



**OAKFIELD**  
ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES

# Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Method Statement

Land North of Farm Gate Cottage,  
Wicks Lane, Stowmarket

OAS 19-294-AR01  
Rev A

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## DISCLAIMER

While all reasonable efforts have been made to identify defects in the subject trees, the statements made in this report do not take into account the effects of extreme weather events, vandalism, accidents or changes to the site that may affect trees that have taken place since the date of the survey. Oakfield Arboricultural Ltd does not accept any responsibility in connection with these factors. 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 the sooner.

## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1.1 Oakfield Arboricultural Services were instructed to undertake a tree survey and provide arboricultural advice on the site known as Land North of Farm Gate Cottage, Wicks Lane, Stowmarket to accompany a planning application.

1.1.2 A detailed survey was undertaken in January 2020 and was carried out in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations'

## **1.2 Scope of Works**

1.2.1 The scope of 'Trees in relation to construction' is to provide recommendations and guidance on how trees and other vegetation may be satisfactorily integrated into construction and development projects. The overall aim of this is to ensure the continued longevity and quality of amenity contribution that trees appropriate for retention and protection provide. This report and its appendices follow precisely the strategy for arboricultural appraisal and input intended to provide councils with evidence that trees have been properly considered throughout the development process.

1.2.2 This is a preliminary assessment from ground level and observations have been made solely from a visual perspective for the purposes of assessment in terms relevant to planning and development. No invasive or other detailed internal decay detection devices have been used in assessing internal conditions.

1.2.3 Any conclusions relate to conditions found at the time of inspection. Any significant alteration to the site that may affect the trees that are present or have a bearing on planning implications (including level changes, hydrological changes, extreme climatic events or other site works) will necessitate a re-assessment of the trees and the site and render any previous advice/ findings invalid.

1.2.4 This is an arboricultural report and no such reliance must be given to comments relating to buildings, engineering, soil or ecological issues.

### **1.3 Documentation**

- 1.3.1 The following documentation has been made available
- Topographical survey
  - Proposed layout

## **2.0 Site & Tree Discussion**

### **2.1 Site Description**

2.1.1 The site is a parcel of grass land currently used for equine purposes located at the end of Wicks Lane, Stowmarket. The site has no permanent structures except for stables and is access via an existing track to the SE corner of the site. Located up a no through road the site is bounded by other residential properties to the east and south with further agricultural type land to the north and west.

### **2.2 Tree Discussion**

- 2.2.1 A total of 13 individual trees and one groups of trees have been assessed in detail from ground level by visual means only. The Tree Survey Schedule, at Appendix 2, details the trees in respect of dimension and quality in accordance with the methodology set out in the British Standard 5837:2012.
- 2.2.2 A mix of species were surveyed and included Field Maple, Hawthorn, Cherry, Cedar, Ash, Larch, Cypress and Blackthorn. Overall most are of low quality offering little arboricultural or landscape value with the exception of T4, T5 and T8.
- 2.2.3 All the vegetation is located outside of the site boundary and as such all trees will be retained regardless of their overall quality and or condition.

## **3.0 Development Implication Assessment**

### **3.1 The proposal**

- 3.1.1 The proposal is to develop the site for residential purposes to include all services, access drive and open space provision.

31.2 All trees are to be retained although minor crown lifting may be required for adequate height clearance over the access.

### **3.2 Access**

3.2.1 The access is existing but any upgrade will accommodate a no dig construction to avoid excessive excavation and potential root damage.

### **3.3 Construction**

3.3.1 Foundations of the dwellings are located away from retained trees therefore no specialist considerations other than for tree species and soil types are required with regards to foundation design and or depth.

3.3.2 Services are assumed to be directed via the access and as such would be public services until they enter within the residential boundaries. Installation of the public services will be located within the root area of trees to the access point and will need to follow the guidelines as set out in NJUG ( National Joint Utilities Guidelines) Volume 4, see Appendix 3. Services should share ducts and be located on the western side of the access drive to limit potential root damage.

### **3.4 Cultural implications for retained trees**

3.4.1 Tree works to ensure adequate height clearance over the driveway is pre existing and there will be no extra pressure for unauthorised works to existing trees.

