

Arboricultural method statement

Cotefield Farm
Oxford Road
Bodicote
Banbury
OX15 4AQ

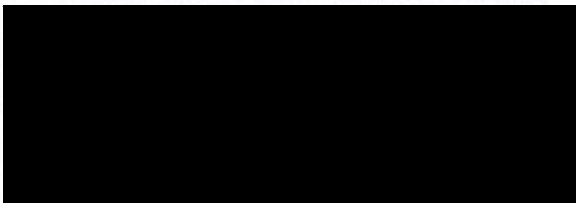
Report number 431 prepared by:



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Independent arboricultural consultancy
29 June 2017

Document control

Document reference	Quality check?
Report number 431	✓



1 Report limitations

- 1.1 I write as an arboriculturist; I have no technical engineering competence. My career in practical arboriculture began as a forestry graduate with the local authority tree gang in Ealing in 1980. A range of roles in the public, charity and commercial sectors followed and in October 2011 I established my own arboricultural consultancy practice, a detailed c.v. can be found at www.jhazell.com.
- 1.2 My report represents the analysis of my arboricultural observations following an external assessment of the trees from ground level only. No samples were collected for analysis, and no decay detection devices (such as an increment borer, a micro-resistance recording drill or sonic tomograph) were used during my assessment.
- 1.3 Trees are living organisms and their condition may have changed after I left the site for any one of a variety of reasons, including for example, but not limited to:
 - a natural consequence of their pattern of growth, and/or
 - a response to changes in neighbouring trees and shrubs, from whatever cause, and/or
 - in response to the weather, either an extreme event or a prolonged spell of consistent weather, and/or
 - a consequence of infection or infestation, and/or
 - a consequence of a pollution incident, and/or
 - a response to changes in soil condition or structure.
- 1.4 My conclusions, and any recommendations flowing from those conclusions, relate to the conditions that I found at the time of the assessment, and are valid for
 - no more than two years from the date of that assessment, or
 - until such time as any work is carried out at the site, either in accordance with the remedial action prescribed or for other reasons which may be outside my control, or
 - until the site is re-surveyed whichever is the sooner.
- 1.5 The opinions expressed and any recommendations made in this report may be subject to review upon receipt of additional information not currently available.
- 1.6 My report is not, nor should be taken to be, a thorough assessment of the health and condition of the trees on or adjacent to the site: if such an assessment is required then it is recommended that a separate tree inspection be carried out to comply with the land owner's overall duty of care and to satisfy health and safety requirements.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 My client is CALA Management Limited.
- 2.2 My brief was to visit the Cotefield Farm development site and prepare an illustrated arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan to support application reference 17/01225/F, for the breach in the planting belt bordering the site to allow for the construction of the necessary drainage route easement.
- 2.3 In preparing this report I have referred to the following:
 - the Arboricultural Impact Assessment produced by RPS, reference JKK5617, dated 28 November 2014, and
 - the S 104 Agreement Plan, drawing number 15031 - 100S104 (ii) H, from Banners Gate, dated 26 May 2017, and
 - the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, report number 407, that I produced, dated 5 June 2017

3 The fieldwork

- 3.1 I visited the site on Tuesday 27 June 2017 by arrangement with my client.



