

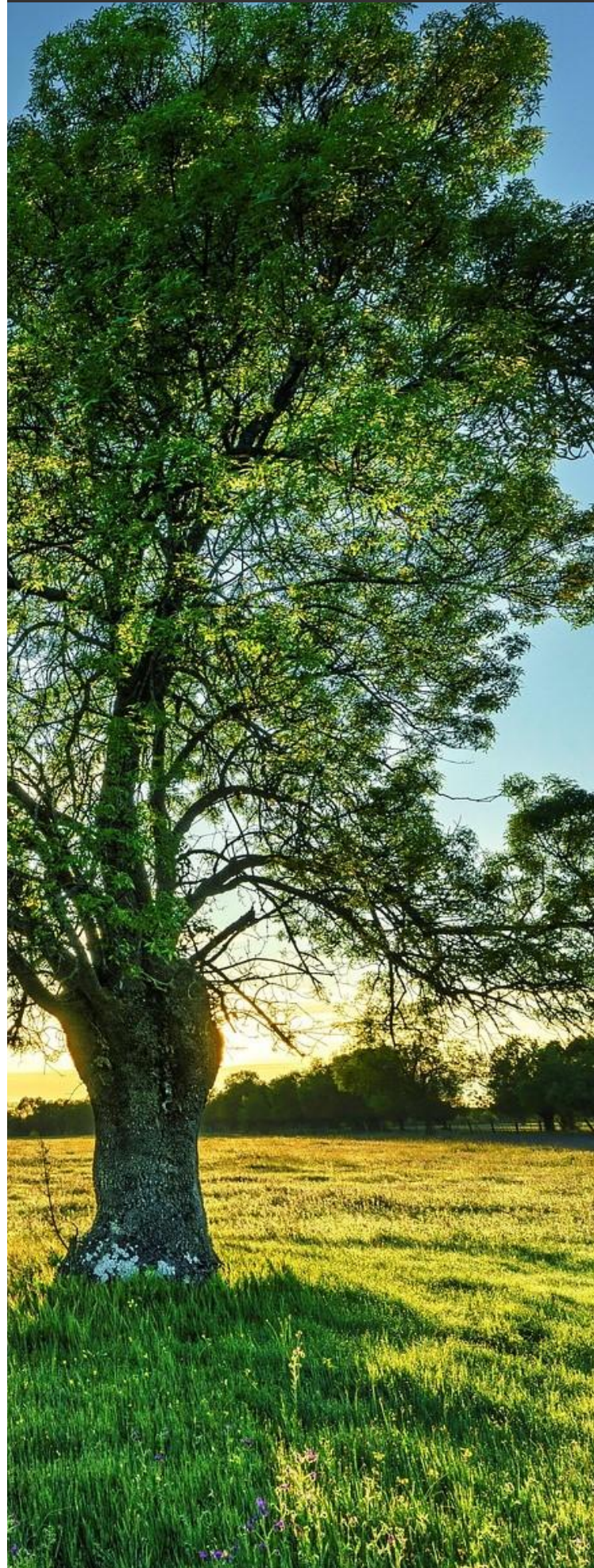


DOWN TO EARTH
— ROOTED 1979 —

Misling Farm, Canterbury CT4 6DE

BS 5837 Arboricultural Impact
Assessment Report (AIA)

30th March 2026





Instructing client:	Misling Farm
Site address:	Misling Farm, Canterbury CT4 6DE
Report reference:	DTE #RF25781

