Arboricultural Method Statement

In accordance with BS 5837:2012

For 18 St Catherines Road
Ruislip
HA4 7RU

A report in fulfilment of the conditions for Planning Consent ref: 6039/APP/2021/3465 issued by Hillingdon Council, to demolish an existing Scout Hut and replace with a new built Scout Hut

November 2023

Prepared by Ralph Parks Ltd
17 Swann Grove, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6DP

Author: R Parks

Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 6188819

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Location:

18 St Catherines Road, Ruislip, HA4 7RU

Client:

Ruislip 2nd/9th Scout Group, 18 St Catherines Road, HA4 7RU

Contents:

1. Introduction

1.1 Ralph Parks Ltd were instructed by Ruislip 2nd/9th Scout Group to prepare an Arboricultural method statement to support the planning conditions relating to Planning Consent reference 6039/APP/2021/3465. The planning consent is to demolish the existing Scout Hut and outbuildings at 18 St Catherines Road, Ruislip to facilitate the erection of a replacement single storey scout hut building. This report is in addition to the Arboricultural Report prepared by Ralph Parks Ltd dated July 2021, which is referenced in the planning conditions, which are duplicated below:

Condition 2

The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out except in complete accordance with the details shown on Drawing Nos. AB001, AB002 REV 1, 52-69249-SHEET1, 52-69249-SHEET2, 52-69249-SHEET3 and Arboricultural Report prepared by Ralph Parks Ltd. dated June 2021 and shall thereafter be retained/maintained for as long as the development remains in existence.

Condition 3

No site clearance or construction work shall take place until the details have been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority with respect to:

1. A method statement outlining the sequence of development on the site including demolition, building works and tree protection measures.

2. Detailed drawings showing the position and type of fencing to protect the entire root areas/crown spread of trees, hedges and other vegetation to be retained shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval. No site clearance works or development shall be commenced until these drawings have been approved and the fencing has been erected in accordance with the details approved. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority such fencing should be a minimum height of 1.5 metres.

Thereafter, the development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details. The fencing shall be retained in position until development is completed.

The area within the approved protective fencing shall remain undisturbed during the course of the works and in particular in these areas:

2.a There shall be no changes in ground levels.

2.b No materials or plant shall be stored.

2.c No buildings or temporary buildings shall be erected or stationed.

2.d No materials or waste shall be burnt.

2.e No drain runs or other trenches shall be dug or otherwise created, without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority.

3. Where the arboricultural method statement recommends that the tree protection measures for a site will be monitored and supervised by an arboricultural consultant at key stages of the development, records of the site inspections / meetings shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

Condition 4

Trees, hedges and shrubs shown to be retained on the approved plan shall not be damaged, uprooted, felled, lopped or topped without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority. If any retained tree, hedge or shrub is removed or severely damaged during construction, or is found to be seriously diseased or dying another tree, hedge or shrub shall be planted at the same place or, if planting in the same place would leave the new tree, hedge or shrub susceptible to disease, then the planting should be in a position to be first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority and shall be of a size and species to be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority and shall be planted in the first planting season following the completion of the development or the occupation of the buildings, whichever is the earlier. Where damage is less severe, a schedule of remedial works necessary to ameliorate the effect of damage by tree surgery, feeding or groundwork shall be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. New planting should comply with BS 3936 (1992) 'Nursery Stock, Part 1, Specification for Trees and Shrubs 'Remedial work should be carried out to BS 3998:2010 'Tree work -Recommendations' and BS 4428 (1989) 'Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations (Excluding Hard Surfaces)'. The agreed work shall be completed in the first planting season following the completion of the development or the occupation of the buildings, whichever is the earlier.

1.2 This Arboricultural method statement was prepared to conform to BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

1.3 Whilst none of the trees on site are currently subject to a Tree Preservation Order, nor does the site lie within a Conservation area, the applicant is still bound by the above conditions as part of the Planning Consent.

2. Tree survey

2.1 Ralph Parks undertook a standard Arboricultural Survey at 18 St Catharine's Road on 21/11/19 and this was updated in a repeat survey on 26/06/21 which generated the report referred to in the Planning Consent. Subsequently, the site was re-visited on 04/05/23 to monitor any changes and to record data on a third party tree.

