**Arboricultural Implications Assessment** and Method Statement for The Salmon Inn (PH), East Ord, Berwick Upon Tweed

Populus nigra 'Italica' London plane Platanus x hispanica Maidenhair Ginkgo Uzzle Mirata rauca a donte ry ypre-ia donte ry ypre-uzzle us nacroarpado donte ry pre-prid

ARBORICULTURAL

Arboricultural Implications Assessment and Method Statement

## The Salmon Inn (PH), East Ord, Berwick Upon Tweed

Produced by: Barrie Draper BSc (Hons) Arb TechCert(ArborA) CertArb(RFS) Arboricultural Consultant

Report Ref: 221485 - AIA

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ecourban ltd, Arboricultural Consultancy, 13 The Greencroft, Salisbury, SP1 1JD

T: 01962 877 397 E: barrie@eco-urban.co.uk M: 07532 373 563 W: www.eco-urban.co.uk

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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Instruction: I am instructed by Punch Partnerships (PML) Ltd to report on trees which could be affected by a development proposal at The Salmon Inn, East Ord, Berwick Upon Tweed and prepare an Arboricultural Implications Assessment (AIA) and preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) to support a planning application on the site.
- 1.2 Document disclosure: Initially, I was provided with a topographical survey (drawing reference '22339 22- 01 Topographical'). This showed the positions of the significant trees on or near the site, together with the existing buildings and other important features. Subsequently, I was supplied with a copy of the proposed layout, (drawing reference '23.3405.100\_P3') showing a new site configuration.
- 1.3 Scope of report: All my tree observations are of a preliminary nature, with the tree survey carried out from ground level without any investigations using invasive or diagnostic equipment. I was not able to fully view all the trees detailed in this report from all directions, as some were located on adjacent private property. I have therefore confined observations of them to what was visible from within the site. I have not checked the accuracy of the positions of the trees shown on the provided plans and I have estimated all dimensions unless otherwise indicated.
- 1.4 The Tree Protection Plan: This is included in Appendix 1 and is a composite drawing derived from the information provided. It shows the existing landscape features (from the land survey) in grey superimposed over the proposed layout shown in colour. This allows the relationship between the two to be clearly seen and an appropriate analysis of the implications of the proposed site changes to be undertaken. The Tree Protection Plan has also been annotated to show protection measures for the trees which could realistically be affected by the proposed development. It shows any activities in Root Protection Areas (RPAs) and any if trees are to be removed, they are shown with a red dashed crown outline.
- 1.5 Qualifications and experience: This report is based on my site observations and I have come to my conclusions in the context of my experience as a former local government tree officer and a private practice arboricultural consultant. I have qualifications in both arboriculture and forestry and details of these, together with a career summary are provided in Appendix 5.

1.6 Ecological issues and statutory tree protection: Providing guidance on ecological issues is not within my sphere of expertise. However, trees and other vegetation can often provide nesting, roosting and feeding opportunities for protected species. Therefore, before any tree work proceeds on site, I advise that appropriate advice is sought to see whether any trees to be removed are being utilised by any protected species. At the time of writing, I have made no checks to ascertain whether any of the trees discussed are covered by tree preservation orders, or if the site is located within a conservation area. Therefore, any person intending to carry out any operations involving trees (before a formal planning consent is issued) should consult the council before any such works are undertaken.

