

Arboricultural Method Statement

Westhouse Farm, Henfield Road, Albourne, Hassocks

Date: October 2025

Contents

1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	Pre-start requirements, liaison & communication.....	3
3.	Tree removals	4
4.	Protective fencing.....	4
5.	Ground protection.....	5
6.	Underground services.....	6
7.	Supervision.....	6

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Tree Schedule
- Appendix 2 – Tree Protection Plan

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This tree planning report & 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 redevelopment at Westhouse Farm, Henfield Road, Albourne, Hassocks.
- 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 trees on the site were surveyed by David Archer Associates and their details are set out in the tree schedule at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.4 Based on this survey, the trees' locations and the constraints associated with them, specifically the extents of their canopies, their root protection areas ('RPAs'), have been drawn in accordance with BS 5837 recommendations, producing a tree constraints plan ('TCP') in order to assess the implications of the proposal.
- 1.5 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.
- 2.2 Before any works commence on site, the developer shall convene a pre-start meeting. This should be attended by the developer, the site manager, the groundwork contractor, 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 7** 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.

3. Tree removals

- 3.1 Trees nos. 4, 6, 13 (dead), 14 and a small section of Group G6 shall be felled to ground level; stumps shall be excavated (grubbed out).
- 3.2 **No** pruning of the retained trees is required to permit construction of the proposed development.
- 3.3 Tree felling will be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998: 2010, *Tree work - Recommendations*.

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 In the case of trees more remote from areas of construction activity only, 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. If the LPA tree officer deems mesh fencing as insufficient protection, the trees will be protected with 'Heras' panels as detailed below/above.
- 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, and where possible shall not be within 10m of any retained tree.

- 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. Ground protection

- 5.1 In order to provide construction working space, where the setting back of the protective fencing 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 a 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.
- 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. It is likely, however, that services connections to the existing house & outbuildings will be capable of re-use to serve the new development.
- 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 unlikely 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. Supervision

- 7.1 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 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.
- 7.2 The supervising arboriculturist shall then visit the site on a regular basis, 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 and if arboricultural supervision is required. A record of all monitoring visits will be kept, and copies sent to the developer and the LPA following each visit.

- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 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.

David Archer Associates

October 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 Greg Sweeney on Wednesday the 4th June 2025. Weather conditions at the time were clear, dry and bright. Deciduous trees were 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	Ash	5m	160mm	2m	0.5m	1m	Young	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Historically "topped" at 2m; of limited potential.	C
2	Goat Willow	4.5m	3 stems @ 180mm	2m	0.5m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Tri-furcates at base; historically "topped" at 2m; of limited potential.	C
3	Goat Willow	6m	400mm est	3.5m	3.5m	3m	Mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Loose bark and significant decay on main stem 0-3m; of limited potential.	C
4	Ash	8.5m	200mm	4m	4.5m	4.5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Historically "topped" at 3.5m; of limited potential.	C
5	Apple	5m	180mm	2.5m	0.5m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Small domestic fruit tree.	C
6	Tulip Tree	6.5m	250mm est 350mm est	3m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Tri-furcates at base; historically "topped" / pollarded at 2.5m; necrosis and decay at pruning points; small ornamental tree.	C
7	Horse Chestnut	14m	790mm	6.2m	5m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Historically pollarded; re-growth approx. 2-3m in length.	B
8	Birch Youngii	5m	250mm	4m	2m	2.5m	Mature	Below average	Average	Low	10-20	Slightly sparsely foliated; small ornamental tree; of limited potential and easily replaced.	C
9	Apple	4m	150mm	2.5m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Bi-furcates at 0.25m; small domestic fruit tree; suppressed as over-topped by adjacent specimen; easily replaced.	C
10	Apple	5m	180mm	2.5m	0.5m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Small domestic fruit tree.	C

