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**ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT
FOR
INSTALLATION OF 2M HIGH CLOSE BOARD TIMBER FENCE**

AT

**LAND TO REAR
OF
MULBERRY GATE
COPTHORNE ROAD
FELBRIDGE**

by

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1. TREE PROTECTION PLAN, DRAWING NO. J66.30/01
2. EXPLANATORY SHEETS, TREE INSPECTION SHEETS
TABLE OF BS CALCULATED ROOT PROTECTION AREAS (RPAs)

1. INTRODUCTION

Broad Oak Tree Consultants Ltd. received instructions from Mr D. Leppard to assess the potential impact of a proposed 2m timber close board fence on trees at the site referred to as Land to Rear of Mulberry Gate, Copthorne Road, Felbridge.

It is understood that the Council have raised concerns regarding the potential impact the fence installation could have on root systems of trees and how any such impacts could be mitigated.

The trees were inspected on the 3rd December by Tim Laddiman, BSc.(Hons) M.I.C.For. M.Arbor.A., Chartered Arboriculturist and Principal Consultant of Broad Oak Tree Consultants Ltd.

2. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

The site comprises a rectangular area of relatively level ground located to the south of residential properties in Mulberry Gate and east of Birches View. To the south and east are further residential properties with access gained from the grounds of No. 6 Longwall, to the east.

The northern quarter of the site is occupied by rough grasses with the main body of the site forming a woodland of Common Alder with Holly understorey. The Alder is very crowded, drawn up, with high, small crowns. It appears to be of plantation or coppice origin with trees in reasonable health.

3. TREE INFORMATION

To assess any potential impact of the proposed fence on trees it was first necessary to locate and inspect the trees present. Tree locations were identified using a hand held laser range finder to add in tree locations to a scaled base plan of the site that also indicates the proposed fence alignment (drawing no. EA0144/PL1 Rev A "Site Plans", produced by Edgeway Architecture).

Tree numbers, together with calculated root protection areas have been added to the plan to form the Tree Protection Plan, drawing no. J66.30/01 in Appendix 1. Tree numbering cross references to the Tree Inspection Sheets in Appendix 2.

4. MEASURES TO MINIMISE POTENTIAL ROOT DISTURBANCE

The proposed fence installation has a very low level potential to cause root damage that would affect the health or stability of the woodland edge trees.

Impacts are limited to post hole excavations and possible compaction if vehicles were used to bring in materials.

This is a DIY project and materials will be accessing the site through the existing garden of No. 6 Longwall. As such they will be walked in through the middle of the grass area and laid out for the bays in sequence. This limited foot traffic within the tree RPAs for the actual installation will not cause soil compaction or root damage, particularly given the dense grasses present.

Close board fence installation only requires a post hole for 100mm square posts every 3m of length. No other ground disturbance occurs.

Post holes will be excavated by spade to the minimum dimensions necessary, due to the effort involved. If any roots of over 25mm diameter are encountered the post hole will be relocated to avoid them or a fence post metal spike fixing utilised. This approach accords with Section 7.2 "Avoiding Physical Damage to the Roots during Demolition, or Construction" of BS 5837:2012 "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations".

The post holes will be plastic lined to avoid concrete leachates potentially entering the soils. Postcrete will be used, which requires no mixing and is poured directly in to the holes, avoiding the risk of concrete spills.