2.2 For convenience, the schedule of trees from the 2021 report is re-printed in appendix IV of this report.

2.3 The site survey drawing is reproduced in appendix V of this report.

Trees were assessed for quality in accordance with Table 1 from BS 5837:2012

Trees unsuitable for retention		Colour
Category U	Trees with serious faults	Dark Red
Trees to be considered for retention		
Category A	Good examples of the species, life expectancy 40+ years	Light Green
Category B	Moderate quality trees, life expectancy at least 20 years	Mid Blue
Category C	Unremarkable trees of limited merit but life expectancy of at least 10 years or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm	Grey

2.4 Root Protection Areas (RPA) were calculated for each tree based on the diameters measured at 1.5m above ground level. The formulae in section 4.6.1 of BS 5837:2012 were used for trees with multiple stems. The schedule of Root Protection Areas is listed in appendix III of this report.

2.5 Changes in tree conditions since 2021

2.5.1 All the Elms are now either dead or moribund due to Dutch Elm Disease. Therefore, whilst they are still included in the schedule of trees, the entries are now in strike-through font. These trees should be all be felled for safety reasons.

2.6 It was stated in section 4.4 of the report dated 26/06/21 that trees T159 and T160 are not considered suitable for retention, therefore their root protection areas have been omitted from the tree protection plan, as have trees with a "U" classification.

2.7 It may be necessary to undertake some high level pruning to T164, which is to the right of the entrance gate. This will be agreed on site to prevent damage from high sided vehicles accessing the site.

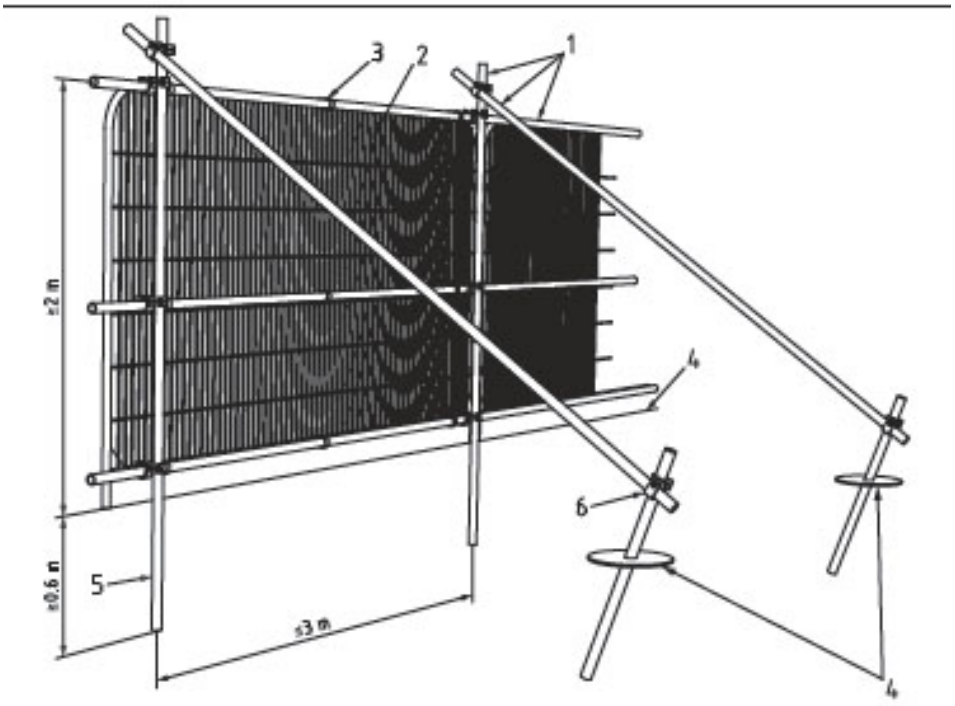
3 Arboricultural Method statement and options

3.1 The tree protection plans are shown in appendix V.

3.2 There are several existing buildings on the site and a concrete roadway running parallel to the eastern boundary for 66% of its length. The existing footprints will have an affect on root development and therefore the locations of the root protection areas.

