

Arboricultural Method Statement

Ember Rise
Sandhill Lane
Crawley Down
RH10 4LE

Client: SETT-PA

Date: March 2025

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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 site during the proposed extensions at Ember Rise, Sandhill Lane, Crawley Down.
- 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 development, 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 or landowner the proposed scheme ('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.
- 2.2 Before any works commence on site, the developer shall convene a pre-start meeting. This should be attended by the developer 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 and frequency of monitoring visits (as detailed in **Section 6** 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.

3. Tree removals and pruning

- 3.1 No tree removals 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 (including enabling or demolition works), 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 & orange lines on the TPP.
- 4.2 **Fencing Spec. #1** - 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. The locations where Heras fencing may be used are denoted by continuous bold orange lines on the TPP.
- 4.4 **Fencing Spec. #2** - in the case of trees more remote from areas of construction activity, the protective fencing may comprise plastic mesh temporary barrier fencing, supported on steel road pins or similar, driven into the ground at 1.5-2m centres. The locations where plastic mesh fencing may be used are denoted by continuous bold orange lines on the TPP.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 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.

- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 If the protective fencing is accidentally damaged or knocked over, the damaged sections shall be immediately marked with high visibility tape or with mesh fencing. The damaged sections shall be replaced or repaired to the original specification within 48 hours. All events of this nature must be recorded and reported to the supervising arboriculturist.
- 4.10 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. Underground services

- 5.1 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. It is likely, however, that services connections to the existing house will be capable of re-use.

6. Monitoring

- 6.1 At the start of the construction process the supervising arboriculturist shall visit the site on the occasions specified to inspect the tree protection measures (fencing) 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.
- 6.2 The supervising arboriculturist shall then visit the site as agreed at the pre-start meeting, 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. A record of all monitoring visits will be kept, and copies sent to the developer and the LPA following each visit.
- 6.3 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/or this AMS that reflect the changes.

- 6.4 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	Prior to the start of any construction works.	To lead the pre-start meeting.
2	All	Following erection of protective fencing.	To check protective has been installed in the correct locations and to the correct standard.
3	All	On a regular basis during the construction phase.	To check the protective fencing & ground protection remain in place and that activities which would be harmful to trees are not being carried out.
4	All	At any other time which is sensitive in arboricultural terms.	To ensure retained trees are protected from development activities.

Table 1 - Timings of supervision and monitoring visits

David Archer Associates

March 2025

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 Thursday the 13th March 2024. 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. **Species:** The common name as given in "Collins Tree Guide", Johnson & More (2004).
3. **Height:** Estimated with the aid of a 'Disto' laser rangefinder and expressed in metres, to the nearest metre.
4. **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').
5. **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.
6. **Crown Clearance:** Mean height, in metres, from adjacent ground level to the lowest point of the live crown.
7. **Height to First Branch:** Height, in metres, of the first significant branch (>100mm diameter), or to crown break from ground level.
8. **Life Stage:** Young, Semi-mature, Mature, Over-mature, Veteran/Ancient.
9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **Landscape Value:** An assessment of the tree's visual importance in the local landscape in its present context: High, Moderate, Low, Nil.
12. **Estimated Years:** Estimate of the tree's likely remaining contribution expressed in years: <10, 10-20, 20-40, 40+.
13. **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.
14. **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).

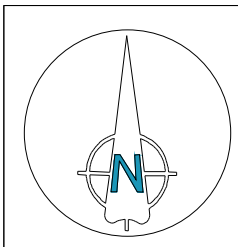
Category 'C' - Trees of low quality and value; currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (normally a minimum of 10 years), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.

