OMC Associates

BSI 5837 Arboricultural Report for Development

CLIENT:	Sykes
SITE:	1 Green End, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, PE28 4AE
OUR REF:	2502D/CJO/2204-R3
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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Brief and background
- 1.2 Documents
- 1.3 Site description
- 1.4 Proposed development

2.0 Trees

- 2.1 Tree data
- 2.2 Trees and the Legislative framework
- 2.3 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- 2.4 Local l Planning Policy
- 2.5 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
- 2.6 Site specific tree schedule and summary of trees

3.0 Tree Related Site Constraints - General

- 3.1 Tree crowns/canopies
- 3.2 Longer term implications of retained trees on quality of life
- 3.3 Indirect damage (Subsidence)

4.0 Arboricultural Implications Assessment (AIA

- 4.1 Affect of development on trees - General
  - 4.1.1 Direct/ mechanical damage (D-1)
  - 4.1.2 Ground compaction (D-2)
  - 4.1.3 Changes in ground level (D-3)
  - 4.1.4 Severance of roots by ground works (D-4)
  - 4.1.5 Contamination of ground (D-5)
  - 4.1.6 Change in ground surface (D-6)
- 4.2 Effect of development on trees specific to this site
  - 4.2.1 Tree works
  - 4.2.2 RPA encroachment
  - 4.2.3 RPA incursion of underground services
  - 4.2.4 Site clearance/demolition and general construction activity within RPAs
- 4.3 Issues to be addressed by the AMS

5.0 Phasing of Inspection/Monitoring

6.0 Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

- 6.1 Installation of protective fencing for construction of CEZ
- 6.2 Ground protection
- 6.3 Treatment of roots for ground works within RPAs
- 6.4 New patio
- 6.5 Foundations
- 66 Tree works
- 6.7 Excavation for new services within RPAs
- 6.8 Concrete mixing/bunded area
- 6.9 Site set-up
- 6.10 Additional precautions outside the tree exclusion zone

7.0 Sequence of events

- 7.1 Phases of tree protection
- 7.2 Arboriculturist involvement

Appendix A Tree schedule
Appendix B Key to tree schedule
Appendix C Cascade chart explaining tree quality assessment
Appendix D Photos
Appendix E Tree survey plan
Appendix F Tree constraints plan
Appendix G Tree Protection Plan
Appendix H Details for Heras protective fencing
Appendix I Information posters to attach to protective fencing
Appendix J Ground Protection
Appendix K Monitoring/Inspection Record

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The application comprises construction of new dwelling building on land at 1 Green End, Great Stukeley. 19 trees and 2 groups are noted. Of these, are 2 A grade ash trees, 3 B grade trees, 2 B/C grade trees, 5 C grade trees, 4 C/B, 3 C/U grade trees and 2 U grade trees. The scheme requires removal of 2 B grade oak trees T3 and T4 and a C grade oak T5. This will have a moderate impact on the prevailing landscape and associated loss of biodiversity but can be mitigated with new native species tree planting. Removal of the small C/U grade trees T14 and T16 will have no adverse impact o landscape. Additionally, crown-lifting the western side of T15 is recommended as specified to remove any potential conflict during development and avoid this becoming a source of resentment. Low levels of RPA incursion affect T15 from the new dwelling and the patio and are not considered harmful to this tree subject to adoption of appropriate methodology. Site clearance and all construction activity will comply with the detailed methodology/tree protection detailed in Section 6.0 to avoid harm to trees and these details will be incorporated into the construction method statement. The tree protection plan (TPP) illustrates the tree protection strategy. Arboricultural site monitoring will be maintained throughout the development.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief and background

OMC Associates are instructed to provide an arboricultural report to assess the implications on trees/vegetation of a proposed new dwelling at 1 Green End, Great Stukeley and detail a protection scheme to mitigate any impacts on trees.

Recommendations are consistent with the most recently revised version of the British Standard on this subject, "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations", BS 5837 (2012).

These details are provided to assist the planning authority in determining the application. Opinions expressed in this report in relation to the physical or aesthetic quality and value of trees are made on an impartial and non-prejudicial basis, based on observations made during the site survey.

1.2 Documents

We have based our plans on the drawings provided by cbb Architects Project Ref 23042.

1.3 Site Description

The site is located to the south of Great Stukeley in a rural location and comprises a detached dwelling constructed in 1960s centrally located within a large, open plot. The redline area is represented by the eastern side of the plot with a new boundary proposed from north to south through the middle.

The front boundary is delineated by Green End and the western boundary by Ermine Street. Open ground is found to the north and formerly farmland/grazing to the east is being developed.

Trees and hedgerows are located along the eastern boundary and a number of mature trees are noted to the rear of the site.



Site extents (Google maps)

1.4 Planning Proposal

The application comprises constructing a new dwelling and garage with new access.

2.0 TREES

Dimensions relating to height, crown spread (at four cardinal points where considered necessary), girth at 1.5m as well as age class, structural and physiological condition and BS 5837 (2012) category are noted. The inspection assesses the height of the crown and suitability to develop near to it. This survey does not include a detailed assessment of the health of the trees, but clear faults are factored into structural and physiological category.

2.2 Trees and the legislative framework

Where statutory tree protection exists (Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas, historic planning conditions) no works around trees should be carried out without the approval of the Local Planning Authority (since it is likely to incur large fines) unless planning permission has been granted that indisputably necessitates the removal or pruning back of any of these trees.

The site is within a Conservation Area.

Section 197 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 states that it shall be the duty of the local planning authority to ensure whenever it is appropriate, that in granting planning permission, “adequate provision is made, by the imposition of conditions, for the preservation or planting of trees” Even when no specific legal protection exists it may be necessary to obtain a felling license from the Forestry Commission if the volume of timber removed exceeds felling license quotas.

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

National Planning Policy is currently defined by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the most current version being updated in December 2024. At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development and specifically states that, when considering new development proposals that accord with its own development plan, the LPA should approve them without delay.

Section 12 of the NPPF states that ”Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments are…..visually attractive” and “sympathetic to the local landscape”.

2.4 Local planning policy

Huntingdonshire District Council’s Local Plan to 2036 was adopted in May 2019. A number of statements and policies are relevant to this report.

An objective of Good Design Policy LP12 is to, “successfully integrates with adjoining buildings, the routes and spaces between buildings, topography and landscape”.

Policy LP31 Trees, Woodland, Hedges and Hedgerows is detailed and explicit on the need to consider trees and vegetation with respect to retention and protection and mitigation where trees are lost.

2.5 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Following the Environment Act 2021, a new mandate was introduced such that new developments requiring planning permission in England must deliver an overall biodiversity gain. The policy states that, “Trees and woody vegetation are integral to biodiversity and losses of existing trees for development would require not just replacement, but even more and better-quality habitat, which could, amongst other measures, be delivered through high quality, carefully considered landscaping schemes”.

2.6 Site specific tree schedule and summary of trees

Details of trees are provided in the tabulated information at Appendix A.

Please refer to Appendix B for a key to the tree schedule and for an explanation and definitions of the BS 5837 quality categorisations.

19 trees and 2 groups are noted. Of these, are 2 A grade ash trees, 3 B grade trees, 2 B/C grade trees, 5 C grade trees, 4 C/B, 3 C/U grade trees and 2 U grade trees.

The A grade ash T11 and T17 and B grade ash T18, elm T19 and Norway spruce T15 represent fine specimens and important contributions to the landscape.

