# Arboricultural Method Statement

## Himley Village (Phase 1)

## 19th January 2023

TG Report No. 15525_R02_JJ

Tyler Grange

| Report No: | Date | Revision | Author |
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# Section 1: Introduction and Brief

1.1. This report has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Ltd (TG) to detail the findings of a BS5837 Tree Quality Survey and tree protection plan at land at Himley Farm, Bicester, Oxfordshire (hereafter referred to as the 'site').

1.2. This report has been prepared in order to discharge Condition 27 for Phase 1 of the approved outline planning permission Ref: 14/02121/OUT which was granted by Cherwell District Council for the development of a phased residential-led mixed use development referred to as the *"Proposed Himley Village North West Bicester, Middleton Stoney Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire"*.

1.3. Condition 27 states that:

*"No development shall commence on a phase until an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) undertaken in accordance with BS:5837:2012 and all subsequent amendments and revisions including a scheme for the provision of protective fencing, to prevent damage during construction, for the retained hedgerows, trees, woodlands, ponds and areas of green space within that phase, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, all works on the phase shall be carried out in accordance with the approved AMS with all tree protection erected prior to development commencing on that phase. If any tree or hedgerow shown to be retained is cut down, uprooted or destroyed or dies, another tree or hedgerow shall be planted in the same place within the following planting season and that tree shall be of such a size and species as will be first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.*

1.4. This report and the accompany plans provides the required Arboricultural Method Statement required by Condition 27 in relation to Phase 1 of the proposed development. This report has been guided by the recommendations set out within the British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations' (hereafter BS5837).

1.5. A BS5837 tree quality survey of the Phase 1 site area was undertaken in January 2023.

**Planning Policy**

1.6. The site falls within the local planning authority of Cherwell District Council. A summary of the local planning policy context relating to arboricultural matters is provided at **Appendix 2** to the rear of this report for reference.

**Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), Conservation Areas and Ancient Woodland**

1.7. As shown on the Cherwell District Council online map, no trees on or within influence of the Phase 1 site area are covered by a TPO.

1.8. The magic.gov.uk website confirms that no trees on or adjoining the site are identified as Ancient Woodland.

1.9. The site does not lie within a Conservation Area.

**Tree Survey Summary**

1.10. The baseline tree survey was completed in accordance with BS5837, and the methodology as detailed at **Appendix 1** to the rear of this report. In accordance with the above recommendations, the tree survey included all trees within / in influence of the site and the site boundaries that were over 75mm diameter at breast height (dbh).

1.11. Surveyed vegetation has been plotted in AutoCAD using OS base map data, further informed by aerial photography and on-site observations / measurements.

1.12. 2no. hedgerows (H1 and H2) were included within the baseline tree survey of the Phase 1 site area. The survey findings are illustrated on the Tree Constraints Plan (TCP) located at the rear of this report. The TCP shows the distribution of the trees surveyed together with details of their constraints to new development in accordance with BS5837, including:

- Tree Quality Gradings;[1]
- Root Protection Areas (RPA's);[2]
- Tree canopy spreads;[3]
- Tree Shading.[4]

1.13. Findings for each of the tree groups surveyed are detailed in the Tree Survey Schedule (see **Appendix 4**). This provides a tabulated record of the trees surveyed, including reference numbers, species composition, tree dimensions, life stage, physiological and structural condition, and the arboricultural value of each survey entry.

1.14. The Phase 1 site area sits at the southern edge of the wider phased masterplan boundary; Planning Ref: 14/02121/OUT, for the provision of up to 1,700 residential dwellings (Class C3), a retirement village (Class C2), flexible commercial floorspace (Classes A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, C1 and D1) social and community facilities (Class D1), land to accommodate one energy centre and land to accommodate one new primary school (up to 2FE) (Class D1). The Phase 1 site area is aligned to the south by two roadside hedgerows, with habitat to the north of the site comprising predominantly arable fields.

1.15. The hedgerows surveyed within the site boundary were categorised as native and species-rich, and had a large component of elm. All hedgerow lengths were similar in species composition. The hedgerows bordering the southern site boundary (adjacent to the B4030) showed evidence of historic hedge-laying, but also contained sycamore (non-native and less desirable as a hedgerow species).

