BS 5837:2012

Arboricultural Method Statement

10th June 2025

Report No. 2356_AMS.01
Project: 2 Chapel Close
Authored by: Matthew Lally

PENNINE ecological

ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

PROJECT

2 Chapel Close
Brockhall Village
Blackburn
BB6 8HU

DOCUMENT ISSUE RECORD

Date of Inspection	Surveyor	Report Version	Issue Date	Author
02.06.2025	Matthew Lally. FdSc MArborA	01	10.06.2025	Matthew Lally. FdSc MArborA

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Author Information & Report Purpose

1.1.1. My name is Matthew Lally (FdSc) and I have created this Arboricultural Method Statement to outline the required steps which must be implemented to successfully retain the trees we wish to retain without adversely affecting their safe useful life expectancy. The steps in this Method Statement must be followed and if there is any misunderstanding or difficulty with these steps then I must be contacted immediately to clarify any issues.

1.1.2. Failure to adhere to the recommendations outlined in this document could result in tree decline or tree death which will mean a breach of planning consent. The trees outlined for retention in this document are protected by planning law and any tree loss and damage could result in prosecution.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1. Understanding Tree Roots and Damaging Factors

2.1.1. It is important to understand that the majority of the root system is within the top 600mm of the soil extending radially for distances in excess of the Root Protection Area (the Root protection Area is simply the minimal amount of untouched root system deemed to be required for this tree to be successfully retained). Beyond the main structural roots (close to the base of the trunk), the root system rapidly sub-divides into smaller diameter roots: off this main system, a mass of fine roots develops which are incredibly important for the tree to be able to take up water and essential nutrients.

2.1.2. These very fine roots are easily damaged by a number of factors such as: -

a) Compaction of the ground, which reduces the space between soil particles. This is particularly important on clay soils. A single passage by heavy equipment on clay soils or storage of heavy materials can cause significant damage.
b) Changing soil levels, even for a few weeks.
c) Covering the root area with impervious surfaces.
d) A rise in the level of the water table. Roots can tolerate submersion for short periods. But a permanent rise will deplete the soil of oxygen.

e) Stripping the topsoil, such works must be avoided until protective fencing has been erected.
f) Pollution, such as cement washings & oils.
g) Excavations in the root protection area. Even shallow excavations can cause damage and therefore must be avoided unless otherwise stated in this document.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1. Sequence of Events

3.1.1. I have compiled the sequence of events below that must be undertaken in the order stated. Each step listed below is then expanded upon in section 3.2 onwards to ensure the requirements for each step are understood. This sequence should be read in conjunction with the Tree Removal Plan & the Tree Protection Plan in appendix I.

1) Pre-commencement site meeting (See 3.2)
2) Tree pruning & removal (See 3.3)
3) Site briefing for personnel (See 3.4)
4) Installation of protective fencing (See 3.5)
5) Implementation of development (See 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9)
6) Completion of development works
7) Removal of protective fencing and ground protection
8) Completion signed off

3.2. Pre-commencement Site Meeting

3.2.1. Prior to commencement of any site works or tree works, a meeting must take place including the site manager and an arboricultural consultant. This meeting can be onsite, over the phone or virtual and will allow further discussion of the programme of works, tree protective measures, locations of areas for storage/site organisation and the agreement of any changes to the Arboricultural Method Statement that may be required which will be formally updated and approved as required.

3.3. Tree Works

3.3.1. Once the pre-commencement site meeting has taken place then the following tree works must be undertaken by a qualified and insured tree surgery company.

