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Arboricultural / Landscape Assessment Report

Ingbirchworth Water Treatment Works
Yorkshire Water Services Ltd
Ingbirchworth
South Yorkshire

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides information in accordance with British Standard 5837:2005 'Trees in Relation to Construction' for a proposed new industrial building at Ingbirchworth Water Treatment Works, Ingbirchworth. The arboricultural survey was commissioned ETM. The aims of the survey are to undertake a survey of all trees within and on the boundaries of the proposed development site.
- 1.2 The Water Treatment Works at Ingbirchworth is set in a well treed setting with many groups and small woodland areas no doubt planted as part of the landscape proposals when the existing buildings were constructed. These trees and woodland areas are now well established although they have not reached their ultimate size, with many trees having the potential to achieve a significant increase in height.
- 1.3 The survey has therefore provided details of 3 groups of trees potentially affected by the proposed development as illustrated on the site plan 2A. The landscape setting of the new development can be seen from the aerial photograph below, with the approximate position of the proposed new building highlight in red.



2.0

SITE PLAN (1A)



3.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND SCHEDULE

- 3.1 The site does not have any individual trees, but small groups and woodland areas. The survey was therefore undertaken to record the details of each group in accordance with the usual information contained in surveys to British Standard 5837:2005 'Trees in Relation to Construction'. The landscape value of the groups of trees and the impact of the development on those trees are discussed in Section 5.

4.0 SCHEDULE (See plan 2A)

4.1 Group G1

- 4.1.1 A group of 3 mature Alder trees (*Alnus glutinosa*) with a height of 18m and a branch spread of 5m. The trunk diameters are approximately 350mm which gives a root protection area of 4.2m. In practical terms, the root protection area would extend to the edge of the branch spread (5m). The trees were of good structural condition and general health. Situated directly alongside the access road, they would be considered as of moderate landscape value.

