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**Client:** Thomas Armstrong

Site: Land at Griffin Close

Frizington Cumbria CA26 3SH

Tree Survey and Impact Assessment

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





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#### 1. SITE

#### A. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1. The survey site is comprised of the former landscaped grounds and boundaries of the former residential home site at Griffin Close, Frizington, Cumbria
- 2. Tree stock within the site is comprised of three linear groups, a cluster of three trees, three individual trees areas of shrub cover. All tree stock is located around or adjacent to the boundaries of the site.
- The site is bounded by the public highway and dwellings to the east, the health centre
  grounds to the south, scrub / rough grass cover to the north and grazing land to the
  west
- 4. See Appendix1, Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 for detailed tree list, site layout detail and images.

#### **B. SURVEY DETAILS**

- 1. The site was surveyed on 10/08/2022, 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. Where access to trees was not possible, we have estimated tree sizes and conditions. The position of tree references within the site are taken from the topographic survey supplied to us. The site images were taken at survey date with Sony DCS-H400. Sun positions were estimated on site via Sun Surveyor software. Weather conditions were bright with full sun and no wind.
- 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.

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.

#### 2. EXISTING STRUCTURES AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

#### A. EXISTING STRUCTURES

1. At the time of the survey there are a no permanent structures within the site.

Dwellings and a public highway are located adjacent to the site. Areas of hard surfaces associated with the former building are located within the site boundaries.

#### **B. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

2. To the best of our knowledge the current development proposal undergoing design consideration is for construction of a residential development within the site boundaries.

#### 3. TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS AND CONSERVATION AREAS

#### A. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1. The site is <u>not</u> located within a Conservation Area. This designation confers a statutory protection upon all trees over 75mm in diameter.
- We have conducted a check for the presence of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) via the Copeland Borough Council Online mapping facility. This does not indicate any TPO being present within or adjacent to the site boundaries. https://copelandbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7222a5aa33 7542268f0d1a1c6af27cad
- 3. The status of all trees within and adjacent to the site should be verified prior to works being undertaken on them.
- 4. It should be noted that trees located outside of maintained grounds and not covered by an active TPO 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.
- 5. Hedgerow regulations cover the protection of certain established ancient field boundary hedges.

#### 4. TREE CONSTRAINTS

#### A. OVERVIEW

1. The need to survey and report on the condition and useful life expectancy of existing trees is intended to inform the design process and accompany a planning application for any proposed development.

#### B. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1. As can be seen from Appendix1; Tree Schedule, Appendix 2; Tree Location Plan and Appendix 3: Images; trees covered by this survey and report are distributed around the margins of the survey area.
- 2. Trees are detailed within Appendix 1 and are outlined as follows.
- Tree T1 is an Ornamental Flowering Cherry, it is set within a small unsurfaced planting bed adjacent to the former access road and car park entrance. T1 is not a notable individual tree and should not significantly influence the layout of a development.
- 4. Group G1 extends along the western boundary of the site. It is primarily composed of a linear group of early mature Scots Pine with an under planting of juvenile to semi mature Beech, Hawthorn and Oak. This group forms established screening at the site boundary, we recommend that it is retained in any development of the site. Retention would be aided by the presence of existing hard surfaces to the east of a section of the group.
- 5. Tree reference T2 is an Ash in the early mature age class, it is divorced from G1 and located at the edge of the former access route and car park. It is not currently showing any visible signs of infection by Ash Dieback Disease. However, it does have a significant vertical rib / flaw on the lower stem below a point of stem division. This may indicate an historic internal split within the stem, if T2 were retained in a development it would require further detailed assessment of the structure and condition of the stem.
- 6. Tree T3 is a Goat Willow, it is set within the shrub group S1 which surround the eastern boundary of the site. It is likely that T3 established within the shrub border and was not a planted landscape tree. T3 should not influence the layout of a development as it is a relatively short-lived pioneer species.
- 7. Group G2 is a cluster of three Scots Pine in the northeast corner of the site. They are located on the upper level of a banking adjacent to the boundary of the site. Group G3 extends from below G2 westwards towards the western boundary. It forms a continuous linear group along the banking adjacent to the northern boundary of the site. G3 is predominantly composed of semi mature Oak, trees along the southern edge of the group have unbalanced crown forms but have better developed stems than those in the centre which have supressed, spindly forms. G3 has a collective landscape value that would warrant retention in a development but would benefit from thinning.
- 8. Group G4 forms a section of the western boundary of the site to the north of G1. It is more akin to a lapsed hedgerow than a linear tree group with the main component being dense Goat Willow growth.
- Shrub group S1 warps around the eastern and outer edges of the site, it is a dense, mixed ornamental shrub group and does not contain any tree stock other than T1 and

T3.

