

Arboricultural Method Statement

Land South of Sandhill

Hermitage

Thatcham

RG18 9XU

Client: WS Planning & Architecture

February 2024

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This arboricultural method statement ('AMS') details the actions to be taken in order to prevent unacceptable damage being caused to the retained trees on this and the adjacent site during the proposed siting of five mobile homes, five touring caravans and five container shower rooms at Land South of Sandhill, Hermitage, Thatcham, RG18 9XU.
- 1.2 This AMS complies with the recommendations of British Standard BS 5837: 2012, *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* ('BS 5837'). It is designed to reflect the principles of the tree protection required for the proposed siting of mobile homes, caravans and container shower rooms, and should not be read as a definitive engineering or construction statement for this site. If required, matters relating to the construction detail or engineering performance of any protective measures specified should be referred to a qualified architect or structural engineer, for further information and specification which may be necessary for their practical implementation in a manner that satisfactorily ensures their protective intention or function.
- 1.3 The AMS should be read in conjunction with, and is to be considered an essential part of, the tree protection plan ('TPP') which is attached to it at **Appendix 2**.

2. Pre-start requirements, liaison & communication

- 2.1 Before any works of any description take place on the site, the applicant, landowner or promoter of the proposed development ('the developer') shall appoint a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant to act as the supervising arboriculturist for the project, in order to ensure that the specified tree protection measures are carried out during the entire construction process. Confirmation of this appointment, and details of the supervising arboriculturist appointed, shall be provided to the Local Planning Authority ('LPA') before any works commence.
- 2.2 Before any works commence on site, the developer shall convene a pre-start meeting. This should be attended by the developer or project manager, the site manager, the groundwork contractor, and the supervising arboriculturist and, if so required by the LPA, the LPA tree officer. The meeting will be led by the supervising arboriculturist, who will ensure that the sequence and methods of tree protection specified in this statement are fully explained and understood by all parties. Reporting procedures, arboricultural supervision requirements, and frequency of monitoring visits (as detailed in **Section 8** and *Table 2* of this AMS) will be discussed and agreed, and relevant contact details exchanged. Any modifications to this statement arising from this meeting will be recorded and the revisions circulated to all parties.
- 2.3 The developer shall inform the supervising arboriculturist if at any time during the construction process, the site manager is replaced. In this event, the supervising arboriculturist will, within 5 days, arrange a meeting with the new site manager to review all remaining or outstanding aspects of this method statement.

- 2.4 A copy of this method statement, together with the TPP, shall be given to all personnel who have control over works of any nature within the root protection areas (RPAs) of the trees which are to be retained. The developer will ensure that adequate instruction is given for the implementation of the protection measures outlined within this statement.

3. Tree removals and pruning

- 3.1 No felling or pruning of the retained trees is required to permit construction of the proposed development.

4. Protective fencing

- 4.1 No vehicles of any kind shall enter the site, nor any works commence, until the root protection areas of the retained trees, as shown on the TPP, have been protected by the erection of protective fencing to the specification found in BS 5837, Section 6.2. The location of the fencing is denoted by the continuous bold purple lines on the TPP.
- 4.2 The protective fencing shall be at least 2.1m in height and comprise standard 'Heras' welded mesh fence panels mounted on rubber or concrete feet. The panels shall be fixed to each other with at least two anti-tamper clamps, installed so that they can only be removed from inside the fence.
- 4.3 The fencing shall be supported on the side closest to the retained trees by stabiliser struts braced to the ground at an angle of 45 degrees, and attached to a base plate secured to the ground with ground pins. Where the fencing is to be erected on retained hard surfacing or it is otherwise unfeasible to use ground pins, e.g. due to the presence of underground services, the stabiliser struts should be mounted on a block tray. Notices stating "*Tree Protection Zone - Keep Out*" will be attached with cable ties to every other panel.
- 4.4 No activity of any kind shall be undertaken behind the protective fencing; there shall be no topsoil stripping, no storage of materials, no access for vehicles or personnel, and no excavation or changes in soil level of any kind.
- 4.5 Areas for storing or mixing of fuels, oils or cement shall be agreed at the pre-start meeting. None of these areas shall be within the area behind the protective fencing, and where possible shall not be within 10m of any retained tree.
- 4.6 No fixtures of any nature shall be attached to the retained trees, and no fires shall be lit in any position where heat could affect their foliage or branches.
- 4.7 When the installation of the protective fencing is complete, the supervising arboriculturist shall be informed so that they may come and inspect it. If it complies with this statement, the supervising arboriculturist will record the fact and notify the client and LPA.