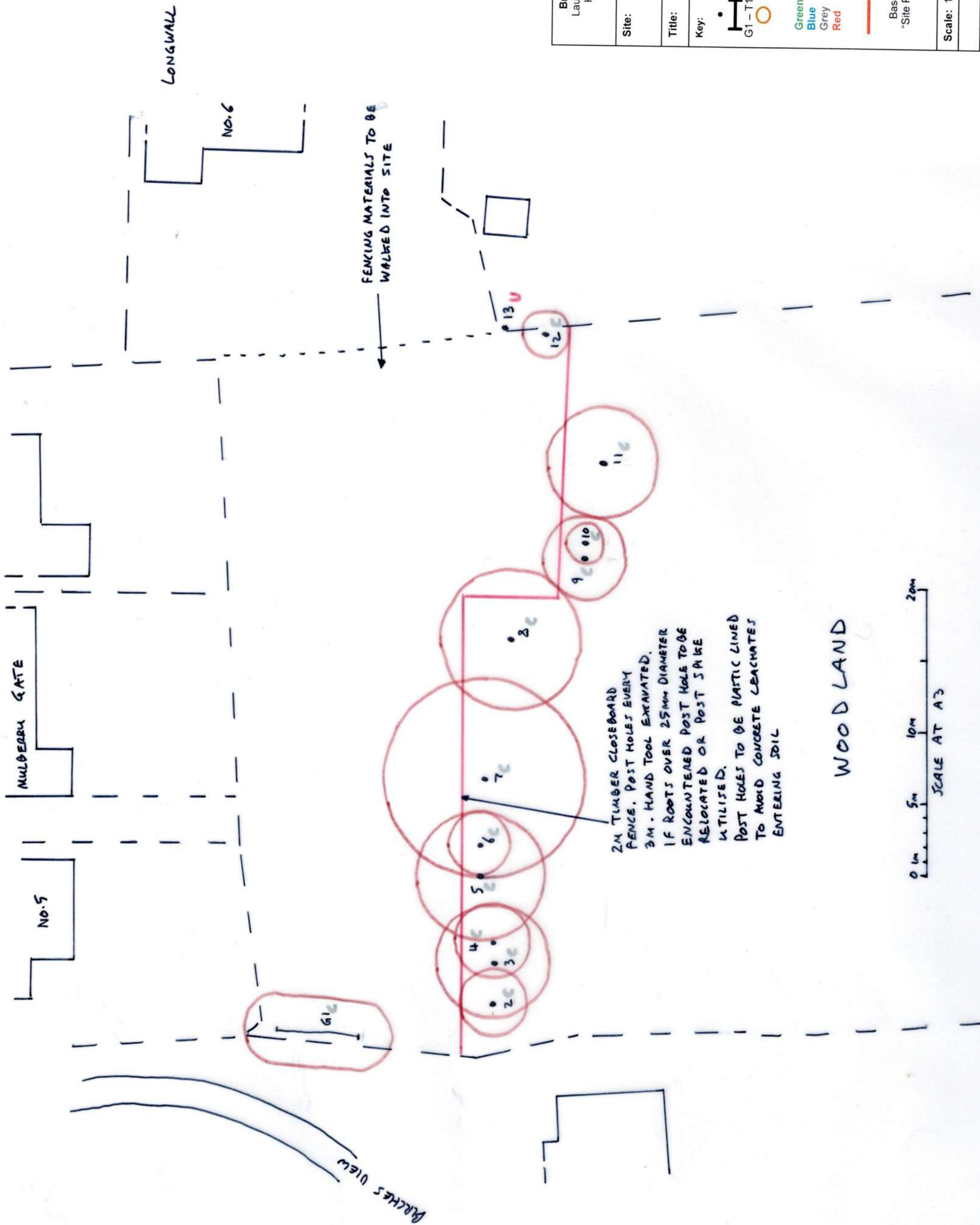
5. SUMMARY

The installation of a 2m timber close board fence has virtually no risk of causing stability or tree health issues to any of the trees along the woodland edge.

Common sense precautions and methodologies have been proposed to ensure minimal root disturbance.

Tim Laddiman
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APPENDIX 1



Broad Oak Tree Consultants Limited Laurel House, Burwash Road, Broad Oak, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8SS Tel: 01435 862444	
Site:	Land to Rear of Mulberry Gate, Cophorne Road, Felbridge
Title:	TREE PROTECTION PLAN
Key:	Tree Location Group Location Tree /Group Number BS calculated root protection area Green Blue Grey Red A - most desirable for retention B - desirable for retention C - could be retained U - unsuitable for retention Proposed fence alignment Base drawing from Edgeway Architecture "Site Plans", drawing no. EAO144/PL1 Rev A
Scale:	1:250 at A3
Date:	10/12/2024
DRAWING NO.:	J66.30/01

APPENDIX 2

TREE SURVEY EXPLANATORY SHEET

Height	in metres (estimated where ground uneven or access restricted).
Stem count	number of stems
Stem diameter	in mm. at 1.5m. above ground level.
Branch spread	radial spread in metres at four main compass points (estimated where no access).
Age class	Young - Y Semi Mature - SM Mature - M Over mature - OM Veteran - V
Height of crown clearance	in metres. Normally range of heights of outer branches above ground level, e.g. 2-4m.
Physiological condition	Good, Fair, Poor, Dead, Variable
Estimated remaining contribution	in years e.g. less than 10, 10-20, 20-40, 40+
Category grading	see attached sheet
Structural condition	comment on presence of defects, decay, crown form, past management, deadwood, other features worthy of note. N.B. If trees are ivy clad, no full structural assessment will have been possible.
Preliminary management recommendations	requirements of further investigations, works necessary to alleviate potential hazards based on current setting and levels of access. NB: Works that may be necessary in relation to development are not included here

