



Location:  
**Howick Hall,  
Northumberland**

Report Type:  
**Arboricultural Method Statement  
inc. Impact Assessment**

Ref:  
**ARB/CP/2642**

Date:  
**June 2022**



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# 1 Introduction

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1.1 This arboricultural method statement has been prepared by Charles Prowse of Elliott Consultancy Ltd at the request of the client. It will provide details regarding the retention and protection of trees during the installation of new drainage and water infrastructure at Howick Hall, Northumberland.

1.2 **Scope of the report:**

- This method statement provides arboricultural information and advice in relation to the drainage works at Howick Hall, as detailed within Appendix 4.
- It will outline any trees to be removed prior to development and those to be retained along with any pruning required. Also provided are details of all measures recommended for adequate tree protection including any special construction measures to be utilised.
- It should be used to guide the construction process in order to minimise potential damage to retained trees.
- It will detail, within the Arboricultural Tasks Sequence Table (Appendix 1), a timescale for implementation of these tree works and protective measures in reference to the development period.

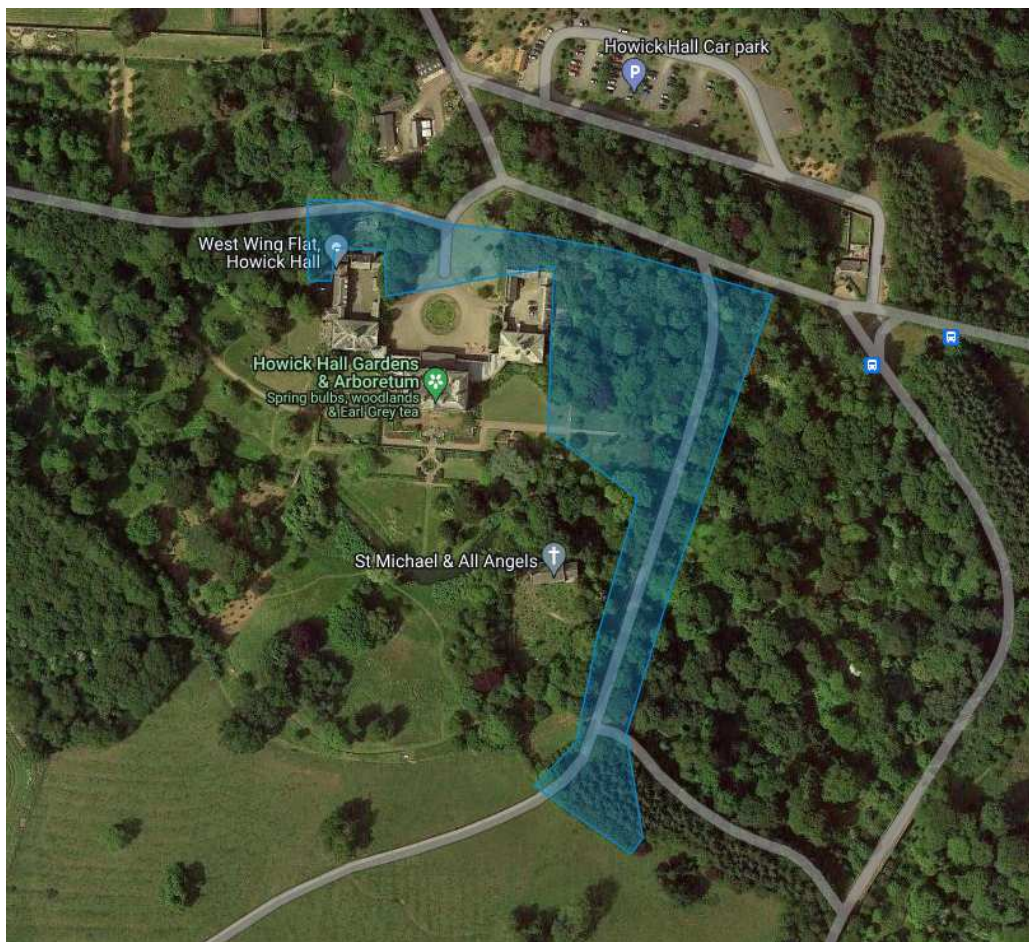
1.3 **Prior to site works commencing, especially ground preparation, this Arboricultural Method Statement needs to be given to the site manager and used as reference during the development period, with particular attention paid Sections 5-7, and Appendices 1, 2, 4-8.**

## 2 Site Information

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- 2.1 The area surveyed and the extent of which covered by this method statement is within the grounds of Howick Hall, Northumberland. Figure 1 shows the extent of the area.

Figure 1: Area Covered (highlighted)



Map data ©Google Imagery

- 2.2 The site, which covers approximately 2.2ha, contains areas to the north, east and southeast of the Hall. Much of the area is tree covered and contains parts of the arboretum.
- 2.3 Whilst some of the larger woodland blocks were recorded entirely, the survey was predominantly centred along the routes of the drainage infrastructure which needs to be installed.

