Arboricultural Report

Assessment of trees in relation to development for planning purposes

Land Adjacent to 50 The Ridgeway
London
NW11 8RA

March 2013

140218-PD-11



Project	140218 - 50 The Ridgeway
Report	Arboricultural Report for Planning
Report Type	
Checked	
by	
Date	
Date Checked	

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1 SUMMARY REPORT

- 1.1 This arboricultural report has been commissioned by Act Design, to provide information to assist all parties involved in the planning process to make balanced judgements with regard to arboricultural features in relation to the proposed development of Land adjacent to 50 The Ridgeway, London, NW11 8RA.
- 1.2 The proposal is for erection of a detached residential dwelling on land adjacent to 50 The Ridgeway.
- 1.3 This report includes:
 - an assessment of the trees, their quality and value and constraints to development posed by these;
 - the site context;
 - observations on the trees;
 - planning policies relevant to the consideration of the trees on the site;
 - the impact of the proposed development upon the tree population in and around the site;
 - · methods of reducing impacts on trees; and
 - measures to be taken to protect trees during the proposed works.
- 1.4 My conclusions are that the development proposal in respect of trees is acceptable and I have followed best practice guidance in the assessment of trees. The proposals require the removal of low quality trees and shrubs that have no significance in the wider landscape and do not have any public visual amenity.

2 INTRODUCTION

Instructions

- 2.1 My name is Kevin Slezacek; I am an arboricultural consultant dealing with trees in relation to all forms of human activity including built development. I am a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association, an Associate member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, and I have the Royal Forestry Society Professional Diploma in Arboriculture.
- 2.2 This report has been commissioned by Act Design in support of the application for the erection of a detached residential dwelling.

Scope and limitations

2.3 The contents of this report are copyright of Tim Moya Associates and may not be distributed or copied without the author's permission. Tim Moya Associates standard Limitations of Service apply to this report and all associated work relating to this site.

Background and documents provided

- 2.4 My report has been prepared with reference to the following supplied information:
 - Existing OS site plan
 - Proposed layout by DJ Design.

Methodology and guidance

- 2.5 I have referred to British Standard 5837: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction (2012) which provides a methodology for the assessment of trees and other significant vegetation on development sites.
- 2.6 BS 5837 (2012) is intended to assist decision making with regard to existing and proposed trees and sets out the principles and procedures to be applied to achieve a harmonious relationship between trees and structures that can be sustained for the long term.

Supporting Information

2.7 All TMA documents relevant to this report are listed at section 9, and included within the Appendices.

3 OBSERVATIONS AND CONTEXT

Site visit

3.1 I visited the site on 3 March 2014, to identify key trees and vegetation within and adjoining the site that may be affected by the proposals.

Present use of the site

- 3.2 The site forms the side and rear garden of 50 The Ridgeway. There is a concrete base occupying the front part of the site where a garage formerly stood; this is at a higher level than the rear part of the site.
- 3.3 Much of the site is covered in low quality scrub consisting of overgrown shrubs and natural regeneration. There is a mature purple plum within the pavement of Armitage Road which fronts the site.

Description of the local area

3.4 The site is lies within a residential area with most of the surrounding properties being two storied detached houses with reasonable sized garden areas.

Trees in the local area

3.5 The wider area is relatively well treed for an urban setting, with numerous trees located within private gardens and within the street scene.

Views of trees



Photo 1 Approximate site location plan



Photo 2 (03/03/14) - View of the site from Armitage Road



Photo 3 (03/03/14) - T1 Purple plum, a council owned street tree



Photo 4 (03/03/14) - View of fungal brackets in main crown of T1



Photo 5 (03/03/14) – Site of proposed dwelling from inside the site

Soil conditions

- 3.6 Soil conditions will have a significant effect upon tree growth and will influence:
 - The species that will grow successfully.
 - · Rooting depths for different species.
 - The available soil volume that can be used by roots and therefore the likely tolerance of trees and other vegetation to soil disturbance
- 3.7 The British Geological Survey identifies the site as being on bedrock of London clay clay, silt and sand, with superficial deposits of Dollis Hill gravel member sand and gravel.
- 3.8 The local area contains a wide variety of tree species which appear to be generally well suited to the conditions. Soils of this type will be suitable for the growth of most species.

