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Arboricultural Technical Note:

**Response to comments made by the Landscape
and Trees Officer on planning application ref:
232298**

February 2024

Ref. SJA ten 23644-01b

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1. This note is provided in response to comments made by Wokingham Borough Council's (the LPA's) Landscape and Trees Officer on the planning application reference 232298 on Land at and to the rear of No. 240 Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead. These comments were received on the 4th December 2023.

1.2. The Landscape and Trees Officer (hereinafter 'the Officer') has provided several pages of comments under the following headings: Arboriculture, The Layout and a Fundamental Lack of Information. This technical note responds to the Arboricultural comments but also seeks to address requests for further information where these also relate to arboricultural issues.

1.3. The Arboricultural comments relate to four issues: (i) the impact of the proposed access drive on the retained trees; (ii) the potential for proposed dwellings to be shaded by retained trees; (iii) if there is any pruning required to facilitate access along the driveway; and (iv) the impact of the site's level differences on the trees to be retained. However, the impact of retained trees on new dwellings in terms of their shadow patterns, will be addressed by a separate sunlight and daylight consultant. Each of the other three will be addressed in turn with additional information provided where necessary.

1.4. Therefore, this technical note should be read as an addendum to the submitted arboricultural report. Whilst a lot of that report and the evidence provided in it remains valid, any new information provided here, in effect, overrides that already submitted.

1.5. Whilst not a feature of our report submitted with the application it was discussed at the application progress meeting on the 18th December 2023, that the Officer was amenable to the idea of removing the Lawson cypress trees on the eastern boundary of the site and replacing them with a native hedgerow with native hedgerow. Indeed, this view was expressed in her comments.

1.6. Therefore, these trees are now shown for removal. Along with the submission of a new (slightly amended layout) this change is significant enough to warrant an

update to our tree protection plan (TPP). The TPP submitted with the application should therefore be superseded by the new TPP presented at **Appendix 1** of this note.

1.7. The final element of this technical note is to introduce an additional bit of work carried out by SJA trees. That is an outline woodland management plan. Whilst not directly requested by the Officer, questions have been raised as to the proposed use of the remaining woodland on the site and how it will be managed and protected.

1.8. For the duration of the development, the protection of the woodland is simple; as shown on the TPP it can be fenced off and harmful construction activities and access excluded. However, since the mid-twentieth century UK Government policy has been to promote access to forests and woodland. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the retained woodland to be open to access by the new occupants of the site. Whilst this may present some challenges to ensure appropriate management of the woodland, that same management would bring significant benefits to the residents and the biodiversity and habitat potential of the woodland.

1.9. Improving woodland structure and allowing access would facilitate its recreational use but also improve biodiversity and carbon sequestration. Therefore, at **Appendix 2** we present an outline woodland management plan. The implementation of which or its upgrading to a detailed plan post-permission can be secured by planning condition.

2. PROPOSED ACCESS DRIVE

2.1. The conclusion on this topic made in our report stated: *'Taking account of existing ground levels and likely proposed levels of these areas, these will allow for design and construction of the new access to be entirely above existing soil level, and accordingly no excavation will be required. Furthermore, the road surface will incorporate an appropriate cellular confinement system, filled and finished with suitable porous materials, to minimise soil compaction. To ensure no damage occurs to the roots or rooting environments of the relevant trees, installation will be undertaken under the control and supervision of the arboricultural consultant.'*

2.2. Reference was made in our report to the access plans reference: 70070533-SK-006 Rev F; the Officer states that this was not submitted with the application. Whilst that may be the case, the salient points have been overlooked. The point this reference made was that all services for the new development will run up the existing pedestrian access, east of No. 240b Nine Mile Ride, where no trees would be harmed. Thus, leaving the existing vehicular access to be reused for vehicular access and widened where necessary but that it can be constructed entirely above existing levels (i.e. without the need to excavate beneath the surface for the installation of services).

2.3. Additional information on the levels strategy for the site are provided by the Applicant and discussed later in this technical note. In particular, we have confirmed that the new spine road through the site will tie into the existing access 300mm higher than its existing level. This allows for the new drive to be above the existing and tie into the new spine road, it will be constructed using a proprietary system such as Cellweb driveway.

