

BEARWOOD SANG
WOKINGHAM

Arboricultural Method Statement and Scheme of Works

October 2024
12233_AMS.001 Rev A

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Aspect Arboriculture are instructed by Mr and Mrs Pike to prepare an Arboricultural Method Statement and Scheme of Works (hereafter the AMS) to inform the change of use of private woodland to informal recreational land.

1.1.2 Planning permission for the works have been granted subject to conditions under application 203539. Condition 6 requires the production of a scheme of tree protection to demonstrate how trees which are to be retained will be safeguarded during the works (reproduced below).

1.1.3 Condition 6 reads:

- (a) Following the removal of Rhododendron within the '10 metre offset' as shown on plan numbered 6768.PS.02 REV F but prior to the implementation of the proposed footpath, an Arboricultural Method Statement and Scheme of Works which provides for the retention and protection of trees, shrubs and hedges growing on or adjacent to the site in accordance with BS5837: 2012 will be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. No development or other operations shall take place except in complete accordance with the details as so-approved (hereinafter referred to as the Approved Scheme).*
- (b) No operations shall commence on site in connection with development hereby approved (including any tree felling, tree pruning, demolition works, soil moving, temporary access construction and or widening or any other operation involving use of motorised vehicles or construction machinery) until the tree protection works required by the Approved Scheme are in place on site.*
- (c) No excavations for services, storage of materials or machinery, parking of vehicles, deposit or excavation of soil or rubble, lighting of fires or disposal of liquids shall take place within an area designated as being fenced off or otherwise protected in the Approved Scheme.*
- (d) The fencing or other works which are part of the Approved Scheme shall not be moved or removed, temporarily or otherwise, until all works including external works have been completed and all equipment, machinery and surplus materials removed from the site, unless the prior approval in writing of the local planning authority has first been sought and obtained.*

1.1.4 This AMS and Tree Protection Plan (TPP) has been prepared in direct response to this request, and specifies all safeguarding measures which must be adopted during the installation of the footpath to prevent harm from occurring to retained trees.

1.1.5 It is our understanding that this work will be submitted to, and approved by, Wokingham Borough Council (hereafter the Council), prior to the commencement of any footpath related construction works occurring on site. Once approved, the safeguarding measures and works should be implemented as specified and maintained to the Council's satisfaction until completion of the works.

- 1.1.6 The confident protection of retained trees will be achieved through the use of the appended Tree Protection Plan (appendix A) and adherence with the approach detailed.

1.2 **Scope**

- 1.2.1 This work relates to arboriculture therefore reliance should not be given to comments made in respect of other disciplines i.e. civil engineering or construction phasing, without first referencing an appropriate expert.

1.3 **Limitations**

- 1.3.1 This document has been prepared to inform safeguarding measures during introduction of the hoggin footpath and should not be interpreted as a report on tree health and safety. Reasonable effort has been made to identify visible defects whilst carrying out the tree survey, however trees are prone to natural failure without warning; no guarantee can be made as to the absolute safety of any of the trees surveyed.
- 1.3.2 Aspect's opinion of tree condition and structural potential is valid for limited period of twelve months from the date of survey. Validity is assumed in the absence of inclement weather and no change to the trees' existing context.

2 ESSENTIAL WORK

2.1 Tree Protection Plan

2.1.1 The Tree Protection Plan (TPP) provided in appendix A will be relied upon during the implementation of the hoggin footpath. It should be read in conjunction with the entirety of this document. To prevent avoidable damage occurring to retained trees or erroneous tree loss, a scaled A1 copy of the TPP, accompanied by a copy of this document will be provided to the Project Manager. This will ensure they are able to:

- Identify features of the route that must be prepared/installed under an arboricultural watching brief;
- Request attendance of the Project Arboriculturist on site to provide advice in case of any emerging issues;
- Demonstrate compliance with the Council's consent for the scheme by safeguarding trees which are to be retained.

2.2 Tree Removals

2.2.1 The first tranche of tree removal comprises the partial removal of compartment C16 as detailed within the approved car parking plan 6768.PSCP.03 REV E. These are required to facilitate access to the wider woodland to implement the removal of Rhodoendron from within the '10 metre offset' as detailed on approved plan 6768.PS.02 REV F.

2.2.2 Trees to be removed will be spray marked with a red flash by the project arboriculturist. The marking out of partial tree group or hedge clearances will be done by the Project Arboriculturist with the assistance of a site engineer. This will ensure site features can be clearly identified on the ground and ensure the correct judgement made as to the extent of clearance required. The presence of the appointed arboricultural contractor is also recommended during this process to safeguard against erroneous felling.

