

# Arboricultural Method Statement

For a development works on land at

## The Barns, Pound Lane, Downhead



*On behalf of*

**Y-Farms Partnership**

Lodge Hill Manor  
Downhead  
Shepton Mallet  
BA4 4LG

*Inspected and prepared by*

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*Chartered Arboriculturist*  
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16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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## INTRODUCTION

Planning permission has been granted for the conversion and extension of existing agricultural barns to form a new farm shop and associated café; and new access arrangements and parking (Mendip District Council planning ref. 2018/2570/FUL). Condition 3 of the planning permission requires an arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. I have been employed to survey the trees and to prepare the information required to discharge Condition 3.

**Project arboriculturist:** Ben Rose, Tel 0787 2609633; ben@boskytrees.co.uk

**Site manager:** John Yeoman, Y-Farms Partnership

The site manager must be provided with a copy of this document and a copy should be available on-site at all times. **It is the site manager's responsibility to pass on the information in this document to all construction staff and site contractors.**

This method statement provides details of how planned operations near trees will be carried out. However, arboricultural supervision will be required if any unforeseen construction activity is to take place within or adjacent to the root protection area (RPA) of any of the retained trees at the site (the RPAs are indicated on the tree removal plan). This supervision must be carried out by a suitably qualified arboriculturist. It is recommended that the project arboriculturist and the local authority's tree officer are informed of necessary works near trees as soon as they become apparent.

## 1) GENERAL METHOD STATEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE TREE PROTECTION

Trees are vulnerable to root damage caused by ground disturbance, direct injury of the trunk or branches, environmental change, pests, and diseases. Construction work often exerts pressures on existing trees, and a tree that has taken many decades to reach maturity can be damaged irreparably in a few minutes by unwitting or negligent actions.

For this project temporary fencing will be used during construction to protect the retained trees at the site. The extent of the tree protection fencing that will be required is shown on the tree protection plan, TPP-1 (This is provided at the rear of the report). **For effective tree protection it is crucial that the protective fencing is installed before any heavy plant machinery is used on the site.** The tree protection fencing must remain in place until the construction works have been completed (unless under arboricultural supervision). The fenced off areas will be construction exclusion zones.

Soil compaction quickly occurs if vehicles pass over an area of soil. Compaction may cause reduced infiltration rates of water, poor drainage, reduced availability of water, and reduced air and oxygen supply to roots. This leads to reduced root growth and as a result the health of the tree is impacted. Therefore, to ensure that soil compaction is avoided, it is very important that no vehicles enter the fenced-off areas during construction operations.

All construction staff should be made aware of the following restrictions that apply to the construction exclusion zones:

1. No excavation or raising of soil levels is permitted within the construction exclusion zones without written permission from the project arboriculturist.
2. Site offices and staff welfare facilities must be located outside of the construction exclusion zones unless agreed with the local authority's arboricultural officer.
3. No materials of any kind are to be stored within the construction exclusion zone.
4. No utility trenches are to be routed through a construction exclusion zone without written permission from the local authority's arboricultural officer.
5. Care must be taken when planning site operations to ensure that wide or tall loads, or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights can operate without coming into contact with retained trees. Branches may be tied back so that they are out of the way if necessary.
6. Potential contaminants such as fuel, oils and chemicals must be stored on an impervious base within a bund able to contain at least 110% of the volume stored. Provision must also be made for any spillage or run off to be contained away from the protected area.
7. Cement and concrete mixing must take place at least 10m from any trees, and over a suitable hard surface, to prevent soil contamination from spillage or washing out.

## 2) SPECIFICATION FOR TREE PROTECTION FENCING

The location of the tree protection fencing that will be required is shown on the tree protection plan, (this is provided at the rear of this document). **For effective tree protection it is crucial that the protective fencing is installed before any heavy plant machinery is used on the site.** The tree protection fencing must remain in place until the construction works have been completed (unless under arboricultural supervision). The fenced off areas will be construction exclusion zones.

