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Coppice Landscapes

Report type: **Aboricultural Implication Assessment & Method Statement**

Client: **Mr & Mrs Simms**
C/o Townsend Planning Consultants

Site address: **Land at Lakeside View**
Ingbirchworth
Penistone
South Yorkshire

Reference No: **AIA/SW/S1)**

Date of report: **06.03.2014**

1. CLIENT

1.1
Mr. and Mrs. Simms c/o Townsend Planning Consultants.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

2.1
A report is needed to give detailed arboricultural advice on trees that are considered to be of significance to a proposed residential development. I am asked to make specific recommendations on arboricultural work and methods of tree protection in relation to a group of trees that stand off site to the south west of the proposed access. Only trees considered relevant have been included in the report. Accompanying the report is a tree survey schedule at Section 6, Tree Constraints Plan and Protection Plan at appendix 1 and extracts of BS5837:2012 and a tree protection sign at appendix 2.

3. THE SITE & ASSOCIATED TREE COVER

3.1
The proposed development is to be accessed from Lakeside to the east. The site falls away moderately from its north eastern boundary with the A629 and similarly from its eastern most boundary with Lakeside View. The only tree cover of any note that interfaces with the proposed development is the group of trees numbered T1-T14 that stand beyond the site boundary, itself some 4.5 metres south of the proposed access road that will serve the development. These trees comprise of mature and early mature Sycamore, Beech, Hawthorn and Oak.

3.2
The surrounding area is predominantly rural in character. Tree cover within the surrounding area is relatively low, being defined by the agricultural land use. The open ground present appears to be satisfactorily drained. Having been managed for grazing it is assumed the soils will be reasonably fertile.

3.3
Please refer to the Design and Access Statement submitted by Townsend Planning Consultants for a more detailed account of the background to this proposal, the site and its surroundings.

4. NAME OF INSPECTOR.

4.1
Stephen Waterson.

5. STATUS OF TREES.

It is understood the tree cover referred to in the report is subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). 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.

6.0. SURVEY CONDITIONS, METHODS AND BASIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

6.1
The survey details were prepared in accordance with BS5837:2012 - Trees in relation to design, demolition and 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;

U = Seriously defective having little value that would most probably be lost within 10 years in the current context
A = Trees of high quality, with a life expectancy in excess of 40 years
B = Trees of moderate quality, with a life expectancy in excess of 20 years
C = Trees of low quality, with a life expectancy in excess of 10 years

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 BS5837:2012, Annex D and which ordinarily influences the siting of protective fencing, which in turn helps define 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	Sycamore	0.7	17	See plan	M	Dominant tree, with bias to into the site & over access. Crown supports historic wounds associated with gale damage, minor snags & dead wood.	Crown raise laterals to 5.3m & clean through canopy to remove dead wood & snags	20+	B2	8.4
T2	Oak	0.45	17	See plan	M	Reasonable tree, slight bias into site. Lower branch chaffing on wall. Minor snags & dead wood present.	Crown raise to 5.3m & clean through canopy to remove dead wood & snags	20+	B2	5.4
T3	Sycamore	0.45	15	See plan	M	Reasonable tree, slight bias into site. Barb wire embedded in lower stem. Minor snags & dead wood present.	Clean through canopy to remove dead wood & snags & sever barb wire.	20+	B2	5.4
T4	Sycamore	0.5	17	See plan	M	Reasonable tree, with bias into site. Minor snags & dead wood present.	Crown raise to 5.3m to include removal of lowest over extending limb that forks at 1.5m & clean through canopy to remove dead wood & snags	20+	B2	6
T5	Sycamore	0.5	15	See plan	M	Reasonable tree, slight bias into site. Minor snags & dead wood present.	Clean through canopy to remove dead wood & snags.	20+	B2	6
T6	Sycamore	0.65	17	See plan	M	Dominant tree, with bias to into the site & over access. Crown supports minor snags & dead wood.	Crown raise to 5.3m to include removal of lowest north easterly over extending limb & clean through canopy to remove dead wood & snags	20+	B2	7.8
T7	Oak	0.3	14	See plan	EM	Poor suppressed form with active growth limited to upper crown. Major basal decay.	Remove	0-10	U	3.6
T8	Sycamore	0.35	15	See plan	EM	Reasonable tree. Minor snags & dead wood present.	Clean through canopy to remove dead wood & snags.	20+	B2	4.2