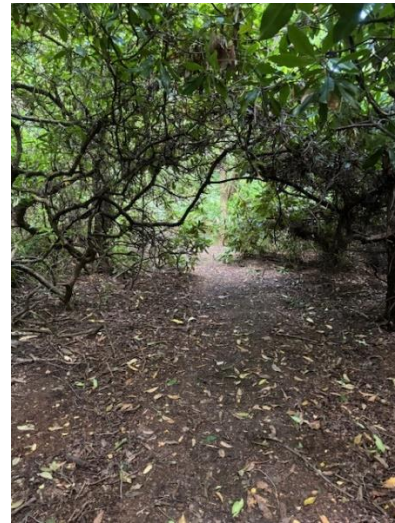
2.2.3 Felling works should be timed to avoid the main nesting season for birds between 1st March and 31st August. If scheduled within this period an ecologist must be present to advise on any necessary protective measures, and to confirm that tree works are not likely to cause disturbance to nesting birds.

2.2.4 The additional tree removal necessary to implement the proposed hoggin footpath are minimal, and limited to a small amount of young scrub/sapling establishment (below 40mm dia. – Figure 1) alongside clearance of established Rhododendron (Figure 2) to provide sufficient width. Both of which can be carried out following implementation of the site's car park provision; necessary to provide access for the works.

Figure 1: Example sapling clearance



Figure 2: Example Rhododendron removal



- 2.2.5 To confirm, all principal trees and dominant canopy trees within boundary collections will be retained within the scheme. Figure 3 below illustrates the degree of clearance achieved through the removal of Rhododendron within close proximity to the proposed works (photo taken within Fox Hill Wood), demonstrating the ready retention of dominant trees whilst delivering a suitable footpath route.

Figure 3: Example of clearance within Fox Hill Wood provided by the removal of Rhododendron.



2.3 Protective Barriers

2.3.1 Tree protection barriers are required to safeguard retained trees from damage during construction works to form the approved car park. Protective barriers must therefore be installed before any construction works are carried out, and remain in situ until completion of works in the vicinity. Where the direct protection of trees is required, the protective barriers should comprise the default specification provided within BS5837:2012 (barrier type A below).

2.3.2 Plate 1. Tree Protection Barriers.



2.3.3 The alignment of protective barriers is illustrated with a bold blue line within the TPP (appendix A); all car park related construction and material storage will occur within the footprint of the car park itself.

2.3.4 The Site Manager will be responsible for arranging attendance of the Project Arboriculturist, for the purpose of setting out barriers; issues will be resolved on site and reported to the Council's Arboricultural Officer by the Project Arboriculturist.

2.4 Pruning Works

2.4.1 Necessary pruning works are anticipated to be limited to occasional minor crown lifting works to provide c.2.4m clearance over the proposed hoggin footpath to enable both its installation and use.

2.4.2 Although not required to facilitate the proposed change of use, it also recommended that trees adjacent to the proposed route are entered into a regular programme of risk assessment. As part of this, remedial works should be carried out to dangerous trees within close proximity of the proposed route, to help mitigate the risk of future tree related hazards emerging.

2.4.3 Pruning works should be timed to avoid the main nesting season for birds between 1st March and 31st August. If scheduled within this period an ecologist must be present to advise on any

necessary protective measures, and to confirm that tree works are not likely to cause disturbance to nesting birds.

- 2.4.4 Pruning work must be undertaken in accordance with section 7.3 (for removal of deadwood), section 7.6 (for crown lifting) and section 7.8 (for selective pruning) of BS3998:2010. A qualified and competent contractor should be employed to ensure that cuts are performed correctly and positioned so as to avoid future structural defects or physiological issues, facilitate growth and maintain aesthetic value.

2.5 **Installation of Hoggin Footpath**

- 2.5.1 The majority of the proposed route comprises Root Protection Areas of retained trees. Consequently, the footpath must be installed sensitively in its entirety. Imperative to this will be preventing/minimising the requirement for excavation works to form the path, thereby precluding associated root severance.

- 2.5.2 To achieve this, it is proposed that excavation works are limited to c.50mm to remove ground vegetation. The arisings from this excavation are to form shallow earth bunds (c.100mm high) to either side of the footpath route. The hoggin path is to be installed in the traditional manner within this channel. This approach will facilitate the installation of the hoggin path as approved, whilst limiting excavation to the absolute minimum possible.