**Grading Summary**

1.16. The hedgerows surveyed have been categorised using the 'cascade chart for tree quality assessment' (see **Appendix 3**) recommended by the BS5837. Grading subcategories (1, 2 and 3) are intended to reflect the arboricultural, landscape and cultural values, respectively. The grading system allows informed decisions to be made concerning the design and impact of potential development in relation to the arboricultural value of the trees surveyed.

1.17. Surveyed hedgerows are classified as Low Value (Category C) in the context of BS5837. Category C vegetation represents lower or 'typical' arboricultural quality and value. Category C vegetation is denoted by a Grey canopy outline as illustrated on the TCP.

1 The value of arboricultural features surveyed in accordance with the methodology set-out in Appendix 3.

2 A layout design tool indicating the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability, and where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority. See further explanation at Appendix 3.

3 Dimensions of the trees crown spread and clearance from ground level. See further explanation at Appendix 3.

4 Shade cast by existing trees which may affect the availability of sunlight and daylight within a new development. See further explanation at Appendix 3.

# Section 2: Phase 1 Area Arboricultural Method Statement

2.1. The purpose of an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) is to safeguard the retained trees and hedgerows on site during the construction process. The following information sets out the methodology and approach for all proposed works that could affect such vegetation.

2.2. Compliance with this AMS will be a requirement of all relevant contractors associated with the development, including initial ground works and landscaping. Copies of this report will be available for inspection on site and all personnel shall be made aware of the key implications of the AMS, namely to ensure that during the construction phase of the development:

- The site manager and all other personnel are provided with this document;
- All requirements of this Tree Protection Scheme are adhered to;
- The Site Manager and site personnel are updated of any approved changes or variations to this document (approval for alterations must be obtained in writing from the LPA);
- Site personnel must work in accordance with this document at all times, or in accordance with any approved variation;
- The tree protection measures are left in place until the construction phase of development is completed, except with the written consent of the LPA; and

- Any requirement to remove additional trees will require further advice from the appointed arboricultural consultant and ecologists in advance of works taking place to ensure compliance with relevant planning permissions and any required ecological checks.

**Vegetation Removal**

2.3. To facilitate construction of the proposed site access within Phase 1, the following vegetation is required to be removed, as detailed in Red on the accompanying Tree Removal and Protection Plan (TRPP):

- A 30m sectional loss within H1 to facilitate access arrangement; and

- A separate 34m sectional loss within H1 to facilitate the proposed footway east of the access point.

2.4. Particular care is required when removing the trees established within cohesive groups to avoid damage to the retained tree cover and specifically to minimise damage to retained trees and disturbance to Root Protection Areas (RPAs). Remaining stumps from felled trees must be carefully ground out as opposed to pulled out with a machine. This is required to avoid up-rooting and disturbance within the rooting environment of adjacent retained trees.

2.5. vegetation It is advised that vegetation to be removed will be clearly identified on-site (via spray marking / taping / tagging as required) by an appointed project Arboriculturist to avoid erroneous tree felling.

2.6. The hedgerow removal works must be undertaken in accordance with BS3998:2010 by a competent tree contractor and should avoid the main nesting season for birds between 1st March and 31st August each year. If such timescales are unachievable, the advice of an ecologist will need to be sought to determine any further necessary protective and precautionary working measures to avoid disturbance to nesting birds and other wildlife.

**Tree Protection Plan**

2.7. The retained sections of hedgerow must be protected from unnecessary damage during the construction phase of the development. Robust tree protection on development sites is of paramount importance if existing vegetation is to be retained successfully. The inevitable stress caused by development near existing trees can, if provision for adequate protection is not made, be a strain that can severely damage the trees or even result in their failure.

2.8. Tree protection measures are illustrated on the TRPP included to the rear of this report. The procedures and working methods are outlined further below.

