

**ARBORICULTURAL REPORT**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

**Background:** LSDP were appointed to prepare an Arboricultural Survey & Report to satisfy Local Authority requirements in respect to the proposed scheme. The report is based on survey information collected in November 2020.

**The Site:** The site comprises land under equestrian usage, and includes a stable block, manage and part of a paddock. The land includes the eastern and part of the southern property curtilage of Little Court and is bordered by the A134 to the north, an un-named lane to the east and arable land to the south.

**2. TREE SURVEY**

**Generally:** An initial constraints plan was prepared using an OS base with tree locations plotted from aerial imagery. The information was subsequently transferred to a topographic survey base and the site revisited to identify basic constraints relating to trees located outside of the main area proposed for development. The trees were appraised in accordance with BS5837:2012 and survey details of five individual trees and eight groups were recorded; in general terms, the vegetation mostly relates to 20<sup>th</sup> century domestic usage of the site, rather than historic agricultural features. None of the trees are of any special individual merit, but collectively, those on the site periphery provide screening and enclosure and being predominantly broadleaf, they also contribute to countryside surroundings and are therefore recorded as B2 category (moderate landscape value) based on their collective, rather than individual contribution. The exception to this rule is G1, which is an overgrown area associated with a pond on the north-eastern corner of the site; this group is predominantly ash, with Chalara ash die back, with an understory of plum scrub. The ash recorded as 'C' category due to reduced life expectancy and the plum scrub is of no special merit. Given this, significant trees in the group are graded individually and the following section includes proposals for management / replacement planting in this area.

**3. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT WORKS TO EXISTING TREES**

**Generally:** The following works are recommended for reasons of good arboricultural management, whether the proposed development work proceeds:

**G1:** The site frontage is characterised by large mature trees set behind a managed native hedgerow. G1 is of differentiating value comprising ash with ash die back and plum thicket understory; the only other significant / large tree is a single beech and a suppressed weeping willow. It is proposed to clear most of the plum scrub to enable establishment of large growing native trees of species other than ash to augment the characteristic pattern and to maintain the presence of large growing trees in this area.

**G3:** Horse chestnut – Remove two trees indicated on drawing due to poor condition – i.e. NW tree has extensive die back, decay and poor physiology due to bleeding canker. SW tree is suppressed by adjacent G4 lime and has insufficient space to develop.

**G5:** The western part of this plantation is rather sparse due to lack of understory and it is proposed to clear most of the recently generated bramble and augment with new subcanopy / understory planting incorporating shade-tolerant plants native plants, such as hazel, dogwood and holly.

**4. ARBORICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS & IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Removal of Trees:** The development proposal will require the removal of the following trees:

**G1** – Removal of 2no. Scots pine, 1 no. Norway spruce, 1no. ash and 1 no. holly. The Scots pine have sparse crowns due to shading / competition and pine needle blight. The removal of these and the other three trees will have no significant impact on the contribution of the group.

**T4** Lawson cypress and **T4** Walnut. These are 'C' category trees of no special merit; their removal will not have any significant impact on the surroundings.

**G5** – Clear strip to allow excavation of trench and installation of surface water drain. The alignment of this feature avoids significant trees within this group and the clearance necessary will not have a significant impact on the contribution of the group.

**Encroachment into Root Protection Areas (RPAs):** The proposal encroaches into the RPAs of trees on the edge of G1 to accommodate the proposed parking area. The paving in this area will incorporate ground protection and be constructed no dig as per the following section, to safeguard the retained trees.

The RPA of the NE horse chestnut in G4 will require some encroachment to accommodate a proposed drainage run and given that it is 'C' category, no special provision for protection is proposed, other than the installation of a protective barrier as indicated on the drawing. It is considered that the works will not have a significant impact on the tree, however should the tree be adversely impacted then its loss could be adequately mitigated by planting a replacement tree.

**Proximity of Dwellings to Tree canopies:** The proposed layout allows adequate space around trees indicated for retention, to accommodate future growth. The proposed arrangement will result in some shading of adjacent accommodation, however this relationship is considered to be a positive in the context of the proposed development; i.e. in terms of the therapeutic value of vegetation and the reassuring in terms of impact on spatial perception often experienced by dementia patients.

