



Arboricultural Site Supervision

Site: Sonning Golf Course, Duffield Road, Woodley housing Scheme Construct

A request to attend site on 13th January 2025 was instructed by Ben Longworth from Country Estates who is responsible for overseeing the development of the approved scheme.

Documents provided:

A copy of the approved scheme layout.

A copy of the TPO ref: 1505 / 2015 – W1

Having been involved on this site with a previous project I am aware of the tree preservation order (TPO) and the constraints of the trees. The approved scheme requires some area of W1 to be removed in order to construct some of the properties, soak aways and garden space. This will be cleared when these features are required to be constructed, but until then the fencing will be set up on the edge of the extent of the vegetation extending into the site and the edges of the access, to prevent collision damage and inappropriate storage / mixing of materials, contractor parking etc.

The extent of the RPA of trees with a stem diameter over 20cm within this woodland TPO, do not extend into the construction zone where deep excavation works for the foundation of buildings and soak aways are required, it is only scrub species such as Blackthorn and Bramble which will need to be removed, with areas closest to the tree line being made into garden space. In my opinion the screening element of the trees will be retained. However, it should be noted that the northern end of this wooded area is denser with the trees being more mature, compared to the southern end where the trees are more sparse, less mature with a number of the Elm trees having previously been lost due to Dutch Elm disease and others likely to decline in the future. More of the southern end will need to be cleared to facilitate the garden spaces of plots 9 – 13, with some for the proposed parking area.

Prior to vegetation removal works being undertaken I suggest that the council is given a 2-week notification so that if calls are made, they are aware and do not need to send enforcement out because no breach of planning is being undertaken. This also demonstrates you are aware of the

tree protection requirements, are upholding and maintaining them in relation to the consent given, with the provision of these arboricultural supervision reports.

The image below shows the extent of the TPO in relation to the approved scheme.



The image below shows the extent of the TPO in relation to the approved scheme and where works are required. This will be undertaken with arboricultural supervision present, and relevant notification to the local authority.



At the time of my visit protective fencing was set up on the edge of the vegetation and down the edges of the access providing suitable protection during the initial ground works stages currently being undertaken.

I discussed with the site manager about retaining this fencing in this location as long as possible until the other aspects of the scheme such as the installation of the soak aways is required, as one of the primary features and the foundations for the property on plot 1. Ensuring the following are not permitted to occur within the protection fence line.

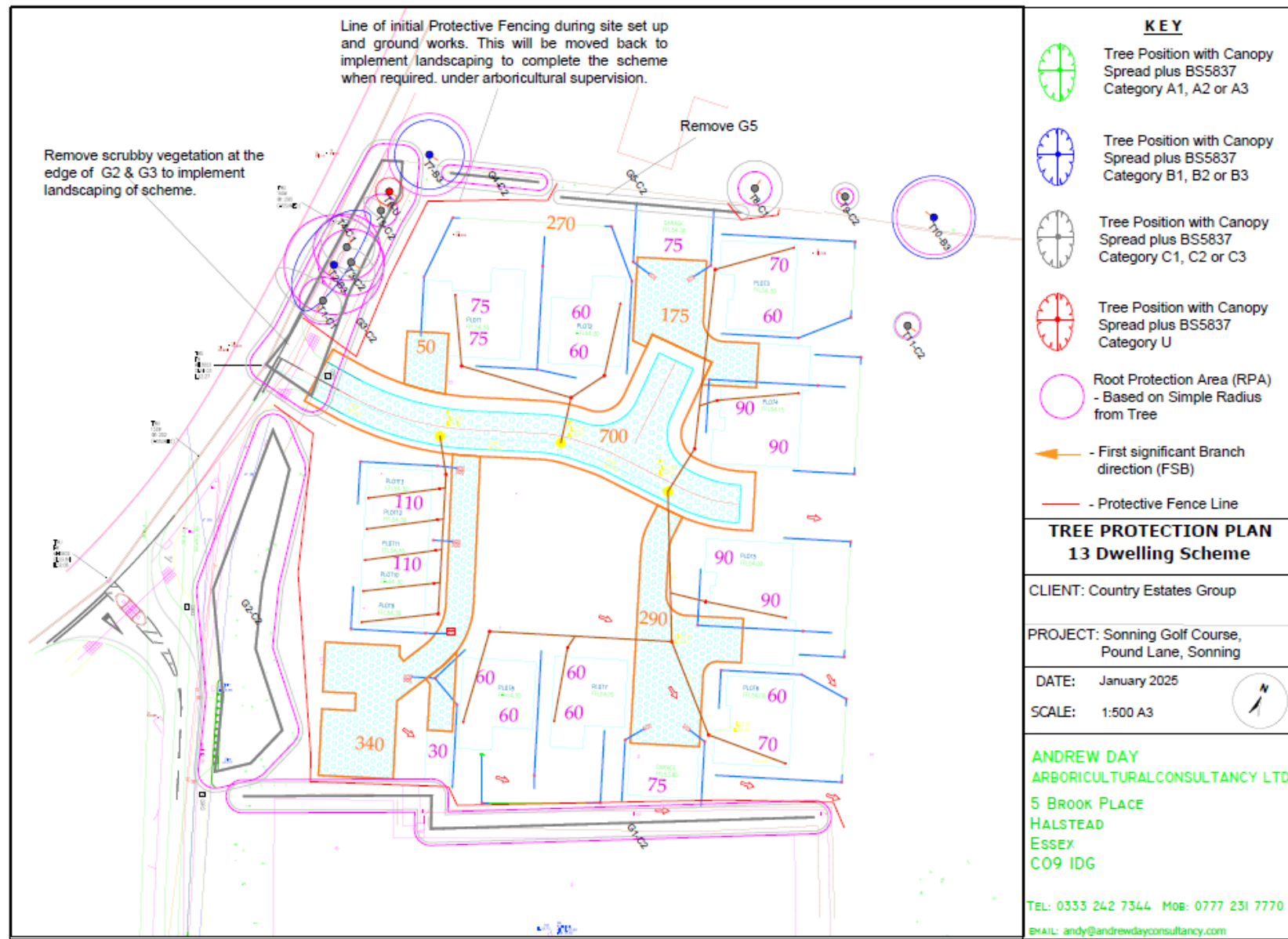
- No movement of vehicles or plant machinery
- No excavation
- No hand digging
- No raising or lowering of levels for any reason.
- No storage of plant or materials
- No fire lighting such that flames come within 5m of tree foliage.
- No substances injurious to tree health to be used or stored, including fuels, oil, bitumen, cement washings, builders' sand, concrete mixing and other chemicals.
- Care must also be taken with site operations outside of the fenced off areas to ensure that wide or tall loads, or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights etc. do not cause damage to tree canopies.