**General Site Precautions**

2.9. The following points must be observed during both advanced works and the construction process:

- No fires will be lit on site;
- Cutting down, uprooting, damaging or otherwise destroying any tree that is proposed for retention is prohibited;
- No access will be permitted inside tree protection / non-intervention areas (unless authorisation is obtained in writing from the LPA or overseen by project arborist). Appropriate signage will also be implemented along the tree protection fencing to highlight to contractors the need for careful working methods and importance of establishing construction exclusion zones;
- No materials, equipment or debris will be stored within the RPA at any time;
- If during construction there are any excessive levels of dust build-up on retained trees then trees must be hosed down immediately with a clean water supply;
- Holes for fence posts for permanent plot boundary fencing immediately adjacent to retained RPAs must be dug by hand, avoiding tree roots. Due to the highly alkaline leachate produced during the curing of wet concrete, concrete should not be poured within the RPA unless an impermeable liner has been installed. Holes must therefore be sheathed to reduce the risk of contamination where concrete is to be implemented;
- All construction or tree management works must be undertaken sensitively and with regard to the RPAs and canopies of adjacent retained trees. Any roots encountered which are smaller than 25mm in diameter can be pruned back, preferably to a side branch using a proprietary cutting tool. Roots larger than 25mm diameter should only be severed following on-site agreement with an arboricultural consultant, as they may be essential to the tree's health and stability;
- Prior to undertaking tree works, all risks associated with the work should be identified by carrying out a site-specific risk assessment. All works must be undertaken in accordance with BS3998:2010 (refer to BS 3998:2010 – Section 7) which provides recommendations for site management, best practice guidance for tree works and safety planning;
- Notice boards, telephone wires or other services must not be attached to any part of retained trees; and

- Materials which will contaminate the soil (e.g. concrete, cement, chemical toilets, diesel oil, vehicle washings etc.) must not be permitted within, or close to RPAs of retained trees unless required in order to implement the permanent plot boundary fencing. To avoid any associated damage or injury occurring to the trees as a direct result of contact with contaminants, works including cement mixing, re-fuelling and tool or machine washing will not be permitted within 20m uphill of any retained tree.

**Watching Brief / Site Supervision**

2.10. The engagement of an Arborist to perform a 'Watching Brief" can help ensure the successful retention of trees and implementation of an AMS. If deemed a requirement by the LPA as part of a suitably worded planning condition, it is suggested that a Watching Brief entails regular site visits by an appointed Arborist for the duration of the construction phase, with the frequency of visits to be agreed in writing with the LPA. Such visits should involve regular 'drop-in' visits by the appointed Arborist to oversee the tree protection measures and provide general tree advice when needed.

2.11. Site monitoring by a project Arborist would be appropriate during the following work stages in order to oversee:

- Prior to severing any tree roots that may be encountered during ground works adjacent to retained RPAs that are larger than 25mm diameter; and

- Following implementation of BS5837 Tree Protection Fencing to confirm the alignment and specification.

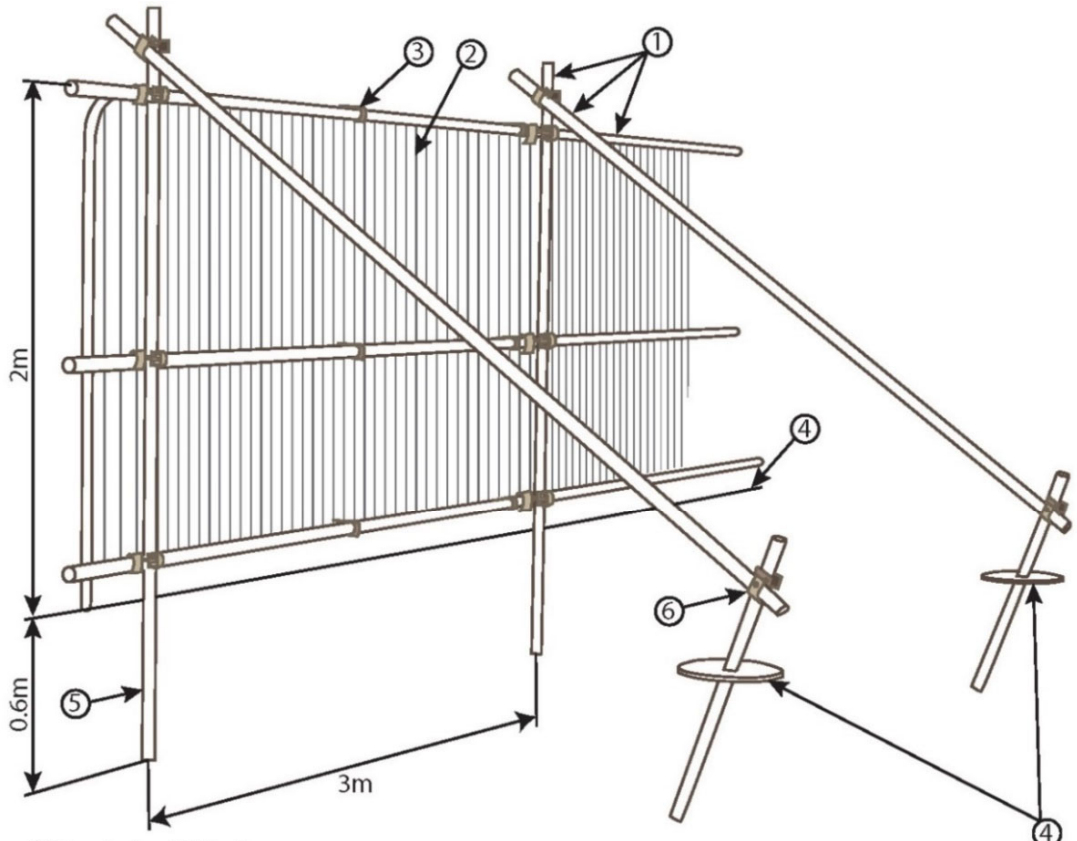
2.12. It is the responsibility of the Site Manager to request (with sufficient notice) the attendance of an Arboricultural Consultant to oversee such work. It is advised that written confirmation of any visits and advice with supporting photographic evidence if appropriate would be issued to the LPA's Arboricultural Officer following the completion of each site monitoring visit.

