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**BS5837:2012 ARBORICULTURAL
METHOD STATEMENT:
Land at Johnson Drive, Finchampstead, RG40 3NW**

Dated: 13th February 2025

Our reference: GHA/MS/169990:25

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Arboricultural Method Statement

Location: Land at Johnson Drive, Finchampstead, RG40 3NW
Our reference: GHA/MS/169990:25
Client: Palatine Homes
Dated: 13th February 2025
Prepared by: Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
Date of Inspection: 24th August 2023

Please note that abbreviations introduced in (brackets) may be used throughout the report.

Instructions

Issued by – Palatine Homes

TERMS OF REFERENCE – To survey the subject trees within Land at Johnson Drive, Finchampstead, in order to assess their general condition and to provide an arboricultural method statement for the approved development, that safeguards the long term well being of the nearby retained trees and satisfies planning condition number 17a.

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Executive Summary

The proposal for the site is to construct eight new detached houses on an area of land to the north of Johnson Drive. The existing site access from Johnson Drive will be reused, but adjusted slightly when within the site, bringing it further from the trees to the east. The retained trees require protection in accordance with industry best practice and BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations, in order to ensure their longevity.

Documents Supplied

The client supplied the following documents:

- Topographical survey
- Existing layout plans
- Proposed layout plans

Scope of Survey

- 1.1 The survey is concerned with the arboricultural aspects of the site only.
- 1.2 The planning status of the subject property was not investigated in detail.
- 1.3 A qualified Arboriculturist undertook the report and site visit and the contents of this report are based on this. Whilst reference may be made to built structure or soils, these are only opinions and confirmation should be obtained from a qualified expert as required.
- 1.4 Trees in third party ownership were surveyed from within the subject property, therefore a detailed assessment was not possible and some (if not all) measurements were estimated. Where the stem location of a third party tree has been estimated, this is noted on the plan.
- 1.5 Dense vegetation or climbers (such as ivy) also prohibited full inspections for some trees; this is noted where applicable.
- 1.6 No discussions took place between the surveyor and any other party.
- 1.7 The trees were inspected on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breleor (The body language of tree, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994)
- 1.8 The survey was undertaken in accord with British Standard 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 1.9 Tree works will be required to be in accord with British Standard 3998 – 2010 (Tree Work - Recommendations).
- 1.10 Underground services near to trees will need to be installed in accord with the guidance given in BS5837.
- 1.11 The client's attention is drawn to the responsibilities under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

Survey Method

- 2.1 The survey was conducted from ground level with the aid of binoculars if needed.
- 2.2 No tissue samples were taken nor was any internal investigation of the subject trees undertaken.
- 2.3 No soil samples were taken.
- 2.4 The height of each subject tree was estimated using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre.
- 2.5 The stem diameter for each tree was measured in line with the requirements set out in BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 2.6 The crown spreads were measured with an electronic distometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where the crown radius was notably different in any direction this has been noted on the Plan (appendix A) and within the tree table (Appendix B). The crowns of those trees that are proposed for removal, or trees where the crown spread is deemed insignificant in relation to the proposed development are not always shown on the appended plan; however their stem locations are marked for reference.
- 2.7 The Root Protection Area (RPA) for each tree is included in the tree table, both as an area, and as the radius of a circle.
- 2.8 The crown clearance was measured using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where it is significantly lower in one direction, this is noted within the tree table at appendix B.
- 2.9 All of the trees that were inspected during the site visit are detailed on the plan at Appendix A; this plan was produced in colour and **MUST** only be scanned or reproduced in colour. The trees on this plan are categorised and shown in the following format:

COLOUR CODING AND RATING OF TREES:

Category A – Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years. Colour = light green crown outline on plan.

Category B – Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years. Colour = mid blue crown outline on plan.

Category C – Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 to 20 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm. Colour = uncoloured crown outline 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. Colour = red crown outline on plan.

All references to tree rating are made in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations’, Table 1.

The Site

- 3.1 The site is located on Johnson Drive near to Finchampstead town centre.
- 3.2 A good tree cover is present on the site itself as well as adjacent sites, with many semi-mature and mature trees of both native and exotic origin characterising the local area.
- 3.3 Access to the property is currently gained via a driveway to the front (south) of the site.