	Name	Position	Date
Surveyor and date of the survey:	Ian Dalton Dip Arb L4 ABC	Arboricultural Consultant	20th March 2026
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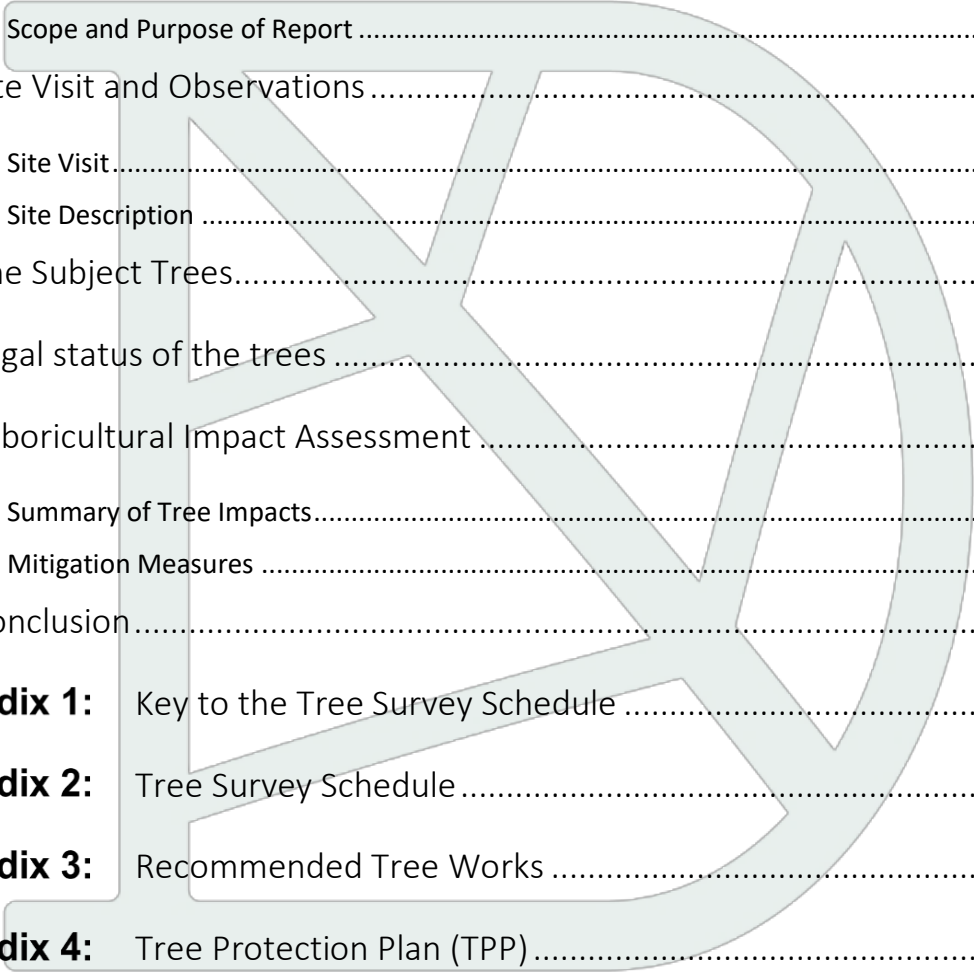
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1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1.1** An Arboricultural survey has been carried out at Misling Farm, Canterbury CT4 6DE in accordance with British Standard BS 5837:2012 – *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.
-
- 1.1.2** The proposals comprise a new side entrance boundary treatment, including a timber post-and-rail fence, wall sections flanking a new vehicular gate, and associated minor groundwork. The tree resource within influencing distance of the works comprises 20 individual trees, including 1 Category B tree (T16, English oak), 11 Category C trees (T4, T6, T7, T9, T10, T12, T14, T15, T17, T18, T19), and 8 Category U trees (T1, T2, T3, T5, T8, T11, T13, T20). The tree group is located close together along the highway corridor, with the proposed gate positioned several metres along the driveway, away from the tree stems.
- 1.1.3** All retained trees' Root Protection Areas will be entered by the proposed works, the nature of the development is linear and relatively small scale, and the key constraint is the protection of roots within the shared rooting environment. All healthy Category B and Category C trees are proposed for retention. Removals are limited to Category U trees only, which are of very limited remaining contribution and present elevated safety concerns (including ash dieback-related decline and standing deadwood).
- 1.1.4** The works will be implemented using low-impact construction methods to minimise root disturbance. Excavations for fence posts and any associated foundations are to be undertaken by hand and positioned between roots, with localised root exposure used to identify and retain significant roots wherever practicable. Where engineering solutions are required to reduce excavation, these may include small diameter piles located following trial pits or localised investigation, with beams installed at or above ground level and cantilevered as required to avoid significant roots. Where a wall or similar structure must pass over a root greater than 50 mm in diameter, allowance will be made for future growth by providing a compressible or flexible surround, and spanning the root with an appropriately reinforced lintel or raft so that the load is transferred away from the root zone.
- 1.1.5** Tree protection measures will be installed and maintained in accordance with BS 5837:2012, and arboricultural supervision will be provided for all works within RPAs, including setting out, any excavations, and any root pruning where [REDACTED]. Subject to these measures, the proposals are considered arboriculturally acceptable, and the retained trees are expected to be successfully integrated with the development.

- 1.1.6** A total of 20 individual trees, 0 tree groups, 0 hedges, and no shrub/scrub areas were recorded during the survey. Trees have been categorised as per the BS 5837:2012 guidelines as follows:

1.2 Tree Category Table

	A	B	C	U	TOTAL
Trees	0	1	11	8	20
Groups	0	0	0	0	0
Hedges	0	0	0	0	0
Woodlands	0	0	0	0	0
Shrub/Scrub areas	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	1	11	8	20

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Instructions

- 2.1.1** Down To Earth Trees Ltd was appointed to carry out a tree survey and prepare an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) in accordance with British Standard BS 5837:2012 – *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.

2.2 Scope and Purpose of Report

- 2.2.1** This report focuses on the potential impacts of the proposed development on trees, assessing their quality, and providing recommendations to protect retained trees. The purpose is to aid the Local Planning Authority in considering the application and ensure trees are considered in the design process.

