



Chartwell Tree Consultants Ltd

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Arboricultural Report

BS5837 Tree Survey

At

**35 Lower Green Road
Rusthall
Kent
TN4 8TW**

Client

Jo Delahunty

By

Sam Bateson

Date

2nd March 2023



<i>Site</i>	35 Lower Green Road
<i>Inspection Date</i>	23.11.2022
<i>Inspected By</i>	Sam Bateson
<i>Reference</i>	CTC/35/AR1

(1) Terms of Reference

- I received instructions via email from Colman Anderson Architects on behalf of the client to undertake a survey of the trees with regards a proposed development at the above address.
- The tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment are to be produced with relevant measurements in line with British Standard BS5837: 2012 ‘Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction’ for all the trees affected by the proposed development.
- An Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) has not been requested at this stage.
- To make any other observations or recommendations as required based on the survey.
- The tree plans have been overlaid onto the site designs and topographical survey supplied by Colman Anderson Architects.

(2) Scope of Report

- This preliminary assessment did not include a detailed examination of tree root systems, aerial access, or the use of internal decay detection equipment. A further supplementary Detailed Report may be advised as a result of the findings herein.
- The inspection was carried out with the aid of the following equipment:
 - Sounding mallet
 - Metal probe
 - 30m measuring tape
 - Rounded down diameter tape (Stem diameter measured at 1.5m)
 - Compass
 - TruPulse 200 Laser Clinometer
- The tree data gathered is for the purposes of a development site survey in accordance with BS5837: 2012 and is **not** a detailed tree safety inspection.
- A tree owner is advised to have all trees in their ownership regularly inspected; trees are to be re-inspected after strong winds.
- The information contained in this report should be considered valid for a period of 12 months from date of issue.
- Estimated measurements have been taken for private or inaccessible trees.

- Only trees potentially affected by the proposed building or with a stem diameter >150mm have been included in this survey.
- If noted during the site survey the presence of a visible Invasive Weed will be highlighted, however this report is in no way considered an Ecological or Invasive Weed survey and CTC does not offer any advice in regards identification, 'Duty of Care' and or treatment and in all such cases a recommendation to seek specialist advice will be given.
- The information contained in this report is provided without prejudice and is based upon the authors knowledge, experience, qualifications and public research. The author cannot be held responsible for the consequences of a difference of opinion for example, from the Local Planning Authority or the Planning Inspectorate.

(3) Third Party Disclaimer

Any disclosure of this report to a third party is subject to this disclaimer. The report was prepared by Chartwell Tree Consultants Ltd at the instruction of, and for the use by, our client named within the report, the architect of the proposed development and the Local Authority Planning Department. This report does not in any way constitute advice to any third party who is able to access it by any means. Chartwell Tree Consultants Ltd excludes to the fullest extent lawfully permitted all liability whatsoever for any loss or damage arising from reliance on the content of this report.

(4) Site Information

- Consists of a detached property with existing wooden garage, outbuilding and driveway access that opens on to Manor Road. The garage and outbuilding are in poor condition.
- Access can be gained from Manor Road.
- The DBH (Diameter measured at 1.5m off the ground) for trees within hedgerows or private properties has been estimated and these trees have not been inspected for defects.

(5) Rooting Zone

- The soil level has remained the same throughout the area so the root flares on all the trees are exposed.
- There is no evidence of any recent root disturbance or radial trenching having recently taken place.

(6) Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

- **Description of the Proposed Development**

It is proposed to demolish the existing garage and outbuilding and construct a new garage with associated hard and soft landscaping.

- **Legal Constraints**

The site is not within a Conservation Area, however the Lime (T3) is protected by a Tunbridge Wells Council Tree Preservation Order (Number 28/2008).

(7) Impact of the Proposed Development on the Amenity Value of the Trees

- **Direct Loss of Trees / Shrubs**

Based on the proposed Coleman Anderson Architects site plan, the removal of the following trees is recommended in order to facilitate the development:

Tree Reference	Species	BS5837 Retention Category	Comments
T1 & T4	Birch	C	2 low-quality self-set trees growing over the road with unbalanced, over extended canopies.
T2	Holly	C	1 low-quality self-set tree growing as a single unit.