### **3.5 Tree protection**

3.5.1 Tree protection fencing will be required to be installed as shown on the Tree Protection Plan OAS 19-294-TS02. Fit for its purpose fencing must be installed post any tree works and before construction begins on site and will remain in situ throughout the construction phase.

3.5.2 Access for construction within the RPA is required and will therefore necessitate the installation of ground protection which must be of a standard as required for its need i.e. pedestrian or vehicular access.

### **3.6 Site storage, routes and compound areas**

3.6.1 Adequate room is available for the locating of compounds and material storage within the site boundaries and outside of any measured RPA.

### **4.0 Conclusions**

4.1.1 As long as the protective measures and considerations for the service installation are adhered to the proposal will have no long term material effect on the health of the retained trees or to their overall value.

# Preliminary Method Statement

## 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to aid the preservation of trees shown to be retained at and adjacent to the site shown on the attached plan OAS/ 19-294-TS02 Rev A. Trees can easily be retained and effectively protected during the proposed redevelopment of the site, by clearly setting out the tree protection methods, construction techniques and working practices. This document provides this information; principles that are approved and enforced by the local planning authority.
- 1.2 This document gives site specific instructions on the methods required to protect the existing tree stock agreed to be retained. These methods are set out in a logical sequence of operations
- 1.3 The BS recommendations are made for appropriate barriers to exclude construction from RPA's: The RPA for each tree or group is provided in the tree survey schedule. The protective barriers are sacrosanct and no construction activities shall take place within this zone. This fencing should be erected in position prior to any construction and be maintained in position for the duration of the development process.
- 1.4 The Tree Protection Plan (TPP) will indicate retained trees, trees to be removed, the precise location of protective barriers and ground protection, service routing and specifications, areas designated for structural landscaping to be protected and suitable space for site materials storage and other construction related facilities. This document and the associated TPP will be endorsed by planning conditions, agreement or obligation as appropriate.

## 2.0 Important Tree Information

- 2.1 As the majority of tree roots are found in the upper metre of soil, development works, including for example even shallow excavation, soil compaction and soil contamination, can be harmful to trees in close proximity. Trees differ in their tolerance of root loss or disturbance, according to their age, species and/or condition. All protection works within



this document will be in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 ‘Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations’

- 2.2 An assessment of the site’s tree stock has been undertaken and those trees to be retained are clearly shown on the Tree Protection Plan (TPP). A calculation has been made of the volume of soil required to ensure the survival of these and this is represented by the Root Protection Area (RPA) indicated by the magenta circles or squares around the retained tree on the plan.
- 2.3 The RPA has been used to inform the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ), the area to be protected during development by the use of barriers, ground protection and specialised construction techniques - outlined below:-

### **3.0 Sequenced Methods of Construction and Tree Protection**

#### **P1.0 Phase 1- Pre Contract Meeting**

- P1.1 An onsite meeting will be held, if required with all relevant parties including the developer, appointed arboricultural supervisor and Local Planning Authority (LPA) representative. The purpose of this meeting is to record site features including tree condition, location of site storage and the location of tree protection barriers.

#### **P2.0 Phase 2 - Tree Protection Barriers and ground protection**

- P2.1 In order to protect the tree stems from significant construction activity, protection barriers will be erected. See Plan for fencing location. Fencing should be of a reasonable standard and suitable for the purpose of preventing machinery entering the protected zones see example given below in appendix 1.
- P2.2 Once the barriers have been properly erected in position, they are to be considered as sacrosanct and are not to be removed or altered in any way without prior approval from the LPA.
- P2.3 Clear notices are to be fixed to the outside of the fencing with words such as ‘PROTECTED AREA – NO ACCESS AND NO STORAGE OR WORKING WITHIN

THIS AREA'. All operatives and other relevant personnel are to be informed of the role of the exclusion barriers and their importance.

P2.4 The location of the protection barriers is indicated on the TPP. The barriers will be erected prior to any works on site in the vicinity of retained trees, including the delivery of machinery, materials, plant or equipment to the site or any adjacent land. The barriers will remain in situ until final completion or a time agreed by the LPA and Contractor.

P2.5 Where it has been agreed, as shown on the plan, access for construction operations can be located within a tree's RPA a combination of barriers and ground protection should be adopted to form the CEZ.