The Subject Trees

- 4.1 The details of the subject trees are set out in the Schedule at Appendix B.
- 4.2 Of the thirty-five individual trees, and groups of trees surveyed, one group has been assessed as BS 5837 category A, nineteen trees have been assessed as BS category B, thirteen have been assessed as BS category C with the remaining group being assessed as BS 5837 category U.

Category A	1 group
Category B	19 trees
Category C	13 trees / groups
Category U	1 group

The Proposal

- 5.1 The proposal for the site is to construct eight new detached houses on an area of land to the north of Johnson Drive.
- 5.2 The existing site access from Johnson Drive will be reused, but adjusted slightly when within the site, bringing it further from the trees to the east.
- 5.3 The proposed location of the above structures can be seen on the appended plan.

Method Statement and Procedures for Development Works

6.1 TREE WORKS

A list of all tree works that are required (including trees to be removed) is included in the tree table at Appendix B. Where any tree work is needed, this work **MUST** be in accordance with British Standard 3998 – 2010 (Tree Work - Recommendations). If any minor works are required to implement scaffolding or allow safe site access, the retained arboriculturalist will visit the site to agree the specification and report the need for any such works to the local authority.

6.2 TREE PROTECTION BARRIERS

The position of the proposed protective fencing for the site is shown on the Tree Protection Plan (TPP) by a **pink** line. The fencing **MUST** be erected **prior** to any works in the vicinity of the trees and removed only when all development activity is complete. The protective fencing **MUST** be as that shown in BS 5837 (see Appendix C). The herras panels **MUST** be joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers which **MUST** be installed so they can only be removed from the inside of the fence. The panels **MUST** supported by stabilizer struts, which **MUST** be installed on the inside and secured to the ground using pins or appropriate weights.

The Fence must be marked with a clear sign reading:

“Construction Exclusion Zone – No Access”

6.3 REMOVAL / DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING STRUCTURES

Some existing structures located within the RPAs of retained trees will need to be removed. If these structures do not require removal to facilitate the development, they **MUST** be left in situ for the main phase of building works to offer additional protection and then removed as part of the landscaping phase, once all larger machinery has left site.

METHODOLOGY:

- If the fencing detailed in section 6.2 requires relocation, this **MUST** be moved to the edge of the structures which are to be removed, in order to protect the adjacent trees and their surrounding soil. This must be consulted with the retained arboriculturalist.
- The structure and sub base can be removed using a 360 excavator. The machine **MUST** work from outside the RPA. The machine **MUST** start work at the points nearest to any retained trees, working backward away from each tree so that the remaining hard surfacing can be used to support the load of the machine and protect the ground. **(NOTE: the size of any such machine should be checked before starting works, to ensure a) the existing surface will support the machines load and b) that there is sufficient crown clearances to avoid any potential for crown damage)**. This work **MUST** be undertaken utilising a banksman.
- The removed material **MUST** be moved to and stored outside of the RPA of all of the retained trees. This can either be done by transporting small pieces by

hand or using a machine to lift this material; any such machine **MUST** be parked outside the RPA or on appropriate ground protection.

- If during the work, any roots from the retained trees are discovered in excess of 25mm, the retained arboriculturalist **MUST** be contacted immediately to assess the roots and arrange subsequent working methods that will cause no damage to the tree(s).
- Care **MUST** be taken to avoid damage to the soil beneath these structures. If any roots are exposed, these should be covered immediately and the retained arboriculturalist **MUST** be contacted immediately to assess the roots and arrange subsequent working methods that will cause no damage to the tree(s).

6.4 BOUNDARY TREATMENTS

Boundary fencing installation / upgrades **MUST** be undertaken as part of the soft landscaping phase and **MUST** be installed ONLY when all machinery that is on site for the main build has permanently left the site (NB. If needed, boundary fencing can also be installed prior to the commencement of site works, i.e.. before any machinery has been brought onto the site). Where sections of new / upgraded fencing are located within the RPA of ANY tree that is to be retained, this work **MUST** be undertaken by hand using hand tools only. The locations of the new fence upright posts will be finalised following trial digs to confirm there are no major (over 25mm) roots present; if any such roots are found, the location must be altered. If any smaller roots are found, these can be cut using sharp hand sharp tools to leave a 'clean' cut, in order to minimise the risk of infection by decay pathogens. The post holes within the RPAs should then be lined with plastic sheeting before any concrete or cement is placed into the hole, in order that there is no risk of leaching into the nearby soil as the mixture dries.