- 4.8 The protective fencing will not be moved, dismantled or relocated without the prior approval of the supervising arboriculturist. When the construction period is complete the fencing may then be removed, but only after first informing the supervising arboriculturist of this intention.

5. Ground protection

- 5.1 Where the setting back of the protective fencing in order to provide construction working space results in unmade ground within the RPAs of retained trees being exposed to construction damage, temporary ground protection shall be put in place for the duration of the construction period, in the locations denoted by magenta hatching on the TPP. In order to protect the structure of the soil adjacent to the areas of construction, the ground protection should be capable of supporting any traffic, pedestrian or mechanical, entering or using the relevant areas without being distorted or causing compaction of underlying soil.
- 5.2 The ground protection shall comprise proprietary inter-linked ground protection boards or 15mm (3/4") steel sheets placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 150mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane, to accommodate pedestrian-operated plant up to a gross weight of 2 tonnes.
- 5.3 The ground protection shall be installed in the specified locations at the same time as the erection of the protective fencing, prior to any works commencing on the site. When its installation is complete, the supervising arboriculturist shall be informed so that they may come and inspect it. If it complies with this statement the supervising arboriculturist will record the fact and notify the client and LPA.
- 5.4 If, during the course of construction operations, it becomes known that the specification of the installed ground protection in any location will be insufficient to accommodate the loadings to which it will unavoidably be subjected, it shall be replaced or upgraded to a more robust specification immediately, in accordance with BS 5837 recommendations and with the advice of the supervising arboriculturist, before any further works in the relevant areas proceed.
- 5.5 The ground protection shall be retained in place for the duration of the construction operations, and shall not be removed until all works are completed, and all equipment and materials have been removed from the site.

6. Underground services

- 6.1 Detailed drawings of proposed underground services have not been produced at this stage of the planning process, thus any potential impacts between trees shown retained on the TPP and proposed services have not been identified.
- 6.2 At the detailed design stage and subject to planning consent, proposed underground services will be either located outside the RPAs of trees shown retained or will utilise existing service routes.

- 6.3 It is not anticipated that any existing services within RPAs will require upgrading. In the event that this proves necessary, however, care shall be taken to minimise disturbance and where practicable, trenchless techniques employed; only as a last resort shall open excavations be considered. Where existing services within RPAs are deemed not satisfactory for any further use they should be left in situ rather than being excavated/removed.
- 6.4 In the event that incursions into RPAs are unavoidable, any new installation will comply with the methods and guidelines detailed in in the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG), Volume 4, *Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees*, Issue 2, 2007.

7. Landscaping

- 7.1 On completion of construction works, but prior to the commencement of any landscaping works within the protected area behind the protective fencing the developer shall arrange a meeting with the site manager, the supervising arboriculturist and the landscape contractor. The details of this part of the method statement shall be discussed in relation to the proposed landscape operations and a clear sequence of operations established.
- 7.2 Within the RPAs the following principles will be maintained:
- Existing ground levels shall not be substantially altered.
 - No plant or vehicles shall enter the RPA.
 - No fuels or chemicals shall be stored within any of these areas.
 - Any excavation required for fence posts, log retaining walls or any other landscape structures shall be undertaken by hand, under direct arboricultural supervision. If roots are encountered then the position of the excavation shall be moved to a new location. If this is not possible then any roots with a diameter less than 25mm may be cut cleanly by hand. Any exposed roots shall be re-covered within 24hrs of excavation.
 - No structure shall be fastened in any way to the trunks of the retained trees.
 - No drainage or irrigation pipes shall be installed within the RPAs of the retained trees.
 - Any unwanted vegetation shall be removed by hand.