Along the north eastern boundary are a number of native species trees of variable quality and of these the two oak T4 and T5 and two field maples T1 and T2 are most notable as healthy, well formed trees with good long terms potential growth.

3.0 TREE RELATED SITE CONSTRAINTS – GENERAL

3.1 Tree crowns/canopies

Sometimes crowns/canopies of trees to be retained are so close to proposed developments that they may be deemed a constraint to development by obstructing building work - including erection of scaffolding - or result in the need to regularly prune back to prevent them coming into contact with the new build.

If this results in the need to remove or prune back to an extent that may harm their health or appearance (amenity), this may be deemed sufficient grounds for an objection.

None anticipated.

3.2 Longer term implications of retained trees on quality of life

Inappropriately positioned new structures too close to trees may give rise to long term resentment of them because of concerns, some real and some perceived, resulting on pressure to remove or reduce the trees. These can include loss of ambient light or sunlight, leaf/needle litter and other debris from trees accumulating in gutters and gardens, sticky residues (honeydew) on surfaces and cars, perches for birds - particularly pigeons - and consequent bird droppings, and anxiety stemming from the presence of large trees close to new development.

There is minor overhang from T15. A slight crown-lift of the eastern side to 5m will significantly mitigate this.

The tree

3.3 Indirect damage (Subsidence)

This is applicable where a shrinkable substrate prevails. Where applicable an appropriate foundation compliant with NHBC guidelines must be designed to ensure that tree and building co-exist for the long term and longer term pressure is not applied to remove nearby trees because of indirect damage.

4.0 ARBORICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT (AIA)

4.1 Affect of development on trees - General

The objective of the report is to identify and evaluate the extent of direct and indirect damage on existing trees that may arise as a result of the implementation of the proposed development without appropriate guidance. A tree may take a century to reach maturity, but it can be irretrievably damaged in a few minutes often because of a failure to appreciate the vulnerability of trees and particularly the root systems. *Irreparable damage is frequently done to existing trees in the first few days of a contractor's occupation of a site.*

It is important to be aware that the effects of tree damage may not be apparent for some time.

There are a multitude of activities that can kill or damage trees on construction sites and there is a need to be mindful of these activities and why they may be so harmful to trees. These are briefly summarized below.

4.1.1 Direct mechanical damage (*Referred to as D1 in this report*)

Direct damage to the crown or stem is unlikely to kill a tree unless it is significant but may disfigure it and result in long-term decay setting in. This often occurs as a result of construction activities taking place too close to trees without protection or appropriate pre-construction tree surgery.

4.1.2 Ground compaction (*Referred to as D2 in this report*)

This is likely to be the most common cause of tree death or decline on a building site. The vast majority of tree roots are located in the upper soil horizons where soil conditions are most favourable for root growth. It is these upper horizons that are most vulnerable to ground compaction. Compaction destroys soil structure, and this prevents soil moisture absorption into the ground and loss of natural aeration. This process deprives tree roots of moisture as well as giving rise to root asphyxiation and is often fatal to trees.

4.1.3 Changes in ground level (*Referred to as D3 in this report*)

The majority of a tree's root systems are generally located in the upper 0.6m of the ground and the bulk of these roots happen to be very small, delicate and essential feeder roots. Reductions in ground level such as soil stripping can be catastrophic for a tree's health. Conversely increases in ground level can result in root asphyxiation.

4.1.4 Severance of roots by ground works (*Referred to as D4 in this report*)

Excavation of ground to remove old foundations and hard standing, construction of conventional concrete footings, new hard standing or the installation of services such as water/sewerage pipes, gas/electricity cables, TV/telephone cables using open trenching within the driplines of trees severs any roots present, potentially leading to destabilization, decline or death of trees. It May also have implications for local soil hydrology.

4.1.5 Contamination of ground (*Referred to as D-5 in this report*)

Spillage of petrol, diesel, paint removers, wood preservatives and many other toxic liquids regularly used on building sites can kill roots.

4.1.6 Change in ground surface (*Referred to as D6 in this report*)

Covering surfaces with impermeable materials – especially areas that were previously open ground can prove fatal for tree roots. Trees derive moisture from regular moisture recharge of the ground and nutrients generated by the nutrient cycle from decomposing leaf litter. Impervious surfaces can also prevent gaseous interchange between the ground and the atmosphere creating a build-up of toxic waste gases such as carbon dioxide and a deprivation of oxygen.

4.2 Effect of development on trees specific to this site

4.2.1 Tree Works

The scheme requires removal of 2 B grade oak trees T3 and T4 and a C grade oak T5 due to the demanding specification for foundations their presence will necessitate.

This will have a moderate impact on the prevailing landscape since they are clearly visible from the frontage as well as loss of associated biodiversity. This can be mitigated with new native species tree planting.

The poor quality trees T14 and T16 will require removal to accommodate the scheme and will have no adverse impact on landscape.

Crown lifting of the eastern side of the spruce T15 is advisable to reduce any overhang over the patio/dwelling to minimal levels. This will have no adverse impact on the health and form of the tree.

4.2.2 RPA Encroachment

An RPA is defined in BSi 5837 (2012) as “the area surrounding a tree that contains sufficient rooting volume to ensure the survival of the tree”.

The 2012 British Standard formula for calculating the RPA has been used in conjunction with prevailing existing site conditions that can affect root morphology and dispositions such as the presence and type of hardstanding, structures and underground apparatus; topography and drainage; tree health and vitality; species type of root severed; disposition of incursion and the soil type and structure to determine likely RPAs. The resultant RPAs are shown at Appendix F.

The British Standard states that incursion "should not exceed 20% of any existing unsurfaced ground within the RPA". This is guidance; though encroachment upon the RPA should be avoided, it can be acceptable in certain conditions and this involves assessment of the tolerance levels of the tree based on a variety of factors.

The proposed dwelling results in an RPA incursion affecting T15 of 7%. This is low. The tree is in good health, and ample rooting environment exists around the tree to allow for compensatory root development so that it is anticipated to tolerate this with minimal impact. Any impact will be materially further reduced by adoption of appropriate methodology during construction, as detailed in Section 6.5.

A flagged patio will also encroach into the RPA of this tree by 5.6%. The flags will be surface mounted and the surface fully porous and this will have no impact on the health of T15, subject to appropriate methodology during construction.

The incursion of the drive entrance affecting T1 is considered as negligible in view of the peripheral nature of the extension and the young age of the trees. Appropriate methodology as detailed in 6.3 should, nevertheless, be adopted.

See comments below in Section 4.2.4

4.2.3 RPA incursion of underground services

Our understanding is that no new underground utilities are proposed within the identified RPAs.

Where thee is a need to lay services within RPAs, the position will be informed by the arboriculturist and a suitable, bespoke arboricultural method statement will be submitted to the LPA for approval.

4.2.4 General construction activity/site clearance within RPAs

Construction activity associated with the proposed building works can potentially be highly damaging to the RPAs of retained trees. This potentially applies to all the trees shown as retained with RPAs encompassing areas where construction activity and traffic is possible.

This includes movement of heavy plant, access to the site, mixing of cementitious substances, storage of materials, demolition of existing structures and site clearance (see 4.2.4), vehicle parking provision, setting up of site welfare and removal of spoil or structures.

This would need to be carefully addressed through the creation of Construction Exclusion Zones and ground protection, appropriately managing movement of heavy loads and avoiding all cement/concrete mixing within 5m of identified RPAs. This is detailed in Section 6 below.

