



H-pack, Davy Way, Llay, Wrexham, LL12 OPG

Arboricultural Implication Study

September 2022



Contents



		and the third of the		
Section	Description			
Chapter 1	Introduction			
Chapter 2	Background			
Chapter 3	Tree Survey		的一种人	
Chapter 4	Development Implications			
Chapter 5	Conclusions	0 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		
Drawing(s)		1 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	AS IN	
TCP/4682/Y/100	Arboricultural Survey			
ARB/4682/Y/200	Arboricultural Layout		AK M	
TPP/4682/Y/300	Tree Protection			
Appendices	all the second			
A	Tree Tables			
В	Method Statement			S AT LON
	Martin Contraction		Land S	The L

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Chapter 1 Introduction

1.01

ACS Consulting is instructed by H-Pack Packaging UK Ltd to report on trees and the implications for the proposed development at; Land Adjacent to H-pack, Davy Way, Llay, Wrexham, LL12 OPG. The assessment and report is undertaken by Ian Murat, Registered Consultant of the Arboricultural Association.

1.02

In accordance with guidance on information requirements and validation for planning applications, this report fulfils the recommended national list criteria for tree survey/arboricultural information. More specifically, it contains the following:

- A full tree survey to the requirements of BS5837 (2012) Trees In Relation To Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations.
- A plan showing tree survey information, retention categorisation and root protection areas,
- An assessment of the arboricultural implications of development detailing trees to be retained/removed and appropriate protection measures,
- An Arboricultural Method Statement detailing a set of agreed principles for tree protection, implementation and phasing of works (where applicable).

1.03

The site was visited during July 2022. A survey of the trees was completed recording; species type, age, height, crown spread, diameter-at-breast-height and, condition.



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Chapter 2 Background



2.01 The Site

The site is a current manufacturing unit with open grassed areas and areas of hard standing on the Llay Industrial Estate, Llay, Wrexham (Figure 1).

2.02 Statutory Protection/Planning Policies

The current policy documentation consists of the Wrexham Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) 2013 to 2028; Local Planning Guidance Notes No 17 - Trees and Development and; Planning Policy Wales. The application site is not located within a Conservation Area. The status of the trees in terms of a Tree Preservation Order is not known.

2.03 Soils

BS 5837 – 2012 requires a basic assessment of the soils on site. An examination of the British Geological Survey site notes the superficial deposits as: Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.

The Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute Soilscapes viewer shows soils at the site to be slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.

2.04 Topographical Survey

The arboricultural survey is based on the supplied plan. Where trees have been missed, they have been added with a reasonable degree of accuracy.



Figure 1

Chapter 3 Tree Survey



3.01

I have identified trees as individuals, groups or woodlands. The group/woodlands classification is intended to identify trees that form cohesive arboricultural features either aerodynamically, visually or culturally. Off-site trees and groups that could influence the development potential of the site, have been noted. Their attributes have been approximated.

3.02

The tree data can be found at Appendix A. There is no requirement in BS 5837 to repeat the details of the constraints information save for confirming that the tree was surveyed for species type, age, height, crown spread, diameter-at-breastheight, condition, and its suitability for retention from ground level.

The height was measured with a digital Hypsometer and the diameter taken with a diameter tape to give an average stem measurement. Canopy spreads have been measured at the cardinal points or where they significantly extend in other directions.

Chapter 4 Development Implications



4.01 Application

The proposed development comprises the following elements: Full planning application for the erection of a storage and distribution building (Class B8) with circa 14,865 Sqm (160,000 Sq ft) footprint including ancillary (integral) offices over two floors, creation of a service yard and dedicated parking areas for cars, with associated access and servicing including new vehicle access points from Rackery Lane (for cars only) and modified vehicle access work to Davy Way (for HGVs only), new landscaping and other works. [sic]

4.02 Development Implications

The development will retain the site's principal arboreal specimens when viewed from Davy Way and Rackery Lane. The development design is driven by prescriptive site width and depths which means that the proposed development can only be accommodated on this site in the proposed layout.

