

Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Method Statement

High Street, Johnstown

Prepared for:

GOWER HOMES

Our Ref: 21/AIA/WXM/262 (Rev A)

May 2021

Tree Solutions Ltd

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1.0 INSTRUCTION

- 1.1 We have been instructed by Gower Homes to carry out an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) in order to assess the development proposal in relation to trees in accordance with the principles of British Standard 5837 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition & Construction - Recommendations' 2012.
- 1.2 We are instructed to prepare a report in order to provide information to assist all parties involved in the planning process to make balanced judgements regarding arboricultural features in relation to the proposed development on land off High Street, Johnstown. As such, all significant trees within influencing distance to the development proposal both on and adjoining the site have been surveyed and are listed within a Tree Survey Schedule (**Appendix 1**) and plotted on all accompanying plans.
- 1.3 The stage 1 tree survey was carried out on 02 October 2020 and 23 April 2021 by Alistair Henderson, Principal Consultant to Tree Solutions Ltd. Our appraisal of the mechanical integrity of trees on the site is enough to inform the current project. The assessment of trees is carried out from ground level without invasive investigation and the disclosure of hidden defects cannot therefore be expected. Whilst the survey is not specifically commissioned to report on matters of tree safety, we report obvious defects that are significant in relation to the existing and proposed land use. We do not carry out detailed safety inspections unless specifically instructed to do so in writing and have not carried out such inspections of trees on the proposal site.
- 1.4 Four individual trees (T1–T4) and one group (G1) were surveyed and mapped on a Preliminary Tree Constraints & Impact Assessment Plan Ref: 20/AIA/CHE(W)/378 Drawing Nos. 1 & 2 at **Appendix 2**. All arboricultural information recorded during the survey is presented within a schedule at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.5 The Arboricultural Impact Assessment is based on site layout plan Ref: 19.5991/SK1 provided by Parry Davies Architects.

2.0 STATUTORY CONTROLS & PLANNING POLICY

- 2.1 Tree number 1 is subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

2.2 Protected Species

- 2.2.1 Mature trees often contain cavities, crevices and hollows that offer potential habitat for species such as bats and barn owls. Both are afforded protection under the Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), as well as The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendment) Regulations 2007.

2.3 Wildlife Habitats

- 2.3.1 Trees and hedgerows of most species provide valuable nesting sites for a wide range of birds and it is likely that nesting birds will be present on the site during the period March to September.

3.0 THE SITE

- 3.1 The site is semi-derelict and contains a number of buildings formerly used by Ponciau Tyres. There is one large mature Ash tree adjacent to the vehicular access off High Street, all other trees are insignificant scrub.

4.0 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Residential dwellings (10 No.) with associated vehicular access and parking.

5.0 GENERAL CONSTRAINTS DATA - CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONES (CEZ's)

5.1 GENERAL

5.1.1 The three phases of an AIA were outlined in Section 1. In addition, during the development process for retention trees, there may be three and even four constraints to consider: Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ's):

- CEZ 1: Root Protection Area (see 5.2)
- CEZ 2: Tree Crown Protection (see 5.3)
- CEZ 3: Tree Dominance (see 5.4)
- CEZ 4: New Tree Planting Zone (see 5.5)

CEZ's are explained below:

5.2 CEZ 1: ROOT PROTECTION AREA (RPA)

5.2.1 The RPA, calculated in m², should be protected before and during any demolition/construction works. This ensures the effective retention of trees by safeguarding a reliable quantum of functioning tree roots. The RPA is based on a radial measure from the centre of the tree stem, which is calculated by multiplying the stem diameter by a factor of twelve or by the (mean stem diameter²) x number of stems for multi-stemmed trees. With the AIA 1, the RPA is only shown indicatively on the preliminary TCP, as its shape may be subject to amendment as the design progresses.

5.2.2 During the AIA 2, the derived radial measure is converted by the arboriculturalist into the actual area to be protected, having due regard to prevailing site conditions and how these may have affected the tree(s), particularly in relation to factors affecting their likely rooting disposition. The RPA for each tree should initially be plotted as a circle centred on the base of the stem. Where pre-existing site conditions or other factors indicate that rooting has occurred asymmetrically, a polygon of equivalent area should be produced. Modifications to the shape of the RPA should reflect a soundly based arboricultural assessment of likely root distribution.

5.2.3 The means of protecting the RPA will include the installation of tree protective fencing prior to the start of any demolition or construction work on site. The prohibition of various activities within the RPA must be adhered to (e.g. mechanical excavation, soil stripping, fire lighting, material storage, lowering levels and creating excessive sealed surfacing) and may include the use of temporary ground protection and/or special engineering solutions where construction is proposed near to retention trees or within the RPA.

5.3 CEZ 2: TREE CROWN PROTECTION ZONE

5.3.1 This is the area above ground occupied by the crown (branches) of the tree, along with allowances for working space (safe working area) and if appropriate, for future growth. The extent of CEZ 2 is determined by considering the existing and future crown spread of the tree(s), bearing in mind the possibility of this being modified by an acceptable quantum of pruning.

5.4 CEZ 3: TREE DOMINANCE ZONE

5.4.1 This is the area above ground dominated by the tree in relation to issues of shading, seasonal debris and safety apprehension. This area is calculated by considering the height and spread of the tree relative to the proposed buildings, cross referenced with intended end use. As such, what is assessed is the likely psychological effect of the tree on the end user.

