Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Old Maria Cottage

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PREPARED FOR CLIENT: Brigitte Butcher

SITE ADDRESS: Old Maria Cottage, Long Green, Wortham, Diss, IP22 1RD

PREPARED BY: David Watts BSc (Hons) PGCert MCIEEM

APPROVED BY: Jason Parker

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REPORT INFORMATION

Date	3rd March 2023
Applicant	Brigitte Butcher
Site Address	Old Maria Cottage, Long Green, Wortham, Diss, IP22 1RD
Grid reference	TM 06985 77316
Our Reference	J3824
Report Revision	V1

1. Executive Summary

Parker Planning Services have been instructed by Brigitte Butcher to carry out a tree survey in relation to a proposed development at Old Maria Cottage, Long Green, Wortham, Diss, IP22 1RD. The development proposals are to convert and extend an outbuilding, 'Rhubarb Barn', which is located to the north of the site.

The site survey identified 16 trees and three groups of trees on the site. These included two Category A trees of high quality; two Category B trees and one group of moderate quality; and 12 Category C trees and two groups of low quality.

No trees will necessitate removal due to the proposals. The development will affect the root protection area (RPA) of one Category B tree, however a negligible area will be affected.

An Arboricultural Method Statement is provided to ensure that all trees on the site survive the proposed development and thrive upon its completion. This includes recommendations regarding the installation of temporary tree protection fencing and ground protection during development works.

2. Introduction

2.1. Instruction

Parker Planning Services have been instructed by Brigitte Butcher to produce an Arboricultural Impact Assessment of the land at Old Maria Cottage, Long Green, Wortham, Diss, IP22 1RD (hereafter referred to as 'the site').

2.2. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the report is to:

- Assess the quality of the trees on and immediately adjacent to the site, in accordance with BS5837: 2012[1].
- Identify trees suitable for retention and for removal due to the proposed development.
- Prescribe tree protection measures to ensure that retained trees survive the proposed development and thrive after its completion.
- Prescribe arboricultural recommendations for the long-term management of trees on the site.
- If necessary, to assess the site for its suitability for mitigation planting, and to specify planting requirements.

2.3. Site Details

The site consists of a residential property and its associated garden. There is an outbuilding, 'Rhubarb Barn', to the north of the site.

2.4. Development Proposals

The development proposals are to convert and extend Rhubarb Barn.

2.5. Legal Protection of Trees

A search on the website of Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council (2023)[2] did not identify any trees afforded protection by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on the site and confirmed that the site is not within a Conservation Area. Note that the legal protection of trees on the site may be subject to change.

[1] British Standards (2012). BS5837: 2012 - Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction: Recommendations. British Standards Institute, London

[2] Babergh Council and Mid Suffolk District Council (2023). Interactive Maps [online]. Available at: >www.babergh.gov.uk< [accessed 3rd March 2023]

2.6. Soil Type of the Surrounding Area

Cranfield (2023)[3] states that the surrounding area consists of slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. No further detailed soil analysis was carried out as part of the survey.

2.7. Qualifications of the Author

David Watts is an experienced arboriculturist who holds an FdSc in Arboriculture, a BSc (Hons) in Ecology, a PGCert Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection Certificate and who is a full member of CIEEM.

[3] Cranfield (2023). *Interactive Soilscapes Viewer* [online]. Available at: >www.landis.org.uk< [accessed 3rd March 2023]

3. Methods

3.1. Site Survey

The site survey was carried out by David Watts in suitable weather conditions on 20th September 2022.

Trees were inspected from ground level, using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method. Any notable defects of trees were recorded, although the site survey did not constitute a full tree risk assessment.

Tree heights, crown clearances and crown spreads of trees were measured to the nearest 0.5m. The diameter at breast height (DBH) of trees was measured to the nearest 1cm and was used to calculate the root protection areas (RPA) of trees using methods prescribed in BS5837: 2012.

3.2. Tree Categorisation

In accordance with BS5837: 2012, trees were classified as either A, B, C or U, using the criteria shown in Table 2.1. Trees were subcategorised with the suffix 1, 2 and/or 3, to denote amenity, landscape or cultural qualities. As specified in BS5837: 2012, the additional subcategorisation does not affect the retention value of a tree (e.g., a Category A2 tree is not necessarily of greater or less value than a Category A1 tree).