- For pedestrian access, a single thickness of scaffold boards placed on a driven scaffold frame, so as to form a suspended walkway or on a compressive- resistant layer such as, e.g. woodchip 100mm min, laid onto a geotextile membrane will be sufficient.
- For pedestrian operated machinery up to a gross weight of 2t inter linked ground protection boards places on top of a compression- resistant layer, as above, will be required.
- For machinery greater than 2t and engineered specification will be required.

### **P3.0 Phase 3 - Ground works**

P3.1 Spoil, including soil and rubble surplus to requirements will be removed from site and not stored against any protective fencing.

P3.2 Service runs to follow NJUG Volume 4 where located within the RPA of retained trees.

### **P4.0 Phase 4 - Dismantling Protection Barriers and Landscaping Works**

P4.1 A minimum of seven days notice will be given to the LPA prior to the dismantling of the protection barriers.

P4.2 All landscaping once the barriers have been removed will avoid soil re-grading and disturbance within the CEZ and no soil levels be altered after the protection barriers have

been removed. All vehicles are strictly prohibited from entering any RPA once barriers are removed.

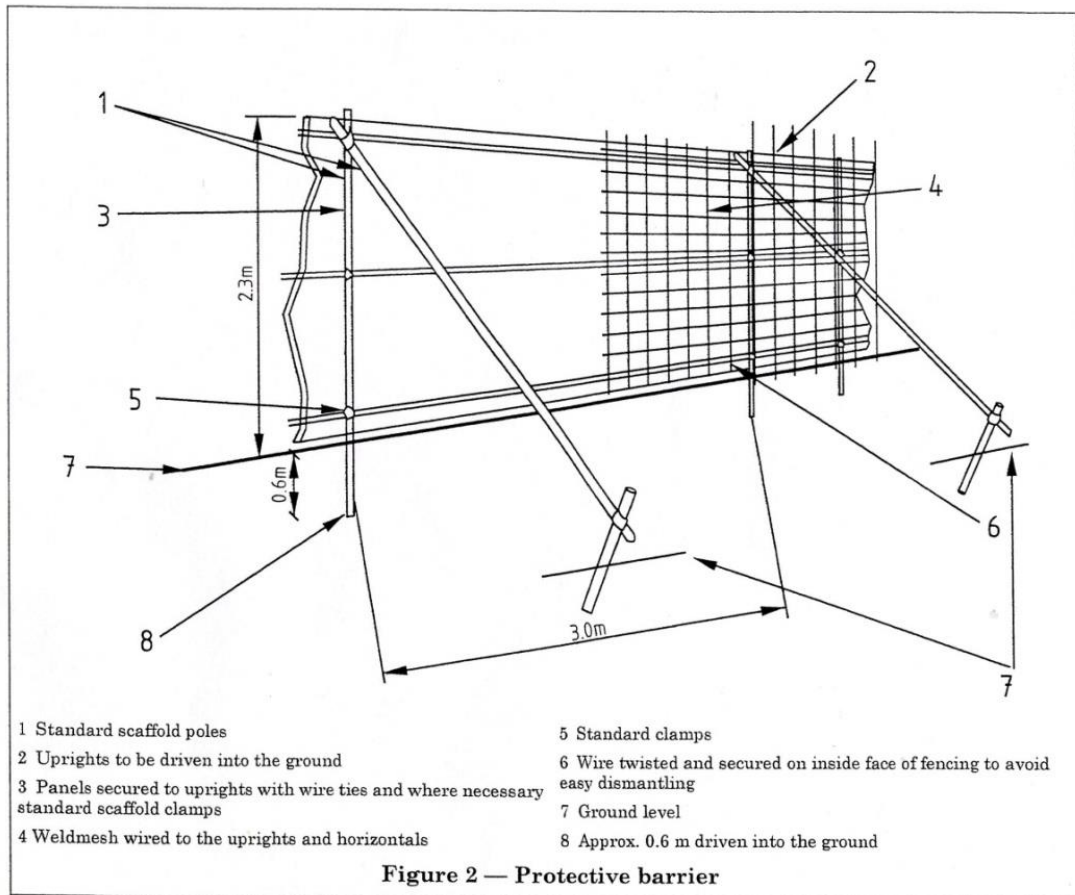
#### **4.0 General Principles for Tree Protection**

- 4.1 A copy of this AMS and the attached TPP is to be retained on site at all times and all personnel associated with the construction process will be made familiar with the principles within.
- 4.2 No fires are to be lit on site at any stage during the construction process.
- 4.3 A designated storage area is to be created away from retained trees. All materials for construction purposes are to be stored in this compound. Care must be taken to avoid the leakage or leaching of noxious materials into the soil.
- 4.4 No materials will be stored or left stacked in positions around the site other than within the storage compound area.