### 3 Tree Category Evaluation

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- 3.1 The criteria used for evaluating how suitable each tree is for retention within a development is that suggested within BS5837:2012.
- 3.2 BS5837:2012 notes that all trees apart from those with stem diameters <150mm or classified as Category U should be considered for retention and viewed as a potential site constraint. When inspected, each tree and or group feature is assigned one of four categories that signify how suitable that tree/group would be for retention within any development proposals, and therefore the degree to which it should constrain the site. The four categories are as follows:
- 3.2.1 **Category A** (coloured green) trees are those of high quality and value, and of a condition whereby they could make a substantial contribution to the site. The retention of Category A trees should be considered during the design phase and afforded adequate physical protection during the construction phase in accordance with BS 5837:2012 where retained. This means keeping proposed features and alterations to ground levels outside of root protection areas and crown spreads so as to ensure that the tree remains in an adequate condition post-development. Root protection areas and crown spreads are displayed upon the Tree Constraints Plan, Appendix 3. eight individual trees and five groups of trees were classified as Category A.
- 3.2.2 **Category B** (coloured blue) trees are those of moderate quality and value, and of a condition that they make a substantial contribution to the site. The retention of Category B trees should be considered during the design phase and afforded adequate physical protection during the construction phase in accordance with BS 5837:2012 where retained. fourteen individual trees and five groups of trees were classified as Category B.
- 3.2.3 **Category C** (coloured grey) trees are considered to be of low quality and value, but of an adequate condition to remain in the short-term. Trees with a stem diameter of less than 150mm (measured at 1.5m above ground level) are classified as Category C; these trees should also be retained where possible but where they form a significant constraint to development their removal should be permitted. Where they are to be retained they should be afforded adequate consideration during the design phase and physical protection during the construction phase in accordance with BS 5837:2012. Nine trees were classified as Category C.

3.2.4 **Category U** (coloured red) trees are of such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years. As a result it is recommended that Category U trees are not considered a constraint for development and are removed prior to construction commencing. None of the trees were classified as Category U.

3.2.5 In addition to the four main categories explained above, each tree/group is assigned a sub-category which signifies its overriding value as determined by the surveyor, which is noted by adding a suffix of 1, 2 or 3 alongside the category letter. 1 signifies that the trees/groups main value is arboricultural e.g. it may be a particularly good example or may be rare. 2 signifies that the overriding factor was due to the landscape value that the tree/group provides e.g. it may be part of a group feature such as a screen. 3 indicates that a cultural factor was the overriding value e.g. it may have historical or commemorative importance.

Summary of Categories Awarded			
Category	Tree Numbers	Group Numbers	Hedgerow Numbers
A	12, 13, 23-25, 27-29	4-8	
B	1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 30, 32	1-3, 9, 10	
C	2, 3, 6, 8, 15, 18, 19, 21, 26		
U			

## 4 Design Proposals Arboricultural Impact

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- 4.1 This section concentrates on the proposed development and how it relates to the current tree population within the site. Any conflict issues between the proposed layout and existing trees are discussed and remedial options, where possible, suggested.
- 4.2 As displayed within Appendix 3 it is proposed that elements of the estates drainage and sewerage system will be upgraded with new pipework, pumping stations and package treatment plant. To minimise potential impacts to trees and landscape the majority of the pipe routes will be directionally drilled.

### 4.3 **Conflict 1: Loss of trees due to the proposed layout**

As shown within Figure 2 the construction of the proposed layout will necessitate the removal of one tree.

**Mitigation / Countermeasure:** The use of directional drilling for much of the routes significantly reduces the impacts, however, the loss of some trees will be unavoidable. Currently it is expected that only Tree 9, a Category B Maple will need to be removed.

### 4.4 **Conflict 2: Construction within close proximity to trees.**

It is likely that some excavations will be necessary within, or close to, root protection areas.

**Mitigation / Countermeasure:** Driving and reception pits for the directional drilling equipment will need to be excavated in locations along the route. The Tree Protection Plan (Appendix 4) accounts for tree protection barriers to be installed adjacent to the intended pits, a specification for which is included within Appendix 5. The equipment required should be limited to using the existing paths wherever possible.

### 4.5 **Potential Conflict 3: Location of utilities runs with Root Protection Areas.**

Damage can be caused to root tissue during the installation of utilities runs.

**Mitigation / Countermeasure:** Any works to existing utilities will be undertaken with regard for the retained tree cover and will be in accordance with NJUG (National Joint Utility Groups) guidelines.

#### 4.6 **Potential Conflict 4: Pruning trees to create clearance to structures.**

Trees overhanging the directional drilling pits and other works areas may require pruning.

**Mitigation / Countermeasure:** Pruning operations would primarily be limited to crown lifting of the trees. All pruning operations are specified within Appendix 2 and would be undertaken in accordance with BS 3998:2010 Tree work.

Recommendations.



## 5 Pre-Development and Site Preparation Works

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- 5.1 Refer to Appendix 1 for stage specific tasks.
- 5.2 Prior to any site works commencing, the following arboricultural specific actions need to be implemented:
  - a) An arboricultural contractor should be sought and the tree works recommended within Appendix 2 undertaken.
  - b) A supplier needs to be sought to provide the tree protection features as agreed with the Local Planning Authority.
- 5.3 Once the aforementioned tasks have been completed and prior to any site work the tree protection barriers need to be erected as per the Tree Protection Plan (Appendix 4). The barrier must encompass the root protection areas and crown extents of the retained trees to ensure that these areas remain free from disturbance.
  - 5.3.1 The barriers needs to be installed according to the locations found on the Tree Protection Plan, Appendix 4 and conform to the specification within Appendix 5, Type B, if approved by the Local Planning Authority. All weather notices should be attached to the fencing marked with the following: '*Construction Exclusion Zone - Keep Out*' (a notice is provided within Appendix 8).
  - 5.3.2 The project arboriculturalist or Local Authority Tree Officer should check the correct installation of the protective features prior to any site works commencing.
- 5.4 Material storage must be confined to areas outside root protection areas.
- 5.5 A copy of the Tree Protection Plan must be available on site.
- 5.6 Activities that could be harmful to root tissue (e.g. excavation, mixing of and washing out toxic substances such as cement) should be avoided in close proximity to trees.