#### 2 SITE VISIT, DESCRIPTIONS, OBSERVATIONS AND SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 Site visit and description: I visited the site on 29 January 2023 to gather my tree data. The Salmon Inn public house is located in the village of East Ord, which is situated to the south west of the town of Berwick Upon Tweed. It is positioned on the southern side of the road which runs through the village and consists of the main pub building, with car parking to the south and a garden/outdoor seating area to the west. A small number of trees are located around the site and these are mainly positioned on (or close to) the site boundaries.
- 2.2 Description of proposed development: This development proposal is for the 'Change of use of the existing public house (Sui Generis) to provide one one-bedroom and two two-bedroom residential apartments (Use Class C<sub>3</sub>) and erection of four three-bedroom dwellings (Use Class C<sub>3</sub>) utilising existing access off E Ord Road, with associated parking, hard and soft landscaping'.
- 2.3 Soil assessment: British Standard (BS) 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations advocates that a soil assessment should be carried out to inform decisions relating to Root Protection Areas (RPAs), tree protection, new planting and foundation design. I have consulted the British Geological Survey (BGS) website and their Geology of Britain viewer and this advises that the bedrock geology for the site is Fell Sandstone Formation Sandstone. I did not undertake any excavations on site to confirm this and a full geotechnical site investigation may need to be undertaken to provide a more in-depth level of information regarding soil type for the site.
- 2.4 Tree survey methodology: My inspection of the trees was visual and did not involve any climbing or exploratory investigations. During my visit, I identified individual groups where this was appropriate and I assigned an identification number to each, as shown on the plan in Appendix 1. I then collected the tree data included in Appendix 2 and placed the vegetation in one of four categories (U, A, B or C), as set out in BS 5837:2012. I have included the BS categorisations in Appendix 4 for easy reference. Where of relevance, I also estimated the crown spreads for each group at the appropriate cardinal compass points and this information is also shown in the tree schedule in Appendix 2. Although this document is not a full and detailed report on tree health and safety, any significant visible structural defects or physiological conditions identified are also noted in the appropriate columns in the tree schedule. However, this report is not a tree condition survey and a full post development tree inspection is recommended to establish that the trees retained pose acceptable levels of risk once the development has been completed.

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- 2.5 Data interpretation: The Root Protection Area (RPA) figures are included in Appendix 2. As set out in paragraphs 4.6.2 and 4.6.3 of the BS, the RPAs may have been adjusted as a matter of arboricultural judgement to indicate the estimated likely position of important tree roots. These modified (or unmodified) RPAs dictate the location of the tree protection barriers and also determine the position of any ground protection measures. Tree protection details are shown on the plan included in Appendix 1. Where there is a need for incursions into RPAs, an assessment of the implications of these activities is set out in Section 3 (Arboricultural Implications Assessment) of this report. Where appropriate, details of suitable work methodologies to protect trees and also mitigate any impact are set out in Section 5 (Arboricultural Method Statement).
- 2.6 **Revisions to the provided land survey:** During my site visit, I noted that some trees present on site were not shown on the provided land survey. For completeness, I have therefore indicated their approximate positions on the plan included in Appendix 1 to better reflect the current situation on the ground.

#### 3 ARBORICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction to the implications of the development proposal on trees: BS 5837:2012 sets out in some detail how trees on development sites should be managed. It is usually accepted amongst arboriculturists that Category A (high quality) and Category B (moderate quality) trees are potential constraints on any development proposal, whereas vegetation belonging to Category C (low quality) is considered to be generally less important. Category U trees/hedges are in such poor condition that they are considered unsuitable for retention. This is because they cannot realistically be retained as living entities in respect of the current land use for longer than 10 years. Therefore, these can be effectively discounted in the context of a planning application. On this site a total of five groups/trees were recorded during the tree survey and these were assigned to the BS 5837:2012 categories, as set out in Table 1 below:

Category	Category	Category
A and B trees	C trees	U trees
No trees, groups or hedges were rated Category A or B	A total of four groups (G1, G3, G4 and G5) were rated Category C	A total of one tree (T2) was rated Category U

Table 1: Tree numbers and BS categories

No Category A or B trees were recorded during my survey and I have therefore focussed on the implications of the development proposal on the Category C trees on or near the site. Of the total of five groups/trees surveyed, only one group is scheduled to be removed to directly facilitate this development proposal. However, one tree is indicated for removal for management reasons related to its poor condition. I have summarised the development related implications on trees in Table 2 below and set out the site tree issues in more detail in the following paragraphs.