8. Site monitoring

- 8.1 At the start of the construction process the monitoring arboriculturist shall visit the site on the occasions specified to inspect the tree protection measures (fencing and ground protection) as installed. If these measures comply with the specifications detailed in this method statement, statements of compliance shall be sent to the developer and copied to the LPA.
- 8.2 The monitoring arboriculturist shall then visit the site on a regular basis, as agreed at the pre-start meeting, or when specifically required as set out in *Table 2* below, to ensure that the tree protection measures are kept in place and functioning as designed. Regular contact will be maintained with the site manager to determine any forthcoming operations that may make an impact on these tree protection measures and if arboricultural supervision is required. A record of all monitoring visits will be kept, and copies sent to the developer and the LPA upon request.
- 8.3 The site manager shall give at least 48 hours' notice to the monitoring arboriculturist of any operations, which may make an impact on the RPAs of the retained trees.
- 8.4 Any alterations or variations in drawings for the site that are in, or within, the RPAs of the retained trees shall be referred in the first instance to the supervising arboriculturist for advice. If these changes make any kind of impact on the retained trees the supervising arboriculturist shall suggest changes that will either avoid damage to the retained trees or offer solutions to minimize the impact. If required, the supervising arboriculturist will liaise with the LPA's tree officer to agree a way forward, since any alterations to the approved details may require the LPA's prior written agreement. Following these consultations, the supervising arboriculturist shall issue revisions to the TPP and this AMS that reflect the changes.
- 8.5 Where any operations carried out by the developer deviate substantially from this AMS, work must cease immediately and the LPA be informed in writing. A meeting will be convened between the developer, the supervising arboriculturist, the LPA tree officer and the site manager to determine the best method to mitigate any damage that may have occurred. Work shall not be recommenced until appropriate action has been agreed to the LPA's satisfaction.

Visit no.	Trees affected/ relevant	Timing of visit	Function carried out
1	All	Following erection of protective fencing and installation of ground protection.	To lead the pre-start meeting. To check protective fencing and ground protection have been installed in the correct locations and to the correct standard.
2	All	Monitoring to be determined at the pre-start meeting.	To check the protective fencing & ground protection remain in place and that activities which would be harmful to trees are not being carried out.
3	All	At any other time which is sensitive in arboricultural terms.	To ensure retained trees are protected from development activities.

Table 2- Timings of supervision and monitoring visits

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Dip ARB TechArborA

February 2024

APPENDIX 1 – Tree Schedule

Notes for the Tree Schedule

This schedule is based on a tree survey carried out in accordance with the recommendations of British Standard, BS 5837 (2012) "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations" ('BS 5837') by Michael Roberts on Tuesday the 28th of November 2023. Weather conditions at the time were dry with scattered cloud. Deciduous trees were not in leaf.

The information contained in this schedule reflects the condition of the trees at the time of the survey, based on visual inspection from the ground only; they were not climbed, and no internal investigations were undertaken. A BS 5837 survey for planning or development purposes is not a detailed tree hazard or risk survey. As such, no guarantee is given as to the structural integrity or safety of any trees included.

As trees are dynamic organisms and subject to continual growth and change, no dimensions expressed in this schedule may be relied upon for development planning purposes for more than 24 months from the date of survey. Estimated dimensions are marked 'est'.

1. **No.:** Expressed in sequential order starting from number 1 – woodlands, groups & hedges are prefixed as W, G, & H respectively.
2. **TPO:** Trees, Tree Groups, and Areas of Trees or Woodlands protected by Tree Preservation Order(s) ref. TPO 201/21/0475; all trees with "TPO" are protected from removal or pruning without prior consent from, or notification to, the Local Planning Authority.
3. **Species:** The common name as given in "Collins Tree Guide", Johnson & More (2004).
4. **Height:** Estimated with the aid of a 'Disto' laser rangefinder and expressed in metres, to the nearest metre.
5. **Trunk Diameter:** Measured at 1.5m above ground level and expressed in millimetres to the nearest 10mm; where multiple stems are present they are measured individually, and an aggregated equivalent single trunk diameter is calculated in accordance with BS 5837, in order to derive the tree's root protection area ('RPA').
6. **Radial Crown Spread:** Distance in metres from the centre of the trunk to the outermost edge of the crown at each cardinal point of the compass, rounded up to the nearest half metre; or in the case of uniform or symmetrical crowns, the average distance from the centre of the trunk to the outermost edge of the crown.
7. **Crown Clearance:** Mean height, in metres, from adjacent ground level to the lowest point of the live crown.
8. **Height to First Branch:** Height, in metres, of the first significant branch (>100mm diameter), or to crown break from ground level.
9. **Life Stage:** Young, Semi-mature, Mature, Over-mature, Veteran/Ancient.
10. **Physiology:** The tree's health and vigour in comparison to a typical specimen of the same species and age: Good, Average, Below average, Poor, Dead.
11. **Structure:** The tree's structural condition based on assessment of any visible roots, and of its trunk, main branches and crown, noting the presence of any obvious defects or decay: Good, Average, Below average, Poor, Hazardous.
12. **Landscape Value:** An assessment of the tree's visual importance in the local landscape in its present context: High, Moderate, Low, Nil.
13. **Estimated Years:** Estimate of the tree's likely remaining contribution expressed in years: <10, 10-20, 20-40, 40+.
14. **Comments:** Notes relating to the tree's health and condition, structure and form, estimated life expectancy and importance within the local landscape; including notes of any restrictions to access for inspection, presence of potential habitat features (natural or artificial), or other significant observations.
15. **Category:** - A rating given to trees based on Table 1 in BS 5837, summarised below:

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.