5.4.2 The purpose of identifying CEZ 3 is to protect trees from post development pressure (resentment) by the site's end users, who may, if resentful of the trees, seek to procure excessive pruning treatments or even to have them removed. This is a common Planning Service concern, which has led on many occasions both to refusals of consent and to dismissed Appeals against those refusals.

5.4.3 The means of protecting CEZ 3 is likely to include optimising the site layout and room type (especially in relation to new residential dwellings), such that any adverse psychological impacts of the trees are reduced to an acceptable minimum. Key principles include ensuring adequate separation distances between trees and new buildings, in the context of the buildings' end use relative to the location of the tree(s) and avoiding excessive obstruction by trees of critical solar access.

5.5 CEZ 4: NEW PLANTING ZONE

- 5.5.1 In some cases, it may be appropriate to identify and protect areas intended for new landscape planting, which can fail to establish if the soil has been heavily compacted or contaminated during the demolition/construction process. The means of protecting CEZ 4 will either be by fencing it off prior to the start of works on site, or by soil remediation once construction has finished (and prior to the start of planting). Topsoil protection in areas destined for new planting is frequently an economy measure, saving on plant replacement and soil structure remediation.

6.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The method used in the preparation of this report is based on the principles of BS 5837: 2012.
1. Tree heights were surveyed to the nearest 1m.
 2. Trunk diameters were measured by use of forestry girth tape
 3. The category assessment (Table 1) on which the trees is based include current and long-term arboricultural, landscape, cultural and conservation values (BS5837: 2012). This table can be found at **Appendix 1**
 4. For clarity, the grading system is summarised from **Table 2** of the BS as follows:

U grade – trees for removal, effective for less than 10 years

A grade – trees of high quality and value, effective for more than 40 years

B grade – trees of moderate quality and value, effective for more than 20 years

C grade – trees of low quality and value, effective for 10 years

Note: We have indicated colour coding on the drawing and therefore a monochrome copy should not be relied on.

6.2 SOIL ASSESSMENT

- 6.2.1 A soil assessment should be undertaken by a competent person to inform decisions relating to:
- the root protection area (RPA)
 - tree protection
 - new planting design; and
 - foundation design to take account of retained, removed and new trees (potential soil subsidence/heave)

Tree Solutions do not undertake soil assessments and the client is advised to seek specialist advice in this respect.

7.0 JUXTAPOSITION OF TREES AND STRUCTURES

7.1 Below ground constraints

- 7.1.1 The below ground constraints are generally summarised as the root protection area (RPA). The shape of the RPA and its exact location will depend upon arboricultural considerations including likely tolerance of the tree to root disturbance; morphology and disposition of the roots when known influenced by past or existing site conditions; soil type and structure; and topography and drainage.
- 7.1.2 The purpose of the RPA is to prevent physical damage to tree roots and to prevent damage to the soil structure. Tree roots are damaged by soil compaction, changes in soil levels or soil contamination which could reduce tree health and/or stability.
- 7.1.3 Root patterns are affected by topography and characteristics of the soil or substrate. Where trees are located within proximity to existing hard standing or underground physical barriers, they are unlikely to have an even distribution of lateral roots due to restrictions in root growth created by compacted sub-grades beneath. A radial trial trench was excavated along the northern edge of the existing access road to a depth of 1m and inspected. This revealed no tree roots. As such with the agreement of the Council Tree Officer on 30/04/2021 the RPA of T1 has been modified to 5m north and then extends further in the opposite direction where a more favourable rooting environment exists. The RPA of tree number 4 has been modified and is shown running 2m within Heol Offa to its south. The volume of RPA has been maintained by extending it further in the opposite direction where a more favourable rooting environment exists. All other RPAs are shown unmodified as there were no significant underground barriers to prevent good radial root spread.

7.2 Underground Services

7.2.1 There are no proposed service runs within the RPA of retained trees.

8.0 DEVELOPMENT IMPACT TO TREES

8.1 In order to accommodate the proposed development it will be necessary to remove tree numbers 2, 3 and G1. These are all small insignificant trees/scrub located between the boundary palisade fence and an internal fence. They are unremarkable specimens that afford no significant amenity or landscape value to the locale and their removal can be easily mitigated by the proposed new planting. Tree number 4 is an overgrown self-set Sycamore that has been coppiced in the past during the management of the boundary vegetation. It has grown back from the coppiced stool due to lack of ongoing maintenance and does not form a significant landscape feature to the area. We would suggest that the retention value of trees on this site are disproportionate the value of providing housing to the area and as such they should not form a material consideration of planning.

8.2 In response to the previous planning application the Councils Arboricultural Officer requested the retention of tree number 1 and its inclusion within this residential development proposal. Whilst the tree was recommended for removal by Tree Solutions on Health & Safety grounds, the Arboricultural Officer has advised that with remedial tree surgery works to the crown the tree can be retained in the long-term in order to maintain the visual amenity it affords the locale well into the future. As a result, the layout has been amended. The new layout has no adverse construction impact to this tree as the access road follows the alignment of the existing and is outside the modified RPA. The nearest dwelling (plot 1) has been positioned side on to the tree and receives an open aspect to the east and west allowing for a good level of unimpeded daylight.