## 6 Tree protection measures during development

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- 6.1 Refer to Appendix 1 for stage specific tasks.
- 6.2 All ground levels where trees are located should be maintained. Changes to soil levels adjacent to trees can severely affect the trees structural integrity and its ability to gain moisture and nutrients from the surrounding soil. Unavoidable level changes that may affect retained trees, and not already accounted for within this method statement, should be assessed by the project arboriculturalist.
- 6.3 Building material storage and operations that can contaminate soil, such as cement mixing, must be confined to areas outside the root protection areas, which includes the new parking area once created.
- 6.4 Fires should not be lit within 5m of the foliage or drip line of the tree. Care should be taken and the fire should not be allowed to become large, and the wind direction noted.
- 6.5 The trees should not be used to attach notices, cables or other services.
- 6.6 The installation of any underground services near or adjacent to trees on the site shall conform to the requirements of National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) publication Volume 4 (November 2007). If relevant, the intended service routes will be noted upon the Tree Protection Plan, Appendix 4. Additional information regarding excavations within root protection areas are provided within Appendix 6.
- 6.7 At the beginning of the construction phase, the site manager will appoint a delegated site representative who shall be responsible for continued checking of the protective barriers to ensure it is compliant with the exclusion zone. Appendix 9 contains a record sheet that can be copied for such use.
- 6.8 As recommended within BS 5837:2012, and specified within the Arboricultural Tasks Sequence Table, the development site should be visited by the project arboriculturalist on occasions to provide any arboricultural advice necessary and to ensure the efficacy of the Tree Protection features. Contact between the project manager and project arboriculturalist should be maintained throughout the works period so that supervision can be provided when operations with the potential to damage retained trees are being undertaken. Key stages that will require the attendance of a qualified arboriculturalist with evidence of the visit provided to LPA are:
- Inspection of tree protection features prior to site works commencing.

- Unarranged spot check(s) carried out during the course of the build.
- Supervision of construction activities that could lead to damage of retained trees.
- Site visit to ensure all development operations have been completed prior to tree protection features being removed and to inspect the condition of the trees.

The client or site manager should sign beneath to indicate intended compliance with the procedures outlined in section 6.8

**Signature:**



**Position:** Arboricultural Consultant

**Signature:**

**Position:**

Note : PDF readers, such as Adobe Acrobat, allow for digital signing of PDFs using Fill & Sign features.

## 7 Post-Construction Considerations

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- 7.1 Refer to Appendix 1 for stage specific tasks.
- 7.2 Only once all major construction works have been completed can the protective barriers be removed.
- 7.3 Post development landscaping should be kept to a minimum within the root protection areas of retained trees.
- 7.4 Since trees are capable of influencing soil hydrology newly planted trees need to be situated where they will not interfere with built structures. Refer to NHBC Chapter 4.2 'Building near Trees' and Arboriculture Research and Information Note 'Tree Roots and Foundations' for further information.

## Appendix 1: Arboricultural Tasks Sequence Table

Tree or Group Number	Pre-Construction Stage	Construction Stage	Post Construction Stage
Tree 9 Section of Group 7 indicated red on Appendix 4	Remove		
Trees 1-8, 10-32 Groups 1-10	<p>Adhere to specification within Section 5.</p> <p>Set out and erect protective fencing as per Appendices 4 and 5. Attach notice in Appendix 8.</p> <p>Project arboriculturalist should check the correct installation of protective features prior to site works commencing.</p>	<p>Adhere to specification within Section 6.</p> <p>Monitor integrity of tree protection features daily; completing inspection record in Appendix 9.</p>	<p>Adhere to specification within Section 7.</p> <p>Remove tree protection measures.</p> <p>Complete landscape works adjacent to trees.</p>

## Appendix 2: Tree Data & Works Required

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Key for Tree & Group Data tables:

<b>No.</b>	Tree Number
<b>Species</b>	Tree Name (common)
<b>Age</b>	Y = Young; SM = Semi-mature; EM = Early-mature M = Mature; OM = Over-mature; V = Veteran; D = Dead
<b>DBH</b>	Diameter at Breast Height (measured at 1.5m above ground level to the nearest cm)
<b>Stems</b>	The number of stems the tree has
<b>Height</b>	Overall tree height measured in metres
<b>Crown Spread</b>	Measured along the four cardinal points in metres
<b>CH</b>	Canopy Height (height of crown above ground)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Branch</b>	The height and aspect of the 1 <sup>st</sup> significant limb e.g. 2 NE = 1 <sup>st</sup> limb at 2m growing in a north-easterly direction.
<b>EstD</b>	Indication of whether any of the trees dimensions were estimated: Y=Yes, N=No.
<b>General Observations</b>	Appraisal of trees general condition
<b>EstCont</b>	Estimated remaining contribution (years)
<b>BS Cat</b>	British Standard 5837:2012 retention category
<b>Recommendation</b>	Remedial works that may be required should the tree be retained