3.3 Materials for protecting the root protection areas and RPA demarcation

3.3.1 BS 5837:2012 recommends “Rigid boundaries will be created using standard scaffold poles (48.3 mm O/D) driven into the ground to a minimum depth of 0.6m and spaced at maximum three metre centres. The uprights will support weld mesh infill panels such as Heras fencing. Where possible, stabiliser struts will be attached to the uprights using scaffold Swivel couplers (to BS EN74-1). All weather signage stating “construction exclusion zone – no access” will be attached to the infill panels.”

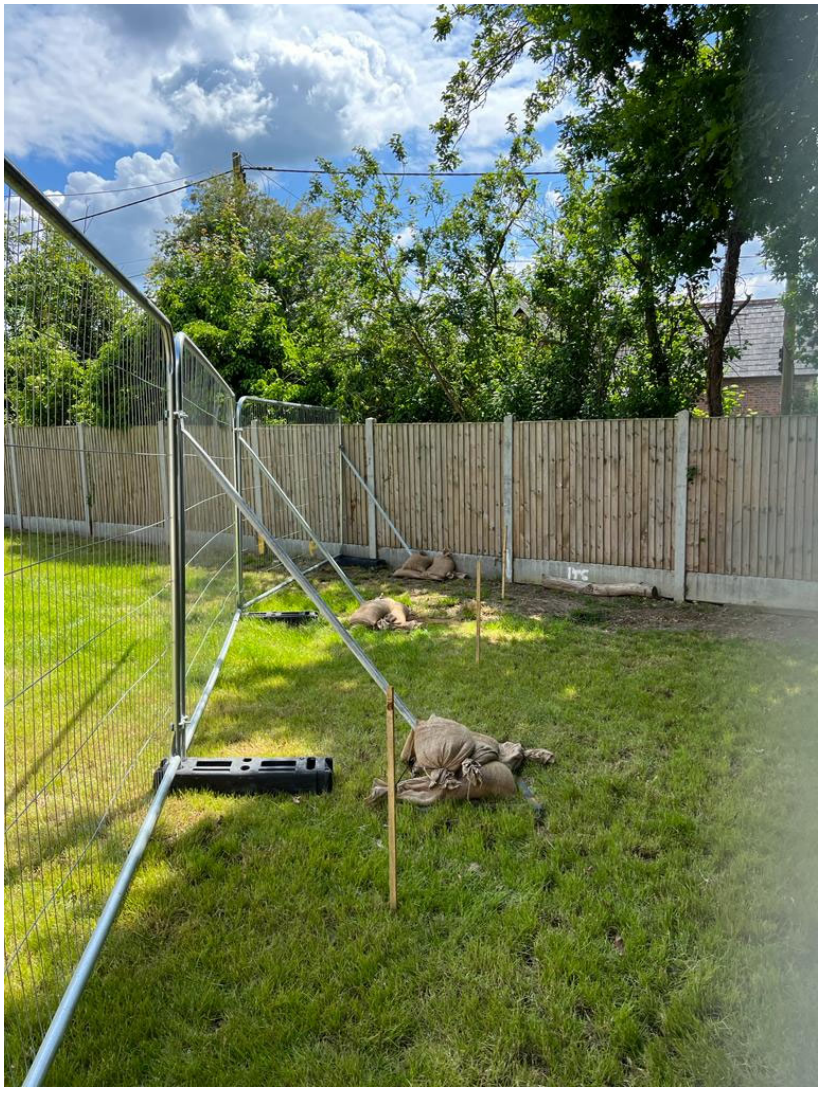


Key

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

3.3.2 However, it is permissible to utilise 2m Heras fencing with mounting blocks secured with ground stakes as an alternative. This method is recommended for this site.

The photograph below shows Heras fencing erected on another site, with the radial protection limit marked by the wooden stakes. In this instance, it has been possible to add an additional buffer of approximately one metre to the protection area. Signage is not yet in place in this photograph.