Tree Ref.	Species	Stem Diameter (m)	Height (m)	Branch Spread (m)	Age class	Structural, physiological condition & comments	Preliminary management recommendations	Estimated remaining contributio	BS 5837 Category	RPA (radii)
T9	Sycamore	0.5	17	See plan	M	Reasonable tree. Minor snags & dead wood present.	Crown raise to 5.3m & clean through canopy to remove dead wood & snags.	20+	B2	6
T10	Hawthorn	0.3	9	See plan	M	Major wound from ground level to 1.7m, where tree previously enveloped the now collapsed wall. Pronounced crown bias into site. Minor dead wood & snags.	Remove	0-10	U	3.6
T11	Beech	0.65	17	See plan	M	Reasonable tree. Minor snags & dead wood present.	Clean through canopy to remove dead wood & snags.	20+	B2	7.8
T12	Sycamore	0.35	15	See plan	EM	Reasonable tree. Minor snags & dead wood present.	Clean through canopy to remove dead wood & snags.	20+	B2	4.2
T13	Sycamore	0.3	15	See plan	EM	Reasonable tree. Minor snags & dead wood present.	Clean through canopy to remove dead wood & snags.	20+	B2	3.6
T14	Sycamore	0.2 m/s	5	See plan	SM	Multi-stemmed tree of scrub proportions & heavily suppressed by more dominant neighbouring trees.	Remove	0-10	U	2

7.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

7.1
The findings of the tree survey schedule at section 6 indicate the group of trees numbered T1-T14 collectively merit a moderate (B). Of these trees the Oak T7, Hawthorn T9 and Sycamore T14 are recommended for removal on arboricultural grounds alone due to the presence of significant defects.

7.2
All trees within this group are a sufficient distance from the footprint of the proposed dwelling to be unaffected by construction. However the construction of the proposed access will marginally encroach within the root protection radii of Sycamore trees T1 and T6. In this regard careful consideration has been given to utilising the principles of Arboricultural Practice Note No.12 and BS5837:2012, Section 7.4. This will involve employing a “no dig technique” avoiding root severance and ground compaction. Construction will incorporate a geogrid, porous surface treatment, with surfacing above grade being retained by edging so as to avoid damaging the trees rooting environment. The methodology for constructing the drive is embodied in the Arboricultural Method Statement in section 8 of this report.

7.3
Retention of the off-site trees combined with new planting will ensure the current treescape and development as viewed from the neighbouring area is not in any way compromised.

7.4
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.

8.0 Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

8.1
The developer should make the contractor (arborist) aware of the need to check for both overhead and underground services before commencing any agreed tree work and to obtain any necessary clearances. When instructing a contractor to undertake any tree work, it is essential to provide the arborist with details of any restrictions (i.e. a Tree Preservation Order, Conservation Area status, relevant planning conditions and ownership details) that may influence the recommendations contained in this report.

1. Prior to commencement of any soil stripping and construction work protective fencing and signage shall be installed as per Tree Constraints and Protection Plan (TCPP) at appendix 1 and related appendix 2. The protective fencing shall not be crossed, removed or otherwise altered, until completion of all building operations at individual plots.