4.4 Issues to be addressed by the AMS:

- Ground protection
- Erection of tree protection fencing
- Tree work
- Ground works within RPAs (for foundations)
- Laying patio
- Ground services layout
- Detailed arboricultural monitoring

5.0 PHASING OF INSPECTION/MONITORING

5.1 Introduction

Section 6 provides all the details relating to tree protection specific to this development. Critical to its implementation is a clear understanding of when and how the protection is implemented, what action must be taken when there is a breach of the approved protection and how to implement any changes in the approved protection necessitated by unanticipated events/changes in design.

5.2 Site Arboriculturist

An appropriately experienced and professional arboriculturist must be appointed at the outset whose role will be to ensure full compliance of the approved tree protection measures through regular monitoring and maintenance of a progress sheet that shall be signed off by the arboriculturist and site manager (or equivalent) on completion of the development and submitted to the LPA.

5.3 STAGE 1 - Pre-commencement meeting

This will involve the arboriculturist, the site manager and other relevant site personnel and optionally the local authority arboricultural officer. He/she should be given advance notice of the meeting. This meeting could be viewed as a form of induction and will ensure:

1. a full understanding exists of what and where the tree protection comprises - if necessary, the site can be marked out to indicate the positioning of protection.
2. if and when arboricultural supervision is required.
3. exchange of all relevant contact details and distribution of an arboricultural site monitoring record.
4. that all parties are happy with what is agreed and that it is deemed practical. Any tweaks/changes made at this stage that vary to the approved details must be agreed by the LPA Tree Officer and a means of ensuring this is appropriately recorded with the LPA determined.

There is no reason why the tree protection can't be installed prior to this meeting so long as the opportunity remains for adjusting or improving it according to advice from the site arboriculturist.

5.4 STAGE 2 – Monitoring

The arboriculturist will monitor the development through regular, informal site visits or in accordance with an agreed schedule. The inspection record will be completed and signed off after each visit.

Any discrepancies to the approved, implemented protection shall be highlighted and the site arboriculturist recommended course of action implemented immediately, if necessary, stopping all development until resolved. A re-inspection will be organised to ensure satisfactory resolution.

The site manager will contact the arboriculturist immediately if damage to trees or root zones occurs.

5.5 STAGE 3 – Supervision

The arboricultural method statement (AMS) may specify sensitive works within Root Protection Areas that require arboricultural supervision. These will be clearly shown in the AMS. The site manager will contact the site arboriculturist when this is ready to be carried out.

5.6 STAGE 4 – Completion

On completion of all works on site, the site arboriculturist will be called to site to carry out a final inspection of the trees and the integrity of the RPAs. A Record of Completion will be signed by the site arboriculturist and the site manager and submitted to the LPA for discharge or complete discharge of outstanding conditions.

This will not be completed where damage to trees or RPAs is noted at this final inspection until remedial measures as agreed between the site arboriculturist and the LPA Arboricultural Officer are fully implemented.

ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Successful avoidance of any damage can be achieved through appropriate tree protection, correct implementation and close liaison with the Council's tree officer and the appointed arboriculturist.

These details and procedures are provided in the arboricultural method statement outlined below and illustrated in the Tree Protection Plans at Appendix A.

To ensure the correct installation of the tree protection and its continued effectiveness throughout the construction process, the following principals must apply:

- **No building work or other activity associated with development can take place until the approved protection measures are in place and secure, and a site meeting involving the contractor and arboricultural consultant has taken place.**
- **Details of key site personnel will be submitted to the Council's arboricultural officer prior to the commencement of site works.**
- **All key site personnel will fully familiarise themselves and understand this method statement and tree protection plan.**
- **A copy of this method statement must be kept on site at all times. A large (not less than A3 size) copy of the TPP must be placed on the site office noticeboard**.

All relevant aspects of this method statement must be incorporated into the construction method statement to avoid any conflicts.

6.0 TREE PROTECTION SPECIFICS

The tree protection strategy is based on the creation of exclusion zones and ground protection where access within RPAs is required and appropriate treatment of roots where excavation within RPAs is required.

6.1 Installation of protective barriers

An RPA is defined in BSI 5837 (2012) as "the area surrounding a tree that contains sufficient rooting volume to ensure the survival of the tree".

All damage types to the RPA can be avoided through the establishment of Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZ) with the use of protective fencing. The use of a CEZ prevents or limits RPA incursion by segregating all trees vulnerable to construction activity. The CEZ will remain sacrosanct from commencement and will not be breached for any reason without consultation with the site arboriculturist.

The positioning of all tree protection fencing is phased and clearly illustrated on the Tree Protection Plans. It serves to protect retained trees during site clearance and laying of utilities in phase 1 and to protect the trees during construction in phase 2. It will be retained in place until all construction is completed and then moved to accommodate landscaping.

The CEZ allows for access routes and space and capacity is provided for welfare and site storage and deliveries.

Only once the protective fencing is in place and secured (along with any other protection measures detailed below), may construction commence. The fencing will remain in place and secured until such time that all construction is complete, and materials/equipment have been removed from the site. The Exclusion Zone must not under any circumstances be altered or removed without advice from the arboriculturist and/or approval of the local planning authority.

BS 5837:2012 recommends weld mesh (Heras)-type panels secured firmly to a scaffold framework (scaffold clamps are recommended) and braced with diagonal stabilizer struts all secured to the ground with metal pins, see Appendix B.

NOTE: *In the event the fencing becomes damaged it must be repaired or replaced as soon as is reasonably practicable to preserve its efficacy.*

Tree protection posters will be secured to the fencing to serve as explanation for its presence.

6.2 Ground protection

Protection of the ground within RPAs is essential to ensure the potentially harmful effects of construction activity on ground conditions (compaction and the absorption of potentially toxic materials) are avoided. Creation of a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) using protective fencing is the optimum means of protecting Root Protection Areas but where access within RPAs is required, protection of the ground is essential. (See Appendix J for an illustrated example).

In this instance ground protection is indicated in the space between the proposed dwelling and the CEZs to east and west. That ground protection to the east of the dwelling will be removed on completion of all works to accommodate the laying of the patio.

Temporary ground protection must comply with British Standard Recommendations, as below:

(a) For pedestrian movements only: a single thickness of scaffold boards placed either on top of a driven scaffold frame, so as to form a suspended walkway or on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g., 120mm depth of woodchip) laid onto a geotextile membrane; or 18mm 2400x1200mm plyboard also laid onto a compression-resistant layer of 120mm deep woodchip over a geotextile membrane.

(b) For pedestrian-operated plant up to a gross weight of 2t: proprietary, inter-linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression resistant layer (e.g., 150mm of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane.

(c) For wheeled or tracked construction traffic exceeding 2t gross weight: an alternative system (*e.g., proprietary systems of pre-cast reinforced concrete slabs*) to an engineering specification designed in conjunction with arboricultural advice, to accommodate the likely loading to which it will be subjected.

In this instance the ground protection around the extension will comply with (a) above.

6.3 Treatment of roots for groundworks within RPAs

Encountering tree roots of T15 is possible when digging for foundations where indicated with a bright green line and when laying the drive adjacent T1.