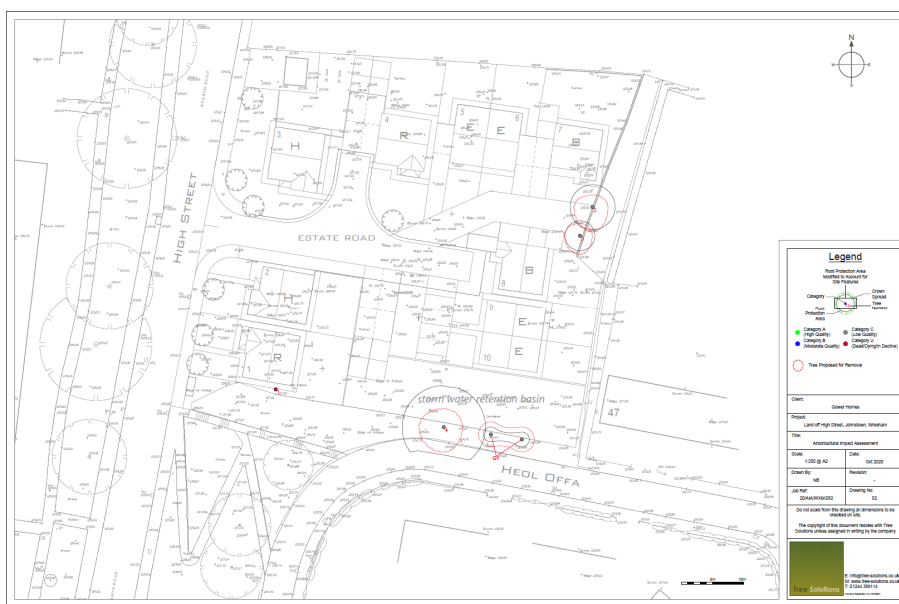


Plate 1 – Previous layout with T1 removed

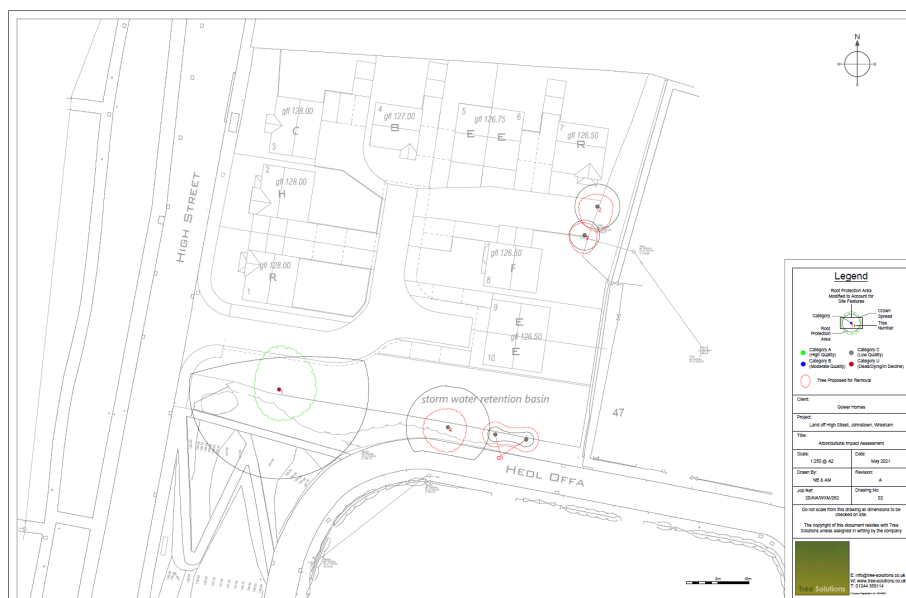


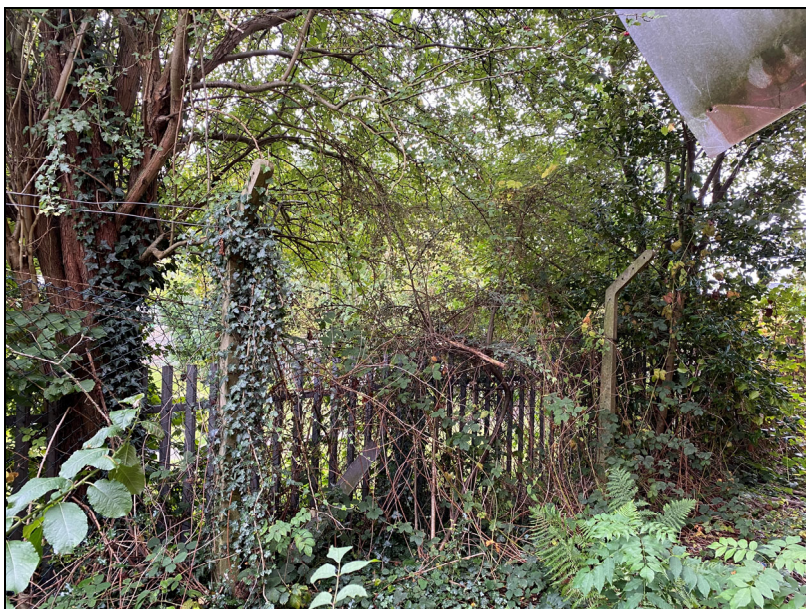
Plate 2 – Currnet layout with T1 retained



P1 – Extensive dieback & large diameter dead wood in crown of T1



P2 – Ash (T1) viewed from High Street to north



P3 – Tree numbers 2 & 3 that abut boundary palisade fence



P4 – G1, Ash & Sycamore scrub



P5 – T4, self-set Sycamore on boundary

9.0 PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE SCHEME

- 9.1 We advise that all proposed revisions having implications for trees should be referred to us for review.