- 2.5.3 It is anticipated that in addition to hand held tools, the works will require access for chippers and dumpers. To prevent compaction of the underlying RPAs of retained trees during installation, all machinery used must be pedestrian (preferably tracked). Any arisings from Rhododendron removal or remedial tree works that are too large for a tracked chipper, can be stacked either side of the footpath.

2.6 **Proposed Order of Works**

- i. Pre-commencement site meeting between the Project Arboriculturist, Project Manager, Contractor and the Council's Arboricultural Officer. Initial tree removals, stages of arboricultural auditing/monitoring requirements will be identified/agreed.
- ii. The Council's Arboricultural Officer shall be informed of the proposed commencement date as soon as possible, to allow the inspection of works.
- iii. Tree protection barriers are to be installed following removals and prior to construction works commencing in the vicinity. Upon request, barrier positions can be set-out by the Project Arboriculturist, as detailed within this document.
- iv. Removal of Rhododendron to be carried out throughout the route, enabling access to finalise route and form hoggin footpath.
- v. The Project Manager will assume responsibility for arranging the attendance of the Project Arboriculturist in the event of any issues requiring a variation from the proposed approach. The Council's Arboricultural Officer shall be informed of any

issues, and solutions shall be agreed between the Project Arboriculturist and the Arboricultural Officer.

2.7 Project Manager's Point of Contact for Arboricultural Input:

- A. Mr James Bardey
Principal Arboricultural Consultant
Aspect Arboriculture
Telephone: 01295 276066
Email: James.Bardey@aspect-arbor.com

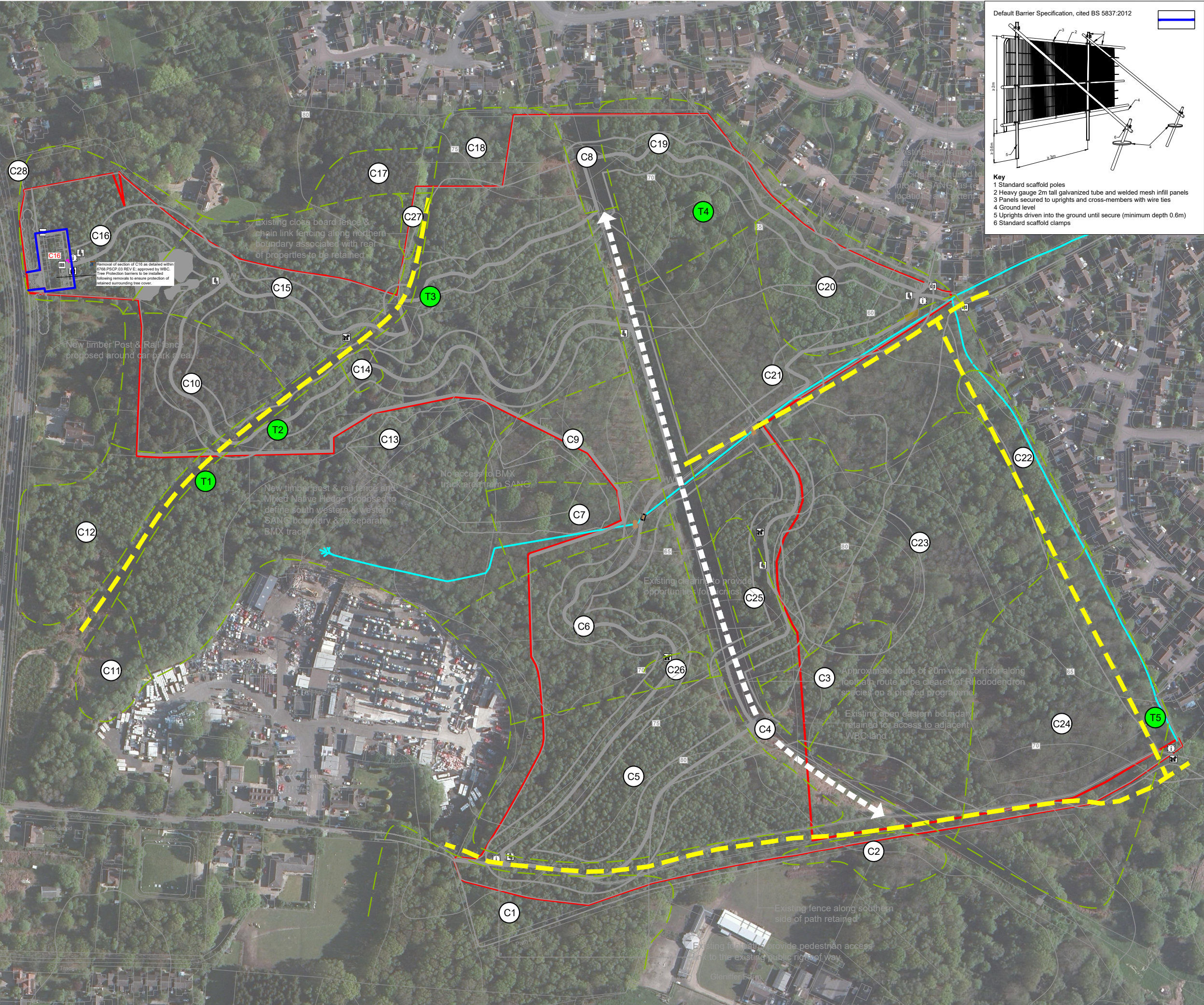
3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 This document has been prepared in response to Condition 6 of planning permission 203539, for the change of use of private woodland to informal recreational land. It has been informed by guidance provided in BS5837:2012.
- 3.2 Pursuant to the instruction, this document and its supporting Appendix identify the consented tree removals, pruning works, and works within RPAs associated with the introduction of the proposed hoggin footpath that must be managed to facilitate the confident protection of retained trees during the works.
- 3.3 To ensure confident tree retention, identification of the route following Rhododendron removal must be informed by the Project Arboriculturist and audited by the Council's Arboricultural Officer.
- 3.4 It is Aspect's opinion that subject to strict adherence to this document, the proposed hoggin footpath can be implemented without detrimentally affecting the woodland.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