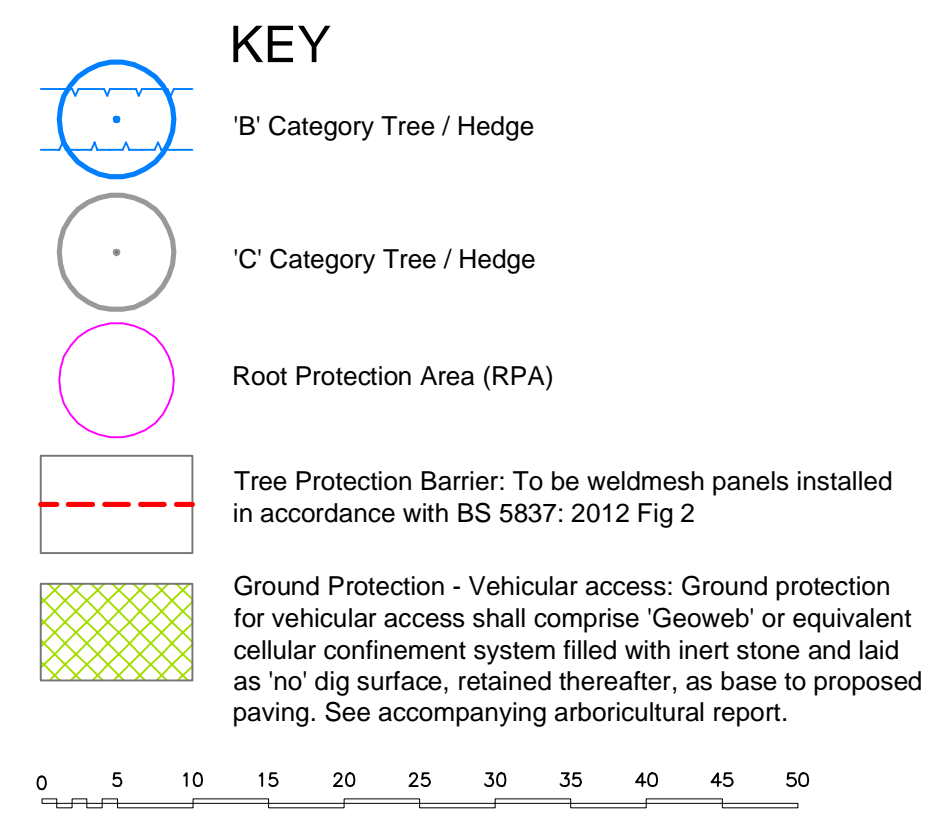
**4. TREE PROTECTION**

**Generally**  
 Before any machinery or materials are brought onto site and before any demolition, development or stripping of soil commences, the Root Protection Area (RPA) indicated on the drawing set out and the Protective Barriers must be installed as shown on the drawing. The Protective Barriers shall not be removed or altered without prior recommendation by an arboriculturist and approval of the local planning authority.

The areas protected by barriers shall be subject to the following restrictions:  
 i. Existing soil levels within the protected areas shall not be altered.  
 ii. No excavation of any kind shall take place within the protected areas.  
 iii. The protected areas shall not be used for storage of any kind.  
 iv. No vehicles or machinery shall be allowed into the areas protected by barriers.  
 v. Should the developer require the above restrictions to be breached for unforeseen reasons, an appropriate method of works must be agreed with the Local Authority prior to any works taking place within the protected areas.

**Protective Barriers**  
 Protective Barriers shall be erected to prevent access into designated areas around retained trees. Once installed, all weather notices shall be attached to each barrier with words such as: "Construction Exclusion Zone – No Access". Protective Barriers shall be erected in accordance with BS5837: Fig 2

**Ground Protection**  
 Ground protection shall be installed where access is required through designated areas around trees and shall take the form of a permeable surface laid on a cellular confinement system, constructed using a no-dig specification. See diagram opposite.

