

Ecological Consultants Environmental and Rural Chartered Surveyors

**Client:** Genesis Homes Ltd **Site:** Land at Parkside Road, Cleator Moor, Cumbria

Arboricultural Impact Assessment for Proposed Development

Prepared by Antony Wood Cert Arb RFS Yew Tree and Gardens For Envirotech NW Ltd



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## ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## 1. SITE

#### A. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1. The proposed development site is comprised of an area of enclosed grazing land at Parkside Road, Cleator Moor, Cumbria.
- 2. The development area is as indicated in Appendix 5: Tree Constraints / Protection Plan and tree stock is as detailed within Appendix 1: Tree Schedule and Appendix 2: Tree Location Plan.
- 3. The survey area consists of the existing agricultural land and its boundaries.
- 4. There is an absence of tree stock within the site boundaries with limited tree stock located adjacent to the established boundaries. Vegetation within the site is comprised of field boundary hedges.

### **B. SURVEY DETAILS**

- The site was surveyed on 13/12/2023, tree heights were estimated via use of clinometer (Suunto PM-5), measurements of DBH taken at 1.5m height and crown spread was taken by ground measurements. The position of tree references within the site are taken from the supplied site plan. All images were taken at the date with Samsung A32. Sun positions were estimated on site via Sun Surveyor software. Weather conditions were clear with light to no winds.
- 2. All surveying of tree stock on the site was carried out visually from the ground only. Where ivy cover was encountered on trees then only limited visual checking of structure and potential defects was possible.
- 3. At the time of surveying all trees were recorded on standard tree record sheets, see Appendix 1: Tree Schedule. Trees were surveyed throughout the entire site, detailed individual details were recorded for all significant trees within the existing site. Where larger numbers of smaller trees were encountered in the survey area these are included as a Group record which includes the approximate height range and maximum Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of trees within the group, these groups are referred to by group i.e. Group 2 (G2).
- 4. The surveyed trees are categorized by the standard retention categories as defined in BS5837:2012. Such retention categories seek to inform the design process of trees which may be worthy of consideration for inclusion within the proposed development. All work recommendations relate to trees within the context of the current site layout and usage.
- 5. **Note**: the report and schedule recommendations form components of a development survey and are not intended to be used as a specific tree hazard assessment
- **6.** Trees and hedges requiring removal to facilitate the proposed development, or which are unsuitable for retention are annotated in red on the Tree Constraints Plan and may be further identified in the work recommendation section of the Tree Schedule.

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## 2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- A. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
- 1. The proposed development layout is for construction of dwellings, associated hard and soft landscaping as illustrated in Appendix 5: Tree Constraints Plan.

## 3. TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS AND CONSERVATION AREAS

#### A. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1. The site is not located within a Conservation Area.
- 2. Due to the absence of any significant tree stock, we have not conducted a check for the presence of a TPO (Tree Preservation Order).
- 3. The status of all trees within and adjacent to the site boundaries should be verified to the undertaking of tree works or removals.
- 4. It should be noted that trees located outside of maintained grounds and not covered by an active TPO or conservation area are subject to the standard Felling License constraints imposed by the Forestry Commission. These regulations restrict the volume of timber which may be removed in a calendar quarter without a felling licence to 5 cubic metres.

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5. Hedgerow regulations cover the protection of certain established field boundary hedges. This would apply to hedges within and around the survey site.

#### 4. IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON TREE STOCK

#### A. CURRENT TREE STOCK

- 1. The current tree stock within the survey boundaries as defined by those trees within the area of the proposed development is detailed in Appendix 1 and outlined as follows.
- 2. Tree stock is confined to a single Sessile Oak T1 which is located off site within gardens to the southwest of the site and a Norway Maple T2 on the boundary of the northwest corner of the site.
- 3. Group G1 does not contain any significant tree stock, it is comprised of scrub cover, overgrown hedge species and Ash with advanced Ash Dieback. It is located adjacent to the northeast corner of the site.
- 4. All other vegetation within and around the site boundaries is comprised of hedges.
- 5. We have listed these hedges as hedge H1 to H7 within the schedule. Hedges within the site boundaries are of mixed condition. They are indicated by dashed lines, we have made these continuous to indicate the location of the hedge and associated banking but many hedges within the site are not continuous / cohesive.
- 6. The highway boundary hedge H1 is typical of a highway hedge with a single species, even aged composition.
- 7. H2 is a garden boundary hedge and a mix of native and non-native species.
- 8. H3 is an unmaintained field / garden hedge, it does not extend along the entirety of the boundary.
- 9. H4 is an internal field dividing hedge within the central site. The western section has dissolved into occasional scattered single Hawthorns and clumps of Hawthorns. This section of H4 has lost all cohesion as a hedge.
- 10. H5 is similar to the eastern section of H4 in that it is no longer a cohesive, viable hedge.
- 11. H6 forms a section of the southwest boundary of the site, it is largely unmanaged with colonisation with Goat Willow.
- 12. H7 forms the western edge of the overall site. It is unmanaged and extends into a shallow ditch via Blackthorn sucker growth.
- 13. No other trees or hedges are located within the sphere of the development.

#### 4. IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON TREE STOCK (CONT.)

- B. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
- 1. Trees which are within the zone of potential impacts from the proposed development illustrated in Appendix 5: Tree Constraints Plan are detailed as follows.
- 2. Tree references T1 and T2 are outside of the development area. T1 requires protection via fencing as indicated in Appendix 5.
- 3. H1 can be retained and protected via fencing off set 1.5 m from the hedge. Two small sections will require removal, one to widen the existing gateway and one to form a new access, these will total 14m.
- 4. All southern and western boundary hedges can be retained and protected via standard protective barriers. These should be offset from the face of the hedge by 1.5m.
- 5. The internal hedge boundary line H4 is partially retained within the development. A 35 metre section will require removal, this can be mitigated by replacement / new hedge plating within the site.
- 6. Two small remnant sections of H5 will require removal, this can be mitigated by the proposed planting.
- 7. H7 is outside of the development zone, construction access scan be prevented via protective fencing.
- 8. Group G1 can be retained via protective barriers. As noted, the Ash component requires removal irrespective of the development due to its poor condition.

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9. No other trees or hedges are directly or indirectly affected by the proposed development.

## **5. SUGGESTED MITIGATION MEASURES**

#### A. GUIDELINES

- 1. Guidance for the protection and retention of trees within the site.
- 2. Erection of protective fencing as indicated in Appendix 5: Tree Constraints Plan.
- 3. No material storage should take place in these areas.
- 4. No mixing of cement-based or other building materials should take place within the root protection area, no storage of fuels should take place within this area.
- 5. The tree protection must remain in place until work is completed and there is no risk to the RPAs
- 6. Once construction has been completed and the landscaping phase is complete the protective fencing may be removed.
- 7. Specific guidance for the site is not required.

#### **B. PROTECTIVE FENCING**

- 1. Once erected all protective fencing will be regarded as sacrosanct and will remain in place until the completion of the construction phase. It shall not be removed, relocated or breached at any time without consultation with the project arboriculturalist.
- 2. Protective fencing will be constructed of robust barriers fit for the purpose of excluding construction traffic form root protection areas. Details of appropriate fencing types are included in Appendix 6.
- 3. Signs will be affixed to every third panel stating, 'Tree Protection Area Keep Out'. See Appendix 6 for example of signage.
- 4. All fencing will be securely affixed to avoid movement of fencing during the construction phase.
- 5. For the sections marked in orange on Appendix 5 fences will be constructed of site fencing of 'Heras' type which must be securely braced with additional measures to prevent movement of the fence during construction.
- 6. Indicative positions for protective fencing are indicated in orange on Appendix 5: Tree Constraints Plan. Where hedges are protected the fencing should be placed 1.5m from the maintained outer face of a mature hedge.

## 5. SUGGESTED MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

C. GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO AVOID DAMAGE TO TREES.

- 1. Protective fencing installed to prevent mechanical damage to trees adjacent to the development.
- 2. An indicative list of recommended practices during construction phase is listed below:
- 3. Once installed tree protection must remain in place and be observed at all times.
- 4. No fires within 10m of the crown of any retained trees.
- 5. Soil levels in rooting areas to be retained with minimal level changes, no greater increases than 300mm from existing levels.
- 6. No cement mixing/washout to take place within 15m of any retained trees.
- 7. No chemicals, bitumen etc. to be stored within 10m of any retained trees.
- 8. Any spillage of fuel, chemicals or contaminated water occurring within 2m of the root protection areas to be reported to project supervisor.
- 9. No additional underground services have been indicated to us at this time but they may be safely routed to avoid rooting zones, if additional services require routing through the root zones of trees for retention then appropriate sub surface or hand trenching methods should be used and guidance sought prior to any works being undertaken. See BS3857:2012.

## D. MITIGATION PLANTING.

A landscaping plan has been supplied to us at this time.

The proposed development layout includes significant volumes of landscaping / planting including tree, shrub and hedge planting.

## 6. CONCLUSION

- 1. The proposed development will not require the removal of any f tree stock
- 2. The existing and remnant hedges within and around the site are largely retained within the development. Where small sections require removal, this can be mitigated by replacement planting and enhancement of the existing sparse section of hedges.
- 3. No other trees are impacted upon by the development and no future conflicts with retained trees have been identified.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

#### It is recommended that

The management of the development reflects the guidance contained within this report both for the management of trees for retention and the protection of same during the proposed development phase and that due consideration is given to the position of any development in relation to retained trees and the removal of trees which are unsuitable for long term retention from the site prior to any development.

Туре	Name	Age	DBH	Height	1stB	N	E S	,	W	Cond	Life Exp	Comments	Recommendations	RPR m	RPA m <sup>2</sup>	Category
H1	Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	EM	100	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	Fair	20+	followed by laying to improve long term condition of	Retain and protect in development. Two sections require removal to widen and form access points 14 m total	1.2	4.52	
H2	Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn),Lonicera nitida,Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)	М	120	1.5	0.5	1	1	1	1	Mix	20+	5 5 T	Retain and protect in development	1.44	6.52	C2
T1	Quercus petraea (Sessile Oak)	М	450	12	5	5	5	5	5	Good	20+	Off site located between boundary fence and garage. DBH estimated	Retain and protect in development	7.63	182.92	B2
H3	Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), Ilex aquifolium (Holly), Salix caprea (Goat Willow) Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), Ilex	М	120	4	0	1.5	1.5	1.5			10+	Section of unmaintained hedge along garden / field	Retain and protect in development	1.44	6.52	
H4	aquifolium (Holly),Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore),Ulex europaeus (Gorse),Corylus avellana (Hazel)	M	150	5	0	2	2	2	2	2 Mix	10+	trees, more cohesive hedge in central to E section of	Retain and protect sections in development with bolstering via new planting. 35m section require removal.	1.8	10.18	C2
H5	Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn),Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	M	150	4	1	2	2	2	2	2 Poor	10+	Remnant hedge on banking. No cohesive hedge remaining. Scattered trees / plants have grazing	Majority of hedge retained and protect in development with additional planting to enhance / re-establish. Two small scattered remnant sections require removal 3.5 and 11m	1.8	10.18	C2
H6	Betula pendula (Silver Birch),Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn),Corylus avellana (Hazel),Ligustrum vulgarae (Privet),Salix caprea (Goat Willow),Sambucus nigra (Elder)	М	150	5	0.5	3	3	3	3	B_Mix	10+	•	Retain and protect in development Outside development area, protect in	1.8	10.18	C2
T2	Acer platanoides (Norway Maple)	EM	170	9	2	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	Good	20+	Tree located adjacent to site boundary	development.	2.88	26.06	C2
H7	Corylus avellana (Hazel),Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn),Ilex aquifolium (Holly),Sambucus nigra (Elder),Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)	M	150	6	0	2	2	2	2	2 Fair	20+		Outside development area, protect in development.	1.8	10.18	B2
G1	Corylus avellana (Hazel),Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn),Fraxinus excelsior (Ash),Ilex aquifolium (Holly),Salix caprea (Goat Willow)	M	150	12	0	6	6	6	6	Mix	10+	Cluster of unmanaged hedge plants and 2 Ash. Both Ash have advanced Ash Dieback infection with <5% live crown	Retain and protect in development	1.8	10.18	C2/U