4.03 Storage and Distribution Building

The development occupies the grassed area in the centre of the site resulting in the loss of one C Category specimen. The current service road will require a slight re-alignment in a small number of locations resulting in the removal of some very minor, self-set specimens of inconsequential stature. The footprint of the development retains the visual significant oak trees along the site's northern and western boundaries. Overall, the arboricultural impact is negligible.

4.04 New Vehicle Access Point Rackery Lane

The development proposes a new access point for cars only from Rackery Lane. The access point has been selected as it has the least impact on the trees located in the highway estate and those within the site. Rackery Lane, from its junction with Davy Lane travelling generally northwards, is particularly well-treed. The trees form a gateway into the rural environs as the road travels into open countryside towards Caer-Estyn.

4.05

The entrance will result in the loss of trees from within the highway estate. The trees in the highway estate have been rated as highly desirable Category A. However, within any population of trees are a range of specimens of differing categories wen assessed against the British Standard. The new entrance has been placed along the site's southern boundary in the south eastern corner. This location has a population of C Category specimens both those that are found as structure planting within the site and those within the highway estate.

4.06

In terms of visual amenity and the impact on the treed character of the site from the principal public vantage points, the impact is negligible. There are only private internal views from the site. From the highway, the scheme retains the principal oaks along the highway verge maintaining the character of the lane.

Chapter 4 Development Implications



4.07

Overall, the removal of these trees has no implications for the tree cover at the site. In line with the advice set out in BS 5837, the trees are not of such importance and sensitivity as to be a major constraint on development or, justify substantial modification of the proposals.

4.08

The Category C trees are unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories. They offer low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits.

4.09

The entrance has a slight impact on the Root Protection Area of one of the site's trees. In line with the advice at Section 4.6.2 BS 5837 – 2012, the RPA of the trees along the highway have been modified to reflect the asymmetric rooting due to the location of the road. A polygon of equivalent area has been plotted. The modification to the shape of the RPA reflects soundly based arboricultural assessment of likely root distribution.

4.10

The new entrance slightly impacts on the modified rooting area of one of the highway oaks. In percentage terms, the entrance accounts for around 11% of the overall modified RPA. The pavement in this location has been deleted to ensure root loss is kept to a minimum. The RPA in this area will only comprise fine fibrous roots that are infinitely variable in their distribution and influenced in their location by a number of factors.

4.11

If it is the case that there are roots, the excavation located in the RPA of the tree is not considered to be wholly detrimental to its long-term retention. There are a number of studies on the impact of the root severance. Studies have shown the RPA calculated by the simplistic mathematical formula does not correspond to the wider root system correlations can be drawn with the work by Thomas¹. At the current site, the impacts would be less than the parameters cited by Peter Thomas. There is little correlation between the percentage RPA and root impairment or loss. Most RPAs tend to exceed canopy spread suggesting that RPA encroachment understates root loss. The informal reduction noted in BS5837 – 2012 of 20% may actually equate to a higher percentage loss. Studies suggest that between 30% and 50% root loss can be tolerated by healthy trees though there may be some slight corresponding die back. It is not possible to redesign the scheme and relocate it elsewhere. The tree genus involved is tolerant of development impacts and of an age where it is still capable of tolerating such root loss. In accordance with BS 5837 – 2012, there is around contiguous to the RPA for compensatory root growth. Measures can be implemented to enhance the rooting area.

^{1.} Thomas, P., (2014). Trees Their Natural History.

Chapter 4 Development Implications



4.12

The pavement from the south will be continued into the site. Where it is located in the RPA of retained trees, it will be constructed using three-dimensional geo-grids.

4.13 Pruning

None. There is no requirement for Access Facilitation Pruning.

