View of the trees with an overview of the site

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Date of the Inspection
16th January 2025

Site
Black Moss Farm
Elmridge Lane
Chipping
PR3 2NY

Description
Phase 3
The demolition of existing structures, the development of an agricultural building and its associated infrastructure, an extension to a residential property

Instructed by
FI Construction

Author
Andrew McLoughlin
Treestyle Consultancy Ltd
info@treestyleconsultancy.co.uk

Contents

Executive Summary

Treestyle Consultancy was commissioned to complete a survey to specifications set out in British Standard 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition & construction - Recommendations.* This document is an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) which explains the Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) and Tree Protection Plan (TPP).

The Tree Survey recorded mature trees, hedges and woodlands that are within influencing distance of the proposals.

- One tree was recorded as category A high quality with 40 years plus life potential.
- Two individual trees, three woodlands and three hedges were recorded as category as B medium quality with up to 20 years life potential.
- Three individual trees, two hedges and one group were recorded as low quality and value with up to 10 years life potential.
- One individual tree and two groups of trees were recorded as category U, not realistically retainable.

Generally the green infrastructure is a feature of the landscape with good wildlife benefits. There is great variety of trees contained within two woodlands. The hedges providing great screening vary in their quality due to broken continuity. Ash dieback *(Hymenoscyphus fraxineus)* is rife and at an advanced stage, it is particularly critically with two large trees overhanging the new calving shed. A group of over mature trees with irreversible stress/decline creating an unacceptable level of risk due to soil mounding, again overhanging the calving shed.

The Proposal - Phase 3

- The demolition of existing farm buildings.
- Development of hard surfaces and a driveway entrance.
- The development of farm offices, calving sheds, a wash bay, a midden & a milking shed.
- The extension to a residential property

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

- The development of the hardstanding surfaces incurs onto the Root Protection Area (RPA) of two hedges.
- Similarly an agricultural building incurs onto the same hedges.
- The extension to a residential property falls near to the RPA of mature trees and woodland.
- A previous phase of the development for the slurry tanks falls near to the boundary hedge.
- There is potential for building materials to be leached into the soil profile of the remaining trees.

Table 1 - Summary of BS5837 Categorisation Colours in relation to the tree to be retained and removed.

Tree Category	Trees to be retained	Trees to be removed
A	T15	-
B	W1, H5, H8, T10, T11, T17, W18	H3
C	G2, H9, T12, T13, T16	H4
U	-	G6, G7, T14

The Recommended Sequence of Work Operations

- All recommended tree work scheduled in Appendix A to be carried out.
- Installation of tree protection measures.
- Site preparation and management of storage and facilities.
- The development for access, parking, fencing and hard landscaping etc.
- Demolition of structures and surfaces.
- Development of the hardstanding surface for access.
- The development of the hardstanding.
- Development of agricultural infrastructure.
- Landscaping.
- Tree planting.

Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

- Prior to any construction commencing tree work must be implemented as specified in Appendix A.
- The Root Protection Areas (RPA's) of retained trees should be measured and marked out.
- The preparation of the landscape shall adhere to good management and be brought back (where possible) away from protected trees and hedges.
- Where the use of building materials is near to permeable RPA's or access into a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) then Ground Protection shall be installed over their RPAs preventing soil compaction and contamination.
- Work within an RPA shall have arboricultural supervision.
- Fencing to be installed which will remain for the duration of the development
- Designated areas for the storage of building materials.
- Designated areas for the site facilities.
- The RPA's of the retained trees are a CEZ unless protected by the aforementioned.
- Tree planting with post planting management.
- Soil contamination and compaction within an RPA must be avoided.

It is important that the caveats and limitations of this report are understood.

1.0 Introductions

Instruction

1.1 I have been instructed by FI Construction to prepare an arboricultural impact assessment, tree protection plan and arboricultural method statement with regards to the proposed demolition, development and its associated infrastructure works in accordance with BS 5837 Trees in Relation to design, demolition and construction - recommendations 2012.

Scope

1.2 The scope of this instruction has been to:

- Undertake a survey which takes into account the influencing distances of the development to the trees on the site.
- Provide advice and guidance to the project design team on all matters relating to trees with the exception of ecological matters or landscape design.
- Prepare the required reports and plans which will give guidance on how the development can be performed whilst allowing for tree retention and longevity.

1.3 The tree survey was conducted in accordance with the guidance provided in BS5837 (2012) *Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction - Recommendations* ('BS5837').

1.4 All plans and reports following the tree survey were also to follow the recommended processes defined in BS5837 and any other industry advice that provides best practice guidance for managing the relationship between trees and construction processes.

Site description

1.5 Black Moss Farm is located north of Longridge and south of Chipping where there is predominately agricultural land all around the proposed site being a working farm. Current access is gained via Elmridge Lane where a single track follows the northern boundaries passing residential buildings and farm offices.