**Tree Protection Fencing**

2.13. Once the consented hedgerow removal has been undertaken, protective fencing will be erected in accordance with BS5837, as illustrated with the Purple line on the TRPP contained to the rear of this report.

2.14. Where access into the RPAs is needed the implementation of Grassform (or similar) and Trakmats can provide a gripped and lightweight ground protection solution to safeguard the rooting environment of trees. In all cases, the objective should be to avoid compaction of the soil, which can arise from the single passage of a heavy vehicle, especially in wet conditions, so that tree root functions remain unimpaired. Any access across RPAs to undertake tree works must only be undertaken under the guidance of this AMS and overseen by an Arborist to ensure that suitable ground protection is in place.

2.15. The tree protection fencing consists of a scaffold framework, well braced to resist impacts, with vertical tubes spaced at a maximum of 3m to add further stability. Onto this, weldmesh panels will be securely fixed with wire or scaffold clamps (see extract of BS 5837 below).




2.16. Special attention is essential in maintaining the protective barrier during the construction phase, ensuring that it remains rigid and complete as well as fit for the purpose intended. In order to avoid disturbances to the protective barrier once it is installed, it should be inspected frequently, including during site visits by the project Arborist. Repairs shall be made immediately where required. The protective fencing will remain in position for the duration of the site-wide construction activities.

2.17. All-weather notices will be attached to the barriers with words such as 'Construction Exclusion Zone – No Access' (see signage examples below).