4.14 Secondary Development Pressures None.

4.15 Planning Policy

The over-arching policy guidance in respect of the site is that contained within the Wrexham Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) 2013 to 2028; Local Planning Guidance Notes No 17 -Trees and Development and; Planning Policy Wales.

4.16

In accordance with policy, the proposed scheme has conserved trees which contribute positively to the visual amenity and environmental value of the area.

4.17

The development accords with the policies and guidance of the council and the Welsh Government. The development is based on best arboricultural practice that ensures trees are retained. The application recognises that the retention of existing trees can add maturity to the development and enhance its visual quality and character. The development is well designed and it is considered to have a symbiotic relationship with the trees. The application is supported by a landscaping scheme which aims to blend and mature as the development integrates into the surroundings. The landscaping scheme exceeds current tree removals and its quality compensates tree losses in the medium and long-term.

4.18

The arboricultural impact assessment is provided to BS5837:2012 standard (or subsequent revisions). Areas of potential conflict in terms of site development are addressed by the method statement at Appendix B.

Chapter 5 Conclusions

5.01

The Arboricultural Layout Plan indicates the location of the development.

5.02

The unintended consequence of the development will be the loss of Category C trees. They are unremarkable specimens of very limited merit. They are low quality offering only temporary/transient landscape benefits. The scale of change will be low. The development retains trees in good spatial positions that help to screen the development and tree loss from the main visual receptors. The development design is driven by prescriptive site width and depths which means that the proposed development can only be accommodated on this site in the proposed layout.

Overall, the removal of these trees has no implications for the tree cover at the site. In line with the advice set out in BS 5837, the trees are not of such importance and sensitivity as to be a major constraint on development or, justify substantial modification of the proposals.

Replacement provision is considered appropriate taking into account the trees that are being replaced and the location.



5.03

A method statement is appended to demonstrate the scheme is feasible. Certain matters listed therein may alternatively be addressed satisfactorily by means of a condition(s). This requires detailed discussions with the LPA on the principle that conditions should always be used in the first instance as per government guidance and that contained in BS 5837 – 2012 Table B.1 Delivery of tree-related information into the planning system; the method statement fulfils the recommended criteria for arboricultural information.

Appendix A

Contents

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BS 5837 2012

Tree data





<u>KEY</u>

Age	 Y – Young: Out-planted trees that have not yet established SM – Semi-mature: Established trees up to 1/3 of expected height and crown EM – Early mature: Between 1/3 and 2/3 of expected height and crown M – Mature: Between 2/3 and full expected height and crown FM – Fully mature: Full expected height and crown OM – Over mature: Crown beginning to break-up and decrease in size S – Senescent: Crown in advanced stage of break-up
Physiological Condition	Good – Very few defects a reasonable long life expectancy depending on age class Fair – Some defects giving the tree a shortened life expectancy Poor – Limited life with major problems
Structural Condition	Good – Very few defects Fair – Some defects rectifiable with minor tree surgery Poor – Significant defects rectifiable with major tree surgery or felling
#	Estimated dimensions.
(a)	Average stem diameter across a group of trees.
*	Tree subject to TPO.

Table 1 – Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria										
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 are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline. 										
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation.								
Trees To Be Considered For Retention											
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 essential components of groups, or of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dormant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features.	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	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 growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than 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.	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 150 mm.	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories.	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value, and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits.	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural benefits	GREY							



Tree Ref No.	Species	Height	Stem Diameter	Branch Spread M		Height of Crown Clearance	Crown Branch	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments/Preliminary Management Recommendations	Estimated Remaining Contribution	Category Grading		
		М	ММ	N	E	S	w	М	M					Years	
G1	Group	2	<75	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0	0	Y/SM	Good	Good	Mixed species group as a linear feature – principally hawthorn. Growing through the fence. A group of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
G2	Group	<4	<100	2	2	2	2	0	0	SM	Good	Good	Mix of formally planted and self-set trees including birch, ash and hazel. Located off-site. A group of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
H1	Hedge	2	<75	1	1	1	1	0	0	Y	Good	Good/ Fair	Self-set trees along the boundary. Growing through the fence. Located in third party property. Willow, hawthorn, ash and rosa. A hedge of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
1	Ash	8.5	280	3	3	4	2	1	2	SM	Good	Good	Self-set tree of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
G3	Broad- leaved Group	<8	200	3	3	3	3	0	1	Y/SM	Good	Good	Linear group of self-set ash, sorbus and oak with rosa growing in between. Located in third party property on steeply sloping ground the other side of the fence. A group of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2