1.5.1 The grounds within the farm are undergoing extensive demolition and development with newly developed infrastructure next to old farm buildings. Within the working areas are many hardstanding areas with grazing pasture beyond and woodlands.

1.5.2 The grounds of the proposed area to be developed are predominately pasture with overgrowth hawthorn hedges.

2.0 Tree Survey

2.1 The survey recorded trees, hedges and woodlands within and beyond the boundaries, these are listed below:

- The green infrastructure, as a whole, provides outstanding wildlife benefits with good visual amenity value which can only really be appreciated from within. However, great visual aesthetics in what would otherwise be a sterile concrete environment.
- Ash *(Fraxinus excelsior)* was noted with various stages of ash dieback *(Hymenocyphus fraxineus)*. A major concern is with large over mature ash overhanging the calving shed. Other areas of lesser target areas are within W1 and the demolition.
- Hedges were mostly void of management and have become void of greenery and overgrown.
- Trees were noted as having changes to the soil profile with soil and other green products being dumped on their rooting areas, this is having a profound impact with now over mature trees overhanging the new calving shed.
- Generally high occupancy target areas being newly developed agricultural buildings and stationary vehicles.

N.B. Target areas are places where a tree or tree part could fall and land on a vehicle, structure or a person causing damage or injury or disruption.

Tree Category	Tree Identification
A	T15
B	W1, H3, H5, H8, T10, T11, T17, W18
C	G2, H4, H9, T12, T13, T16
U	G6, G7, T14

Table 2 - Summary of BS5837 Categorisation colours in relation to the tree numbers

General Data Capture

2.3 For reference, all individual trees are geo referenced with a Trimble TDC600 and a Catalyst DA2 with sub metre accuracy have been identified with the letter T and associated number on the Tree Schedule and on a plan showing the extent of tree constraints. The stem diameter of the trees on site was recorded using a rounded down diameter tape, measured at 1.5m above ground level. Measurements were recorded in millimetres, rounded to the nearest 10mm.

2.3.1 The height of the subject trees was estimated to the nearest metre.

2.3.2 Maximum crown spread of the subject tree was measured from the edge of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches taken at four compass points (N-E-S-W) using a Leica Disto digital laser measure. Crown spread measurements were taken in metres.

2.2.3 The trees age was estimated from visual indicators (such as tree size and appearance of bark) which is provided as a provisional guide.

2.2.4 Hedges are identified with the letter H and number on the associated schedule and plans. Each hedgerow was surveyed recording the species, the maximum height and the average width of the hedge. Any individual trees present within the hedgerow were recorded as an individual tree.

2.2.5 If direct access to a tree was not possible, estimations from appropriate vantage points were taken. Any limitations or estimations are presented within the survey limitations section and noted in the associated schedules.

Categorisation

2.3 In compliance with Table 1 of BS5837 the trees surveyed have been categorised according to their arboricultural quality and value (non-fiscal) which is summarised below in Table 2.

Quality Assessment

2.3.1 A summary of the assessment on the quality of the tree can be seen in table 3.

Category	Colour	Description
A	Green	Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years
B	Blue	Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years
C	Grey	Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years
U	Red	Those trees 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

Table 3 - Summary of BS5837 Tree Categorisation

3.0 Tree Constraints

Above Ground Tree Constraints

3.1 The above ground constraints posed by canopy spread are plotted on the Tree Constraints Plan as a circle around the tree with the extent of the canopy spread in the corresponding BS5837 retention category colour.

Below Ground Constraints

3.2 **Root Protection Areas**

3.2.1 The Root Protection Areas (RPA) of the trees were calculated in accordance with Section 4.6.1 in BS5837. This is calculated from the measurement of the stem diameter as recorded in the tree schedule attached to this report and is plotted on the TCP. Trees lining the southern boundary have had their RPA adjusted.

3.2.2 The RPA forms the initial Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) to protect the trees within and adjoining the site and is plotted on the plan by an orange line with the text RPA inscribed.

3.2.3 The RPA is initially plotted with the tree in the centre. Where site conditions may influence the shape and size of the RPA (e.g. the presence of roads, buildings or other structures), the shape and size of the RPA can be amended in accordance with Section 4.6.3 in BS5837.

3.2.4 The default position should be that no development will take place within the RPA of retained trees. However, where there is an overriding need for construction and associated activity within the RPA of trees, measures should be put in place to protect retained trees from harm while those activities are being carried out.

Soils

3.3 BS5837 recommends that a soil assessment be completed by a competent person to inform decisions relating to the RPA, tree protection, new planting design and foundation design. I am not able to provide this assessment as I have no formal qualifications in this area, and professional advice should be taken to provide any detailed reports.

