



ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

for:

A PROPOSED GAS GOVERNOR INSTALLATION

at:

High Street, Gresford, Wrexham, LL12 8PS

January 2021

Ref: ECO/588



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SUMMARY

Ecoscope Ltd. were commissioned to produce an arboricultural method statement to accompany a planning application for the construction of gas governor at High Street, Gresford, Wrexham, LL12 8PS. This report describes the impact of the proposals on the trees within the vicinity of the works and proposes relevant mitigation and working practices to minimise any impact. No major constraints were identified.

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Approved by: Mr. Stuart Kato M.Sc. MCIEEM

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Overview

- 1.1.1 This arboricultural method statement was undertaken in response to a request from the Tree Officer at Wrexham County Borough Council, the report needed to be provided before determination to avoid withdrawal of the planning application. The development proposal is for the installation of a gas governor station, housing two gas governor regulator kiosk units on part of Gresford Recreation Ground, off the High Street, Gresford, Wrexham, LL12 8PS (approx. centroid grid reference SJ34825458, planning ref. P/2020/0516, **Figures 1 & 2**).



Figure 1. Map showing the location of the proposed development site (circled red).

(Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey, Licence No. 100056340).

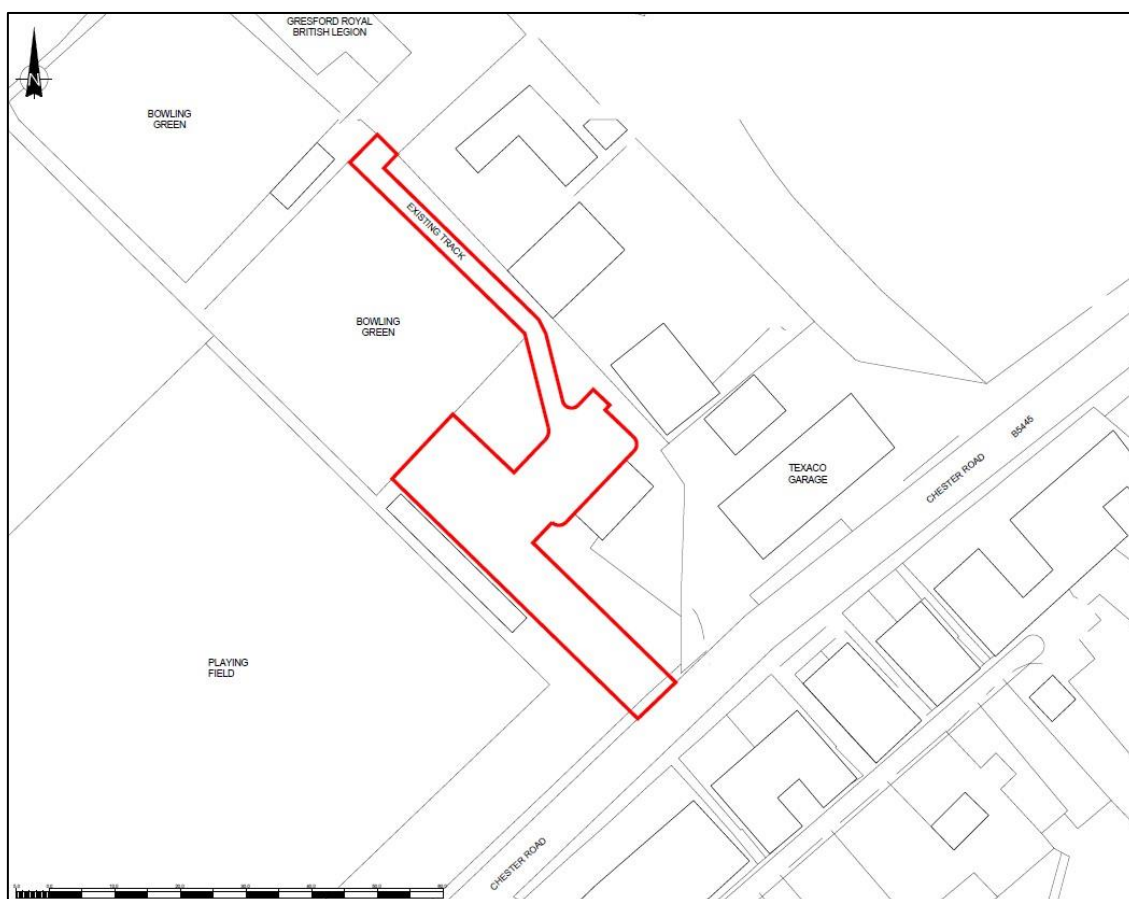


Figure 2. Map showing the boundary of the construction site.

