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Coppice Landscapes

Report type: **Aboricultural Implication Assessment**

Client: **Mr. Richardson**

Site address: **Land to rear of The Old Vicarage
Shrewsbury Road
Penistone
Barnsley
S36 6AA**

Reference No: **AIA/2012(PEN,SR,S2)**

Date: **15 April 2012**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1

A report is needed to give detailed arboricultural advice on various trees that may influence the proposed development of 2 detached dwellings. I am required to make specific recommendations for arboricultural work and methods of tree protection in relation to the proposed development. The report includes a tree survey schedule at Section 5. Only trees considered relevant have been included in the report. The report should be read in conjunction with the tree constraints and protection plan at appendix 1 and specification for tree protection at appendix 2 and 3.

2. SITE

2.1

The site presently comprises of a broadly rectangular parcel of land, which was the formerly the rear garden to The Old Vicarage. The proposed site is subject of an extant Planning Permission to construct a block of 12No. apartments. A JCA arboricultural report and supporting method statement already exists in relation to the apartment scheme and therefore where known I have cross referenced the numbering system employed in the earlier JCA arboricultural report.

2.2

The rear garden area of the application site is dominated by a tree group comprising of 1No. Elm, 2 No. Cypress, 11No. Sycamore, 1No. Horse Chestnut and 1No. Beech trees, which occupy positions towards the western site boundary. The south eastern corner of the site contains a group of 1No. Cedar, 1No. Beech and 1No. Cherry. The east and southern boundaries are defined by a Privet hedge and Hawthorn hedge respectively. This report will also refer to 2No. off site Ash which occupy the garden areas to the newly converted Old Vicarage properties.

2.3

The now abandoned garden was formerly laid out in a traditional form with a variety of ornamental tree, shrub, herbaceous plants and lawned areas.

2.4

The garden management and vegetation present would suggest the majority of open soils to be free draining and fertile.

2.5

Tree cover within the immediate neighbourhood is moderate in terms of numbers and species mix, being defined by the prevailing land use. However in terms of its age range it is heavily weighted towards trees of a mature age.

3. NAME OF INSPECTOR

3.1

Stephen Waterson carried out a visual tree inspection on 7 April 2012...

4. STATUS OF TREES

4.1

It is understood that none of the sites tree cover is subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). However the site is within a Conservation Area and as such prior to undertaking any tree work it may be necessary to provide the Local Planning Authority with a Section 211 notice (6 weeks in writing) of any intention to carry out tree work. In the case of trees that

are subject of Conservation Area controls or planning application procedures it is essential the Local Authority's advice is sought and where necessary consent obtained before undertaking any tree removal or pruning operations.

5.0. SURVEY CONDITIONS, METHODS AND BASIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1

The survey details were prepared in accordance with BS5837 – 2005 Guide for Trees in Relation to Construction providing an assessment as to the condition of each tree and desirability for retention within the development context. The details of the tree report should be self-explanatory; however it may help to explain the following;

Unless otherwise stated all measurements are taken in metres (m).

Stem diameter - is measured at 1.5m above ground level or above the root flare in the case of multi-stemmed trees.

Age of tree - is expressed as young (y), semi mature (sm), early mature (em), mature (m), and over mature (om) and veteran (v).

Estimated remaining contribution – relates to a trees useful life expectancy.

BS 5837 category grading – is a methodology for evaluating existing tree stock and is summarized as follows;

R = Removal necessary for arboricultural management reasons and/or having a value that would be lost within 10 years in the current context (red on plan)

A = Trees of high quality (green on plan)

B = Trees of moderate quality (blue on plan)

C = Trees of low quality (grey on plan)

1 = Trees with arboricultural values

2 = Trees with mainly landscape values

3 = Trees with mainly cultural values

RPA (radii) - Is the normal minimum distance specified in BS5837 table 2 in which to position protective fencing. This in turn defines the "Construction Exclusion Zone".

Preliminary management recommendations – Where tree removal is recommended solely to facilitate the proposed development a statement is made to this effect.