#### **5.0 Communication Details, Monitoring and Compliance**

- 5.1 In order to ensure that the principles of tree protection set out in the statement are adhered to, it is important to set out communication details for key individuals and tasks that require monitoring. These details should be retained by all relevant parties and available on site at all times. Relevant parties will be advised of any changes in personnel or contractor during the development process.
- 5.2 Before construction begins written confirmation that the developer/contractor or its agents agree to comply in full with the principles set out within this Method Statement will be lodged with the LPA.

## Appendix 1: Tree Protection Fencing



## Appendix 2 Tree Survey Schedule

Tree Ref. No.	Species (Common Name)	Height (m)	Canopy Spread				Grnd Clrnc	DBH (mm)	RPR (cm)	RPA (m)	Age class	Gen Cond	Structural Defects/Comments	Estimated remaining contribution (BS 5837)	BS Cat	BS Sub Cat	Prelim Tree Work Recommendations
			N	E	S	W											
T1	Filed Maple	15	5	5	5	5	1	600	720	162.78	MA	F	Offsite	20+	B	1	
T2	Hawthorn	6	2	2	2	1	1	275	330	34.19	MA	F	Offsite. Poor form	20+	C	1	
T3	Cherry	5	3	2	2	2	1	250	300	28.26	MA	F	Offsite	10+	C	1	
T4	Larch	16	2	3	3	2	3	450	540	91.56	MA	F	Offsite normal form and condition	20+	B	1	
T5	Cedar	15	4	3	2	2	1	300	360	40.69	MA	F	Offsite normal form and condition	20+	B	1	
T6	Cypress	10	2	2	2	2	0	350	420	55.39	MA	F	Multi-stemmed ornamental offsite	20+	C	1	
T7	Cedar	3	1	1	1	1	0	100	120	4.52	MA	F	Offsite small tree of no significance	10+	C	1	
T8	Filed Maple	6	2	2	2	2	0	275	330	34.19	MA	F	Offsite no near access	20+	B	1	

Tree Ref. No.	Species (Common Name)	Height (m)	Canopy Spread				Grnd Clrnc	DBH (mm)	RPR (cm)	RPA (m)	Age class	Gen Cond	Structural Defects/Comments	Estimated remaining contribution (BS 5837)	BS Cat	BS Sub Cat	Prelim Tree Work Recommendations
			N	E	S	W											
T9	Ash	15	5	6	6	5	2	550	660	136.78	MA	F	Offsite no near access	10+	C	1	
T10	Ash	10	3	3	2	4	0	350	420	55.39	MA	F	Ivy dominated. Located to footpath. Ash dieback symptoms	10+	C	1	
T11	Ash	16	5	4	3	5	2	350	420	55.39	MA	F	Located to footpath. Ash dieback symptoms	10+	C	1	
T12	Ash	16	6	5	4	5	2	700	840	221.56	MA	F	Multi-stemmed. Located to footpath. Ash dieback symptoms	10+	C	1	
T13	Ash	15	5	6	5	5	2	650	780	191.04	MA	F	Multi-stemmed. Located to footpath. Ash dieback symptoms	10+	C	1	
G1	Hawthorn, Blackthorn	7	As on plan				0	150	180	10.17	MA	F	Understory planting. Located to footpath offsite.	20+	C	2	