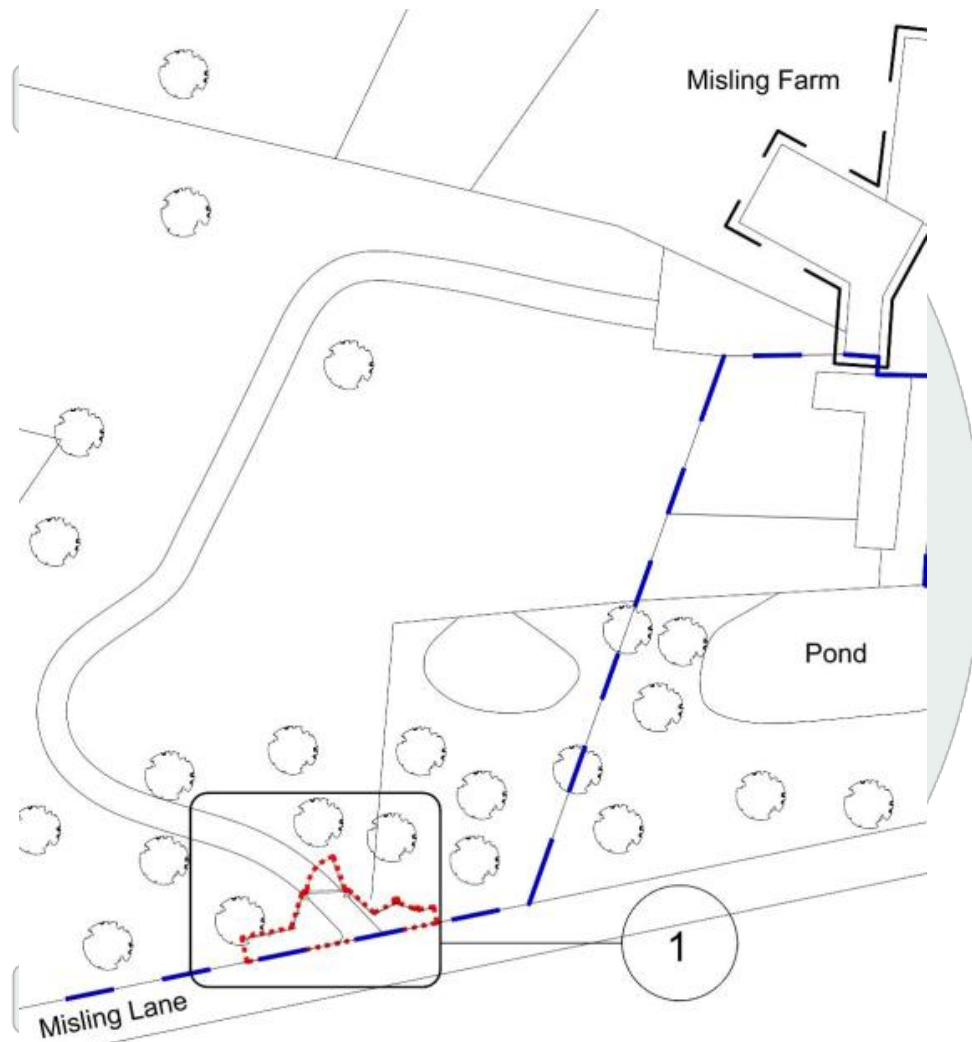
3.0 Site Visit and Observations

3.1 Site Visit

- 3.1.1** A site visit was undertaken on 20th March 2026 by Ian Dalton. The weather [REDACTED] during the survey were clear and dry.

3.2 Site Description

- 3.2.1** Misling Farm, Canterbury CT4 6DE is a site consisting of two neighbouring residential properties, with large rear gardens that both contain a variety of trees and shrubs.
- 3.2.2** The survey was conducted with reference to the redline boundary depicted on the map below:



4.0 The Subject Trees

- 4.1.1** A total of 20 individual trees, 0 tree groups, 0 hedges, and no shrub/scrub areas were recorded during the survey. Trees have been categorised as per the BS [redacted] guidelines.
- 4.1.2** A full summary of the trees including their retention categories can be found in the Tree Schedule in [Appendix 2](#).

5.0 Legal status of the trees

Protection Type	Yes/No
Tree Preservation Order (TPO)	No
Conservation Area	No
Ancient Woodland	No

5.1.1 See the image below, which displays a snapshot of the Folkestone and Hythe Council's interactive map that illustrates the extent of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), Conservation Areas and Ancient Woodland.