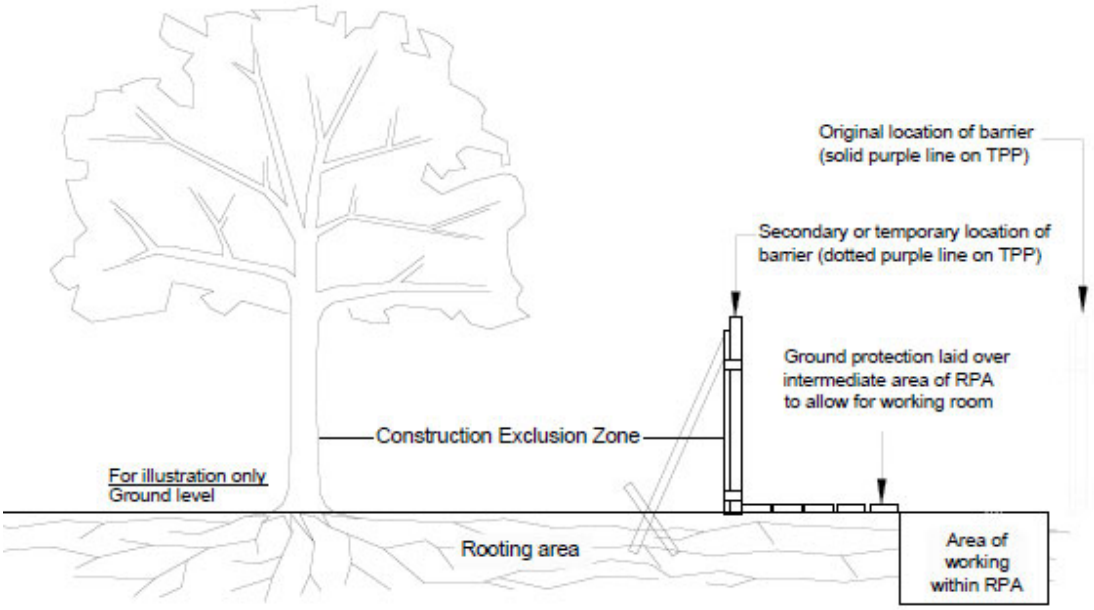


**Ground Protection Boarding**

2.18. In the event that scaffolding or the passing of plant / materials is needed within the defined RPAs (i.e. within any areas between proposed buildings and established protective fencing) then inter-linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression-resistant layer consisting of 150 mm depth of woodchip laid onto a geotextile membrane must be implemented to safeguard the rooting environment with RPAs. Alternatively, the implementation of Grassform (or similar) and Trakmats can also provide a gripped and lightweight ground protection solution to safeguard the rooting environment of trees.

2.19. In all cases, the objective should be to avoid compaction of the soil, which can arise from the single passage of a heavy vehicle, especially in wet conditions, so that tree root functions remain unimpaired.

2.20. Ground protection must be installed prior to the commencement of any operations within the RPAs and any excavation works undertaken using hand tools to avoid damage to tree roots. Using a brush will expose roots cleanly before deciding whether it will be necessary to prune. Care must be taken not to damage roots including the roots' bark. Any roots encountered which are smaller than 25mm in diameter can be pruned back, preferably to a side branch using a proprietary cutting tool. Roots larger than 25mm diameter should only be severed following on-site agreement with an arboricultural consultant, as they may be essential to the tree's health and stability. typical example of the arrangement of fencing in relation to trees and root protection areas is illustrated below.




**Amendments**

2.21. Issues can arise on development Sites which require amendments to the previously agreed tree protection details. Any amendments to the AMS will be discussed with the Arboricultural Consultant and agreed in writing with the LPA prior to being implemented. Copies of paperwork relating to any amendments shall be attached to the site AMS to provide a definitive record of what has been approved.

**Procedures for Incidents**

2.22. If any breach of the approved tree protection measures occurs (including any accidental / unauthorised damage to the limbs, roots or trunk of trees, the discharge / spillage of toxins and waste within the RPAs, or unauthorised breaching / failure to implement a tree protection barrier or construction exclusion zone or prescribed arboriculturally sensitive working methodology):

- The site manager must be informed immediately;
- The Local Planning Authority Tree officer (or other Planning Officer) and project Arborist;
- Swift action must be taken to halt the breach and prevent any further breach; and
- All preventative action and details of agreed remedial works must be recorded by the project Arborist and reported to the LPA.

# Appendix 1: Methodology, Constraints, Mapping and Limitations

**Field Work**

A1.1. In accordance BS5837, the tree survey included all trees within / in influence of the site and the site boundaries that were over 75mm diameter at breast height (1.5m).

A1.2. Measured topographical survey data (supplied by others) was used to inform tree locations their surrounding context. Any trees not identified on the topographical survey are prefixed with (*) and their locations have been approximated using measurements during the tree survey and further informed by aerial photography where required.

A1.3. The trees surveyed were visually inspected from ground level only. No invasive investigations or climbing inspections were necessary to confirm visual or audible signs of defect or debility and no tissue or soil samples were undertaken. For further clarification please refer to the tree survey explanatory notes in below.

**Tree Numbers**

'T' prefixes have been used to identify individual trees and commence with 'T1'.

'G' prefixes have been used to identify groups of trees.

'H' prefixes have been used to identify hedgerows.

'W' prefixes have been used to identify woodlands.

**Species**

A1.4. Species are listed by their common name, both in the schedule and in the report text.

**Height and Stem Diameter**

A1.5. The stem diameter is measured at 1.5m above ground level and given in millimetres (mm). Tree heights are measured in metres (m) using a clinometer where access and land typography allowed. In instances where access to tree's stem and height measurements were not possible, the dimensions have been estimated by eye.

**Crown Spread and Height of Crown Clearance**

A1.6. Radial crown spread is measured in metres and is listed for each of the four cardinal points where access has been possible to obtain a measurement. Where access was not possible to measure the spread of the canopy, such distances have been estimated by eye or informed by aerial photography.