Tree Ref.	Species	Stem diameter (m)	Height (m)	Branch spread (m)n,e,s,w	Age class	Structural, physiological condition & comments	Preliminary management recommendations	Estimated remaining contribution	BS 5837 category	RPA (radii)
G1	2 Birch 2Rowan	< 0.01	<3	0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5	s	4 recently established trees. Strimmer damage evident at root collar, however all remain viable.	Retain no work required	10-20	C2	0.12
T2 (1314)	Elm	0.15 x.2	6	4 4 2 7	sm	Dual stemmed from ground & of poor suppressed form	Remove to favour replanting	10-20	C2	1.8
T3 (1315)	Sycamore	0.45	16	3 3 3 7	m	Major wounds from ground to 3m, with extensive decay evident. Poor form with heavily distorted crown bias to west itself noticeably sparse.	Remove to favour replanting	0-10	R	5.4
T4 (1316)	Sycamore	0.55	18	5 8 6 5	m	Reasonable specimen within group. Crown bias to east for which there is scope to draw back & crown lift in order to provide a more balanced canopy.	Retain draw back easterly laterals to suitable growing points & crown clean	20-40	B2	6.6
T5 (1317)	Sycamore	0.5	17	4 2 5 7	m	Poor heavily suppressed form, with minor though multiple crown defects throughout, including snags, dead wood, cavities & branch tear outs.	Remove to favour replanting	10-20	C2	6
T6 (1318)	Sycamore	0.35	18	2 4 5 3	m	Poor suppressed form with dead wood & snags. Removal will aid 1316 & 1321.	Remove	10-20	C2	4.2
T7 (1319)	Sycamore	0.55	16	2 0 5 8	m	Poor heavily suppressed form, with snags, dead wood, cavities & pronounced crown bias to west.	Retain & crown clean	10-20	C2	6.6

Tree Ref.	Species	Stem diameter (m)	Height (m)	Branch spread (m)n,e,s,w	Age class	Structural, physiological condition & comments	Preliminary management recommendations	Estimated remaining contribution	BS 5837 category	RPA (radii)
T8 (1320)	Sycamore	0.2	16	0 0 1 2	m	Spindly pole type & of very poor form with snags & dead wood.	Remove	0-10	R	2.4
T9 (1321)	Beech	0.55	18	3 8 6 3	m	Attractive specimen within group. Crown bias to east for which there is scope to draw back & crown lift in order to provide a more balanced canopy.	Retain draw back easterly laterals to suitable growing points & crown clean	20-40	B2	6.6
T10 (1322)	Sycamore	0.5	15	0 6 6 8	m	Major cavity at 3m with extensive decay present. Minor snags & dead wood evident throughout crown.	Remove to favour replanting	0-10	R	6
T11 (1327)	Sycamore	0.55	16	3 7 6 5	m	Reasonable specimen within group. Minor snags & dead wood evident throughout crown. Will prosper following uprooting of adjacent Beech.	Retain. Crown lift & crown clean	20-40	B2	6.6
T12 (1328)	Cypress	0.15	8	2 2 2 2	em	Miss fit tree, though providing year round screening/cover.	Retain no work required	10-20	C2	1.8
T13	Sycamore	0.55	15	5 7 6 7	m	Reasonable specimen within group. Minor snags & dead wood evident.	Retain draw back westerly laterals to suitable growing points & crown clean	20-40	B2	6.6
T14 (1329)	Sycamore	0.55	15	5 3 6 8	m	Reasonable specimen within group. Crown bias to west for which there is scope to draw back & crown lift in order to provide a more balanced canopy.	Retain draw back westerly laterals to suitable growing points & crown clean.	20-40	B2	6.6

Tree Ref.	Species	Stem diameter (m)	Height (m)	Branch spread (m)n,e,s,w	Age class	Structural, physiological condition & comments	Preliminary management recommendations	Estimated remaining contribution	BS 5837 category	RPA (radii)
T15 (1330)	Horse Chestnut	0.35	8	4 5 6 7	m	Growing tight to remnant boundary wall. Poor form with triple leaders from 1.5m & 2m.	Retain & crown lift	10-20	C2	4.2
T16 (1331)	Sycamore	0.6	16	5 5 7 6	m	Attractive specimen within group. Contains minor snags, dead wood & historic flush cut wounds.	Retain, crown lift & crown clean	20-40	B2	7.2
T17 (1332)	Cypress	0.2	8	2 2 2 2	em	Miss fit tree, though providing year round screening/cover. Very poor form having developed a distorted though dominant secondary leader.	Remove	10-20	C2	2.4
H18	Hawthorn Holly Field Maple Pine	<0.1	7	See plan	m	Hedgerow predominantly comprising of outgrown Hawthorn with occasional Holly, Pine & Field Maple. The Pine & Maple are heavily suppressed & of very poor form.	Remove Pine & Maple, reduce hedgerow to 3m & face up	10-20	C2	1.2
T19 (1339)	Cherry	0.25	7	5 5 2 2	em	Very poor heavily suppressed form. Twin stemmed from ground level with major split on southern stem. Weakness in northern stem resulted in tear out in last gales.	Remove	0-10	R	3
T20 (1341)	Beech	0.2	9	4 4 4 4	sm	Reasonable tree though developing poor crown structure due to absence of a clearly defined leader.	Retain, crown lift & selectively reduce 2 of the 3 leaders to encourage apical dominance	10-20	C2	2.4