# Tree Survey Data

No.	Species	Age	DBH	Stems	Height	Crown Spread				CH	EstD	General Observations	EstCont	BS Cat	Recommendation
						N	S	E	W						
1	Yew	M	38	1	8.5	4	3	3	2	3	N	Stem leaning 10 degrees. Continuous canopy with adjacent trees. Crown encroaching building.	40+	B2	No work required
2	Laurel	M	39	1	7.5	3	2	2	3	3	N	Stem sweep. Continuous canopy with adjacent trees.	20+	C2	No work required
3	Yew	EM	28	1	2.5	6	3	4	2	0.5	N	Suppressed form. Low limb in contact with ground has layered.	40+	C2	Prune back northern section of canopy to tree protection fence line
4	Cherry spp	M	55	1	7.5	6	4	5	5	2	N	Stem sweep - previously wind-blown and reestablished. Stem leaning 15 degrees.	40+	B1	No work required
5	Yew	M	56	2-5	6.5	4	5	5	3	1	N	Continuous canopy with adjacent trees.	40+	B2	No work required
6	Hazel	M	22	1	4.5	3	4	4	3	0.5	N	Multi-stemmed. Ivy covered stem and crown.	40+	C1	No work required
7	Elaeagnus	M	49	2-5	7	5	5	2	5	0.5	N	Codominant stems at base.	20+	B2	No work required
8	Yew	EM	36	2-5	5	2	2	5	5	0.5	N	Multi-stemmed. Suppressed form.	40+	C2	No work required
9	Maple spp	SM	23	1	5	2	4	3	4	1	N	Good health & form.	40+	B1	No work required
10	Maple spp	SM	23	1	3.5	3	2	3	3	1	N	Good health & form.	40+	B1	No work required

No.	Species	Age	DBH	Stems	Height	Crown Spread				CH	EstD	General Observations	EstCont	BS Cat	Recommendation
						N	S	E	W						
11	Yew	M	72	1	9	5	4	4	4	0.5	N	Multi-stemmed. Continuous canopy with adjacent trees.	40+	B2	No work required
12	Lime spp	M	103	1	21	5	5	6	6	2	N	Epicormic growth upon stem limited the visual inspection. Continuous canopy with adjacent trees.	40+	A1	No work required
13	Sycamore	M	76	1	22	11	10	8	8	2	N	Ivy covered stem and crown limited the visual inspection. Continuous canopy with adjacent trees.	40+	A1	No work required
14	Maple spp	SM	22	1	4	2	2	2	2	1.5	N	Good health & form.	40+	B1	No work required
15	Holly	M	33	2-5	3.8	2	2	2	2	0.5	N	Multi-stemmed at base.	40+	C1	No work required
16	Maple spp	EM	32	1	4	3	4	2	3	0.5	N	Crown encroaching building.	40+	B1	Crown lift to 2m over tree protection fence line
17	Parrottia	SM	22	1	3.5	3	3	4	2	0.5	N	Multi-stemmed.	40+	B1	Prune back western section of canopy to tree protection fence line
18	Parrotia	SM	22	1	3	1	3	4	2	0.5	N	Slightly suppressed form. Position of tree(s) not located on topo - position estimated.	40+	C2	No work required
19	Parrotia	SM	22	1	4	2	3	3	1	0.5	N	Slightly suppressed form. Multi-stemmed. Position of tree(s) not located on topo - position estimated.	40+	C2	No work required



No.	Species	Age	DBH	Stems	Height	Crown Spread				CH	EstD	General Observations	EstCont	BS Cat	Recommendation
						N	S	E	W						
20	Lime spp	M	51	1	16	6	6	5	7	1	N	Included bark unions present. Position of tree(s) not located on topo - position estimated.	40+	B1	No work required
21	Cherry spp	SM	17	1	4	2	4	3	3	0.5	N		40+	C1	No work required
22	Fagus grandifolia	EM	24	5+	4	3	3	3	3	0.5	N	Multi-stemmed.		B1	No work required
23	Nothofagus spp	M	92	1	17	8	10	8	8	0.5	N	Ivy covered stem. Minor deadwood.	40+	A1	No work required
24	Eucalyptus spp	EM	60	1	21	6	6	0	9	7	N	Stem wound with superficial decay. Minor crown dieback.	40+	A2	No work required
25	Algerian Oak	M	101	1	16	5	11	9	9	0.5	N	Pruning wounds within crown. Minor deadwood.	40+	A3	No work required
26	Laburnum spp	EM	38	1	4.5	4	0.5	3	2	0.5	N	Fallen but reestablished.	20+	C1	No work required
27	Oak spp	M	105	1	20	8	9	13	10	4	N	Ivy covered stem and crown limited the visual inspection.	40+	A1	No work required
28	Yew	M	74	1	12	7	5	5	4	2.5	N	Multi-stemmed. Continuous canopy with adjacent trees.	40+	A2	No work required
29	Yew	M	82	2-5	12	6	7	4	5	2.5	N	Multi-stemmed. Continuous canopy with adjacent trees. Position of tree(s) not located on topo - position estimated.	40+	A2	No work required
30	Sycamore	SM	50	2-5	12	5	4	4	4	0	N	Codominant stems at base.	40+	B2	No work required

No.	Species	Age	DBH	Stems	Height	Crown Spread				CH	EstD	General Observations	EstCont	BS Cat	Recommendation
						N	S	E	W						
31	Silver Maple	M	52	1	14	6	7	7	7	1	N	Multi-stemmed with included bark unions. Ivy covered stem.	40+	B1	Crown lift over track to 3m
32	Beech	EM	53	1	16	7	5	4	5	0.5	N	Ivy covered stem.	40+	B1	Crown lift to 3m over track and site for treatment plant.