Policy context

- 3.9 Planning policy at national level is set out in the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which came into immediate effect on 27 March 2012. The NPPF replaces the previous national planning policy documents including Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF is a material consideration in determining planning applications.
- 3.10 The NPPF sets out overarching planning policy and at its core is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Sustainable development is defined in the NPPF as having economic, social and environmental strands that are interdependent and in these areas planning should meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 3.11 The NPPF states that planning should be "not only about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives." And should "always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;" Also that planning should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution."

- 3.12 The NPPF identifies thirteen aspects contributing to the delivery of sustainable development, including:
 - establishing a strong sense of place;
 - responding to local character and history; and
 - providing developments that are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping
- 3.13 Paragraph 61 of the NPPF states "planning policies and decisions should address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment."
- 3.14 The NPPF states that "planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland. Unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss".
- 3.15 Regional planning policy consists of the London Plan 2011 and associated policy documents including the recently published Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Managing Risks and Increasing Resilience October 2011).
- 3.16 Policy 7.21 of the London Plan 2011 calls for trees and woodlands to be maintained and enhanced. The policy requires that existing trees should be retained and that any loss as a result of development should be replaced in sustainable locations. The policy suggests that, where appropriate, large canopied species should be planted (rather than smaller ornamental species).
- 3.17 The Mayor's climate change adaptation strategy recommends measures to be taken to reduce a building's contribution to the urban heat island effect in London. These include:
 - Incorporating green roofs, green walls and climbing plants.
 - Planting and managing deciduous trees to provide dense summer shade.

Core Strategy

- 3.18 The London Borough of Barnet's policies are contained within Barnet's Local Plan and the Development Management Policy documents which were adopted on 11 September 2012. Relevant policies to the consideration of trees and development within the Core Strategy are:
 - Policy CS5: Protecting and enhancing Barnet's character to create high quality places. We will ensure that development in Barnet respects local context and distinctive local character creating places and buildings of high quality design. Development's should:
 - (i) Respect and enhance the distinctive natural landscapes of Barnet.
 - (ii) Protect and enhance the gardens of residential properties.
 - Policy CS7: Enhancing and protecting Barnet's open spaces. In order to maximise
 the benefits that open spaces can deliver and create a greener Barnet we will work
 with our partners to improve Barnet's Green Infrastructure.
 - · We will create a greener Barnet by;
 - (i) Protecting open spaces, enhancing positive management of Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land to provide improvements in overall quality and accessibility;
 - (ii) Ensuring that the character of green spaces of historical significance is protected.
 - (iii) Maintaining and improving the greening of the environment through the protection of incidental green space, trees, hedgerows and watercourses enabling green corridors to link Barnet's rural, urban fringe and urban green spaces.

- 3.19 Within the Development Management policies, the following have relevance to trees and landscape features:
 - Policy DM01: Protecting Barnet's character and amenity. This policy relates to design principles including hard and soft landscaping
 - j. Development proposals will be required to include hard and soft landscaping that:
 - i. Is well laid out in terms of access, car parking and landscaping
 - ii. Considers the impact of hardstandings on character
 iii. Achieve a suitable visual setting for the building
 iv. Provide an appropriate level of new habitat including tree and shrub planting
 v. Make a positive contribution to the surrounding area
 vi. Contributes to biodiversity including the retention of existing wildlife habitat and
 - vii. Adequately protects existing trees and their root systems
 - k. Trees should be safeguarded. When protected trees are to be felled the council will require replanting with suitable size and species of tree where appropriate.

4 TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Tree Data

4.1 The location of trees and groups of trees are shown on the tree survey drawing 140218-P-10 at Appendix A, this plan illustrates the location of trees and the extent of the spread of their crowns. Dimensions, comments and information for each tree are given in the tree schedule 140218-PD-10 at Appendix B.

Life stage analysis

- 4.2 Unlike age in numerical terms (years), this description is used to describe the physical form of a tree in relation to its typical life expectancy and varies between species; for example an oak may have a young form after 20 years while a cherry tree will be middle-aged after 20 years and will have developed the appearance of a mature tree with a spreading rounded crown whilst the oak remains tall and slender with strong apical dominance.
- 4.3 Of the eight survey entries five were assessed as being mature, one was early mature and two were young.