Table 3.1 BS5837 Cascade Chart (Adapted from British Standards, 2012)

Category	Definition	Retention	Colour code
Category A	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.	Highly desirable	Light green
Category B	Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years; trees lacking the special quality to merit category A designation.	Desirable	**Dark blue**
Category C	Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining contribution of at least 10 years, or trees with a stem diameter below 15 cm; unremarkable trees of very limited merit or of such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories.	Feasible, but should be removed if posing a constraint to development	Grey
Category U	Trees that have serious, irremediable, structural and/or physiological defects, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees.	Unfeasible	**Dark red**

3.3. Survey Constraints

The survey was constrained by the season in which it took place. Some pathogens of trees, in particular fruiting bodies of decay fungi, are only visible at certain times of year.

4. Impact Assessment

4.1. Tree Population Assessment

The survey identified 16 trees and three groups of trees on the site. These included two Category A trees of high quality; two Category B trees and one group of moderate quality; and 12 Category C trees and two groups of low quality.

Table 4.1 shows a summary of the categorisation of trees on the site. Tree data can be viewed in *Appendix 1: Tree Survey Schedule*. Photographs of trees can be viewed in *Appendix 2: Photographs*. Locations of trees can be viewed in *Appendix 3: Tree Constraints Plan.*

Table 4.1 Summary of Tree Categories

Category	Description	Tree/group numbers	Totals
A	Trees of high quality which should where be possible be retained throughout any proposed development	T11, T12	2 Trees
B	Trees of moderate quality which should where be possible be retained throughout any proposed development	T10, T16 G3	2 Trees 1 Group
C	Trees of low quality which should not be considered a constraint to development	T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9, T13, T14, T15 G1, G2	12 Trees 2 Groups
U	Trees which should be removed for sound management reasons, regardless of proposals	-	-
		Total:	**16 Trees 3 Groups**

Tree species included silver birch (*Betula pendula*), blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), medlar (*Mespilus germanica*), blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), cultivated pear (*Pyrus communis*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and grey willow (*Salix cinerea*).

4.2. Trees Impacted by Development

No trees will necessitate removal due to the proposals.

A small area of the RPA of T10, a Category B ash, will be impacted by the proposals. T10 has an RPA of 76m^2. Less than 1m^2 will be affected. This is not anticipated to result in any adverse impacts upon the amenity value or life expectancy of this tree.

4.3. Protection of Retained Trees

Retention of all trees on the site is considered feasible, provided that works follow a method statement, which can be viewed in Section 4. This includes recommendations regarding the installation of temporary tree protection fencing, ground protection, and the adoption of precautionary working practices during development works.

5. Arboricultural Method Statement

5.1. Phasing of Works

Phasing of works must be carried out in accordance with Table 5.1, below:

Table 5.1 Timing of Works

Stage	Works
1	Site induction
2	Install temporary tree protection fencing and ground protection
3	Inspection by arboricultural consultant
4	Carry out construction works
5	Remove tree protection fencing and ground protection once works completed
6	Final inspection by arboricultural consultant

5.2. Site Induction

Prior to works commencing, all contractors will attend a site induction. Contractors must be briefed on arboricultural concerns arising from the development proposals, including tree root protection areas (RPAs). This method statement must be made available to all contractors working on the site.

5.3. Tree Protection

Prior to machinery entering the site, it will be necessary to ensure that trees are protected by temporary tree protection fencing. The location of tree protection fencing can be viewed in *Appendix 4: Protection Plan.*

Note that tree protection fencing is not recommended for T1-T3, which are located offsite at the entrance. It is also not recommended for T11-T16, G1 and G3; although these trees are within the site, they are more than 15m from the proposals and are unlikely to be impacted by development works.

Tree protection fencing must consist of a vertical scaffold framework, well braced to resist impacts. The vertical poles should be spaced at a maximum interval of 3m and driven securely into the ground. Onto this framework, welded mesh panels should be fixed (see Figure 4.2, below).

Laminated waterproof A3 signs should be fixed securely to fencing panels on each enclosure at 9m intervals. The signs should clearly read: ‘Protected Tree Zone, no storage or operations within fenced off areas’.

Once the construction works have been completed, the tree protection fencing may be removed. This must be done with care to ensure that no damage to trees is caused.