# Group Data

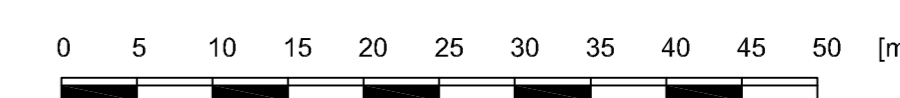
Group Number	Dominant Species	Lesser Species	DBH	Average Height	Age	Average Spread	Condition/Comments	Recommendations	EstCont	BS Cat
1	Poplar spp Laurel	Holly	20	7	Y-M	3	Dense group of trees which form a continuous canopy. Predominantly Poplar suckers from x2 large mature Poplar (80dbh) located approx 8m north of building.	No work required	20+	B2
2	Yew Holly	Cypress spp	25	12	M	3	Group of trees which form a continuous canopy. Position of tree(s) not located on topo - position estimated.	No work required	40+	B2
3	Yew	Holly	20	8	M	3	Group of trees which form a continuous canopy. Position of tree(s) not located on topo - position estimated.	Crown lift to 2.3m adjacent to proposed air valve chamber	40+	B2
4	Yew Holly Beech		30	10	SM-M	3	Group of trees which form a continuous canopy. Position of tree(s) not located on topo - position estimated. Large Beech infected with decay fungus Kretzschmaria deusta (position indicated on plan).	Condsider felling infected Beech from health and safety perspective	40+	A2

Group Number	Dominant Species	Lesser Species	DBH	Average Height	Age	Average Spread	Condition/Comments	Recommendations	EstCont	BS Cat
5	Monterey Cypress Yew	Oak spp Griselinia spp	25	14	SM-M	3.5	Group of trees which form a continuous canopy. Position of tree(s) not located on topo - position estimated. X1 mature oak 10m back from path	No work required	40+	A2
6	Holly Yew	Laburnum spp Nothofagus spp	Varied	12	Y-M	4	Group of trees which form a continuous canopy. Position of tree(s) not located on topo - position estimated.	No work required	40+	A2
7	Yew Sycamore Laurel	Ash Rhodadendron Beech	50	14	Y-M	5	Group of trees which form a continuous canopy. Position of tree(s) not located on topo - position estimated.	Remove section indicated red on Appendix 7	40+	A2
8	Yew Sycamore Laurel Beech	Horse Chestnut Ash	50	14	Y-M	5	Group of trees which form a continuous canopy. Position of tree(s) not located on topo - position estimated. Ash beside entrance to church is displaying minor symptoms (such as dieback/wilted foliage/stem lesions) that could be indicative of Ash Dieback.	Monitor condition of Ash	40+	A2

Group Number	Dominant Species	Lesser Species	DBH	Average Height	Age	Average Spread	Condition/Comments	Recommendations	EstCont	BS Cat
9	Sorbus hupehensis		20	5	SM	2	Linear group of trees which form a continuous canopy.	No work required	40+	B2
10	Spruce spp Beech Oak spp	Sycamore Elder	30	17	SM-EM	2	Group of trees which form a continuous canopy plantation. Predominantly beech along the southern edge.	No work required	40+	B2