Trees to be remove	ed for development	Activities in RPAs arising from the development proposal						
Category A and B	Category C	Category A and B	Category C					
n/a	G4	None	None					

**Table 2:** Trees lost and activities in RPAs arising from the development proposal

#### 3.2 Direct implications of the development proposal - Tree retention and tree loss

3.2.1 **BS Category C trees to be removed (trees of low quality):** As discussed, trees belonging to Category C are not normally retained where they would impose a significant constraint on the development or redevelopment of a site. In this instance, trees in one group (G4) are indicated for removal as they would be under or very close to the footprint of a new dwelling. The trees appear to be self sown and they are also not particularly large in size. As such I do not believe that they make any particular contribution to local amenity and so their loss is unlikely to have any significant implications.

### 3.3 Additional site tree issues

3.3.1 **BS Category U trees normally removed for management reasons:** Category U trees are in such poor condition that they are considered unsuitable for retention. This is because they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years. Therefore, these trees can be effectively discounted in the context of the planning process. On this site, I have assessed tree T2 as falling into Category U and consequently it is scheduled for removal for management reasons. As it is unsuitable for retention in the context of the current site use, I do not believe that its loss should be a consideration in respect of the current planning application.

3.3.2 **Tree protection during development:** A preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement is included in Section 5 and it details the various issues associated with successful tree protection in a development context on this site. If deemed appropriate by the council, this can be specifically referred to in a suitably worded planning condition attached to any subsequently issued planning consent.

## 4 SUMMARY OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON TREES

4.1 **Summary:** Of the total of five groups/trees surveyed, only one group is scheduled to be removed to directly facilitate this development proposal. However, one tree is indicated for removal for management reasons connected with its poor condition. The low quality trees to be removed to directly facilitate the development proposal are not particularly large in size and their loss is unlikely to have any significant implications in the locality. Provided the tree protection measures set out in this report are realised, then the proposal is acceptable from an arboricultural perspective and the risk of implications for retained trees is likely to be low.

#### 5 PRELIMINARY ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

#### 5.1 **Tree protection issues**

- 5.1.1 **Tree Protection Plan (TPP):** The plan in Appendix 1 is illustrative, but is based on the layout drawings and topographical survey provided. Therefore, all scaled measurements should be checked against the original design documents. The attached plan and all other information in this report should only be used for dealing with the tree protection issues and all other uses are prohibited, unless authorised by **eco**urban ltd. All the existing trees will have been numbered, with any higher categories (A and B) highlighted in green and blue rectangles and any low categories (C and U) highlighted in grey and red respectively. The plan also shows the locations of the proposed protective measures and any trees to be removed are indicated with a red dashed crown outline. The TPP is an important document and a copy of it should be kept on site for reference during the construction phase.
- 5.1.2 **Protective barriers:** The approximate location of the barriers is illustrated on the plan in Appendix 1 and information on barrier design based on BS 5837:2012 guidance is included in Appendix 3. The protective barriers will be erected before any materials or machinery are brought onto the site and before any clearance or construction activities occur. Once the protective barriers have been positioned, these will stay in situ for the duration of the construction, unless previously agreed with the arboricultural consultant or council's tree officer. There will be no access into the protected areas and the storage of excavated debris and building materials will be prohibited in RPAs, unless authorised by the arboricultural consultant, after discussion with the council's tree officer. No fires or fuel storage will be allowed within or near to protected areas under any circumstances.

#### 5.2 Additional tree-related issues

- 5.2.1 **Site supervision:** Site personnel will be properly briefed regarding the tree protection issues before any work starts and the tree protection will be inspected periodically to ensure the retained trees are protected in accordance with this document and any conditions imposed by the council.
- 5.2.2 **Material storage areas and site compounds:** All construction material storage areas, cement silos or cement mixing areas, fuel storage points and compounds for machinery etc. will be outside protected areas, unless otherwise agreed with the council.