Table 1. Table of tree works

Tree No.	Species	Proposed Works to Facilitate Development	Reason for Works
W1#	*Norway Maple. Birch. Sycamore.*	*No Works Required*	-
G2#	*Field Maple*	*No Works Required*	-
T3#	**Alder**	**Reduce crown on the western side by 1m as outlined in the Tree Removal Plan**	**To facilitate the erection of scaffolding and the construction of the new building**
T4#	**Ornamental Cherry**	**Reduce crown on the western side by 1m as outlined in the Tree Removal Plan**	**To facilitate the erection of scaffolding and the construction of the new path**
H5#	*Beech*	*No Works Required*	-
T6#	*Ornamental Apple*	*No Works Required*	-
T7#	**Cherry**	**Reduce crown on the western side by 2.5m as outlined in the Tree Removal Plan**	**To facilitate the erection of scaffolding and construction of the new decking**
T8#	**Cherry**	**Reduce crown on the south-western side by 1.6m as outlined in the Tree Removal Plan**	**To facilitate the erection of scaffolding and the construction of the new building**
T9#	*Ash*	*No Works Required*	-
G10#	*Cherry. Beech.*	*No Works Required*	-
H11#	**Laurel**	**Removal of 7m of hedge as outlined in the Tree Removal Plan**	**To facilitate the erection of scaffolding and the construction of the new path**
G12#	**Cypress**	**Remove**	**To facilitate the widening of the drive**
T13#	**Alder**	**Remove**	**To facilitate the widening of the drive**
G14#	**Beech. Alder. Pine. Willow**	**Remove**	**To facilitate the widening of the drive**
G15#	*Cherry x 3*	*No Works Required*	-
T16#	**Alder**	**Remove**	**To facilitate the widening of the drive/courtyard area and construction of building**
T17#	*Willow*	*No Works Required*	-

All tree works must be undertaken in line with BS3998:2010. Tree Work. Recommendations.

3.4. Site Briefing

3.4.1. Once the tree works have been completed to the recommended specifications and standards outlined in section 3.3, the site manager must ensure that all personnel who are to be working on this site are made fully aware of the constraints posed by the retained trees and that there are measures in place to protect these trees. I recommend making sure that all personnel have full access to the Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan (TPP), keeping a hard copy of this in the site office would also be advisable for reference.

3.5. Protective Fencing

3.5.1. Now that the site briefing has been completed, the protective fencing should be erected in the positions laid out in the Tree Protection Plan which I have made available in appendix I.

3.5.2. The tree protection fencing will be appropriate to the degree and proximity of likely construction works. It is my opinion that in this instance, the default BS 5837:2012 tree protection fencing is disproportionate. I recommend that (if acceptable by the LPA) an adequate level of protection for the trees could be provided by 'Heras' type fencing, of welded mesh panels on rubber or concrete feet. I have included an image of the compliant fencing available in figure 1.

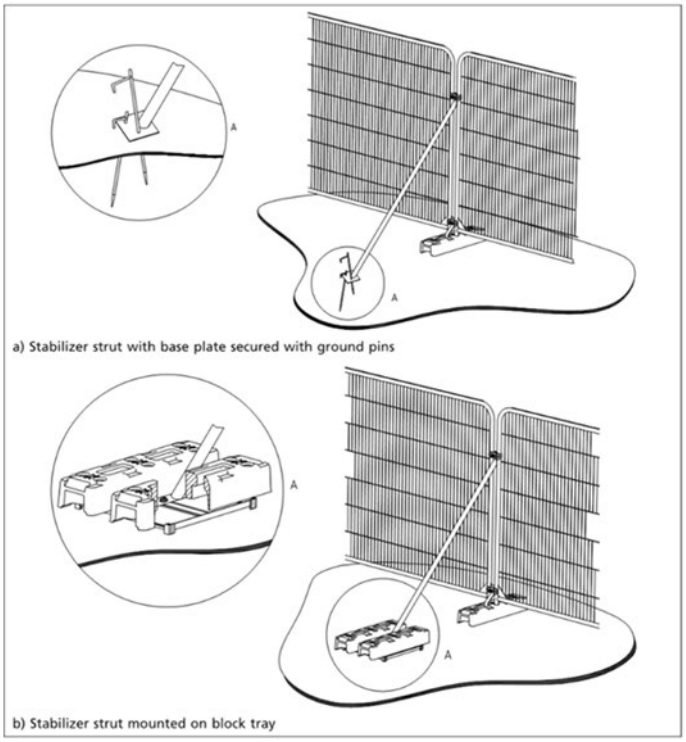


Figure 1. Tree protection fencing (Heras)

3.5.3. The fencing should be strong and suitable for local conditions. It should also take into account the degree of construction activity on the site.