3.3.1 However, generic soil data is freely available from online sources such as the Geology of Britain which can provide a broad indication of the underlying geology of a site. The results of a search for this site describes the texture slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils

3.3.2 The soil type will have an impact on any recommendations for replacement or enhancement planting that may form a part of any landscape strategy for a planning application.

4.0 Development Proposal

4.1 The proposal is for:

- The demolition of existing farm buildings.
- Development of hard surfaces and a driveway entrance.
- The development of farm offices, calving sheds, a wash bay, a midden & a milking shed.
- The extension to a residential property.

5.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

5.1 This impact assessment will set out the principal direct and indirect impacts of the proposals on the trees on site and set out suitable mitigation measures for unavoidable tree removals and to allow for the successful retention of significant trees where appropriate.

Development can have an adverse impact on trees and other woody vegetation within a site, which can result in:

I. Immediate tree removal to facilitate the footprint of the development.

II. Potential future tree loss through the early decline of trees due to soil compaction or damage

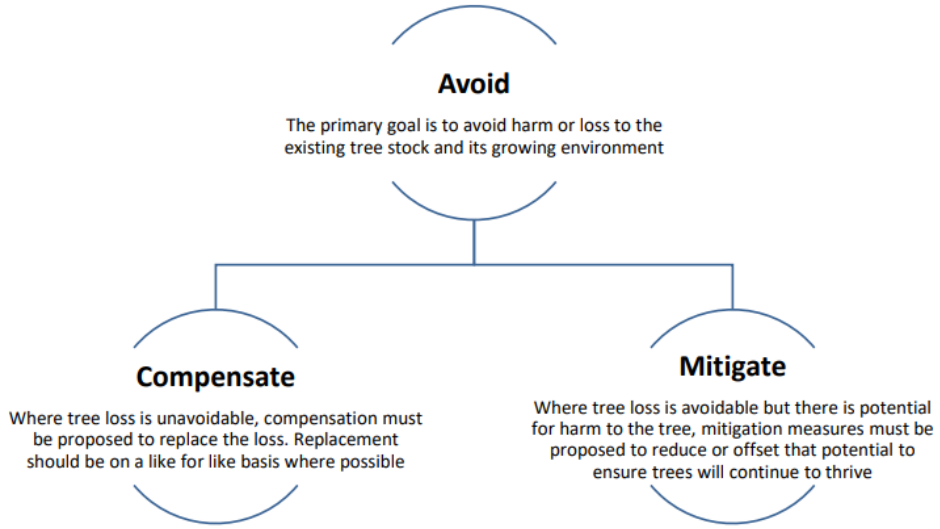
III. Root disturbance and damage within a tree's rooting area

IV. and iv. Canopy removal or damage due to plant movement.

Best practice guidance proposed by the arboricultural sector seeks to ensure that there is a harmonious relationship between trees and development that will ensure that both trees and structures can be retained in the long term.

Where practical, development should seek to work with the natural environment, and development schemes that might result in harm should follow a mitigation hierarchy to ensure harm is minimised.

To assist the planning decision makers, this scheme should use the following mitigation hierarchy to consider the influence that trees might have on site design while also continuing to make a positive contribution to the site and local character of the area, both during and post development:



The impact of any tree loss is assessed against a criterion in relation to the arboricultural significance of the loss, the detail of which is provided in Table 3. This table is not related to the quality categories provided in BS5837 but has a closer relationship to the sub-categories through assessing the impact that tree loss may have at the Site and its setting in the wider locality. This assessment is also useful in considering the impact of any potential loss against planning policy.

Table 3: Impact Assessment definitions

Scale of Impact	Definition
Major	Total loss or major/substantial alteration to key trees/features of the baseline (development) conditions such that the post development character or compos will be fundamentally changed. This would generally apply to tree(s) that are of exceptional or high quality condition and their loss would be irreplaceable. This would also include trees have been categorised as being Ancient or Veteran, trees are rare examples of species and or trees that offer significant amenity value to the character and se of the area.
Moderate	Loss or alteration to one or more key trees/features of the baseline conditions s that post development character or composition of the baseline will be mate changed. This would generally apply to tree(s) that are of good quality and condition make a notable contribution to the setting or character of the locality (vi amenity). This may include trees that would be hard to replace but for which t could be some mitigation over a medium timeframe (20-40 years).
Minor	A minor shift away from baseline conditions. Change arising from the loss/altera will be discernible/detectable but not material. The underlying characte composition of the baseline condition will be similar to the pre-developr circumstances/situation. This would generally apply to tree(s) that are of low quality and condition ar their loss would have low impact on the locality. These trees would be relati easy to replace within a short timeframe (10-20 years).
Negligible	Very little change from baseline conditions with any change barely distinguishab This would generally apply to tree(s) that are of low quality and condition, ar their loss would barely be noticeable. Any replacement planting would offe improvement to the setting of the site in a very short time frame (1-10 years)
No Change	There is no change to the baseline conditions to trees from the developr proposal.