2. In terms of the proposed access, construction will encroach close to or within the RPA radii of several of the offsite trees. In this regard careful consideration has been given to utilising the principles of Arboricultural Practice Note No.12 and BS5837:2012, Section 7.4. This involves employing a “no dig technique” avoiding root severance and ground compaction. Construction will incorporate a geogrid, porous surface treatment, with surfacing above grade being retained by edging so as to avoid damaging the trees rooting environment. This work shall be carried out prior to the commencing all other construction in order that the requisite ground protection is in place at the earliest opportunity.
3. To achieve the no dig construction first remove grass sward under footprint of drive/path using low ground-pressure plant (e.g. Turf cutter, Bobcat or similar) and gather up dead organic material to prevent a build up of anaerobic conditions beneath the construction, which might otherwise occur as vegetation decomposes.
4. Remove major protrusions including large stones by hand. Wherever practicable maximum level drop to be 50mm. Fill any major hollows with sharp sand.
5. Form sub base using cellular confinement system (e.g. Cooper-Clarke *Geoweb* or Geosynthetics *Cellweb*) to retain a no-fines granular fill. The construction specification shall be designed by the scheme engineer to ensure the surface will accommodate vehicular traffic.
6. The finished surface shall comprise of paving, gravel or a porous type paver. This element of the construction may be delayed until substantive construction of the development has occurred.
7. It is recommended the edge restraint should comprise of a tanalised timber edging detail suitably pinned in place. The edge restraint should then be concealed by localized grading of adjoining ground levels.
8. At this stage house construction work can proceed.
9. Any cement mixing and material storage shall be confined to a site compound a minimum of 5 metres from the tree protection fence line.
10. All services into or out of the site are to be routed on the upper slope (north eastern) side of the access.
11. On completion of construction work the developer is to commission an Arboricultural Consultant to attend a site meeting to ascertain whether or not there are any matters that require attending to in respect of continuing tree welfare.

8.2

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

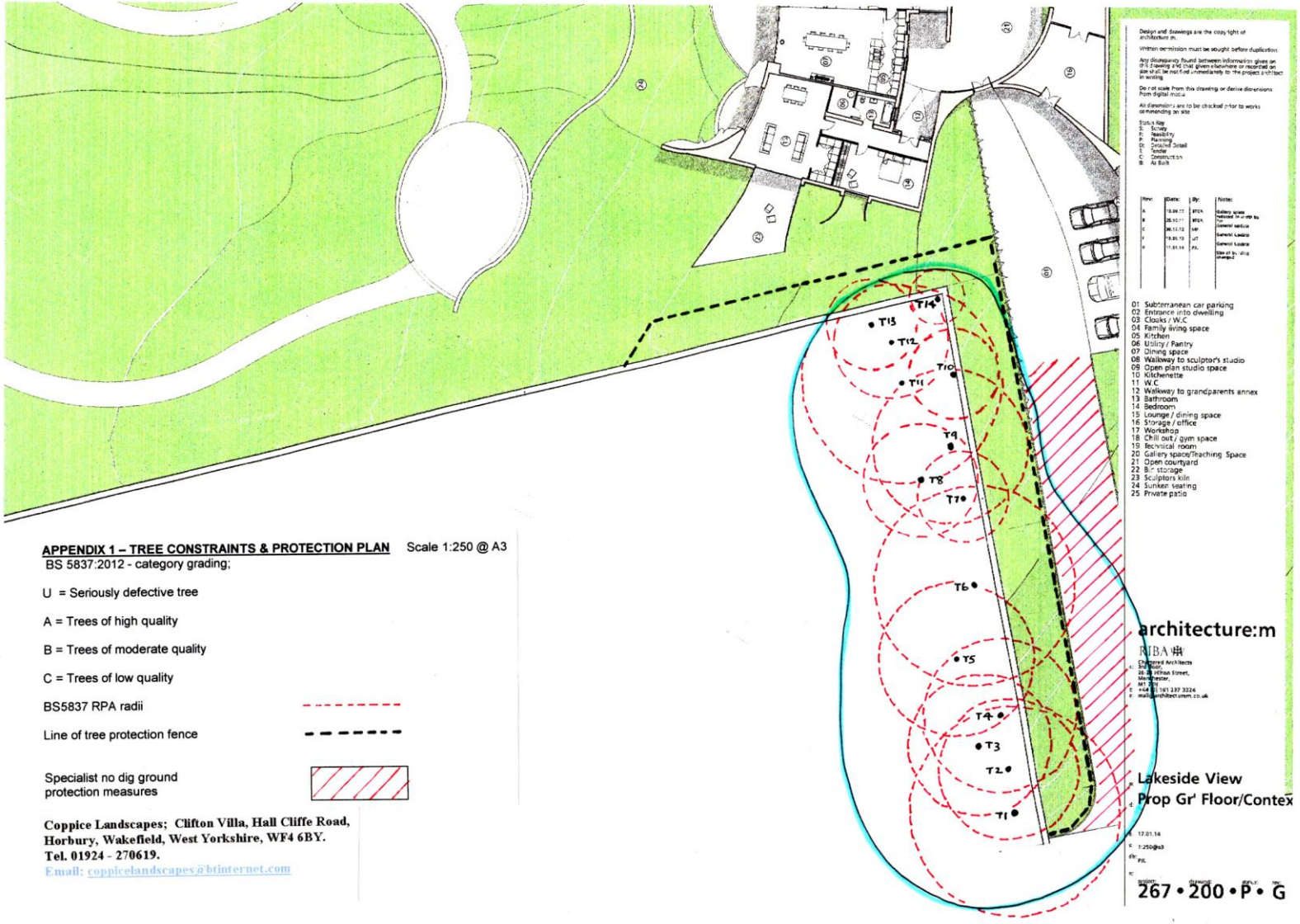
9.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1
From the foregoing tree survey findings, comments and observations, it will be seen that the development proposal does not require the removal of any trees, ensuring the current treescape is not compromised by the development proposal.