- 1.1.2 No detailed arboricultural survey information is available, and no site visit for the collection of this information has been commissioned. The impact assessment and method statement are designed in accordance with guidance given in BS58237:2012.

1.2 Authors qualifications

- 1.2.1 Since gaining a Distinction in the Royal Forestry Society Certificate in Arboriculture in 2000, Simon Cope has provided arboricultural consultancy for a wide range of professional and domestic clients. I follow the best practice guidelines published by the Arboricultural Association in all aspects of my profession.

2 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 The site is located in the south-east corner of Gresford Recreation Ground, and the proposed development will involve the construction of a new district governor compound which contains two kiosk units, with steel palisade fencing (2.4m high) to boundary. The permanent compound area will measure approximately 15m x 6m and will be surfaced with gravel. For the purposes of construction, it will be necessary to use a temporary access and site compound (Figure 3).

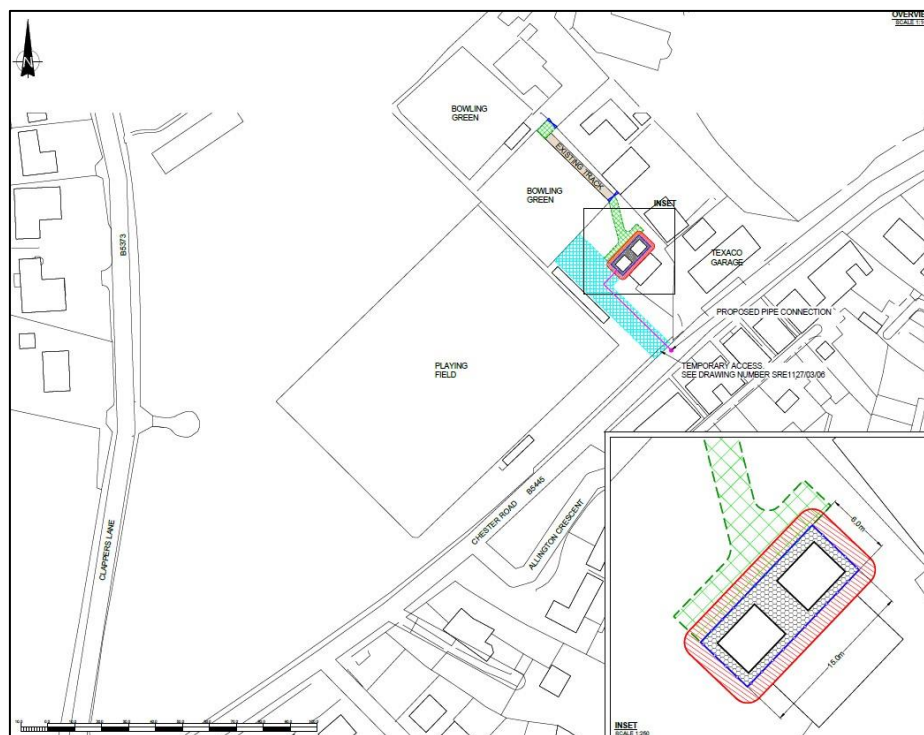


Figure 3. Map showing the permanent and temporary (shaded light blue) areas of the site.

- 2.2. In the absence of any detailed arboricultural survey information, information has been gleaned from aerial photographs and Google StreetView (Figures 4 & 5). From these, it appears that the only trees that will be affected by the proposed development are those alongside Chester Road, where the temporary access route will be established. The permanent access route follows an existing track and so will not impact on any of the trees close to that route.
- 2.3 The temporary access will certainly necessitate the removal of part of the hedgerow (H1, unknown species), and is likely to have an adverse impact on the two Common Lime trees that arise from either side of the access (T2 & T3). The potential negative impacts caused by the development are outlined in Table 1.