2.4. The principles for securing access using an above soil surface were established in the outline approval and additional information should not be needed at this stage. However, cross sectional drawings have been provided by WSP to help illustrate that the new surface can indeed be constructed above the existing and the levels strategy discussed below demonstrates that the levels also accommodate this build up.

2.5. The above soil construction will comprise a 150mm thick layer of Cellweb, a bitumen layer and a finishing layer of sand and block paviours. The bitumen layer is

needed because of the likely use of the drive and the need to accommodate construction. It will act as a sacrificial wearing course through the development and once the building work is complete it will be drilled at 750mm centres to ensure its long-term porosity. The final finish to the drive will be permeable block pavements. This is illustrated in the cross-section below at Figure 1.

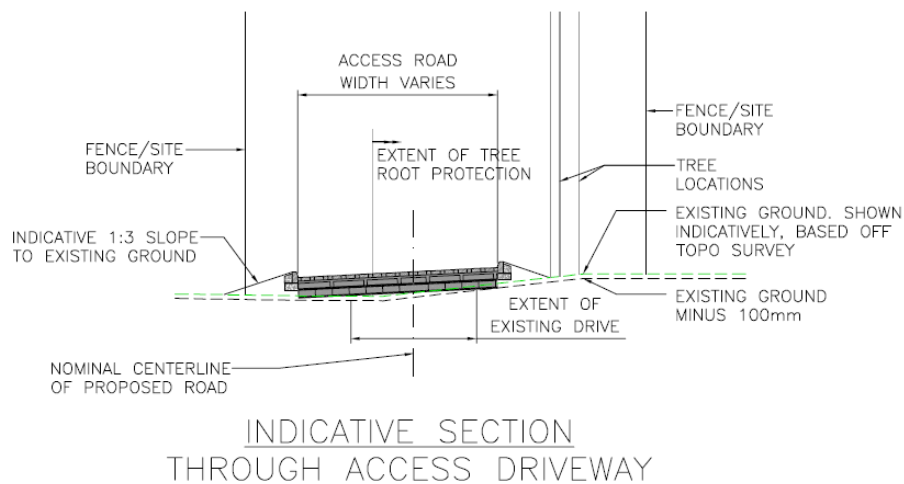


Figure 1 – Indicative section

2.6. The cross-section shows the ‘worst-case’ scenario where the drive is at its narrowest. It also shows a 100mm scrape of the topsoil. This is desirable but not essential. Its installation will be subject to arboricultural supervision to be included in the arboricultural method statement. If shallow or surface roots are encountered then these will be retained and there is scope to install the new surface without the 100mm scrape.

3. PRUNING

3.1. The Officer is quite right to highlight this. The existing drive is a vehicular access and the trees already have a reasonable clearance over the driveway and this does not prohibit its use at present. However, the lowest canopies of trees overhanging the driveway have between 3 and 5m clearances. It would be appropriate to lift the canopies over the retained trees over the driveway to provide 5m clearances.

3.2. Pruning work can be carried out by the reduction of pendulous limbs rather than the removal of entire branches and the overall effect will not have a significant or lasting impact on the health of the trees or on the character and appearance of the local landscape. Once development has been completed, the trees canopies could be left to re-grow and replace what has been removed whilst continuing to maintain their current clearances.

3.3. The pruning that is required to implement the proposals has been included in the updated tree protection plan at **Appendix 1** of this note.

4. LEVELS STRATEGY

4.1. Significant work has been carried out by the design team to secure a levels strategy for the site. As would be the case if the levels strategy were produced post-permission, the trees to be retained have been treated as significant constraints and their root protection areas (RPAs) respected. The strategy has secured a design that does not result in any level changes within the RPAs of retained trees. However, this has resulted in some very minor adjustments to the layout, and these are reflected in the updated TPP presented at **Appendix 1**.

4.2. Whilst we are not engineers or drainage experts we have been included in all team discussions on the impact of levels and drainage on tree RPAs. A summary of those discussions in so far as they relate to trees is included here to help provide assurances that the RPAs of retained trees have been respected.