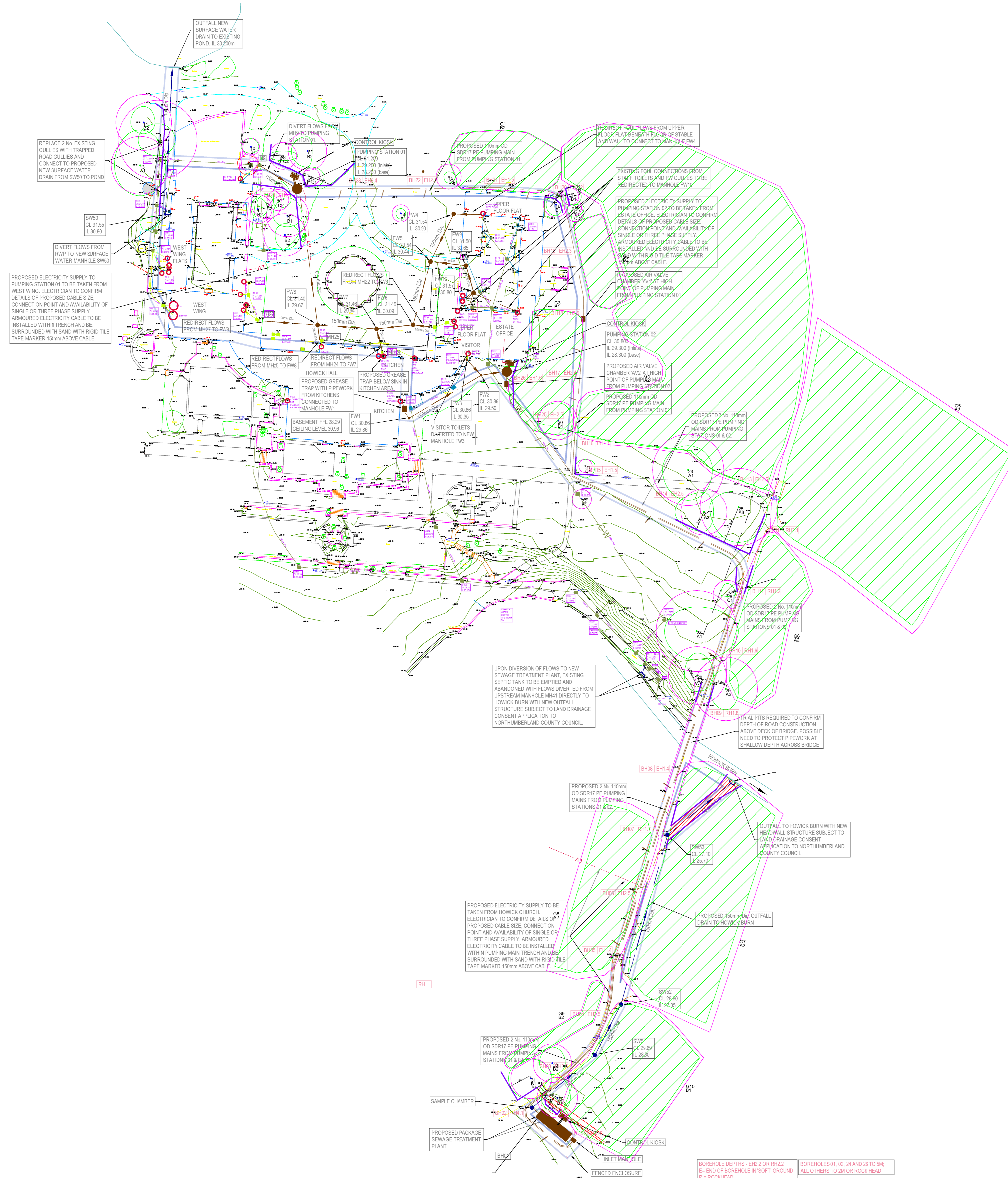


-  Tree Position Showing Crown Extents and BS5837 Category A
-  Tree Position Showing Crown Extents and BS5837 Category B
-  Tree Position Showing Crown Extents and BS5837 Category C
-  Tree Position Showing Crown Extents and BS5837 Category U
-  Root Protection Area - to remain free from disturbance
-  Group of Trees
-  Hedgerow
- 1/G1 Tree/Group
- A1/B1/  
C1/U BS5837 Retention Category



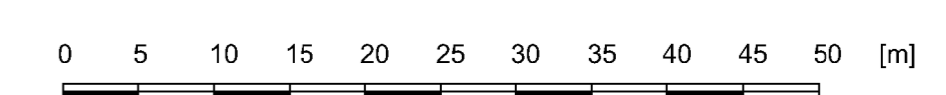
**APPENDIX 2**

Drawing Title: Tree Constraints Plan  
 Project: Howick Hall, Northumberland  
 Drawing Number: ARB/CP/2642/TCP  
 Date: July 2021  
 Scale: 1:500 @ A0



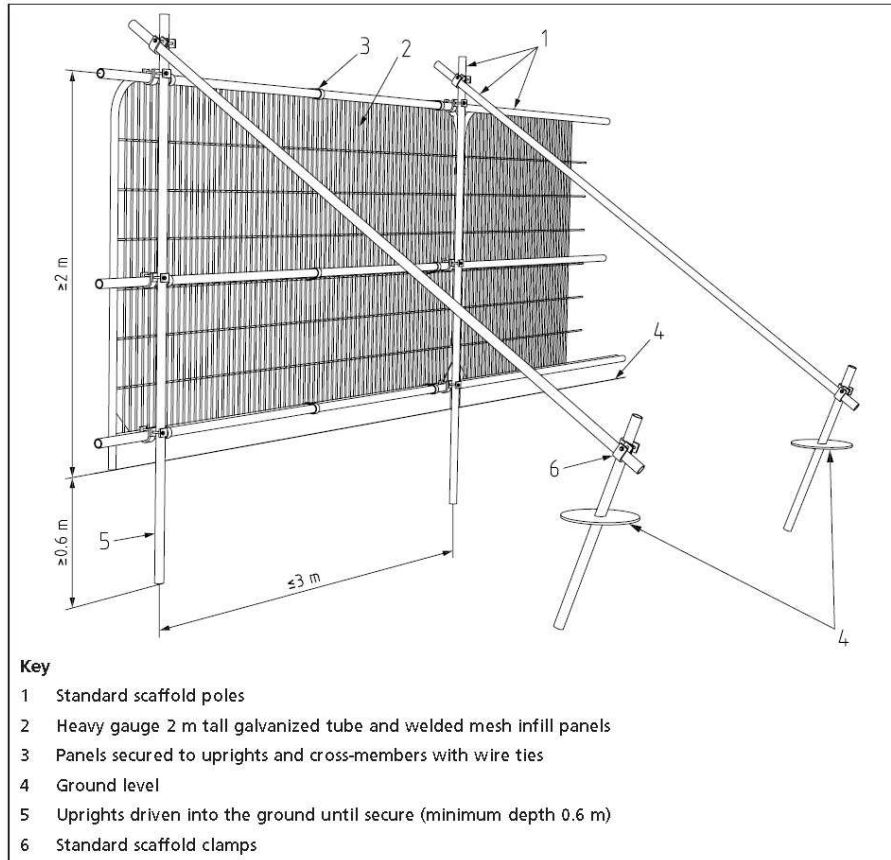
- Tree to be Retained
- Tree to be Removed
- Root Protection Area - to remain free from disturbance
- Group of Trees to be Retained
- Group of Trees to be Removed
- Tree Protection Barrier (specification as per Appendix 4)
- 1/G1 Tree/Group
- A1/B1/ C1/U BS5837 Retention Category

**APPENDIX 3**  
Drawing Title: Tree Protection Plan  
Project: Howick Hall  
Drawing Number: ARB/CP/2642/TTPP  
Date: July 2021  
Scale: 1:500 @ A0



# Appendix 5: Protective Fencing Specification

## A:- Tree Protection Fence as per BS5837:2012



Drawing Source: BS 5837:2012

## B:- Alternative Fencing Detail: Adequate protection - provided LPA approve its use



Weldmesh fence panels attached together using fence couplers bolted to 100mmx100mmx2400mm treated timber fence posts driven 500mm into the ground. Use of plant to assist with erection only from outside of root protection area.