- 3.2 The location of the breach in the planting belt has not altered from application reference 17/00316/F and is the same width as the easement that would have been required for the drainage scheme that was approved under application reference 11/00617/OUT. The breach remains as an 8 m wide cordon, identified on the eastern side of the belt by the red pegs seen in image 1 in Appendix 1. The approximate position of the chambers for the foul and storm sewers on the eastern side of the belt are indicated by the un-painted pegs that are also visible in image 1.
- 3.3 Inside the tree belt I marked the ground with the approximate centre line of the two sewers, foul with blue paint and storm with white. To the north of the foul sewer I marked with a blue spot those trees that were within 3 m of the centre line of the connection, trees that would need to be removed to create the easement; there were also some smaller saplings and shrub species that would need to be removed. To the south of the storm sewer, in a similar fashion, I used a white spot. Those trees and undergrowth between the centre lines of the two sewers were not marked as there would not be any doubt over the need for their removal to install the connection.
- 3.4 To the north of the foul sewer 16 stems were marked with a blue spot, between the centre line of the sewer and the northern edge of the easement the trees were, from east to west:
- beech, 200 mm diameter at breast height (i.e. 1.5 m above GL)
 - silver birch, 275 mm dbh
 - silver birch, 160 mm dbh
 - beech, 220 mm dbh
 - field maple, 210 mm dbh
- 3.5 Those trees outside the northern margin of the easement to be retained were, from east to west:
- hawthorn, 125 mm dbh
 - alder, 250 mm dbh
 - alder, 140 mm dbh
 - silver birch, 200 mm dbh
 - larch, 215 mm dbh
 - beech, 165 mm dbh
 - field maple, 195 mm dbh
- 3.6 To the south of the foul sewer 13 stems were marked with a white spot, see image 2; the trees were, from east to west:
- hazel, multi-stemmed coppice
 - oak, 80 mm dbh
 - alder, 265 mm dbh
 - willow, 190 mm dbh
 - alder, 140 mm dbh
 - cherry, 155 mm dbh
 - larch, 200 mm dbh
- 3.7 Those trees outside the southern margin of the easement to be retained were, from east to west:
- ash, 250 mm dbh
 - silver birch, 180 mm dbh
 - ash, 260 mm dbh
- 3.7 Part of the southern boundary was defined by the edge of an existing drainage route that ran across the tree belt, which had been built to a very low standard, see image 3.
- 3.8 Between the two sewers there were 10 stems that would need to be removed, along with associated saplings and undergrowth.



- 3.9 Therefore, 39 stems were identified for removal of which 29 were identified with spots of paint for clarity.
- 3.10 In addition, a length of 8 m of the hawthorn hedge either side of the tree belt will need to be removed for the easement.