3.4 The root protection areas will be measured on the ground as a radius from the centre of each tree that requires protection. Where possible, a buffer of one metre will be added to the RPA.

3.5 For trees on the eastern boundary adjacent to the existing roadway, the protective fence will be erected as close as possible to the boundary fence.

3.6 High visibility warning signage of a size no less than A3 will be affixed to the protective fencing on every other panel. The signage will state:

Tree protection area Keep out
This protective fencing must not be moved
No persons shall enter the protected area
No plant or machinery shall be operated in the protected area
No storage of materials in the protected area
No waste to be stored in the protected area
No excavation in the protected area
No fires

3.7 Once erected, the protective fencing will be checked by the site arboriculturist to confirm that it is in the correct location and is fir for purpose. This visit will be recorded on the form in appendix III and a copy placed in the site file. Any subsequent alterations to the fence configuration must be agreed with the site arboriculturist and documented on the form in appendix III.

4 Arboricultural supervision

4.1 A pre-start meeting will be held on site to be attended by the architect, the contractor and the project arboriculturist. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss and agree the tree protection measures that will be put in place and any enabling tree works that will be necessary. The locations of the tree protection measures will be marked out on site and any potential conflicts will be discussed and resolved to ensure that trees are protected. The site manager will be briefed on the Arboricultural induction in appendix II to permit this briefing to be subsequently delivered to all persons attending site.

4.2 The site manager will sign the briefing sheet and then be responsible for ensuring that tree protection measures are enforced throughout the duration of the project.

4.3 All contractors involved in the project will be briefed on tree protection by the site manager (or their representative) and will sign the briefing sheet in appendix II. The briefing sheets will be copied to the project arboriculturist and the originals kept onsite in the site file.

4.4 The programme of works has not yet been agreed, nor has a start date. The tree protection measures and briefings will be programmed into the schedule once the start date has been set.

4.5 The project arboriculturist will be notified at least five working days prior to the installation of the tree protection so that arrangements can be made for it’s inspection.

4.6 Site works will not be permitted to start until the tree protection has been installed and inspected.

4.7 The project arboriculturist will visit site at key stages of the project, as agreed at the initial site meeting. In addition, an inspection will be undertaken in the event of an emergency involving trees. All visits will be documented on the form in appendix III.

4.8 If variations are proposed to the project design that may impact tree protection, a revised tree protection plan may be needed. Any amendments must be submitted to the Planning Authority for approval.

4.9 Once the project has been completed, the project arboriculturist will confirm that tree protection may be removed. Any new plantings in mitigation of tree removals will be agreed and the project arboriculturist will then carry out a final inspection once the plantings have been completed. Any new plantings will prioritise screening at the frontage of the site.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The proposed tree protection plan and method statement provides suitable protection for trees in accordance with BS 5837:2012

5.2 The methods proposed in this document are achievable and will provide practicable tree protection.

Appendix I: Schedule of root protection areas

Tree	Species	DBH (mm)	Root protection area ($m^{2)}$	Radial protection distance (m)
~~152~~	~~Elm~~	~~185~~	~~15.5~~	~~2.22~~
153	Hawthorn	100 / 40	3.7	1.08
~~154~~	~~Elm~~	~~180~~	~~14.7~~	~~2.16~~
155	Elder	125	7.1	1.5
~~156~~	~~Elm~~	~~170~~	~~13.1~~	~~2.04~~
157	Yew	130	7.6	1.56
~~158~~	~~Elm~~	~~100~~	~~4.5~~	~~1.2~~
159	Ash	450	91.6	5.4
160	Ash	490	108.6	5.88
~~161~~	~~Elm~~	~~200~~	~~18.1~~	~~2.4~~
162	Ash	300 /300 /240	74.5	4.87
~~163~~	~~Elm~~	~~140~~	~~8.9~~	~~1.68~~
~~164~~	~~Elm~~	~~220~~	~~21.9~~	~~2.64~~
165	Ash	350	55.4	4.2
166	Norway Maple	410	76.0	4.92
167	Birch	150	10.2	1.8
TP1	Ash	485	106.4	5.82

Appendix II: Site induction (toolbox talk) for tree awareness

Site Induction: tree protection on construction sites

Legislation and planning conditions

Trees in and around construction sites may be damaged during the course of the work and damage may be either an offence under Tree Protection or Conservation area legislation and or a breach of Planning Consent for the work. You could commit an offence if you damage a protected tree on a neighbour's property.