Category 'A' - Trees of high quality and value; in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (normally a minimum of 40 years).

Category 'B' - Trees of moderate quality and value; those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (normally a minimum of 20 years).

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

Sub-categories (where appropriate); 1 – Mainly arboricultural qualities: 2 – Mainly landscape qualities: 3 – Mainly cultural values, including conservation.

No.	TPO.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
1		Ash	13m	150mm est 275mm est	4.5m	4.5m	4m E	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Moderate	20-40	Off-site tree; twin stemmed from base; tight fork with evidence of included bark; ivy-covered.	B (2)
2		Ash	14.5m	575mm ivy est	N7m E5.5m S8m W6m	E4.5m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	40+	Off-site tree; heavily ivy-covered; single vertical trunk; asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; no significant structural defects found at time of survey.	B (12)
3		Ash	16m	700mm ivy est	N7m E8m S9m W7m	SW5m	4m SW	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	40+	Off-site tree; heavily ivy-covered; growing adjacent to powerline post; difficult to assess base due to undergrowth and density of ivy.	B (12)
4		Ash	11m	275mm est 250mm est 200mm est	4.5m	4m	2m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Moderate	20-40	Off-site tree; three stemmed from base; heavily ivy-covered; unable to assess features due to density of ivy.	B (2)
5-7		Ash	#T5 11m #T6 12m #T7 14m	#T5 250mm ivy est #T6 400mm ivy est #T7 550mm ivy est	N2m E6.5m S3m W5m	4m	3m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Moderate	20-40	Off-site trees; growing from within lapsed hedgerow; heavily ivy-covered; unable to assess features due to density of ivy.	B (2)
8		Ash	17.5m	450mm ivy est	N5m E5.5m S3.5m W4m	7m	6.5m	Mature	Poor	Below average	Moderate	10-20	Off-site tree; heavily ivy-covered; single vertical trunk; significant dieback at branch tips; above average dead wood in crown; of limited potential.	C (1)
9		Ash	11m	500mm ivy est	0m E3m	3m	3m	Dead	Poor	Hazardous	Nil	<10	In significant, immediate & irreversible overall decline; should be removed for sound arboricultural management reasons.	U
10		English Oak	17m	1100mm ivy est	N5m E11m S9.5m W11m	7m	5.5m S	Mature	Good	Average	High	40+	Off-site tree; heavily ivy-covered; asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; of particular visual importance; particularly good example of species.	A (12)