6.5 DELIVERY AND STORAGE OF BUILDING MATERIALS

Storage areas **MUST** be outside of the tree protection barriers (**pink** lines) as shown on the appended plan.

6.6 SITE HUTS, WELFARE FACILITIES AND STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND CHEMICALS

All site huts **MUST** be positioned outside of tree RPAs and the tree protection barriers (**pink** lines) as shown on the appended plan.

6.7 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS IN THE RPA

The existing hard surfacing will be retained for pedestrian access to protect the ground and then removed as outlined in section 6.3 above.

6.8 USE CRANES, RIGS AND BOOMS

Precautionary measures **MUST** be observed to avoid contact of any retained trees when manoeuvring cranes rigs or booms into position.

6.9 INCOMING SERVICES, DRAINAGE AND SOAKAWAYS

New services **MUST** be routed to avoid all RPAs of retained trees on site and within nearby sites. From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, there is no reason to assume this isn't possible. Inspection chambers **MUST** be sited outside the RPA.

6.10 ON SITE SUPERVISION

Regular site supervision is essential to ensure all potentially damaging activities near to trees are properly supervised. A pre start site meeting **MUST** occur to ensure all parties are aware of their responsibilities relating to tree protection on site; this **MUST** include a site induction for key personnel.

Key personnel:

Name	Position	Contact number / email:
Glen Harding	Retained arboriculturalist	07884 056 025 Or info@ghatrees.co.uk
TBC	Local authority Arboricultural Officer	TBC
TBC	Site manager	TBC

At this pre start meeting, a supervision programme **MUST** be devised by the site manager and retained Arboriculturalist, ensuring that Arboricultural supervision is present at the appropriate periods during construction. The critical phases as listed below will be supervised inspected on site by the retained Arboriculturalist. The records of these site monitoring visits will be recorded on the site monitoring sheet at appendix D. After this pre start meeting, day-to-day responsibility for tree protection will be devolved to the site manager who will make contact with the retained arboriculturalist as needed.

Critical phases to be supervised / inspected on site by the retained Arboriculturalist:

NOTE: THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THESE ARE SCHEDULED APPROPRIATELY IN LINE WITH THE BUILD PROGRAMME IS WITH THE SITE MANAGER.

- Prior to tree pruning / removal to ensure work is correctly identified. **Date and time to be confirmed.**
- Following completion of the erection of protective fencing to ensure it is constructed to the correct specification at the required proximity to ensure the healthy retention of the trees. **Date and time to be confirmed.**

6.11 OTHER TREE PROTECTION PRECAUTIONS

- **NO** level alterations will occur within the RPA of any tree to be retained.
- **NO** fires lit on site within 20 metres of any tree to be retained.
- **NO** fuels, oils or substances with will be damaging to the tree shall be spilled or poured on site.
- **NO** storage of any materials within the root protections zone.

6.12 DISMANTLING PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

Protective barriers must only be completely removed when all machinery, and equipment has left site.

Conclusion

- 7.1 In conclusion, the principal arboricultural features within the site can be retained and adequately protected during development activities.
- 7.2 Subject to precautionary measures as detailed above, the proposal will not be injurious to trees to be retained.

Recommendations

- 8.2 Site supervision – An individual e.g. the Site Agent, must be nominated to be responsible for all arboricultural matters on site. This person must:
 - a. Be present on the site the majority of the time.
 - b. Be aware of the arboricultural responsibilities.
 - c. Have the authority to stop any work that is, or has the potential to cause harm to any tree.
 - d. Be responsible for ensuring that all site personnel are aware of their responsibilities towards trees on site and the consequences of the failure to observe those responsibilities.
 - e. Make immediate contact with the retained arboriculturalist in the event of any related tree problems occurring whether actual or potential.
- 8.3 It is recommended, that to ensure a commitment from all parties to the healthy retention of the trees, that details are passed by the architect or agent to any contractors working on site, so that the practical aspects of the above precautions are included in their method statements, and financial provision made for these.