The loss of the above trees within the site boundary – assessed as being of low quality and value (BS5937:2012, Category ‘C’) – is not considered to have any significant impact on wider public visual amenity due to its size, condition and location and would be unlikely to meet the criteria necessary for the making of a Tree Preservation Order.

- The removal can be mitigated by the planting of new native and non-native trees with an appropriate size and stature (can be subject to a detailed planning condition) that will result in no net loss of canopy cover and ensure biodiversity gain in the future.
- Container grown, native species should be sourced (Majestic Trees, Hilliers, Barchams for example) so that the rooting system is kept complete which aids establishment. Heavy standard trees with a girth of 12-14cm, 2-3m in height should be sourced as these will offer an immediate visual impact for the site. The above nurseries will offer a delivery, planting and care package service which is advisable.

Recommended Species:

Oak	Field Maple	Yew	Hornbeam
Beech	Hawthorn	Holly	Alder
Wild Service Tree	Scot's Pine	Sorbus	Silver Birch

- It is my opinion that the loss of the above trees will not have a significant detrimental impact on visual amenity of the site and additional planting can improve area greening and biodiversity.

(7.1) Retained Trees

- Providing that adequate tree protection is implemented, the amenity value of the trees on the site will be preserved. Retained trees will be protected from soil compaction and impact damage where necessary by protective barriers and / or systems and methods of ground protection. Protective barriers will be fit for purpose, complying with BS5837: 2012 unless otherwise agreed with the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Such alternatives may include the use of temporary buildings or existing hard surfaces as part of tree protection or alternative fencing specification for areas of lower risk e.g. areas for future planting.

(7.2) Above and Below Ground Constraints

- The British Geological Survey Map Sheet 303 (Solid & Drift Edition) indicates the underlying geology to be Ardingly Sandstone Member which is not generally considered to contain highly shrinkable soils. It is recommended that a geotechnical specialist / structural engineer undertake a detailed soil investigation to determine the actual underlying geology and Plasticity Index which may then inform the foundation design.
- The design of any new planting and landscape proposals should be based upon a soil analysis which considers the pH and any nutrient deficiencies or imbalances.
- Given the relative uniformity of the ground conditions, it is reasonable to assume that the majority of retained trees have circular, unobstructed Root Protection Areas (RPA's). Based on these assumptions, the proposed development will involve the following RPA incursions:

Tree # & Species	Reason	Approx. RPA Incursion % of Total	Estimated Impact	Mitigation
T3	Garage	9.9% ¹	Low	Mature tree. Arboricultural Method Statement recommended. General precautions / tree protection fencing / temporary ground protection.
T3	Hard Surfacing	15% ²	Low	Mature tree. Arboricultural Method Statement recommended. General precautions / tree protection fencing / temporary ground protection.

Table 2: Root Protection Area Incursions (retained trees)

¹ The impact of this incursion will be reduced through the use of an appropriately designed and installed low-invasive, above ground foundation (subject to a structural engineer's design) – foundation depth to be determined by trial excavations under supervision from an arboriculturist to check for roots.

2 Hard surfacing is already present in this area (existing paving or garage base). This is to be lifted using hand tools only and replaced with a low-invasive, porous surface – see below.

- It is my professional opinion that the development will not result in the significant loss of rooting area and will not result in any significant root damage. This is based upon:
 - Precautions (e.g. manual excavation) and site supervision to ensure that any roots encountered are dealt with appropriately. Roots over 2.5cm diameter are only to be severed after consultation with an arboriculturist.
 - Leaf fall in the autumn months can be mitigated by the use of non-slip paving areas and guards/grilles on the gutters and gullies.
 - Shading areas are not a constraint to the proposal as the building is not intended for residential use.
 - Tree protection fencing and ground protection during the duration of the development.
 - Sufficient distances (in accordance with BS5837: 2012 Table A1) should be allowed between young trees / new planting and built structures to minimize the impact of future growth.
 - It is important that the foundation design of the new building gives consideration where relevant to the underlying soil type, retained and removed trees (heave potential) and new planting. Further information can be obtained from NHBC Chapter 4.2 'Building Near Trees'.
 - New surfacing within the RPA's of the retained trees (shown in PINK on the draft TPP) is to be installed by hand under site supervision by an arboriculturist (existing surface removal etc). New hard surfaces are to be installed with low invasive techniques using hand tools and the utilization of a cellular confinement system as part of the sub-base. This surface must be fit-for-purpose with specialist advice obtained from an engineer to meet the above performance specification. Proprietary products such as 'Cellweb, CORE, Terram etc' are available that can help deliver the performance specification e.g. www.geosyn.co.uk or telephone 0870 850 1018 (Geosynthetics Ltd). **Example Below**