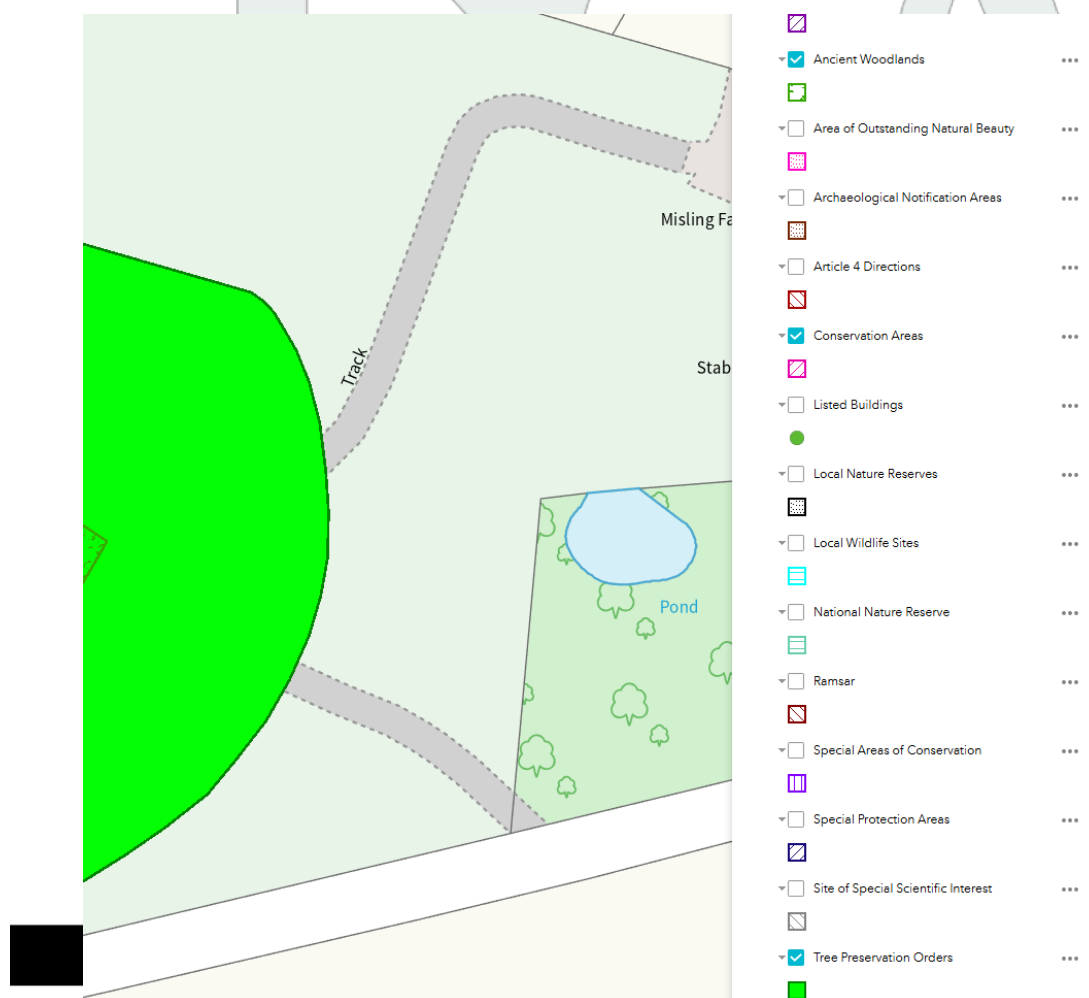


Figure 1 Snapshot from the Folkestone and Hythe Council's Interactive map showing TPOs

6.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

6.1 Summary of Tree Impacts

- 6.1.1** The proposed development comprises a new side entrance boundary treatment, including a timber post-and-rail fence, wall sections flanking a new vehicular gate, and associated minor groundwork. The trees on site are growing in close proximity along the highway corridor, and the proposed works are located several metres along the driveway, away from the tree stems.
- 6.1.2** Tree removals are limited to Category U trees only, comprising T1, T2, T3, T5, T8, T11, T13 and T20. These trees are in critical or irremediable condition, with very limited remaining contribution, including several ash exhibiting advanced decline consistent with ash dieback and one standing dead tree. Their removal is proposed on safety grounds and to facilitate sustainable site management.
- 6.1.3** All Category B and Category C trees are proposed for retention, including T16 (Category B) and the remaining Category C trees. Although the proposals are positioned away from stems, the works will take place within the Root Protection Areas of retained trees due to the shared rooting environment and the linear nature of the boundary works.
- 6.1.4** Potential impacts to retained trees arise primarily from localised excavations for fence posts and any wall foundations, together with the risk of compaction and disturbance associated with access and working space. With appropriate sequencing, exclusion zones, and supervised low-impact excavation methods, the impacts can be reduced to an acceptable level, and the retained trees can be successfully integrated with the development.

6.2 Mitigation Measures

- 6.2.1** Construction within RPAs: Given that incursion into RPAs is unavoidable, works within RPAs will be undertaken using low-impact methods, with arboricultural supervision for all excavation activities. Post holes and any foundation excavations will be hand-dug, positioned between roots where practicable, and progressed cautiously to expose roots rather than severing them. Where roots are encountered, excavation locations will be adjusted locally to retain significant roots, and any unavoidable root pruning will be limited to the minimum necessary and undertaken in accordance with good arboricultural practice, under arboricultural supervision.
- 6.2.2** Engineering solutions to reduce excavation: Where standard excavations would result in unacceptable root disturbance, specialist solutions may be used to minimise root damage. This may include the use of small diameter piles, located [REDACTED] localised trial pits or root investigations, with above-ground or near-surface beams installed and cantilevered as required to avoid significant roots. Where it is necessary to construct a wall or similar element over a root greater than 50 mm in diameter, allowance will be made for future growth by providing a compressible or flexible surround to the root zone and spanning with an appropriately reinforced lintel or raft so that loading is transferred away from the root.