10.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1 BS 5837: 2012 contains clear and current recommendations for a best practice approach to the assessment, retention, and protection of trees on development sites. The proposed development has followed this guidance by:

- Seeking arboricultural advice and undertaking a phase 1 preliminary tree survey in order to inform the layout and design of the proposed development
- Respecting the constraints posed to development of the site by high or moderate quality trees
- Acting upon arboricultural advice throughout the design process in order to obtain the best development proposal whilst considering the current and future tree requirements
- Amending the layout to accommodate tree number 1 at the request of WCBC tree officer
- Planting replacement trees within the development to mitigate the loss of tree cover to the locale and enhance the landscape character

11.0 LIMITING CONDITIONS

- Unless stated otherwise:
- Information contained in this report covers only those trees that were examined and reflects the condition of those trees at the time of the inspection.
- The inspection is limited to visual examination of the subject trees from ground level only and without dissection, excavation, probing or coring. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the subject trees may not arise in the future.
- This report has been prepared for the sole use and benefit of the client. Any liability of Tree Solutions shall not be extended to any third party.
- No part of this report can be reproduced without the authorisation of *Tree Solutions Ltd*.

Appendix One

Tree Survey Schedule

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE (BS5837: 2012)

Tree Solutions

Arboricultural Consultants

SITE:	LAND OFF HIGH STREET, JOHNSTOWN
CLIENT:	GOWER HOMES
BRIEF:	ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SURVEYOR:	A. HENDERSON
ASSESSMENT DATE:	02/10/20 & 23/04/21
VIEWING CONDITIONS:	CLEAR
JOB REFERENCE:	21/AIA/WXM/262 (REV A)

PAGE 1 OF 2

TREE NO. T - Tree G - Group H - Hedge	SPECIES (COMMON NAME)	AGE	HEIGHT (m) + CROWN CLEARANCE/ DIRECTION OF GROWTH (N.S.E.W)	RADIAL CROWN SPREAD (m)				STEM/ MULTI-STEM* DIA. (mm)	VITALITY	COMMENTS	MANAGEMENT	CATEGORY & SUB-CATEGORY GRADING BS 5837	BS 5837 RADIUS (m) RPA (m²)
				N	S	E	W						
T1	Ash	FM	14	7	5	6	4	1000	P	- Subject to TPO - In advanced decline exhibiting large diameter dead wood throughout crown liable to imminent failure - Significant dieback in upper crown - Would suggest tree is in final stages of the chronic fungal disease Chalara Ash Dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>) - April 2021 – WCBC tree officer has requested tree be retained with dead wood removed - Radial inspection trench excavated (29/04/2021) along northern edge of existing access road to a depth of 1m revealed no tree roots. RPA has been modified 5m north to reflect this - E.R.C. <10	- Remove all dead wood and crown reduce by 2m as advised by WCBC tree officer - Monitor extent of Ash Dieback from June	U	12 452m²
T2	Hawthorn	M	9 1.5S	2	4	2.5	3	300	G	- Abuts boundary palisade fence which has become embedded in stem - Tree of no particular merit/value & easily replaced by new planting - E.R.C. 10	Remove for development	C3	3.6 41m²
T3	Willow (Goat)	EM	9 1.5W	2	3	2	2.5	200	M/G	- Insignificant naturally colonised tree of no existing or long-term value - E.R.C. 0	Remove	C1	2.4 18m²
T4	Sycamore	EM	13 1.5S	3	4	3	4	400 340 (525)	G	- Co-dominant stems from base - Coppiced in past during boundary vegetation maintenance - E.R.C. 10	Remove for development	C2	6.3 125m²
G1	Sycamore Ash	SM	≤8	2	2	2	2	≤100	M/G	- Small diameter self-set scrub - E.R.C. 0	Remove	C1	1.2 5m²

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE (BS5837: 2012)

SITE:	LAND OFF HIGH STREET, JOHNSTOWN
CLIENT:	GOWER HOMES
BRIEF:	ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SURVEYOR:	A. HENDERSON
ASSESSMENT DATE:	02/10/20 & 23/04/21
VIEWING CONDITIONS:	CLEAR
JOB REFERENCE:	21/AIA/WXM/262 (REV A)