In order to minimise damage to these roots the following guidelines must be adhered during these operations:

- No roots of greater than 25mm must be cut without consultation.
- Where roots can be carefully moved to one side, this should be carried out rather than being severed.
- If cutting of root(s) of less than 25mm diameter is deemed necessary they must be cleanly pruned, preferably back to a side branch, using sharp bi-pass secateurs or loppers. Once pruned, the cut root(s) must be immediately covered with damp, clean, hessian sacking (in summer months) which must be kept damp so long as the roots remain exposed, or dry hessian sacking in winter to prevent desiccation and protect from rapid temperature changes.
- Prior to backfilling, any hessian wrapping should be removed and retained roots should be surrounded with sharp sand (builders' sand should not be used because of its high salt content which is toxic to roots) or other granular fill, before soil is replaced.
- If new concrete is to be used, an impermeable membrane must be placed along the exposed face to prevent contact with and scorching of roots, and to ensure leachates do not contaminate the immediate rooting area in the future.

6.4 New Patio

Despite the low level of incursion into the RPA of T15, the new patio will be laid on the premise that no excavation will take place and the surface will be fully porous so any roots present below the proposed location will remain unharmed and continue to grow.

The following methodology will implemented:

- Lay 300g/m2 porous geotextile separation layer.

- Lay 75mm depth of sharp sand supported by timber edging boards or timber baulks supported by pegs.

- Gently compact

- Lay flags stones and tamp down
- Point with a porous jointing compound only to ensure porosity.

All work within the RPA will take place on mobile ground protection.

Any roots for T1 encountered when laying the drive will be cleanly cut back to the edge of the drive in accordance with the methodology detailed in 6.3 and prior to the stone/gravel being laid. These will be protected as detailed in 6.3 in the intervening time between the roots being pruned back and the stone being laid.

6.5 Foundations

The foundations will be a standard strip foundation in view of the relatively low level of RPA incursion affecting T15.

The methodology outlined in 6.3 (and 6.8) will be carefully adhered to throughout the ground works and laying of the concrete.

As indicated with a bold bright green line on the TPP, the trench for the footing will be hand dug or air spaded to 600mm to fully expose the root architecture of encountered roots.

All roots less than 25mm diameter will be cleanly cut and protected as per details in 6.3.

Where roots greater than 25mm are exposed, the site arboriculturist will be consulted to determine whether it/these can be cut to accommodate the footing.

If not, an alternative design will be determined to allow for the retention of the root(s). This may involve piling using the smallest possible bore pile and ensuring the pile is sleeved or utilising screw piles.

The positions of the piles will be informed by the locations of the retained roots so that these are fully avoided.

Alternatively the roots may be sleeved to allow for full girth expansion of the roots and the concrete cast around the sleeve so that the roots are effectively retained within tunnels.

6.6 Tree works

The eastern side of T15 will be crown-lifted to 5m prior to commencement to avoid the possibility of conflict with scaffolding but also to allow for enhanced light levels being to filter though the tree.

T16 will be removed prior to commencement.

All tree work will be carried out in full compliance with BS 3998 (2010) and by Arboricultural Association approved contractors (trees.org.uk).

6.7 Excavation for new services

No services will be laid within identified RPAs. Where this changes and there is a need to lay services within RPAs, a bespoke method statement will be written and the TPP amended and submitted to the LPA for approval.

6.8 Concrete/Cement mixing

Concrete or cementitious (mortar, cement, slurry) washout wastewater is caustic with a PH over 12 and is, therefore, highly toxic to trees and other vegetation.

Where concrete footings are laid within an RPA of retained vegetation such as adjacent T15, the incorporation of protection (e.g., sheathing with an impermeable membrane such as heavy-grade polythene sheeting) is extremely important to prevent it coming into contact with roots.

It is also important not to mix concrete or dispense of concrete in the vicinity of trees in order to avoid the risk of it leaching into the soil.

This will not be carried out within 5 metres of any RPA.

The use of a bund for the purpose of cement/concrete mixing to contain spillages and runoff is recommended

6.9 Site set-up

Welfare - locations for site huts, temporary toilets: Where required, this will be located beyond CEZs.

Storage of materials: This will be located 5m beyond any CEZ.

Cement/Concrete mixing: See section 6.6. No mixing will take place within 5m of the edge of any CEZ. A suitable position is shown on the TPPs.

6.10 Additional precautions outside the tree exclusion zone

Materials that will contaminate the ground such as diesel oil and concrete mixings will not be discharged within the RPA or within 10m of any of the tree stems.

- All-weather notices should be erected on the barrier with words such as “Exclusion Zone – Not to be moved without appropriate consent”. Copies of such notices are attached to Appendix I.
- Materials that will contaminate the ground such as diesel oil and concrete mixings will not be discharged within the RPA or within 10m of any of the tree stems.
- Notice boards, telephone cables or other services should not be attached to any part of the tree.
- No fires that have the potential for flames to extend to within 5m of any point of the tree are to be lit.

7.0 SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

7.1 Phases of tree protection

All key site personnel must fully familiarise themselves and understand this method statement and tree protection plan. A copy of the method statement must be kept at all times on site. A large (not less than A3 size) copy of the TPP must be placed on the site office noticeboard. The general sequence of events should be as follows:

Stage 1: Pre-commencement site meeting involving the site manager/foreman and arboriculturist. The local authority arboricultural officer may also be notified of this meeting in good time to allow the opportunity for he/she to attend. Mark out positions for protection for phase 1 (drive installation and carport base construction) and discuss all tree protection issues.

Stage 2: Install tree protection fencing and ground protection and carry out treework and inspect.

Stage 3: Clear site

Stage 4: Ensure tree protection remains intact

Stage 5: Construct building

Stage 6: On completion, remove ground protection to construct patio.

Stage 7: On completion, remove all tree protection.

7.2 Arboriculturist involvement

The arboriculturist will monitor the development through periodic site visits or in accordance with an agreed schedule. Regularity will be determined by the impact of the scheme on trees, the complexity of protection and the significance of trees. The inspection record will be completed and signed off after each visit.

Any discrepancies to the approved, implemented protection shall be highlighted and the site arboriculturist recommended course of action implemented immediately, if necessary, stopping all development until resolved. A re-inspection will be organised to ensure satisfactory resolution.

The site manager will contact the arboriculturist immediately if damage to trees or root zones occurs.

Once all works are complete, arrange post construction meeting to ensure no damage to trees and RPAs. (Organise remedial works as recommended by the arboriculturist where damage noted). Remove temporary protection.

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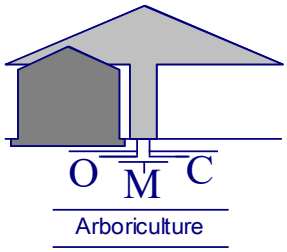
Appendix A Tree Schedule