Most planning permission notices include a condition for tree protection that requires proof to be provided to demonstrate that the tree protection fencing has been put up properly and in accordance with the tree protection plan. This can be done by installing the fencing and informing the council two weeks in advance of starting construction, or by employing an arboricultural consultant to check the fencing and produce a record of the inspection. Alternatively photos could be taken as evidence that the fencing has been put up before any other works have started.

Fencing (or other forms of barrier) must be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place around the retained trees. Since this is a relatively small and short-term project it will not be necessary to install metal fencing supported by a scaffold framework (as detailed in in Figure 2 of BS5837). Instead it is proposed that Heras panels, cleft chestnut fencing, wire stock fencing or coloured plastic 'snow guard' fencing is used. In general fences of this nature are about 1.2m high, and they can be installed on standard fenceposts that are hammered into the ground.

Once the barriers have been erected the areas of land within the construction exclusion zone should be regarded as sacrosanct, and should not be removed or altered without prior consultation with the project arboriculturist and, where necessary, approval from the local planning authority. All-weather notices should be attached to the fencing with words such as: 'Construction Exclusion Zone - No Access'. Throughout the construction period attention should be paid to ensure that barriers remain rigid and complete.

**Arboricultural supervision will be required whenever construction and development activity is to take place within a construction exclusion zone.** This supervision must be carried out by a suitably qualified arboriculturist.

**Tree Management Schedule**

**Site: The Barns, Pound Lane, Downhead**

**Surveyor: Ben Rose**

**Date of Survey: 29th September 2020**



Tree Number	Tree Species	Height (m)	Number of Stems	Stem $\phi$ (cm)	N - Radius (m)	S - Radius (m)	E - Radius (m)	W - Radius (m)	1st Branch (m)	Age Class	Overall Health	ULE (Years)	Tree Structural Condition & Site Notes	Recommended Management	Category
T1	Horse chestnut	13	1	60	5.5	5	7	4	5	M	F	20+	Hedgerow tree. No obvious significant defects.	No action required at present.	<b>B2</b>
T2	Beech	13	1	57	7	8	7	3.5	5	M	G	20+	Hedgerow tree. No obvious significant defects.	No action required at present.	<b>B2</b>
T3	Ash	15	2	51	4	4.5	5.5	3.5	6	M	F	10+	Two stems, possibly two trees growing close together. Arboreal ivy. Symptoms of Chalara dieback.	Fell and plant replacement.	<b>C1</b>
T4	Field maple	9	1	35	2	4	3	2	5	M	G	40+	Hedgerow tree. No obvious significant defects.	Fell and plant replacement.	<b>B1</b>
T5	Ash	12	1	32	2	4	6	2	5	M	D	<10	Standing dead tree.	Fell and plant replacement.	<b>U</b>
T6	Common lime	9	1	50	4	4	4.5	1.5	5	M	F	20+	Hedgerow tree. Basal shoot growth. No obvious significant defects.	Fell and plant replacement.	<b>B1</b>
T7	Sycamore	16	3	73	5.5	6	8	4	6	M	G	40+	Hedgerow tree. No obvious significant defects.	No action required at present.	<b>B2</b>
T8	Ash	11	2	63	5	8	5	3	5	M	F	10+	Two stems, possibly two trees growing close together. Arboreal ivy. Symptoms of Chalara dieback.	No action required at present.	<b>C1</b>
T9	English oak	3	1	6	1.5	1.5	1	1.5	1	Y	G	40+	No obvious significant defects. Planted to commemorate the Queen's diamond jubilee on 5th June 2012.	No action required at present.	<b>C1</b>
T10	Sycamore	10	1	20	4	2.5	3	4	5	EM	G	40+	Hedgerow tree. No obvious significant defects.	No action required at present.	<b>B1</b>
T11	Scots pine	9	1	30	2	3.5	0	4.5	5	M	G	40+	Hedgerow tree. No obvious significant defects.	No action required at present.	<b>B2</b>
T12	Ash	16	1	55	5	3	5	5	7	M	G	10+	Hedgerow tree. Arboreal ivy.	No action required at present.	<b>C1</b>
T13	Sycamore	14	1	55	3	6	6	5.5	5	M	G	40+	Hedgerow tree. Past crown lift over the field. No obvious significant defects.	No action required at present.	<b>B1</b>
T14	Ash	15	1	106	6	6	6	6	7	FM	P	10+	Infield tree ploughed up to base. The crown is retrenching.	No action required at present.	<b>B3</b>
T15	Goat willow	4	MS	6	1.5	1	1.5	1	1	EM	G	40+	Small self-sown tree.	Fell and remove the stump.	<b>C1</b>
T16	English oak	6	1	25	4	2.5	3	3.5	5	EM	G	40+	Planted hedgerow tree. No obvious significant defects.	No action required at present.	<b>B1</b>