TREE PROTECTION PLAN (12233 TPP 01 Rev A)



KEY:

- Site Boundary
- Primary Internal Path
- Powerline Clearance
- Compartment Number
- Tree Number
- Indicative Footpath Route
- Trees to be Removed
- Tree Protection Barrier

- C1 - Mature English Oak and Silver Birch standards, with an intermittent Holly, Hazel, Rowan understorey. Occasional Rhododendron and Laurel present within northern extent adjacent to informal footpath. Recommend Rhododendron and Laurel are cleared.
- C2 - Mature Sweet Chestnut and English Oak standards, with an intermittent Holly understorey. Semi mature Silver Birch present immediately to north with a dense Holly understorey; area is largely inaccessible due to understorey. Weak/hazardous trees adjacent to informal footpath have been identified for removal.
- C3 - Bike jump track within a cleared/thinned area of woodland. Semi to early mature Silver Birch with a dense Rhododendron understorey bounds all sides.
- C4 - Trees and understorey vegetation cleared for powerline clearance. Primary informal footpath beneath powerlines.
- C5 - Dense semi to early mature Silver Birch with a dense understorey of Rhododendron; area is largely inaccessible. Area would benefit from thinning and clearance of Rhododendron, and the introduction of other species.
- C6 - Semi to early Silver Birch dominant within the south-eastern extent with Ash and Alder becoming the dominant species towards the north and northwest. Occasional Aspen and outlying Goat Willow present within north-eastern extent where drainage ditches are more frequent (within the woodland basin). Understorey is predominantly comprised of Rhododendron. Area would benefit from selective thinning and clearance of Rhododendron.
- C7 - Large bike jump track within a cleared/thinned area of woodland, known as Fox Hill track; appears to be well used and managed by an active group of local residents. Extensive earth works have been undertaken throughout the area to form the track and maintain drainage. Predominantly flanked by semi to early mature Silver Birch with a dense understorey of Rhododendron. Recommend engaging with residents to enhance/manage this asset.
- C8 - Established Gorse beneath powerlines.
- C9 - Area of semi mature to mature Sweet Chestnut with evidence of historic coppice work, and an intermittent Rhododendron understorey. Occasional windthrow and partially sprouted specimen throughout area. Area would benefit from staged thinning/re-coppicing and the clearance of Rhododendron.
- C10 - Mature stand of Scots Pine, with the occasional Larch, Beech and Silver Birch, and a sparse understorey of Holly. Bound on all sides by Silver Birch and dense Rhododendron.
- C11 - Clearing/sparse area of woodland, populated with Rhododendron, Gorse and young Silver Birch, occasional English Oak; area is largely inaccessible. Area would benefit from clearance of Rhododendron and new tree planting.
- C12 - Semi to early mature Silver Birch with a dense understorey of Rhododendron and the occasional semi mature English Oak; area is largely inaccessible. Area would benefit from selective thinning and the clearance of Rhododendron.
- C13 - Area of predominantly semi to early mature Silver Birch and Alder, with a dense understorey of Rhododendron; area is largely inaccessible. Occasional other species present around peripheries of the area, including Sweet Chestnut, Hornbeam, Goat Willow and English Oak.