# Table 1Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)									
Trees unsuitable for retention	(see Note)									
<b>Category U</b> Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	<ul> <li>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 category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning)</li> <li>Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline</li> <li>Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality</li> </ul>									
	NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see <b>4.5.7</b> .									
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation							
Trees to be considered for rete	ention		• •							
<b>Category A</b> Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	See Table 2						
<b>Category B</b> Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2						
<b>Category C</b> Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2						



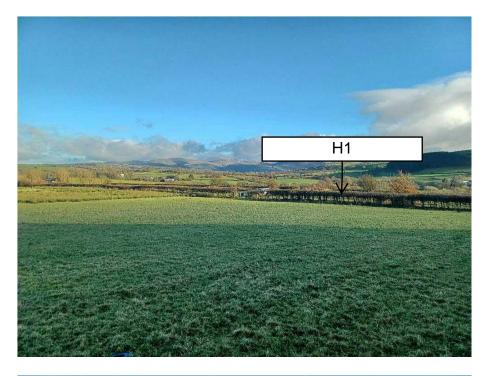
ew Tree

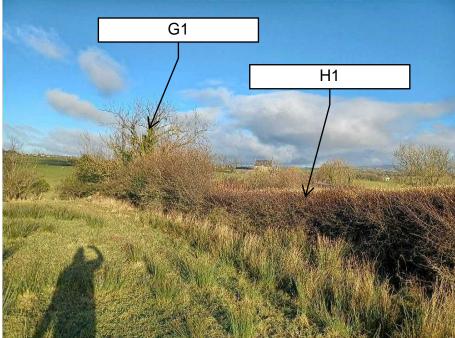


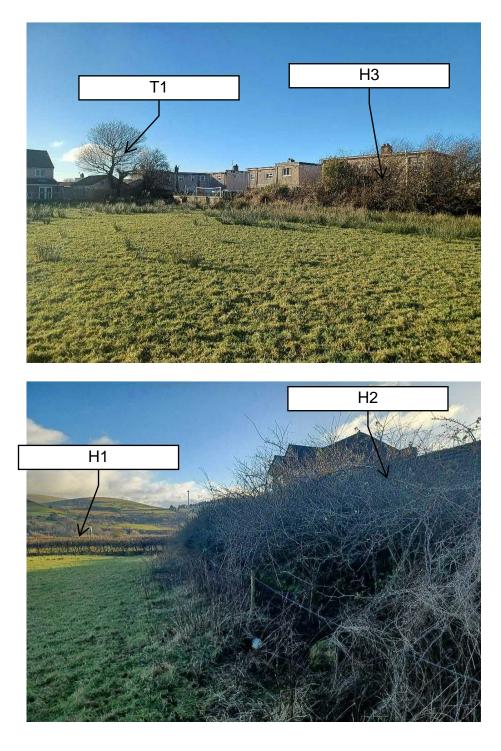
# envirotech Tree Location Plan Project Title: Parkside, Cleator Moor Tree Locations by retention category T3-A2 ○ T3-B2 ○ T3-C2 ○ Date of Survey: 13/12/2023 Root Protection Area (radius) Surveyor: A. Wood Date File Created: RPA Category A RPA Category B RPA Category C 10/01/2024 Category U tree unsuitable for retention 1:500 Restricted Root Potection Area (polygon) Prepared by Surveyed Canopy Extents Antony Wood Cert Arb RFS Yew Tree and Gardens For Envirotech NW Ltd Note: RPA only indicated for significant trees. Small garden trees and juvenile specimens may not be indicated Retention Categories: As defined in BS5837: 2012 RPA: Plotted from individual RPA sheets. Where restricted rooting conditions are present RPA is also plotted as an area polygon