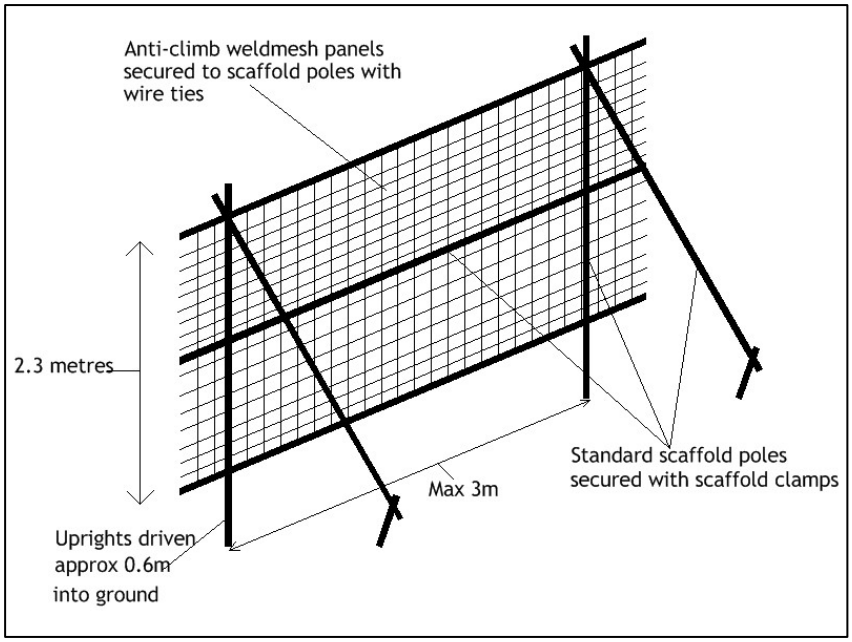


Figure 4.2 Temporary Protective Fencing

5.4. Ground Protection

To provide adequate working space to install scaffolding and construct the extension to Rhubarb Barn the installation of temporary tree protection around the entirety of the RPA of T10 will not be feasible. Temporary ground protection must be installed within RPAs within 2m of the building.

Ground protection must consist of three layers of material:

- A geotextile membrane, which must be pinned securely to the ground.
- Woodchip or other compression resistant material to a depth of at least 150 mm.
- Scaffold boards (or similar resistant surface), interlinked and well-braced to resist impacts.

The ground protection will be sufficient to withstand pedestrian traffic and the operation of machinery up to 1 tonne in weight. If the operation of heavier machinery or the passage of heavy vehicles is required within these areas, more robust protection will be required and advice from the project arboriculturist should be sought.

The location of ground protection is detailed *Appendix 4: Tree Protection Plan.* As with tree protection fencing, this must be installed prior to the commencement of works and removed only when all works have been completed.

5.5. General Precautionary Measures

Prior to the commencement of development works, a site storage area must be designated. This must be outside the RPAs of trees.

No materials hazardous to tree health, such as oil, bitumen or cement should be stored within the RPAs of trees.

No fires may be lit within 15m of the tree protection fencing.

Where there is a risk of polluted water runoff into RPAs, heavy duty plastic sheeting and sandbags must be used to contain any spillages and prevent contamination.

If any breach in the tree protection measures occurs, it is the site manager's responsibility to report this to an arboricultural consultant so that appropriate measures may be taken.

5.6. Further Inspections

It is recommended that inspections by an arboricultural consultant are undertaken:

- Upon installation of the tree protection fencing to determine if it is satisfactory. The arboricultural consultant will then deliver a toolbox talk to the site manager prior to the commencement of works.

- Upon completion of the development works to determine whether the method statement has been followed and that trees scheduled for retention have not been impacted by development works.

After each inspection a letter accompanied by photographic evidence will be submitted on behalf of the arboricultural consultant to the local authority tree officer to confirm if the method statement has been followed correctly and whether trees have been adversely affected by construction works.

5.7. Project Arboriculturist Details

If any issue regarding tree protection arises during the course of development works, the project arboriculturist must be contacted using the details below:

David Watts
Parker Planning Services Ltd
Spire House
13-15 Cathedral Street
Norwich
NR1 1LU
Email: contact@parkerplanningservices.co.uk
Telephone: 01603 516319