BS5837 category breakdown

4.4 The vegetation surveyed was all assessed as being of low or poor quality with the majority being scrub and natural regeneration or sucker growth. Details of the trees surveyed can be found in the schedule at Appendix B and on the tree survey plan at Appendix A.

5 ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSAL IN RESPECT OF TREES

Proposed development

5.1 The layout for the proposed development is shown on plan 140218-P-11 at Appendix A and is for the construction of a new detached residential dwelling.

Tree removals

- 5.2 All vegetation requiring removal is shown on drawing 140218-P-11 at Appendix A.
- 5.3 All trees and vegetation to be removed are of low or poor quality and their removal will not have an impact upon public amenity due to their insignificance within the landscape. Most of this vegetation is overgrown shrubs or small trees that cannot be protected by any statutory means.

Impacts on trees

- 5.4 The proposed dwelling does not impact on any retained trees and therefore the application is acceptable in arboricultural terms.
- 5.5 The council owned street tree will not be affected by the works and the only works that may slightly encroach into the root protection area is the formation of a drop curb to provide vehicle access. As this will consist of the removal of an existing curb and straight forward replacement it is unlikely that any roots will be in the vicinity.

6 DISCUSSION

General Change

6.1 In visual terms, the impact of the proposed development upon trees will be negligible as no significant trees or vegetation will be removed.

How do the changes relate to planning policy?

- 6.2 Trees have been carefully assessed in relation to this proposal and an assessment has been made in line with British Standard recommendations.
- 6.3 The site has no trees of any quality or value and the use of vacant land within a residential area is a sustainable approach to development. A new residential dwelling in this location has the potential to improve the street scene. The contribution private properties make to the tree coverage in the local area is apparent, and the granting of consent for new residential dwellings provides a continuation of successive new planting. The proposals have been assessed in relation to best practice and national, regional and local planning policy and guidance.

7 CONCLUSIONS

Sustainable development

7.1 There are no significant impacts on trees of quality or value and therefore the proposals comply with the requirements of best practice guidance and national, regional and local planning policy in relation to trees.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The use of planning conditions to safeguard trees

- 8.1 Section 197 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 places a duty on the Local Planning Authority to ensure that planning permissions are granted making adequate provision for the preservation and planting of trees by the imposition of conditions.
- 8.2 Given the insignificance of trees within or adjoining the site and the level of information provided, there is no requirement for specific tree protection conditions; therefore I recommend that the proposal is approved subject to adherence with the details within this document.
- 8.3 New planting can be made the subject of a landscaping condition if deemed necessary.