Tree Ref.	Species	Stem diameter (m)	Height (m)	Branch spread (m)n,e,s,w	Age class	Structural, physiological condition & comments	Preliminary management recommendations	Estimated remaining contribution	BS 5837 category	RPA (radii)
T21 (1341)	Blue Atlantic Cedar	0.4	10	5 5 4 4	sm	Attractive & well balanced form with no defects evident.	Retain & remove lower limbs to 3m stem height	20-40	B1	4.8
H22	Privet	< 0.05	<4	See plan	m	Effective boundary hedge, albeit presently neglected.	Reduce to 1.5m height face up & thereafter maintain at maximum 1.7m height	10-20	C2	0.5
T23 (1341)	Ash.	0.85	21	10 10 10 10	m	A reasonably prominent tree of good form growing on noticeably higher ground than adjacent Doctors Surgery. Proximity to relatively newly extended surgery will have impacted negatively on root shoot ratio. Ivy infestation to 7m restricted inspection. No evidence of serious fungal pathogens evident at time of inspection. Northerly growing over extended limb. Major dead wood, snags, decay cavities, branch snap & poor annual extension growth are indicative of a tree having suffered earlier trauma. Lower crown exhibiting far greater vigour than upper crown. The defects present increase the risk of crown failure in extremes of weather. In this regard the periodic crown reduction will reduce the risk of such failure and prolong tree retention.	Retain & crown reduce by a maximum of 25% crown volume, sever Ivy at ground level & crown clean. Monitor defects	10-20 assuming periodic crown reduction	C1	10.2
T24 (1341)	Weeping Ash	0.5	10	4 6 5 4	om	Attractive specimen tree. Main stem divides at 3m. Not untypical of a senescent tree of this species it contains multiple defects, including dead wood, snags, minor cavities & poor wound occlusion. Ivy infestation to 5m. A sympathetic scheme of the periodic crown reduction work will reduce the risk of stem failure, without prejudicing the trees aesthetic value. The more dominant easterly stem lends itself to more substantive crown reduction with lesser compensatory reduction to the western stem. Both stems possess a structure with growth points to reduce back to.	Retain & crown reduce upper crown by a maximum of 15% crown volume, sever Ivy at ground level & crown clean. Monitor defects	20-40 assuming periodic crown reduction	B1	6

6.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

6.1

The findings of the tree survey schedule at section 5 indicate that no trees merit high quality (A) category, 8No. trees merit a moderate quality (B) category, 12No. individual, tree groups and hedgerows merit a low quality (C) category and 4No. trees fall into the removal (R) category.

6.2

In view of the existence of the extant Planning Permission the likely impact of the proposed development is considered to be broadly neutral.

6.3

With the possible exception of the category (R) Cherry T19 in pure development terms it is feasible to retain all of tree and hedgerow material covered in this report, ensuring the current treescape as viewed from within the Conservation Area is not overly compromised by the development proposal. Certain of the tree work specified is considered desirable irrespective of the planning application now under consideration. With regard to the recommended tree work indicated in the tree survey schedule at section 5, from a procedural viewpoint prior to implementing this work it will be necessary to submit a tree works application, unless of course the LPA consolidate the recommendations within the Planning Permission. Consolidating the tree work recommendations would have the added advantage of enabling the Local Authority to condition any replacement planting that it may deem desirable and to formalise the extent of works to be permitted.

7.0 TREE PROTECTION PROPOSALS DURING CONSTRUCTION PROCESSES

7.1

Taking account of the extant planning permission it is possible to achieve a reasonable level of tree root protection for all retained trees. This is demonstrated on the accompanying tree constraints and protection plan at appendix 1. The encroachment within the RPA radii of trees T4, T9, T13, T32 and T24 is of such a minor nature as to be unlikely to impact significantly on the vitality of the trees and in any event is considered broadly neutral when taking into consideration the extant planning permission.

7.2

The final column of the tree survey schedule at Section 5, indicates the Root Protection Area (RPA radii) for all trees. In order to ensure the retained trees are protected from unnecessary damage or disturbance, protective fencing will be erected prior to commencement of any construction operations.