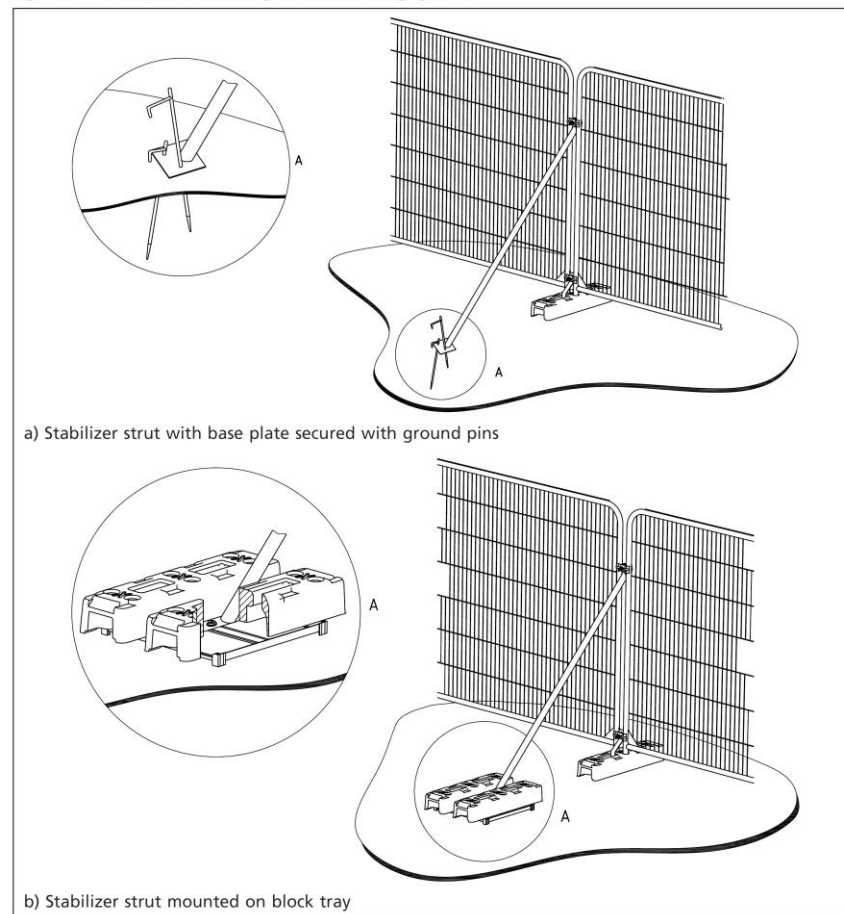
4 An arboricultural method statement

- 4.1 All the stems identified for removal, and the saplings and undergrowth within the cordon, should be felled to ground level by a competent arboricultural contractor, and the arisings should be fed through a brushwood chipper and blown back into the plantation, at least 5 m away from the edge of the easement, to act as a weed suppressing mulch.
- 4.2 Because arboricultural contracting is inherently dangerous evidence of training for the tasks being performed should be requested prior to awarding the work. The diameter of the largest tree to be felled was less than 300 mm and so the minimum level of competence required under the NPTC scheme (see <https://goo.gl/KaCXWD>), in addition to the mandatory units, would be either:
- Level 2 Award in Felling and Processing Trees up to 380mm, unit 0020-04, or its predecessor unit CS31, or
 - Level 2 Award in Ground Based Chainsaw Operations (maintenance, cross cutting and fell up to 380mm), unit 0020-12
- 4.3 Once the trees have been removed by the arboricultural contractor the edges of the easement should be defined by CALA staff with a temporary barrier fence to the specification given in BS 5837 at 6.2.2.3:

2 m tall welded mesh panels on rubber or concrete feet should be joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers, installed so that they can only be removed from inside the fence. The distance between the fence couplers should be at least 1 m and should be uniform throughout the fence. The panels should be supported on the inner side by stabilizer struts, which should normally be attached to a base plate secured with ground pins (Figure 3a below). Where the fencing is to be erected on retained hard surfacing or it is otherwise unfeasible to use ground pins, e.g. due to the presence of underground services, the stabilizer struts should be mounted on a block tray (Figure 3b below).



Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



- 4.4 The tree belt is approximately 20 m deep and so 7 panels should be adequate to define each edge of the easement.
- 4.5 Once the edges of the easement have been defined plant can be deployed to excavate the trench required to lay the sewer connections, the spoil to be transported back up into the site compound and the arisings (tree roots for example, as well as old pipe work and concrete) transported off site to a suitable facility, once sorted.
- 4.6 The maximum depth of the trench on the eastern side will be approximately 3 m deep, because of a change in levels the trench will only need to be approximately 2 m deep on the western side of the tree belt.
- 4.7 Once the services have been laid the easement will be reinstated and seeded, Thames Water will not allow any mounding or planting over the route.
- 4.8 The barrier fencing should be removed, along with any struts and base plates or block trays.

5 Follow up

- 5.1 Once the sewer has been installed, connected and satisfactorily tested it would be prudent for CALA Management Limited to instruct a competent consultant to look at the marginal trees to see if any remedial work may be required as a result of accidental damage or injury during the work activity. If work is required then it should be undertaken, as before, by a competent arboricultural contractor.
- 5.2 There may be a need in the future, perhaps in 12 months time, for CALA Management Limited to instruct a competent consultant to re-visit the site to see if any of the marginal trees have been adversely affected by seasonal winds; if so, then work to an approved specification agreed with the local planning authority should be undertaken by a competent arboricultural contractor.