13th February 2025

Signed:



Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
For and on behalf of GHA Trees

Appendix A
TREE PROTECTION PLAN
(see separate PDF)

Appendix B

TREE TABLE

Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
G1	Leyland cypress	7	300	1	3.60	As plan				M	0	20-40	C2	Managed cypress hedge. No notable defects recorded during inspection. Recommend: section to be removed.
T3	Norway maple	6	280	1	3.36	2	2	2	2	M	2	10-20	C1	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.
T4	Oak	15	610	1	7.32	3	8	8	6	M	6 plus epicormic	20-40	B2	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T5	Hawthorn	6	220	1	2.64	1	1	3	6	M	4	10-20	C1	Suppressed tree of poor form.
T6	Oak	15	590	1	7.08	4	8	9	6	M	5 over drive	20-40	B2	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T7	Oak	15	600	1	7.20	7	7	5	6	M	6	20-40	B2	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T8	Willow	5	110	1	1.32	1	3	2	0	M	2	10-20	C1	Small tree of limited value in the wider landscape.
T9	Silver birch	5	130	1	1.56	2	2	2	2	M	2	10-20	C1	Small tree of limited value in the wider landscape.
T10	Oak	14	640	1	7.68	3	7	5	3	M	6	20-40	B2	No notable defects recorded during inspection.

Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
T11	Hornbeam	16	400	1	4.80	1	4	4	5	M	8 plus epicormic	20-40	B2	Suppressed tree of poor form.
T12	Oak	16	1000	1	12.00	7	9	9	9	M	9 east	20-40	B2	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T13	Scots pine	18	540	1	6.48	2	6	2	1	M	13	20-40	B2	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T14	Oak	18	500	1	6.00	2	6	3	7	M	12	20-40	B2	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T15	Oak	22	990	1	11.88	7	10	9	9	M	10 east	20-40	B2	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T16	Turkey oak	22	800	1	9.60	8	10	8	7	M	5 east	20-40	B2	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T17	Oak	18	820	1	9.84	6	6	3	9	M	4.5	20-40	B2	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T18	Oak	20	730	1	8.76	7	7	7	7	M	2, first branch 4	20-40	B2	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.
T19	Silver birch	11	210	1	2.52	0	5	5	2	M	3 east	10-20	C1	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.
G20	Poplar	23	380	1	4.56	As plan				M	2, first branch 5	10-20	C2	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.

Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
T21	Oak	18	570	1	6.84	5	8	3	4	M	5 east	20-40	B2	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.
T22	Oak	15	440	1	5.28	6	8	2	4	M	4 east	20-40	B2	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.
T23	Silver birch	15	310	1	3.72	1	7	3	0	M	5	10-20	C1	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection. Suppressed by T21.
T24	Oak	16	490	1	5.88	4	5	4	3	M	6 plus epicormic	20-40	B2	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.
T25	Oak	20	800	1	9.60	7	14	10	7	M	2, first branch 6	20-40	B2	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.
T26	Silver birch	20	390	1	4.68	3	2	0	2	M	10	10-20	C1	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.
T27	Silver birch	17	260	1	3.12	2	6	2	2	M	2	20-40	B2	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.
T28	Oak	15	600	1	7.20	6	7	5	5	M	6	20-40	B2	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.

Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
T29	Hornbeam	12	336	3	4.04	5	3	4	6	M	1	10-20	C1	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.
T30	Oak	19	820	1	9.84	9	10	10	8	M	2, first branch 5	20-40	B2	Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection.
W31	Predominantly Scots Pine with an understorey of Silver Birch, Holly Yew, Sycamore and Hornbeam with occasional Oak and fronted on the eastern boundary with the site with occasional Common Oak	20	500	1	6.00	As plan				M	2 over site	40+	A2 and A3	No notable defects observed.
G32	Predominantly Poplar with occasional Sycamore, Common Oak And Willow	20	200	1	2.40	As plan				M	1	10-20	C2	Self set and tightly packed group of limited value. Recommend: be removed.