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

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
1	Silver Birch	17m	235mm	N2m E4.5m S3m W2m	6m	5m	Semi-mature	Below average	Below average	Moderate	10-20	Group of drawn-up, mutually suppressed specimens; heavily ivy-covered; situated on bank adjacent to driveway.	C (12)
2	Beech	21m	275mm	N3m E7.5m S2m W6m	6m	7m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Moderate	20-40	Drawn up specimen; one-sided crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; no significant structural defects found at time of survey.	B (12)
3	Silver Birch	20m	250mm	NE4m SE4.5m SW7m NW3.5m	6m	7m SW	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Ivy on trunk; asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; no significant structural defects found at time of survey; bark at base of early mature age.	B (12)
4	Wild Cherry	21m	225mm	NE2m SE5m SW2m NW2m	7m	6m SE	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	20-40	Drawn up specimen; one-sided crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; heavily ivy-covered.	C (12)
5	Silver Birch	21m	230mm	N2m E4m S6m W1m	4.5m	5.5m S	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	20-40	Heavily ivy-covered; slightly leaning trunk; asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; no significant structural defects found at time of survey.	C (12)
6	Holly	15m	255mm	4m	2.5m	3m	Mature	Average	Average	Low	40+	Ivy-covered; no significant structural defects found at time of survey.	B (12)
7	Sycamore	24m	480mm	N7m E7m S2m W3m	S12m	3m	Mature	Below average	Below average	Moderate	20-40	Many basal suckers; lesion on trunk at 5m with active woundwood rolls; historic pseudomonas sp.; recently severely cut back (sided up) on south side; no significant defects found at time of survey.	B (12)
8-11	Beech and English Oak (x3)	26m	See comments	NE7m SE4m SW7m NW7m	SE8m	5m SW	Mature	Average	Below average	High	40+	Off-site trees; recently severely cut back (sided up) on south- south west sides; drawn up specimens; situated on a elevated bank between embers and lower drive to the north; restricted rooting. T8 450mm #T9 400mm T10 425mm T11 600mm all est	B (2)

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
12	Silver Birch	16.5m	390mm	NE4.5m SE6.5m SW5m NW4.5m	7m	6m SE	Mature	Below average	Average	Moderate	10-20	Twin-stemmed from 2m; clematis in crown with dead ivy; showing early signs of senescence; small cavities forming at sites of previous pruning wounds.	C (12)
13-14	Himalayan Birch	#T13 11m #T14 11m	#T13 195mm #T14 205mm	NE2m SE5m SW4.5m NW5m	3m	2m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Suppressed crowns as overtopped by adjacent specimen; asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens.	C (12)
15	Himalayan Birch	15m	350mm	N6m E6m S6m SW2.5m W6m	4.5m	2m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; good example of species.	B (12)
16	Willow-Leafed Pear	3m	175mm	N1.5m E1.5m SE1m S1.5m W1.5m	0.2m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Cut back on one side for garden access; small ornamental tree.	C (12)
G1	Sycamore, Sweet Chestnut, Holly (x6) and Wild Cherry	Min 7m Max 16m	Min 75mm Max 250mm	4m	N7m E0.5m S0m W6m	5m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Moderate	20-40	Group of drawn-up, mutually suppressed specimens; understorey holly.	B (2)
G2	English Oak	24m	Min 400mm Max 600mm	8m	4m	4.5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	40+	Linear group; situated on bank; no evidence of regular pruning or management; major deadwood in crown.	B (12)