Appendix 1: Tree Survey Schedule

Key

Species	Common name and scientific name	**Age**	Y – Young sapling/newly planted tree
Height	Measured to nearest 0.5 m		SM – Semi-mature; tree 1/3 of mature size
Crown clearance	Height of crown clearance, measured to nearest 0.5 m		EM – Early mature; tree 2/3 of mature size
No of Trees	Approximate number of trees		M – Mature; tree 3/3 of mature size
DBH	Average diameter at breast height (1.5 m), in cm		V – Veteran tree
Crown spread	Measured to nearest 0.5 m	**RPR**	Root Protection Radius (as a circle, measured from stem) in m
Category	See BS5837 cascade chart (Table 2.1)	**SULE**	Safe useful life expectancy, in years
SULE	Safe useful life expectancy, in years		Note average values given for all groups

Individual Trees

Tree No.	Species	Height	CC	Stems	DBH	Crown Spread				Age	Comments	RPA	RPR	SULE	Category
						N	E	S	W						
T1	Grey willow	5	1	5	16	3.5	4	3	3	EM	Several stems removed. Utility wires over crown.	105	5.8	21-40	C1
T2	Grey willow	6	1	5	21	4	4	4.5	3.5	EM	Several stems removed. Utility wires over crown.	93	5.5	21-40	C1
T3	Grey willow	7	1	3	23	1	1	1	1	EM	Failed secondary branch unions at 3-4m.	66	4.6	21-40	C1
T4	Crab apple	3	1	1	7	1	1	0.5	0.5	Y	No major visible defects.	2	0.8	40>	C1
T5	Crab apple	2.5	1	1	6	1	1	1.5	1	Y	Stake and cable tie present.	2	0.7	40>	C1
T6	Crab apple	3.5	1	1	9	1	1.5	1	1	Y	No major visible defects.	4	1.1	40>	C1
T7	Crab apple	3	1	1	9	1.5	1	1.5	1	Y	No major visible defects.	4	1.1	40>	C1
T8	Crab apple	3	0.5	1	9	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	Y	No major visible defects.	4	1.1	40>	C1
T9	Crab apple	3	0	1	12	4	4	3	4.5	SM	No major visible defects.	7	1.4	40>	C1
T10	Ash	10	2	2	28	5	6	7	8	EM	Hedgerow tree.	76	4.9	21-40	B1
T11	Pedunculate oak	13	4	1	98	4.5	6	5	4	M	Ivy on stem. Ditch to south with RPA offset to north.	434	11.8	40>	A1

Tree No.	Species	Height	CC	Stems	DBH	Crown Spread				Age	Comments	RPA	RPR	SULE	Category
						N	E	S	W						
T12	Ash	14.5	1	1	85	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	M	Ivy on stem. Bifurcates at 2m. Ditch to south with RPA offset to north.	327	10.2	40>	A1
T13	Maidenhair tree	2	1	1	5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	Y	Newly planted tree.	1	0.6	40>	C1
T14	Blue spruce	1.5	0	1	5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	Y	Newly planted tree.	1	0.6	40>	C1
T15	Blue gum	3.5	1.5	1	5	4	3.5	5	4.5	Y	Newly planted tree.	1	0.6	40>	C1
T16	Ash	10	4	1	38	3.5	4	3	3	M	Lean to north. Ditch to south with RPA offset to north.	65.3	4.6	21-40	B1

Groups of Trees

Group No.	Species	Av. height	Av. crown clearance	No of trees	Av. DBH	Av. crown spread	Age	Comments	SULE	Av. RPR	Category
G1	Silver birch	10	1	6	20	3	EM	No major visible defects.	21-40	2.4	C1
G2	Medlar, cultivated pear	4	0	11	12	2	EM	Orchard.	21-40	1.4	C1
G3	Ash	12	2	2	50	5	M	Two mature ash. Unable to access to fully inspect. Dense ivy on stems.	21-40	6	B1

