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Coppice Landscapes

Report type: **Aboricultural Implication Assessment**

Client: **GPIC Ltd**

Site address: **Thurgoland Medical Centre
Roper Lane
Thurgoland
Barnsley**

Reference No: **AIA/2011(TMC.RLS1)**

Date: **4 April 2011**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1

A report is needed to give detailed arboricultural advice on various trees that may influence the proposed replacement of a medical centre at Roper Lane, Thurgoland. I am required to make specific recommendations for arboricultural work in relation to the proposed development. The report should be read in conjunction with the tree constraints plan at appendix 1, tree protection plan at appendix 2 and specification for above ground tree protection at appendix 3.

2. SITE

2.1

Refer to the Design and Access Statement submitted by James Totty Partnership, 38 Wilkinson St, Sheffield, S10 2GB.

2.2

The main body of the site comprises of a rectangular parcel of land. The existing facility is sited towards the south eastern boundary. The site frontage consists of a stone retaining wall that supports ground levels approximately 1 metre higher than the adjacent public highway. From there the site rises gently from its Roper lane frontage to the rear of the property.

2.3

The site itself contains no trees whatsoever, the vegetation present consisting entirely of mown and rough grass. However the north western boundary is influenced by 9No. off site trees and a small section of hedgerow all belonging to the neighbouring "Castle View".

2.4

The existing grass sward and neighbouring off site tree cover 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.

3. NAME OF INSPECTOR.

3.1

Stephen Waterson.

4. STATUS OF TREES.

4.1

It is understood that none of the sites tree cover is subject to Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or Conservation Area controls. In the case of trees that are subject of TPO, 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)
T1	Rowan	0.3 m/s	7	4 4 4 4	m	Reasonably attractive tree, minor snags & dead wood. Lower limb enveloping coping stone on adjacent boundary wall	Retain. Whilst no work is required I recommend a crown clean & crown lift	10-20	C2	3
T2	Cypress	0.3 m/s	8	1 1 1 1	em	Reasonably attractive tree. No defects evident	Retain. No work required	10-20	C2	3
T3	Weeping Willow	0.35	9	7 7 4 6	em	Reasonably attractive spreading tree, minor snags & dead wood. However the growth habit has resulted in development of an easterly extending limb with a pronounced crown bias into the site. If not removed or reduced the limb will have the potential to develop into undesirable secondary leader. Lateral secondary growth from the over extending limb will require reducing back to facilitate construction of the car parking/turning area.	Retain, crown clean & reduce easterly extending limb - subject to agreement with tree owner	10-20	C2	4.2
T4	Cherry	0.4 m/s	7	5 5 5 5	m	Reasonably attractive tree, minor snags & dead wood. Growing within 5cm of boundary wall dictates that this tree will in time conflict with the wall. A small section of south eastern crown will need to be removed to facilitate construction of the surgery.	Retain, crown clean, crown lift to 3m & draw back south easterly extending crown by 2m - subject to agreement with tree owner	10-20	C2	4
T5	Apple	0.3 m/s	6	5 5 5 5	m	Reasonable attractive form of fruiting variety. Contains some minor snags & dead wood.	Retain. Whilst no work is required I recommend a crown clean & crown raise	10-20	C2	3
T6	Maple	0.1	7	3 4 2 4	sm	Previously lopped with resulting snags & dead wood. Note embedded rope within main stem/lower crown.	Retain. No work required	10-20	C2	1.2

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)
T7	Maple	0.15	5	3 3 1 3	sm	Previously lopped with resulting snags & dead wood. A tree of poor form.	Retain. Whilst no work is required I recommend a crown clean & periodic crown reduction	10-20	C2	3
T8	Whitebeam	0.2	6	2 4 2 2	sm	Previously lopped with resulting snags & dead wood. A tree of poor form.	Retain. Whilst no work is required I recommend a crown clean & periodic crown reduction	10-20	C2	2.4
T9	Cypress	0.2 m/s	7	2 2 2 2	sm	Reasonably attractive tree. No defects evident	Retain. No work required	10-20	C2	2
H10	Laurel	0.05 m/s	2.5	See plan	em	Small section of clipped boundary hedge	Retain. No work required Recommend annual reduction to maintain at 2m height	10-20	C2	0.5

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 or moderate quality (B) category, 9No. individual trees (T1-T9) and 1No. section of hedgerow (H10) merit a low quality (C) category. No trees fall within the removal (R) category.