APPENDIX 2 – Tree Protection Plan



Project:
Ember Rise
Sandhill Lane
Crawley Down

Client:
SETT-PA

Drawing:
TREE PROTECTION PLAN

Based on:
Proposed Site Plan

Drawing No: TPP 01

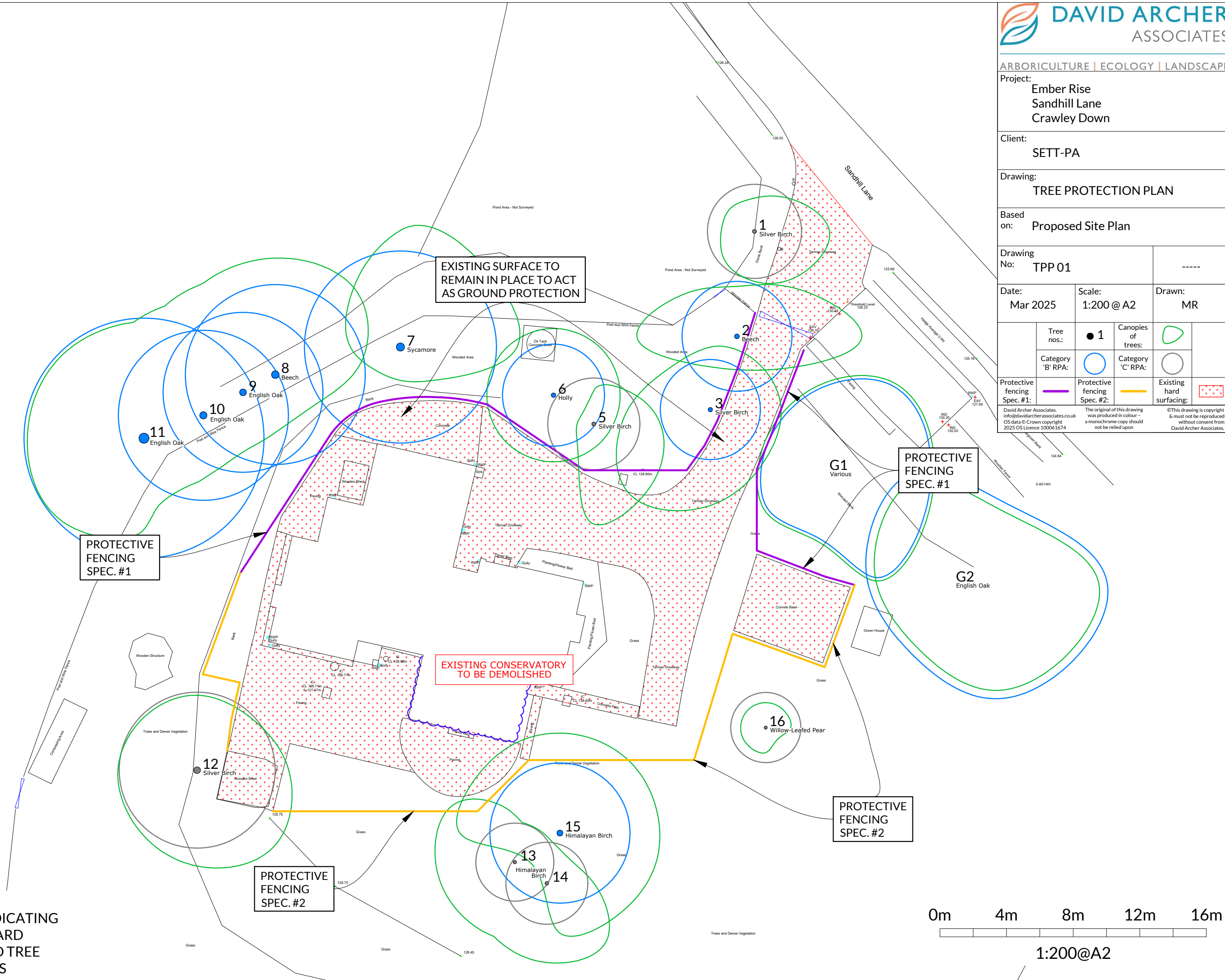
Date: Mar 2025 Scale: 1:200 @ A2 Drawn: MR

Tree nos.:	● 1	Canopies of trees:	
Category 'B' RPA:		Category 'C' RPA:	
Protective fencing Spec. #1:		Protective fencing Spec. #2:	
		Existing hard surfacing:	