4.3. The overarching considerations for the levels and drainage are the finished floor level for Plot 10 at the southern end of the site and the gradient of the north-south access road. And how this ties the level of Plot 10 into the level just above that of the existing drive where it enters the site. As well as this, the drainage required for Plots 11-13 and how this also ties into the level and gradient of the road. To resolve this, whilst the proposed internal road is relatively steep, it is not steeper than the maximum steepness allowed for in the Local Highway Authority's standards. We feel that a comfortable balance in so far as this relates to trees, has been achieved between different factors on site.

4.4. Whilst these factors do not impact directly on the trees, the level of Plots 10-13 has the potential to impact the trees on the northern edge of the woodland and the tie-in point at the existing access is important to secure an above soil surface along the driveway. The former has been resolved by not altering existing levels in this location significantly and hence any direct impact on the woodland can be avoided through the installation of protective fencing; the latter has been secured in the levels strategy as discussed previously.

4.5. Once these had been established the levels of various plots and gardens, access paths, bin collection points and driveways could all be developed. There are

terraces in some gardens and some retaining walls but these (with the exception of a small incursion by Plot 25 into the RPAs of adjacent trees) are all outside the RPAs of retained trees.

4.6. The impact of Plot 25 on trees nos. 53-55 is discussed fully in section 6 of our report submitted with the application. In one further instance, a retaining wall in the rear garden of Plot 26 abuts the RPAs of trees nos. 39 and 40. Construction of a retaining wall on the periphery of an RPA would typically require a 500mm over-dig and hence this does result in a minor RPA incursion. However, for the same reasons and conclusions discussed in section 7 of our report, there is no reason to suggest that these trees would not tolerate these works.

5. CONCLUSIONS

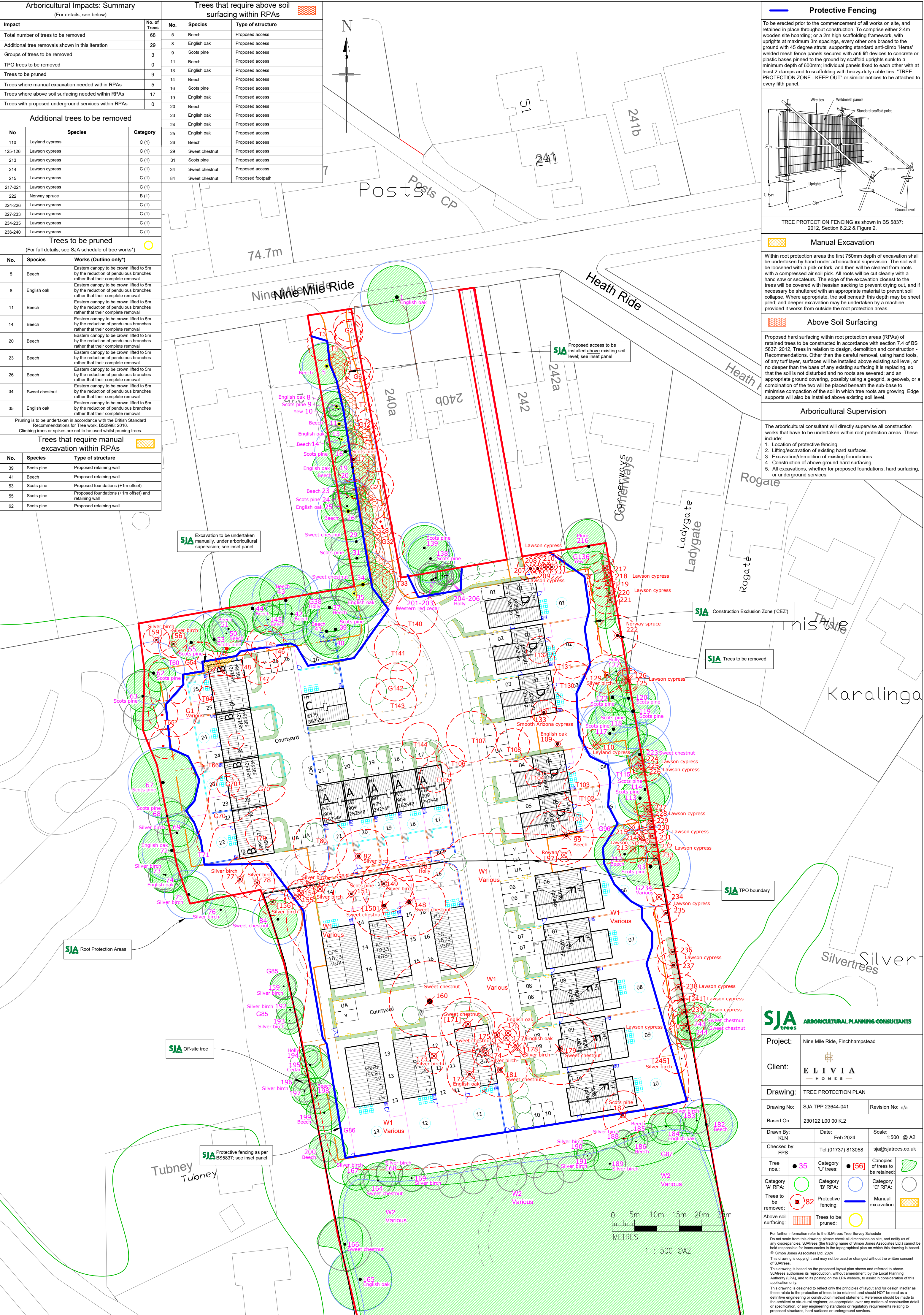
5.1. From the foregoing discussion it can be concluded that:

- the removal of the cypress trees along the eastern boundary would improve the character and appearance of the site and surrounding landscape and bring biodiversity improvements if they are replaced with native trees and hedging;
- slight amendments to the layout have necessitated an updated tree protection plan but the arboricultural impacts have not changed significantly;
- that access to the retained woodland should be promoted post-development and this is the subject of an outline woodland management plan;
- the access drive can and will be installed above existing soil and surface levels and further detail is provided;
- some pruning is needed, and this was missing from our initial submission but this has been addressed in our update tree protection plan, the proposed pruning is minor and would not harm the trees or their contribution to the character and appearance of the local landscape; and
- the levels strategy has been developed and whilst there are two very minor additional root protection area incursions retained trees have been respected and there will be no significant impacts jeopardizing their retention.

5.2. This note has referenced and expanded on discussion contained within the report submitted with the application in an attempt to clarify the points raised by the LPA's Landscape and Trees Officer. However, SJAtrees welcomes an open dialogue with the Officer if further clarification is needed.

APPENDIX 1
Revised Tree Protection Plan

Arboricultural Impacts: Summary		Trees that require above soil surfacing within RPAs	
(For details, see below)		No.	Species
Impact	No. of Trees	No.	Type of structure
Total number of trees to be removed	68	5	Beech
Additional tree removals shown in this iteration	29	8	English oak
Groups of trees to be removed	3	9	Scots pine
TPO trees to be removed	0	11	Beech
Trees to be pruned	9	13	English oak
Trees where manual excavation needed within RPAs	5	14	Beech
Trees where above soil surfacing needed within RPAs	17	16	Scots pine
Trees with proposed underground services within RPAs	0	19	English oak
Additional trees to be removed		20	Beech
No.	Species	Category	Type of structure
110	Leyland cypress	C (1)	Proposed access
125-126	Lawson cypress	C (1)	Proposed access
213	Lawson cypress	C (1)	Proposed access
214	Lawson cypress	C (1)	Proposed access
215	Lawson cypress	C (1)	Proposed access
217-221	Lawson cypress	C (1)	Proposed access
222	Norway spruce	B (1)	Proposed access
224-226	Lawson cypress	C (1)	Proposed access
227-233	Lawson cypress	C (1)	Proposed access
234-235	Lawson cypress	C (1)	Proposed access
236-240	Lawson cypress	C (1)	Proposed access
Trees to be pruned		25	English oak
(For full details, see SJA schedule of tree works*)		26	Beech
No.	Species	Works (Outline only*)	Type of structure
5	Beech	Eastern canopy to be crown lifted to 5m by the reduction of pendulous branches rather than their complete removal	Proposed retaining wall
8	English oak	Eastern canopy to be crown lifted to 5m by the reduction of pendulous branches rather than their complete removal	Proposed retaining wall
11	Beech	Eastern canopy to be crown lifted to 5m by the reduction of pendulous branches rather than their complete removal	Proposed foundations (+1m offset)
14	Beech	Eastern canopy to be crown lifted to 5m by the reduction of pendulous branches rather than their complete removal	Proposed foundations (+1m offset) and retaining wall
20	Beech	Eastern canopy to be crown lifted to 5m by the reduction of pendulous branches rather than their complete removal	Proposed retaining wall
23	Beech	Eastern canopy to be crown lifted to 5m by the reduction of pendulous branches rather than their complete removal	
26	Beech	Eastern canopy to be crown lifted to 5m by the reduction of pendulous branches rather than their complete removal	
34	Sweet chestnut	Eastern canopy to be crown lifted to 5m by the reduction of pendulous branches rather than their complete removal	
35	English oak	Eastern canopy to be crown lifted to 5m by the reduction of pendulous branches rather than their complete removal	
Pruning is to be undertaken in accordance with the British Standard Recommendations for Tree work, BS3998: 2010. Climbing irons or spikes are not to be used whilst pruning trees.			
Trees that require manual excavation within RPAs			
No.	Species	Type of structure	
39	Scots pine	Proposed retaining wall	
41	Beech	Proposed retaining wall	
53	Scots pine	Proposed foundations (+1m offset)	
55	Scots pine	Proposed foundations (+1m offset) and retaining wall	
62	Scots pine	Proposed retaining wall	



APPENDIX 2

Outline Woodland Management Plan



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Outline Woodland Management Plan for the Woodland at Land at and to the rear of 240 Nine Mile Ride Finchampstead

February 2024

Ref: SJA owmp 23644-01

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Instructions

1.1.1. SJAtrees has been instructed by Elivia Homes Ltd. to produce an outline woodland management plan to cover the area of secondary woodland in the southern portion of the site.

1.2. Purpose

1.2.1. The purpose of producing this document is to assess the existing woodland quality; review the existing and potential threats to the woodland and provide a plan that aims to integrate the woodland into the development, securing its long-term protection and ecological value whilst facilitating and controlling access into and around it, simultaneously enhancing its arboricultural, ecological and green infrastructure value.

1.3. Statutory controls

1.3.1. The woodland is covered by tree preservation order (TPO) no. 683/1994, which protects the oak, birch, rowan, holy, sycamore and Scots pine within the wooded area within the site.

1.3.2. The woodland is not within a conservation area, and therefore there are no constraints relating to existing trees in this regard.

1.4. Non statutory controls.

1.4.1. There are no woodlands within or abutting the site that are classified as 'Ancient'. Ancient woodland is defined as "any area that's been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD" and is considered an important and irreplaceable habitat.

1.4.2. There are no trees within or abutting the site that can be classified as 'Ancient' or 'Veteran'. Ancient and veteran trees are also considered to be irreplaceable habitats, and contribute to a site's biodiversity, cultural and heritage value, and the National Planning Policy Framework (see below) states that development resulting in

the loss or deterioration of ancient or veteran trees should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.

1.4.3. The woodland within the site is identified as Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat on the MAGIC Map data base.

2. WOODLAND ASSESSMENT

2.1. Area and Context

2.1.1. The site sits within the Thames Basin Heaths National Character Area (NCA). Woodland accounts for a quarter of this NCA, reflecting the predominance of low-grade agricultural land with the majority of it having grown up or been planted on former heathland – much of which is or was common land.

2.1.2. This outline management plan covers a small (approx. 0.55ha) area of recent secondary woodland in the southern section of the site.