7.3

In practical terms the RPA should be created using a robust barrier (appendix 2) that should fully meet the requirements of BS: 5837, Section 9.2.2, namely a framework of vertical and horizontal tubular scaffold poles which should be braced sufficiently to receive weld mesh which should itself be securely fixed with wire or scaffold clamps. The fencing should be sufficiently strong to withstand impacts likely to be caused during building operations. All weather signs (see appendix 3) should also be affixed to the fencing at regular intervals stating; "CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE KEEP OUT." Once erected the protective fencing shall not be crossed, removed or otherwise altered. No persons or materials must be allowed into the exclusion zones.

7.4

A site compound is identified at appendix 1. The storage of materials and mixing of cement shall be restricted to this area. However whilst under construction it will also prove practicable to store materials within the integral garages.

8.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

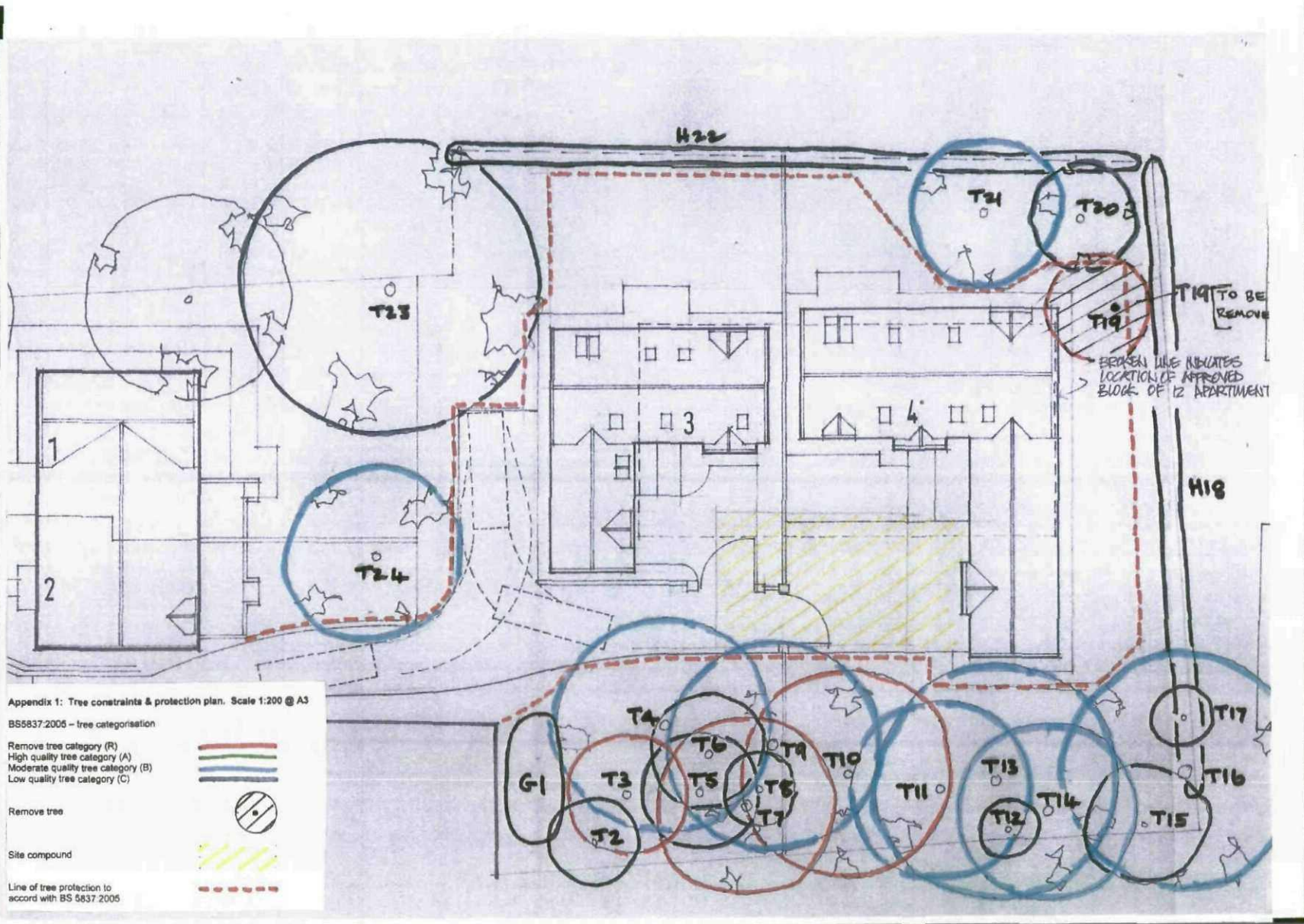
8.1

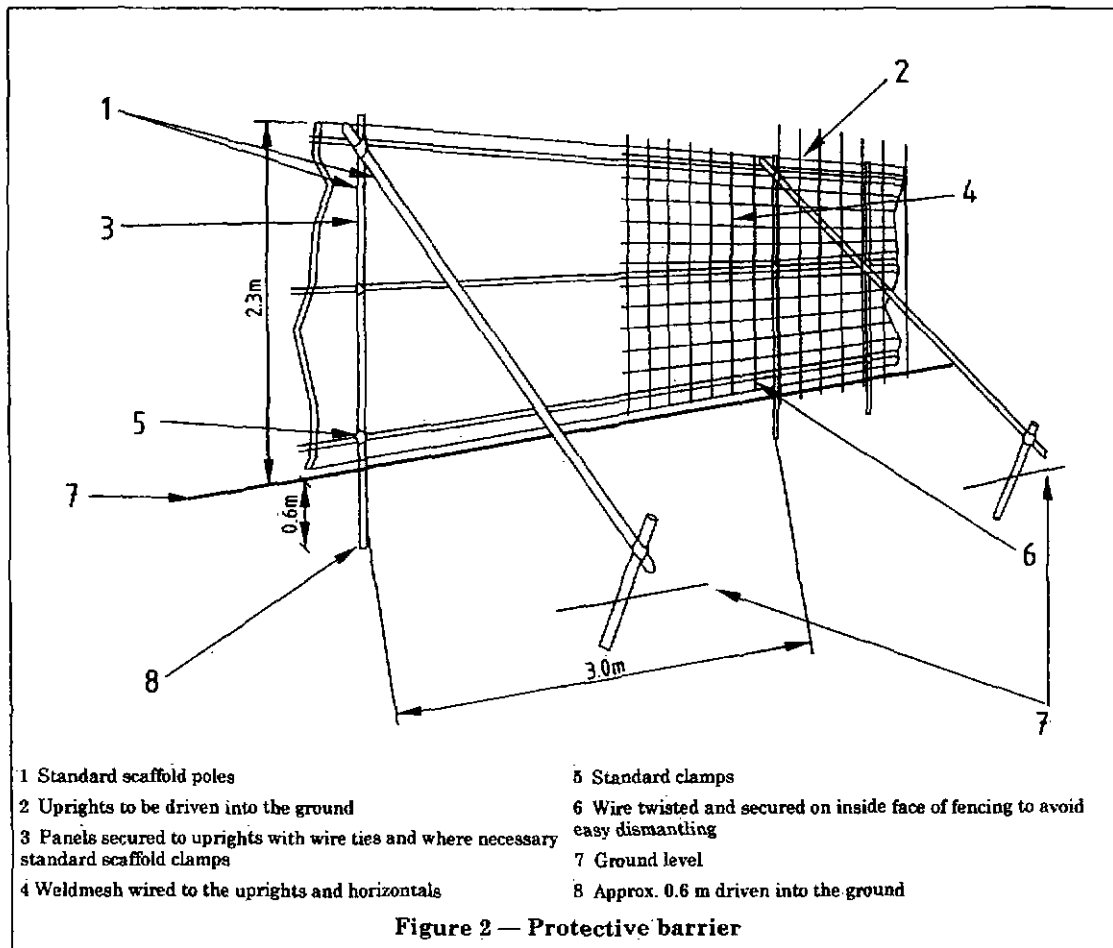
From the foregoing tree survey findings, comments and observations, it will be seen that the development proposal itself does not require the removal of any visually dominant trees, ensuring the current treescape as viewed from within the Conservation Area is not overly compromised by the development proposal.

8.3

The protection of trees and their subsequent health and future potential is totally dependent upon all persons operating within the site. Communications are vitally important to ensure that all parties understand the reason for tree protection and its continued existence. Providing all necessary tree protection works are undertaken, then retained trees and development alike will satisfactorily coexist. It is hoped that this report and recommendations provides all necessary information. However should there be any queries or should clarification of any points be required, please contact myself.

Stephen Waterson







TREE PROTECTION AREA - KEEP OUT !

(TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)

**TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY
PLANNING CONDITIONS AND/OR ARE THE SUBJECT OF
A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER**

**ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE
WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LOCAL
PLANNING AUTHORITY**