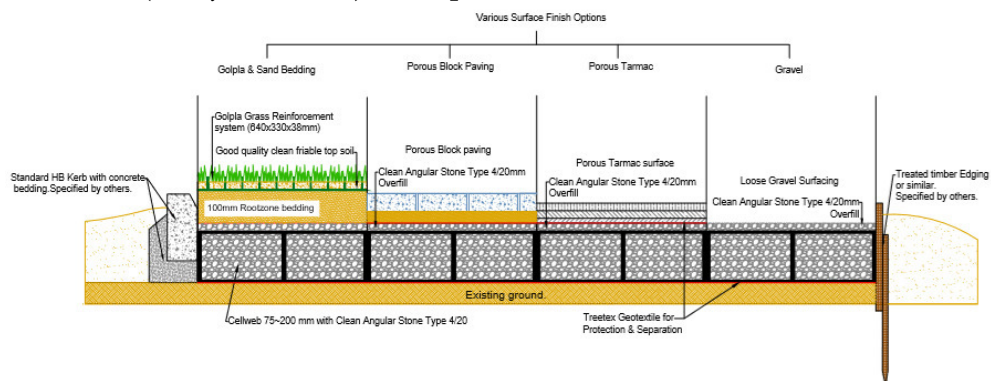


Diagram 2: Example of low-invasive surfacing with alternative surface treatments and no-dig edging

- In order to minimise the impact on the rooting area and tree root function within the RPA's the design of any new surface should adequately consider and allow for the following factors:
 - Allows gaseous exchange (horizontally and vertically)
 - Water permeable while preventing contaminants entering the soil
 - Preserves the soil structure at a suitable bulk density
 - Prevents contaminants entering the rooting area
 - Prevents damage to the roots during demolition or construction
 - Recognises the fact that the majority of roots are found in the top 600mm of soil.

Practical measures that can achieve this include:

- No significant changes in ground level
 - No soil capping
 - No excavation / minimal excavation e.g. removal of turf layer or organic material
 - Avoiding soil compaction methods e.g. when constructing a sub base
- As long as the above is followed then the overall rooting environment will not be significantly altered from that already encountered.

(7.3) Construction of the Proposed Development

- **Ground Level Changes**

No ground level changes within the RPA's of the trees to be retained without arboriculturist consultation.

- **Planning of Construction Operations**

The proposed design layout makes allowance for the following:

- Access for underground utilities without the need to enter any RPA's
- Location for delivery and storage of materials, welfare facilities and contractors' car parking
- A low intensity, low impact build programme.

- **End Use of the Space**

The proposed layout offers a good degree of space for the intended use of the site.

- **Mitigation**

A limited amount of space is available for the planting of new trees and shrubs as part of a general landscaping scheme. Any landscape proposals should make particular reference to:

- Promoting the concept of biodiversity net gain and ensuring that there is no net loss of trees as part of the development
- The inclusion of native trees and shrubs where possible within a new scheme of landscaping using semi-mature tree stock where possible

- **Conclusion**

The direct loss of 3 low-quality, 'C' Category trees will have a low impact on wider public visual amenity due to their location, species characteristics and condition and can be offset through appropriate new tree and shrub planting. The existing early-mature and mature trees both on and adjacent to the site are to be retained as part of the development without the need for significant incursions into their Root Protection Areas.

Due to their rear and side property location, the loss of the low-value 'C' Category tree will have no discernible impact on wider public amenity and can be mitigated by appropriate new planting to maintain Area Greening.

The adoption of a detailed Arboricultural Method Statement should ensure there are no adverse effects as the result of any excavations and construction operations.

- **Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)**

- **Purpose**

An Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) will be required where any demolition or construction operations, including access, are proposed within the RPA (or crown spread where this is greater) of any retained trees. This applies to trees within the scope of the proposed development.