6.2

It is feasible to retain all trees covered in this report, ensuring the current treescape as viewed from within the village is not overly compromised by the development proposal. The nature of the recommended pruning work is indicated in the tree survey schedule at section 5 and again shown indicatively on the tree protection plan at appendix 2.

6.3

The possibility of root damage upon foundations will need to be addressed. In this regard structures will need to be appropriately designed to have foundations that take account of roots, either past, present or future that could impact upon soil moisture levels and possibly contribute to subsidence if the structure of the soil was of a suitable nature. With regard to the installation of utilities, foul and surface water drainage it is recommended that these be located away from the western most site boundary with Castle View in order to avoid conflict with the roots of neighbouring trees/hedgerow T1 to H10.

6.4

The above recommendations are therefore in accordance with good management principles and will ensure that a desirable and secure treescape can be achieved.

7.0 TREE PROTECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION PROCESSES

7.1

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. In view of the proximity of the new surgery building to T4 - H10, it will be essential to utilise additional ground protection in the form of a single thickness of scaffold boards supported by scaffold in line with the recommendations contained in BS5837, section 9.3 and figure 3; refer to appendix 3. In this case I recommend the ground protection should run the full length of the north western boundary ensuring continuity of treatment for all trees/hedgerow. The line of the protective fence shall be set a maximum of 1.2 metre from the face of the new build and edge of car park. The extent of the proposed ground protection is demonstrated on the tree protection plan at appendix 2.

7.2

It is evident that the proposed turning head encroaches slightly into the RPA radii of the Weeping Willow T3. However this encroachment is so inconsequential that it is extremely unlikely to impinge on vitality and future viability of this tree.

7.3

Provided satisfactory tree protection is provided development need not compromise the health of retained trees.

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 trees, ensuring the current treescape as viewed from within the village 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

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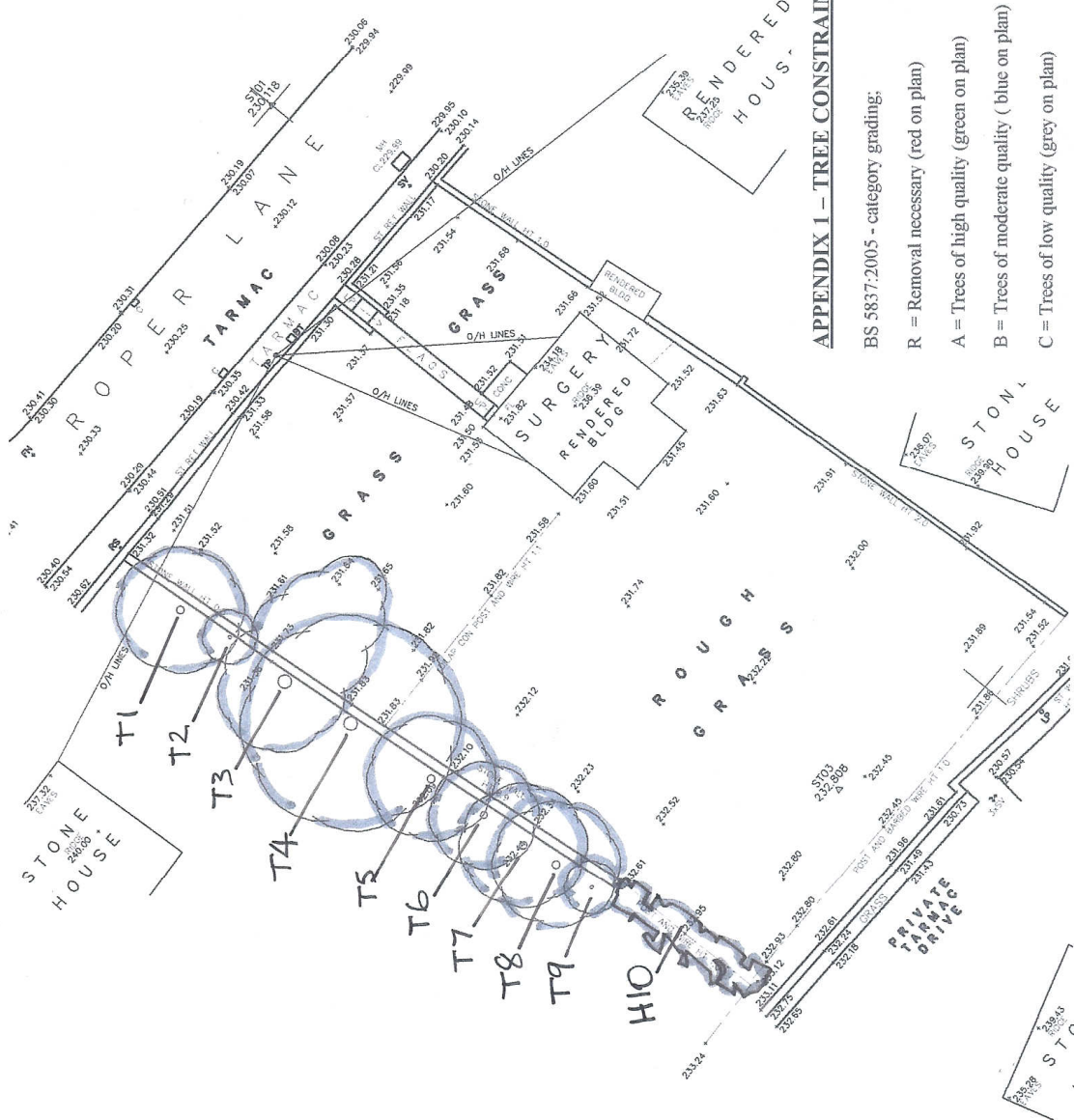
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BY ELLAM LAND SURVEYS