The impact can be assessed as being either negative, positive or neutral, each of which (for the purpose of this report) are defined as:

- Negative – a negative impact is one where the proposal will result in the loss or degradation of the range or quality of trees on a site, and which will negatively impact the local community.
- Positive – a positive impact is where the proposal will result in enhancements to the range or quality of trees on site (achieved through retention of existing trees and new planting), or an improvement(s) to the growing environment of trees that will result in improvements to the social and cultural setting of the site to the benefit of the local community.
- Neutral – there is no change to the baseline setting of the site in arboricultural terms.

Table 4 highlights the summary of works to be carried out

BS5837 Categorisation			
	A high quality 40 years plus life potential	B moderate quality up to 20 years life potential	C low quality Up to 10 years life potential
Remove	-	H3	H4
Prune	-	-	-
Protect	T15	W1, H5, H8, T10, T11, T17, W18	G2, H9, T12, T13, T16
Arboricultural Investigation	-	-	-
Post development considerations	Regular assessments	Regular assessments	Regular assessments

5.2 **Effects of the trees with regards to the development.**

5.2.1 The grounds have seen little or no tree management for a long time. Concerns with the changing environment surrounding these trees raise the risk level from low to high with sensitive targets such as people, vehicles, buildings and structures.

5.2.2 Trees can shed leaves, deadwood and occasionally branches. They can shade buildings and areas for recreation which can result in the occupants requesting tree works that can have a detrimental affect to tree health.

5.2.3 As trees grow and naturally expand their root areas, canopy development and stem thickening can present future issues. As they increase in height they will produce extra shadow onto land that was previously open.

5.2.4 Trees can produce effective screening from neighbouring properties, noise from roads, absorb pollution, increase wildlife and reduce energy bills in winter. Additionally deciduous trees in winter allow sunlight through, they also screen people from hot sun in summer and help to reduce air-conditioning costs. Having mature trees on a newly created development can add a sense of establishment and longevity, create social calming and reduce stress levels.

5.3 **Potential incompatibilities between the layout and the trees proposed for retention**.

5.3.1 Drawing 1 - Tree Constraints Plan shows where development incurs onto RPA's of trees to be retained. Development shall be carried out without soil compaction or soil stripping and laid in accordance with the Arboricultural Method Statement section 13 (Hard Surfaces).

5.4 **Infrastructure Requirements**

5.4.1 Services will not have an impact on retained trees or hedges.

5.5 **Mitigating Tree loss/new Planting**

5.5.1 Tree planting 2 - 1 in line with Ribble Vallley Councils tree replacement policy.

5.6 **Proximity of Trees to the Developments**

5.6.1 The impact of trees on the development and vice versa in allowing for future growth have all been considered. Tree size, future growth, light/shading, leaf and fruit nuisance etc have the potential to be an issue. This applies to all trees where there is potential for indirect impact on by the proposed development.

5.6.2 W1 is a semi mature woodland on a lower level than that of the proposed area to be demolished. This could have an impact on the green infrastructure.

5.6.3 G2 is a wildlife haven with a pond located centrally. With demolition and development corridors potentially passing by by the health of trees canoe adversely affected. Indirect damage could be caused by soil contamination through the mismanagement of building materials such as cement leaching into the soil profile during periods of heavy rain.

5.6.4 Below is looking north at H3 hawthorn *(Crateagus monogyny)* which is highlighted for removal to accommodate the proposed agricultural buildings and hardstanding areas. Bottom image is looking south at H5 hawthorn *(Crateagus monogyny)* which is highlighted for removal to accommodate the proposed hardstanding areas.

5.6.5 Below showing the woodland of W18 where trees are near to the proposed extension of the Farm Cottage, these have below ground constraints with regards to the indirect damage potentially caused by compaction and contamination.

5.6.6 Overall the processes of the construction are likely to have a detrimental effect upon the health of the retained trees if the site is poorly managed. As long as the recommendations made in this report are adhered to at all times by the contractors e.g. the positioning of a fence between the retained trees, the storage of building materials, construction activities which should be in place prior to the commencement of works and remains intact and in position throughout the duration of the construction activities then minimal damage should occur to the trees.