10. No other trees are located within or immediately adjacent to the site.

#### C. EXISTING STRUCTURES

1. As previously noted, there is not an existing structure within the site. Remnants of the hard landscaping associated with the former building remain along with a paved access route and a parking area. The latter two elements have restricted the root zones of T1, T2 and elements of group G2.

#### 5. TREE CONSTRAINTS - DEVELOPMENT

#### A. PROTECTION MEASURES

- 1. Specific protection for individual trees and groups may be required within any development of the site.
- 2. The exact positioning of tree protection measures will be dependent upon the final proposed development layout and which trees are retained. Tree protection fencing would be required to be positioned outside of the plotted RPA radii of any retained trees as indicated in Appendix 2: Tree Location Plan.
- 3. As noted, tree protection could be set along the edge of the existing hard surfaced access route in relation to the central section of group G2. This is due to the existing tarmac surfaces forming an historic barrier to root development in this area of the site (as shown on Appendix2).
- 4. Protection for any retained hedges should be as that used for tree protection, an offset of 1m from the face of the hedge would allow the retention of suitable hedges.
- 5. The use of securely anchored Heras panels would serve to protect hedges around the development and act as site fencing, these would be to the specification detailed in BS 5837:2012 and located at the outer edge of surveyed RPA's.
- 6. The presence of extensive areas out with the surveyed RPA and crown extents would allow development of a large section of the site without impacts being placed upon any retained trees.

#### **B. SUGGESTED SITE GUIDELINES**

- 1. No fires within 10m of the crown of any retained trees.
- 2. Soil levels in rooting areas to be retained with minimal level changes, no greater than 300mm.
- 3. No cement mixing/washout to take place within 15m of any retained trees.
- 4. No chemicals, bitumen etc. to be stored within 10m of any retained trees.
- 5. Any spillage of fuel, chemicals or contaminated water occurring within 2m of the root protection areas to be reported to project supervisor.
- 6. Underground services may be safely routed outside the RPA of retained trees.

# 6. TREE CONSTRAINTS – DEVELOPMENT AREAS AND JUXTAPOSITION WITH TREES

- 1. Due to the nature of the site layout, the position of surveyed trees and the likely nature of a development, consideration of above and below ground constraints which may be imposed upon a development by retained trees is required.
- 2. The site is free from any notable tree constraints other than around its outer boundaries.
- 3. A development set within the central site would allow the retention of boundary trees along the western and northern boundaries.
- 4. The location of these groups should not create conflict with a development, and it should be possible to achieve separation to surveyed crown extents and built elements
- 5. No significant shading or overshadowing is present within the central areas of the site, no pressure for future tree removals would be created by a development within the site that is set back from the site boundaries.

#### 7. PROPOSED TREE PLANTING

- 1. At the time of this survey a requirement for replacement planting has not been identified in direct relation to the proposed development.
- 2. A development which does not require the removal of any significant tree stock, and where tree planting forms part of any associated landscaping plan would represent an opportunity to increase the tree stock within the site.

#### 8. SCOPE OF BRIEF

Carry out a survey of trees within the site in accordance with BS5837:2012 and
collect data in order to advise the development designer of key issues relating to
trees, with options and strategies. Prepare a Report with associated data, site plans
and imagery, in order to facilitate consideration of the tree issues both for existing
structures and the proposed development.

#### 9. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Site Plan: Supplied 1:250 @ A1

#### 10. CONCLUSIONS

#### It is concluded that

- 1. The site and the surrounding land contain a limited number of individual trees and a number of groups of trees.
- 2. Apart from T1, T2 and T3 all trees are located around or adjacent to the northern and western boundaries of the site.
- 3. The central site is free from above or below ground tree constraints.
- 4. It is likely that T1, T3, S1 and possibly T2 would require removal within a development of the central site. This would not represent the loss of significant tree stock and their removal could be mitigated through replacement planting.
- 5. A development within the central areas of the site should allow the retention of boundary groups G1, G2 and G3. This would provide established landscaping, screening and boundary greening in a development.

6.

7. The location and size of trees around the site boundaries is such that no conflict with a development through shading or overshadowing would be created within the central areas of the site.

