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Arboricultural Impact Assessment DTS23.12039.1.AIA
Accompanied by Tree Protection Plan
DTS23.12039.1.TPP and Arboricultural Method Statement
DTS23.12039.1.AMS

Site: Al Qasimi Building Land Adjacent
Report date: 10th December 2024
Client: Exeter University
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Survey

DTS Tree Consultancy was instructed by **Exeter University** (the 'Client') to undertake an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) to BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction-recommendations (BS5837) standard. The survey was undertaken at land known as **Land Adjacent to the Al Qasimi Building** (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). The survey was undertaken on **6th November 2023**. The Site location and the area surveyed are shown in **Figure 1**. The survey was undertaken in order to inform a planning application for the Site.

The aims of the AIA were to:

- Detail foreseeable tree related issues within this Report to inform the Local Planning Authority (LPA); and
- Provide an initial analysis of the impacts that the proposed development is projected to have on trees both within the Site and, where considered pertinent and where practicable, on land immediately adjacent to its boundaries.
- Provide guidance on suitable retained tree management and mitigation for projected losses, along with advice on appropriate tree protection measures in the context of the proposed development in accordance with current guidance.

1.2 Site Description

The Site is centred around the Al Qasimi Building at Exeter University, EX4 4ND. The Site comprises of existing informal access routes, fields, trees, and hedges which are primarily used as an informal thoroughfare which has focal points of compacted ground where footfall is relatively high.

The arboricultural resource on site is significant in terms of species mix and size. There are multiple large feature trees, and unusual species planted throughout the campus.

1.3 Key arboricultural features

Key arboricultural features on site include:

T030 which is an Indian bean tree (*Catalpa bignonioides*) – This tree has been labelled a Champion tree due to its size and particularly good form. The tree has been labelled a category 'A' (High Quality) within BS5837.

T063 and T064 are two Fig tree (*Ficus sp*) – the two trees have historical reference to the site however, their amenity is limited predominantly due to their location which has limited immediate and wider views. The trees are surrounded with hard surfacing used for car parking and they are currently managed under a cyclical pollarding regime that has recently been implemented (pruning should occur during dormant season falling in late winter to early spring).

1.4 Proposed Development

The proposed development is a footpath with the small garden area adjacent to the Al Qasimi building. To the west of the existing Al Qasimi building is the proposed construction of a multi-storey building.

1.5 Site Visit, Data Collection and Tree Plans

Further to the completion of a Tree Survey of the Site, which took place on **6th November 2024** all tree data collected from the Site is set out within the report **DTS23.12039.1.AA** which, for ease of interpretation, should be read alongside the associated BS5837 Table 1 (as appended).

The survey identified **51** individual trees (prefixed 'T'), **13** group of trees (prefixes 'G'), **0** hedges (prefixes 'H') and 0 woodlands (prefixes 'W'). The surveyed vegetation has been numbered accordingly on the Tree Appraisal Plan (TAP) **DT23.12039.1.TAP.** The TAP details the existing Site with the readily definable tree constraints. The plans are based on topographical survey of the existing and proposed Site plans that were provided in electronic format by the Client, and for the purpose of this Report, it is assumed that these are accurate.

TPO CHECK & DETAIL - these trees may be protected by a tree preservation order, so it might be necessary to obtain consent from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) before any pruning works other than certain exceptions can be carried out – Exeter City Council have been contacted for information but have not yet responded.

2.0 Legislation in Respect of Trees and Associated Wildlife

2.1 Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area Designations

The Town & Country Planning Act (1990) (the Act) and associated Regulations empower LPAs to protect trees in the interests of amenity by making TPOs. The Act also affords protection for trees of over 75 mm diameter that stand within the curtilage of a CA. Subject to certain exemptions, an application must be made to the LPA in question to carry out works upon or remove trees that are subject to a TPO, whilst six weeks' notice of intention must be given to carryout works upon or remove trees within a CA that are not protected by a TPO.

2.2 Protected Species

2.2.1 Nesting Birds

Nesting birds are afforded statutory protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981, as amended) and their potential presence should, therefore, be considered when trimming hedges, removing climbing plants and pruning and removing trees. The breeding period for nesting birds runs from March to late July, inclusive. Hedges provide valuable nesting sites for many birds and management should, therefore, be avoided during this period. Trees, hedges and ivy should be inspected for nests by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to pruning or removal, and any work likely to destroy or disturb active nests should be avoided until the young have fledged.

2.2.2 Bats

All bats and their roosts are protected under Section 9 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) and Annex IV of the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

It is an offence, either deliberately or recklessly, to destroy, damage or obstruct access to any bat roost, or to disturb a bat using such a place. It should be noted that a roost is protected whether or not bats are present and any activity or works affecting a roost, even when bats are absent, are likely to require a Natural England European Protected Species Licence.

2.3 Felling Licences

Subject to certain exemptions the Forestry Act (1967) requires that a 'Felling Licence' be obtained to remove growing trees amounting to more than five cubic metres of timber in a calendar quarter. Felling Licences are administered by the Forestry Commission and contravention of the associated controls can incur substantial penalties. A Felling Licence is, however, not required where tree removals are required for the purpose of implementing a development authorised by detailed (i.e. full) planning permission granted under the Act (1990).

3.0 Trees & Planning Policy

Trees are a material consideration throughout the planning process and therefore the arboricultural information presented in this report and accompanying plans has been aligned with the objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the general tree related policies and development objectives of the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

4.0 The Tree Population

The Site is described in Section 1.0 of this Report.

As noted previously, **75** individual trees, **17** groups of trees, **0** woodlands and **0** hedges were surveyed for the purpose of this appraisal.

Broadleaf trees are the dominant species on site consisting predominantly of oak (*Quercus*), Tulip tree (*Lirodendron tulipifera*), Tree of heaven (*Ailanthis altissima*) Robinia (*Robinia sp*) and Black mulberry (*Morus nigra*). There are minimal evergreen trees on site such as: Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) and Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*).

The trees on-Site range from young to mature, with sizes varying from small to large with heights of up to 20m and maximum diametrical crown spreads of up to 8-11m. Detailed tree dimensions and other pertinent information, such as structural defects and physiological deficiencies, are included within **DTS23.12039.1.AA and Appendix B** of this report.

The Tree Survey includes a column ('Cat. Grade') listing the trees' respective retention values, where they are rated either 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'U', as per BS5837 Table 1 (Appendix B). 'A' category trees are those considered to be of 'high quality' and, accordingly, the most suitable for retention, whilst 'B' category trees are those considered to be of 'moderate quality'. As detailed in Table 1 (below), **6** features were considered to be high quality ('A'), **49** were categorised as moderate quality ('B'), and **36** were categorised as low quality ('C').

Table 1: BS5837-2012 Retention Categories of the Surveyed Trees

Tree Quality	Ret. Cats.	Tree/ Group Numbers	Totals
Those of a moderate or high quality that should be afforded appropriate consideration in the context of development	**'A'**	T030, T033, T036, T037, T8303, T1163	6
	'B'	G041, G048, G049, G050, G051, G052, G053, G056, G057, G059, T001, T006, T011, T012, T013, T017, T018, T019, T022, T024, T025, T031, T034, T038, T040, T042, T043, T044, T047, T054, T055, T063 and T064, T3800, T8331, T1397, T1398, T042, T1401, T1765, T1915, T1918, T1395, T1172, T1258, T1167, T1262, T1158, T1266	49
Those of a low quality that should not be considered a material constraint to development	**'C'**	G026, G027, G029, T002, T003, T004, T005, T008, T009, T010, T014, T015, T016, T020, T021, T028, T032, T035, T045, T046, T058, T059, T060, T061, T062, G3, T1914, T1916, T1917, G057, G1, G10, T1170, T1396, G9, T1111	36
Those that should be removed for management reasons regardless of site proposals	**'U'**	T007, T3782, T19155	3

Totals	91	75 Individual tree 17 Groups 0 Hedges

5.0 Arboricultural impact assessment (AIA)

With reference to BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction', this AIA evaluates the direct and indirect effects of the proposed design on the site's arboricultural resource. Pertinent mitigation is recommended where it is considered to be appropriate.

The AIA considers the effects of any tree loss required to implement the design as well as any potentially damaging activities proposed in the vicinity of retained trees.

The key impacts associated with this proposal are:

- Installation of new surfacing;
- Installation of services;
- Location and dimensions of all proposed excavations and changes in ground level (including those that might arise from the implementation of recommended mitigation measures);
- The 'buildability' of the scheme in terms of access, adequate working space, provision for storage of materials including topsoil.

5.1 Tree benefits

Trees offer many benefits, including:

- Providing visual amenity, softening or complementing the effect of the built environment, and adding maturity to new developments;
- Displaying seasonal change and providing opportunities for wildlife in built up areas;
- Making places more comfortable in tangible ways by contributing screening and shade, reducing wind speed, and turbulence, intercepting snow and rainfall and reducing glare.

This assessment considers the benefits of the existing arboricultural resource and the impact on it. Where required, mitigation is recommended to reduce the impact of the proposal in the short to long term.

5.2 Impacts

With reference to BS5837:2012, the AIA includes the following information:

a) Tree and hedgerow survey plan and schedules;

b) Tree Retention/Removal and Tree Protection Plan incorporating tree proposed tree pruning specifications and areas designated for structural landscaping (if necessary) (Figure II);

c) an evaluation of the impact of proposed tree losses (5.3below)

5.3 Evaluation of effects of proposed tree losses

The tables and comments below summarise the tree and hedgerows retention and loss of across the site.

Table 2 Proposed loss of arboricultural features across the site

Tree Quality	Ret. Cats.	Removals necessary to implement development	Removals suggested for non-development related reasons	Total number of tree removals
Those of a moderate or high quality that should be afforded appropriate consideration in the context of development	'A'	0	0	0
	'B'	G052, G053, G059	0	3
Those of a low quality that should not be considered a material constraint to development	'C'	T008, T016, T059, T060, T061, T062, T1111 & T1396	T007	8
Totals		11	1	12

5.3.1 Construction of multi-storey building

Impacts of tree removal: The impact of tree removal can result in reduced visual amenity and reduced benefits associated with trees. In terms of this proposal the impact of tree removal is considered moderate to low.

Magnitude of Impact: Short term low – removal of: G052, G053, T059, G059, T060, T0611, T062, T1111 and T1396.

Mitigation: The loss of 3 arboricultural features categorised as 'B' and 8 category 'C' features require significant planting proposals surrounding the proposed building of which species should be carefully selected.

Mitigated Impact: short-term the impact is considered moderate. Long-term (post new planting establishment) the impact is considered low.

5.3.2 Construction of attenuation tank

The removal of T1111 is considered low, the tree is a short-term species and can easily be replaced in a different location with a more suitable species. The tree is being removed to allow for the construction of an attenuation tank.

5.3.3 Heritage fig trees

T063 & T064 are heritage fig trees (see figure 1), which are growing up an existing wall in an espalier style of manufactured growth. The trees are being retained and due to their heritage on site however they require specific working methods during the construction phase to ensure their successful retention (See AMS6).

Impacts of construction on surrounding trees: the majority of construction will be taking place above the figs over the wall however; lifting equipment may be required to get materials into construction area over the figs. One of the main impacts to the fig trees is regarding damage to the trees physiological processes

through construction related dust and detritus and also physical damage to the secondary branches and canopy from normal construction related activities. In order to protect the structural integrity of the wall a steel frame is being installed during the construction phase to support the Mews Wall. Attention should be paid to avoid any damage to the trees during the installation of this support structure. Any pruning works required for the installation of the structure will require input from a qualified arboriculturist and will take place when the tree is dormant.

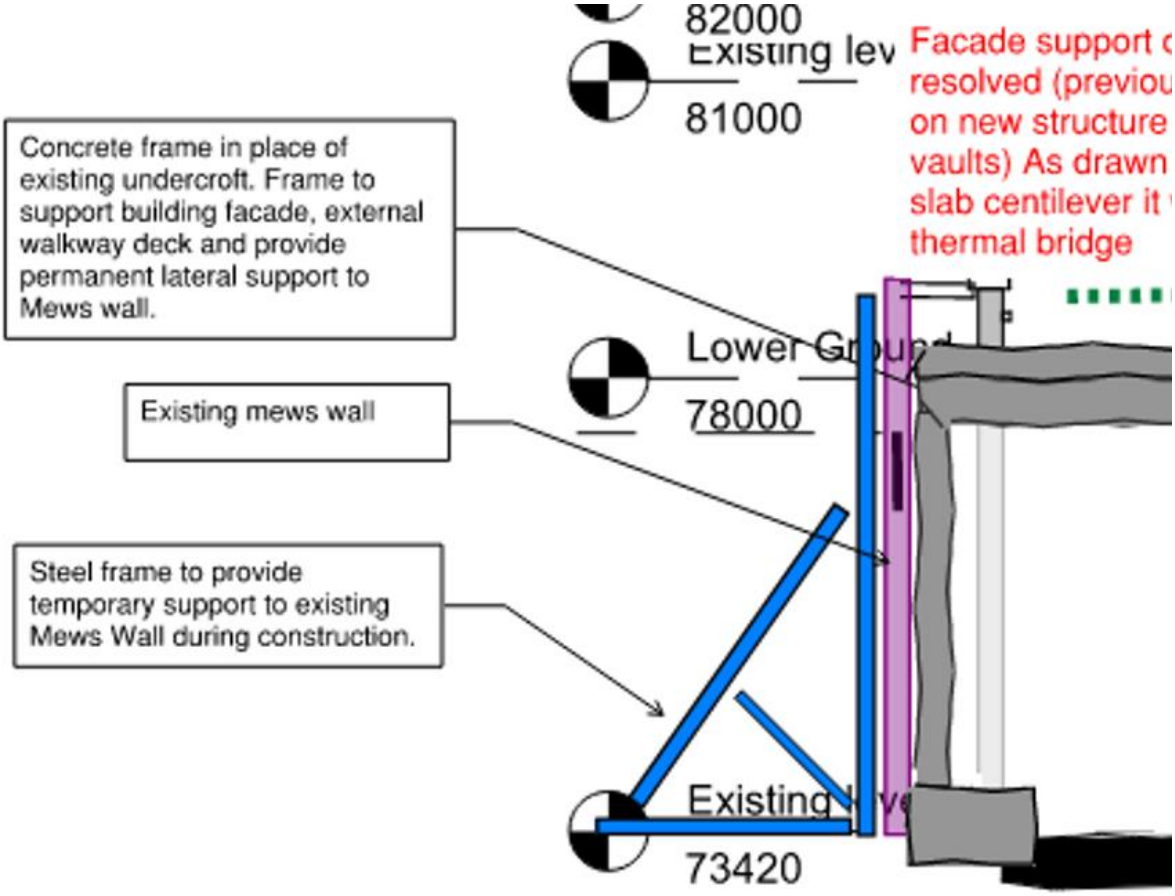

Figure 1 – steel frame supporting Mews wall.

Magnitude of impact: the uncontrolled impact of dust and lime run off has the potential to moderately impact the trees short term physiological health, particularly as they have recently been pruned leaving wounding on the trees. **Mitigation: See AMS6 for method statement to mitigate the impact on T063 and T064 within DTS24.12039.1.AMS**

Mitigation impact: the impact is considered low providing AMS6 is followed in detail.

Figure 2 – yellow arrows indicate two heritage fig trees.

5.5 Construction of formal footpath

Impacts of working within RPAs: Loss of a feature with moderate amenity value affecting those using the area. The majority of trees for removal in this area are young trees which have not long been established however, they do have heritage value due them being donated.

Magnitude of Impact: Short term, low – T008 and T016. The site contains an abundance of young trees which have recently established and are also at a distance from the existing footpath. The footpath is also proposed to go through the RPA's of retained trees which will have a moderate impact.

Mitigation: It is considered the additional planting within the area will mitigate any loss of trees of which feature trees should be chosen. To mitigate the impact of incursions into the RPA of trees it is considered that cellular webbing can be used to mitigate the impacts of compaction and any excavation using hand tools only.

Mitigated Impact short-term the impact is considered moderate. Long-term (post new planting establishment) the impact is considered low.

5.6 Installation of hard surfacing

A new footpath is proposed through the RPAs of trees within the garden area. It is recommended that the footpath is constructed of cellular webbing (load distributing surface) in line with BS5837. The finished surface will be porous, and reduce severe compaction.

5.7 Installation of services

All services must be installed outside tree RPAs unless it is impractical to do otherwise. Where installation must take place within RPAs, excavation must be in accordance with National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) guidelines NJUG 4. This will involve hand digging within RPAs and retaining all significant roots that are encountered. Full details of NJUG guidance will be included within a subsequent arboricultural method statement forming part of detailed proposals.

5.8 Excavations

No major ground works excavations (other than new hard surface construction) are anticipated within the RPAs of retained trees. The excavating of soil within the RPA of retained trees can result in extensive root loss leading to decline in the trees long term physiological and structural health.

5.9 'Buildability'

Notwithstanding the factors outlined above, the scheme as a whole can be constructed without unreasonable pressure being exerted on retained trees.

6.0 Conclusions

In consideration of the above findings, it is concluded that, from the details provided to date, the Site in question can be developed as proposed, whilst retaining the majority of individual trees and tree groups and, in turn improving the overall quality of the tree cover by additional tree planting. The proposed works aim to improve the site overall not just from arboricultural perspective, and on balance the impact to the retained arboricultural resource on site is considered low.

However, in order to ensure successful existing tree preservation, it is essential that the retained trees are protected in strict accordance with current Government guidance and the recommendations included herein.

7.0 Recommendations for Successful Tree Retention in the Context of Development

7.1 Root Protection Areas and Construction Exclusion Zones

Adequate protection of the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of retained trees during construction is essential to ensure their long-term viability. RPAs, which are calculated through a method provided in BS5837:2012, are ground areas that must be protected by temporary protective fencing (Specification given in Appendix C) as Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZs) throughout the development process, thereby keeping the trees' root zones free from disturbance, including compaction. Consequently, the RPA distances, as detailed in the survey schedules, and included on the TCP and indicate the likely on-Site below-ground constraints in respect of tree roots, whilst assisting in planning for appropriate tree retention in relation to feasible development. In certain situations, such as at this Site, there is a limited degree of flexibility in the CEZ positioning, as discussed below.

With regard to CEZs the design, materials and construction of the fencing should be appropriate for the intensity and type of site construction works, and should conform to at least section 6.2 of BS5837:2012, and should be secured by the imposition of a suitably worded planning condition.

7.2 Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan

Government guidance recommends that, where considered practical by the LPA, an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) and a Tree Protection Plan (TPP) be prepared detailing mitigation for trees during the construction process. Essentially, the AMS and TPP describe and detail the procedures, working methods and protective measures to be used in relation to retained trees in order to ensure that they are adequately protected during the construction process.

8.0 Other Recommendations

8.1 Non-Development Related Tree Works and Recommendations

Any general management pruning works for retained trees should be carried out regardless of any development proposals and potential changes in land usage associated with the Site. All tree works should be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 - Tree Work – Recommendations.

8.2 Tree Work Related Consents

No tree pruning nor removal works should commence on-Site until necessary consents have been obtained from the LPA.

8.3 Arboricultural Contractors

All tree works should be carried out by suitably qualified and experienced arboricultural contractors carrying appropriate public liability insurance cover and be implemented to the minimum current UK industry standards and in accordance with industry codes of practice. Only certificated personnel should, in accordance with The Control of Pesticides Regulations, apply any pesticides.

8.4 Contractors and Subsequently Identified Tree Defects

Tree contractors should be made aware that, should any significant tree defects become apparent during operations that would not have been immediately obvious to the surveyor, then such defects should be notified immediately to the Client and subsequently confirmed to the consultant within five working days.

8.5 Retained Tree Management

Any tree risk management appraisals and subsequent recommendations made in this report were based on observations and Site circumstances at the time of the survey. It should be noted that trees are dynamic living organisms with constantly changing structures, and even those evidently in good condition can succumb to damage and/ or environmental stress. In this respect, it should be noted that, under the Occupiers' Liability Act (1957 & 1984), Site occupants have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the risk of personal injury and/or damage to property from any tree located within the curtilage of the land they occupy. It is accepted that these steps should normally include commissioning a qualified and experienced arboriculturist to survey their trees in order to identify any risk of harm to persons or damage to property that they may present and, where unacceptable risks are identified, taking suitable remedial action to negate those risks.

9.0 Limitations of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment

The recommendations contained in this Report represent DTS Tree Consultancy's[1] professional opinions, based upon the information referred to in Section 1.0 of this Report, exercising the duty of care required of an experienced Arboriculturist.