9 TMA SUPPORTING INFORMATION

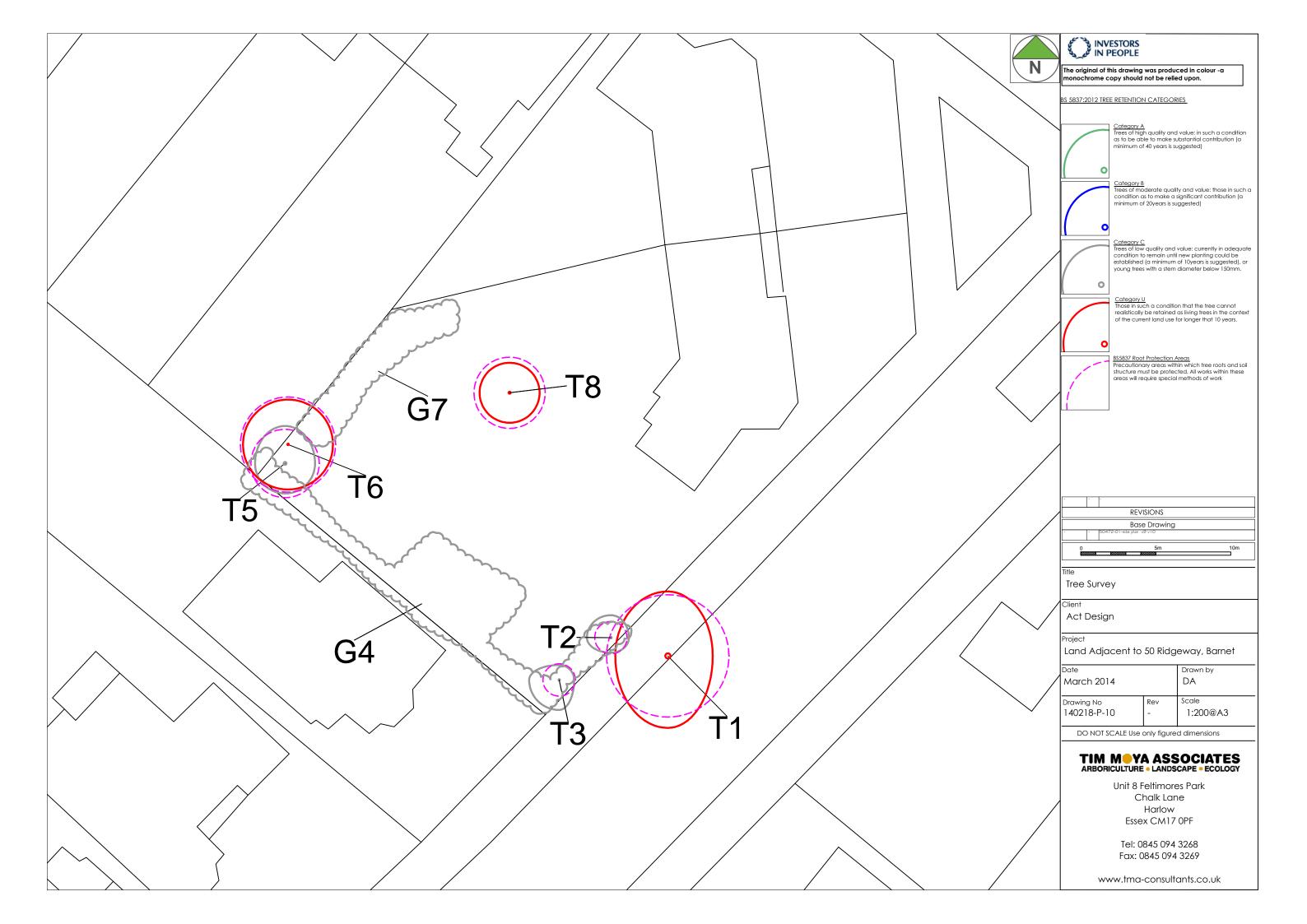
Document	Reference	Revision
Tree Schedule	140218-PD-10	
Tree Survey	140218-P-10	
Proposed layout tree removals	140218-P-11	
Tree protection plan	140218-P-12	