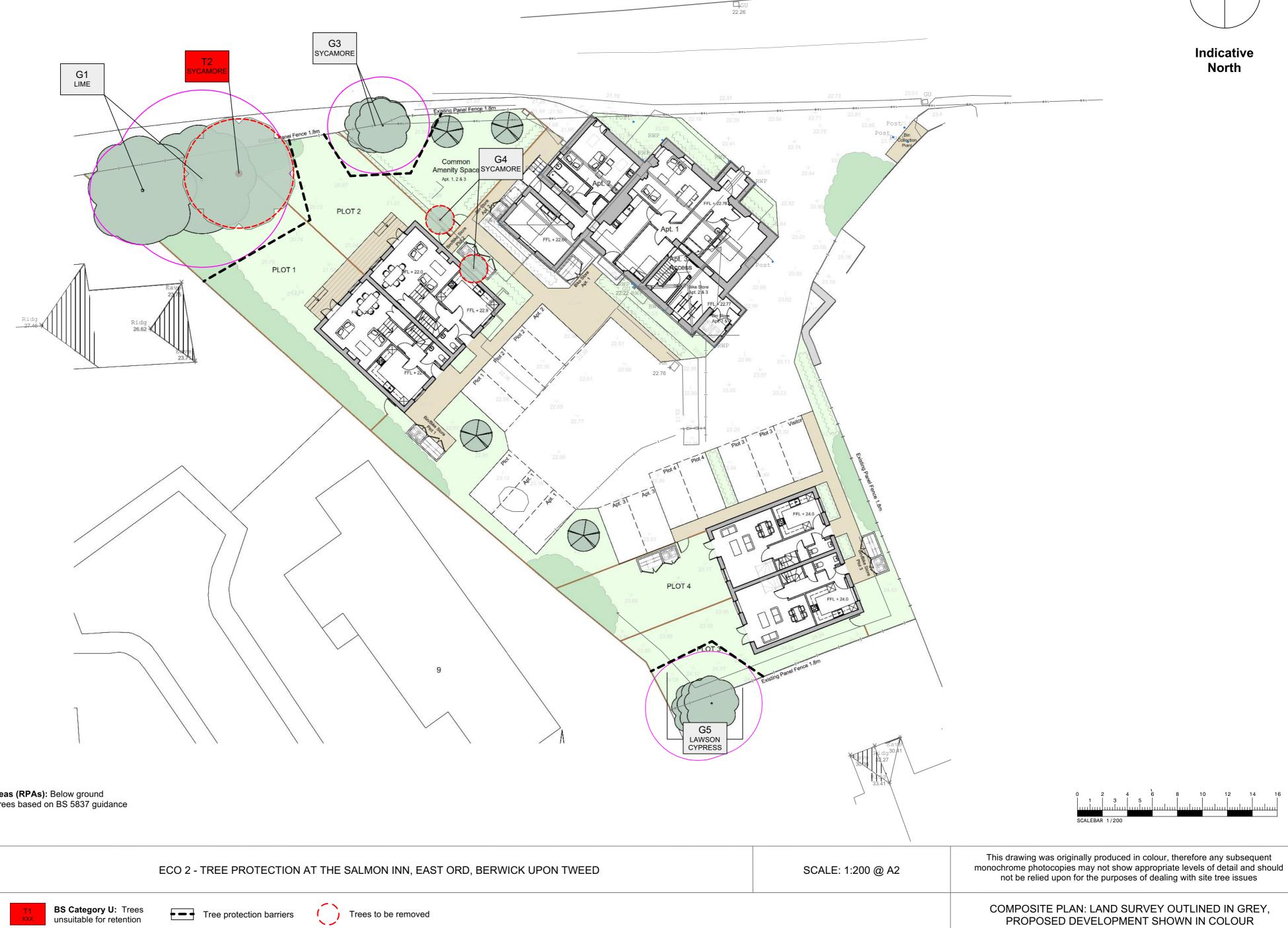
- 5.2.3 Installation of new services or upgrading of existing provision: Where practicable, all new services will be outside the protected areas indicated on the plan in Appendix 1, but where existing services within RPAs require upgrading or new provision is needed, great care will be taken to minimise any disturbance. Trenchless installation will be the preferred option, but if this is not feasible, any excavation will be carried out by hand in accordance with the guidelines set out in NJUG Volume 4 Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees.
- 5.2.4 **Contractors car parking, site offices and welfare facilities:** Whilst it is possible to have site offices and welfare facilities within RPAs, care is needed in their positioning and also in the connection of water, electricity and drainage to service them. Therefore, these will generally be sited outside the tree RPAs, unless agreed previously with the council. Contractor's car parking facilities will also be located away from retained trees.
- 5.2.5 **Tree works:** Any tree pruning or tree removal operations are set out in the tree schedule included in Appendix 2. Additionally, those trees scheduled for removal are also shown on the Tree Protection Plan included in Appendix 1.
- 5.2.6 Planning, communication and preliminary timing of events: It is not unusual for the details of timing of operations that could impact on important trees to only be finalised once planning consent has been given. Site managers, clearance and construction teams and other important personnel are normally only appointed at this stage and it is these people who will be crucial in delivering the tree protection detailed in this report. My experience is that the pre commencement site meeting is critical in terms of avoiding damage to trees and this particular aspect, along with tree protection issues can be specifically referenced in a suitably worded planning condition imposed by the council. In the intervening time, I propose the following preliminary cascading timetable of events to help minimise the risk of impact on important trees. However, the following schedule may be modified at the pre-commencement meeting, subject to discussion with all parties and agreement with the council:
  - 1. Pre-commencement site meeting
  - 2. Extent of any arboricultural supervision agreed
  - 3. Tree works undertaken
  - 4. Protective barriers erected before any clearance or construction activities occur on site and notification to the council that this is in place