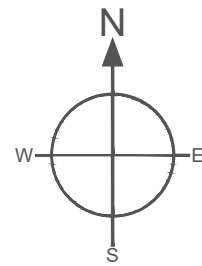
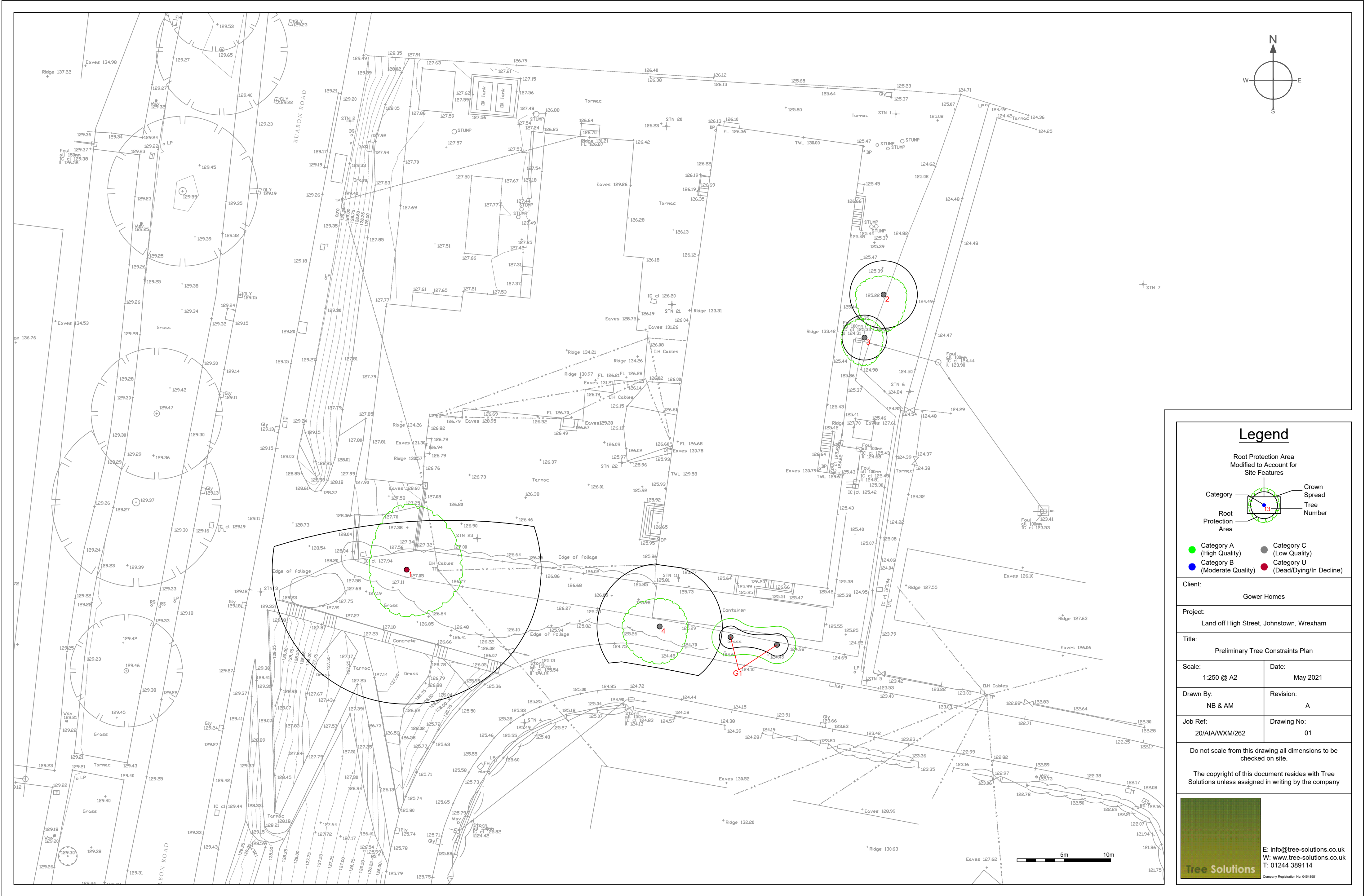
HEADINGS & ABBREVIATIONS

TREE NO.	REFERENCE NUMBER. REFER TO PLAN OR NUMBERED TAGS WHERE APPLICABLE (T = TREE, G = GROUP, H = HEDGE)
SPECIES:	COMMON NAME (LATIN NAMES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)
AGE RANGE/LIFE STAGE:	Y = YOUNG, SM = SEMI MATURE, EM = EARLY MATURE, M = MATURE, PM = POST MATURE
HEIGHT:	ESTIMATED AND RECORDED IN METRES. APPROXIMATELY 1 IN 10 TREES ARE MEASURED USING A CLINOMETER AND THE REMAINDER ESTIMATED AGAINST THE MEASURED TREES
CROWN SPREAD:	MAXIMUM CROWN RADIUS MEASURED TO THE FOUR CARDINAL COMPASS POINTS FOR SINGLE SPECIMENS ONLY (MEASUREMENT FOR TREE GROUPS - MAXIMUM RADIUS OF THE GROUP)
CROWN CLEARANCE & DIRECTION OF GROWTH:	HEIGHT IN METERS OF CROWN CLEARANCE ABOVE ADJACENT GROUND LEVEL (TO INFORM ON GROUND CLEARANCE, CROWN/STEM RATIO AND SHADING)
STEM DIA/MULTI-STEM DIA:	STEM DIAMETER - MEASURED AT APPROXIMATELY 1.5 METRES ABOVE GROUND LEVEL OR A COMBINATION OF STEMS FOR MULTI-STEMMED TREES
VITALITY:	A MEASURE OF PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION. D = DEAD, MD = MORIBUND, P = POOR, M = MODERATE, G = GOOD
E.R.C. = ESTIMATED REMAINING CONTRIBUTION:	RELATIVE USEFUL LIFE EXPECTANCY (YEARS)
BS 5837CATEGORY & SUB-CATEGORY GRADING:	A = HIGH QUALITY AND VALUE, B = MODERATE QUALITY AND VALUE, C = LOW QUALITY AND VALUE, U = UNSUITABLE FOR RETENTION (SUB-CATEGORY REFERS TO ARBORICULTURAL., LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL/CONSERVATION VALUES)
BS 5837 RADIUS & BS 5837 RPA:	PROTECTIVE DISTANCE - RADIUS FROM THE CENTRE OF THE STEM TO THE LINE OF TREE PROTECTION (CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE - CEZ) AND PROTECTIVE BARRIER ROOT PROTECTION AREA - BS 5837 (2012) ANNEX D (THE RECOMMENDATIONS STATE THAT THE RPA SHOULD BE CAPPED AT 707 M²) NOTE – ALL CALCULATIONS ROUNDED TO NEAREST DECIMAL

Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)				
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	- Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) - Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline - Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality <i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.</i>			See Table 2
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
Trees to be considered for retention				
Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	See Table 2
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2

Appendix Two
Preliminary Tree Constraints Plan



Legend

- Root Protection Area
Modified to Account for
Site Features
- Category 1 Crown Spread
Root Protection Area Tree Number
- Category A (High Quality)
Category B (Moderate Quality)
Category C (Low Quality)
Category U (Dead/Dying/In Decline)

Client: Gower Homes	
Project: Land off High Street, Johnstown, Wrexham	
Title: Preliminary Tree Constraints Plan	
Scale: 1:250 @ A2	Date: May 2021
Drawn By: NB & AM	Revision: A
Job Ref: 20/AIA/WXM/262	Drawing No: 01
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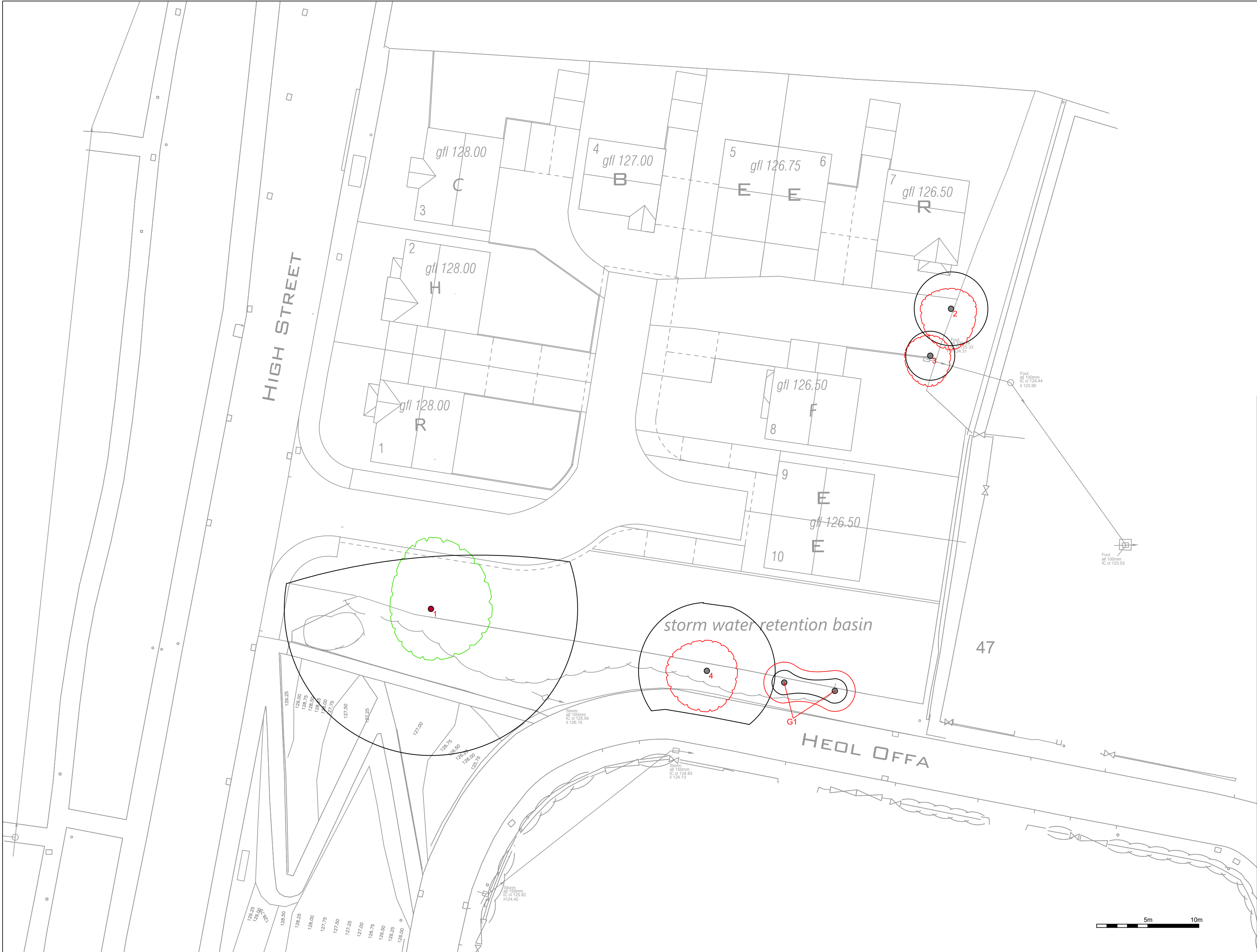


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Appendix Three

Impact Assessment Plan



Legend

Root Protection Area
Modified to Account for
Site Features

Category

Root
Protection
Area

Crown
Spread

Tree
Number

Category A
(High Quality)

Category B
(Moderate Quality)

Category C
(Low Quality)

Category U
(Dead/Dying/In Decline)