A1.7. The measured canopy shapes have been plotted on the **Tree Constraints Plan (TCP)** at the four cardinal points. For groups of trees, the extent of the canopy has been measured as an average across the group and plotted using the topographical survey mapping. In some instances, Tyler Grange will use aerial photography to inform the canopy spread of larger tree groups and woodlands where topographical data is limited for such features.

A1.8. The distance between the ground level and the first significant branch or radial tree crown, whichever is the lower, has been measured in metres.

**Age Class**

A1.9. The age of each tree is defined as follows:

**Young** - within the first third of reaching full maturity;

**Semi-Mature** - within the second third of reaching full maturity;

**Early-Mature** - within the last third of reaching full maturity;

**Mature** - specimen at full maturity; and

**Veteran** – tree that, by recognised criteria, shows features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of, but not exclusive to, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species concerned.

**Physiological and Structural Condition**

A1.10. The physiological or structural condition of each tree is defined as either; good, fair, poor or dead. For each tree, where appropriate, notes on the structural integrity are provided on form, taper, forking habit, storm damage, decay, fungi, pests, etc.

A1.11. An assessment of a tree's physiological condition is defined as:

**Good** – fully functioning biological system showing expectant vitality for the species i.e. normal bud growth, leaf size, crown density and wound closure.

**Fair** – fully functioning biological system showing below average vitality i.e. reduced bud growth, smaller leaf size, lower crown density and reduced wound closure.

**Poor** – a biological system with limited functionality showing clear physiological decline, disease or significantly below average vitality i.e. limited bud growth, small and chlorotic leaves, low crown density and limited wound closure.

**Dead** – tree observed to fully dead with no living parts.

A1.12. An assessment of a tree's structural condition is defined as:

**Good** – no significant structural defects.

**Fair** – structural defects which could be alleviated through remedial tree surgery or arboricultural management practices.

**Poor** – structural defects which cannot be alleviated through tree surgery or arboricultural management practices.

**Tree Quality Gradings**

A1.13. The value of trees has been assessed in accordance with the BS5837 Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment (See **Appendix 3**). Grading subcategories (1, 2 and 3) reflect arboricultural, landscape and cultural values respectively.

**Root Protection Areas**

A1.14. The **Tree Constraints Plan** shows the approximate extent of Root Protection Areas (RPAs). The RPAs have been plotted and calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in Appendices C and D of BS5837, using the tree stem diameter dimensions obtained during the site visit.

A1.15. Plotted RPAs serve as a layout design tool indicating the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability, and where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority.

A1.16. Where pre-existing site conditions or other factors indicate that rooting may occur 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 observed on-site. Any deviation in the RPA from the original circular plot should take account of the following factors whilst still providing adequate protection for the root system:

a) the morphology and disposition of the roots, when influenced by past or existing site conditions (e.g. the presence of roads, structures and underground apparatus);

b) topography and drainage;

c) the soil type and structure; and

d) the likely tolerance of the tree to root disturbance or damage, based on factors such as species, age, condition and past management.

A1.17. The plotted RPAs have therefore informed the design of the proposed development where possible. While developing within RPAs should be avoided, special working methods can be adopted to alleviate the RPA disturbance for cases where the development is considered necessary and unavoidable.

**Tree Canopies and Shading**

A1.18. The distribution of tree canopy cover on and within influence of the site is illustrated on the **TCP**. Canopies have been plotted at cardinal points for individual and groups of trees. The Tree Survey Schedule included at **Appendix 4** to the rear of this report lists the vertical clearance from site ground level to significant tree branching of individual trees. This measurement informs the impacts of accessibility and development beneath tree canopies.

A1.19. The principal tree shadow constraints are shown on the **TCP** and have been plotted in accordance with BS5837 using the current height of surveyed trees. The indicative shade cast by existing surveyed trees signifies the area within which the amenity interests of shading, available daylight and the proximity of trees to any future site uses may be impacted upon should a tree be retained as part of development.

A1.20. Where shading is unavoidable, the potential adverse impact of shadowing should also be reviewed on balance with the positive aspects of retaining a degree of canopy shade. BS5837:2012 (para. 5.3.4, a) NOTE 1) states that "shading can be desirable to reduce glare or excessive solar heating, or to provide comfort during hot weather. The combination of shading, wind speed/turbulence reduction and evapotranspiration effects of trees can be utilised in conjunction with the design of buildings and spaces to provide local microclimatic benefits".