6.0 Arboricultural Tree Constraints

There are above and below ground constraints with all trees, groups of trees and hedges, they are as follows:

6.1 The extension to the residential property falls near to the RPA of a woodland.

6.2 The egress and access of materials fall next to G2 and its pond.

6.3 The demolition and development is on a high profile than that of W1 with the potential for storm water damage.

6.4 The development of the slurry tanks has impacted on the rooting area of a hedge.

6.5 There is potential for building materials to be leached into the soil profile of the remaining trees and hedges.

7.0 Tree Protection Requirements

7.1 The following is required:

- The creation of Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZ's) with protective fencing.
- Protection of the trees, tree groups and hedges from contamination.
- The creation of a safe storage area for building materials.
- The creation of an area for site facilities.
- The proposed extension falls next to a woodland.
- The proposed demolition and development require access where trees may have above ground constraints.
- Any work within an RPA requires arboricultural supervision where hand tools only are to be used.

8.0 Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

8.1 Tree Protection Plan (TPP) to identify:

- Trees to be retained as seen in Drawing 2 - Tree Protection Plan are identified.
- Plant machinery will not cause canopy damage with the development, therefore ground protection shall be installed.
- Protective measures such as the Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZ) are in place.
- Any work within an RPA shall see arboricultural supervision.
- RPA's are communicated.
- Soil compaction and contamination within an RPA are not a possibility.
- The location of contractor storage and facilities areas are managed in a practical way so as not to cause damage to trees.

8.2 **Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ)**

8.2.1 Works undertaken within a CEZ must have arboricultural supervision and be carried out with hand tools only. The CEZ is to be afforded protection at all times normally by fencing, unless permitted access is required and is part of the TPP. A protective fence shall be erected prior to the commencement of any site works e.g. before any materials or machinery are brought on site, development or the removal of the existing surfaces commences. The fence shall have signs attached to it stating that this is a CEZ and that NO WORKS are Permitted within the fence. The protected fence may only be removed following completion of all construction works.

8.2.2 The fence is required to be sited in accordance with the TPP enclosed with this method statement as Appendix D - Tree Fencing. However, the situation may not suit the requirements in BS 5837 2012 and therefore an alternative which must be fit for the purpose of excluding any construction activity.

8.3 **Access Details**

8.3.1 All access for the construction equipment will be through the existing entrance to the north, however, the proposed new entrance should be utilised for this.

8.3.2 **Contractors car parking**

8.3.3 Onsite.

8.3.4 **Site huts and toilets**

8.3.5 On site.

8.4 **Storage Space**

8.4.1 Parcels of land highlighted in Drawing 2 - Tree Protection Plan shall be utilised for storage of building materials and site facilities.

8.5 **Tree Protection**

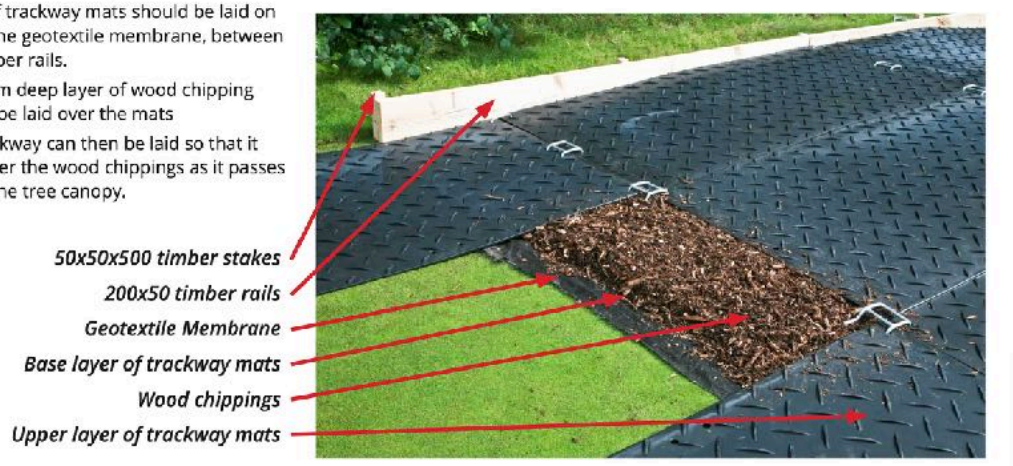
8.5.1 Fencing shall be installed along the permeable surfaces of RPA's to create CEZ's which will rest upon ground protection for the duration of the development. See Appendix D.

8.5.2 Ground protection is required where development falls next to an RPA. This shall prevent soil compaction and contamination and allow for extended work space around development. Protective fencing shall rest upon this creating and CEZ.