This Report was prepared by DTS Tree Consultancy for the sole and exclusive use of the Client and for the specific purpose for which DTS Tree Consultancy was instructed as defined in Section 1.1 of this Report. Nothing contained in this Report shall be construed to give any rights or benefits to anyone other than the Client and DTS Tree Consultancy, and all duties and responsibilities undertaken are for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Client and not for the benefit of any other party. In particular, DTS Tree Consultancy does not intend, without its written consent, for this Report to be disseminated to anyone other than the Client or to be used or relied upon by anyone other than the Client. Use of the Report by any other person is unauthorised and such use is at the sole risk of the user. Anyone using or relying upon this Report, other than the Client, agrees by virtue of its use to indemnify and hold harmless DTS Tree Consultancy from and against all claims, losses and damages (of whatsoever nature and howsoever or

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whensoever arising), arising out of or resulting from the performance of the work by the Consultant.

10.0 Tree Protection

In accordance with BS5837:2012 the Tree Protection Plan (TPP) is superimposed onto the proposed site layout plan and based on the topographical survey. Any hard surfacing and structures within the RPAs of trees to be retained are shown on the TPP. In addition, where relevant, the TPP shows the following information, accompanied by descriptive text as required:

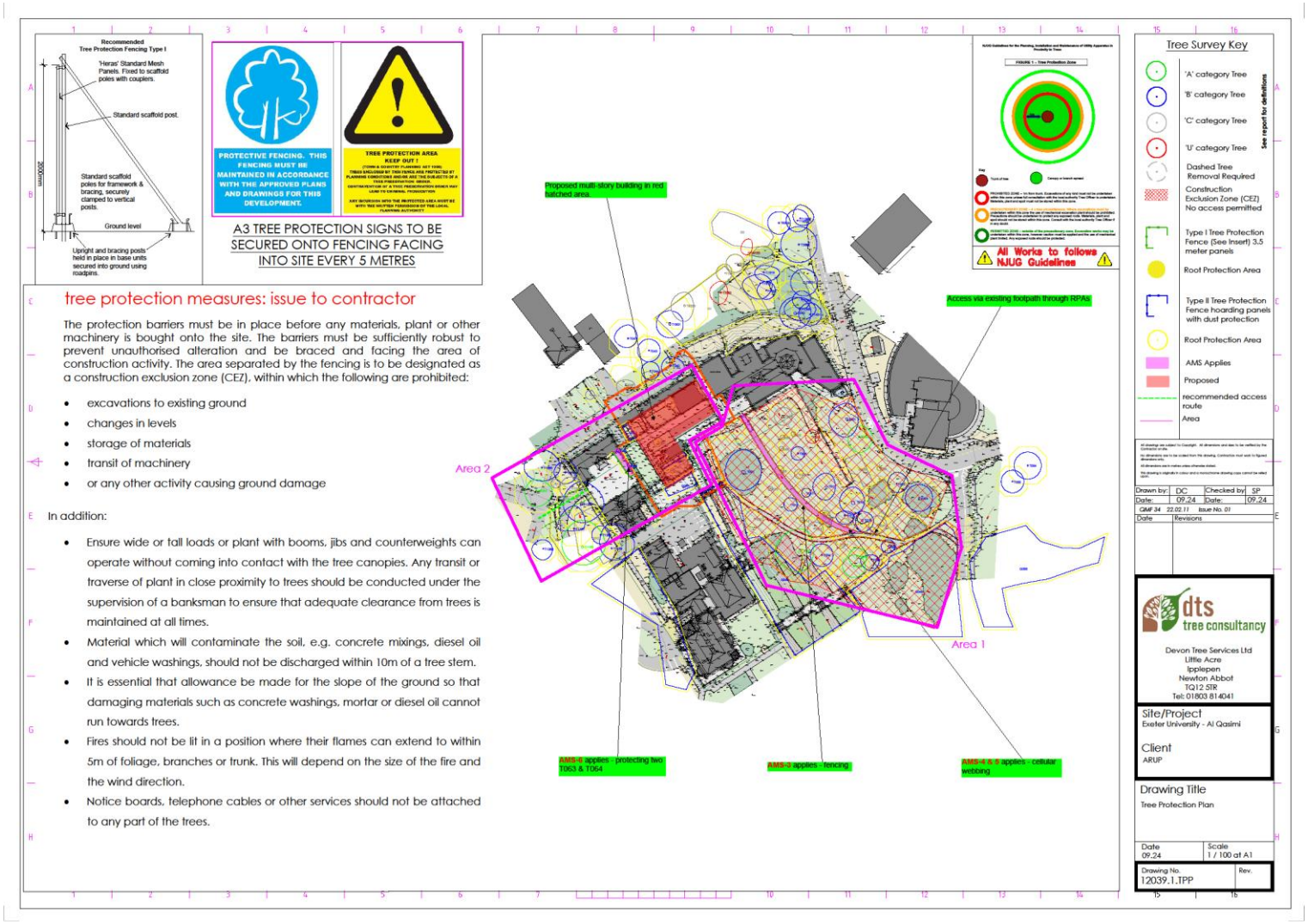
- Precise locations of protective barriers (forming Construction Exclusion Zones in relation to RPAs of retained trees) dimensioned from existing fixed points on the site;
- Extent and type of ground protection;
- Other protection measures e.g. tree protection boxes.

