

Arboricultural Method Statement for permitted works at Lower Rackery Farm, Dark Lane, Llay, Wrexham

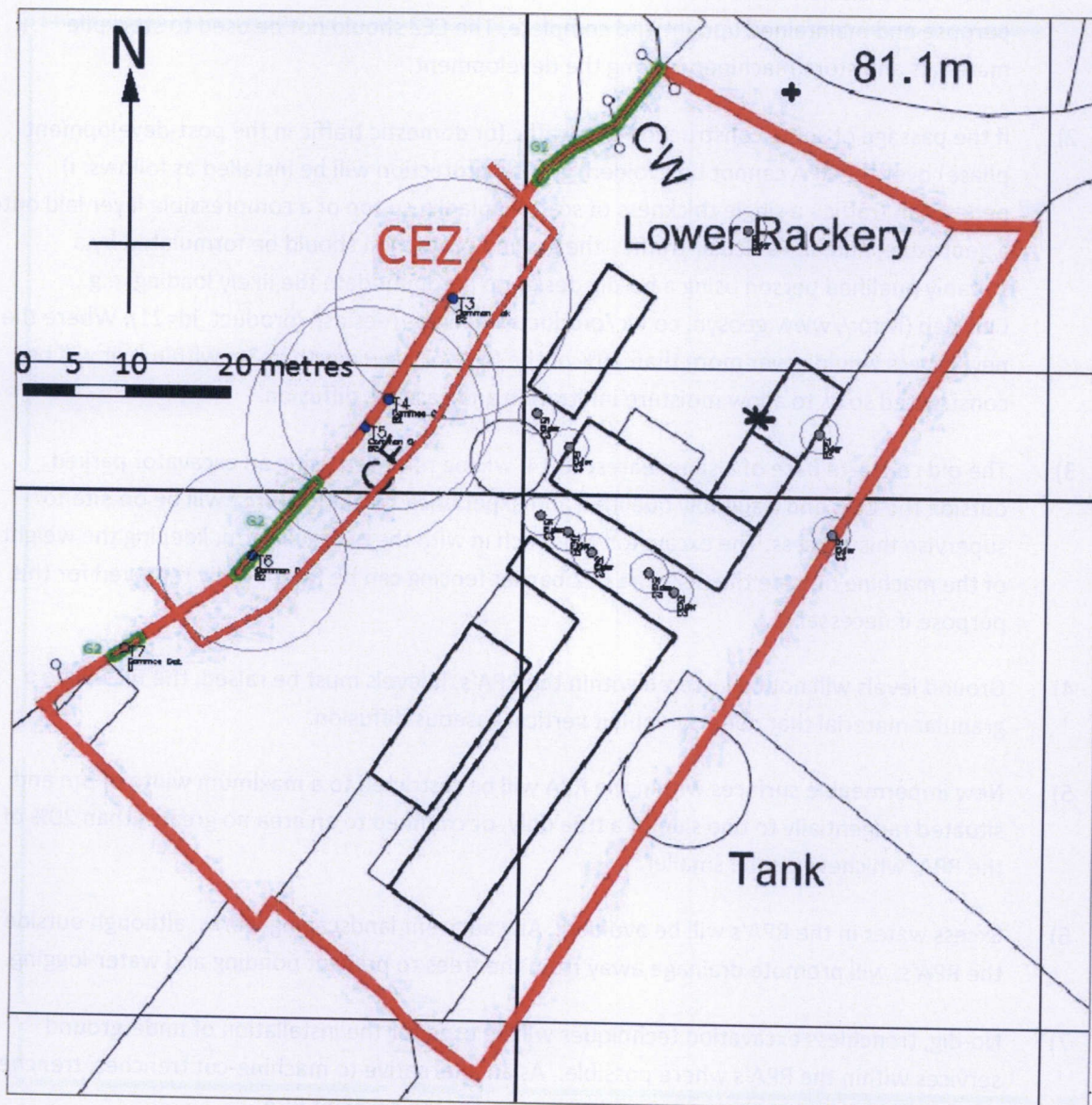
- 1) At Lower Rackery Farm, much of the existing concrete hard-standing that overlies the Root Protection Areas (RPA's) of the mature Oak trees along the north-western boundary will be retained, both during and after the development. The roots of the retained trees (T3, T4, T5 & T6 in the Arboricultural Survey Report) will be protected from harm by this, so additional protection measures are only necessary in those parts of the RPA's that are not overlain by this hard-standing.

In these unprotected parts, a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) will be established, from which all site traffic (vehicular and pedestrian) and works will be excluded (see Tree Protection Plan). This exclusion can be achieved by the erection of barriers, which should be fit for purpose and maintained upright and complete. The CEZ should not be used to stockpile materials and store machinery during the development.

- 2) If the passage of some construction site traffic (or domestic traffic in the post-development phase) over the RPA cannot be avoided, ground protection will be installed as follows: i) pedestrian traffic - a single thickness of scaffold planks on top of a compressible layer laid onto a geotextile, and; ii) vehicular traffic - the ground protection should be formulated by a suitably qualified person using a no-dig design to accommodate the likely loading, e.g., CellWeb (http://www.geosyn.co.uk/products/cellweb-trees.asp?product_id=21). Where the new access would cover more than 20% of the RPA, or be wider than 3m within it, it will be constructed so as to allow moisture infiltration and gaseous diffusion.
- 3) The old concrete base of a silo, nearest to T4, will be removed using an excavator parked outside the CEZ, and a suitably qualified and experienced Arboriculturist will be on-site to supervise this process. The excavator will reach in with the hydraulic arm, keeping the weight of the machine outside the CEZ. The CEZ barrier fencing can be temporarily removed for this purpose if necessary.
- 4) Ground levels will not be lowered within the RPA's. If levels must be raised, the fill will be a granular material that does not inhibit vertical gaseous diffusion.
- 5) New impermeable surfaces within the RPA will be restricted to a maximum width of 3m and situated tangentially to one side of a tree only, or confined to an area no greater than 20% of the RPA, whichever is the smaller.
- 6) Excess water in the RPA's will be avoided. Any adjacent landscaping works, although outside the RPA's, will promote drainage away from the trees to prevent ponding and water-logging.
- 7) No-dig, trenchless excavation techniques will be used for the installation of underground services within the RPA's where possible. As an alternative to machine-cut trenches, trenches will be hand-dug along the shortest distance across the relevant RPA.

- 8) Any excavations which have to be undertaken within the RPA's will be carried out carefully by hand or by using an air-spade, avoiding damage to the protective bark covering larger roots. While exposed, these roots will be wrapped in dry, clean hessian sacking.

Roots smaller than 25mm in diameter may be pruned back to a side branch using a sharp cutting tool such as secateurs, loppers or a handsaw. Roots larger than 25mm will only be severed following consultation with a suitably qualified and experienced arboriculturist. Prior to backfilling an excavation, any hessian wrapping will be removed, and retained roots will be surrounded by sharp sand (not builder's sand) before soil or other material is replaced. This material will be free of contaminants and other foreign objects potentially injurious to tree roots.



Tree Protection Plan