The intention of the method statement is to minimise the risk of any adverse impact on the trees to be retained (especially damage caused by excavation and soil compaction) and to clearly demonstrate how relevant operations will be undertaken. It should also specify appropriate tree and ground protection measures in accordance with BS5837 which will be detailed on a Tree Protection Plan (TPP).

- **Heads of Terms**

Areas of relevance to the proposed development to be addressed in the detailed Arboricultural Method Statement include:

Pre-development tree works

All works will be carried out in accordance with BS3998: 2010 'Recommendations for Tree Work' and in line with a schedule of works agreed by the Local Planning Authority as part of any approved planning permission.

Tree protective barriers and ground protection measures (specification, location and dimensions)

Protective fencing will be fit for purpose, complying with Figures 2-4 in BS5837:2012 or any other specification agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. For example, site huts or temporary buildings may be used as part of the protective barriers (BS5837 section 6.2.2.3). They shall be erected prior to any demolition or construction (excluding pre-development tree works) taking place at distances specified within the approved plans and remain in place until completion of the construction phase. Removal is only to take place following the approval of the Local Planning Authority / Local Authority Tree Officer.

Site access, parking and site facilities

To be in accordance with the plans agreed by the Local Planning Authority and outside of the Root Protection Areas of any retained trees unless appropriate ground protection measures are in place and approved by the LPA.

Works programme / phasing

The phasing and timing of any works likely to impact on the Root Protection Area of any retained trees is to be clearly identified to ensure that adequate protection, precautions and supervision are in place.

Storage of spoil and building materials

No spoil or building materials are to be stored with the Root Protection Areas of any retained tree unless specifically agreed by the Local Planning Authority. Details of the Construction Exclusion Zones can be seen on the Tree Protection Plan.

Demolition of the existing building(s) and removal of hard surfacing

In accordance with detailed method statement to avoid unauthorised incursions into the Root Protection Areas of any retained trees.

Changes to ground levels

Changes to ground levels are only to be made in accordance with the approved plans and where a detailed method statement has been produced to minimise the impact on the rooting systems of the retained trees. Where this necessitates the lowering of existing ground levels then this should only be undertaken with the use of hand tools and care taken not to damage any structural roots. Treatment of any exposed roots is to be in accordance with BS5837:2012.

Details of construction works within the Root Protection Areas

As per 'Changes to ground levels'.

Details of 'Special Engineering' methods

Where relevant, specifications relating to special engineering methods will be included as an annex to the Arboricultural Method Statement.

Location and installation method for drainage and other utilities

The use of overhead utilities is not anticipated for this development. Where possible, existing underground utility runs will be re-used. Where new services runs are required, these will be routed outside of the Root Protection Area of any retained trees unless specifically agreed by the Local Planning Authority and subject to a detailed method statement.

Upgrade or installation of new hard surfacing within Root Protection Areas

In order to minimise the impact on the rooting area and tree root function the design and construction of a new surface should adequately consider and allow for the following factors:

- Allow gaseous exchange (horizontally and vertically)
- Water permeable
- Preserves the soil structure at a suitable bulk density
- Prevention of contaminants entering the rooting area
- Allows for future growth of the root system
- Prevents damage to the roots during demolition or construction
- Recognises that the majority of roots are found in the top 600mm of soil

New surfaces should be installed with 'low invasive' techniques using hand tools and the utilization of a cellular confinement system as part of the sub-base.

Removal of boundary / retaining walls and installation of new fencing within Root Protection Areas

To be accompanied by a detailed method statement to ensure minimal damage to existing roots.

Site responsibilities and the role of the pre-commencement meeting

Unless otherwise agreed in writing, it will be the responsibility of the Site Manager to ensure that the content of the Arboricultural Method Statement is adhered to. The main contractor and any sub-contractors are to be briefed by the Site Manager on the relevant sections of this prior to commencing any work. The Site Manager is responsible for contacting the LPA at any time issues relating to the trees on site are raised.

Prohibited activities and general precautions

In line with BS5837:2012.