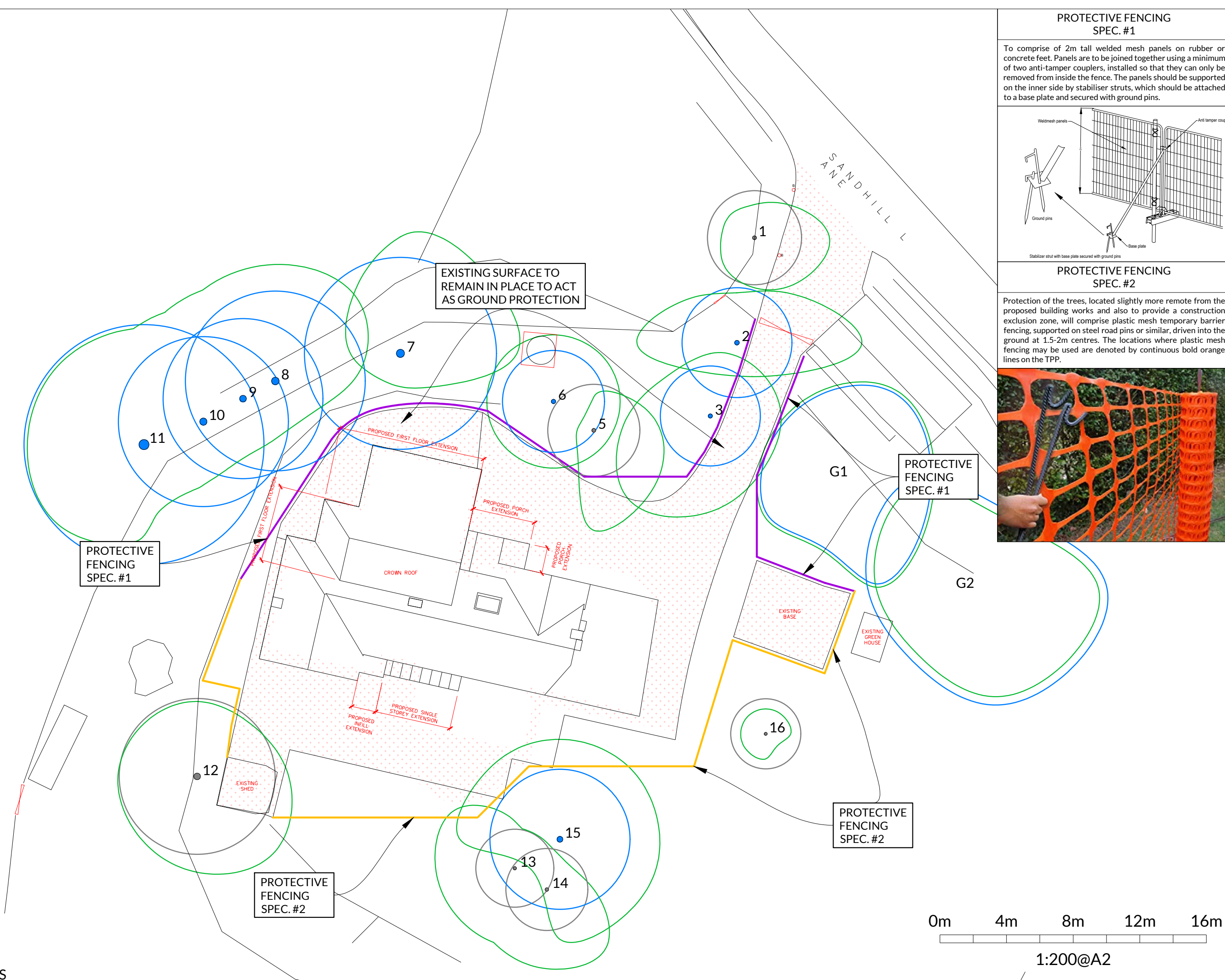
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VIEWPORT 1
EXISTING SITE PLAN INDICATING
EXTENT OF EXISTING HARD
STANDING & PROPOSED TREE
PROTECTION MEASURES



VIEWPORT 2
PROPOSED PLAN
INDICATING TREE
PROTECTION MEASURES

PROTECTIVE FENCING SPEC. #1

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.

PROTECTIVE FENCING SPEC. #2

Protection of the trees, located slightly more remote from the proposed building works and also to provide a construction exclusion zone, will comprise plastic mesh temporary barrier fencing, supported on steel road pins or similar, driven into the ground at 1.5-2m centres. The locations where plastic mesh fencing may be used are denoted by continuous bold orange lines on the TPP.