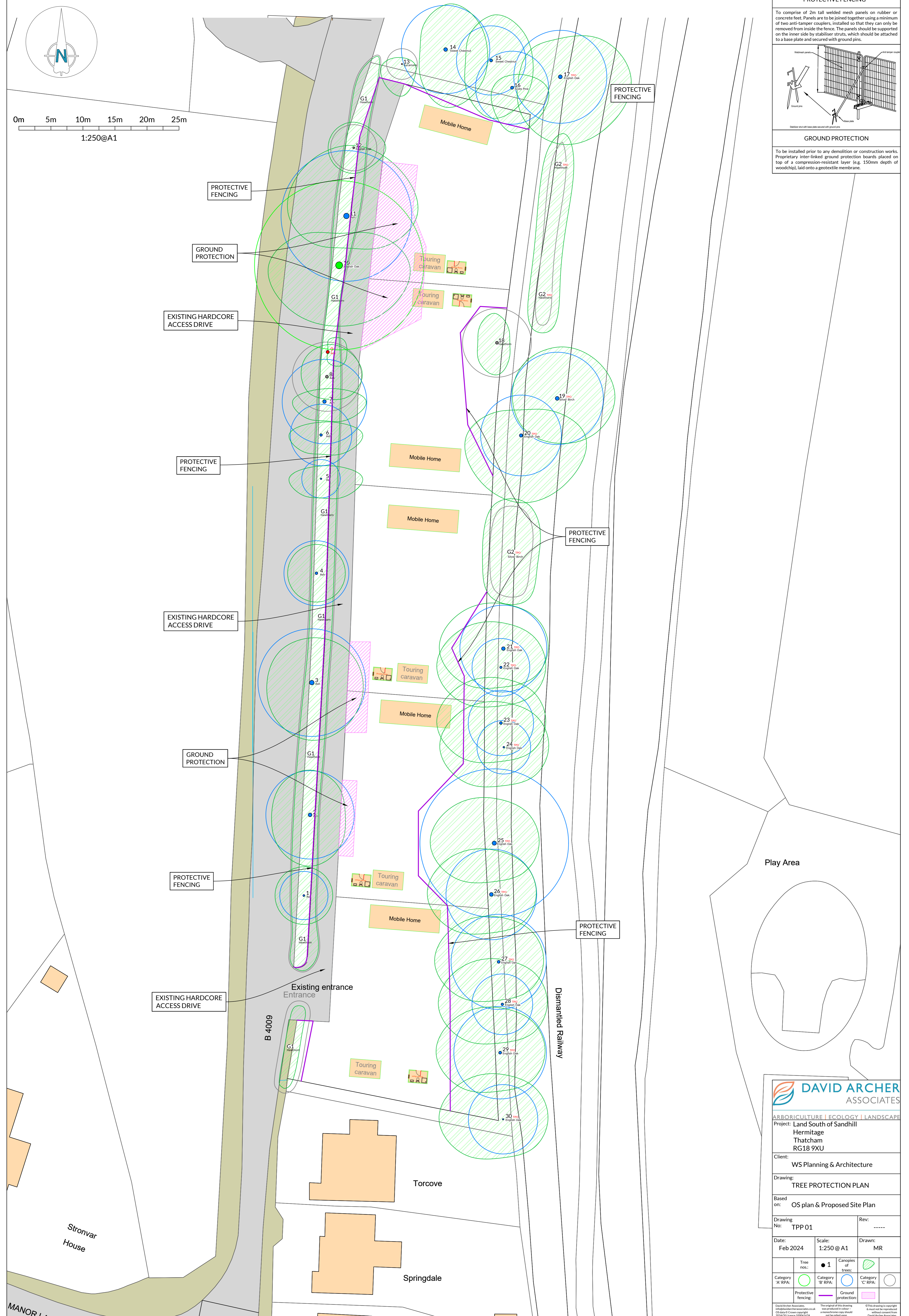
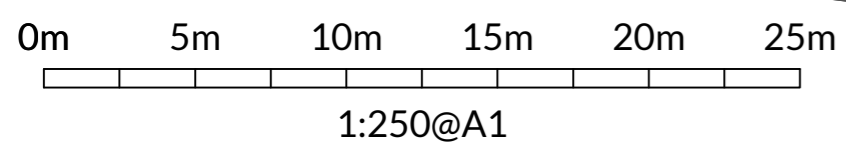
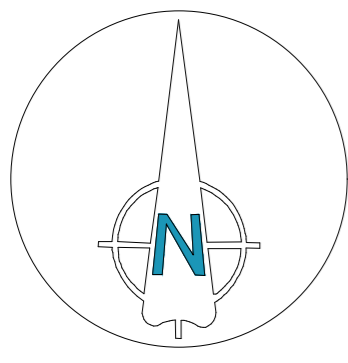
No.	TPO.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
11		Ash	20m	850mm ivy est	N11m E11m S5m W9m	E4m	4m SW	Mature	Average	Average	High	40+	Off-site tree; lapsed basal shoots at base; heavily ivy-covered; asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; good example of species.	B (12)
12		English Oak	8m	300mm ivy est	N4m E5m S4m W4m	4m	3m SE	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	40+	Off-site tree; of moderate quality, but currently of low value due to small size.	C (2)
13		Sycamore	8m	200mm est	N1m E2m S5m W3m	2m	2m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	20-40	Off-site tree; suppressed crown as overtopped by adjacent specimens.	C (12)
14-15		Sweet Chestnut	#T14 16m #T15 16m	#T14 575mm est #T15 450mm est	N7m E6.5m S9m W4m	S5m	3m S	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	40+	Off-site trees; crowns have been lifted in past; asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; many non-occluded pruning wounds present.	B (12)
16		Scots Pine	18m	475mm est	N2m E5.5m S7m W3m	4.5m	4.5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	40+	Off-site tree; single vertical trunk; asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens.	B (12)
17	TPO. 201/ 21/0 475 - A1	English Oak	17.5m	550mm est 250mm est	N6m E11m S10.5m W6.5m	SW6m	2m S	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	40+	Off-site tree; twin stemmed from base; growing on embankment towards footpath.	B (12)
18		Hawthorn	6m	5 stems @ 200mm est	N4.5m E2m S5m W3m	0m	0.5m	Mature	Below average	Average	Low	20-40	Multi-stemmed from base; damage to trunks on west side; of moderate quality, but currently of low value due to small size.	C (12)