- 6.2.3** Tree Protection: Protective fencing and, where required, ground protection will be installed prior to commencement to prevent accidental damage to retained trees. The protective fencing will be erected along the edge of the driveway to define a clear exclusion zone within the adjacent rooting area, preventing access by plant, machinery and materials storage. Access through the fenced line will be controlled to allow the proposed hand-digging for post-holes and any localised excavations, with works undertaken carefully and under arboricultural supervision. (See Appendix 4 – Tree Protection Plan).

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1.1** This Arboricultural Impact Assessment has considered the implications of the proposed side entrance works, comprising a timber post-and-rail fence, wall sections flanking a new vehicular gate, and associated minor groundwork, in relation to the existing tree resource.
- 7.1.2** The proposals are located within the Root Protection Areas of retained trees due to the close spacing of the highway tree line and the shared rooting environment. The works are positioned several metres away from tree stems and are limited in scale and extent.
- 7.1.3** All healthy trees are proposed for retention, including the single Category B tree (T16) and all Category C trees. Removals are restricted to Category U trees only (T1, T2, T3, T5, T8, T11, T13 and T20) on grounds of poor condition, negligible remaining contribution, and elevated safety concerns, including advanced decline consistent with ash dieback and standing deadwood.
- 7.1.4** Subject to the implementation of appropriate tree protection measures and supervised low-impact working methods for all excavations within RPAs, the scheme is considered arboriculturally acceptable. Key measures include careful setting out, hand digging and localised root exposure for post holes and any foundations, avoidance of significant roots where practicable, and the use of reduced-dig or spanning solutions where required to limit root disturbance.
- 7.1.5** Provided the above measures are secured and adhered to during construction, the retained trees are expected to be successfully integrated with the proposed development, and their long-term retention prospects should not be materially compromised.

Please get in touch with us first if you have any questions regarding this survey or report.

DipArbL4 (ABC)

Arboricultural Consultant
Down To Earth Trees Limited

Appendix 1: Key to the Tree Survey Schedule

Tree no. (with Google map link) – The individual identification reference numbers for the tree.
For example:

✔ **T1** – Individual tree

✔ **H3** – Hedge

✔ **G2** – Group of trees

✔ **S4** – Shrub/Scrub area

This field also includes a link to the tree's location on Google Maps.

Species – The species of the tree, listed by scientific name, with the accompanying common name in parentheses.

Structural Condition – An assessment of the tree's structural integrity, noting any physical defects or signs of instability, categorised as follows:

- ✔ **Stable** – No significant structural defects; stable and unlikely to fail under normal conditions.
- ✔ **Manageable** - Defects are present but can likely be corrected through interventions like pruning
- ✔ **Irremediable** - Defects are significant and cannot be corrected, compromising the tree's stability over time.
- ✔ **Critical** - Structure is critically weak, posing an immediate hazard and unsuitable for retention.

Physiological Condition – Observations on the tree's health and vitality, categorised as follows:

Attributes – Characteristics or features of the tree, such as:

- ✔ **Height** – Total height from ground to top of the crown, measured in meters.
- ✔ **Stem diameter** – Diameter of the main stem at 1.3 meters above ground, in millimetres
- ✔ **Spread** – The horizontal reach of the crown measured from the trunk to the edge of the foliage, taken from the four cardinal points (north, south, east, and west).
- ✔ **Crown clearance** – Height above ground to the lowest part of the crown, important for clearance assessments
- ✔ **Lowest branch** – Height of the lowest branch above ground, noting its orientation.
- ✔ **Life stage** – An estimate of the tree's age based on visual indicators; considered provisional unless supported by additional information, such as historical records or local knowledge.



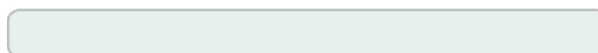
Contribution in years - Estimated remaining lifespan based on health and structure, indicating future landscape value.

General Observations – General comments on the tree's overall condition, noting any physiological or structural issues, health, vitality, and form. Observations may include any visible defects, pests, diseases, or disorders affecting the tree.

Retention Category – The recommended category for tree retention is based on BS5837 criteria, which indicates the tree's suitability for retention in the context of site development or management. The categories are as follows:

- ✔ **Category A (High Quality)** – Trees of high value due to their age, size, condition, or special significance (e.g., historical, ecological, or landscape importance). They have a long-anticipated lifespan and contribute significantly to the landscape. Retention is strongly recommended wherever possible.
- ✔ **Category B (Moderate Quality)** – Trees of moderate value, in fair condition with some defects or younger age. They make a positive contribution to the landscape but are not as essential as Category A trees. Retention is desirable if it does not hinder site development.
- ✔ **Category C (Low Quality)** – Trees of lower value due to poor health, limited longevity, or minor landscape significance. Often younger or smaller, they may have defects that limit their lifespan. Retention is optional, and they can be removed if needed for site development.
- ✔ **Category U (Unsuitable for Retention)** – Trees in poor condition with serious structural defects or health issues, unlikely to survive beyond 10 years. These trees are not recommended for retention due to safety concerns and limited future value.