3.5.4. Notices must also be erected on the fencing stating, 'Protected Area - No operations within fenced area'. I have made an example of a notice sign available in figure 2.

Figure 2. Tree protection notice to be fixed to protective fencing

3.5.5. Once the fence has been erected it should never be crossed and particular care should be taken not to store any materials or soil within the protected area.

3.6. Additional Precautions Outside Fenced Areas

3.6.1. Oil, bitumen, cement or other material likely to cause damage to the tree will not be stacked or discharged within 10m of the trees stem or within the protective area. Also, materials in general will not be stacked or discharged within the exclusion zone.

3.6.2. Concrete mixing and washing will not be carried out within 10m of any retained trees.

3.6.3. Fires will not be lit beneath the foliage or in a position where the flames could extend to within 5m of the foliage, branches or trunk. If the fire is large, then this may necessitate a distance of at least 20m.

3.6.4. Trees that are to be retained will not be used as anchorage for equipment.

3.6.5. Notice boards, telephone cables, or other services will not be attached to any part of the retained tree.

3.6.6. Care should be taken when using cranes or other equipment near the canopy of the retained trees. Also, any trees to be felled in proximity to the retained trees should be done so with particular care.

3.7. Supervised Installation of Decking

3.7.1. The decking will be constructed above ground level and will require minimal excavation of the existing soil for the installation of support posts. The following points will be adhered to during the construction of the decking:

- A decking design will be chosen that allows for varying distances between support posts.
- Each post will have trial holes dug by hand to ensure that no major roots are severed.
- If major roots are found during the digging of the trial holes the digging will stop for this hole and the post will not be placed in this hole, the trial hole will be backfilled, and a new location found for the post.
- The construction of the decking should be supervised by an arboricultural within the RPA.

3.8. Demolition Adjacent to Trees & RPAs

3.8.1. During demolition, the following restrictions will apply:

- Where direct damage by falling masonry is likely, the tree should be protected by exterior grade plywood sheets constructed around the main stem.
- The main body of any mechanical excavator will operate outside the RPA.
- Masonry will be pulled away from trees.
- When breaking masonry, a fine water spray will be used to minimise dust particles if it is likely to cover leaves.
- Excessive dust particles on trees will be removed each day by spraying with water.

- Hard surfaces should be kept in place for as long as possible during construction works in order to prevent soil compaction in the RPA.