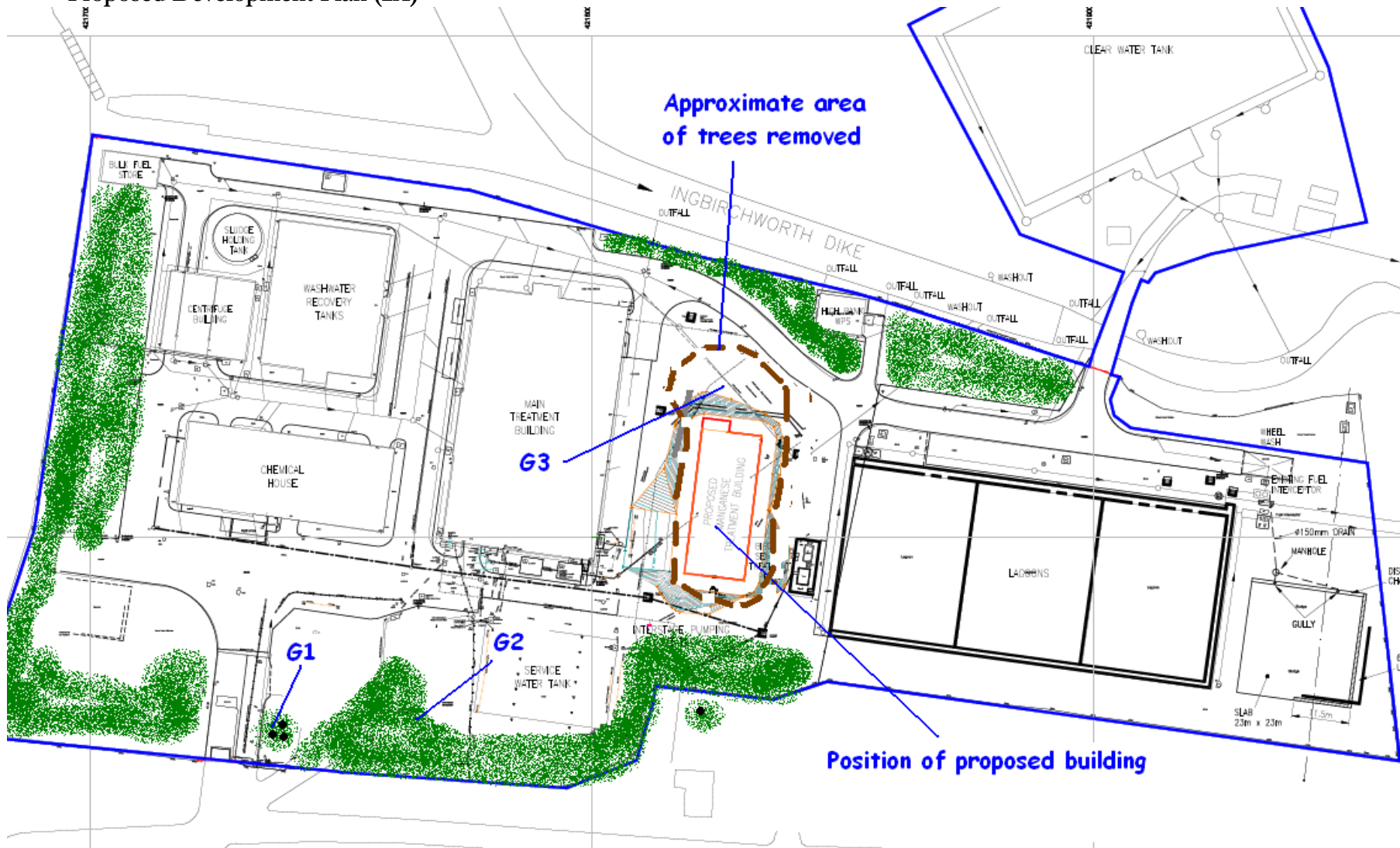
4.2 Group G2

- 4.2.2 A woodland group of predominantly (70%) sycamore trees (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) of height 15m and spread of 3 - 5m. The trunk diameters are in the region of 100-300mm so the root protection area for the woodland does not extend out beyond the branch spread of the trees. Other tree species present include Oak (*Quercus robur*), Willow (*Salix caprea*) Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). The wood also contains shrub species mainly along the outside boundary and includes Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*). The woodland area provides an excellent screen of the industrial buildings from Mill Lane which runs along the southern boundary of the wood.

4.3 Group G3

- 4.3.3 The general tree height in this woodland area is much lower than G2 with heights of approximately 8m and trunk diameters of generally 100 to 150mm. The occasional willow has a trunk diameter of 200mm. The woodland is dominated with shrub species which would account for approximately 80% of the planting. It appears to have been planted randomly between 1m and 5m spacing. Shrub species include Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) 30%, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) 30%, and the occasional Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*). Tree species include Oak (*Quercus robur*), Willow (*Salix caprea*) Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*).

Proposed Development Plan (2A)



5.1 Proposed Development

5.1.1 Removal of trees

5.1.1.1 The proposed new building is 12m wide by 29m long. It is set into the ground with 8.5m above ground level; its roof height would be at a lower level than the existing buildings. The development will however involve the removal of the woodland area G3. However, the impact of removing this group of trees would be minimal in the general landscape; given the general tree cover around the water treatment works. When viewing from the south (along Mill Lane) the well treed character of the lane, the trees within the fields and the woodland belt along the southern boundary of the works adequately screen the buildings, even in winter (See the photograph below). When viewing from the A629 and Ingbirchworth, the industrial buildings are visible but these are long distant views and the surrounding trees and woodland belts offer substantial screening. It should be noted that the woodland belts have not yet reached their ultimate height so the screening of the water treatment works will improve as the trees and shrubs gradually increase in size over time.