Root Protection Area (RPA) – The calculated area surrounding a tree is required to protect its root system and ensure its health, as per BS5837 guidelines.



Appendix 2: Tree Survey Schedule

Site address: Misling Farm, Canterbury CT4 6DE

Client: Misling Farm

Report ref: #RF25781

Survey date: 20th March 2026

Tree no. (with Google map link)	Species	Structural Condition	Physiological Condition	No. of stems	Attributes	General Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Photo
T1	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Critical	Dying	2	Height (m): 16 2 stems (mm): 350, 360 Spread (m): 3N, 3E, 3S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Life Stage: Early mature Rem. Contrib.: Less than 10 years	There is decay visible in the stem, Where the main stems divide at 0.5m. Sparse crown, significant dieback visible.	U	Radius: 6.0m. Area: 113 sq m.	
T2	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Irremediable	Dying	1	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam(mm): 330 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 10 Life Stage: Early mature Rem. Contrib.: Less than 10 years	Significant dieback visible in the crown, likely caused by Ash dieback.	U	Radius: 4.0m. Area: 50 sq m.	
T3	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Critical	Dead	1	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam(mm): 500 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Life Stage: Early mature Rem. Contrib.: Less than 10 years	Standing dead tree.	U	Radius: 6.0m. Area: 113 sq m.	
T4	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Stable	Normal	1	Height (m): 12 Stem Diam(mm): 240 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 6 Life Stage: Young Rem. Contrib.: At least 10 years	Suppressed, asymmetric crown. No significant defects visible.	C2	Radius: 2.9m. Area: 26 sq m.	

Site address: Misling Farm, Canterbury CT4 6DE

Client: Misling Farm

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Survey date: 20th March 2026

Tree no. (with Google map link)	Species	Structural Condition	Physiological Condition	No. of stems	Attributes	General Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Photo
T5	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Irremediable	Dying	1	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam(mm): 360 Spread (m): 6N, 2E, 1S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 10 Life Stage: Early mature Rem. Contrib.: Less than 10 years	Significant dieback visible in the crown, likely caused by Ash dieback.	U	Radius: 4.3m. Area: 58 sq m.	
T6	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Stable	Normal	1	Height (m): 12 Stem Diam(mm): 210 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 6 Life Stage: Young Rem. Contrib.: At least 10 years	Suppressed, asymmetric crown. No significant defects visible.	C2	Radius: 2.5m. Area: 20 sq m.	
T7	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Stable	Normal	1	Height (m): 12 Stem Diam(mm): 210 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 6 Life Stage: Young Rem. Contrib.: At least 10 years	Suppressed, asymmetric crown. No significant defects visible.	C2	Radius: 2.5m. Area: 20 sq m.	
T8	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Irremediable	Dying	1	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam(mm): 480 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Life Stage: Early mature Rem. Contrib.: Less than 10 years	Significant defects visible in crown, likely caused by Ash dieback.	U	Radius: 5.8m. Area: 106 sq m.	
T9	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Stable	Normal	1	Height (m): 12 Stem Diam(mm): 210 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 6 Life Stage: Young Rem. Contrib.: At least 10 years	Heavily suppressed, asymmetric crown. No significant defects visible.	C2	Radius: 2.5m. Area: 20 sq m.	

Site address: Misling Farm, Canterbury CT4 6DE
Client: Misling Farm

Report ref: #RF25781
Survey date: 20th March 2026

Tree no. (with Google map link)	Species	Structural Condition	Physiological Condition	No. of stems	Attributes	General Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Photo
T10	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Stable	Normal	4	Height (m): 12 4 stems (mm): 360, 350, 510, 260 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 6 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: At least 10 years	Heavily suppressed, asymmetric crown. Main stem has a tight fork with included bark from base up to 1m.	C2	Radius: 9.1m. Area: 260 sq m.	
T11	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Irremediable	Dying	1	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam(mm): 360 Spread (m): 6N, 2E, 1S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 10 Life Stage: Early mature Rem. Contrib.: Less than 10 years	Significant dieback visible in the crown, likely caused by Ash dieback.	U	Radius: 4.3m. Area: 58 sq m.	
T12	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Stable	Normal	4	Height (m): 12 4 stems (mm): 280, 180, 190, 350 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 6 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: At least 10 years	Heavily suppressed, asymmetric crown. No significant defects visible.	C2	Radius: 6.2m. Area: 121 sq m.	
T13	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Irremediable	Dying	1	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam(mm): 400 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Life Stage: Early mature Rem. Contrib.: Less than 10 years	Significant defects visible in crown, likely caused by Ash dieback.	U	Radius: 4.8m. Area: 72 sq m.	
T14	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Stable	Below average	5	Height (m): 18 5 stems, avg.(mm): 450 Spread (m): 5N, 5E, 5S, 5W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: At least 10 years	Asymmetric crown. No significant defects visible.	C2	Radius: 12.1m. Area: 460 sq m.	