5. Tree protection only removed at the end of the construction phase when there is no longer any risk to trees

Barrie Draper BSc (Hons) Arb TechCert(ArborA) CertArb(RFS) Arboricultural Consultant

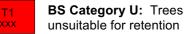
Date: 15 February 2023

1 A2 plan

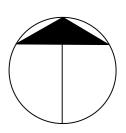


Root Protection Areas (RPAs): Below ground tree constraints for trees based on BS 5837 guidance





Tree protection barriers



# Indicative North

**Background fill colour represents BS 5837:2012 categories:** A Category trees have green backgrounds, B Category trees have light blue backgrounds, C Category trees have grey backgrounds and U Category trees have red backgrounds.

							1	STEM D	IAMET	ERS (MULTIPL	E)												
Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	Single stem dia. at 1.5m	Est. Dia. *	Mul		med tr tems (c	ees witl m)	h 1 - 5	Multi stemmed trees with 1 - 5 stems	Multi st trees >		Bra	nch s	pread	(m)	Ht above ground (m)	Age class	Notes	Management proposals	BS cat	RPA area (m²)	RPA radius (m)
			(cm)		1	2	3	4	5	combined (cm)	Mean stem dia. (cm)	No. of stems	N	E	s	W	(111)						
All trees																				Crown clean all trees. Need for construction access, crown lift trees by up to 4m over site.			
Gı	Lime	15	-	* Lgst	35	42	19	12	-	59	-	-	4	4	5	4	4	MA	Closely spaced multi stemmed trees with tight forks and included bark unions.	Monitor and consider appropriate tree surgery works in the longer term to maintain acceptable levels of risk.	Cı	158	7.1
T2	Sycamore	15			29	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	5	3	3	MA	Dying with patches of dead bark on main stem and scaffolds. Tight fork with included bark union.	Fell for management reasons.	U	118	6.1