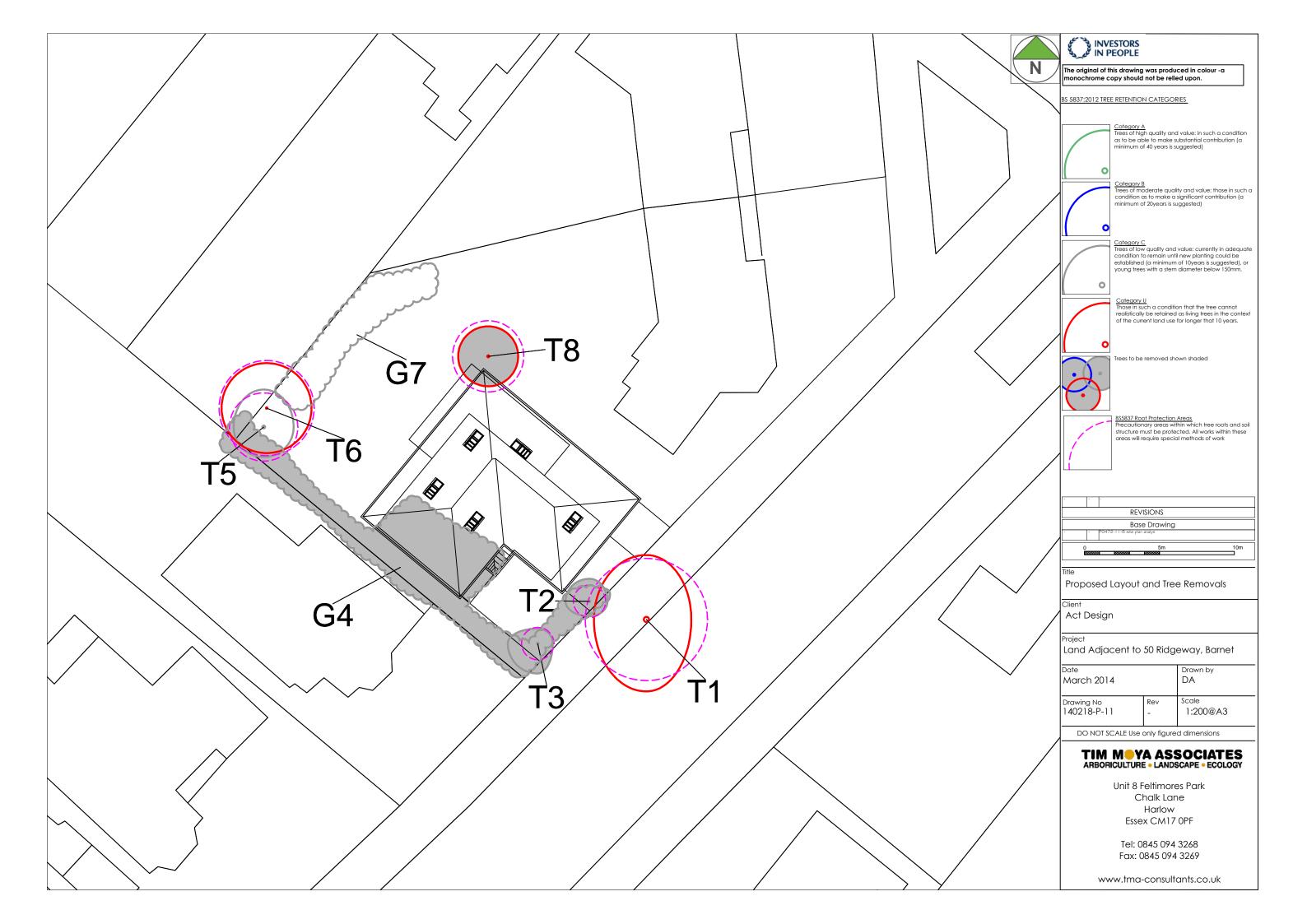
APPENDIX A - PLANS

Tree Survey 140218-P-10

Proposed Layout - Tree removal and planting 140218-P-11

Tree protection plan 140218-P-12





ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT femolition and construction - Recommendations (2012) which provides a methodology for the assessment and protection of trees and other significant vegetation on development sites. TREE SURGERY WORKS Only tree works specified within this document may be carried out. Any uncertainty regarding trees to be pruned will be immediately confirmed with the arboricultural consultant and local authority tree 3998 (2010). amended) and the Habitat Regulations 2010. SITE SUPERVISION All key / critical activities that will affect trees during construction will be inspected and monitored by the approved arboricultural consultant and reports issued to the client and local authority. Supervision visits will occur as follows: Inspection of tree works, tree protection prior to demolition and construction works During works that may affect retained trees. this drawing. and construction traffic. Signs will be fixed to every third panel stating ' Tree Protection Area Keep Out - Any incursion into the protected area must be with the agreement of the local authority Т6 protection is in place before demolition or site clearance works commence. No alteration, removal or repositioning of the tree protection for demolition will take place during the demolition phase without the prior consent of the arboricultural consultant. SERVICES AND DRAINAGE Methods of working for installation of the drainage runs or services will follow the guidance within Table 3 of BS 5837 (2012), or National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) Guidelines for the planning NJUG 2007. consultant. No machinery will be permitted within the TPZ at any time. No changes in soil levels will take place within the tree protection zones without prior written No materials, vehicles, plant or personnel will be permitted into the tree protection zones at any time without the prior consent of the arboricultural consultant. Any liquid materials spilled on site will be immediately cleared up and removed from the site. If liquid fuel or cement products are spilled within 2m of the tree protection zone, the contractor will report the incident to the arboricultural consultant immediately. The contractor will report any damage to trees or shrubs, whether caused by construction activities Figure 3 Examples of above-grounds stabilizing systems