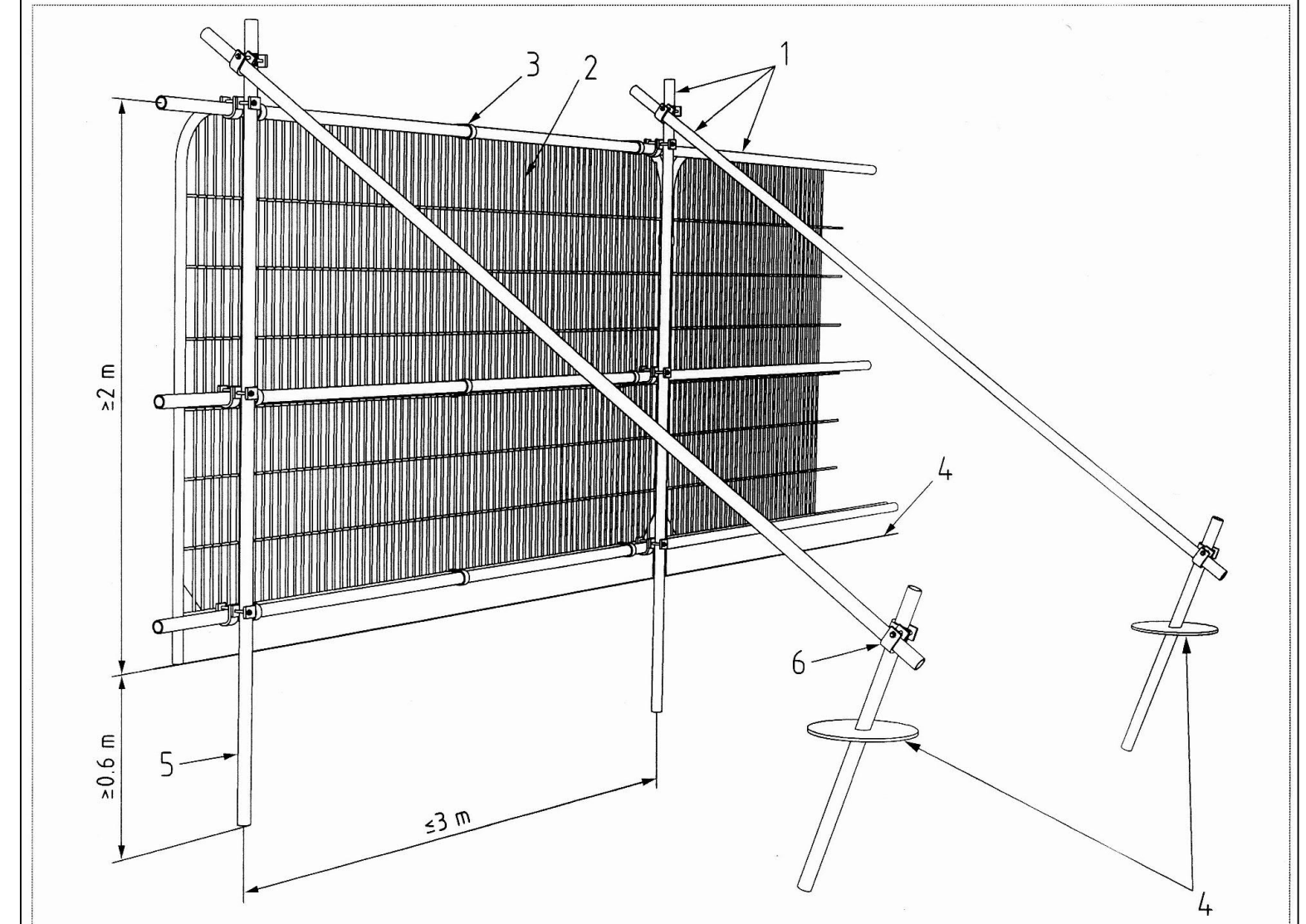


- Abbreviations:**  
 Ap - Apple (*Malus* sp.)  
 As - Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)  
 Be - Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)  
 CW - Cherry, wild (*Prunus avium*)  
 CJ - Cherry, Japanese (*Prunus sp.*)  
 FM - Field maple (*Acer campestre*)  
 Hb - Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)  
 HC - Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)  
 Ho - Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)  
 La - Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*)  
 Lc - Lawson cypress (*Cupressus lawsoniana*)  
 Li - Lime (*Tilia* sp.)  
 Ley - Leyland cypress (*Cupressocyparis x leylandii*)  
 Law - Lawson cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)  
 MC - Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*)  
 NM - Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)  
 NS - Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)  
 PA - Poplar, aspen (*Populus tremula*)  
 PB - Poplar, black (*Populus nigra*)  
 PL - Poplar, Lombardy (*Populus nigra italica*)  
 PI - Plum (*Prunus* sp.)  
 PS - Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)  
 Sy - Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)  
 WW - Willow, weeping (*Salix asperifolia*)  
 WRC - Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

Ref	Species	Stem Dia (mm)	Stems	Height (m)	Can. clear (m)	Br. clear (m)	Age Class	Physiology	Structural Condition	Arboricultural Value	Landscape Value	Cultural / Conservation Value	General observations	Useful Life	Grade	
T1	Lime	500	1	14	2	N.A	M	N	P	L	M	M	Mature tree on edge of garden area / north bank of ditch. Stem forms three main leaders at 2m height, unions are compressed with reactive growth below.	40+	B2	