Arboricultural Supervision, reporting and audit process

Day-to-day supervision will be the responsibility of the Site Manager. Supervision by a qualified arboriculturist at key stages of the development is to be coordinated by the Site Manager and comments forwarded to the Local Planning Authority.

Emergency procedures

Clearly defined emergency procedures e.g. for fuel spillages or unauthorised incursions into Construction Exclusion Zones to be prepared and communicated to all site personnel.

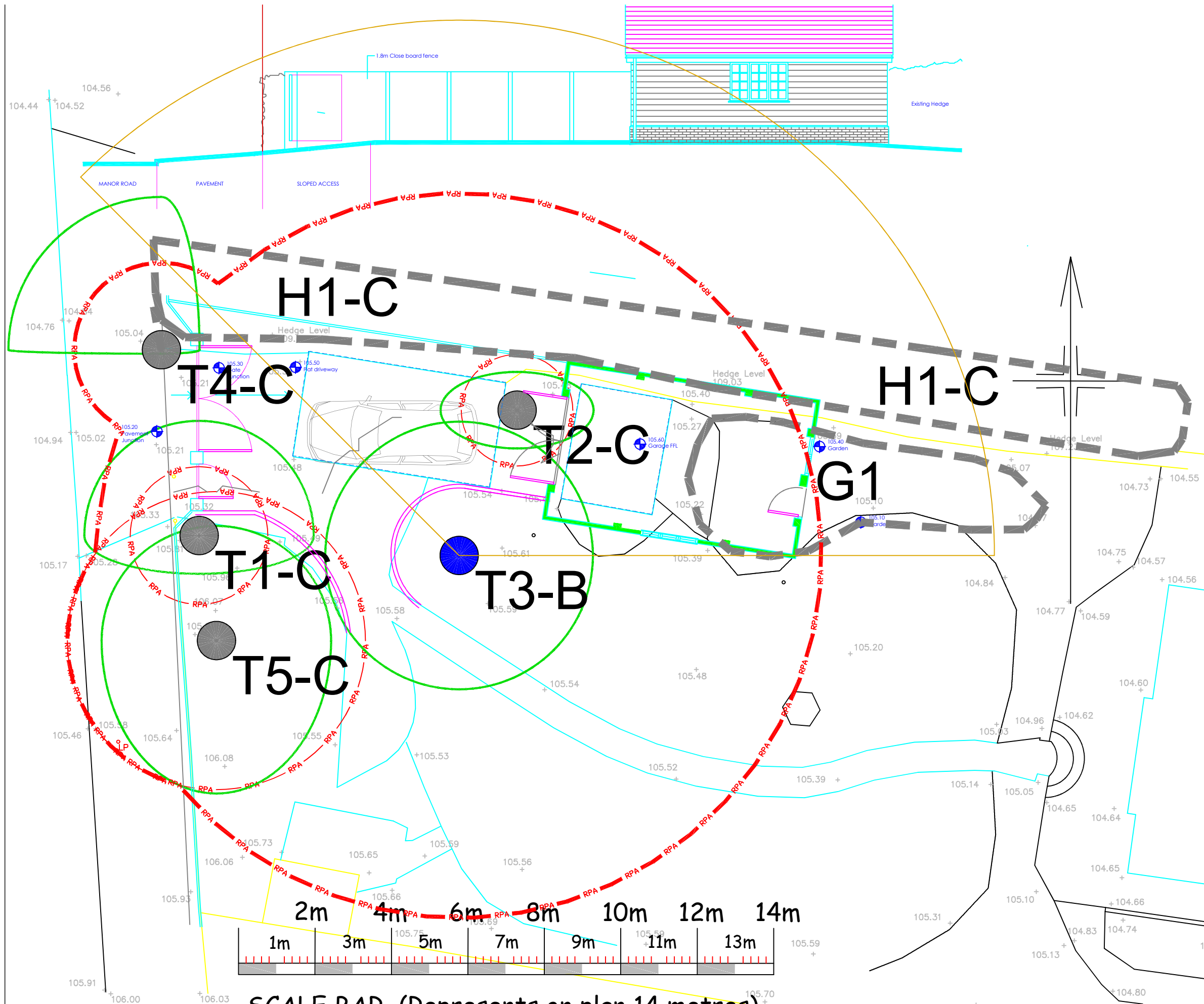
TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