3.9. Site Monitoring

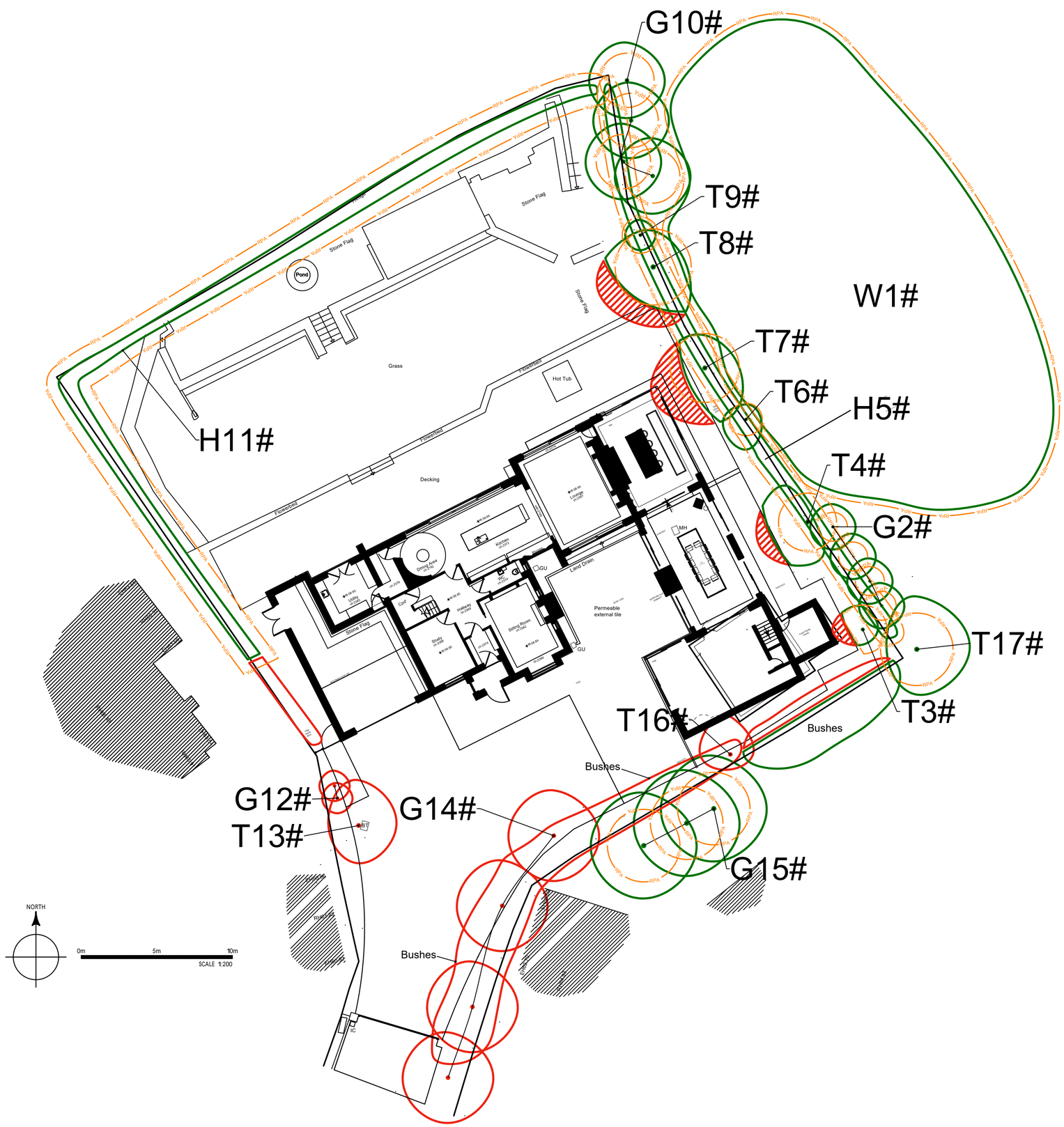
3.9.1. An auditable system of site monitoring shall be established to guide contractors on site, ensure that tree protection measures are implemented and adhered to, and also to demonstrate to the LPA that any planning conditions have been met.

3.9.2. This includes site visits by an arboricultural consultant (as appointed by the developer) to confirm the correct installation of the protective fencing, to oversee sensitive elements of works within the RPA of retained trees and sign off the site when the works are complete before fencing can be removed.

3.9.3. A site visit schedule has been made available in appendix II.

Appendix I

Tree Removal Plan & Tree Protection Plan



Do not scale this drawing (printed or electronic version).

Contractors must check all dimensions from site

This drawing is for use on this site only and should be used in conjunction with all relevant consultants drawings..

LEGEND

N

Retained Trees

Removed Trees

Section of Crown Removed

RPA

Root Protection Areas

\# Position estimated on site

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Scale:	Date:
1:200 @ A2	09/06/2025