2.1.3. The restricted byway (FINC25) connecting Nine Mile Ride with Wick Hill passes the south boundary of the woodland.

2.1.4. Outline planning permission (LPA ref: 211889) was approved at appeal in December 2022 (Appeal ref: APP/X0360/W/22/3295631), for up to 32 new dwellings on the wider site. The approved parameters plans showed the development within approximately 50% of the woodland on the site and approximately 50%, the area now relevant to and being considered in this outline woodland management plan, retained.

2.2. Soils

1.1.2. The British Geological Survey Solid and Drift Geology map of the area indicates the **Error! Reference source not found.** overlies a transitional area of bedrock that includes Camberley Sand Formation (sand), Windlesham Formation (sand, silt and clay) and Bagshot Formation (sand). There is no information on the likely superficial deposits. The closest bore hole record (ref: SU86NW146) 310m to the north-east, dated February 2001, shows a clayey sand with some silt to 3.1m.

1.1.3. The class of soil in this area is recorded on the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs ('Defra') Magic website as a freely draining, slightly acid, loamy soil.

2.3. Historical Management

2.3.1. Prior to Elivia Homes taken ownership of the land, the site was under private residential ownership dwellings (Nos. 240 and 238 Nine Mile Ride). The majority of the

woodland was within the curtilage of No. 240 Nine Mile Ride. Observations during our tree inspection highlighted no evidence of any recent woodland management.

2.3.2. Historical maps and aerial photographs indicate that the site was undeveloped woodland (Wick Hill) until the early 20th century, when a gravel pit was created to the east of the site, later OS maps dated 1932 and onwards show the progression of residential development that led to the enclosed woodland present today.

2.4. Arboricultural Character

2.4.1. The woodland is small and uniform enough for there to be no distinct compartments. Therefore, the entire woodland is being assessed as one compartment.

2.4.2. The woodland very dense with many young birch and sycamore trees of various sizes ranging from young saplings to semi-mature specimens. The woodland standards are predominantly Scots pine and sweet chestnut with low abundance of English oak. There is limited established understorey present but localised pockets of holly, laurel and hazel are noted.

2.4.3. We have not undertaken a formal survey to identify the existing ground flora as part of our work, but at the time of our tree inspection (July 2023) there was very limited ground flora present.

3. AIMS & OBJECTIVES.

3.1. Aims

3.1.1. The woodland located at this site forms a significant component of the local green network, and contributes to the visual landscape and environmental landscape providing significant benefits to the surrounding area.

3.1.2. The aim of this outline woodland management plan is to protect the woodland, and the associated flora and fauna from the potentially harmful impacts of the proposals, review and outline woodland management mitigation measures to facilitate access to the woodland to the new residents but to build resilience against potentially harmful future uses, and to promote species and habitat biodiversity within the woodlands.

3.2. Objectives

3.2.1. To achieve these aims the woodland management objectives are set out below:

The objectives of this management plan are to:

- Protect and maintain the existing woodland whilst facilitating access;
- Improve the woodland structure and age range of the species present;
- Enhancement of biodiversity potential; and
- Ensure long-term sustainability.

4. EXISTING AND FUTURE THREATS

4.1. Existing Threats

Pests

4.1.1 Woodlands, especially any newly planted or naturally seeded trees, are susceptible to damage by pests, mainly mammalian such as deer, squirrel, sheep or rabbit. Squirrel, rabbit and deer are currently found in low frequency across the site, but deer could potentially pose more of a threat if light levels within the woodland are increased thereby increasing the grazing potential as the natural regeneration and sapling numbers increase.

Disease

4.1.2 The ash trees in the woodland are susceptible to ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*). Infection with this fungus causes leaf loss, crown dieback and bark lesions in the affected trees. Currently there is no approved or efficient preventative or curative treatment that will alleviate or mitigate the effects of ash dieback, and limited emerging evidence to suggest that trees infected with the fungus can recover, at least not without on-going proactive management and a probable loss of crown shape and amenity value, that might be acceptable only for specimens of particular significance. Thankfully, the abundance of ash in the woodland is very low, so there is no particular concern in this regard.