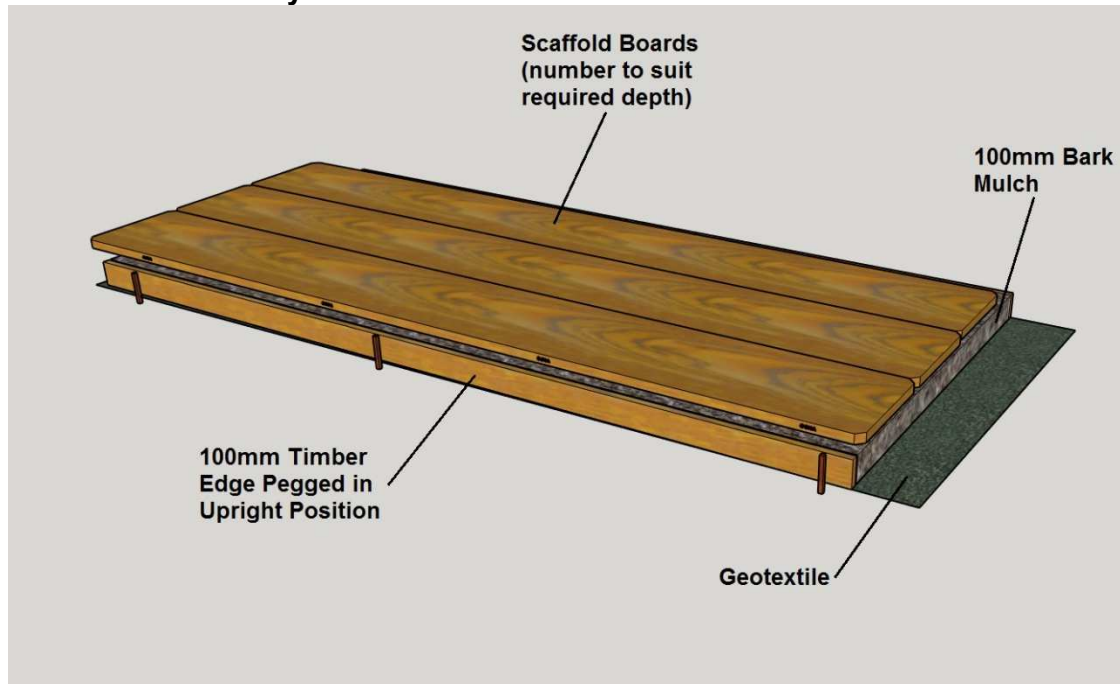


## Appendix 6: Access within Root Protection Areas

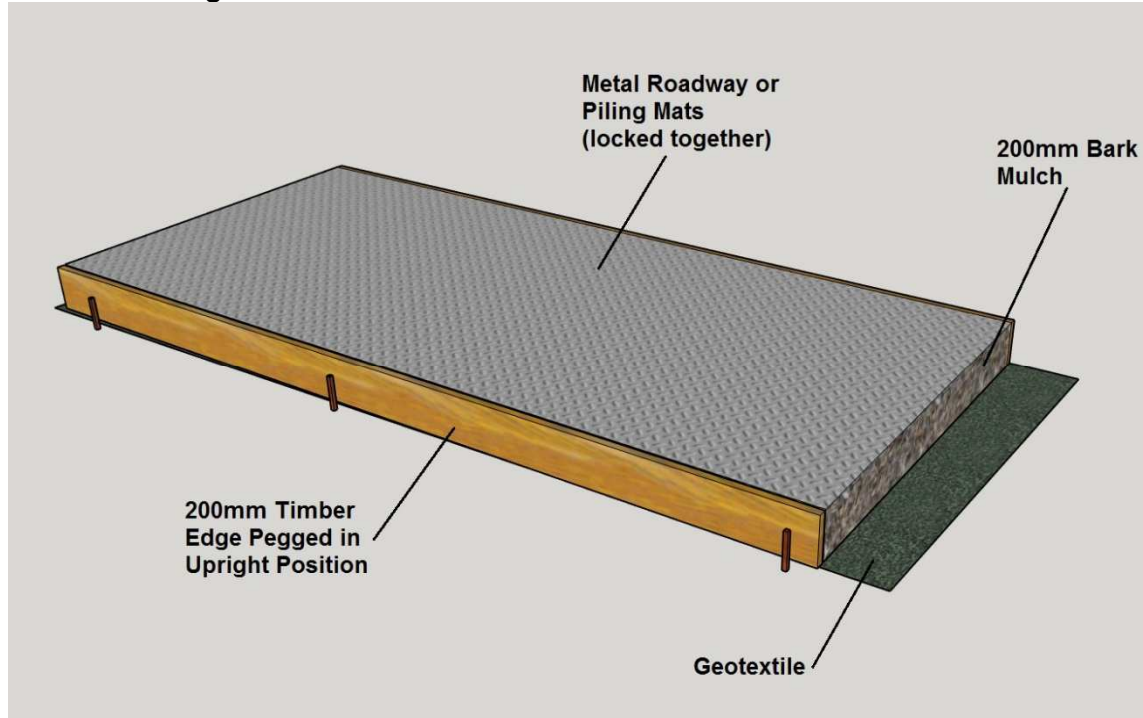
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### Ground Protection to Enable Access within Root Protection Areas

#### For Pedestrians Only



#### Suitable for Light Traffic & Plant



Where erecting scaffolding within areas of protected ground. The geotextile should be laid and then the scaffold footings placed on boards to spread the load. Ground protection as above should then be installed if access beneath the scaffolding is required.