Job: 2356_AIA.01

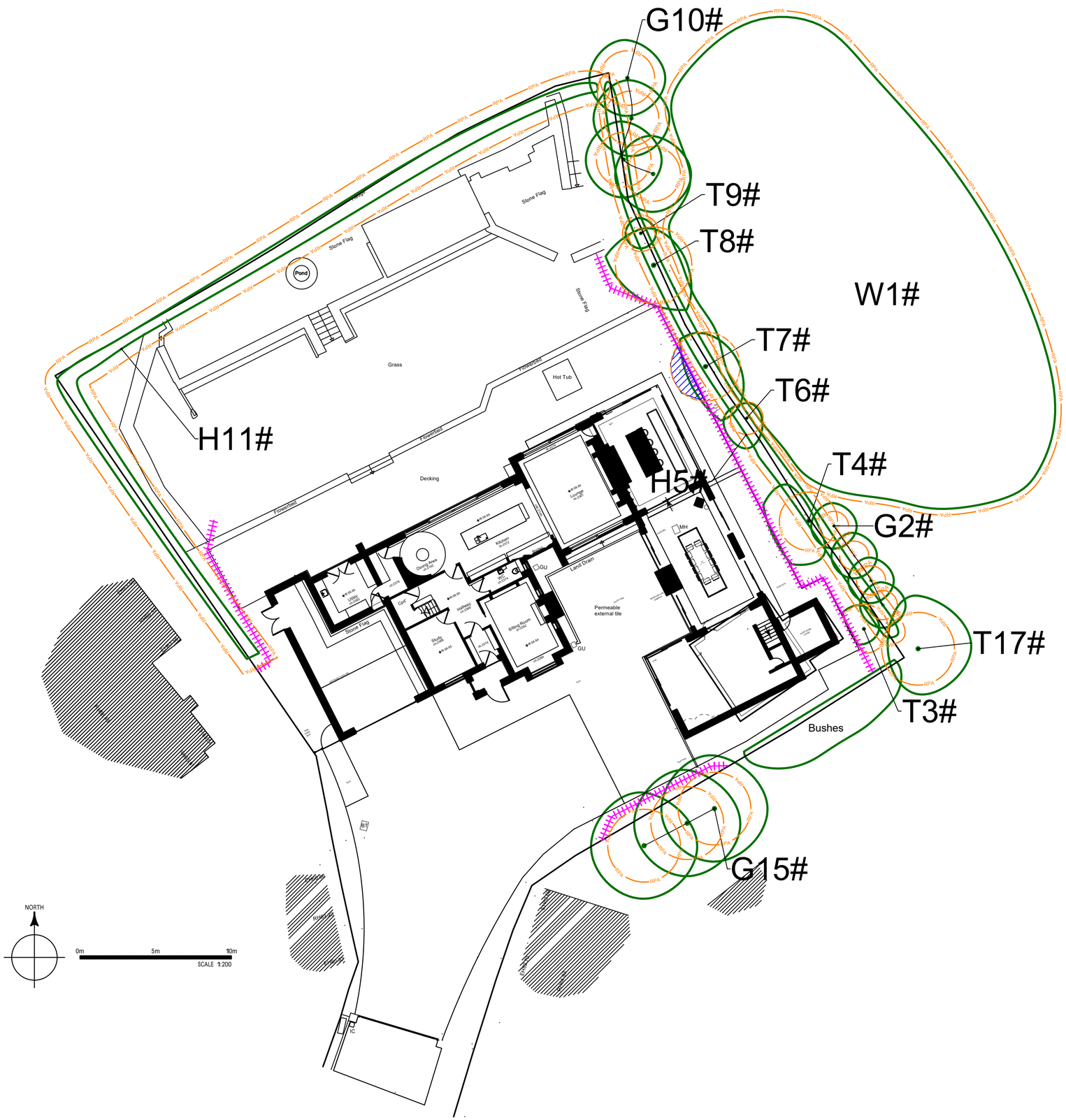
Address: 2 Chapel Cl, Blackburn BB6 8HU

Client: -

Drawing Number: 2356_TRP.01

Drawn by: Matthew Lally

TREE REMOVAL PLAN



Do not scale this drawing (printed or electronic version).

Contractors must check all dimensions from site

This drawing is for use on this site only and should be used in conjunction with all relevant consultants drawings..

LEGEND

N

- Retained Trees
- Root Protection Areas
- Protective Fencing (Metal)
- Supervised Installation of Decking
- # Position estimated on site

PENNINE ecological

Scale: 1:200 @ A2	Date: 09/06/2025

Job: 2356_AIA.01

Address: 2 Chapel Cl, Blackburn BB6 8HU

Client: -

Drawing Number: 2356_TPP.01

Drawn by: Matthew Lally

TREE PROTECTION PLAN

Appendix II

Auditable Site Monitoring

Tree Number	Task	Date Completed	Signed (Project Arboriculturist)	Signed (Site Manager)
Site	**Pre-commencement site meeting** *(Can be over the phone, virtual or onsite)*			
See section 3.3	**Tree pruning & removal**			
Site	**Installation of protective fencing sign off**			
T7#	**Supervised installation of decking**			
Completion of Construction				
Site	**Removal of protective fencing and sign off from project arboriculturist**			