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
11	Apple	6m	230mm 280mm	4.5m	1m	1.5m	Mature	Below average	Below average	Low	10-20	Bi-furcates at base; trunks lean heavily; major deadwood in crown; of limited potential.	C
12	Apple	6m	2 stems @ 270mm	4.5m	1m	1.5m	Mature	Below average	Below average	Low	10-20	Bi-furcates at base; cavity, significant decay above stem to N; trunks lean heavily.	C
13	Ash	10m	250mm	Dead tree.									U
14	Ash	11m	280mm est	N2m E2m S3m W4m	4m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Suppressed specimen; slightly sparsely foliated.	C
15	Ash	9m	260mm	5m	N3m E1.5m S3.5m W3.5m	2m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Bi-furcates at 1.5m; small domed crown ; easily replaced.	C
16	Unknown	7.5m	150mm est	Dead tree.									U
17	Apple	5m	160mm	2.5m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Bi-furcates at 0.25m; small domestic fruit tree; suppressed as over-topped by adjacent specimen; easily replaced.	C
18	Apple	5m	170mm	2.5m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Bi-furcates at 0.25m; small domestic fruit tree; suppressed as over-topped by adjacent specimen; easily replaced.	C
19	English Oak	8m	250mm est	2.5m	4m	3m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Small establishing tree.	C
20	Ash	12m	200mm est 350mm est	7.2m	4m	4m	Semi-mature	Below average	Average	Low	10-20	Slightly sparsely foliated; bi-furcates at 0.5m.	C
21	Norway Maple	3.5m	150mm	1m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Historically "topped" at 3m; easily replaced.	C

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
22	Privet	2.5m	150mm est	1m	0.1m	0.1m	Mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Small tightly clipped ornamental, domed crown/tree; easily replaced.	C
23	Holly	3.5m	150mm est	2m	0.5m	0.5m	Semi-mature	Below average	Average	Low	10-20	Ivy covered; small suppressed specimen; easily replaced.	C
24	Ash	16m	710mm	8.5m	4.5m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Multi-stemmed from crown break, approx. 5m; slightly sparsely foliated.	C
25	Horse Chestnut	13m	450mm est	5m	0.5m	1.5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Bi-furcates at 1.5m; suppressed specimen.	C
26	Hornbeam	14m	510mm	7m	0.5m	1.5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Form and structure typical of species and age.	B
27	English Oak	13m	450mm est	5m	2m	3m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Drawn up specimen.	B
28	Balsam Poplar	17m	700mm est	7m	1.5m	3m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	10-20	Dominant tree in row with extended lateral branches.	C
29	Lombardy Poplar	17m	500mm est	2m	3m	3m	Mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Upright form, mutually suppressed.	C
30	Lombardy Poplar	17m	500mm est	2m	3m	3m	Mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Upright form, mutually suppressed.	C
31	English Oak	15m	450mm est	6m	5m	2m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Establishing tree/crown - dominant Oak tree in row.	B
32	Weeping Willow	8.5m	250mm est	4.5m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	20-40	Ornamental, short-lived species.	C
G1	Ash	12m	Avg 300mm est	3.5m	5m	4.5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Slightly sparsely foliated.	C
G2	Hawthorn	5m	Avg 180mm est	3m	2m	1.5m	Mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Group of drawn-up, mutually suppressed specimens, located adjacent wooden swing gate.	C
G3	Ash (x2) and English Oak	7m	Avg 200mm est	4m	4m	3.5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Mutually suppressed; Ash: slightly sparsely foliated.	C