T2	Yew	500	1	5	0	N.A	M	N	F	L	L	L	Small spreading tree on edge of garden area	40+	C2	
T3	Field maple	450	1	10	2	N.A	M	N	F	L	M	L	Tree in border on edge of garden area. Stem forms multiple leaders above 0.5m height.	40+	B2	
T4	Lawson cypress	350	1	10	0	N.A	M	N	F	L	L	L	Pair of trees on edge of garden area.	40+	C2	
T6	Walnut	500	1	7	2	N.A	M	N	F	L	L	L	Tree in open paddock area.	40+	C2	
G1	Mixed Plantation	See drawing	1	5	15	2	N.A	M	N	F	L	M	Mixed plantation around pond on northern edge of site, predominantly ash with ash die back, plus one each of weeping willow (suppressed), beech and holly. Understorey of elm.	40+	B2	
G2	Horse chestnut	450	1	7	4	N.A	M	N	F	L	M	L	Linear group on east side of lane bordering site	40+	B2	
G3	Horse chestnut	450	1	7	2	N.A	M	N	F	L	L	L	Four trees in paddock area. NW tree in poor condition. Also includes smaller naturally generated tree with suppressed form growing beneath one of the G4 lime.	40+	C2	
G4	Lime	500	1	14	15	2	N.A	M	N	F	L	M	M	Trees planted in boundary hedgerow	40+	B2
G5	Mixed Plantation	See drawing	1	14	20	2	N.A	M	N	F	L	M	M	Mixed plantation dominated by two mature aspen, with lime and Norway spruce, other species include horse chestnut, sycamore and Scots pine, understory of plum	40+	B2
G6	Horse chestnut	450	1	10	2	N.A	M	N	F	L	L	L	Four trees in paddock area plus 1no. Ash	40+	C2	
G7	Mixed Plantation	See drawing	1	14	2	N.A	M	N	F	L	M	M	Row of mixed species trees planted on northern edge of site, predominantly sycamore, Norway maple, Scots pine, cherry & poplar	40+	B2	
G8	Leyland cypress & plum	400	1	6	12	1	N.A	M	N	F	L	L	L	Informal group on edge of parking area	40+	C2