Tree Proposed for Removal

Client:
Gower Homes

Project:
Land off High Street, Johnstown, Wrexham

Title:
Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Scale:
1:250 @ A2

Date:
May 2021

Drawn By:
NB & AM

Revision:
A

Job Ref:
20/AIA/WXM/262

Drawing No:
02

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Appendix Four

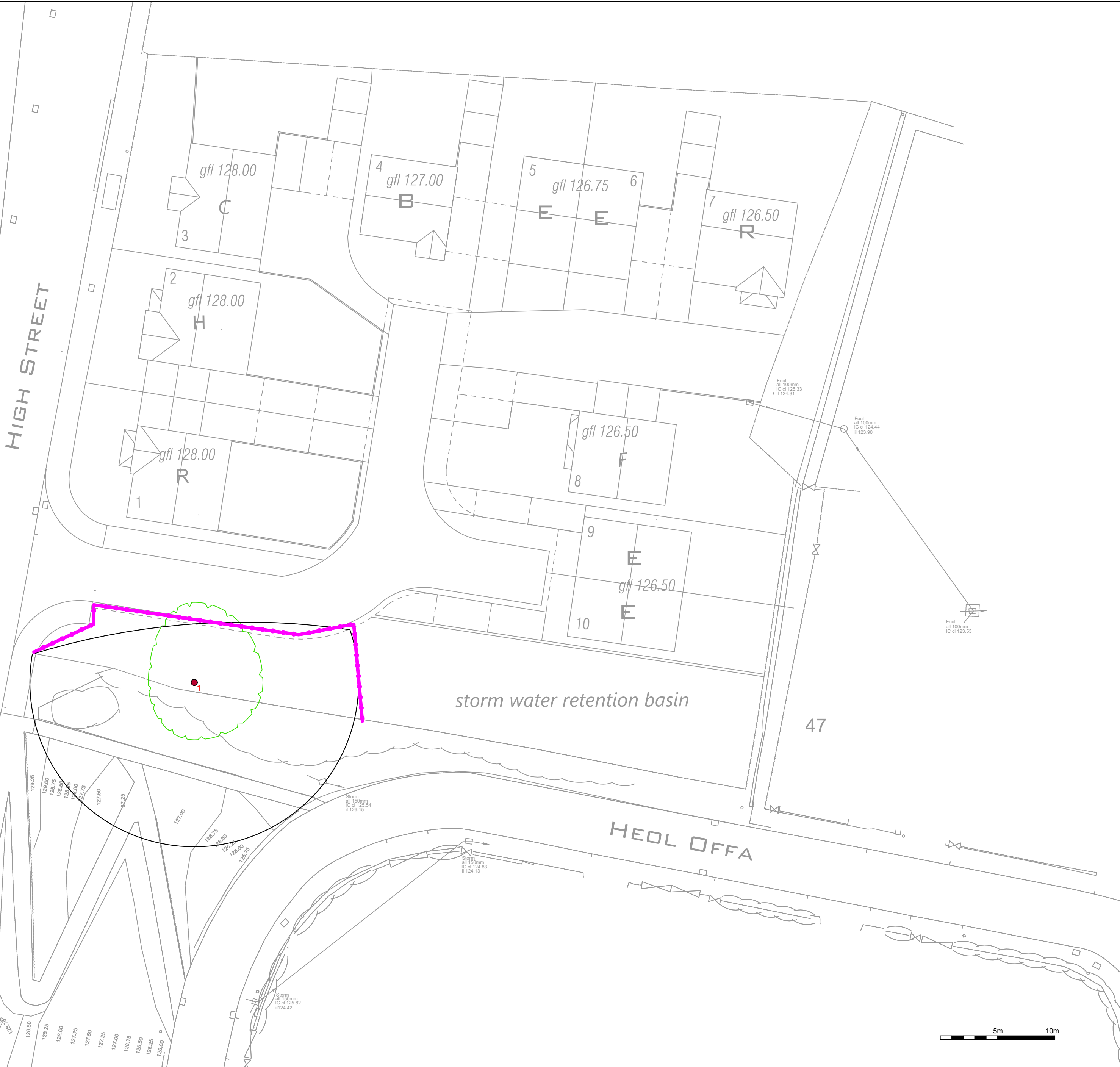
Tree Protection Plan



Tree Protective Fencing Specification

PROTECTIVE FENCING. THIS FENCING MUST BE MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED PLANS AND DRAWINGS FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT.

TREE PROTECTION AREA
KEEP OUT !
(TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)
TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY PLANNING CONDITIONS ANTIOR ARE THE SUBJECTS OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER.
CONTRAVENTION OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER MAY LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION
ANY INCUSSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY



Legend

Root Protection Area Modified to Account for Site Features

Category A (High Quality) Category C (Low Quality)
Category B (Moderate Quality) Category U (Dead/Dying/In Decline)

2.0M high Heras (with extra central support bar) mounted on scaffold poles (driven in to the ground) and secured with anti tamper bolts – as illustrated.

Client:	Gower Homes		
Project:	Land off High Street, Johnstown, Wrexham		
Title:	Tree Protection Plan		
Scale:	1:250 @ A2	Date:	May 2021
Drawn By:	NB & AM	Revision:	A
Job Ref:	20/AIA/WXM/262	Drawing No:	03

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Appendix Five

Tree Protective Measures/Method Statement

SEQUENCE OF OPERATIONS

From commencement of the above development, the following methodology shall be implemented in the manner and sequence described:

1. Tree Surgery Works
2. Erect temporary protective fencing
3. Main construction phase
4. Removal of bound surface within RPA of T1
5. Removal of temporary fencing
6. Landscaping within RPA's

1. Tree Surgery Works

1. Before the erection of the temporary protective fencing, all tree removal shall be implemented in accordance with the Tree Survey Schedule at **Appendix 1**
2. All possible efforts must be made to prevent damage to retained trees including potential root incursion or compaction caused by vehicle access.
3. All arboricultural works shall conform to the recommendations of BS 3998 (2010) 'Recommendations for Tree Work'
4. All operatives shall be equipped with and use personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with current Health & Safety Executive current directives and industry codes of practice.
5. Performance of all arboricultural operations and use of equipment shall be in accordance with current Health & Safety Executive current directives and industry codes of practice