From my 1st visit on site it was clear this was understood and already being maintained, I had no concerns over the trees current protection or how they would be continued to be protected as the project moves forward.

There are some trees present in the southern half of the wooded bund which I think will deteriorate in health, likely due to Dutch Elm Disease or other reasons which have no visible reason or related to the construction activities. These are within falling distance of the working area and public highway, so this will need to be monitored. If they become a danger to persons or property, then a 5-day notice of intent to remove will need to be issued to the council as part of the requirements under the TPO legislation, unless their removal is required to implement the approved scheme. Any tree removal works will also need to abide by relevant wildlife regulations to ensure nesting birds etc are not impacted.

The photographs below show the protection fencing set up to sufficiently protect the trees at this stage of the development, in line with the tree protection plan provided (see below) with notices on the fencing to clearly show its reason for being there. This will be maintained as long as possible and only maneuvered as and when to progress the scheme in line with the approved layout. Further arboricultural supervision visits will be coordinated when this required to ensure the trees are protected as best they can be.





Continued Construction Supervision

Regular site visits to monitor site progress and ensure the trees are being suitably protected will be programmed in and instructed by the site manager. Given the approved layout and the existing protection measures already in place, I consider once every two months will be sufficient to ensure protection measures are being maintained. Arboricultural supervision will be present when it is proposed to undertake the clearing, re-positioning of the protective fencing and landscaping works adjacent to trees to remain.

If any actions result in possible harm to the trees indirectly such as toxins being spilt or ground compaction occurring in the RPA, the supervising arborist will be contacted straight away and mitigation measures arranged. The same actions will be taken if direct damages such as collision occurs, with suitable repair pruning undertaken to resolve any issues. The local authority will be notified where necessary.

If any trees decline and health and need to be removed, the supervising arborist will be consulted and the local authority notified accordingly with a 5-day notice or TPO application where relevant.

Post-Construction Monitoring

Site completion

Conduct a thorough inspection immediately after the main construction and hard landscaping activities have been completed to assess any damage or issues with the trees that could present a risk of harm to users of the site or the property, which may result in the need for mitigation works to be programmed in. The condition of trees can change over short periods of time from natural causes such as pests, diseases or storm damage, as well as from actions associated with construction pressures despite adhering to the protection measures.

A final visit will be conducted to identify if any tree surgery works are required, or mitigation works for example removal and replacing trees that have died, with findings documented and communicate findings to relevant personnel with recommendations.

Summary

- Tree protection measures in the form of fencing have been erected which are suitable to protect the trees whilst implementing the initial works for the approved scheme. There is no sign of damage to the trees as a result of the construction activities and I considered the trees were being suitably protected.
- Discussions have been undertaken with the site manager relating to timing on further actions in terms of vegetation removal to implement the excavation of soak ways etc where required to implement the scheme, and removal of scrub required to do this. This will involve notifying the council when this is to be done, and arboricultural supervision present to oversee the moving of the protection fencing to ensure the trees to remain are suitably protected. It should be noted the only vegetation to be removed is scrub with no trees with a stem diameter over 200mm at this stage.
- Arboricultural supervision visits will continue to be undertaken on an agreed scheduled basis until the project is completed, this includes any landscaping works once the main construction works have been completed. Given the protection measures already in place and the focus of the construction works, I suggest arboricultural supervision will be undertaken at least every two months unless otherwise stated, and always at times when works in or directly adjacent to the RPA is required, such as creation of garden spaces and installing hard surfacing.
- Any remedial works as part of the supervision assessments will be undertaken before works on site is completed and handed over, or an agreement in place for any follow up works to be completed.
- The table below will be completed at the 2nd arboricultural supervision meeting when a review of the tree protection measures is undertaken and any further arboricultural issues discussed.

Site Specific Supervision Schedule

Stage of Supervision	Date or by shown date	Persons responsible	Relation to site
1 st visit	13/01/25	Ben Longworth Andrew Day	Site Manager Supervising arborist
Continued supervision during construction	To be decided	Ben Longworth Andrew Day	Site Manager Supervising arborist
Post construction / completion	To be decided	Ben Longworth Andrew Day	Site Manager Supervising arborist
Any other notes: Until a second visit is completed and discussions had in relation to the work programme, the future arboricultural visit dates cannot be set. Currently I suggest end of February 2025 and going forward every two months with the possibility of reducing the frequency as the project progresses.			

Phase	Frequency of visits
Initial Visit	completed
Continued Construction	To be agreed, suggested on a two monthly basis
Post Construction	Provisionally 1
Individual supervision logs will be provided for each future visit.	