View from Mill Lane

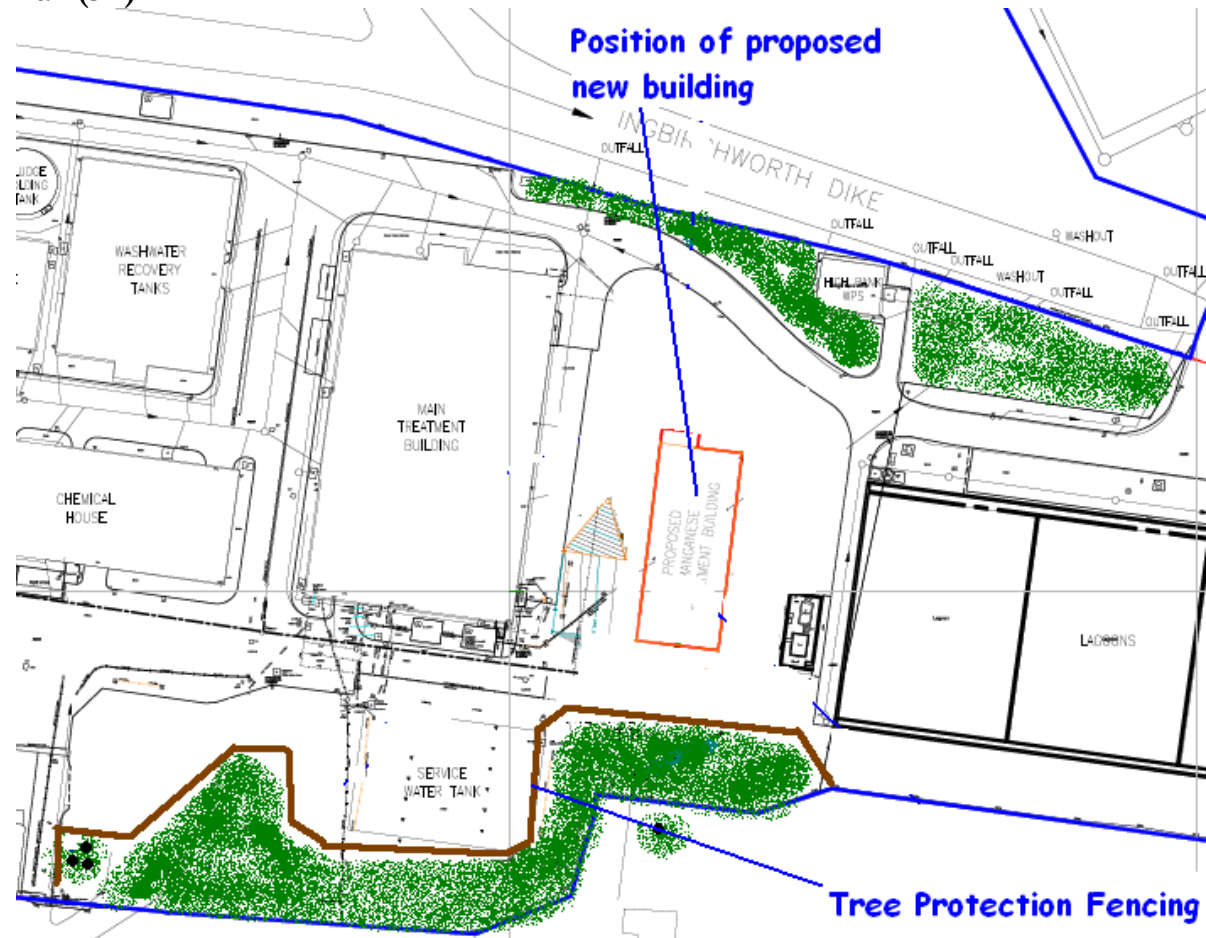


View from A629 Ingbirchworth

6.0 TREE PROTECTION MEASURES

- 6.1 Tree protection fencing would be required during the construction work but adequate space exists for both construction work and storage of materials and equipment without the need to utilise areas adjacent to trees. Details of the fencing, which would be in accordance with BS5837:2005 have been provided in appendix and the location of the fencing has been illustrated on plan 3A below.

Tree Protection Plan (3A)



7.0 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT (AMS)

7.1 General Site Management Constraints

- No work within the woodland (except G3) areas of the water treatment works.

7.2 Local Planning Authority Meeting

- The Local Planning Authority to be notified not less than 72 hours prior to commencement of works on site.

7.3 Site Clearance

- Site Manager to identify clearly to the tree contractor the tree and shrubs to be removed in groups G3.

7.4 Erection of Tree Protection Fencing

- Tree Protection Fencing to be erected as indicated on the Tree Protection Plan (3A) and as detailed in appendix A.
- Trees should be cleared outside of the bird nesting season (i.e. clearance should be undertaken between September and February inclusive) or be carefully checked by an ecologist to confirm no active nests are present - prior to removal during the summer period. If nesting birds are found during the watching brief, works will need to stop until the young have fledged.

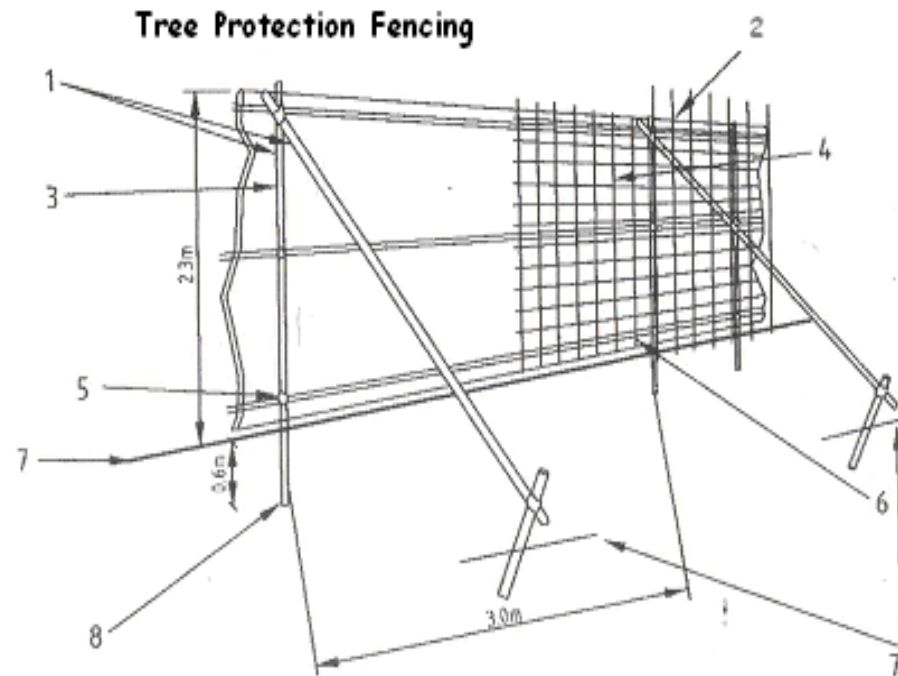
7.5 Demolition and Construction Work

- With the tree protection fencing in place the construction work can commence.
- No site materials to be stored within the fenced tree protection areas.

7.6 Completion of work.

- On completion of the work the tree protective fencing can be removed.

Extract from BS5837:2005



- 1) Standard Scaffold Poles 2) Uprights to be driven into the ground
 3) Panels secured to uprights with wire ties 4) Weldmesh
 5) Standard clamps 6) Wire twisted and secured on inside of fence
 7) Ground level 8) Approx 0.6m into the ground