TREE ROOT PROTECTION METHOD

GroundGuards trackway mat systems are frequently used on construction sites to protect the ground from erosion and damage by construction vehicles. Where a temporary roadway must pass near to trees, the following extra precautions must be taken in order to provide cushioning for the ground under the tree canopy:

1. Edge rails of 200 x 50mm sawn timber should be installed where the trackway will pass under the tree canopy. These should be staked on either side of the trackway using 50 x 50 x 500mm timber stakes at 1.5m spacings.
2. A layer of geotextile membrane should be laid to cover at least the area under the tree canopy and preferably under the whole of the trackway.
3. A pad of trackway mats should be laid on top of the geotextile membrane, between the timber rails.
4. A 150mm deep layer of wood chipping should be laid over the mats
5. The trackway can then be laid so that it rises over the wood chippings as it passes under the tree canopy.



https://www.ground-guards.co.uk/sectors/tree-root-protection/mu2-3/

8.6 Hard Surfaces

8.6.1 Development of Surfaces within an RPA

8.6.1 Where existing hard surfacing have the potential to fall within an RPA or are next to an RPA, then onsite arboricultural supervision is required. Its removal shall be brought back away from trees and hedges and any exposed RPA's and where relevant they shall have ground protection.

8.6.2 There must be no compaction of soil within an RPA. Surfaces will be broken up using a hand held pneumatic breaker, hand tools and wheel barrows to remove the surfacing. Where is necessary to remove the sub base this is to be undertaken using a fork to loosen the material and moved using shovels and wheel barrows.

8.6.3 In some situations and at the discretion of the appointed arborist it may be possible to use an excavator using a hydraulic breaker and a suitably sized toothless grading bucket. If an excavator is to be used it must be situated outside of the RPA's, on top of the hard surfacing working away from the RPA's or from ground boarding.

8.6.4 Whichever system is used there is to be no disturbance of the soil beneath. If roots are found they are to be covered, overlaid with a damp hessian cloth and a layer of either sharp sand, wood chip or top soil applied as soon as practically possible.

Hard Surfaces with driveways

8.6.5 The creation of hard surfaces within an RPA are pending the below ground investigation from the arboricultural supervision, hand tools only shall be used. These surfaces shall be protected by a non-permeable membrane from building materials such as cement from leaching into the soil profile. These new surface does not cover more than the recommended 20% of a trees RPA.

8.6.5 When installing kerbs next to or within a RPA then the trenched RPA shall be lined with a non-permeable membrane to prevent contamination of building materials into the soil profile. Ground protection shall be used to prevent compaction within these RPA's.

8.6.7 All exposed roots require protection from the elements to prevent drying out of tree roots and shall be covered with a permeable membrane to prevent contamination of building materials such as cement prior to the construction.

8.7 **Installation of Underground Service's (not applicable)**

8.7.1 Both the proposed water drainage and the foul water drainage have been redesigned outside of the RPA's of all trees.

8.7.2 Please refer to this document with guidance NJUG Publication: Volume 4: Issue 2: 16/11/2007:

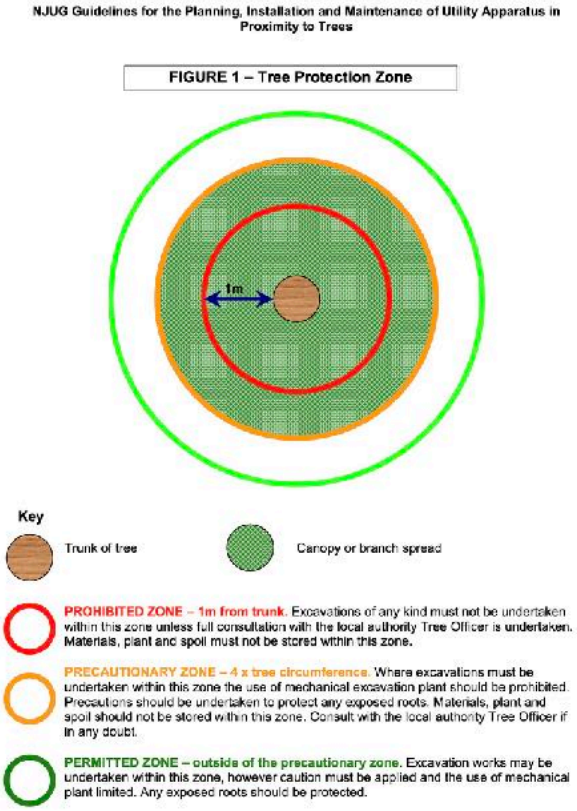
http://streetworks.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/V4-Trees-Issue-2-16-11-2007.pdf

http://streetworks.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/V4-Trees-Issue-2-Operatives-Handout.pdf

Existing Underground Services

8.7.3 Existing services within the site should be retained wherever possible. Where existing services within RPAs require upgrading, the utmost care must be taken to minimise disturbance, and where feasible trenchless techniques are to be employed, and only where necessary should open excavations be considered.