Tree Ref No.	Species	Height	Stem Diameter	Branch Spread M		Height of Clear Crown Branc Clearance Heigh		Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments/Preliminary Management Recommendations	Estimated Remaining Contribution	Category Grading		
		М	ММ	N	E	S	w	м	M					Years	
2	Oak	8	250	4	4	4	4	0	0	SM	Good	Good	Located on top of the bank. A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
G4	Group	<6	<100	2	2	2	2	0	0	SM	Good	Good	Group of self-set blackthorn, hawthorn and oak with rosa. A group of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
G5	Group	<12	250	3	З	З	3	0	0	Y/SM	Good	Good	Linear group of self-set pioneer trees - goat willow, hawthorn and ash with secondary succession of oak. Dense thicket of bramble. Approximately 10-14m in width. A group of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
G6	Oak	<14	<300	3	3	3	3	2	2	EM/M	Good	Good	Linear group of oak along the boundary to the rear of G5. A group of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
3	Ash	7	135	2	2	2	2	2	2	SM	Fair	Good	Dead wood and dieback. A tree of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2



Tree Ref No.	Species	Height	Stem Diameter	Branch Spread M		Height of Crown Clearance	own Branch	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments/Preliminary Management Recommendations	Estimated Remaining Contribution	Category Grading		
		М	ММ	N	E	S	w	М	м					Years	
G7	Broad- leaved Group	<6	<150	2	2	2	2	0	0	Y	Good	Good	Pioneer species and scrub. Ash, goat willow, blackthorn, birch, sycamore, gorse and hawthorn. Ground layer of grass thistle and bramble. Secondary seedlings of oak and secondary succession of oak – around 3m in height. A number of dead ash within the group. A group of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
G8	Oak	15	#400	#4	#4	#4	#4	#2	#2	Μ	Good	Good	Group of oak trees located to the rear of the site along the boundary – possibly in fields beyond. A group of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
G9	Oak	15	#500	#4	#4	#4	#4	#2	#2	Μ	Good	Good	Group of oak trees located to the rear of the site along the boundary – possibly in fields beyond. A group of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
G10	Oak	12	#500	#4	#4	#4	#4	#2	#2	Μ	Good	Good	Group of oak trees located to the rear of the site along the boundary – possibly in fields beyond. A group of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2



Tree Ref No.	Species	Height	Stem Diameter	Branch Spread M		Height of Clear Crown Branch Clearance Height		Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments/Preliminary Management Recommendations	Estimated Remaining Contribution	Category Grading		
		м	ММ	N	E	S	w	М	M					Years	
G11	Oak	15	#650	#5	#5	<8	4	2	2	Μ	Good	Good	Linear group of 5 oak trees. Located on the boundary in the neighbouring field. A group of high quality and value in the landscape.	40+	A1/2
G12	Group	<2	<100	1	1	1	1	0	0	Y/SM	Good	Good	Self-set hawthorn, birch, goat willow and rosa with shrubs. Part forming a hedge along the fence. A group of low quality and value in the landscape.	10+	C1/2
4	Birch	12	280	4	3	2	3	2	2	EM	Fair	Good	Yellowing foliage. Appears to be suffering from drought/heat stress. Light ivy on the stem and into the canopy.	<10	U
5	Birch	12	250	2	1	3	3	2	3	EM	Good	Good	Yellowing foliage. Appears to be suffering from drought/heat stress. Ivy on the stem and into the canopy.	<10	U
G13	Group	<12	<250	3	3	3	3	0	0	EM	Good/Fair/ Poor	Good	Linear group as a screen/ Birch, pine, willow, ash, oak, gorse and hawthorn. The birch and pine are suffering from drought. A group of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2