A key explaining each category is provided at the rear of the schedule

**Tree Group Management Schedule**

**Site: The Barns, Pound Lane, Downhead**

**Surveyor: Ben Rose**

**Date of Survey: 30th September 2020**



Group Number	Tree Species	Number in Group	Height (m)	Number of stems	Stem $\varnothing$ (cm)	N - Radius (m)	S - Radius (m)	E - Radius (m)	W - Radius (m)	1st Branch	Age Class	Overall Health	ULE (Years)	Tree Structural Condition & Site Notes	Recommended Management	Category
G1	Oak, beech, ash and Norway maple	11	15	1	50	5	5	5	5	5	M	G	40+	These are situated on a wide roadside verge. They all appear to be in good health.	No action required at present.	B2

A key explaining each category is provided at the rear of the schedule

Hedge Management Schedule

Site: The Barns, Pound Lane, Downhead

Surveyor: Ben Rose

Date of Survey: 29th September 2020



Hedge Number	Tree Species	Height (m)	No. of Stems	Stem Ø (cm)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Age Class	Overall Health	ULE (Years)	Condition & Notes	Recommended Management	Category
H1	Hawthorn, field maple, holly, dogwood, hazel, elder and spindle	1.5	MS	6	2	250	M	F	40+	This hedge is regularly flailed and so it has a neat box shape.	Remove 110m of hedgeline to provide adequate visibility splay for the new entrance (as indicated on the tree removal plan).	C2
H2	Hawthorn, blackthorn, dogwood, ash and sycamore	1.5	MS	6	2	80	M	F	40+	This hedge is regularly flailed and so it has a neat box shape.	Create a 2.5m gap in the northern end to create a pedestrian route to the church (as indicated on the tree removal plan).	C2
H3	Hawthorn and hazel	2	MS	8	2	15	M	F	40+	This hedge is regularly flailed and so it has a neat box shape. It is only a short length and is to be retained.	Remove 2m from the western edge of the hedge to make space for the new pedestrian access route (as indicated on the tree removal plan).	C1
H4	Hawthorn, hazel, dogwood, ash and oak	3	MS	4	3	200	EM	G	40+	This is a recently planted hedge. It is regularly flailed and so it has a neat box shape.	No action required at present.	C2
H5	Hawthorn, hazel, dogwood, ash and oak	3	MS	4	3	200	EM	G	40+	This is a recently planted hedge. It is regularly flailed and so it has a neat box shape. Not impacted by the proposed scheme.	No action required at present.	C2

A key explaining each category can be found at the rear of the schedule.

## Tree Schedule - KEY

### Tree/Group/Hedge Number

Tree, tree-groups or hedges have been allocated a number for the purpose of this survey. Numbers within the Tree Schedule relate to those marked on the Tree Removal Plan and Tree Protection Plan drawings.

Trees protected by a tree preservation order (TPO) are highlighted by grey colouration in the tree schedule.

### Species

Common names are listed.

### Number in Group

Number of trees within a group. A group of trees may comprise of more than one species.

### Height (m)

All heights are estimated in metres.

### Number of Stems

The number of stems is either 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or MS (multi-stemmed). This feature influences how the area of the recommended root protection area is calculated.