Site address: Misling Farm, Canterbury CT4 6DE

Client: Misling Farm

Report ref: #RF25781

Survey date: 20th March 2026

Tree no. (with Google map link)	Species	Structural Condition	Physiological Condition	No. of stems	Attributes	General Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Photo
T15	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Manageable	Poor	3	Height (m): 19 3 stems (mm): 330, 410, 290 Spread (m): 4N, 4E, 4S, 4W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: At least 10 years	Asymmetric, Sparse crown.	C2	Radius: 7.2m. Area: 163 sq m.	
T16	English oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Stable	Normal	1	Height (m): 18 Stem Diam(mm): 530 Spread (m): 6N, 3E, 3S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 6 Life Stage: Early mature Rem. Contrib.: At least 20 Years	Suppressed, asymmetric crown. No significant defects visible.	B2	Radius: 6.4m. Area: 129 sq m.	
T17	Lawson cypress (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>)	Stable	Normal	1	Height (m): 11 Stem Diam(mm): 300 Spread (m): 1.5N, 1.5E, 1.5S, 1.5W Crown Clearance (m): 1 Life Stage: Early mature Rem. Contrib.: At least 10 years	No significant defects visible.	C2	Radius: 3.6m. Area: 41 sq m.	
T18	Lawson cypress (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>)	Stable	Normal	1	Height (m): 11 Stem Diam(mm): 260 Spread (m): 1.5N, 1.5E, 1.5S, 1.5W Crown Clearance (m): 1 Life Stage: Early mature Rem. Contrib.: At least 10 years	No significant defects visible.	C2	Radius: 3.1m. Area: 30 sq m.	
T19	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Stable	Normal	2	Height (m): 19 2 stems, avg.(mm): 360 Spread (m): 4N, 4E, 4S, 4W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: At least 10 years	Asymmetric crown, heavily suppressed. No significant defects visible.	C2	Radius: 6.1m. Area: 117 sq m.	

Site address: Misling Farm, Canterbury CT4 6DE

Client: Misling Farm

Report ref: #RF25781

Survey date: 20th March 2026

Tree no. (with Google map link)	Species	Structural Condition	Physiological Condition	No. of stems	Attributes	General Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Photo
T20	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Irremediable	Dying	1	Height (m): 12 Stem Diam(mm): 360 Spread (m): 5N, 3E, 1S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 5 Life Stage: Early mature Rem. Contrib.: Less than 10 years	Significant dieback visible in the crown, likely caused by Ash dieback.	U	Radius: 4.3m. Area: 58 sq m.	

Appendix 3: Recommended Tree Works

Tree No.	Species	Category	Recommended works	Reason / objective
T1	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	U	Fell to near ground level and remove arisings. Stump to be ground out where practicable, or treated to prevent regrowth where grinding is not feasible.	Critical structural condition with decay at the low stem union and significant crown dieback. Very limited remaining contribution and elevated safety concern.
T2	Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	U	Fell to near ground level and remove arisings. Stump to be ground out where practicable, or treated to prevent regrowth where grinding is not feasible.	Irremediable decline consistent with ash dieback, very limited remaining contribution and elevated safety concern.
T3	Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	U	Fell and remove arisings, likely sectional dismantle if access/targets require. Stump to be ground out where practicable, or treated to prevent regrowth where grinding is not feasible.	Standing dead tree. Unacceptable safety risk and no remaining contribution.
T5	Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	U	Fell to near ground level and remove arisings. Stump to be ground out where practicable, or treated to prevent regrowth where grinding is not feasible.	Irremediable decline consistent with ash dieback, very limited remaining contribution and elevated safety concern.
T8	Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	U	Fell to near ground level and remove arisings. Stump to be ground out where practicable, or treated to prevent regrowth where grinding is not feasible.	Irremediable decline with significant crown defects consistent with ash dieback, elevated safety concern.
T11	Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	U	Fell to near ground level and remove arisings. Stump to be ground out where practicable, or treated to prevent regrowth where grinding is not feasible.	Irremediable decline consistent with ash dieback, very limited remaining contribution and elevated safety concern.
T13	Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	U	Fell to near ground level and remove arisings. Stump to be ground out where practicable, or treated to prevent regrowth where grinding is not feasible.	Irremediable decline with significant crown defects consistent with ash dieback, elevated safety concern.