Appendix 2: Photographs

Plate 1: T1-T3

Plate 2: T4-T6, T10 in background

Plate 3: T6-T9

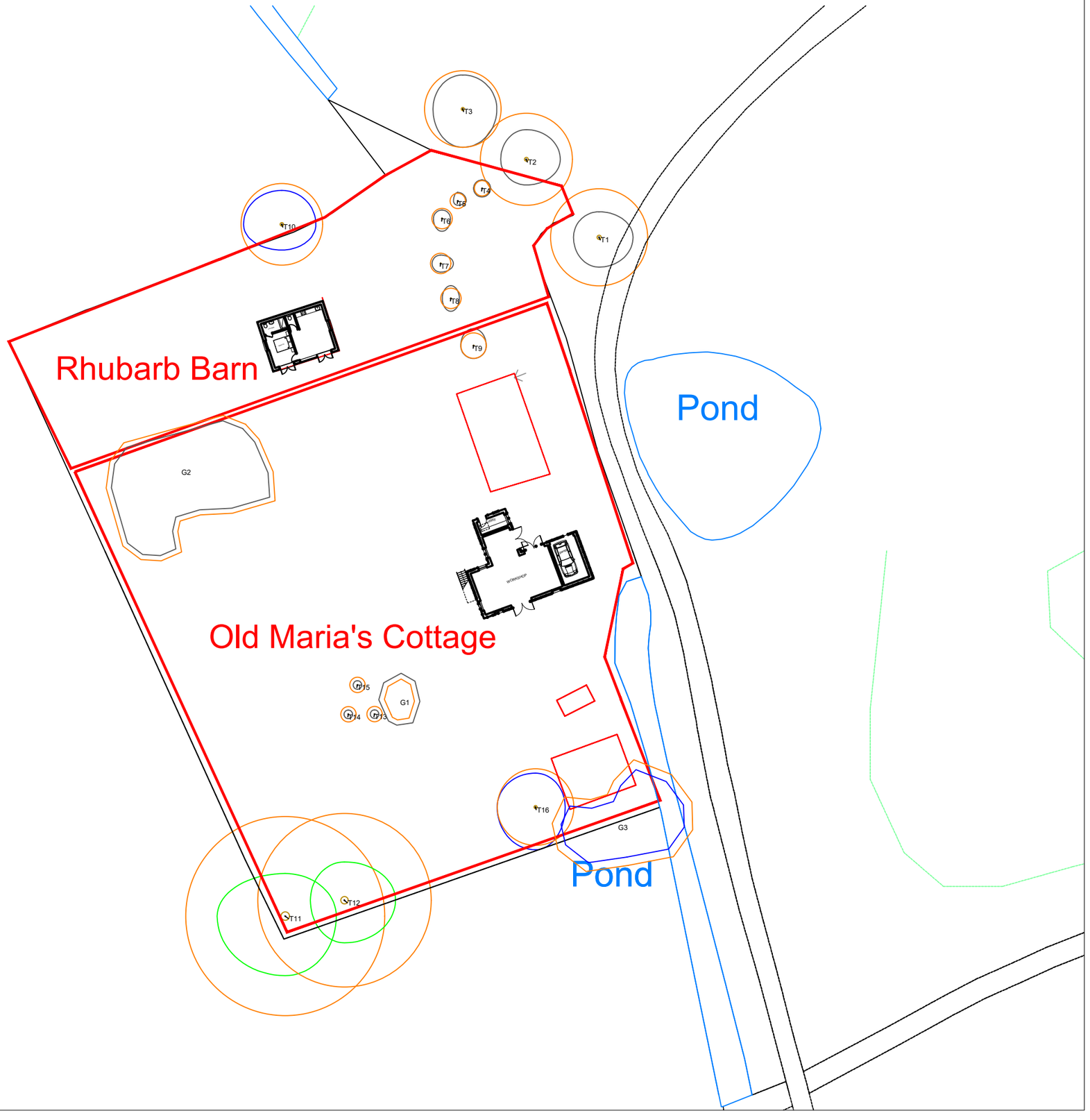
Plate 4: T11 & T12

Plate 5: T16 & G3

Plate 6: G1

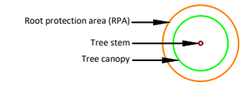
Plate 7: G2

Appendix 3: Tree Constraints Plan

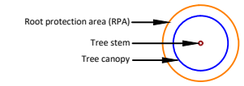


Key:

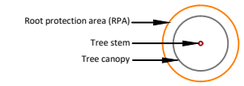
Category A trees of high quality



Category B trees of moderate quality



Category C trees of low quality



Drawing title:	Tree Constraints Plan
Project:	Old Maria Cottage
Drawn by:	David Watts
Drawing number:	TCP-1696-01
Date:	03/03/2023
Scale:	1:500 @ A3