- C14 - Clearing within woodland; ground flora not suppressed by Rhododendron; Bluebells present.
- C15 - Area of semi to early mature Silver Birch with a dense understorey of Rhododendron; area is largely inaccessible. Area would benefit from selective thinning and clearance of Rhododendron.
- C16 - Area of young Silver Birch with intermittent clearings and establishing Rhododendron understorey. Occasional semi mature English Oak and Silver Birch positioned along Bearwood Road frontage. Area would benefit from new tree planting and clearance of Rhododendron.
- C17 - Area of semi to early mature stand of Scots Pine with the occasional Silver Birch and English, and an intermittent Holly and Rhododendron understorey. Recommend clearance of Rhododendron.
- C18 - Area of mature Silver Birch and occasional English Oak and Sweet Chestnut, and an intermittent understorey of Holly and Rowan. Recommend new tree planting.
- C19 - Area of early mature Silver Birch, Sycamore and Oak (Sycamore is becoming the dominant species in this area of the woodland), with a dense understorey of Rhododendron; area is largely inaccessible beside from established informal footpaths adjacent to residential development.
- C20 - Area of predominantly early mature Sycamore with the occasional Ash, Alder and intermittent understorey of Holly and Hawthorn (Sycamore is becoming the dominant species in this area of the woodland); some evidence of historic coppicing throughout. Area would benefit from thinning of Sycamore and planting of new trees.
- C21 - Area of predominantly Sweet Chestnut with evidence of historic coppicing throughout. Occasional young to semi mature Sycamore and Silver Birch throughout with an understorey of Holly, Rowan and Hazel. Rhododendron is encroaching into the area from the south; windthrow and partially uprooted Sweet Chestnut throughout the area. Area would benefit from selective thinning and staged re-coppicing, and the clearance of Rhododendron.
- C22 - Area of mature Oak and Sweet Chestnut standards positioned along the boundary with adjacent residential development; intermittent Holly understorey.
- C23 - Area of semi mature to early mature Alder, Silver Birch and Sweet Chestnut, with an intermittent Holly, Rhododendron and Rowan understorey; young regenerative growth throughout. Recommend clearance of Rhododendron and introduction of other species.
- C24 - Area of mature Sweet Chestnut standards, with the occasional mature English Oak and semi mature Silver Birch to the northwest. Sparse understorey of predominantly Holly.
- C25 - Dense Rhododendron understorey adjacent to informal footpath and powerlines.
- C26 - Bike jumps within a thinned/cleared area of the woodland; flanked on all sides by dense Silver Birch and Rhododendron.
- C27 - Mature Beech positioned along boundary fence.
- C28 - Mature English Oak and Scots Pine positioned along frontage with Bearwood Road. New Access should avoid these trees.
- T1 - Mature Sweet Chestnut standard amongst area of Silver Birch and dense Rhododendron.
- T2 - Mature Scots Pine standard amongst dense Silver Birch and Rhododendron.
- T3 - Mature Rowan Standard.
- T4 - Mature lopped/pollarded Coppard Beech.
- T5 - Mature Beech standard within an area of predominantly mature Sweet Chestnut.

A	OCT 24	Updated to layout received 16.10.2024	JB	n/a
REV	DATE	NOTE	Drawn	Chk'd
REVISIONS				