## Tree Schedule Explanatory Notes

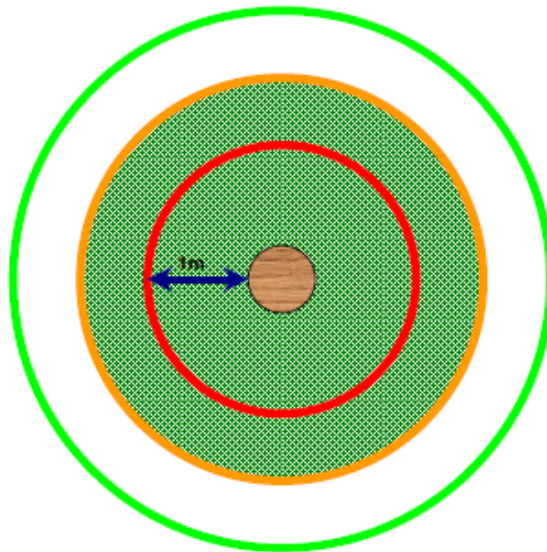
<b>Ref.no</b>	Identifies trees, groups and hedges on the accompanying plan.
<b>Species</b>	Common names are provided to aid wider comprehension.
<b>Height</b>	Describes the approximate height of the tree measured in metres from ground level
<b>Canopy Spread</b>	Indicates the crown radius from the base of the tree in four compass directions, recorded to the nearest metre.
<b>Ground Clearance</b>	Height of crown clearance above adjacent ground in metres.
<b>DBH (mm)</b>	DBH is the diameter of the stem measured in cm at 1.5m from ground level for single stemmed trees or just above root flare for multi-stemmed trees. Stem Diameter may be estimated where access is restricted.
<b>RPR (cm)</b>	Root Protection Radius (RPR) is area required to be protected measured radially from the trunk centre.
<b>RPA (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	Root Protection Area (RPA) is the minimum rooting area in m <sup>2</sup> which should remain undisturbed around each tree.
<b>Age Class</b>	Age of the tree expressed as Y- Young, MA- Middle-Aged, EM- Early Mature, M- Mature or OM- Over-Mature
<b>General Condition</b>	Overall condition of tree expressed as :Good, Fair, Poor, Dead
<b>Structural defects/Comments</b>	May include general comments about growth characteristics, how it is affected by other trees and any previous surgery works. Also specific problems such as dead wood, pests, diseases, broken limbs. Etc
<b>Estimated Remaining Years</b>	Categorised in year bands of less than 10, 10+, 20+, 40+
<b>BS Category</b>	B.S. Cat refers to (BS 5837:2005 Table 1) and refers to tree/overall group quality and value; 'A' - High; 'B' - Moderate; 'C' - Low; 'U' - Remove.
<b>Sub Category</b>	Sub Cat refers to the retention criteria values where 1 is arboricultural, 2 is landscape and 3 is cultural including conservational, historic and commemorative

# Appendix 3 NJUG Volume 4



## NJUG Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees

FIGURE 1 – Tree Protection Zone



**Key**



Trunk of tree



Canopy or branch spread



**PROHIBITED ZONE – 1m from trunk.** Excavations of any kind must not be undertaken within this zone unless full consultation with the local authority Tree Officer is undertaken. Materials, plant and spoil must not be stored within this zone.