No.	TPO.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
19	TPO. 201/21/0 475 - A1	Silver Birch	21m	4 stems @ 300mm est	N8m E9m S7m W7m	4m	3.5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Off-site tree; four stemmed from base; situated on embankment set back from the site. Surveyed as feature + context.	B (2)
20	TPO. 201/21/0 475 - A1	English Oak	15.5m	225mm est 475mm est	N4m E10m S10.5m W8.5m	S1m W4m	1m E	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	40+	Off-site tree; twin stemmed; asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens.	B (12)

No.	TPO.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
21-30	TPO. 201/21/0 475-A1	English Oak	#T21 10m #T22 16m #T23 15m #T24 17m #T25 16m #T26 18m #T27 15m #T28 15m #T29 15m #T30 15m	#T21 565mm #T22 375mm #T23 425mm #T24 275mm #T25 215mm #T26 425mm #T27 590mm #T28 450mm #T29 425mm #T30 400mm	N7m E7m S6m W10m	W4.5m	3.5m W	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	40+	Off-site trees. immediately adjacent to the boundary behind a chainlink fence; crowns are phototropic westwards into site; no significant structural defects visible at time of the survey.	B (12)
G1		Hawthorn	Min 3m Max 8m	Min 75mm Max 150mm est	N2m E4m S2m W3m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Below average	Below average	Moderate	20-40	Off-site group of trees; ivy-covered; of only low-level screening value; unevenly spaced out small trees; lapsed hedgerow, buffering site from adjacent road.	C (1)

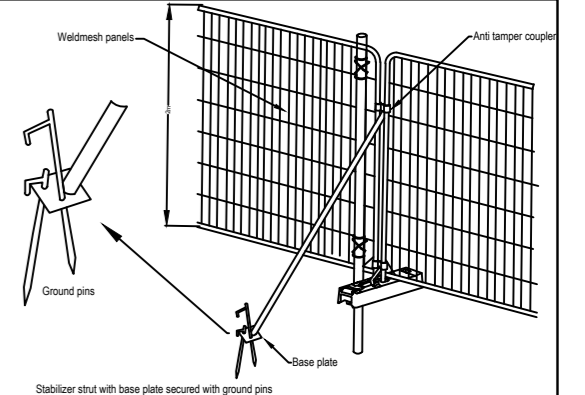
No.	TPO.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
G2	TPO. 201/21/0 475 - A1	Hawthorn	Min 4m Max 6m	Avg 100mm	3m	0.5m	0.3m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	20-40	Off-site group of trees; sporadically situated along embankment, outside of chainlink fence.	C (12)
G3	TPO. 201/21/0 475 - A1	Silver Birch	Min 9m Max 12m	Avg 250mm	3m	0.5m	0.3m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	20-40	Off-site group of trees; drawn up and mutually suppressed; situated along embankment, outside of chainlink fence.	C (12)

APPENDIX 2 – Tree Protection Plan



PROTECTIVE FENCING

To comprise of 2m tall welded mesh panels on rubber or concrete feet. Panels are to be joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers, installed so that they can only be removed from inside the fence. The panels should be supported on the inner side by stabiliser struts, which should be attached to a base plate and secured with ground pins.



GROUND PROTECTION

To be installed prior to any demolition or construction works. Proprietary inter-linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 150mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane.

Play Area



ARBORICULTURE | ECOLOGY | LANDSCAPE

Project: Land South of Sandhill
Hermitage
Thattham
RG18 9XU

Client: WS Planning & Architecture

Drawing: TREE PROTECTION PLAN

Based on: OS plan & Proposed Site Plan

Drawing No: TPP01 Rev: ----

Date: Feb 2024 Scale: 1:250 @ A1 Drawn: MR

Tree POS:	● 1	Canopies of trees:	
Category 'A' RPA:		Category 'B' RPA:	
Category 'C' RPA:		Protective fencing:	
		Ground protection:	

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