FOR PLANNING
C.D.P.I.

APPENDIX 1 – TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN Scale 1:200 at A3

BS 5837:2005 - category grading;

- R = Removal necessary (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)



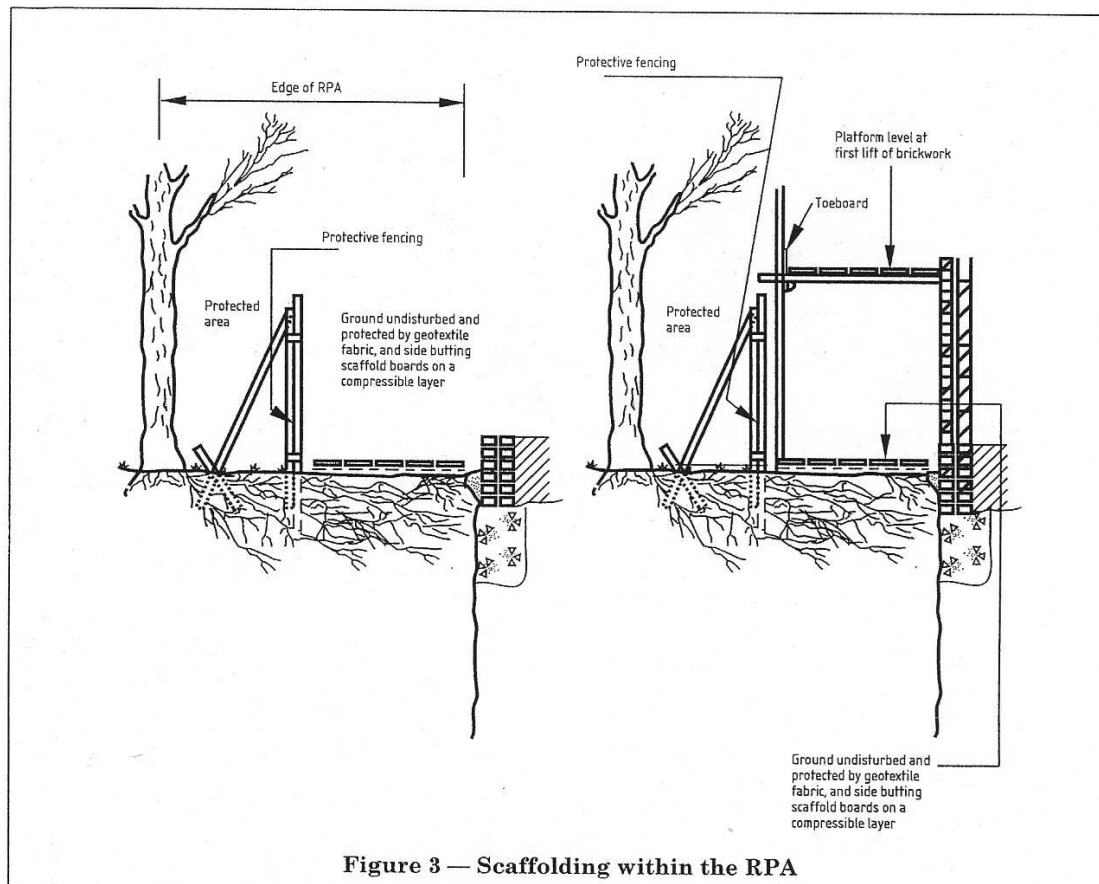


Figure 3 — Scaffolding within the RPA