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
G4	Elder and Dogwood	3m	Avg 80mm est	3m	0.1m	0.1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Group of mutually suppressed specimens; overgrown domestic shrub bed; easily replaced.	C
G5	Elder and Ash	5m	Avg 80mm est	3m	0.1m	0.1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Group of mutually suppressed specimens; overgrown domestic shrub bed; easily replaced.	C
G6	Blackthorn	6m	Avg 50mm est	2m	0.1m	0.1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Group of mutually suppressed root suckering specimens.	C
G7	Ash	16m	Avg 600mm est	6m	5m	4.5m	Mature	Poor	Below average	Low	<10	Group of drawn up specimens; major deadwood in crowns; more than 50% crown leaf loss - Chalara (Ash Dieback) infected, trees in significant, immediate & irreversible overall decline.	U
G8	Apple	4.5m	Avg 180mm est	2.5m	1.5m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Row of small domestic fruit trees.	C
G9	Ash	6m	Avg 150mm est	1.5m	1m	1m	Young	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Group of drawn-up, mutually suppressed specimens.	C
H1	Elder	4m	Avg 150mm est	2m	1m	1m	Mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Of only low-level screening value.	C
H2	Blackthorn	5m	Avg 50mm est	2m	0.1m	0.1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Linear row of mutually suppressed root suckering specimens.	C
H3	Beech	4m	Avg 60mm est	2m	0.5m	0.5m	Young	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Small diameter recent plantings; of only low-level screening value; easily replaced.	C
H4	English Oak and Ash	5m	Avg 80mm est	1.5m	0.5m	0.5m	Young	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Row of self-seeded saplings.	C

APPENDIX 2 – Tree Protection Plan

Project:
Westhouse Farm
Henfield Road
Albourne, Hassocks

Drawing:
TREE PROTECTION PLAN

Based on:
Proposed Site Plan

Drawing No: TPP 01

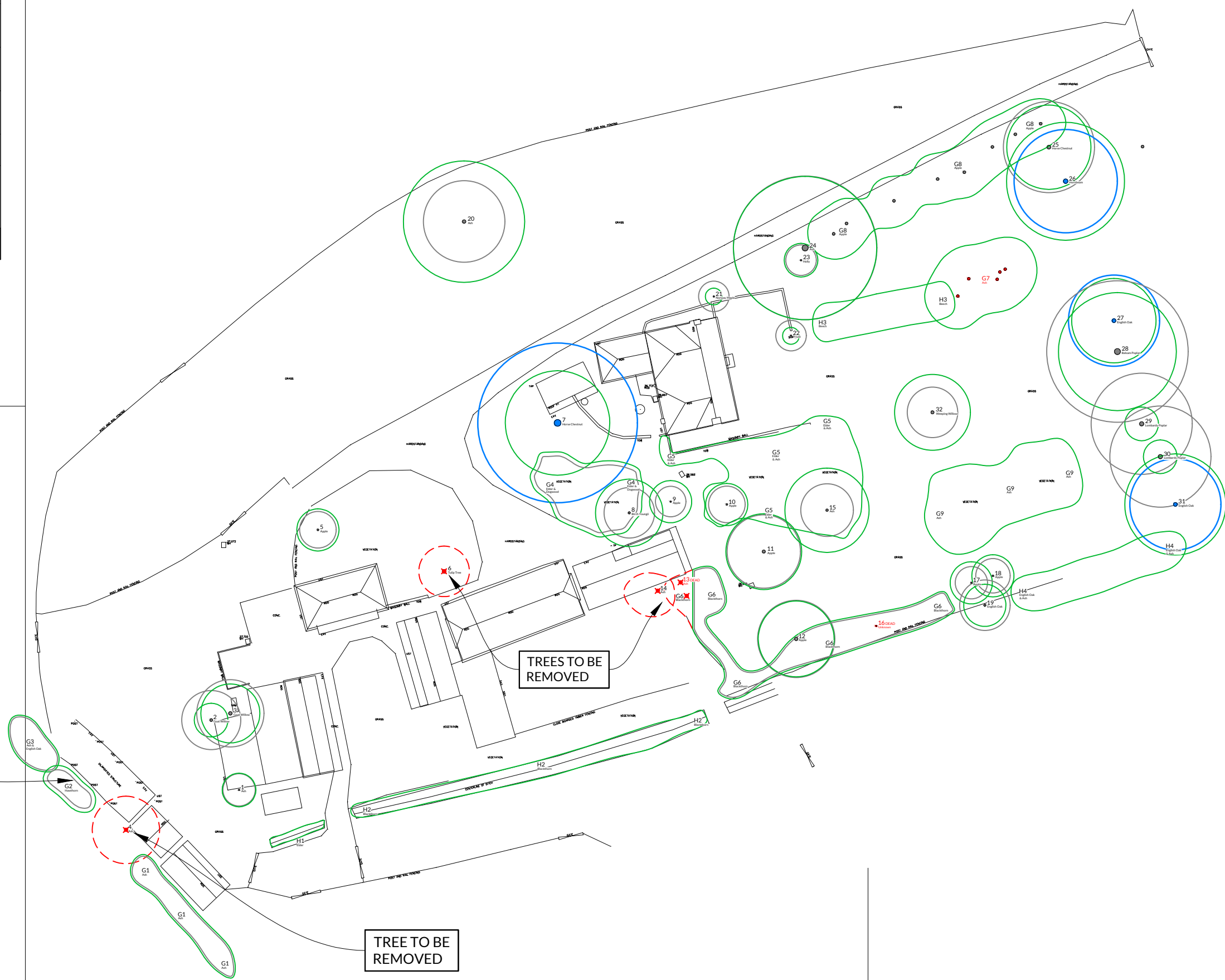
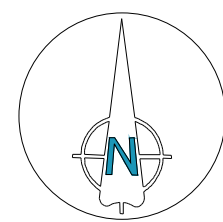
Date: Oct 2025
Scale: 1:500 & 1:250 @ A2
Drawn: MR