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								STEM D	IAMET	ERS (MULTIPLI	E)												
Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	Single stem dia. at	Est. Dia. *	Mul		med tr tems (c	ees witl m)	11-5	Multi stemmed trees with 1 - 5 stems		emmed 5 stems	Bra	nch sj	pread	(m)	Ht above ground (m)	Age class	Notes	Management proposals	BS cat	RPA area (m²)	RPA radius (m)
			1.5m (cm)		1	2	3	4	5	combined (cm)	Mean stem dia. (cm)	No. of stems	N	E	S	w	(111)						
G3	Sycamore	12	32	* Lgst	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	4	4	3	MA	Closely spaced self sown trees immediately adjacent to fence and in close proximity to overhead services Unremarkable.		Cı	46	3.8
G4	Sycamore	7	17	* Avg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	2	2	Y	Small sized self- sown trees.	Fell.	C1	13	2.0
G5	Lawson cypress	12	35	* Lgst	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	2	3	Y/ MA	Linear grouping of offsite unremarkable domestic conifer type planting. Some trees declining.		Cı	55	4.2

# Abbreviations:

Abbreviations	Meaning	Abbreviations	Meaning	Abbreviations	Meaning
Т	Individual tree	Μ	Mature	>	More than
G	Groups of trees	MA	Maturing	<	Less than
Н	Hedge	Y	Young	Lgst	Largest tree diameter within group
W	Woodland	RPA	Root Protection Area	Avg	Average tree diameter within group

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# Tree Schedule Notes:

Tree number	Assigned during the site visit and also referenced on the plan in Appendix 1.
	Common name and referenced to scientific name in the above list. Where I have some doubt over the actual tree species, the genus will have been noted followed by
Species	sp. Where trees are numerous and present in groups, not every individual species may have been noted.
	Measurement of total tree height using a laser hypsometer to nearest metre or where clear line of site is not possible then an estimate based on interpolation of
Height	heights of nearby measured trees.
	Measurement of stem diameter either at 1.5m above ground (or in accordance with BS guidance where trees have multiple stems) with a forester's girth measuring
Stem diameters	tape. Diameters followed by asterisk symbol indicate estimated diameters because of access difficulties, presence of ivy or other obstructions.
	Where trees are present in a group, the tree with the largest stem diameter within the group will have been measured/estimated.
Est. Dia.	Estimated diameters due to access restrictions are indicated with an asterisk
	Where appropriate and where ground conditions allow, an estimate of the crown spread at each of the cardinal compass points. Where only part of the site is
Branch spread	affected by trees, measurement may be in one or two directions only
Existing height above ground level	Distance in metres to first significant branch or canopy or a height above which crown lifting operations would not be appropriate
Age class	Simplistic estimate of tree age in one of FOUR categories (young, maturing, mature or over mature).
	Although this document is not intended to be a full and detailed report on tree health and safety, any significant structural defects or physiological conditions have
	been identified where these were visible. Where no entries are recorded, this indicates no observable issues were identified. Where there is restricted access to the
Notes	base of a tree, its attributes are assessed from the nearest point of access. Climbing inspections are not carried out during a walkover tree survey and, if heavy ivy is
	present, tree condition is assessed from what can be seen from the ground.

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# Appendix 2: Tree Schedule and Inventory