### Stem or Combined Diameter (cm)

Single stem diameters are measured at 1.5m with a diameter tape. The combined stem diameters for trees with up to five stems and trees with more than five stems (MS) trees are calculated in accordance with the guidance.

### Crown Spread Radius (m)

The crown radius from tree trunk to crown limit identified at the four cardinal points (N, S, E and W) in order to allow presentation of the above ground constraints on the Tree Protection Plan.

Measurements are approximate and recorded to the nearest half metre.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Branch (m)

This is a record of the height of the lowest branch. This is useful when planning access routes or considering if pruning will be required to site new features under a tree crown.

### Age Class

(Y) Young, (SM) Semi-Mature, (EM) Early-Mature, (M) Mature, (FM) Fully-Mature or (V) Veteran.

### Overall Health

An overall assessment of the physiological condition of the tree recorded as (G) Good, (F) Fair, (P) Poor, (D) Dead.

### ULE (Years)

Useful Life Expectancy. Anticipated future contribution to amenity, in years.

### Tree Structural Condition & Site Notes

Observations on the form of the tree, condition and structural integrity.

Site notes are detailed when relevant to the growth conditions or rooting constraints.

### Management Recommendations

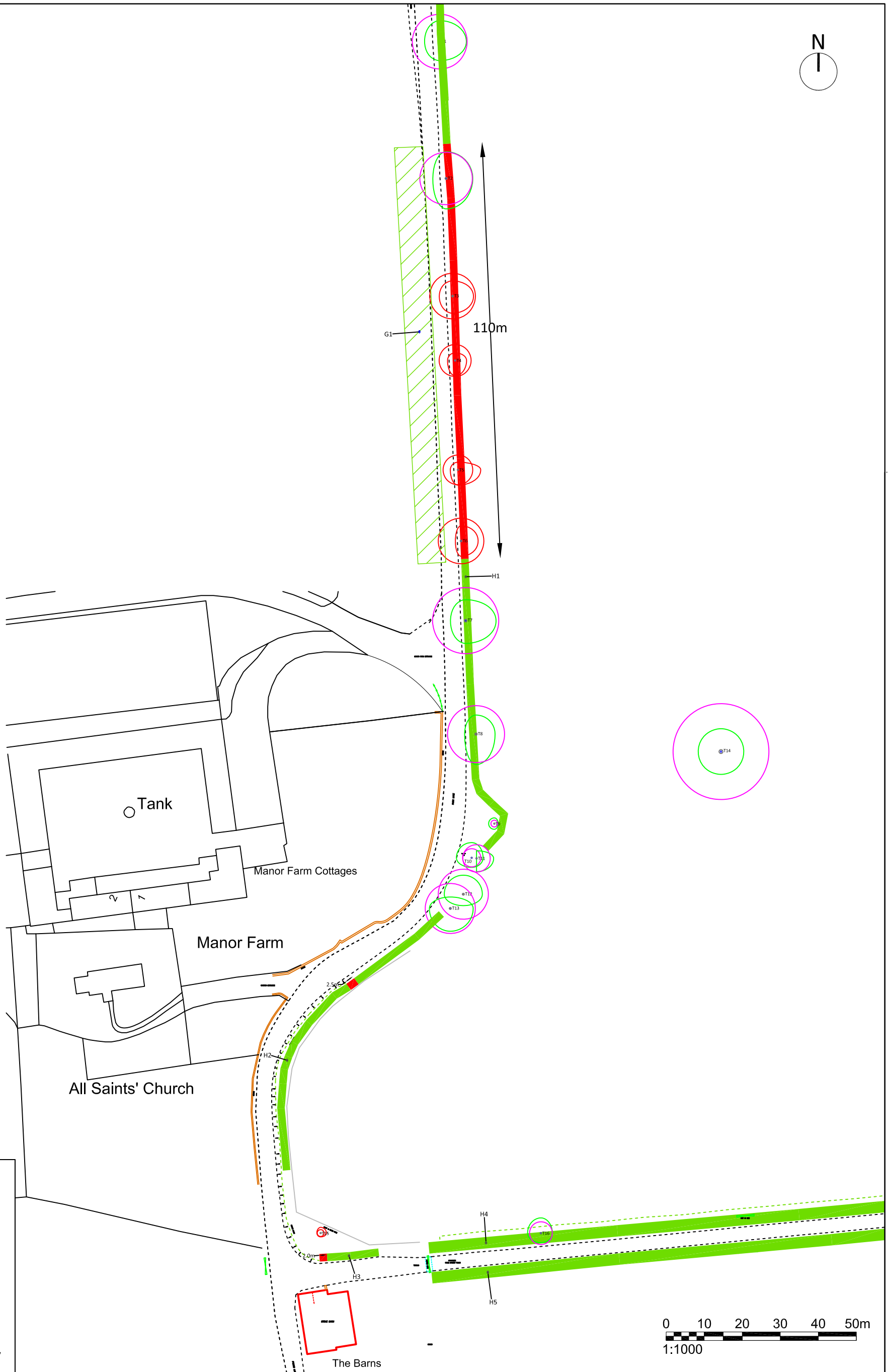
Recommended tree surgery works to be carried out prior to construction. Terminology used is based on guidance detailed in BS3998:2010 – Recommendations for tree work<sup>1</sup>.