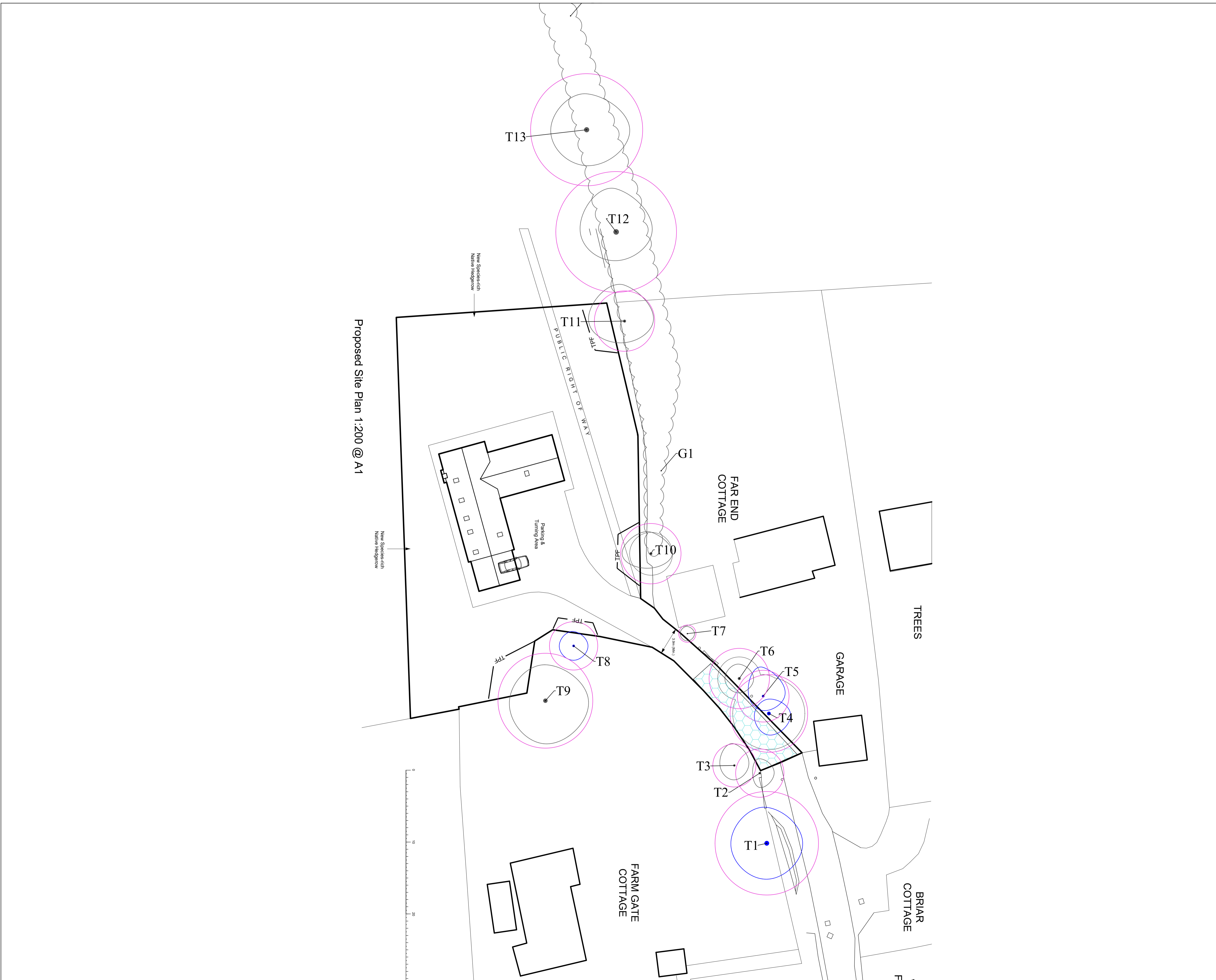


**PRECAUTIONARY ZONE – 4 x tree circumference.** Where excavations must be undertaken within this zone the use of mechanical excavation plant should be prohibited. Precautions should be undertaken to protect any exposed roots. Materials, plant and spoil should not be stored within this zone. Consult with the local authority Tree Officer if in any doubt.

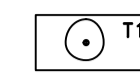
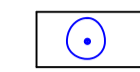
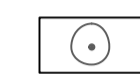
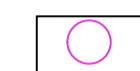





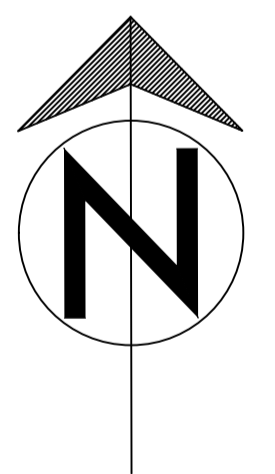
**PERMITTED ZONE – outside of the precautionary zone.** Excavation works may be undertaken within this zone, however caution must be applied and the use of mechanical plant limited. Any exposed roots should be protected.





# KEY

-  T1 Existing Tree colour referenced in accordance with BS 5837 2005.
-  Blue – Cat B Trees of moderate quality and value
-  Grey – Cat C Trees of low quality and value
-  Root Protection Area as calculated in accordance with BS 5837
-  TPF Approximate line of protective fencing to be erected in accordance with BS5837 and insert, to be maintained throughout construction works.
-  Area of CEZ outside line RPA. Access or work in this area to conform to accompanying report.
-  Area of no-dig construction



REV.	DATE	INITIALS	DETAILS
A.	24.02.21	SPM	Layout Change.
CLIENT c/o Locus Planning			
DWG. TITLE Tree Protection Plan			
SITE: Land North of Farm Gate Cottage, Wicks Lane, Stowmarket			
DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	SCALE	DATE
SPM	SPM	1:250 @A1	Feb 2021
DWG NO.	OAS 19-294-TS02		REV.
A.			A.