Figure 4. Site components superimposed on an aerial photograph centred on the site.

Courtesy of Google Earth, image dates from June 2018.



Figure 5. View taken from Chester Road showing the proposed location of the temporary site access (shaded red) and the tree and hedge numbers assigned in this report.

Courtesy of Google StreetView, image dates from 2009

	EVENT	LIKELIHOOD	SIGNIFICANCE	DURATION OF HARM
Within construction footprint	Trees felled	Certain	Low (hedgerow only)	Permanent
Development site traffic	Localised compacting and crushing of tree root networks	Highly likely	Moderate – interruption of water/nutrient supply, provide access for pathogens	Immediate and residual
	Collision with machinery	Likely	Moderate - interruption of water/nutrient supply, provide access for pathogens	Immediate and residual
Burial of services	Major and minor root severance	Highly likely	High – loss of structural stability, interruption of water/nutrient supply, provide access for pathogens	Immediate and residual
Other issues related to access route establishment	Facilitation pruning	Likely	Low – minor branches	Immediate but temporary

Table 1. Potential negative impacts of the development on the trees.

3 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 General arboricultural recommendations

- Any access facilitation pruning of low branches will be carried out in a sensitive manner so that the amenity of all trees (T2 & T3) is preserved, and they remain balanced. All tree surgery will be carried out to BS3998:2010 by suitably qualified and experienced personnel.
- All nesting birds and their nests are legally protected from harm or disturbance. This means either that all potentially damaging works to trees that may harbour nesting birds should be postponed until after the nesting season (March to August inclusive), or a suitably qualified ecologist should survey the area before works commence to confirm that no nesting birds are present.

3.2 Measures for the removal of the hedgerow

- The width of the access will be the minimum necessary to facilitate access so that as much of the hedgerow is preserved intact as possible.
- The section of hedgerow scheduled for removal will be felled to ground level and then the stumps can be ground out to a depth of 50mm if necessary. This will cause minimal damage to the roots of the adjacent trees.
- Following the completion of the development, and the removal of the temporary access route, the hedgerow will be replanted with similar species and managed in accordance with the existing hedgerow management regime.

3.3 Measures for the protection of retained trees

3.3.1 Given the width required by the access route and the available space between T2 & T3, it will not be possible to completely exclude site traffic from the Root Protection Areas (RPA's) of these trees. The diameter of the stems of T2 & T3 is estimated at 600mm, and so their RPA's will extend for a radius of 7.2m (**Figure 6**). Damage to T2 and T3 will be mitigated by adopting the following measures:

- Heras fencing will be placed on either side of the access track where it passes the trees to prevent collisions between machinery and the trees. This will be at least 1m from the tree stems, and the protected space will not be used for the storage of construction materials.
- Ground protection will be installed across the entire width of the access route where it crosses the RPA's of T2 & T3. This will comprise a geosynthetic cellular confinement no-dig design to accommodate the likely loading, e.g., CellWeb ([Cellweb®TRP - Cellular Confinement System \(geosyn.co.uk\)](http://Cellweb®TRP - Cellular Confinement System (geosyn.co.uk))) or Terram ([Terram Geocell | Tree Root Protection | Ground Reinforcement \(terramgeosynthetics.com\)](http://Terram Geocell | Tree Root Protection | Ground Reinforcement (terramgeosynthetics.com))). It will be constructed so that moisture infiltration and gaseous diffusion is allowed.

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- 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.
 - Given the relatively large diameter of the pipes to be installed from the southern end of the site, it will not be possible to use no-dig excavation techniques. Therefore, open excavations will be carried out carefully 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. Any roots smaller than 25mm diameter may be pruned back, preferably 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 an arboriculturist. Prior to backfilling, 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.

3.4 Residual impacts

- 3.4.1 Given the adoption of the measures outlined above, all of the adverse impacts described in Table 1 will be mitigated, and the proposed development should not result in any significant harm to the retained trees.

4 REFERENCES

- BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.' British Standards Ltd.



Figure 6. Tree Protection Plan showing the layout of the RPA's of T2 and T3, and the position of the ground protection and the Heras fencing (H).