Client: Jo Delahunty
 Site: 35 Lower Green Road
 Date of Survey: 23.11.2022
 Arboricultural Consultant / Surveyor: S Bateson
 Weather: Clear
 Tagged: No

Notes:
 See attached KEY

Tree ID #	Species	Height (m)	Branch spread (m)				Diameter at breast height (mm)	Root Protection Area Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m ²)	Age class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Remaining Contribution (Years)	Category Grading
			N	S	E	W									
T1	<i>Betula pendula</i> (Silver Birch)	7	3	1	3	3	150	1.8	10.2	SM	Good	No significant defects visible. Future structural impact high. Will cause future maintenance issues.	Remove.	10+	C
T2	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> (Holly)	7	1	1	2	2	100,50,50	1.46	6.7	SM	Good	No significant defects visible. Future structural impact high. Will cause future maintenance issues. Unable to inspect stem due to ivy.	Remove.	10+	C
T3	<i>Tilia X europaea</i> (Common Lime) TPO	14	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	790	9.48	282.4	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Surface root damage. Suckers around stem base. Co-dominant stems. Recently re-pollarded.	No works required.	20+	B
T4	<i>Betula pendula</i> (Silver Birch)	9	4	0	1	4	190	2.28	16.3	SM	Good	No significant defects visible. Unbalanced crown shape.	Remove.	10+	C
T5	<i>Betula pendula</i> (Silver Birch)	11	3	4	3	3	325	3.9	47.8	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Previously crown reduced.	No works required.	10+	C
G1	Mixed shrub border	2-5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	75	1	3	EM	Good	No significant defects visible.	To trim or remove as required to facilitate design.	10+	C
H1	Mixed hedgerow - Laurel, privet etc	3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	75	1	3	EM	Good	No significant defects visible.	To trim top and face to leave a compact shape.	10+	C

All dimensions to be checked on site



TREE SURVEY & CONSTRAINTS PLAN

T1 Tree Number

- A Category
- B Category
- C Category
- U Category

- - - Group
- - - Boundary
- - - and Category

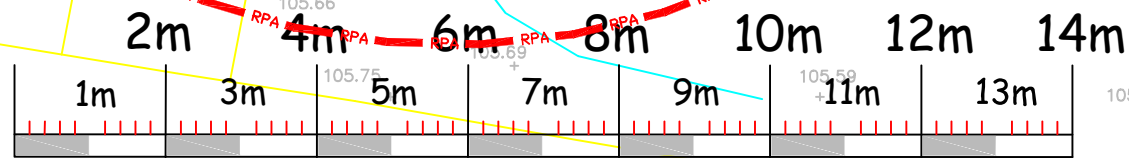
Root protection area
 Branch spread
- - - Shade arc
- - - Existing property & hard standing footprint
- - - Proposed property & hard standing footprint

Title **Tree Survey & Constraints Plan**
 Job **35 Lower Green Road**
 Scale **1:100 @ A3**
 Date **02.03.2023**
 Drn **SB**
 Dwg No **001**



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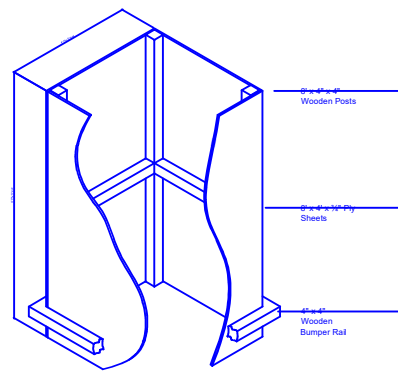
Tel: 07789 907861



SCALE BAR (Represents a length of 14 metres)

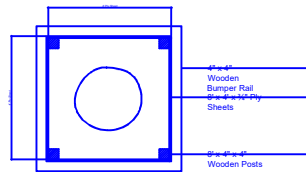
Notes:
Do not scale from this drawing
All dimensions to be checked on site