ID	Species	Age Class	Dia. At 1.5m (mm)	Height (m)	Crown Height	1st branch	Crown Radius				SULE	Condition Physiological	Condition Structural	RPA Radius (m)	Quality Category (BS:5837)	Tree-Work	Site: 1 Green End, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, PE28 4AE OMC Associates www: omc-associates.co.uk Comments
							N	S	E	W							
T1	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	EM	130;130	7	2	-	2	2	2.9	2.9	>40	Good	Good	2.21	C/B2		Well established tree growing out of hedgerow; good health and form; significant long term growth potential; no protection on building site on far side of boundary with significant groundworks evident
T2	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	EM	230	7.1	2	-	3	3.2	3.1	3.4	>40	Good	Good	2.76	C/B2		Well established tree growing out of hedgerow; good health and form; significant long term growth potential; no protection on building site on far side of boundary with significant groundworks evident
T3	Prunus avium (Wild Cherry)	EM	130	6.8	-	-	2.3	1.9	0	1.9	20-40	Fair	Fair	1.56	C2/U		Slightly etiolated, twisted form; lower limbs unsympathetically cut back with multiple stubs
T4	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	EM	230	8.1	2.5	2.6(S)	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.7	>40	Good	Good	2.76	B/C2	RA	Well established tree growing out of hedgerow; good health and form; significant long term growth potential; no protection on building site on far side of boundary with significant groundworks evident
T5	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	EM	260	8.3	2.5	2.2(S)	4.7	3.1	4	4	>40	Good	Good	3.12	B/C2	RA	Well established tree growing out of hedgerow; good health and form; significant long term growth potential; no protection on building site on far side of boundary with significant groundworks evident
T6	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	EM	230	8.2	-	-	4.4	3.1	3.6	3	>40	Fair	Good	2.76	C2	RA	Form compromised by poor pruning in lower 3m with multiple stubs; long term growth potential; no protection on building site on far side of boundary with significant groundworks evident
T7	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	SM	130	7	-	-	1	2.5	2.1	2.4	>40	Good	Fair	1.56	C2		High vitality and future growth potential; twisted stems
T8	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	SM	130;130; 130;160; 90	7.9	2.8	-	3.4	4.2	3.1	3.9	>40	Good	Fair	3.49	C2		Three sturdy stems developing from old, decayed stump; high vitality and future growth potential; twisted stems
T9	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	SM	150;120	8.2	-	-	1	1.9	4.7	4.6	20-40	Good	Fair	2.3	U		Naturally regenerated ; on boundary; multiple stems to north hacked back; poor health and condition

ID	Species	Age Class	Dia. At 1.5m (mm)	Height (m)	Crown Height	1st branch	Crown Radius				SULE	Condition Physiological	Condition Structural	RPA Radius (m)	Quality Category (BS:5837)	Tree-Work	Site: 1 Green End, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, PE28 4AE OMC Associates www: omc-associates.co.uk Comments
							N	S	E	W							
T10	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	SM	160;120; 80	9.3	-	-	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	20-40	Good	Fair	2.58	U		Self -set; twisted etiolated stems
T11	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	M	710	17.6	5.2	4(S)	7.6	10.4	8.9	8.4	>40	Good	Good	8.52	A1/2		Fine specimen; good health; edge of pond
T12	Ulmus glabra (Wych Elm)	M	340	4.6	2	-	5.6	3.8	5.6	1	20-40	Fair	Fair	4.08	C/B2		Historically suppressed by T11; stem growing at 35o; edge of pond, survived Dutch Elm Disease despite its presence all around
T13	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	EM	200	9	-	-	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	>40	Good	Good	2.4	C/B2		Shapley, slightly upright form; high vitality; good health; significant further growth potential
T14	Malus domestica (Apple)	M	270	2.9	-	-	7.2	2.9	3	0.4	10-20	Poor	Fair	3.24	C/U	R	Mature tree; topped at 3m and drastically and unsympathetically cut back
T15	Picea abies (Norway Spruce)	M	470	14.7	3	4(N)	5.4	4.6	4.9	4	>40	Good	Good	5.64	B2	WA	Large specimen; good health; prominent; native species; surrounded by compacted gravel drive
T16	Malus domestica (Apple)	M	280	2.7	-	-	1.2	1	1	1.6	10-20	Poor	Fair	3.36	C/U	RA	Mature tree; topped at 3m and drastically and unsympathetically cut back
T17	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	M	750	17.5	-	-	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	>40	Good	Good	9	A1/2		Fine specimen; good health
T18	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	M	440	17	-	-	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	>40	Good	Good	5.28	B2/1		Fine specimen; good health
T19	Ulmus glabra (Wych Elm)	M	310	9.4	-	-	3	4.3	4.3	2	20-40	Good	Good	3.72	B2/1		Mature elm in apparently good condition; surviving DED to date
G1	Mixed species – predominantly *Cornus* sp.	M	50	3.5	-	-	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	>40	Good	Good	0.6	C2		Mixed species hedge; native species; good health
G2	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	SM	130	8.8	-	-	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	>40	Good	Fair	1.56	C2		6 naturally regenerated stems in a linear group; high vitality



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Appendix B Key to tree schedule

KEY TO TREE SCHEDULE REFERENCES

Prefix: **T –** Tree **S** – Shrub/Climber **TG/SG** – Group/Hedge of **T**rees or **S**hrubs **Dia.:** **N/A -** Tree less than 100mm (for shrubs: young, semi-mature or mature)

***** Estimated

Age Class:

Young:	Generally less than 10 years old and high life expectancy
Semi-mature:	Within first 30% of life expectancy and significant growth to be expected
Early-mature:	Typically 30-60% of life expectancy, full size almost reached
Mature:	Typically 60% or more of life expectancy, full size reached with very gradual, slight further increases in size
Veteran	A stage of development where intervention/management may be required to ensure the tree remains safe
Over-mature:	Where a tree is so senescent that management is not worthwhile

Life Expectancy: How many years before tree is likely to need removing (subject to human intervention) **Crown Radius:** If crown is symmetrical, one dimension is given for the radius followed by "S"

B.S. Category: **See Appendix 2**

Physiological Condition:

Good:	Healthy tree with no symptoms of significant disease
Fair:	Some disease noted and/or vitality is below what would be expected
Poor:	Significant disease noted and/or very low vitality
Very Poor:	Tree is in severe decline

Structural Condition:

Good:	No significant structural defects
Fair:	Defects noted but not sufficient to warrant immediate work
Poor:	Significant defects. Monitoring and/or remedial works required
Very Poor:	Significant defects requiring immediate work or tree removal

Space Below Crown: A useful indicator to determine the practicality of developing below the crown. Rather than a measurement which can be misleading and open to interpretation.

Y	Potential to develop below the dripline with either no treework or removal of limbs that will not adversely affect the health and appearance of the tree
N	No scope to develop below the dripline of the tree
N/A	Tree to be removed

Treework: This is general since the report is not a tree-work specification. It indicates:

H	High priority. For trees to be retained and where work required to make safe
L	No urgent work required but would benefit from some intervention
N	No treework identified as necessary in the foreseeable future
P	Facilitation tree surgery advised
R	Remove – tree identified to be removed because "U" category tree
RA	Tree removed to accommodate development
WA	Treework to accommodate development
IV	Sever and remove ivy

B.S. Category:

A - Those of high quality and value i.e. make a substantial contribution;

B - Those of good/moderate quality and value, might be Cat. "A" but slightly impaired

C - Those of low quality i.e. adequate to remain until new planting is established or young trees with a stem diameter less than 150mm at 1.5m height

U - Those of such poor condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years

1 - Mainly Arboricultural value **2 - Mainly Landscape value** **3 - Mainly Ecological value**

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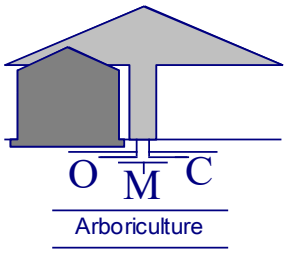
Appendix C - Cascade chart explaining tree quality assessment

BS 5837:2012 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment (Table 1)

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention				
Category U Those in such condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years.	• Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other U category trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or stability of other nearby trees (e.g. Dutch elm disease), or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality. **NOTE:** Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve.			DARK RED
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	**2 Mainly landscape qualities**	**3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation**	
Trees to be considered for retention				
Category A **Trees of high quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are of particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups, or of 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)	LIGHT GREEN
Category B **Trees of moderate quality** with an estimated contribution of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in the high category, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of remediable defects including unsympathetic past management and minor storm damage)	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	MID BLUE
Category C **Trees of low quality** with an estimated contribution of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm	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 landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	GREY