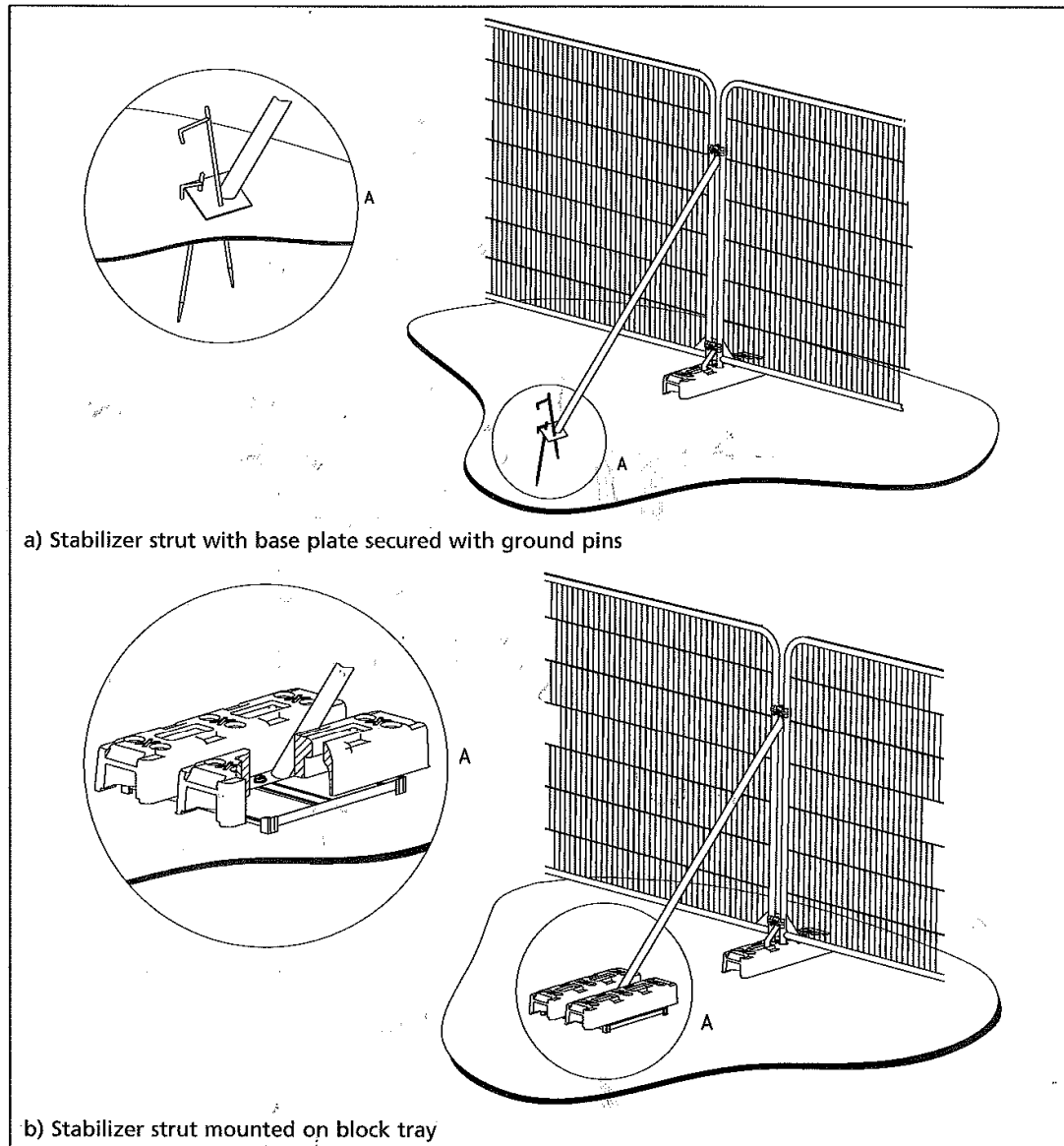
Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
T33	Apple	10	319	2	3.83	4	4	4	5	M	1.2	10-20	C2	Small tree of little value.
G34	One large and dominating Leyland Cypress and one smaller and suppressed Golden Lawson Cypress	21	700	1	8.40	As plan				M	0	Less than 10	U	Group of cypress. Northern tree has failed in past and large section of crown missing. Recommend: to be removed.
T35	Holly	5	150	1	1.80	2	2	2	2	Y	1	10-20	C1	Small tree of little value. Recommend to be removed

KEY :

Tree No: (T= individual tree, G= group of trees, W= woodland)
Age class: Young (Y), Middle aged (MA), Mature (M), Over mature (OM),
Veteran (V)
Height (Ht): Measured in metres +/- 1m

Appendix C
TREE FENCING DETAIL

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



Appendix D

Site Monitoring Sheet

Site:			
Project:			
Client:		Contact:	
Site monitoring inspection date:			Name of inspector:
Notes:			
Action required to rectify any issues:			
Date Action taken:			
Site monitoring inspection date:			Name of inspector:
Notes:			
Action required to rectify any issues:			
Date Action taken:			
Site monitoring inspection date:			Name of inspector:
Notes:			
Action required to rectify any issues:			
Date Action taken:			