### Category

Tree category as defined within BS5837:2012. Categories A (high quality), B (moderate quality) and C (low quality) are trees that should be considered for retention. Category U trees are unsuitable for retention.

<sup>1</sup> British Standards Institution (2010). BS3998 - Recommendations for Tree Work. BSI, London.





**BS5837:2012 - Tree Category**

- Category A Trees**  
High quality and value  
At least 40 years life-expectancy
- Category B Trees**  
Moderate quality and value  
At least 20 years life-expectancy
- Category C Trees**  
Moderate quality and value  
At least 10 years life-expectancy
- Category U Trees**  
Poor quality and value  
Less than 10 years life expectancy

**Key**

- 
- Tree group canopy outline
- Hedge line
- Trees scheduled for removal
- Hedge line to be removed

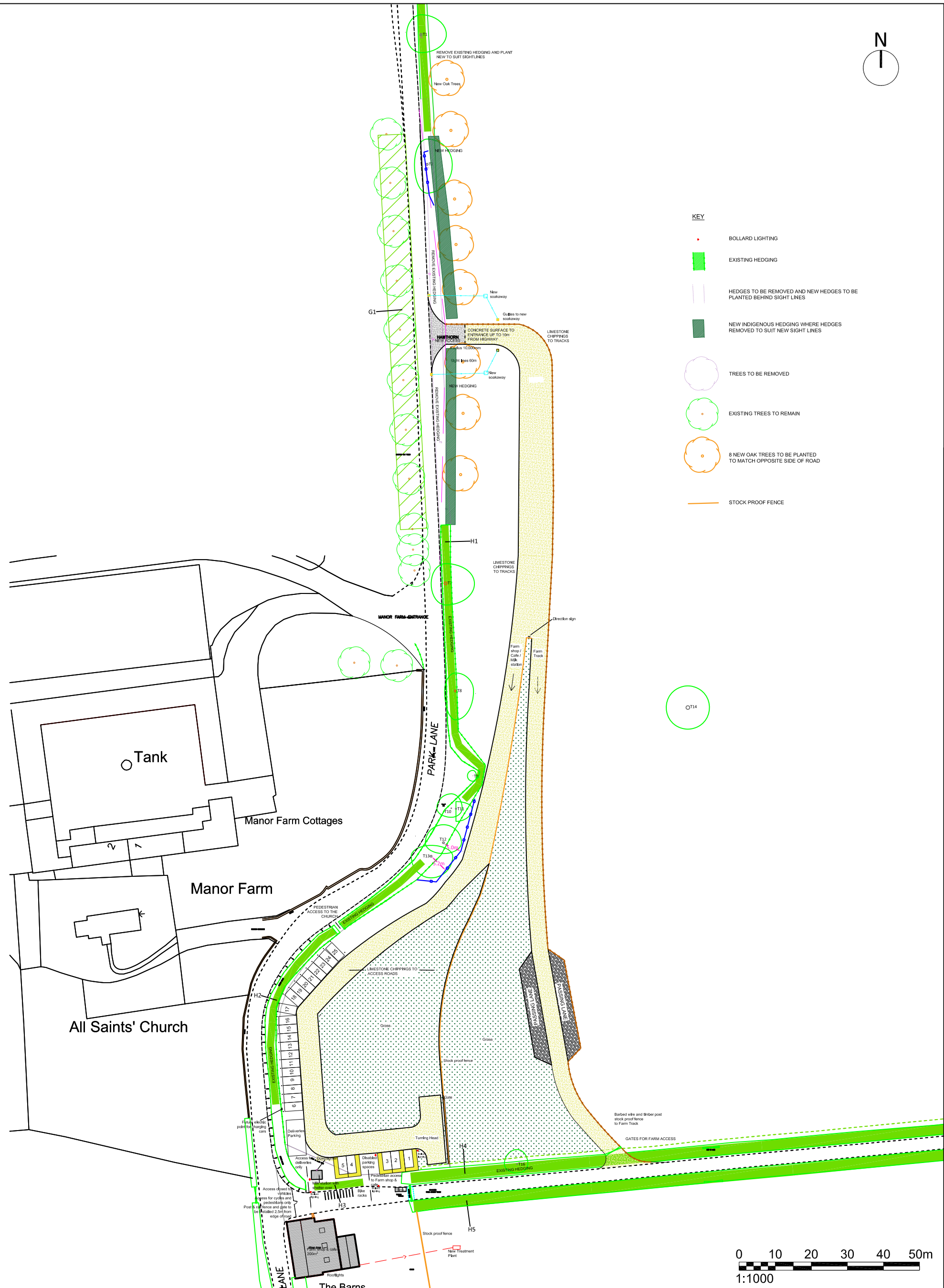


Rook Lane House  
Christchurch Street West  
Frome, BA11 1EB

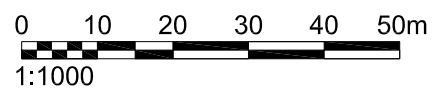
info@boskytrees.co.uk  
Tel: 01373 832778

Project Name: <b>The Barns Pound Lane, Downhead</b>	