CASCADE CHART FOR TREE QUALITY ASSESSMENT

TREES FOR REMOVAL				
Category and definition	Criteria			Identification on plan
Category U Those 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 that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other R category trees (i.e. 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 safety of other trees nearby (e.g. Dutch elm disease), or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality NOTE Habitat reinstatement may be appropriate (e.g. R category tree used as a bat roost: installation of bat box in nearby tree.)			DARK RED
TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION				
Category and definition	Criteria - Subcategories			Identification on plan
	1. Mainly arboricultural values	2. Mainly landscape values	3. Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
Category A Those of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial construction (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual, or 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 which provide a definite screening or softening effect to the locality in relation to views into or out of the site, or those of particular visual importance (e.g. avenues or other arboricultural features assessed as groups)	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	LIGHT GREEN
Category B Those of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested)	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 as groups or woodland, such that they form distinct landscape features, thereby attracting a higher collective rating than they might as individuals but which are not, individually, essential components of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. trees of moderate quality within an avenue that includes better, A category specimens), or trees situated mainly internally to the site, therefore individually having little visual impact on the wider locality	Trees with clearly identifiable conservation or other cultural benefits	MID BLUE
Category C Those of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.	Trees not qualifying in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodland, but without this conferring on them significantly greater landscape value, and/or trees offering low or only temporary screening benefit.	Trees with very limited conservation or other cultural benefits	GREY
NOTE Whilst C category trees will usually not be retained where they would impose a significant constraint on development, young trees with a stem diameter of less than 150mm should be considered for relocation				

Tree ref. no.	Species	Height (m.)	Stem Count	Stem diameter or equivalent (mm.)	Branch spread (m.)				Age class	Ht. of crown clearance (m.)	Physiological condition	Estimated remaining contribution (years)	Category grading	Structural condition and notes	Preliminary management recommendations
					N	E	S	W							
G1	Sycamore	<9	1/2	<200	<4	<4.5	<2	<4	Y	2+	Good	20-40+	C2	Self seeded. Crowded.	
T2	Common Alder	16	1	190	4	1	1	2.5	SM	3.5+	Fair	20-40	C2	Heavily crowded. Drawn up high crown.	
T3	Common Alder	19	2	330	3	2.5	2	2.5	SM	4+	Fair	20-40	C2	Twin stemmed near ground level. Crowded. Drawn up.	
T4	Common Alder	15	2	220	3.5	6	1.5	2	SM	1.2+	Fair	20-40	C2	Twin stemmed from ground level. Crowded. Overtopped. One leaning E.	
T5	Common Alder	20	2	360	3.5	2.5	1	2.5	SM	4+	Fair	10-20	C1	Twin stemmed under 1m. Weak union. Drawn up crowns. One leaning E.	
T6	Common Alder	14	1	180	3	4.5	0	1	SM	3+	Fair	20-40	C2	Crowded. Leaning E. Overtopped.	
T7	Common Alder	23	3	580	6	6	1.5	2	SM	2+	Fair	10-20	C1	Three stems under 1m. Weak union. N stem ivy clad. Drawn up. Crowded.	
T8	Common Alder	21	3	410	6.5	4	1	1.5	SM	2+	Fair	10-20	C1	Crowded. Three stems near ground level. Weak unions.	

Tree ref. no.	Species	Height (m.)	Stem Count	Stem diameter or equivalent (mm.)	Branch spread (m.)				Age class	Ht. of crown clearance (m.)	Physiological condition	Estimated remaining contribution (years)	Category grading	Structural condition and notes	Preliminary management recommendations
					N	E	S	W							
T9	Common Alder	19	2	240	2	1	0	2	SM	8+	Fair	20-40	C2	Twin stemmed near ground level. One dominant. Smaller stem dead. Third stem removed to N.	
T10	Common Alder	10	1	110	1.5	0.5	1	1.5	Y	5+	Poor	10-20	C1	Crowded.	
T11	Common Alder	19	1	320	2.5	4.5	2.5	1	SM	4+	Fair	20-40	C2	Crowded. Clad in dead ivy.	
T12	Holly	7	2	140	2	2.5	3	1.5	SM	1+	Fair	10-20	C1	Twin stemmed under 1m. Lower stem wounding.	
T13	Prunus sp.	7	1	200	6	4.5	0	2	SM	1.8+	Poor	<10	U	Twin stemmed at 1.8m. Weak union. Part collapsed to N. <i>Ganoderma</i> decay fungi at base. Strapped to stump.	

TABLE OF BS CALCULATED ROOT PROTECTION AREAS (RPAs)
AT
LAND TO REAR OF MULBERRY GATE, COPTHORNE ROAD, FELBRIDGE

Tree no.	Species	BS Category	Stem diameter or calculated equivalent (mm.)	BS calculated radial equivalent root protection area (m.)	BS calculated total RPA (m²)
G1	Sycamore	C2	<200	<2.4	<18
T2	Common Alder	C2	190	2.3	17
T3	Common Alder	C2	330	4	50
T4	Common Alder	C2	220	2.6	21
T5	Common Alder	C1	360	4.3	58
T6	Common Alder	C2	180	2.2	15
T7	Common Alder	C1	580	7	154
T8	Common Alder	C1	410	4.9	75
T9	Common Alder	C2	240	2.9	26
T10	Common Alder	C1	110	1.3	5
T11	Common Alder	C2	320	3.8	45
T12	Holly	C1	140	1.7	9
T13	Prunus sp.	U	-	-	-