R W Green Limited

Arboricultural, Horticultural & Ecological Management

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Arboricultural Report – Implications Assessment & Method Statement

Ref: RWG-NDJ-14-38 - The Grove School, St Leonards, East Sussex

Contents

Executive Summary

R W Green Limited were commissioned by Miller Bourne Architects to prepare an arboricultural report to advise on the potential impacts of the proposed demolition of the school buildings upon the existing tree population located at The Grove School, St Leonards, East Sussex

The proposed scheme includes the demolition of the disused school buildings to facilitate the potential re-development of the site.

This report confirms that there are 5 trees identified for removal to facilitate the proposed demolition. In addition a further 5 trees are proposed for removal on the grounds of sound arboricultural management. Without exception these are low quality trees of limited amenity and landscape value. Their removal will have no detrimental impact on the landscape character of the wider area.

The proposed demolition activity could potentially affect the trees. However by implementing suitable protection measures and monitoring for the retained trees there is ample scope within the site for the demolition process and associated activities.

Nicholas D Jones *BSc (Hons). M Arbor A.*

1. Introduction

1.1 Formal details – My name is Nicholas Jones I am the principal arboricultural consultant for R W Green Limited based at The Lister Building, Upper Stoneham Farm, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 5RH. I have 24 years' experience in the arboricultural industry with the past 14 years acting as a consultant; I hold a BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture awarded by the University of Central Lancashire and I am a Professional Member of both the Arboricultural Association and the Consulting Arborist Society. Moreover I am a Lantra accredited Professional Tree Inspector giving advice to clients on a wide range of arboricultural and horticultural issues.

1.2 The following arboricultural report has been commissioned by Miller Bourne Architects in order to advise on the following:

- The species, size and position of any trees within the area of the proposed demolition and within neighbouring and adjoining areas where trees may have some significance to the proposed demolition.
- The maturity and condition of the trees surveyed with appropriate recommendations for action.
- The potential impact of the demolition scheme upon the tree population in and around the site.
- Specific measures required to protect retained trees during the proposed demolition and the ongoing monitoring of demolition to ensure that retained trees remain protected effectively.

1.3 The site was visited on 16th May 2014 and a survey carried out identifying and locating the relevant trees.

1.4 An assessment of the trees on site has been made in line with the guidance provided in British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations'.

1.5 The extent of any statutory protection afforded to the individual trees on or adjacent to the site has not been fully verified with the local planning authority.

1.6 This report has been undertaken with reference to the following drawings:

Originator	Drg No	Title
MBA	4360- AL05 B	Topographic survey
R W Green Limited	RWG-NDJ-14-38 A	Tree Layout
R W Green Limited	RWG-NDJ-14-38 B	Tree Protection Plan

1.7 The following documents are referred to in this report:

Originator	Title/Reference
British Standards Institute	5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations

2. Tree Survey

2.1 All trees on site have been assessed and are recorded in the tree schedule (**Appendix 1**) with all key trees plotted onto Drg no RWG-NDJ-14-38 A Tree Layout. The trees have been visually assessed from ground level only using non invasive methods of inspection. Tree height is an estimation, crown spread and height to underside of canopy are measured with a Disto laser measure.

2.2 British Standard 5837:2012 provides guidance for the assessment of trees on development sites and suggests four primary quality assessment categories and three associated sub categories into which trees should be placed. These categories are defined in Table 1:

Category & Definition	Criteria			Identification on Plan
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (ie. 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			Dark Red
Trees to Be Considered For Retention				
Category & Definition	**Criteria - Subcategories**			**Identification on Plan**
	1. Mainly arboricultural qualities	**2. Mainly landscape qualities**	**3. Mainly cultural values, including conservation**	
Category A **Trees of high quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual, or those that are essential components of groups, or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (eg. The dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands or particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (eg. Veteran trees or wood-pasture)	Light Green
Category B **Trees of moderate quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating that 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 150mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present on groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value, and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefit	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	Grey

Table 1

2.3 The survey information collated for each tree is as follows:

- Tree reference number: As recorded on the site plan.
- Tree species: Common name only
- Age class: (J) Juvenile, (SM) Semi mature, (EM) Early mature, (M) Mature, (OM) Over mature, (V) Veteran
- Estimated remaining contribution in years eg: Less than 10, 10-20, 20-40, more than 40
- Height: In metres
- Stem diameter measured in millimetres as follows:
    - Single stem trees - measured at 1.5m above ground level
    - Multi stem trees (less than five stems) total of all stem diameters measured at 1.5m above ground level
    - Multi stem trees (more than five stems) mean stem diameter measured at 1.5m above ground level
- Adjusted root protection area radius (Metres) calculated in accordance with the formulas provided in chapter 4.6 and Annex D of BS5837:2012
- Crown Spread: Measured at the four cardinal points (Metres)
- Height to underside of canopy: Measurement from ground level to the lowest branch (Metres)
- Physiological condition: Excellent, Fair, Poor, Dead
- Structural condition: Assessed as previous item on presence of decay and potential structural defects
- Quality assessment category: As defined in Table 1
- Comments and observations: Information regarded as relevant by the assessing arborist
- Recommended works: Details of any remedial action required to address significant defects and or facilitate development

3. Site Specific Tree Protection Method Statement

3.1 The principal purpose of a Tree Protection Method Statement is to ensure the preservation of retained trees through setting out appropriate working practices, construction techniques and tree protection measures that will be adopted when construction/demolition work is undertaken.

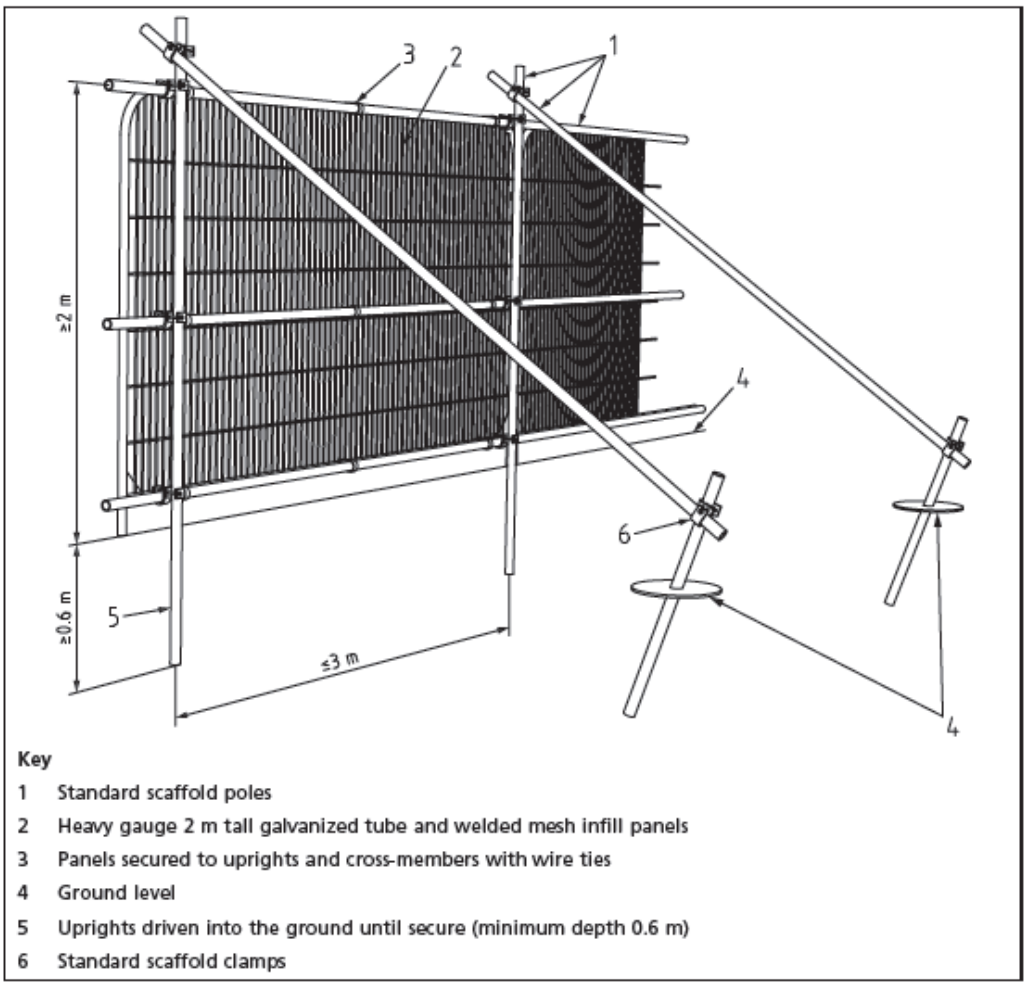
3.2 It is the responsibility of the client to appoint a suitably qualified project arborist prior to the commencement of works.