Deliberate felling or damage to protected trees can result in the owner and/or the contractor each being fined up to £20,000. Both companies and individuals can be fined and if the case is taken to County Court, fines can be unlimited. This is to stop developers from costing in fines to remove problem trees on a site.

Failure to protect trees in accordance with planning permission could result in:

- "Breach of Conditions" notices which can prevent a site from being signed-off
- "Temporary Stop Notices" which suspend all work causing additional costs

Tree protection areas

A tree's root system is as important as the trunk, branches and leaves.

To prevent accidental damage to trees, protection zones are created around them. These are called the Root Protection Areas and are usually 12 times the tree's diameter as measured at 1.5m above ground level. A physical barrier has been erected to mark the root protection areas and signage has been fixed to the barrier warning staff to keep out and not to store materials.

Ways trees can be damaged above ground

- Impact from vehicles, diggers, cranes and other lifting equipment.
  Infections can get into trees through damage to the bark, or pruning cuts
- High sided vehicles must have adequate clearance
- Unauthorised cutting of branches
- Fires

Below ground roots can be damaged by

- Being cut during excavation, boring and drilling
- Installation of cables – particularly when digging trenches
- Soil compaction from heavy equipment or storage of heavy materials,
- Spillage of fuels or other substances that are toxic to tree roots – in wet weather, spillages can travel through the soil and into protect
- Most of the fine roots that absorb water and nutrients are in the top 50cm of soil, so soil stripping must not be undertaken within the root protection area.

You can protect trees and prevent planning problems by:

Staying out of tree Root Protection areas (RPAs), which are also known as Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZs). If you need to go into a CEZ, you must first gain authorisation from the Site Manager.

No construction activity of any description is permitted within RPAs, such as cement mixing, services installation, or storage of materials.

Vehicles should not be driven into RPA and heavy machinery should not enter them.

No fires permitted within 20m of trunk of any tree that is being retained, including trees on neighbouring property.

Following the tree site supervision schedules and instructions from the tree consultant or local tree officer.

What to do if something goes wrong:

If direct accidental damage happens to a tree or an event such as a spillage that could damage tree roots, you must inform the Site Manager who must, in turn, inform the project arboriculturist.

If the protection fence is damaged or need to be taken down temporarily, it should be made good as soon as possible. Barrier tape can be used as a temporary fix.

Site induction register – Tree awareness toolbox talk

Site location: 18 St Catherines Road, Ruislip, HA4 7RU

Date	Toolbox talk given by: Print name	Signature	Toolbox talk received by: Print Name	Signature

Appendix III: Tree protection site monitoring form

Ralph Parks Ltd
17 Swann Grove
Holt
Norfolk
NR25 6DP
T: 07778 870844
E:ralph@ralphparks.co.uk