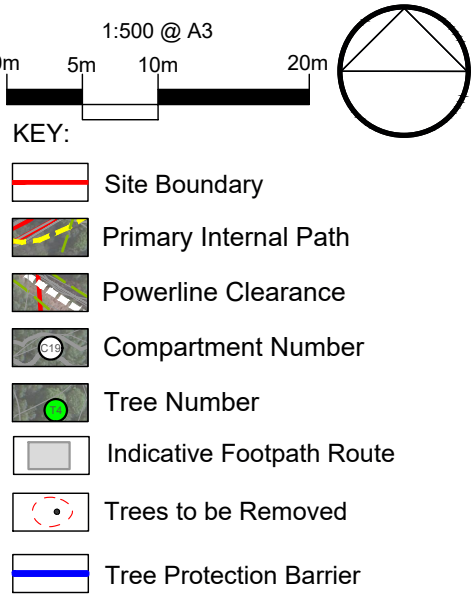
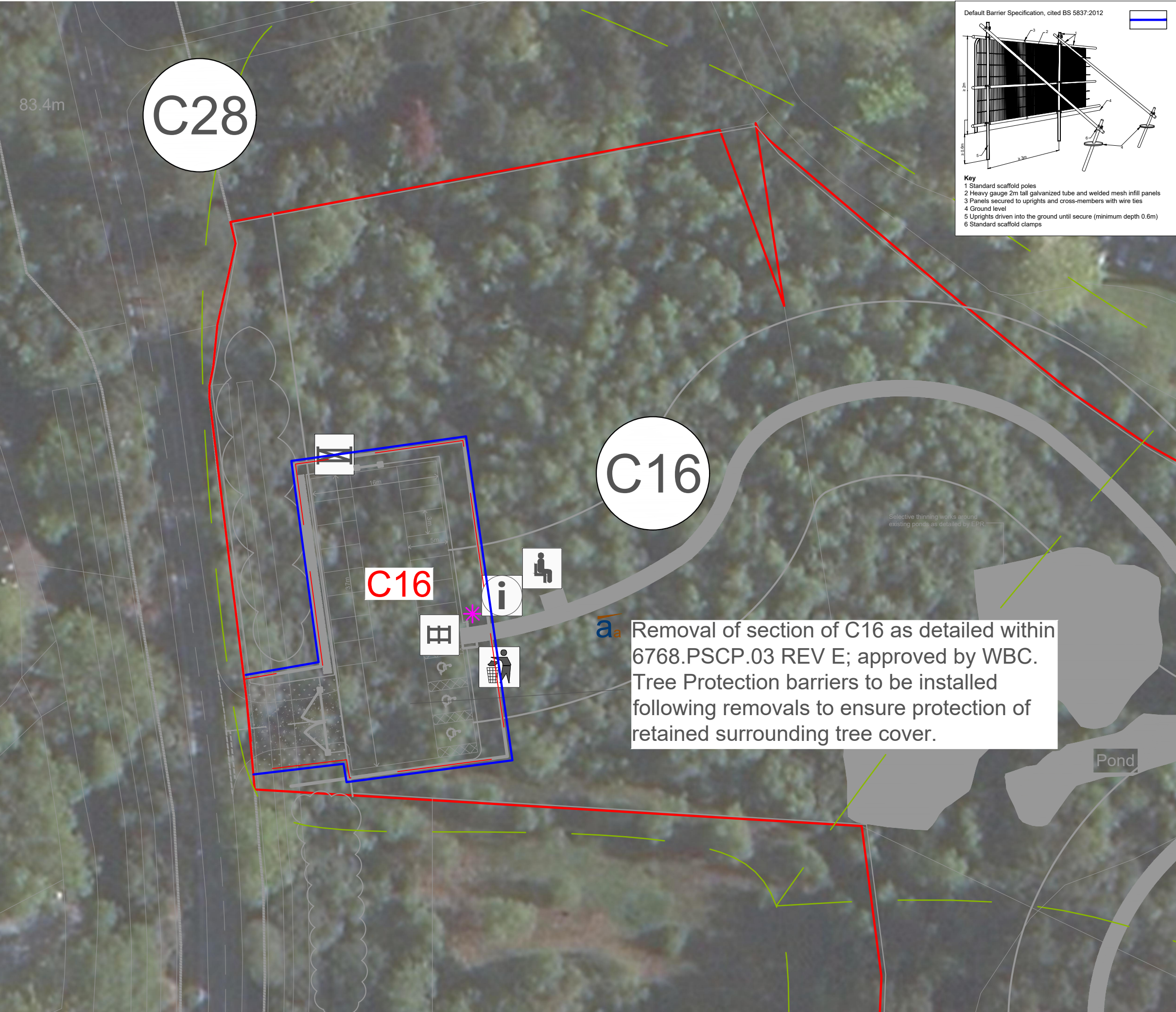
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TITLE
**Bearwood SANG
Tree Protection Plan**

CLIENT
Mr & Mrs Pike

SCALE Not to scale	DATE AUG 2024	DRAWN JB
DRAWING NUMBER 12233 TPP 01	REVISION	

Based on:6768.PS.02_ Rev I



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