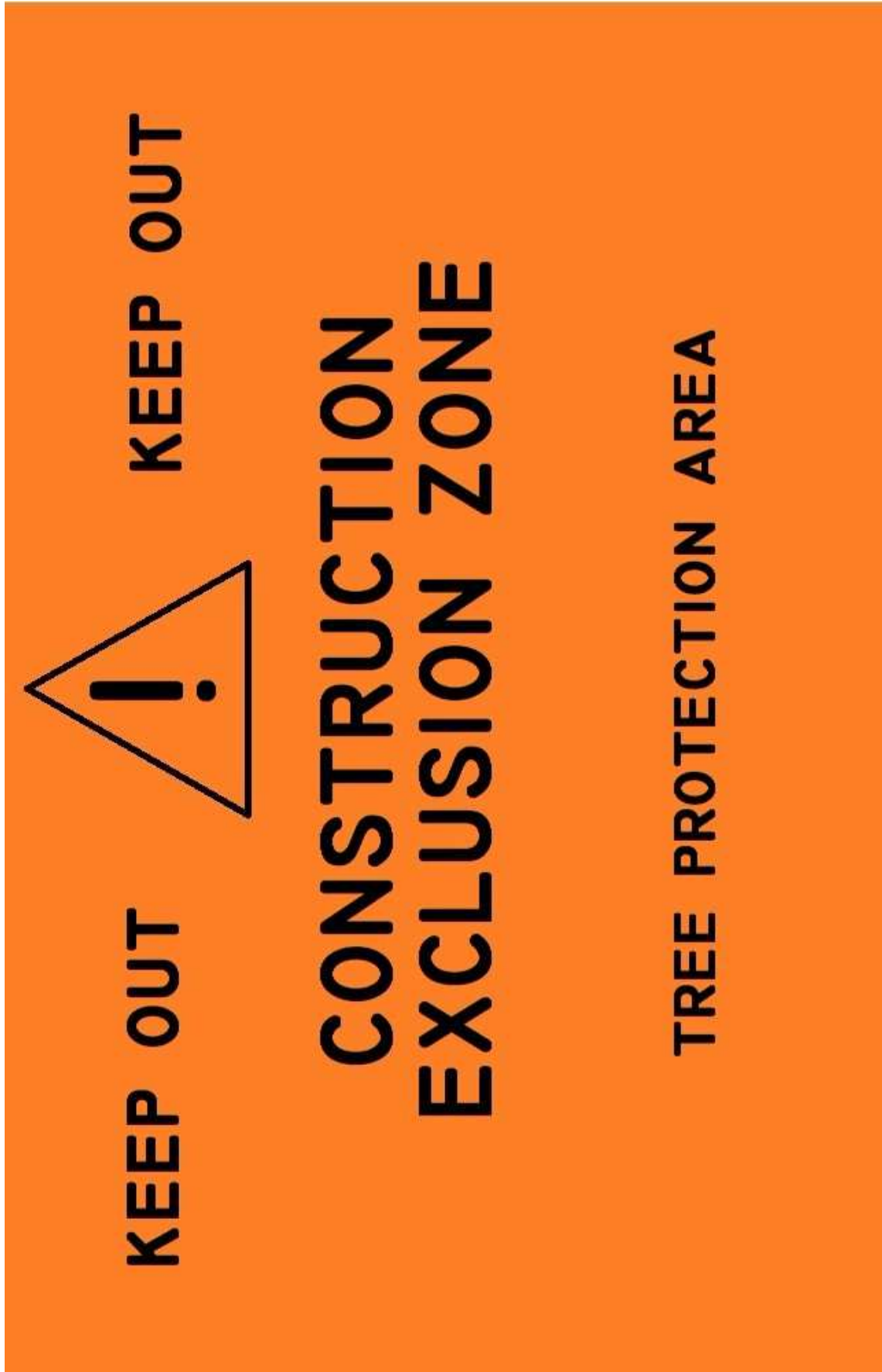
## Appendix 7: Removing Hard Surfaces & Other Excavations within Root Protection Areas

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- All excavations within root protection areas must only be undertaken using hand tools or pedestrian operated machinery.
- The required excavations must be kept to a minimum to avoid unnecessary root damage and ideally undertaken during the presence of an arboriculturalist.
- Great care must be taken not to damage the bark of roots that can be retained in order to avoid wounds which could be exploited by pathogens.
- Exposed roots that can be retained must be wrapped with dry sacking if to be left exposed for extended periods e.g. overnight. Sacking must be removed prior to backfilling.
- All roots >25mm should be preserved and worked around. Where this is not possible, severance should only take place after consultation with the tree officer / appointed arboriculturalist. Roots must be cut using a sharp knife leaving as small a wound and as clean a cut as possible.
- Great care must be taken not to allow contaminants, such as oils, into the excavation.

## Appendix 8: Construction Exclusion Zone Notice

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# Appendix 9: Tree Protection Zones Inspection Record

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Tree Protection Zones Inspection Record – assessment of tree protection barriers and ground protection			
Date	Checked By	Comments	Action Required?

## Appendix 10: Contact Details of Relevant Parties

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### **Arboricultural Consultant**

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