Tree protection site monitoring form

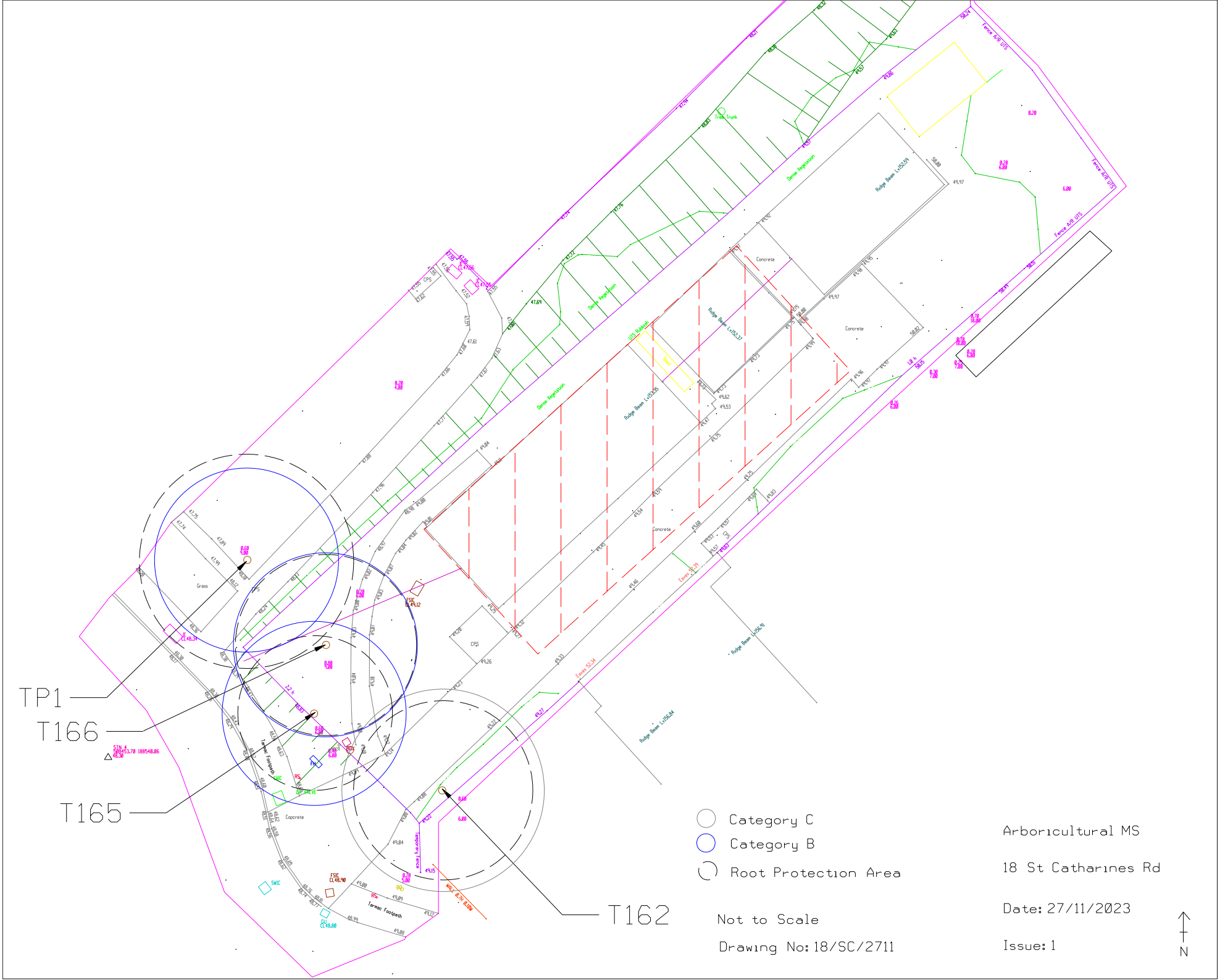
Date		Site	
Consultant visiting site			
Reason for visit and observations on tree protection status			
Recommendations or remedial action required			
Date for follow up visit		Signature	

Appendix IV: Schedule of trees (BS5837:2012) – reproduced from the Ralph Parks Ltd report dated 26/06/21