**Limitations**

A1.21. The comments made are based on observable factors present at the time of inspection. Although the health and stability of trees in their current context is an integral part of their suitability for retention, it must be understood that this report is not a tree risk assessment and should not be construed as such. While every attempt has been made to provide a realistic and accurate assessment of the trees' condition at the time of inspection, it may have not been appropriate, or possible, to view all parts or all sides of every tree to fulfil the assessment criteria of a risk assessment.

A1.22. No tree can be considered entirely safe, given the possibility that exceptionally strong winds could damage or uproot even a mechanically 'perfect' specimen. It is therefore usually accepted that hazards are only recognisable from distinct defects or from other failure-prone characteristics of the tree or the site. An assessment of the potential influence of trees upon existing buildings or other structures resulting from the effects of trees upon shrinkable load-bearing soils or the effects of incremental root or branch growth, are specifically excluded from this report.

**Un-assessable Risks**

A1.23. Any alteration to the application site or development proposals could change the current circumstances and may invalidate this report and any recommendations made.

A1.24. The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) makes it an offence to disturb nesting birds or recklessly endanger a bat or its roost. Bats are also a European protected species and are additionally protected under the Conservation (Habitats & c) Regulations 1994 and 2010 (as amended). The survey findings, constraints, opportunities and design or mitigation recommendations included within that report must be read alongside this document.

A1.25. A lack of recommended work does not imply that a tree does not pose an unacceptable level of risk and likewise, it should not be implied that a tree will present an acceptable level of risk following the completion of any recommended work.

# Appendix 2: Arboricultural Planning Policy

A2.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) the requirement to consider trees as part of development is a material planning consideration and will be taken into account in the determination of planning applications. Arboricultural planning policy that relates to the site is set out by policy at a National and Local level.

**National Planning Policy**

A2.2 The consideration for existing trees and woodlands in relation to planning and new development is set out within Sections 12 and 15 of the NPPF published in July 2021.

A2.3 Section 12, paragraph 131 states that *"Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards), that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible. Applicants and local planning authorities should work with highways officers and tree officers to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right places, and solutions are found that are compatible with highways standards and the needs of different users."*

A2.4 Section 15, paragraph 174 states that *"Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: Subsection B; "recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland"*

A2.5 Section 15, paragraph 180 states that *"When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:" Subsection C; "that development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists".*

**Local Planning Policy**

A2.6 The site lies within the administrative area of Cherwell District Council. The current adopted development plan relevant to the site is the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (adopted in 2015). Local planning policy relating to trees is extracted below.

A2.7 **Policy ESD 10: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity and the Natural Environment** states that *"the protection of trees will be encouraged, with an aim to increase the number of trees in the District".*

A2.8 **Policy ESD 13: Local Landscape Protection and Enhancement** states that *"The Council will seek to retain woodlands, trees, hedges, ponds, walls and any other features which are important to the character or appearance of the local landscape as a result of their ecological, historic or amenity value. Proposals which would result in the loss of such features will not be permitted unless their loss can be justified by appropriate mitigation and/or compensatory measures to the satisfaction of the Council".*

# Appendix 3: Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment

# Appendix 3: Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment

| TREES FOR REMOVAL | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Category and Definition** | **Criteria** | | | **Identification on Plan** |
| Category U<br>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 (i.e. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning). | | | **DARK RED** |
| | 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.<br>(**NOTE**: Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve) | | | |
| **TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION** | | | | |
| **Category and Definition** | **Criteria - Subcategories** | | | **Identification on Plan** |
| | Mainly Arboricultural Values | Mainly Landscape Values | Mainly Cultural Values, including Conservation | |
| Category A<br>**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) | **LIGHT GREEN** |

| TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Category B<br>***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 remedial 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 benefits. | **MID BLUE** |
| Category C<br>***Trees of low quality*** *with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm* | 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 temporary/transient landscape benefit. | Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value. | **GREY** |