Tree nos.: ● 1	Canopies of trees:	Trees to be removed:
Category 'B' RPA:	Category 'C' RPA:	
Protective fencing:	Ground protection:	

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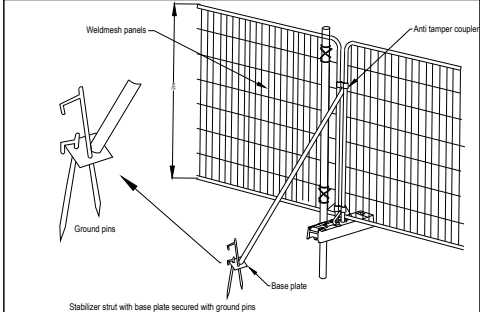
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VIEWPORT 1 1:500@A2
EXISTING SITE PLAN
INDICATING PROPOSED
TREE REMOVALS

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.



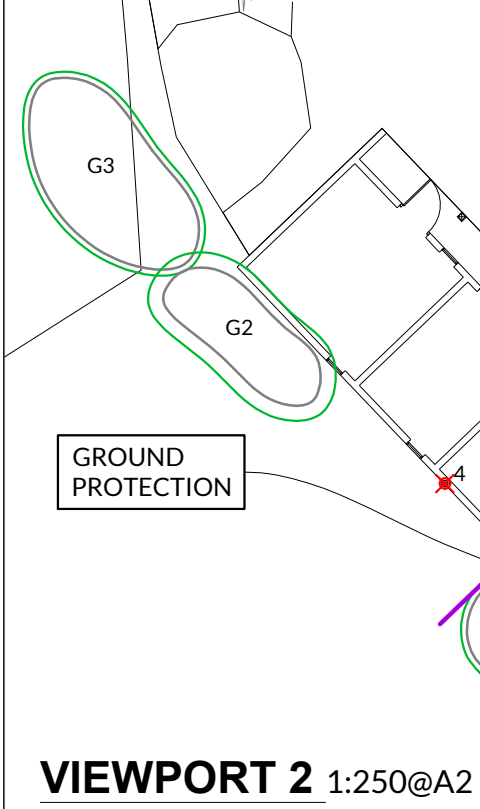
PROTECTIVE FENCING
SPEC. #2

Protection of the trees growing slightly further away from the main development proposals, 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.
If the LPA tree officer deems the mesh fencing as insufficient protection, the trees will be protected with heras panels as detailed below.



GROUND PROTECTION

To be installed prior to any 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.



VIEWPORT 2 1:250@A2
PROPOSED SITE PLAN
INDICATING TREE
PROTECTION MEASURES

PROTECTIVE FENCING #1

PROTECTIVE FENCING #2

GROUND PROTECTION

PROTECTIVE FENCING #1

0m 5m 10m 15m

1:250@A2