The preparation of the TPP has considered the following factors where relevant: -

- Site construction access;
- intensity and nature of construction activity;
- contractor's car parking;
- phasing of construction works;
- availability of special construction techniques;
- spatial requirements for:
  a) temporary and permanent apparatus and service runs;
  b) foundation excavations and construction works;
  c) cranes, plant scaffolding and access during works;
  d) site huts, toilets (including drainage) and other temporary structures;
  e) storage (either temporary or long-term) of materials, spoil, fuel and mixing of concrete.
- All changes in ground levels including location of retaining walls, steps and adequate allowance for foundations of such walls and backfillings;

The tree protection measures shown on the Tree Protection Plan must be implemented with specific reference to an arboricultural method statement that is relevant to the proposals.

Figure II – Tree Protection Plan



Appendix A – References

BS3998:2010 - Tree Work - Recommendations. BSI British Standards, London.
BS5837:2012 - Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations. BSI, London.
National Joint Utilities Group (2007). Volume 4: NJUG Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees (Issue 2) – Operatives Handbook.

Appendix B – BS5837:2012 Tree Schedule Key

Ref.	Tag number and corresponding number on plan. Individual tree (T). Could also be a Group (G), Woodland (W) of a hedge (H)
Species	Common name and botanical name in italics.
Full structure	Tree (Individual), Group (group of trees and number of stems within), Hedge, Woodland.
Height	In metres measured using clinometer. Est = Estimated height.
Stem Diam	Diameter measured in mm at c. 1.5m above ground level. **measurement not possible because of access or vegetation.
Spread	Estimate measured in metres on the four compass points.
Crown Clearance Lowest Branch (m)	The height to the lowest branch over the site in metres. The height of the most significant branch over site and its direction
Life Stage	**Y**= young tree; under one third life expectancy **SM**=semi mature tree; between one third and two thirds life expectancy, **M**=mature tree; two thirds life expectancy, **OM**=Over mature; over two thirds life expectancy.
Rem. Contrib	Estimated remaining contribution in years in the current situation.
Retention category	Category grading using BS5837 (see below) A, B, C or U.
RPA	The root protection area in m^2, as area and radial distance as measured from the centre of the tree stem.
Cat.	Category grading using BS5837 (see below) A, B, C or U.
RPA	The root protection area in m^2, as area and radial distance as measured from the centre of the tree stem. **BOLD Number = RPA reduced to account for site topography or reduced canopy size.**
Phys. Condition Str. Condition	***Physiological Condition: G-Good*** = fully functioning biological system showing average vitality i.e. normal bud growth, leaf size, crown density and wound closure ***F-Fair*** = fully functioning biological system showing below average vitality i.e. reduced bud growth, smaller leaf size, lower crown density and reduced wound closure ***P-Poor*** = a biological system with limited functionality showing significantly below average vitality i.e. limited bud growth, small and chlorotic leaves, low crown density and limited wound closure ***D-Dead*** = dead **Structural Condition: G-** ***Good***- Tree without any significant structural defects. **F-** ***Fair*** Tree with minor defects that may be remedied with appropriate management. **P-** ***Poor*** Tree with significant defects that cannot be remedied
Recommendations	Recommendations for action, including further investigations of suspected defects which may require more detailed assessment. If blank no comments are needed or work recommended.

Cascade chart for tree quality assessment (extract from BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations)

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 U category trees (i.e. 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 *NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see **4.5.7**.*			DARK RED
	1 Mainly Arboricultural values	**2 Mainly landscape values**	**3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation**	
Trees to be considered for retention				
Category A Those of high quality and value: such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual, or essential components of groups, or of 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
Category B Those of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested	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	MID BLUE
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	GREY