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Appendix D - Photographs



Photo 1

- T14, T16
- T15 background



Photo 2

- T4 & T5
- G1, T1 and T2 background

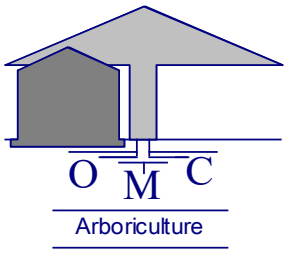


Photo 3

- T11 and T12

	**Photo 4** • T14 to right, cherry sapling middle
	**Photo 5** • T13 • T11 far left
	**Photo 6** • T11, T18 to the left

	**Photo 7** • T15
	**Photo 8** • T10 (foreground) – T8



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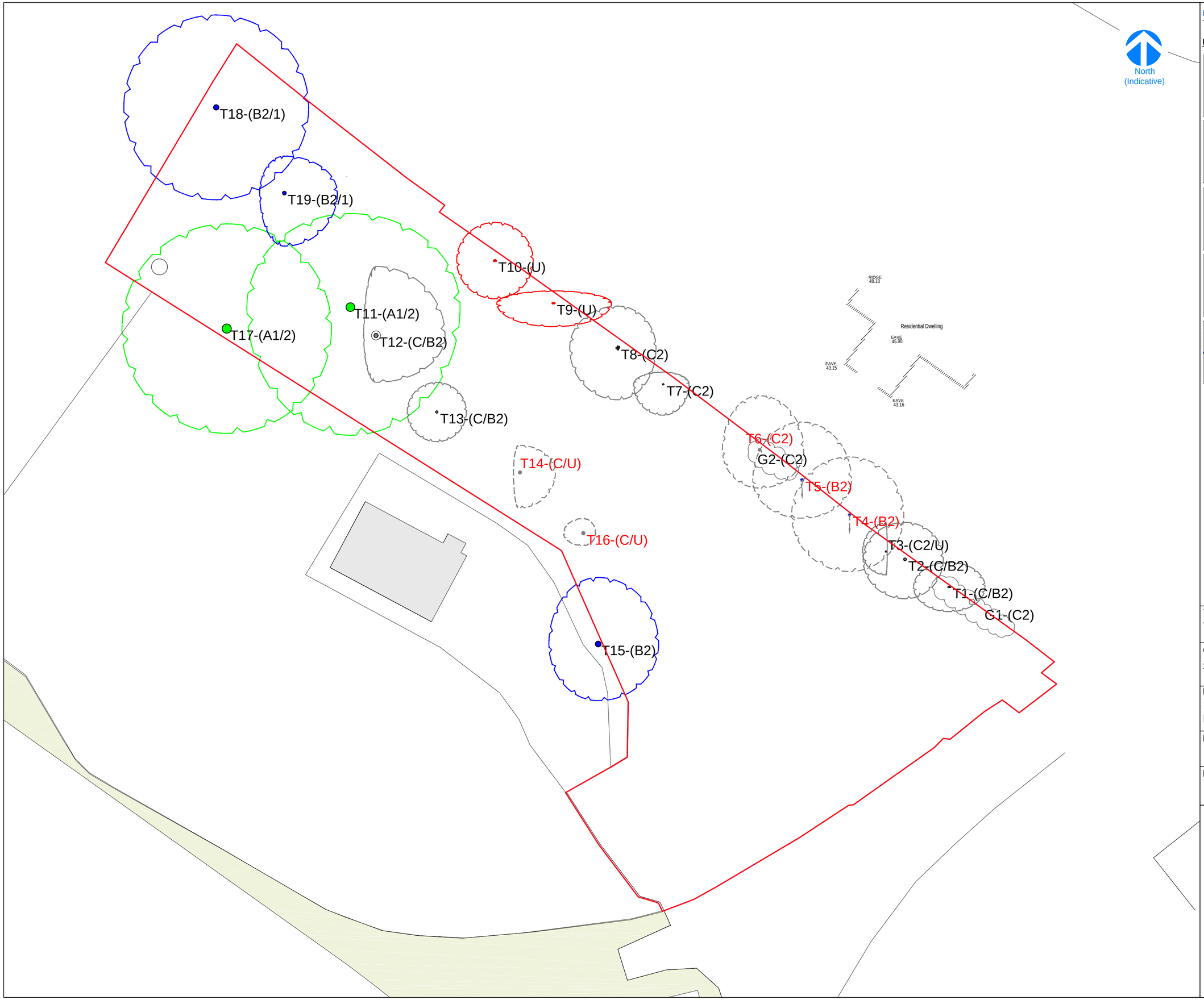
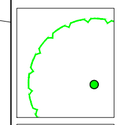
Appendix E - Tree Survey Plan

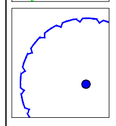


DO NOT SCALE - Use only figured dimensions
To be read in colour

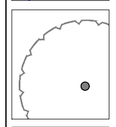
BS 5837:2012 TREE RETENTION CATEGORIES



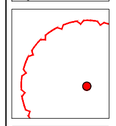
Category A
Trees of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)



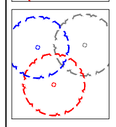
Category B
Trees of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20years is suggested)



Category C
Trees of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.



Category U
Trees in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.



Trees Proposed For Removal
(shown with dashed outline and red identification)

Title
Tree Survey & Proposed Removals Plan

Client
Sykes

Project
1 Green End, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, PE28 4AE

Date	Drawn by
10 Oct 2026	CJO
Dwg Ref.	Scale
2502_TSP-R2	1:200 @A2

O M C
Arboriculture

28 Shelford Road, Cambridge CB2 9NA
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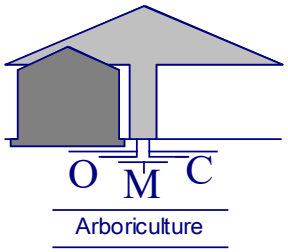
Fax: 01223 846870 Mob: 07771 708474
Email: info@omc-associates.co.uk