Box protection to be constructed as tree protection fencing

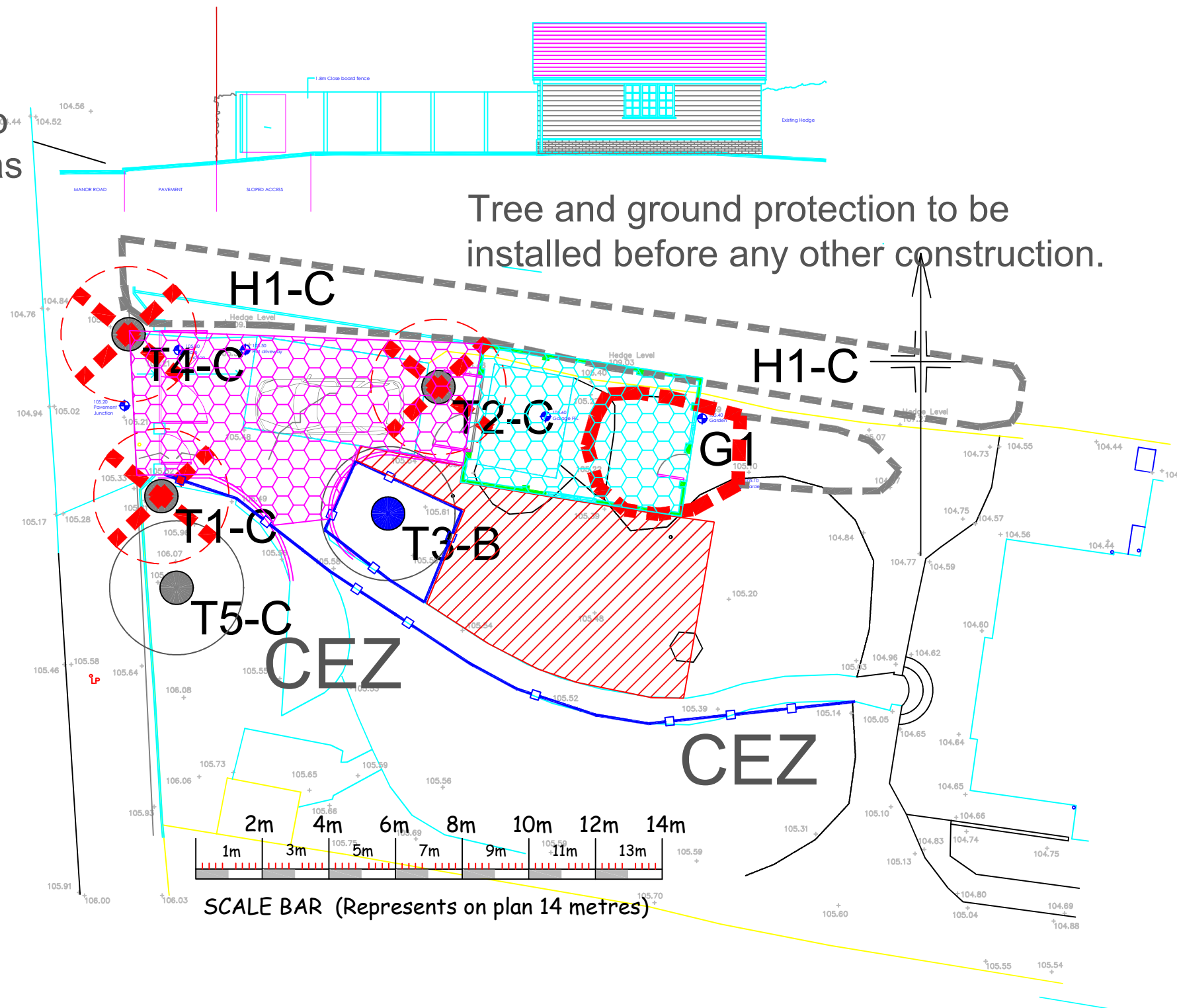


Iso View

Tree Protection Box



Plan View



Tree and ground protection to be installed before any other construction.

TREE PROTECTION PLAN

- Tree to be retained
- Tree to be removed
- Group to be removed
- Tree protection fencing
- CEZ** Construction Exclusion Zone
- Ground protection measures required
- Low-invasive/Precautionary area. Hand excavation, Cellweb driveway - AMS recommended
- Low-invasive/Precautionary area. Special engineered foundation (reinforced concrete raft etc) - AMS recommended

Title **Draft Tree Protection Plan**
 Job **35 Lower Green Rd**
 Scale **1:150 @ A3**
 Date **02.03.2023**
 Drn **SB**
 Dwg No **002**



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KEY TO SURVEY

- T1, T2 etc.** = Individual tree identification numbers (not TPO reference numbers)
G1, H1, W1, A1 etc = Grouped trees, hedges, woodland, avenues or shrub areas.