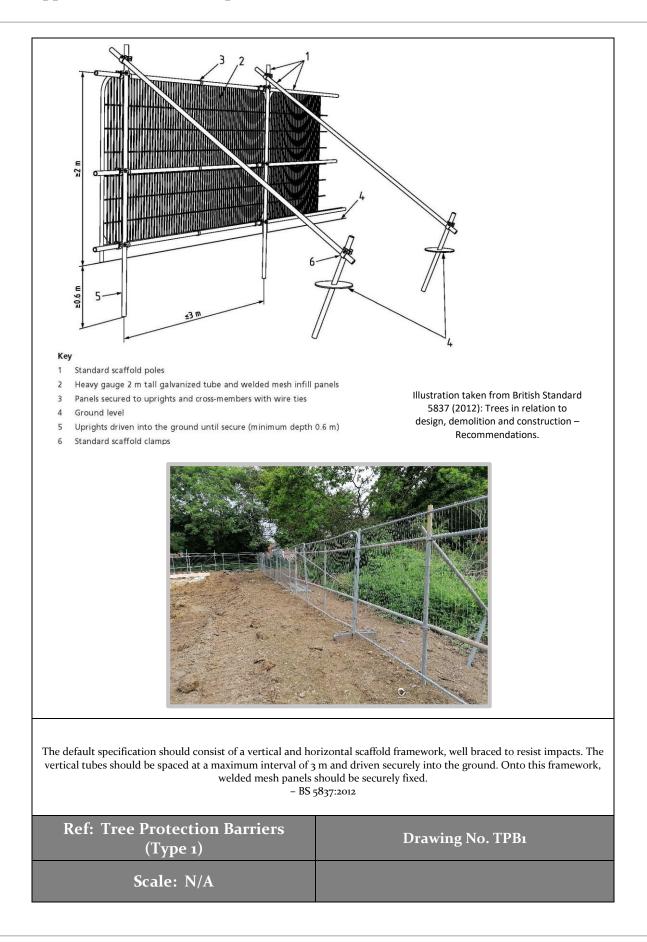
Management proposals	The inspection of all trees was of a preliminary nature and only defects visible from the ground have been identified. Each individual tree may not have been inspected closely because of access difficulties and only defects visible from the inspection point have been identified. Monitoring may be indicated where tree risk can be adequately managed by increased frequency of site inspections. Further investigation may be indicated where additional data may be required beyond a purely visual assessment. However, a full post development tree inspection is recommended to establish that the trees retained during construction pose acceptable levels of risk once the development has been completed.
BS 5837 :2012 Category	Either U, A, B or C based on the BS 5837:2012 guidance.
RPA and RPA radius	RPA and RPA radius calculations have been undertaken in accordance with the guidance set out in BS 5837:2012.

# Tree Inventory:

Common Tree Names	Scientific Tree Names	Common Tree Names	Scientific Tree Names
Lime	Tilia sp.	Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus
Lawson cypress	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana		

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# Appendix 3: Illustrative Specification for Tree Protection Barriers



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Category and				Identificatio
definition			on plan	
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	<ul> <li>Trees that have a serious, irris expected due to collapse, in of other category U trees (e., shelter of the shelter o</li></ul>	RED		
FREES TO BE CO	ONSIDERED FOR RETENTION	T		
Catagory and	С	riteria — Subcategories		Identificatio
Category and definition	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	on plan
<u>Category A</u> Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees 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 arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	GREEN
<u>Category B</u> 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	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

Arboricultural Implications Assessment for The Salmon Inn, East Ord, Berwick Upon Tweed

- Qualifications: I have a BSc degree (with Honours) in Arboriculture from the University of Central Lancashire. I also hold a BTEC Higher National Diploma (HND) in Forestry (Lowland Management), the Arboricultural Association's Technician's Certificate in Arboriculture (Tech Cert), the Royal Forestry Society's Certificate in Arboriculture (Cert Arb) and the National Examinations Board Certificate in Forestry.
- 2 Career experience: I began my arboricultural career in 1993 as an arborist with Portsmouth City Council. During my time with the council I worked for both the direct labour organisation and for a private contractor where I obtained valuable hands on experience in all aspects of arboriculture. From 1999 to 2002 I was employed as Senior Arborist by Parchment Housing Group, a housing association based near Portsmouth. I managed the Groups' tree stock on their behalf, carrying out tree inspections and practical management operations. I have also worked in local government, spending time with Thurrock Borough Council in Essex where I was the Tree and Landscape Officer, and with Winchester City Council, where I was Arboricultural Officer for a period of 2 years. During my time working in local government, I was responsible for making Tree Preservation Orders, administering applications to work on protected trees and advising on planning applications when trees were considered material constraints on development. Working within a planning environment allowed me to gain valuable experience in the management of trees in development situations and an understanding of the planning process and how it relates to trees. From January 2005 I worked for Barrell Tree Consultancy Ltd advising clients on a wide range of tree related issues. I left the company in September 2008 and set up ecourban ltd.



ecourban ltd, 13 The Greencroft, Salisbury SP1 1JD T: 01962 877 397 M: 07532 373 563 E: barrie@eco-urban.co.uk W: www.eco-urban.co.uk