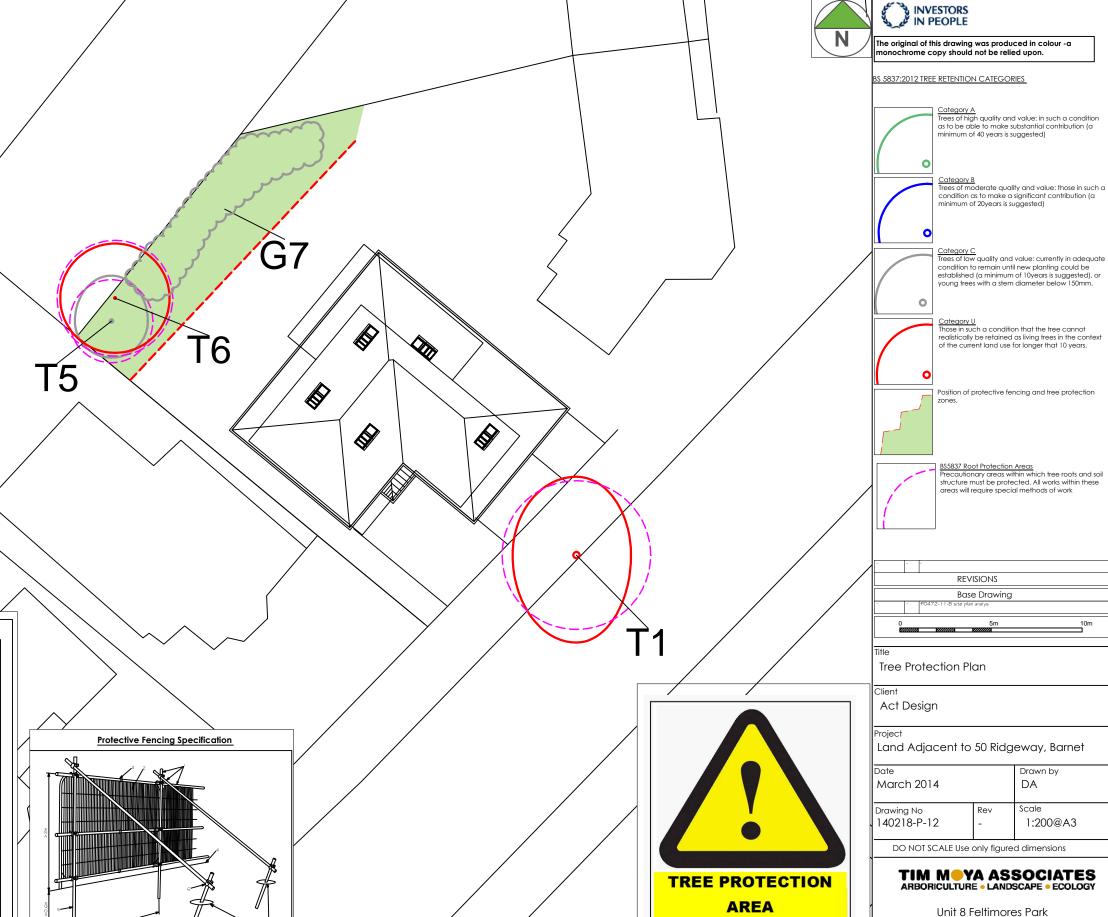
Key

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 Consuld Account Account to the control of the con



Chalk Lane

Harlow

Essex CM17 0PF

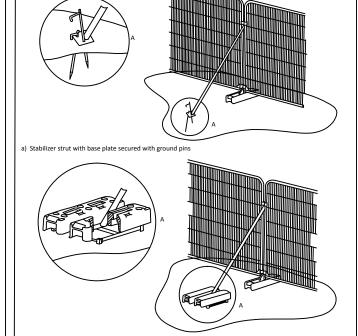
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KEEP OUT!

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APPENDIX B - SCHEDULES

Tree Schedule 140218-PD-10

140218-PD-10 Tree schedule (BS5837)