Tree Ref No.	Species	Height	Stem Diameter	Branch Spread M		Height of Clea Crown Brand Clearance Heigt		Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments/Preliminary Management Recommendations	Estimated Remaining Contribution	Category Grading		
		м	ММ	N	E	S	w	М	м					Years	
6	Norway Maple	11	275	3	3	4	4	2	2	SM/ EM	Good	Good	A tree of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
G14	Highway Planting	<12	<650	5	5	5	5	0	0	Y-FM	Good	Good	Highway group between the highway and the boundary fence. Oak and ash with an understory of hawthorn, blackthorn and gorse. A group of high quality and value in the landscape.	40+	A1/2
G15	Broad- leaved Group	<12	<365	3	3	3	3	2	2	EM	Good	Good	9 trees. 1 ash, 2 Norway maples and 6 birch. Individually mediocre, but some group value.	10+	C1/2
G16	Broad- leaved Group	<16	<400	3	3	3	3	1	2	EM	Good	Good/ Fair	Cherry, oak and alder. Located off-site in Sharp Manufacturing. A group of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2
G17	Broad- leaved Group	<16	<400	3	3	3	3	1	2	EM	Good	Good/ Fair	Mixed group of highway planting Ash, birch, blackthorn, hawthorn and Goat willow. A group of moderate quality and value in the landscape.	20+	B1/2

Appendix B

Contents

Method Statement





Arboricultural Supervision

The general purpose is to ensure compliance with planning conditions. It is anticipated that arboricultural input is likely to be needed for the following operations:

- Pre-commencement meeting;
- Tree felling, stump removal;
- Installation of protective fencing/surfaces;
- Installation of no dig pavement;
- Removal of protective measures.

All supervisory visits will be logged and a copy of the minutes circulated to all team members including the LPA. A number of the operations named above can be undertaken in a single visit.

The pre-commencement site meeting is to be held before any work is undertaken. All tree protection measures, haul routes, site storage, contractor parking, deliveries, working methods are to be freely discussed and agreed in writing. Initial site visits may be intense to ensure measures are implemented. General site visits will be undertaken once the site is 'live' at intervals agreed with the team. Our role will be to initially to act in a compliance capacity to ensure the protective measures are fit for purpose and meet or exceed the council's requirements and the tree works are undertaken to the required standard. Once this has been completed, our role will be one of monitoring and 'troubleshooting'.

- Pre-commencement site meeting to agree roles, responsibilities and duties in relation to tree protection. Details to be minuted and distributed.
- Appointment of an Arboricultural Clerk of Works (ACoW) to oversee works.

Tree Felling/Stump Removal/Tree Pruning

The following precautions are to be taken.

- Trees to be removed shall be felled so as to fall away from tree protection zones and to avoid pulling and breaking of roots of trees to remain. Brush can be chipped into the tree protection zone to a depth of 150 mm.
- The roots shall be removed by severing the major woody root mass before extraction. This may be accomplished by Hydro Vacuum & Suction Excavation or Compressed Air Displacement and then, cutting through the roots by hand, with a vibrating knife, rock saw, narrow trencher with sharp blades, or other approved root pruning equipment.
- Trees to be removed within the tree protection zone shall be removed by qualified tree contractors.
- All felled brush and trees shall be removed from the tree protection zone either by hand or with equipment sitting outside the tree protection zone. Extraction shall occur by lifting the material out or by 'skidding' it across the ground.
- > Exposed roots to be kept moist with hessian sacking.



- Site inspections to be reported to the development team and the LPA.
- Tree pruning to BS3998 2010. No deviation from the specification.