Drawing Title: <b>Tree Removal Plan</b>	
Drawing Number: <b>TR-1</b>	Revision

Client: <b>Y-Farms Partnership</b>
Agent:
Date: <b>16-10-2020</b>
Scale: <b>1:1000 @ A3</b>



- KEY**
- BOLLARD LIGHTING
  - EXISTING HEDGING
  - HEDGES TO BE REMOVED AND NEW HEDGES TO BE PLANTED BEHIND SIGHT LINES
  - NEW INDIGENOUS HEDGING WHERE HEDGES REMOVED TO SUIT NEW SIGHT LINES
  - TREES TO BE REMOVED
  - EXISTING TREES TO REMAIN
  - 8 NEW OAK TREES TO BE PLANTED TO MATCH OPPOSITE SIDE OF ROAD
  - STOCK PROOF FENCE



**Key**

- Tree protection fencing
- Canopy spread
- Trunk position
- Tree number
- Tree group canopy outline
- Hedge line

1.0m Measurement from trunk to fence

**BOSKY TREES**

Rook Lane House  
Christchurch Street West  
Frome, BA11 1EB

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Tel: 01373 832778

Project Name: <b>The Barns Pound Lane, Downhead</b>	
Drawing Title: <b>Tree Protection Plan</b>	
Drawing Number: <b>TPP-1</b>	Revision

Client: <b>Y-Farms Partnership</b>
Agent:
Date: <b>16-10-2020</b>
Scale: <b>1:1000 @ A3</b>