Land Adjacent to 50 Ridgeway, Barnet

	_		т —			DI	MEN	ISIO	NC			1		1	Ι		
Tree/Group Number	No. of Trees	Species	Height (m)	Stem diameter (cm)	No. of Stems		Spread N (m)	Spread E (m)	Spread S (m)	Spread W (m)	Crown Cleanrance (m)	Life stage	Condition Notes Recommendations	RPA (m ²)	RPR (m)	Life expectancy (yrs)	BS Category
Tree T1	1	Prunus cerasifera 'Nigra' Cherry plum	8.0		1	2	4.3	3.0	4.8	3.5	2.5	Mature	Structural condition Poor. Physiological condition Fair. Root environment - Restricted. Structural impact - Footpath / highway / drive disturbance. Grafted specimen. Epicormic growth - Bole / principal stems. Pruning wounds - Decayed. Fungal fruiting body - structural decay suspected. Branch weight - Heavy. Decay - Phellinus brackets on main scaffold branches	52.3	4.1	0-10	U
Tree T2	1	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	7.0	9	1	1	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.6	2.0	Young	Structural condition Fair. Physiological condition Fair. Natural regeneration. No significant faults observed.	3.7	1.1	10-20	C1
Tree T3	1	Fraxinus excelsior Ash	7.0	9	1	1	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	Young	Structural condition Fair. Physiological condition Fair. Natural regeneration. No significant faults observed.	3.7	1.1	10-20	C1
Group G4	3 1 1 6 2 4	Corylus avellana Common hazel Crataegus monogyna Common hawthorn Forsythia sp. Ilex sp. Holly sp. Kerria japonica Ligustrum ovalifolium Prunus cerasifera Cherry Plum (Myrobalan) Sambucus nigra Elder Syringa vulgaris	4.0	4							0.0	Mature	Structural condition Poor. Physiological condition Fair. Competition - Adjacent vegetation. Ivy or climbing plant. Multi-stemmed. Natural regeneration. stem diameter largest in group overgrown area of mixed shrubs and bramble			10-20	C2

Land Adjacent to 50 Ridgeway, Barnet

Tree/Group Number	No. of Trees	es	Height (m)	Stem diameter (cm)	No. of Stems	Spread N (m)	Spread E (m) SZ	Spread S (m) S	Spread W (m)	Crown Cleanrance (m)	Life stage	Condition Notes Recommendations	RPA (m ²)	RPR (m)	Life expectancy (yrs)	BS Category
Tree T5	1 Malus Apple	*	5.0	19	1	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	Mature	Structural condition Fair. Physiological condition Fair. Grafted specimen. Deadwood - Minor. Epicormic growth - Base. Pruning wounds - Decayed.	16.3	2.3	10-20	C1
Tree T 6		non Laburnum (Golden	6.0	10 AVE	7	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	Mature	Structural condition Poor. Physiological condition Poor. Access to inspect base - Restricted / obscured. Ivy or climbing plant. Die-back - Throughout crown. Deadwood - Minor. Fork - Weak with included bark.	31.7	3.2	0-10	U
Group G7	2 Prunu Cherry	unchier sp. us cerasifera y Plum (Myrobalan) ga vulgaris	5.0	13						0.0	Early Mature	Structural condition Fair. Physiological condition Fair. Competition - Adjacent vegetation. Ivy or climbing plant. Multi-stemmed. Deadwood - Minor. stem diameter largest for group			10-20	C1
Tree T8	1 Pyrus Pear s		5.0	14 AVE	2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	Mature	Structural condition Poor. Physiological condition Poor. Grafted specimen. Epicormic growth - Base. Decay / structural defect - Extensive. Die-back - Throughout crown.	17.7	2.4	0-10	U

Category and definition	Criteria (including subca	Identification on plan		
Trees unsuitable for retention (see note)				
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	 * Trees that have a serious, irremedincluding those that will become reason, the loss of companion she * Trees that are dead or are showin * Trees infected with pathogens of trees suppressing adjacent trees or NOTE Category U trees can have existence of the companion of the c	RED		
	see 4.5.7	sting of potential conservation value v	viuen a magni de destradie to preserve,	
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
Trees to be considered for retention				
Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Tree that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricutural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	GREEN
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	BLUE
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	GREY

- Feasibility Tree Surveys
- British Standard 5837 Tree Surveys
- Tree Constraints Reports & Drawings
- Appeal Statements & Proofs
- Expert Witness
- Evidence at Hearings & Public Inquiries
- Method Statements to Satisfy Planning Conditions
- Design Solutions
- Landscape Plans
- Tender Documents & Drawings
- Supervision & Inspection of Works
- Contract & Project Management
- Health & Safety Surveys
- GPS Surveys
- Computerised Tree Population Surveys
- CAD Plans & Consultancy
- Subsidence Risk Assessments
- Mortgage & Insurance Reports
- TPO Review
- Local Government Officer Contracts
- Arboricultural & Ecological Reports for Planning
- Habitat Surveys (Extended Phase 1/ Walkover/ Botanical)
- Protected Species Surveys
- Ecological Mitigation & Licencing
- BREEAM & CFSH
- Ecological Management Plans
- Hedgerow Surveys
- Landscape Analysis



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