9.2
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, retained trees and development alike will satisfactorily coexist.

9.3
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



APPENDIX 1 – TREE CONSTRAINTS & PROTECTION PLAN Scale 1:250 @ A3

BS 5837:2012 - category grading;

U = Seriously defective tree

A = Trees of high quality

B = Trees of moderate quality

C = Trees of low quality

BS5837 RPA radii

Line of tree protection fence

Specialist no dig ground protection measures

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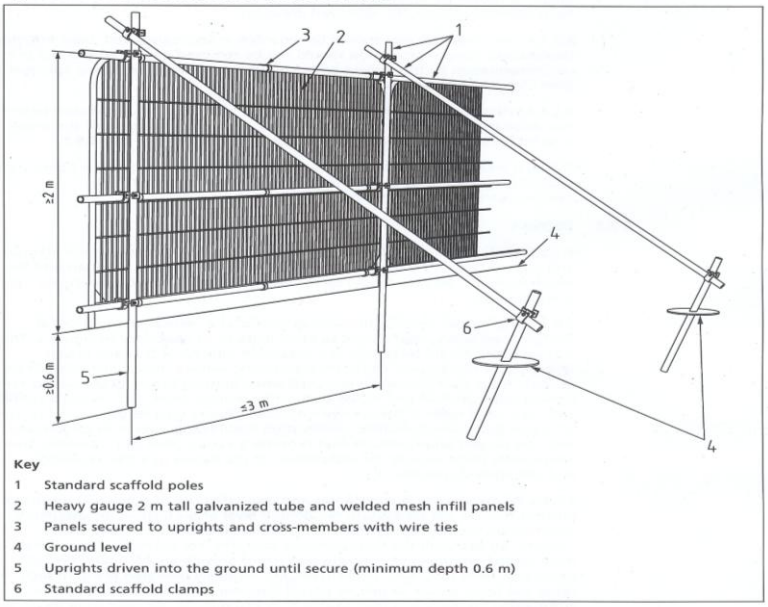
APPENDIX 2

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

Tree Protection Fence

Tree Protection sign