8.7.4 There are three main types of trenches techniques, these include guided and unguided boring and pipe replacement by lining or bursting. These allow for the installation, maintenance or renewal of underground services without disturbance of soil in which roots are likely to be growing. Starting and receiving pits for the boring machinery are to be located outside of the RPA's of any retained trees, with the bore depth being maintained at a minimum depth of 600mm below the existing ground level.



8.8 **Additional Precautions**

8.8.1 No storage of materials, lighting of fires will take place within any construction Exclusion Zone. No mixing or storage of materials will take place up a slope where they may leak into a Construction Exclusion Zone.

8.8.2 No fires will be lit within 20 metres of any tree stem and will take into account fire size and wind direction so that no flames come within 5m of any foliage.

8.8.3 No notice boards, cables or other services will be attached to any tree.

8.8.4 Materials which may contaminate the soil will not be discharged within 10m of any tree stem. When undertaking the mixing of materials it is essential that any slope of the ground does not allow contaminants to run towards a tree root area.

8.9 **Responsibilities**

8.9.1 It will be the responsibility of the main contractor to ensure that the planning conditions attached to planning consent are adhered to at all times and that a monitoring regime in regards to tree protection is adopted on site. The main contractor will be responsible for contacting the Local Planning Authority at any time issues are raised related to the trees on site. If at any time pruning works are required permission must be sought from the Local Planning Authority first and then carried out in accordance with BS 3998 Recommendations for Tree Works 2010.

8.9.2 The main contractor will ensure the build sequence is appropriate to ensure that no damage occurs to the trees during the construction processes. Protective fences will remain in position until completion of ALL construction works on the site. The fencing and signs must be maintained in position at all times and checked on a regular basis by an on site person designated that responsibility.

8.9.3 The main contractor will be responsible for ensuring sub-contractors do not carry out any process or operation that is likely to adversely impact upon any tree on site.

9.0 Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

9.1 Method for the demolition, development and resurfacing near to RPA's (No-dig)

9.1.1 The AMS has been written as guidance on how the development has to be carried out with regards to the protection of the green infrastructure. It is imperative that this is carried out correctly with good management. There are three key developments with the proposal which need to be addressed. Firstly the site preparation and management, secondly tree protection installed and thirdly the commencement of the works.

9.2 An Overview of the Sequence of Operations

In overview, it is necessary to undertake the following sequence of operations in relation to arboricultural input for development operations.

1. Method Statement approved by the LPA.
2. Undertake tree works as recommended in Appendix A - Tree Schedule.
3. Installation of the tree protection measures including ground protection and fencing.
4. Management of site with storage and facilities.
5. Pre Commencement meeting confirming the fencing to specification.
6. Construction and surfacing.
7. Removal of tree protection.
8. Tree planting.

9.3 The following timeline table informs the key principles for development operations proceeding in relation to arboricultural requirements conditioned as part of this method statement. The action and timescales within this table must be adhered to in order to discharge the arboricultural method statement planning condition for this site.

9.4 The precise time and order of some of the development operations may need to be changed due to site specific operational requirements, yet any operations that may affect the trees on the site must be done so under arboricultural supervision by a suitably qualified and experienced arboricultural consultant.

Table 5 highlights the sequence of the operations with regards to the arboricultural method statement.

Sequence of Operations		
Stages	**Action**	**Arboricultural Input**
1 Approval	This AMS is submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA	If necessary, liaise with contractor and LPA to discuss methodologies detailed
2 Tree Works	If required, the tree removals should be carried out as the first operation on site and in accordance with Appendix A - Tree Schedule	Review the tree work requirements with the tree contractor. If necessary liaise with the contractor on site during tree work
3 Tree Protection	Installing the tree protective measures will take place prior to any storage of plant, materials and machinery.	If necessary, liaise with appointed arborist for the following: Protective fencing according Appendix E - Fencing
4 Site Meeting	Following installation of tree protective measures, the LPA shall be invited to inspect the fencing and discuss any other site operations that have implication for the trees	Meeting with the representative of the LPA and the site manager. Alternatively, contractor can confirm the fencing and tree works are as specified by taking photographs of the tree protection measures
5 The Construction	The installation of the ground protection for the access and egress will aid the landscaping and eventually the construction	The appointed arborist is to adequately resolve issues at each stage of the development. Any work within an RPA must be overviewed by the appointed arborist
6 Site Finishing	Removal of the tree protection measures must only be undertaken when all site traffic and machinery has left the site	If acceptable to the LPA the contractor can take photos of the site to give to the LPA to gain approval for the removal of protective fencing
7 Tree Planting	Once construction and any landscaping has been completed then tree planting can commence	Tree planting should be read in conjunction with a tree and landscaping scheme

10.0 Conclusion

10.1 Generally there should be minimal impact on the green infrastructure with the greatest loss being a section of hedge which could easily be replaced. The greatest threat to the green infrastructure and to wildlife is with the mismanagement of site materials with the threat of storm water contaminating woodlands.