2. Erect Temporary Tree Protective Fencing

1. Prior to commencement of any site demolition works and subsequent construction, preparation, excavation or material deliveries the main contractor shall erect the temporary protective fencing as detailed in the 'Tree Protection Specification' and in the location indicated on the Tree Protection Plan.
2. Wirral Council Tree Officer is to be given 5 days written notice as soon as all protective fencing has been erected in order to inspect the specification and location. An inspection report will be completed and returned to the LPA Tree Officer for approval. Any damage occurring to protective fencing during the demolition or construction phase shall be made good by the main contractor

3. Main Construction Phase

1. There shall be no storage of construction material, site parking, site accommodation or equipment in any area designated as the Root Protection Area (RPA) and Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) and enclosed by Temporary Protective Fencing
2. No materials that are likely to have an adverse effect on tree health such as oil, bitumen or cement will be stored or discharged within 10 metres of the trunk of a tree that is to be retained. No fires will be lit
3. The site agent shall supervise deliveries by self-loading crane, with vehicles positioned in such a manner that retained trees are not at risk of damage

Cement Mixing

- The cement mixer will be laid on top of plywood boards in a position outside the RPA of any trees. The mixer will be kept in this position throughout all development work.

Avoiding Damage to Stems and Branches

- Care shall be taken when planning site operations in proximity to trees to ensure that wide or tall loads or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights can operate without coming into contact with retained trees. Such contact can result in serious injury resulting in safe retention impossible

On Site Storage of Spoil and Building Materials

- Prior to and during all site construction works no spoil will be stored and no cement mixing will take place within the Root Protection Area of any tree on or adjacent to the site even if proposed site work is to be within the crown spread. Any encroachment within this protected area will only be with the prior agreement of the LPA Arboricultural Officer

4. Removal of Bound Surface within RPA of T1

The following steps shall be taken when breaking out any bound surface:

1. All works to be carried out under the supervision of Tree Solutions Ltd.
2. Breaking-out shall be by hand, avoiding damage to the protective bark covering larger roots. Excavation will be carried out using pickaxes rather than pneumatic equipment.
3. Roots, whilst exposed, shall be wrapped in dry, clean Hessian sacking to prevent desiccation and to protect from rapid temperature changes. Roots smaller than 25mm diameter and roots bound to arisings shall be pruned back preferably to a side branch, by use of sharp saw or secateurs. Roots larger than 25mm shall only be severed following consultation with the LPA Tree Officer and Tree Solutions.
4. No machinery shall pass over the surface once broken-out. Arisings shall be picked and removed by manual means.
5. Prior to backfilling any Hessian wrapping shall be removed and retained roots shall be surrounded in at least 35mm of sharp sand or other loose granular fill before any other material is replaced
6. The underlying soil will be ameliorated by vertical decompaction using an Airspade. Shallow, horizontal decompaction will also be possible, where the top 200mm of soil can be carefully turned over providing additional aeration
7. A mix of sharp sand and good quality topsoil will be spread over the area prior to laying turf

5. Remove all Temporary Tree Protective Fencing

1. Tree Protective fencing will only be removed upon completion of all construction work and once all machinery associated with the works has left site.

6. Landscaping within RPA of Trees

1. There shall be **no rotovating** of ground within any area designated as a Root Protection Area (RPA) and Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) and enclosed by Temporary Protective Fencing.
2. No hard landscaping works or excavation for cables or any other service should be installed within the Root Protection Area (RPA) and Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) without the written consent of the LPA

Useful Contacts

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TREE PROTECTIVE FENCING

- 1 Before the commencement of any site excavations and subsequent construction works (other than those set out in the schedule of tree works contained in this document), protective fencing will be erected as detailed on the Tree Protection Plan and as specified below. The LPA Tree Officer will be given 5 days' notice upon completion of the fencing to inspect and approve prior to the commencement of any site works.
- 2 The fencing will consist of a scaffold framework in accordance with Figure 2 of BS 5837 – 2012 (illustration below) comprising a metal framework, both vertical and horizontal, well braced to resist impacts. Vertical tubes will be spaced at a maximum interval of 3m. Onto this, weldmesh panels shall be securely fixed with wire or scaffold clamps. Weldmesh panels on rubber or concrete feet are not considered resistant to impact and for this reason will not be used. The site manager or other suitably qualified appointed person will be responsible for inspecting the protective fencing daily; any damage to the fencing or breaches of the fenced area will be rectified immediately.
- 3 Clearly legible weatherproof signage, stating "Protected Trees – Exclusion Zone" shall be attached to the fencing 1.5m from the ground, facing out of the Tree Protection Zone located at regular intervals along the fence line
- 4 The fencing will remain in place until completion of all site works and then only removed when all site traffic is removed from site
- 5 Other than works detailed within this method statement or approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), no works including storage or dumping of materials shall take place within the exclusion zones defined by the protective fencing.

Protective Fencing Detail

The fence types are shown on the Tree Protection Plan with the following colour key: -

1. **Magenta** - 2.0M high heavy-duty Heras panels (with extra central support bar) mounted on scaffold poles (driven into the ground) and secured with anti-tamper bolts – as illustrated below.



Tree Protective Fencing Specification