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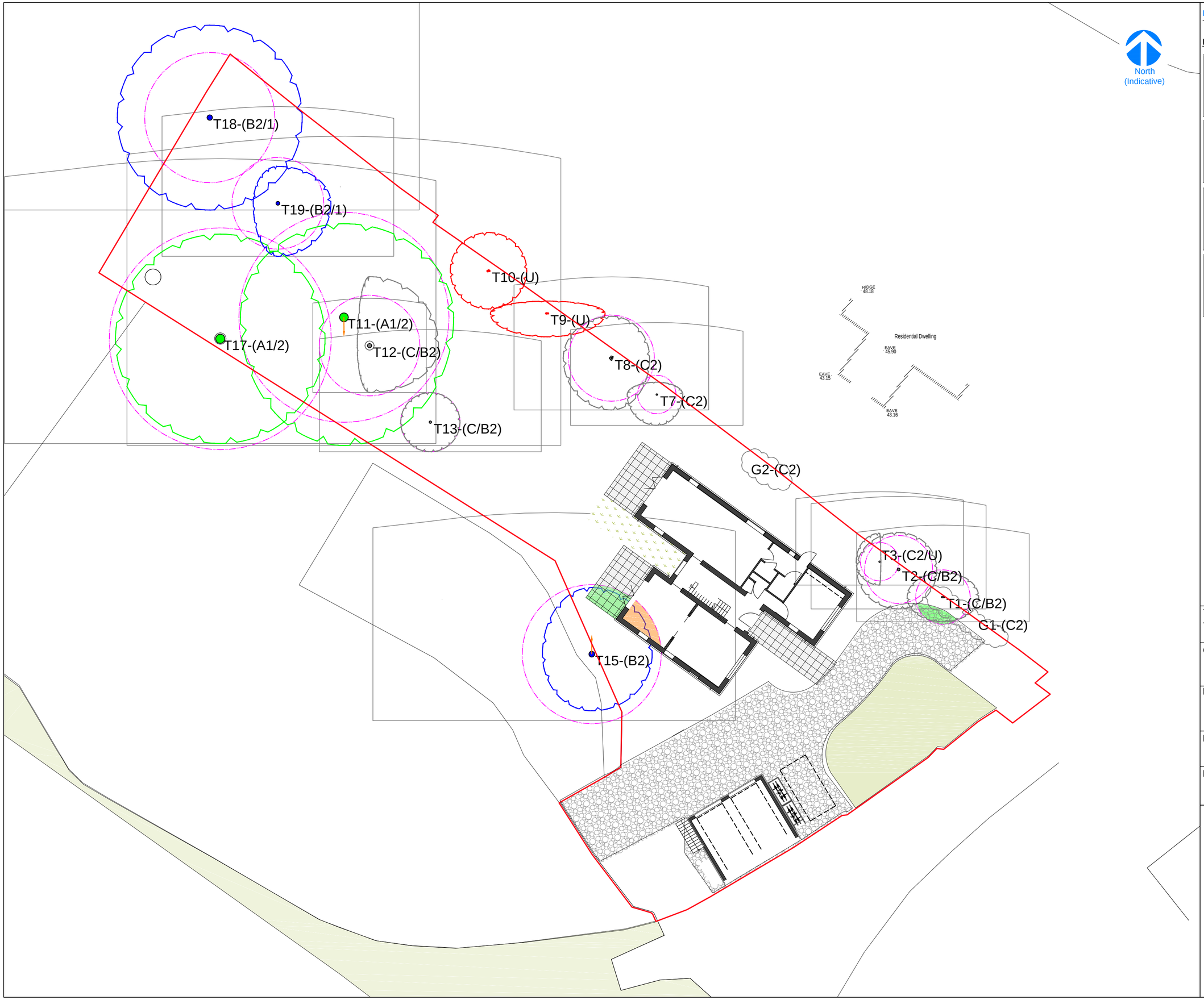
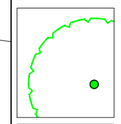
Appendix F - Tree Constraints Plan

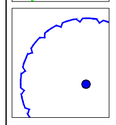


DO NOT SCALE - Use only figured dimensions
To be read in colour

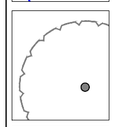
BS 5837:2012 TREE RETENTION CATEGORIES



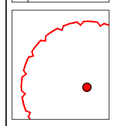
Category A
Trees of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)



Category B
Trees of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20years is suggested)

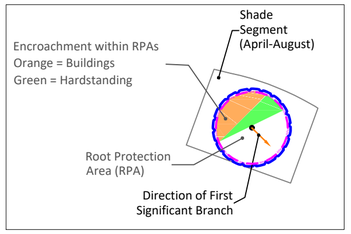


Category C
Trees of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.



Category U
Trees in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.

Tree Constraints



Title
Tree Constraints Plan

Client
Sykes

Project
1 Green End, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, PE28 4AE

Date	Drawn by
10 Oct 2026	CJO
Dwg Ref.	Scale
2502_TCP-R2	1:200 @A2

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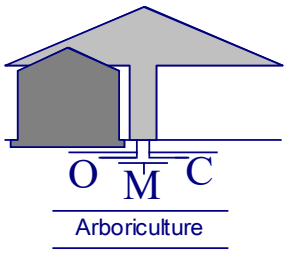

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Appendix G- Tree Protection Plan



DO NOT SCALE - Use only figured dimensions
To be read in colour

BS 5837:2012 TREE RETENTION CATEGORIES

Category A
Trees of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)

Category B
Trees of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20years is suggested)

Category C
Trees of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.

Treatment of roots/foundations
(refer to Sections 6.3, 6.5 and 6.8 of the Arboricultural Method Statement for description and specification)

BS 5837 Tree Protection Fencing
(refer to Section 6.1 of the Arboricultural Method Statement for description and specification)

BS 5837 Ground Protection
(refer to Section 6.2 of the Arboricultural Method Statement for description and specification)

Facilitation Pruning
(refer to Section 6.6 of the Arboricultural Method Statement for description and specification)

New patio within RPA
(refer to Section 6.7 of the Arboricultural Method Statement for description and specification)

Title
Tree Protection Plan

Client
Sykes

Project
1 Green End, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, PE28 4AE

Date	Drawn by
10 Oct 2026	CJO
Dwg Ref.	Scale
2502_TPP-R2	1:200 @A2

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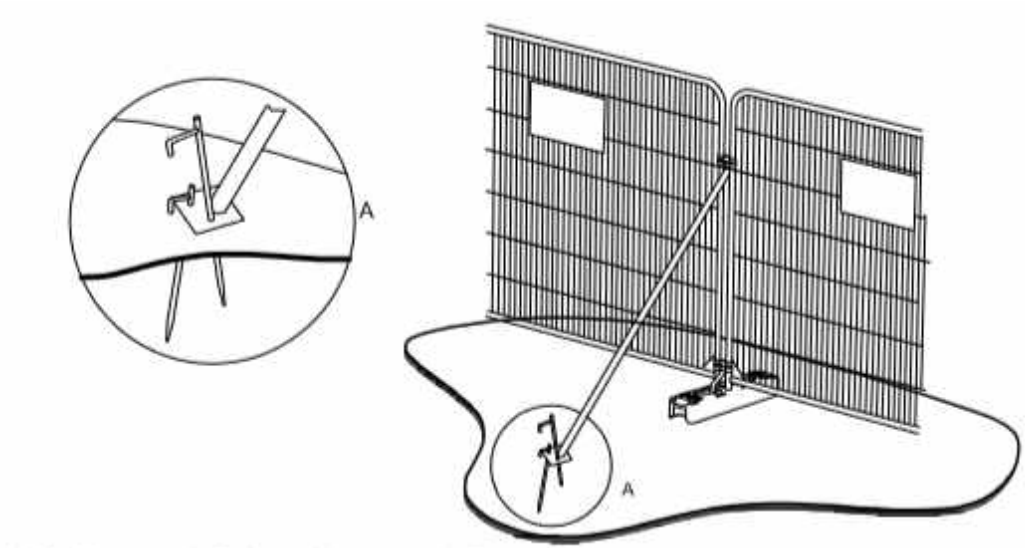
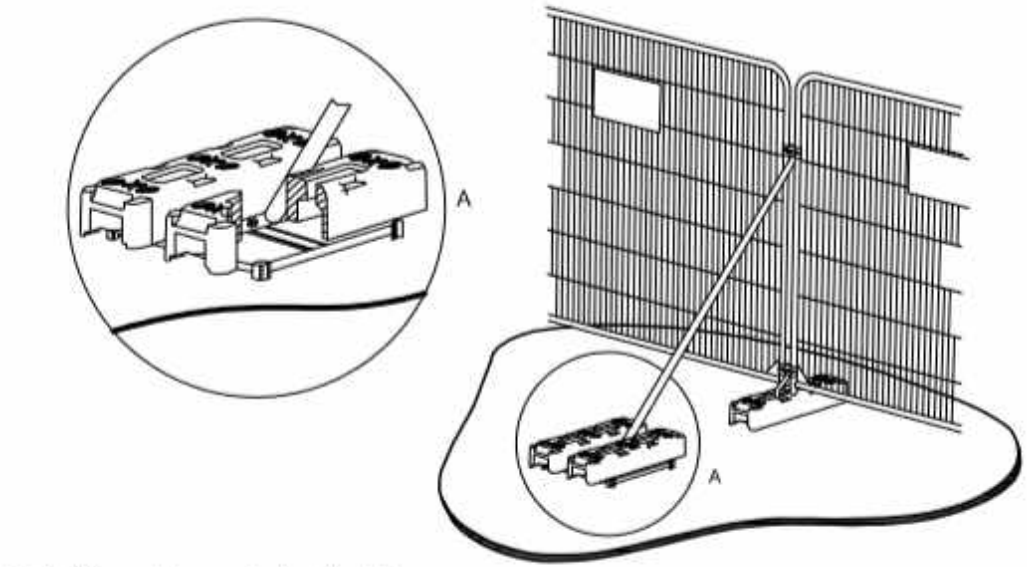
Appendix H - Heras Fencing – Illustration