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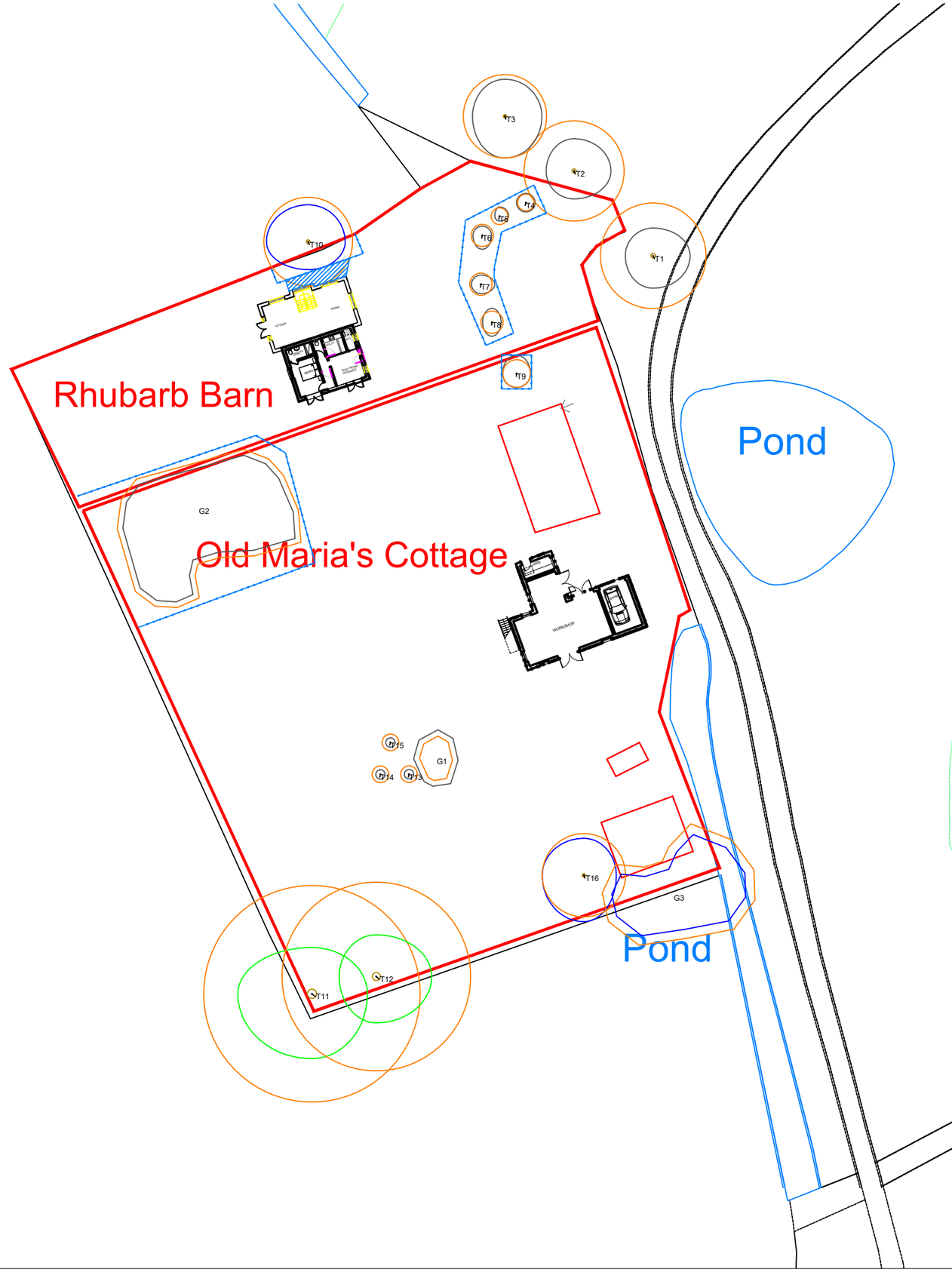
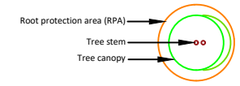
Appendix 4: Tree Protection Plan

1.1.

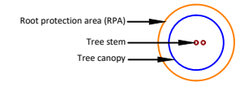


Key:

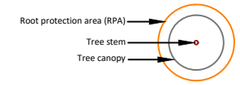
Category A trees of high quality



Category B trees of moderate quality



Category C trees of low quality



Tree protection fencing - to remain in place during development works

Ground protection - to remain in place during development works

For further details regarding tree protection fencing, ground protection and precautionary working practices, refer to Arboricultural Method Statement

Drawing title:	Tree Protection Plan
Project:	Old Maria Cottage
Drawn by:	David Watts
Drawing number:	TPP-1696-01
Date:	03/03/2023
Scale:	1:500 @ A3

To be reproduced in colour only

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