# Land at Parkside Cleator Moor

Appendix 3: Site Images

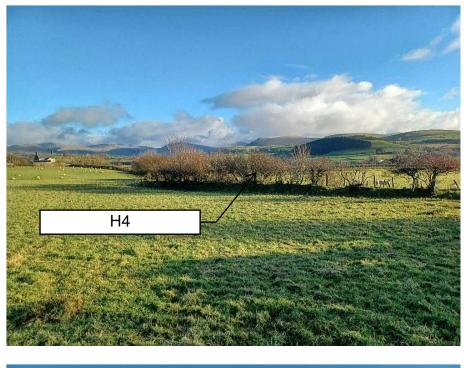


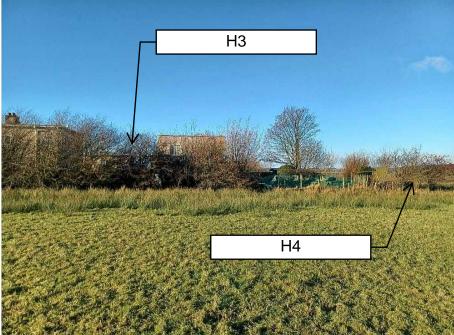




Appendix 3: Site Images

Land at Parkside Cleator Moor









# Appendix 3: Site Images

Land at Parkside Cleator Moor







Image date: 13/12/2023

#### **APPENDIX 4**

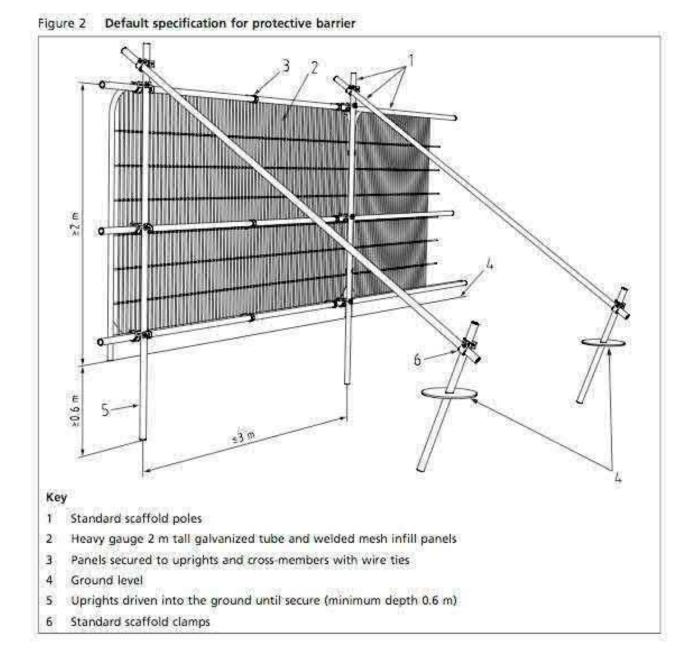
#### **Selected Reference List**

The Body Language of Trees by Claus Mattheck & Helge Breloer (1994) London:HMSO. Diagnosis of ill-health in trees by R.G. Strouts and T.G. Winter. (2000) London:HMSO Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management by David Lonsdale.(1999) HMSO BS5837:2012 British Standards Institute BS3998:2010 British Standards Institute Trees Their Use, Management, Cultivation and Biology Robert Watson 2006 Tree roots in the built environment (Research for Amenity Trees) (2013) Arboricultural Association Law of Trees, Forests and Hedges by Dr. Charles Mynors (Author) Sweet & Maxwell; 2nd Revised edition (14 Dec. 2011) Assessment of Tree Forks, Assessment of Junctions For Risk Management by Dr. Duncan Slater : Arboricultural Association (Nov 2016)

Collins Tree Guide by Owen Johnson (2006): Harper Collins, London



# Tree protective fencing



# Tree protective fencing

# BRITISH STANDARD

## BS 5837:2012