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray



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Appendix I - Information posters to attach to fencing



TREE PROTECTION AREA
KEEP OUT!

(TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)
TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY PLANNING CONDITIONS AND/OR ARE THE SUBJECTS OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER.
CONTRAVENTION OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER MAY LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE WITH WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY.

O M C
Arboriculture

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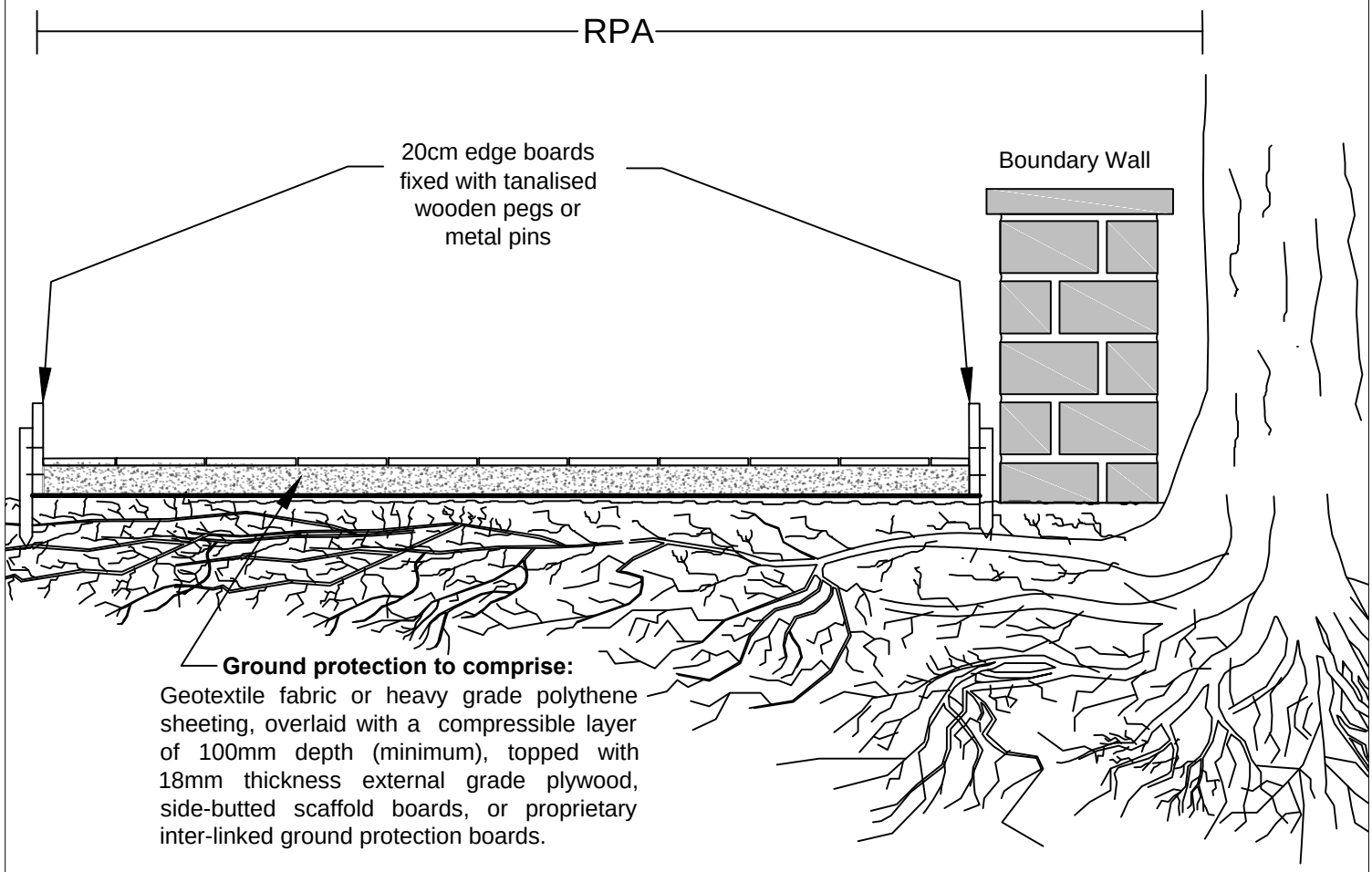
OMC Associates

Appendix J – Ground Protection

Ground Protection for Pedestrian Use within Tree Root Protection Areas Where Protective Fencing is not Deemed Necessary

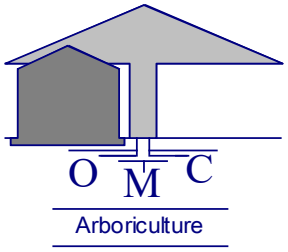
To avoid damage to roots and soil structure within the RPA, temporary ground protection will be installed using hand tools and wheelbarrows only. Wheelbarrows will only be used on boards or on retained/completed hard surfacing to avoid rutting.



Ground protection to comprise:

Geotextile fabric or heavy grade polythene sheeting, overlaid with a compressible layer of 100mm depth (minimum), topped with 18mm thickness external grade plywood, side-butted scaffold boards, or proprietary inter-linked ground protection boards.

To remain in place until all construction work is complete.



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Appendix K – Tree Monitoring schedule

PURPOSE OF VISIT	TIMING		DATE	PERSONNEL PRESENT	REMOTE - PHOTO BASED	OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	SIGNATURE	COMPLETE Y/N
1. Appoint arboriculturist to oversee all arboricultural issues on site.	Pre-commencement							
2. On-site tree protection induction with construction team, arboriculturist & tree officer (if attending); mark out tree protection if necessary*	Pre-commencement							
3. Erect tree protection fencing, ground protection carry out tree work as detailed in TPP	Pre-commencement							
5. Construct dwelling	During construction	Visit 1						
	During construction	Visit 2						
5. Remove ground protection to construct patio	During construction							
6. Final, completion inspection and identification of any remedial actions.	Completion of scheme							

** Tree protection may be put in place and inspected at the same time as the site induction/meeting in some circumstances.*

Project Contacts

Council Tree Officer:	Huntingdonshire District Council		
Site Manager:	TBA	-	-
Arboriculturist:	Christopher Overbeke - OMC Associates	01223 842253	chris@omc-associates.co.uk
Project Agent:	Grant Cameron – cbb Architects	07548 658 571	grant@cbb-architects.co.uk