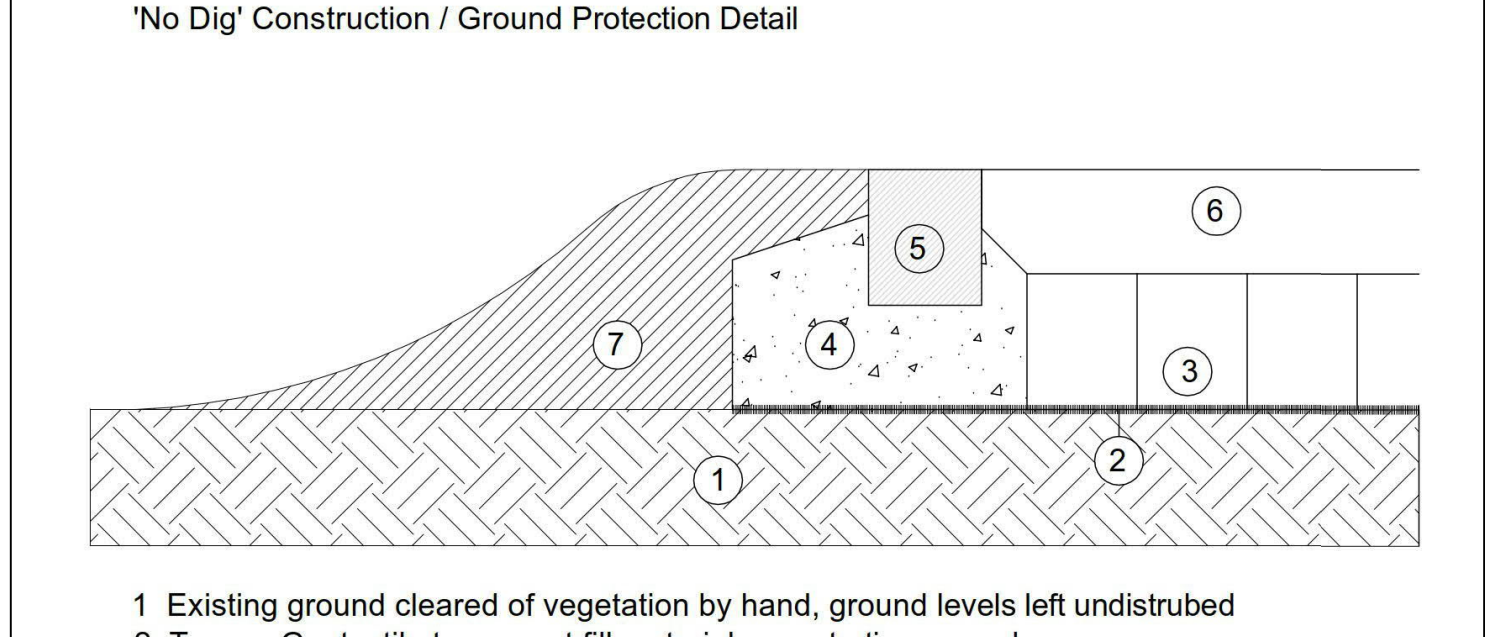
**NOTES & ABBREVIATIONS:**  
**Age Class:** Y (Young) – Less than 1/3 of life completed, M (Middle Aged) 1/3 - 2/3 of life completed, OM (Over Mature) – more than 2/3 of life completed and declining, V (Veteran) – Veteran trees have no precise definition but are trees considered to be of biological aesthetic or cultural value because of their age.  
**Physiology:** N - Normal, P - Poor, D - Dying. Given relative to species, age and location.  
**Structural Condition:** G (Good) – No, or remediable physical defects or decay, F (Fair) - Physical defects or decay present, risk of failure of stem or large limbs within twelve months considered to be low, P (Poor) - Physical defects or decay present, risk of failure of stem or large limbs within twelve months considered to be high.

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier



- Key**  
 1 Standard scaffold poles  
 2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels  
 3 Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties  
 4 Ground level  
 5 Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)  
 6 Standard scaffold clamps

'No Dig' Construction / Ground Protection Detail



- 1 Existing ground cleared of vegetation by hand, ground levels left undisturbed  
 2 Terram Geotextile to prevent fill materials penetrating ground  
 3 Terram Geocell cellular confinement system filled with clean (no fines) inert stone material - depth of system to be specified by engineer  
 4 Concrete footing and haunch  
 5 Kerb  
 6 Paved surface  
 7 Loose topsoil graded down to cover haunch and marry existing and proposed surfaces

The original of this drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

Revisions:

**Land & Sculpture Design Partnership**  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE · SCULPTURE · ARBORICULTURE

SITE: Little Court, Little Wratting  
 DRG: Tree Survey & Constraints Plan  
 DRN BY: GH  
 SCALE: 1:500 @ A0  
 DATE: December 2020  
 No: LSDP 1599.01

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