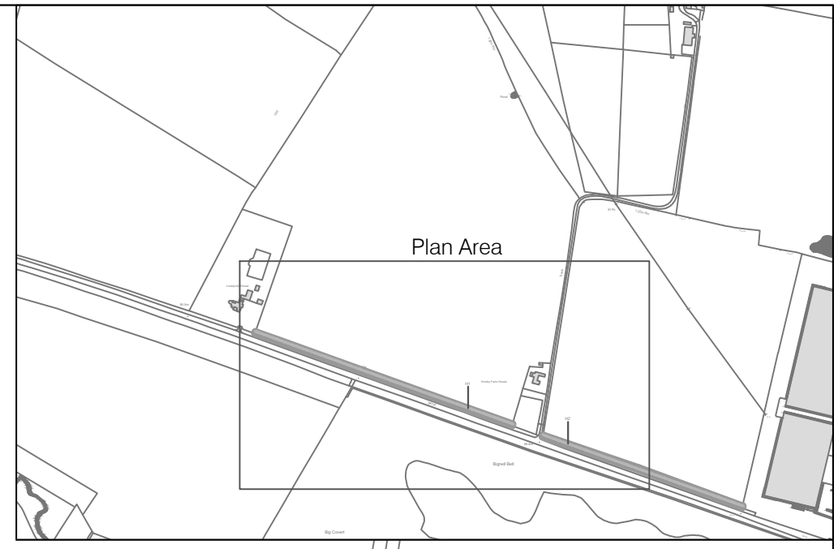
# Appendix 4: Tree Survey Schedule

| Tree Number | Common Species Name | Height (m) | Trunk Diameter (mm) | Crown Spread (m) | | | | Crown Clearance (m) | Age Class | Physiological Condition | Structural Condition | BS5837 Category | Comments | RPA Radius (m) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | N | S | E | W | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Field maple (Acer campestre)<br>Oak (Quercus robur)<br>Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) - No signs of ash dieback<br>Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)<br>Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) | 2-3m | Av. 150 | 2.5 | 2.5 | _ | _ | 0 | E/Mat | Good | Fair | C.2 | Roadside hedgrows aligning northern side of the B4030, aligning southern site boundary. Consistent arable enclosure, bushy with some minor deadwood. Some evidence of historic hedge-laying, although recent and/or frequent management is more limited. Native and species-rich, with H2 in particular including a large component of elm. Albeit from small sections in order to facilitate development access, as detailed within the accompanying AMS report, all of hedgerows H1 and H2 are to be retained. | 1.8m |
| H2 | English elm (Ulmus procera)<br>Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)<br>Elder (Sambucus nigra)<br>Hazel (Corylus avellana)<br>Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)<br>Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) - No signs of ash dieback | 2-3m | Av. 150 | 2 | 2 | _ | _ | 0 | E/Mat | Good | Fair | C.2 | | 1.8m |

# Plans

15525/P01: Tree Constraints Plan

15525/P02: Tree Removal and Protection Plan




ovelynch House

90.0m

B4030

H1

Himley Farm House

H2

Ward Bdy

88.6m

Bignell Belt

Category C - Trees of low quality and value

BS5837 Canopy Shading Extents

Approximate Extent of BS5837 Calculated Root Protection Areas (RPAs)

Tyler Grange

Runway East Temple Meads, 101 Victoria St, Bristol BS1 6PU
t: 0121 828 4043
www.tylergrange.co.uk



Tree Constraints Plan

N

0m 10m 20m 30m 40m 50m

1:1250 @ A3

| | |
|---|---|
| Project | Himley Village (Phase 1) |
| Drawing No | 15525/P01 |
| Date | January 2023 |

Plan Insert 1:500

ovelynch House

H1

2.4x120.0m Visibility Splay

30m sectional loss within H1 to facilitate access arrangement

Opportunity to retain 30m section of H1 as shown to incorporate mature rooting stock into site boundary planting arrangement

34m sectional loss within H1 to facilitate proposed footway

B4030

2.4x120.0m Visibility Splay

Vis-splays and access location ensures sufficient clearance from H2 to negate any vegetation removals but hedgerow adjoining the proposed construction activity will be protected by fencing during works

H2

2.4x120.0m Visibility Splay

Retained sections of H1 hedgerow will be aligned with BS5837 tree protection fencing as shown to safeguard vegetation during the construction phase of the development.

Category C - Trees of low quality and value

BS5837 Canopy Shading Extents

Approximate Extent of BS5837 Calculated Root Protection Areas (RPAs)

Tree Protection Fencing

Hedgerow extents to be removed

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Tree Retention and Removal Plan

N

0m 10m 20m 30m 40m 50m

1:1250 @ A3

| | |
|---|---|
| Project | Himley Village (Phase 1) |
| Drawing No | 15525/P02 |
| Date | January 2023 |

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