3.3 On site monitoring - Arboricultural monitoring will involve a schedule of visits, frequency to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority, and completion of a standard form an example of which is provided in **Appendix 2** which must be completed by the project arborist and signed by the client, site manager or their representative and the project arborist. A copy is then kept by the client, the project arborist and an additional copy forwarded to the Local Planning Authority.

3.4 British Standard recommendations provide a formula for calculating the Root Protection Area which indicates the area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the trees viability. The protection of the roots and soil within this area should be treated as a priority. The shape of the root protection area and its exact location will depend upon arboricultural considerations and the area will normally be represented on a constraints plan as a circle or polygon.

3.5 The Root Protection Areas of the trees proposed for retention are detailed in the tree schedule **Appendix 1** and are indicated on Drg No. RWG-NDJ-14-38 B.

3.6 Protective fencing will be erected in accordance with section 6 of BS5837:2012 and as indicated in Figure1. The location of the protective fencing is indicated on Drg No. RWG-NDJ-14-38 B.



Key

1 Standard scaffold poles
2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
3 Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties
4 Ground level
5 Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)
6 Standard scaffold clamps

Figure 1

3.7 Any demolition works required within the fenced root protection areas of the retained trees will be completed under the periodic supervision of the project arborist.

3.8 The supervision may require the project arborist to be present throughout the tasks to ensure all of the arboricultural objectives are met.

3.9 Arboricultural supervision is to be carried out at all crucial stages throughout the demolition process to ensure that tasks are undertaken in accordance with the approved methodology.

3.10 If the task is to be prolonged, provided the project arborist is satisfied, the supervision may be reduced to telephone contact between the site manager and the project arborist.

3.11 The Local Authority Arborist shall have free access to the site and pass any observations and recommendations directly to the project arborist.

3.12 Any accidental damage to the retained trees or any associated protection measures must be reported to the site manager immediately. Works occurring in the vicinity must cease immediately until adequate remediation has been completed. A record of any damage will be made by the site manager and in consultation with the project arborist any remediation undertaken.

4. Arboricultural Implications Assessment

4.1 The proposed demolition of the school buildings will have no detrimental impact on the adjacent retained trees.

4.2 The installation and maintenance of tree protection fencing will ensure that the rooting environment of the retained trees is respected.

4.3 There will be no excavation within the root protection areas of the retained trees associated with the proposed demolition.

5. Summary & Conclusions

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

- Respecting the constraints posed on the proposed demolition by the retained trees, and taking proactive steps to ensure their protection during demolition activity
- Continuing to take advice on all aspects of the proposals that may impact upon the retained trees

5.2 By implementing suitable protection measures for the retained trees it is my considered opinion that there is ample scope within the site for the demolition process and associated activities.

5.3 In summary I consider that there are no valid arboricultural issues that reasonably restrict the proposed demolition.

Signed:

Date: 23.05.2014

Appendix 1

Grove School Tree Schedule

Tree number	Tree species	Age class	Estimated remaining contribution (years)	Tree Height (m)	Number of stems	Stem diameter (mm)	Crown spread (m)				Height to underside of canopy (m)	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Quality Assessment Category	Comments and observations	Recommended works	Root Protection Area Radius (m) for retained trees
							N	E	S	W							
1	Horse Chestnut	M	<40	18	1	640	3.0	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Superficial bark damage evident	No work required	7.6
2	Ash	OM	<10	17	1	740	3.0	6.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	Poor	Poor	C1	Multiple structural defects	Fell to ground level	
3	Sycamore	M	<20	15	1	330	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	Remove deadwood	3.9
4	Field Maple	SM	<20	11	1	260	4.0	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	No work required	3.1
5	Field Maple	SM	<20	11	1	360	4.0	3.0	3.5	3.5	4.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	No work required	4.3
6	Field Maple	SM	<20	11	1	330	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	Remove deadwood	3.9
7	Field Maple	SM	<20	11	1	270	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.5	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	No work required	3.2
8	Horse Chestnut	M	<20	16	1	650	5.0	7.0	7.0	5.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	Remove deadwood	7.8
9	Sycamore	SM	<20	15	1	400	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	Remove hanging branch	4.8
10	Sycamore	SM	<20	15	1	340	3.5	3.5	4.0	3.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	No work required	4.0

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							N	E	S	W							
11	Field Maple	M	<20	14	1	410	4.0	4.5	4.0	2.0	2.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen, superficial root damage evident	No work required	4.9
12	Oak	OM	<40	18	1	1320	5.5	6.0	6.0	5.5	2.0	Fair	Fair	A1	Previous stem failure evident. Previously heavily reduced. Potential bat roosts throughout	Remove dead wood and hanging branches	15.0
13	Oak	M	<40	18	1	590	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.0	3.5	Fair	Fair	A1	Fair specimen	No work required	7.0
14	Sycamore	SM	<40	18	1	400	5.0	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	No work required	4.8
15	Hornbeam	M	<40	18	1	470	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	2.5	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	Remove deadwood and crown clean	5.6
16	Oak	M	<20	18	1	1110	6.5	10.0	9.0	6.5	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	Reduce and reshape by approximately 30%	13.3
17	Birch	J	<20	4	1	70	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	Fell to facilitate the proposed demolition	
18	Birch	J	<20	4	1	70	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	Fell to facilitate the proposed demolition	

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							N	E	S	W							
19	Cherry	SM	<20	5	1	160	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.5	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	Fell to facilitate the proposed demolition	
20	Cherry	SM	<20	5	1	180	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.5	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	Fell to facilitate the proposed demolition	
21	Whitebeam	SM	<20	7	1	200	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	Fell to facilitate the proposed demolition	
22	Oak	M	40+	18	1	640	7.0	9.0	8.0	6.5	3.0	Fair	Fair	A1	Fair specimen	No work required	7.6
23	Ash	J	<20	7	1	130	0.5	0.5	2.0	2.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	No work required	1.5
24	Field Maple	SM	<20	8	1	250	1.0	1.0	3.0	3.5	2.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	No work required	3.0
25	Field Maple	SM	<20	8	1	250	5.0	0.5	3.0	4.0	2.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	No work required	3.0
26	Horse Chestnut	M	<20	18	1	770	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.5	2.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	Remove deadwood	8.4
27	Field Maple	SM	<5	7	1	250	3.0	4.5	1.5	4.0	3.0	Poor	Poor	U	Poor specimen	Fell to ground level	3.0
28	Hornbeam	SM	<40	12	1	320	3.5	5.0	2.0	2.0	5.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	No work required	3.8
29	Birch	SM	<20	8	2	200 130	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	No work required	3.9

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							N	E	S	W							
30	Oak	M	<40	12	1	470	4.0	6.5	7.0	7.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	Remove deadwood	5.6
31	Corsican Pine	SM	<20	12	1	330	2.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	Crown clean	3.9
32	Ash	J	<20	5	1	100	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.0	2.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Die-back decline evident in upper canopy	No work required	1.2
33	Field Maple	SM	<20	7	1	120	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Superficial bark damage evident	No work required	1.4
34	Whitebeam	M	<20	7	1	320	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Die-back decline evident in upper canopy	No work required	3.8
35	Birch	SM	<20	10	1	230	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	No work required	2.7
36	Corsican Pine	SM	<20	9	3	210 280 270	3.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	3.5	Fair	Fair	B1	Minor dead wood in crown	Remove deadwood and crown clean	9.1
37	Hornbeam	SM	<20	8	1	200	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	No work required	2.4
38	Field Maple	M	<20	10	1	520	3.0	5.0	4.5	4.5	2.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Minor dead wood in crown	Remove deadwood and clean crown	6.2
39	Birch	SM	<15	12	1	220	1.5	4.0	2.5	1.0	1.5	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	No work required	2.6
40	Norway Maple	J	<40	5	1	10	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.0	2.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	No work required	1.2