#### 11. RECOMMENDATIONS

#### It is recommended that

 The design and layout of any proposed 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 / development	RPR m	RPA m <sup>2</sup>	Category
T1	Prunus (Ornamental Flowering Cherry)	EM	270	5	2.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	Good	10+	Tree at edge of shrub border. Paving to 2 sides of tree, balanced crown form with minor volumes of deadwood	Limited retention value in any development	3.24	32.98	C2
T2	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	EM	480	12	3	4	5	6	Ę	Fair	10+	Tree located in grass area to W of access / parking, restricted root zone due to existing surfaces. Stem bifurcates at 2m with open Y formed union and thickening of stem. Slightly unbalanced crown form due to G1. Rib on E side of stem below bifurcation point indicates possible historic split in lower stem. No signs of Ash Dieback in crown	If retained, T2 would require monitoring of condition and inspection of lower stem condition	5.76	104.24	C2
<b>G</b> 1	Pinus sylvestris (Scots Pine), Quercus petraea (Sessile Oak), Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	EM	375	12	3.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	Mix	20+	Linear group along the majority of W boundary and area of grass cover. Restricted root zones in central area where G1 adjacent to access /parking. Interdependent slightly suppressed forms (exposed location). Occasional instances of historic branch failures. Young / dense planting of Oak, Beech and Hawthorn beneath Pines (DBH average 375mm)	Recommend retention in any development of site	4.5	63.63	B2
T3	Salix caprea (Goat Willow)	EM	310	5	2	3	3	3	3	8 Fair	10+	Tree located in shrub group on banking within walled border. Most likely to have self seeded / colonised shrub planting. (DBH at 500 mm height)	Limited retention value in any development	3.72	43.48	C2
G2	Pinus sylvestris (Scots Pine)	М	400	13	5	5	5	5	Ę	Fair	20+	Group of 3 Pines on upper banking. Deadwood present in lower areas of crown due to shading. 1 x dead Ash in centre of group. Dense ivy cover (DBH estimated).	Recommend retention in any development of site	4.8	72.39	B2
G3	Fagus sylvatica (Beech),Quercus petraea (Sessile Oak),Ilex aquifolium (Holly)	SM	270	10	3	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	Mix	20+	Close spaced group parallel to N boundary. Interdependent forms with outer trees having unbalanced crown development. Trees in centre of group are supressed and have generally poor stem taper development (spindly)	Recommend retention in any development of site. Would benefit from thinning to select better trees	3.24	32.98	B2
G4 S1	Salix caprea (Goat Willow),Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn),Fagus sylvatica (Beech) Mixed shrub group	EM M	150 50	6	1 0		1.5 1.5			Good Mix		Dense boundary group / unmaintained hedge. Willow is the dominant component Established landscaping of mixed ornamental shrubs and ground cover	Recommend retention in any development of site Limited retention value in any development	1.8	10.18 1.13	

Table 1	Cascade chart	for tree quality assessment
Category a	nd definition	Criteria (including subcateg

Identification ories where appropriate) on plan Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note) Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, See Table 2 Category U including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever 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

- 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, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality

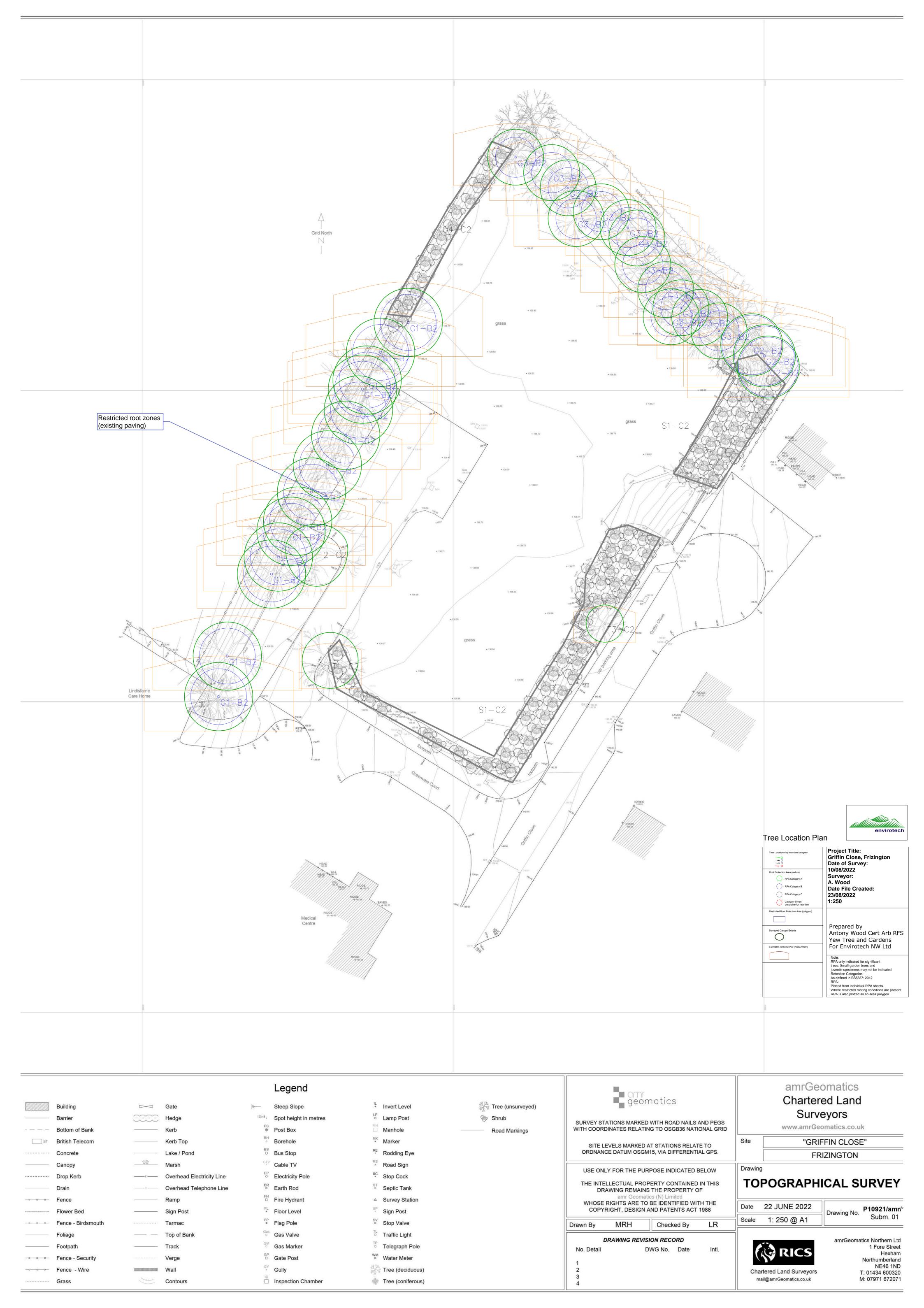
NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7. 2 Mainh, landesens musikiss

	300 <b>7.3.</b> 7.			
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
Trees to be considered for rete	ention			
Category A 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
Category 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
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with	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



a stem diameter below

150 mm



Appendix3: Images Griffin Close



Image Date: 10/08/2022

Appendix3: Images Griffin Close



Image Date: 10/08/2022

Appendix3: Images Griffin Close



Image Date: 10/08/2022

#### **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

# **Appendix 5 - Protective Fencing**

### Tree protective fencing

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier

#### Key

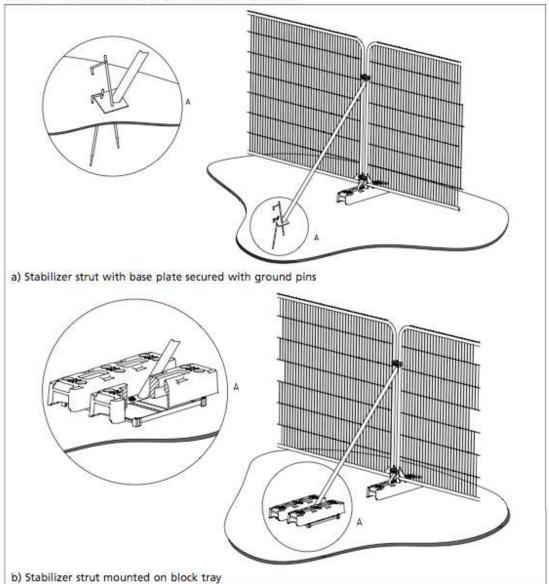
- 1 Standard scaffold poles
- 2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
- 3 Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties
- 4 Ground level
- 5 Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)
- 6 Standard scaffold clamps

## **Appendix 5 - Protective Fencing**

## Tree protective fencing

BRITISH STANDARD BS 5837:2012

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems





# TREE PROTECTION AREA KEEP OUT!

ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANT