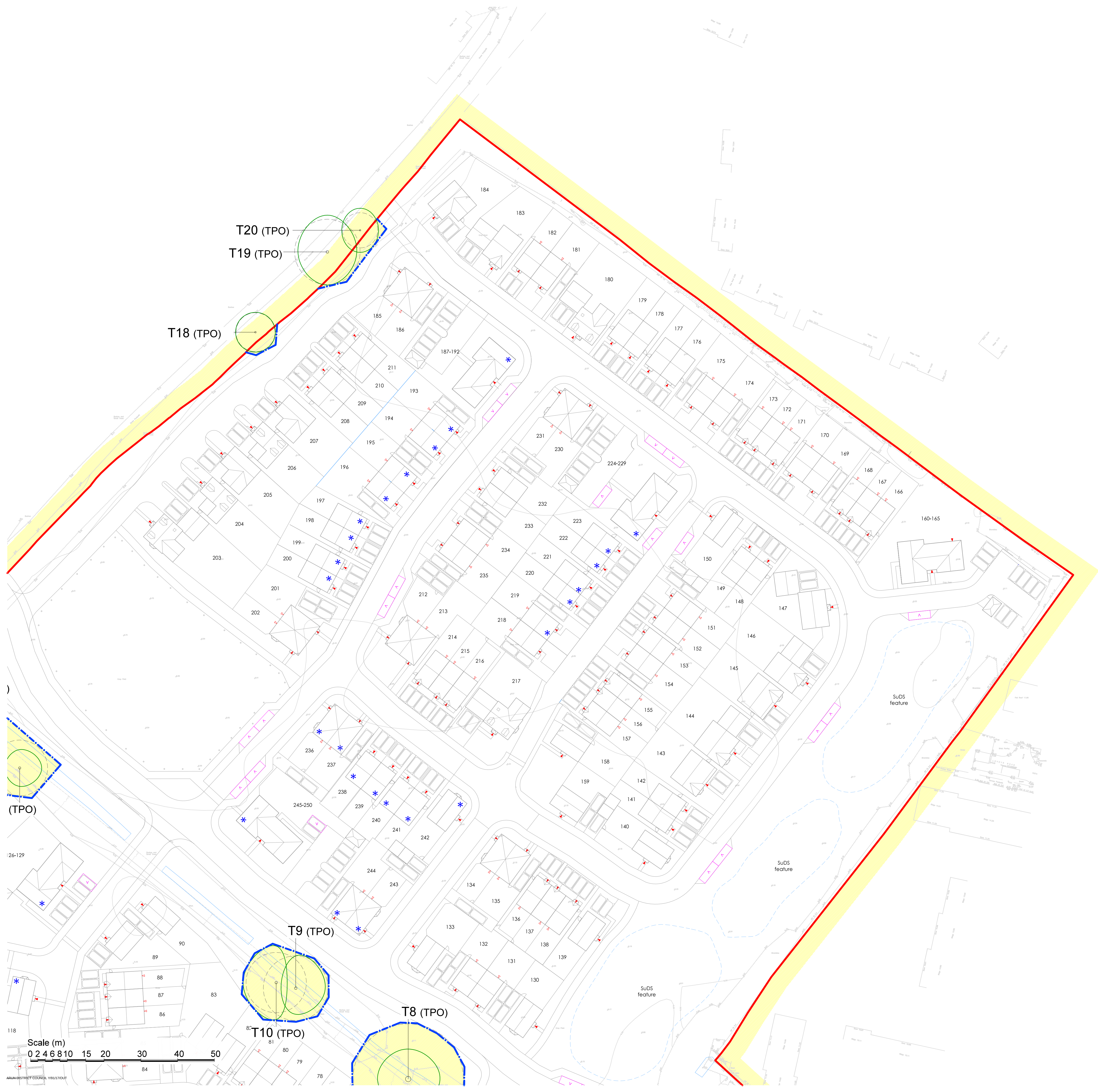
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Date: 24th July 2018

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APPENDIX 1

Tree Protection Plan



- Key:**
- Root protection area for tree to be retained
 - Canopy of tree to be retained
 - Tree protection fencing
 - Construction exclusion zone

Appendix 2, (Tree Survey Schedule) contained within the arboricultural impact assessment ref. PJC/3867/15-02 contains further information for each tree.

This drawing should be viewed in colour.

Drawing no: PJC/3847/15/C Rev: - Sheet number: 1 of 4

Client and site:
Gleeson Strategic Land

Land at Bilsham Road
Yapton
West Sussex

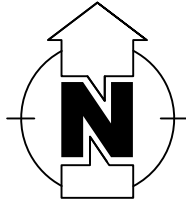
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Date drawn: 19/07/2018

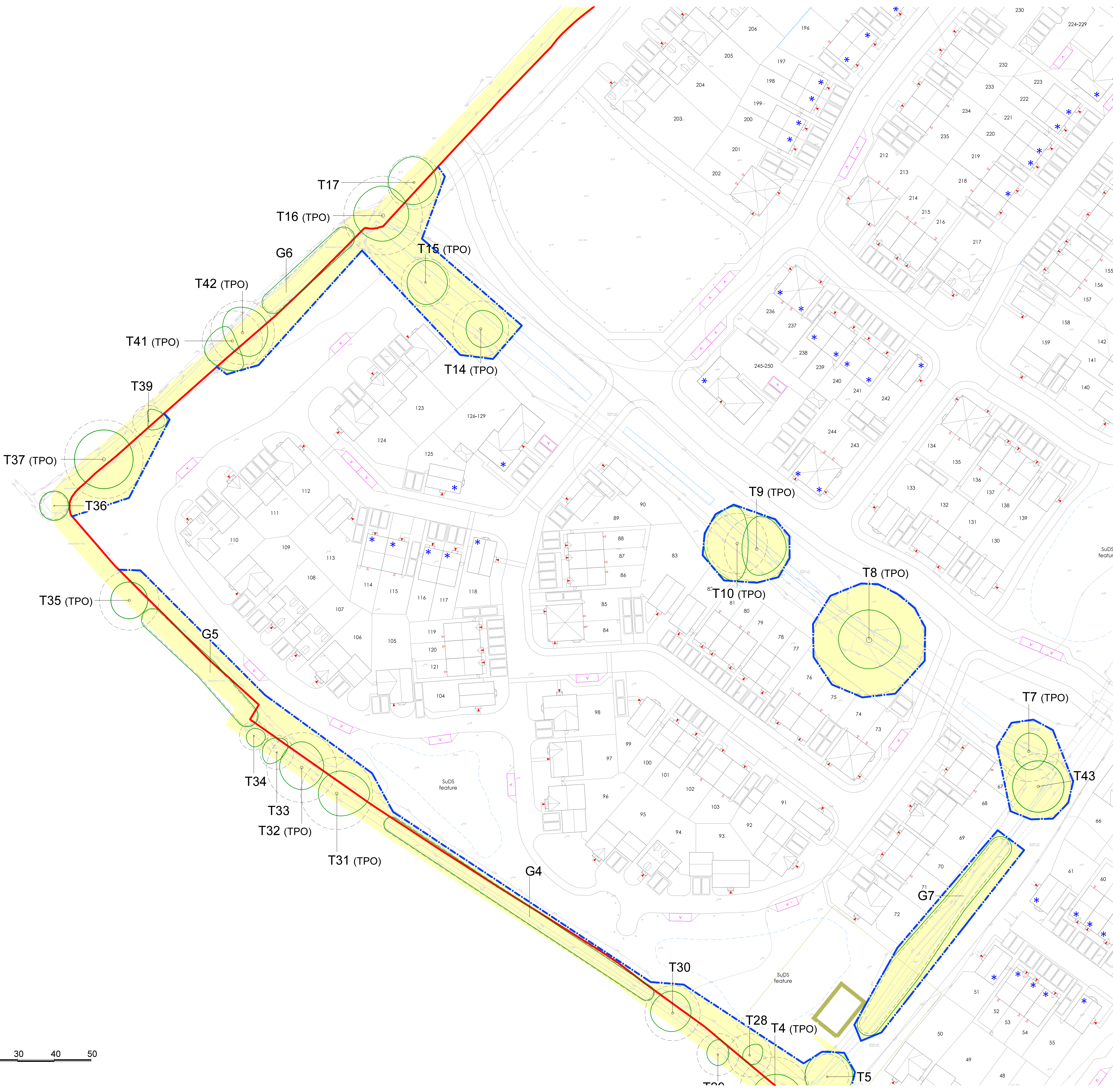
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Checked by: NB



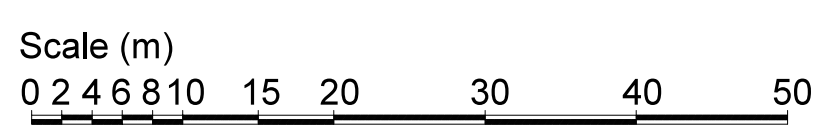
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- Key:**
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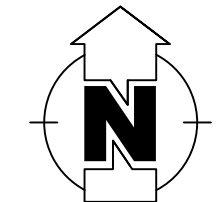
This drawing should be viewed in colour.



Drawing no: PJC/3847/15/C			Rev: -	Sheet number: 2 of 4
Client and site: Gleeson Strategic Land				
Land at Bilsham Road Yapton West Sussex				
Drawing title: Preliminary Tree Protection Plan				
Date drawn: 19/07/2018				
Scale: 1:200 at A1				
Drawn by: PD		Checked by: NB		



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Client and site: Gleeson Strategic Land		
Land at Bilsham Road Yapton West Sussex		
Drawing title: Preliminary Tree Protection Plan		
Date drawn: 19/07/2018		
Scale: 1:200 at A1		
Drawn by: PD	Checked by: NB	



Key:

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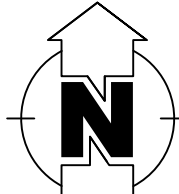
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Date drawn: 19/07/2018

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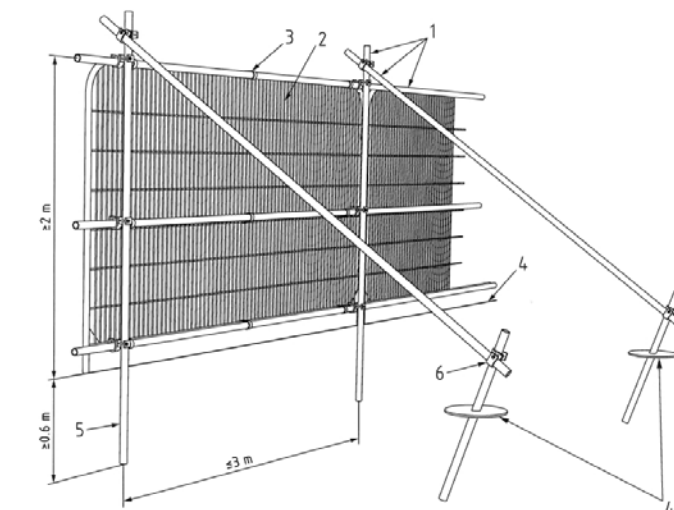
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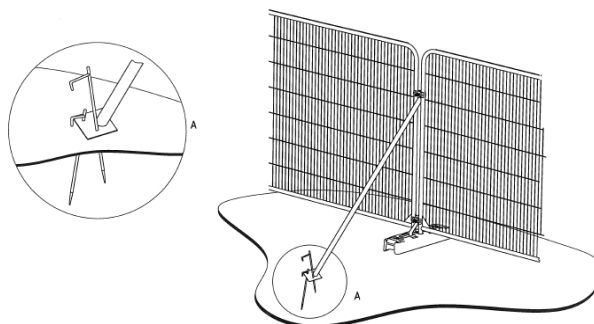
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APPENDIX 2

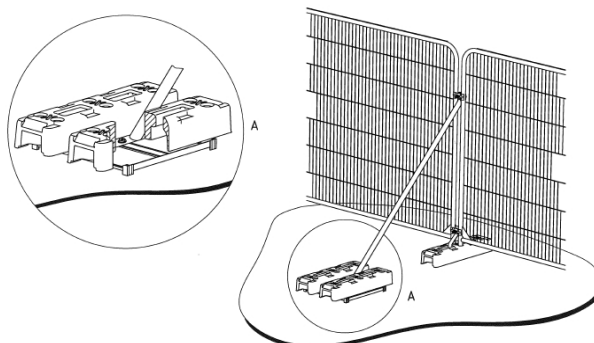
Example Tree Protection Fencing Specifications



- Key**
- 1 Standard scaffold poles
 - 2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
 - 3 Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties
 - 4 Ground level
 - 5 Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)
 - 6 Standard scaffold clamps



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray

APPENDIX 3

Example Protective Fencing Signs