10.2 The management of the site development, the hard standing surfaces and fencing activities can be performed without being detrimental to tree health. However, as the quality of the green infrastructure is generally of high to moderate quality and value and T15 beech *(Fagus sylvatica)* is particularly vulnerable to damage, it is recommended Arboricultural supervision is considered in order to minimise the impact on the sites trees.

10.3 W18 is a mature woodland which has limited age diversity with no young trees to take the place of the older ones when they perish. The loss of this woodland would be devastating to the visual amenity value of the farm and wildlife. The potential for the loss of this wooded area is highly likely in the coming years due to changes to the surrounding environment and changes to the soil profile with mounding of material on trees which are recommended for removal. Additionally diseases such as ash dieback *(Hymenoscyphus fraxineus)* are present which will seriously affect this species of tree. Age and species diversity is fundamental to the longevity of green infrastructure.

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 The majority of woodlands on site are of moderate categorisation, they provide good screening and wildlife benefits. However, the remaining trees are of low quality, either due to their decline or because of environmental stress, their form or proximity to infrastructure. Tree planting should be performed to mitigate future tree loss and help with age and species diversity.

11.2 The tree surgery works proposed as part of this survey are recommended to mitigate any identified problems that may be caused by trees in close proximity to the proposed redevelopment. To this end, should these recommendations be overruled, this survey stands as the opinion of Treestyle Consultancy Ltd, and therefore any damage or injury caused by trees recommended by this practice for felling or tree surgery works, to which the proposed schedule of works has been altered or the tree has been requested to be retained by the Local Planning Authority, cannot be the responsibility of this practice.

11.3 Post construction the trees should be reassessed for their condition.

11.4 Tree planting shall be carried out in accordance with BS8545:2014 Trees: From nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations. Post planting maintenance shall be implemented.

Signed  Date 17th January 2025

Consultant - Andrew McLoughlin MArborA
Treestyle Consultancy Ltd
Tel - 07872064313
info@treestyleconsultancy.co.uk
Vat 426004731
Company Ref 13609835

Arboricultural ASSOCIATION Professional Member

ISA QUALIFICATIONS

QTRA Licensed User

CAS Consulting Arborist Society.com PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

12.0 Caveats and Limitations

12.1 While all reasonable efforts have been made to identify the condition and quality of the trees on site, the statements made in this report and schedules do not take into account the effects of extreme weather events, vandalism or accidents, or changes to the site that may affect trees that have taken place since the date of the survey.

12.2 I can confirm that the survey has been undertaken in accordance with industry best practice recommendations and guidance, but no warranty is provided in relation to changes to the site that occur after the date of the survey that may have an impact on the tree stock present at the time of the survey.

12.3 Unless stated differently in captions, all photographs used in this report have been taken by the author at the time of the site visit.

12.4 The comments and observations made within this report will cease to be valid either within two years of the date of the survey (unless specifically stated elsewhere within the report), or when site conditions change or any works to trees take place that have not been specified within this report, whichever is sooner.

12.5 The survey has been undertaken with the benefit of a mapping supplied by The Ordinance Survey. The location of all trees and groups detailed in this report have been taken from the topographical survey and no warranty is given as to the accuracy of this data.

12.6 This survey has been limited to identifying arboricultural features within the site. It does not include any ecological assessment or landscape appraisal of trees, groups, woodlands or hedges beyond the scope of BS5837.

12.7 Although I am occasionally involved in landscape, ecological and planning issues, I have no formal qualifications in these areas and any comments made in this report to such matters are limited to the general context in view of my familiarity through my day-to-day work, and professional advice should be obtained on these matters where required.

13.0 References

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British Standards 8545 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations 2014

International Society of Arboriculture Best Management Practice Tree Risk Assessment 2013

NTSG - Common Sense Risk Management of Trees

Principles of Tree Hazard Analysis and Management - D Lonsdale No 7

14.0 About the Author

14.1 Treestyle Consultancy's principle assessor is Andrew McLoughlin, the Managing Director of Treestyle Consultancy Ltd since 2001. I have a MArborA in Arboriculture. Qualified Arboriculturalist since 1998. I am also a qualified teacher and a LANTRA instructor and assessor. ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, Quantified Tree Risk Assessor. Ancient and Veteran Tree Expert. Up to date Curriculum Vitae (which include records of up to date Continued Professional Development - CPD) can be provided upon request.

15.0 Site Photography

Left impart of G7 with a large mature ash suffering from ash dieback

Below is W1 with hundreds of ash with ash dieback.

Bottom left are a group of trees G6 where soil mounding have caused irreversible stress and a high possibility of entire tree failure within the coming month onto the newly construction calving shed.