4.1.3 The future residential use and human activity adjacent to the woodland presents an ongoing biosecurity risk as goods, vehicles, pedestrian traffic and tools can be a vector for diseases. Without considered mitigation and awareness there is a risk of introduction of diseases into the wild flora and fauna populations.

Invasive species

4.1.4 Laurel has been found within the woodland and the presence of sycamore could also be seen as invasive, or at least undesirable. As with any woodland in the UK, there is an ongoing risk of additional introduction of rhododendron and laurel into the woodland. Ongoing monitoring and removal should be undertaken to minimise the risk from these invasive species.

Overshading

4.1.5 As mentioned above, the woodland appears to have been left unmanaged in recent years, which has led poor woodland structure, namely: very dense young tree cover, the establishment of poor-quality understorey and a lack of ground cover in some woodland compartments.

4.1.6 Consequently, there is a significant risk that the limited light penetration into the lower levels of the woodland is imposing a limiting factor to the development of high-quality understorey, ground cover and natural woodland regeneration.

4.2. Future Threats

Climate change

4.2.1. The climate is predicted to get warmer in the next thirty years, with the likelihood of cooler, wetter winters and more frequent storm events. Any change in the prevalent climate could put further stresses on the trees that they are even less equipped to deal with. Extremes in weather brought about by climate change include:

- dryer hotter summers causing drought stress (thought to be a contributing factor to summer branch drop and Acute Oak Decline);
- colder winter spells with freezing conditions; and
- more frequent storm events with stronger winds posing a risk of limb failure.

4.2.2. The result of increased global temperature and high international trade and passenger flows significantly increases the biosecurity risk of virulent foreign pathogenic pests and diseases being introduced into the UK. As has been the case with the recent introduction of Oak Processionary Moth and Ash dieback. It is therefore, of vital importance to keep abreast of the latest threats to the UK and to 'future proof' the woodland through considered tree species planting.

Development activities

4.2.3. The proposed residential development will result in construction adjacent to the woodland, which has the potential to result in ground compaction, pollution (noise,

light, dust and contamination), tree removals or pruning to facilitate proposals and an increased biosecurity risk through increased traffic.

Increased human activities

4.2.4. The proposed scheme would result in an increase in human activity within the woodland, this could result in removal or pruning of trees and deadwood habitat for safety reasons, pollution (noise, litter and light), vandalism of woodland features and increased biosecurity risk.

5. WOODLAND STRATEGY

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. The woodland strategy discusses the site-specific woodland management objectives set out in Section 3 and discusses how the proposed actions will achieve the aims of the plan.

5.2. Impact of the proposed development

5.2.1. The proposed residential scheme is set back from the woodland and is not likely to result in significant direct harm. Direct harm to the woodland can be avoided through the use of appropriate temporary fencing to minimise the potential impact from plant, machinery operation and material mixing and storage. Other, indirect, harm can be avoided or reduced through the use of dust screens and an appropriate construction management plan to reduce noise and light pollution.

5.2.2. The proposal includes a new footpath through and around the woodland for new residents recreational use and with access connecting to the restricted byway to the south; Wick Hill Lane.

5.2.3. To minimise the impact of the footpath, whilst some smaller trees may need to be removed it will be designed to provide 2m clearance from the trunks of any significant trees and it will be built above the existing ground level and be semi-natural in appearance.

5.3. Woodland strategy

5.3.1. The principles of the woodland strategy set out below aim to minimise the risk associated with the threats outlined in Section 4 and achieve biodiversity enhancements that promote the quality and value of the woodland, whilst enhancing its ecological potential and ensuring it is in a harmonious relationship with the proposed development.

5.4. The Plan

1.1.4. The 10-year woodland management plan is aimed at promoting the quality and value of the woodland, whilst enhancing its ecological potential and ensuring it is in a harmonious relationship with the surrounding area.