Appendix 1 – site photos

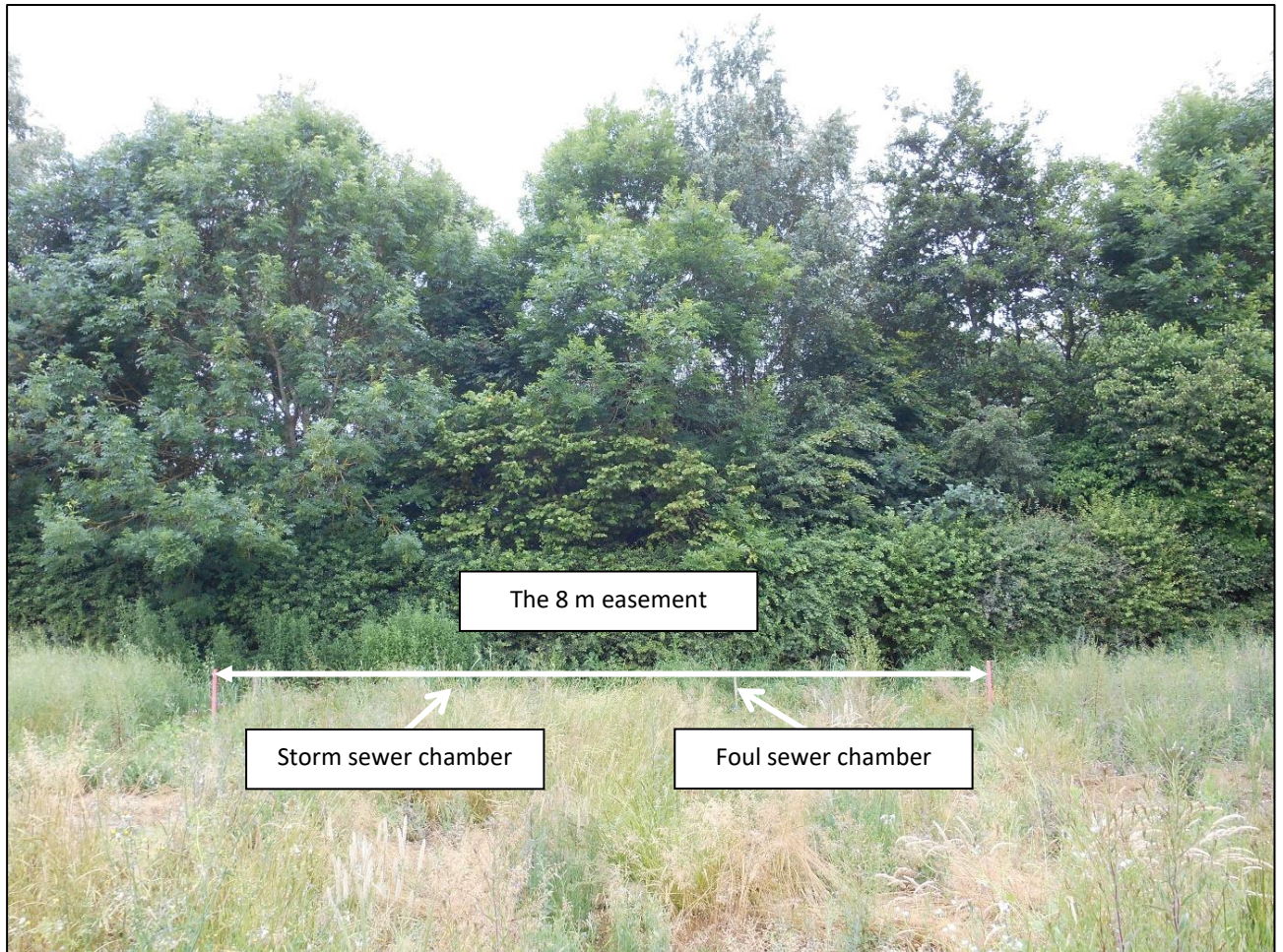


Image 1: the eastern face of the planting belt