Construction Exclusion Zone Root Protection – Site Wide

Due to the nature of the works, standard BS 5837 fencing will be used. The Construction Exclusion Zone fence will be heras fence panels fixed to a scaffold framework. Alternatively, heras panels fixed to timber posts. The location will be marked on site by the Arboricultural Consultant and are also shown on the Drawing No. – TPP/4682/Y/300. The requirement will be assessed on a weekly basis by the ACoW.

- Heras fencing fixed to a scaffold framework or timber posts as illustrated.
- Fencing installed at locations shown on the plan (TPP/4682/Y/300) and marked on site.
- Location and adequacy signed off by Arboricultural Consultant and LPA advised.
- Tool Box Talk make construction staff aware of the importance of areas by site manager.
- > Signs to be erected advising of the area's importance.
- > Fence to be adjusted as noted in the Construction Timetable.





Construction Exclusion Zone No dig

- The No dig path/drive is to be designed by a reputable supplier of three-dimensional products used for such purposes.
- The contractor is required to follow the method statement supplied by the product supplier.
- The contractor is required to meet with the ACS Consulting at the site prior to beginning work to review all procedures, access and haul routes, storage and tree protection measures.
- Tree contractors and not construction personnel must perform additional tree pruning required for clearance during construction.
- ➢ Works to be overseen by ACoW.



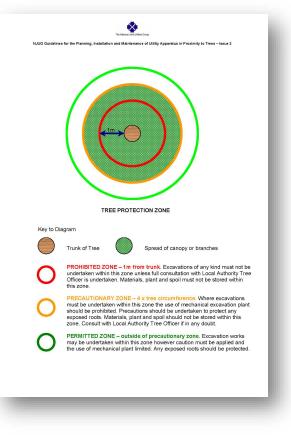




Services - NJUG 4.2

Work area to be marked out in accordance with NJUG 4.2.

- > The precautionary area is to be identified.
- Suitable method of service installation to be identified this may include Hydro Vacuum & Suction Excavation or Compressed Air Displacement.
- Location and adequacy signed off by the ACoW and the LPA advised.
- > Works to be monitored by ACoW.





General Precautions

The retention of trees requires a number of general precautions to be taken. Compliance is to be maintained on site by the Arboricultural Consultant. The site visits are detailed at criterion 1 – Timing of Works.

Targets

- Spoil from the foundation pits or other excavations shall not be placed within the Construction Exclusion Zone.
- No materials, equipment, spoil or washout water may be deposited, stored or parked within the Root Protection Area/ Construction Exclusion Zone.
- On-site inspections to be undertaken by the Arboricultural Clerk of Works with the Arboricultural Consultant visiting during critical operations. The aim of the visits is to maintain on-going liaison with all personnel involved in the site development, Local Planning Authority and its Tree Officer.
- Any defects requiring rectification shall be notified to the Contractor/Site Manager/Arboricultural Consultant and the client.
- A site logbook for tree protection measures is kept to record all stages of the development from the erection of the protective fencing, right through to the completion of the project. This will be made available to the Arboricultural Consultant and the Local Planning Authority, if required, to show evidence of continuous site monitoring.

Protection and Emergency Procedure/Contacts

Adherence to the method statement, appointment of the Arboricultural Consultant and their involvement, at the critical demolition and construction phases, should negate any incident. The contact page details those personnel who should be contacted if an incident involving a retained tree should take place.

- > Spill kit available.
- On site fuels to be located away from RPA/CEZ and contained in a bunded tank at 110% capacity.
- All incidents involving trees to be reported by telephone and email.
- Bunded storage of oil/fuels.
- Refuelling points for machinery at distance to the watercourse.
- > Use of drop trays under plant/machinery overnight.
- Availability of spill kits on site and training of site staff in their use.
- > No excavation during periods of heavy rain.
- Regular maintenance and inspection of plant engines and hydraulic systems.



Contact List

Title	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
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