Tree	Species	DBH (cm)	Stems	Ht (m)	Spr (m)	Age	Cond	First branch (m)	Cat A/B/C/U	Ivy	Fence (m)	Fence (m)	Notes
~~151~~	~~Ash~~	~~52/46/39/38/30~~	~~5~~	~~20.0~~	~~17~~	~~SM~~	~~Poor~~	~~2.5~~	~~U~~	~~Y~~	~~0.50~~	~~8.50~~	~~Multiple stems from base with significant basal decay. The basal decay and splayed multiple stems pose a high risk of stem failure from the base~~
~~152~~	~~Elm~~	~~18.5~~	~~1~~	~~11.0~~	~~6~~	~~EM~~	~~Poor~~	~~4~~	~~U~~	~~Y~~	~~0.95~~	~~7.00~~	~~Asymmetric due to T151, bias to north~~
153	Hawthorn	10 / 4	2	6.0	4	EM	Poor	0.6	U	Y	0.73	6.00	Young regrowth, twin from near base with poor shape
~~154~~	~~Elm~~	~~18~~	~~1~~	~~13.0~~	~~5~~	~~EM~~	~~Fair~~	~~4~~	~~C~~	~~Y~~	~~3.70~~	~~5.50~~	~~Ivy obscuring inspection. Etiolated and suppressed by T151~~
155	Elder	12.5	1	7.0	5	EM	Poor	2	U	Y	0.05	2.50	One dead stem, remaining stem against boundary fence and etiolated
~~156~~	~~Elm~~	~~17~~	~~1~~	~~12.0~~	~~5~~	~~EM~~	~~Good~~	~~2.5~~	~~C~~	~~N~~	~~1.60~~	~~2.60~~	~~Etiolated with nearly symmetric crown~~
157	Yew	13	1	6.0	5	EM	Good	0.4	U	Y	0.50	1.30	Many laterals from base, balanced
~~158~~	~~Elm~~	~~10~~	~~1~~	~~10.0~~	~~3~~	~~EM~~	~~Fair~~	~~2~~	~~U~~	~~Y~~	~~3.40~~	~~0.50~~	~~Etiolated~~
159	Ash	45	1	22.0	15	SM	Fair	5	B	Y	10.50	0.30	Forks @ 4m with co-dominant leaders. Bias to north and west due to T160, with lean to west. Some deadwood
160	Ash	49	1	22.0	14	SM	Fair	3	B	Y	11.90	0.10	Tight fork @ 6m with co-dominant leaders. Bias to south due to T159. Some deadwood.
TP hedge	Cherry Laurel, Leylandii	N/A		15.0	20	EM	Fair						Third party; not accessed or measured. Three Leyland Cypress. Suppressed by T159/T160

Tree	Species	DBH (cm)	Stems	Ht (m)	Spr (m)	Age	Cond	First branch (m)	Cat A/B/C/U	Ivy	Fence (m)	Fence (m)	Notes
~~161~~	~~Elm~~	~~20~~	~~1~~	~~11.0~~	~~7~~	~~EM~~	~~Fair~~	~~1.5~~	~~U~~	~~Y~~	~~16.70~~	~~0.10~~	~~Single stem adjacent to chainlink fence. Asymmetric with bias to south due to T160~~
162	Ash	30 /30 /24	3 to 6	13.0	11	EM	Fair	3	C	Y	2.10	0.50	Three stems to 1.5m, each then forking to make total of six stems. On boundary
~~163~~	~~Elm~~	~~14~~	~~1~~	~~7.0~~	~~4~~	~~EM~~	~~Fair~~	~~2.5~~	~~U~~	~~Y~~	~~0.05~~	~~8.00~~	~~Single stem against chainlink fence, suppressed by T164~~
~~164~~	~~Elm~~	~~22~~	~~1~~	~~12.5~~	~~6~~	~~Y~~	~~Fair~~	~~3~~	~~C~~	~~Y~~	~~0.05~~	~~6.70~~	~~Single stem against fence with some chainlink wire included. Partially suppressed by T165~~
165	Ash	35	1	14.5	10	EM	Fair	4	B	Y	0.05	5.30	Heavy Ivy preventing accurate DBH measurement and obscuring inspection. Some wire included in stem.
166	Norway Maple	41	1	14.5	10	EM	Fair	4	B	Y	3.30	2.90	Heavy Ivy. Crown asymmetric with bias to east and north due to crown of T165
167	Birch	15	1	11.5	4	EM	Poor	4	U	Y	6.90	0.93	Significant lean to NNE due to T166. Etiolated with (redundant) cable through crown.
NW hedge	Ash/Elm regen					Y							Line of Ash and Elm regeneration on the western boundary

Appendix V: Site plan showing root protection areas of trees to be retained


TP1
T166
T165
T162
Category C
Category B
Root Protection Area
Not to Scale
Drawing No: 18/SC/2711
Arboricultural MS
18 St Catharines Rd
Date: 27/11/2023
Issue: 1
N