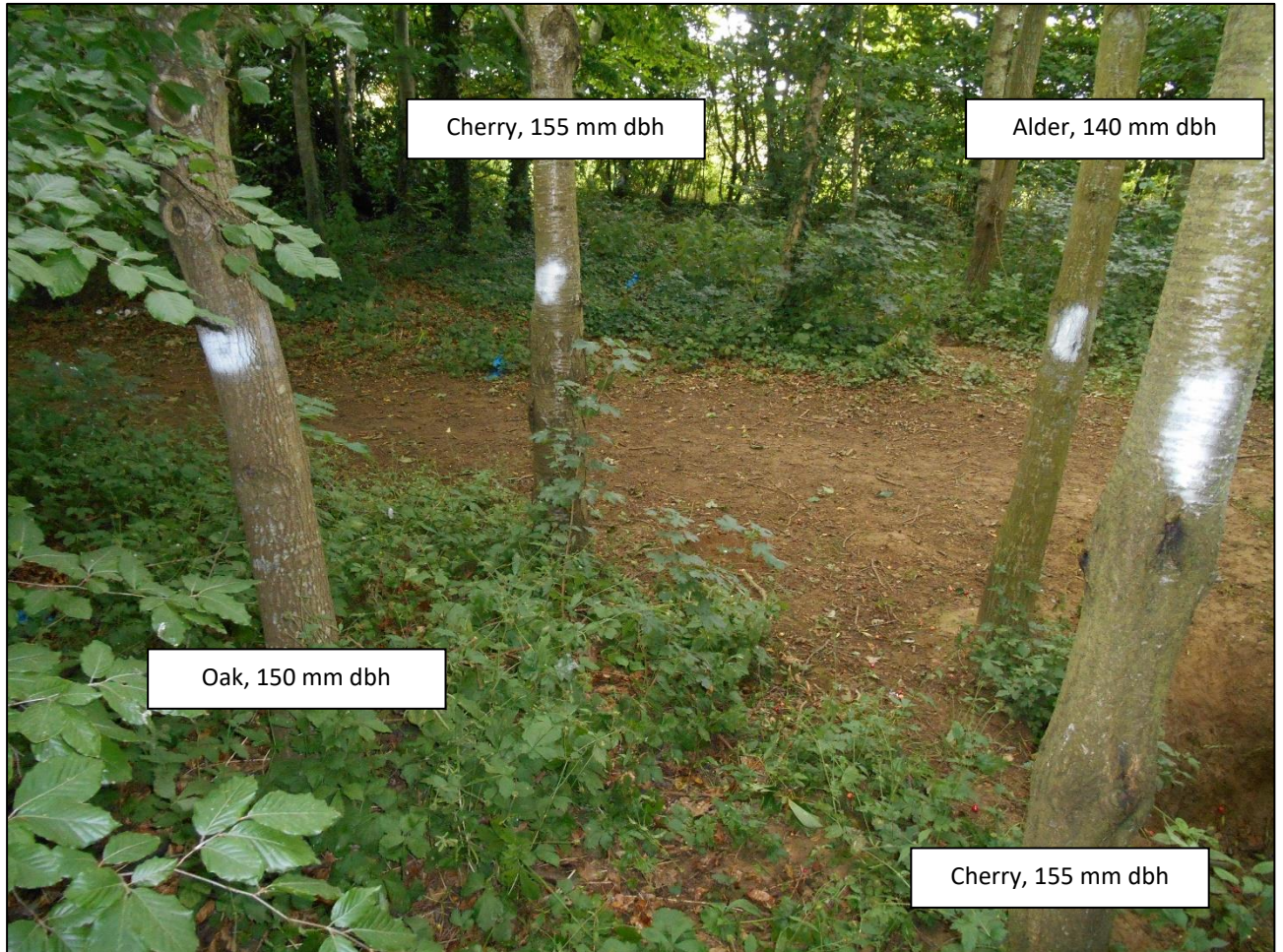


Image 2: some of the trees marked for removal





Image 3: part of the existing drainage route across the tree belt