Age Class:

- Y = Young (<1/3 mature height)
SM = Semi-Mature (1/3 mature height)
EM = Early-Mature (>1/3 mature height)
M = Mature (2/3 – full life expectancy)
V = Veteran (High value amenity tree)

Work Priority: (informed by *risk rating* based on observed defect(s), probability of failure, severity of impact and targets)

Urgent = <1 Month (unless stated otherwise)

High = <3 Months

Medium = < 6 Months

Low = < 12 Months

Routine = As part of regular grounds maintenance

Other Comments:

- **NESW** = North, East, South, West
- **Physiological Condition** = based upon the performance of the biological processes of the tree and its overall 'health'. Good = normal vigour, Fair = moderately reduced vigour, Poor = low vigour/decline.
- **Occluded wound** = where a wound has been progressively closed by the formation of new wood and bark around it.
- **Non-occluded wound** = where a wound has not closed (or is in the process of being closed) by the formation of new wood and bark.
- **Est.** = estimated measurement.
- **Av.** = average measurement.
- **Basal** = in or around the base of the trunk.
- **Epicormic** = growth arising from adventitious or dormant buds. In the case of European Lime trees this frequently occurs around the base of the tree.
- **Deadwood** = Minor (<25mm), Moderate (25mm-150mm) and Major (>150mm).
- **Self-set** = naturally established i.e. not intentionally planted tree.

Survey Range & Limitations:

1. The survey was carried out in the form of a visual assessment from ground level; a rubber mallet and simple probe were used to assess the extent of any decay found. Defects (including potential severity of impact), targets and potential ('likelihood') of failure have been considered and used to inform the risk rating and thereby the recommendations and priorities along with appropriate timescales.
2. Only the trees potentially affected by the proposal have been inspected as per instructions received. It is recommended that the owners of any adjacent trees likely to affect the site have their trees inspected by a qualified and competent arborist. Where tree removals have been recommended it is the responsibility of the client to ensure ownership and approval is agreed.
3. This survey expressly excludes any liability for indirect or direct structural damage that the trees may cause to property including any structural movement, subsidence and heave. Where necessary, the opinion of a structural engineer should be sought e.g. where trees are in close proximity to built structures or have been recommended for removal. With regards drains, the advice of a drainage engineer should be sought.

4. As this survey is preliminary in nature, should any further investigation be required (e.g. using specialist decay detection equipment) then this will be highlighted in the recommendations.
5. All measurements are estimated and tree locations on the maps are approximate.
6. It should be noted that trees are dynamic, living organisms that are subject to an ever-changing environment and that there is no such thing as a 'safe tree' i.e. "...there can be no absolute guarantee of safety" (Mattheck 'The Body Language of Trees', p. 197) where failure can occur without defect or in excessive weather conditions.
7. The Local Planning Authority (Tunbridge Wells Council) must be consulted prior to any works being carried out to establish whether any Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) or Conservation Areas apply to the site. No works should be carried out until any necessary permissions have been obtained. Trees marked as 'TPO' on any maps are for information purposes only and should not be considered authoritative. It is the responsibility of the land owner to ensure compliance with any restrictive Covenants that may apply to the land/trees that may be applicable.
8. Full consideration must be given to current legislation by anyone proposing to carry out works to trees, particularly with regards to the presence of European Protected Species (including bats). Arboricultural ('tree surgery') contractors should be adequately trained, experienced and carry adequate insurance. All works should be carried out to the current edition of British Standard BS3998 'Recommendations for Tree Work'.
9. The information contained in this report should be considered valid for a period of 1 year from date of issue (unless otherwise specified in the survey) assuming that any recommendations are carried out. Additional inspection is recommended following exposure to extreme weather, significant wounding or damage (e.g. incursion into rooting zones, impacts, new fungal fruiting bodies, etc.) or any other event giving cause for concern.