Action	Outline Work Details	Objective	Year
Survey woodland post development completion	Carry out detailed hazard survey to account for varied site conditions. Remove any invasive understorey species woodland wide	Safety and arboricultural management	2
Removal of inorganic debris	Litter pick operation across the woodland on foot, check bird and bat boxes.	Improve habitat quality and potential	1
Tree thinning and glade creation	Carry out first phase of thinning (c.15% of dense stands) of dense overstorey plantings woodland wide and the creation of a glade where there are currently no significant individual specimens	Improve tree quality and provide improved light conditions	1
Barrier planting	Encourage growth of barrier shrubs and understorey adjacent to footpath to discourage access to sensitive areas	Limit pedestrian access	1
Monitoring visit	Annual review of tree condition, pests, disease and litter build up: instigate remedial action if necessary (further tree works and litter picking)	Ongoing management	4, 6, 8 and 10
Understorey monitoring	In areas of greater light penetration, review natural regeneration and plan for species introduction if necessary	Improve age balance and species diversity	4 and 8
Monitoring visit	Annual review of tree condition, pests, disease and litter build up: instigate remedial action if necessary (further tree works and litter picking)	Ongoing management	4, 6, 8 and 10
Thinning: woodland wide	Identify larger, better-quality specimens for specimen woodland trees, if suppressed halo thin semi-mature trees around to give space for growth	Improve age balance of woodland and give space for future growth	7
Understorey planting	Following on from understorey monitoring, utilise space for understorey planting and plant with hazel (for future coppice), hazel, sorbus and yew.	Improve age balance and species diversity	5 and 9
Re-survey woodland	Re-survey of woodland to focus on tree risk assessment and woodland condition. Review invasive species and litter levels.	Safety and arboricultural management	5
Incorporate habitat features	Identify trees suitable for the installation of bat and bird boxes and install them	Ecological improvements/biodiversity	2 and 10
Formative pruning	Review all planted trees and replace or undertake formative pruning as required	Enhance future woodland quality	6 and 10
2 nd phase of thinning:	Undertake a further 15% thinning of the dense stands of trees and encourage overstorey establishment	Improve existing tree growth potential and light penetration	10
Tree planting	Review natural regeneration and over storey continuity to establish if over storey planting required.	Improve age and species profile	If required

Table 1: Woodland management plan

1.1.5. The woodland management plan is based on the following principles:

- Maintain the woodland cover in the long-term through an ongoing programme of replanting to establish overstorey and understorey trees of native species.

- Retain dead standing and fallen trees as deadwood habitat where this will not pose a safety hazard. Retain fallen dead branches close to the trees from which they came to maintain the continuity of wildlife habitat.
- Undertake periodic selective thinning of low quality and exotic specimens to allow trees of best form and condition to grow on to maturity, coupled with selective thinning favouring the removal of undesirable species such as sycamore where found.
- Create and maintain a glade in by hay cutting as appropriate.
- Identify a number of mature trees to be retained long-term to secure future emerging veterans (trees that can be retained for an extended period with a range of deadwood features that are of value to wildlife). Where necessary undertake halo thinning around these trees to control competition from their neighbours.
- Follow a programme of periodic coppicing of the suitable understorey species to maintain a diversity of light levels and lower canopy structure. This will increase diversity of the ground flora of the woodland and thus its value for wildlife and improve woodland structure for carbon sequestration.
- Undertake periodic inspections of the structural condition of trees on the public boundaries to ensure tree safety.
- Undertake periodic inspections and management along public boundaries to create a woodland edge habitat, as required.
- Periodic check and clearance of any inorganic debris and deposited garden waste within the woodland area, with the material disposed of in accordance with the regulatory regime.
- All deadwood and any arisings from management works will be retained within the areas of woodland as log/brush piles. This will provide habitat and shelter for a range of wildlife. In addition, any existing deadwood should be carefully lifted and added to the piles where practicable. This will also ensure that sequestered carbon is not removed from the site.

- Appropriate checks and cleaning of any new bird boxes will be required, which will be carried out during the winter months, with any remedial measures completed as necessary. Bat boxes do not require cleaning as regularly, although periodic maintenance checks should be carried out.
- As part of the proposals, tree planting will be carried out if required. Where any new planting is proposed, it should aim to use native species, but where this is not practicable then species of known value for wildlife can be used. In particular, flowering plants will be of benefit to invertebrate species and shrubs and trees may provide nesting opportunities for birds once they become established.