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							N	E	S	W							
41	Cypress	J	<5	4	1	120	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.5	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	No work required	1.4
42	Yew	J	<15	3	5+	300	1.5	1.5	2.0	1.5	0.5	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	No work required	3.6
43	Holly	M	<5	6	3	200 210 200	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.5	Poor	Poor	C1	Die-back decline evident in upper canopy	Fell to ground level	
44	Oak	M	<40	12	1	420	6.5	5.0	4.5	6.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	A1	Fair specimen	Reduce and reshape by approximately 20% and crown lift to approximately 5m	5.0
45	Oak	M	<40	12	1	360	3.0	4.0	4.5	4.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	A1	Fair specimen	Remove deadwood	4.3
46	Cherry	SM	<20	6	1	220	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Superficial bark damage evident	No work required	2.6
47	Sycamore	M	<40	14	1	600	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen	No work required	7.2
48	Oak	M	<40	14	1	460	7.0	7.0	5.0	7.0	4.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Minor dead wood in crown	Remove deadwood	5.5
49	Sycamore	M	<40	14	1	600	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Storm damaged tree	No work required	7.2
50	Oak	M	<40	14	1	420	3.5	3.0	7.0	5.0	2.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Major dead wood in crown	Reduce lateral limb by approximately 20% and remove deadwood	5.0
51	Corsican Pine	M	<10	18	1	830	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	10.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Multiple structural defects	Fell to ground level	

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							N	E	S	W							
52	Ash	J	<5	5	1	170	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	Poor	Poor	U	Die-back decline evident in upper canopy	Fell to ground level	
53	Ash	SM	<5	7	1	25	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	Poor	Poor	U	In decline	Fell to ground level	
54	Oak	M	<40	20	3	500 400 500	11.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	4.0	Fair	Fair	A1		Remove deadwood and reduce end weight on long lateral limbs by approximately 20%	15.0
55	Oak	M	<40	16	2	500 400	12.0	7.0	2.0	7.0	9.0	Fair	Fair	A1	Included bark union(s) evident	No work required	10.8
56	Corsican Pine	SM	<20	6	3	300 200	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	No work required	8.4
57	Oak	SM	<40	13	1	540	5.0	5.0	6.0	6.5	2.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair specimen, component tree of G1	No work required	6.4
58	Oak	EM	<40	17	1	670	3.0	3.0	7.0	5.5	5.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Dense Ivy cover, component tree of G1	No work required	8.0
59	Oak	SM	<40	17	1	430	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.0	6.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Damaged by grass cutting machinery, component tree of G1	No work required	5.1
60	Poplar	M	<20	14	2	780	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	A1	Fair specimen, component tree of G1	Reduce and reshape by approximately 30% and crown lift to approximately 5m	9.3

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							N	E	S	W							
61	Oak	M	<40	18	1	1180	12.0	13.0	5.0	12.0	8.0	Fair	Fair	A1	Component tree of G1	Remove deadwood and reduce end weight on long lateral limbs by approximately 20%	14.1
62	Oak	M	<40	18	1	550	3.0	6.5	7.0	6.0	5.0	Fair	Fair	A1	Component tree of G2	Sever ivy	6.6
63	Oak	M	<40	16	1	720	4.0	4.0	11.0	8.0	2.0	Fair	Fair	A1	Fair specimen, component tree of G1	Remove deadwood and reduce and reshape by approximately 30%	8.6
64	Oak	M	<40	18	1	670	4.0	6.0	5.0	7.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	A1	Major dead wood in crown. Component tree of G1	Remove deadwood	8.0
65	Oak	M	<40	18	1	600	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.0	3.0	Exc	Fair	A1	Component tree of G1	Sever Ivy	7.2
G1	Mixed species	M	40+									Fair	Fair	A2	Mixed species group of trees located to the east of the access road from Darley Close	No work required	
G2	Mixed species	M	40+									Fair	Fair	A2	Mixed species group of trees located on the north/western boundary of the site	No work required	
G3	Mixed species	M	40+									Fair	Fair	A2	Mixed species group located on the northern boundary of the site	No work required	

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							N	E	S	W							
G4	Mixed species	M	<40									Fair	Fair	A2	Mixed species group located adjacent to the caretakers house	Remove deadwood	
G5	Mixed species	M	40+									Fair	Fair	A2	Mixed species group located to the south of the access from Crow Hurst Road	No work required	
G6	Mixed species	M	<40									Fair	Fair	A2	Mixed species group located on the north/eastern boundary of the site	No work required	
W1	Mixed species	M	40+									Fair	Fair	A2	Mixed species woodland located in the south western corner of the site	No work required	

Appendix 2

R W Green Limited
Construction Site Monitoring Record

Site Address: **Client:**

Date	Activity	Comments	Actions	By whom	Signed (on behalf of R W Green)	Signed (on behalf of client)