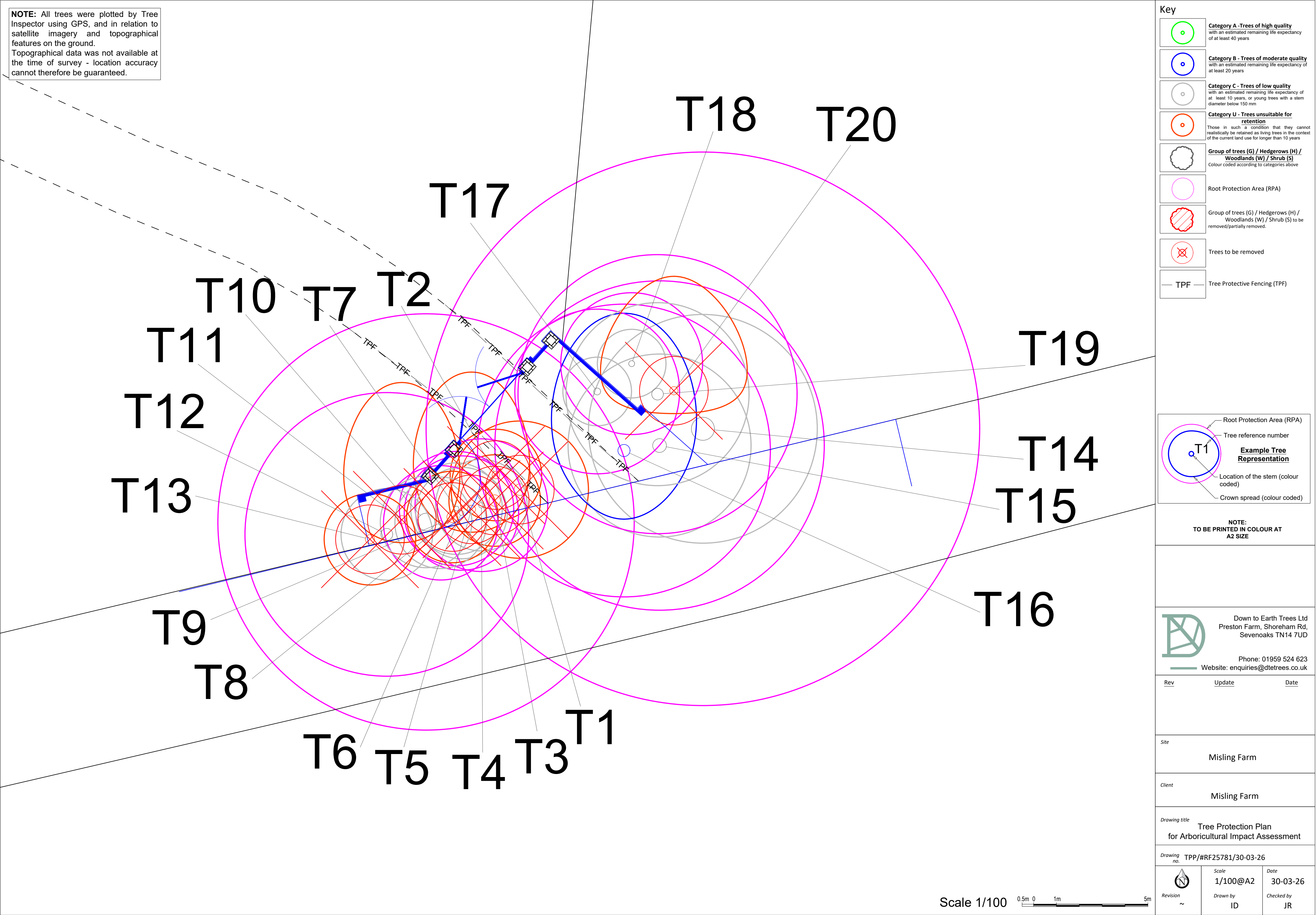
Tree No.	Species	Category	Recommended works	Reason / objective
T20	Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	U	Fell to near ground level and remove arisings. Stump to be ground out where practicable, or treated to prevent regrowth where grinding is not feasible.	Irremediable decline consistent with ash dieback, very limited remaining contribution and elevated safety concern.

Appendix 4: Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report

Appendix 4 Tree Protection Plan





Appendix 5: Tree Protection Barriers & Ground Protection Design

4.0 Tree Protection Fencing

- 4.1.1** Tree protection barriers should be designed to effectively prevent construction activities from encroaching on protected areas and must be proportionate to the level of work being undertaken nearby. The standard barrier specification follows Section 6.2.2.2 of BS 5837:2012.

4.2 Specifications

- 4.2.1** The barrier should stand at least 2 metres high and comprise both vertical and horizontal scaffolding, braced to withstand impacts. Vertical supports must be placed at intervals no greater than 3 metres and securely embedded into the ground. Welded mesh panels should then be fixed to the framework. Alternative systems, such as 'Heras' type fencing on concrete or rubber feet, may be used if the risk of incursion is low and with the agreement of the local authority. These panels should be secured using at least two anti-tamper couplers and stabilised with struts. Signs indicating "TREE PROTECTION ZONE - NO ACCESS" should be clearly displayed).

4.3 Location

- 4.3.1** Barriers are to be positioned around the perimeter of the Root Protection Areas (RPAs), establishing the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) as outlined in the Tree Protection Plan.

Figure 2 Example of welded mesh barriers in use

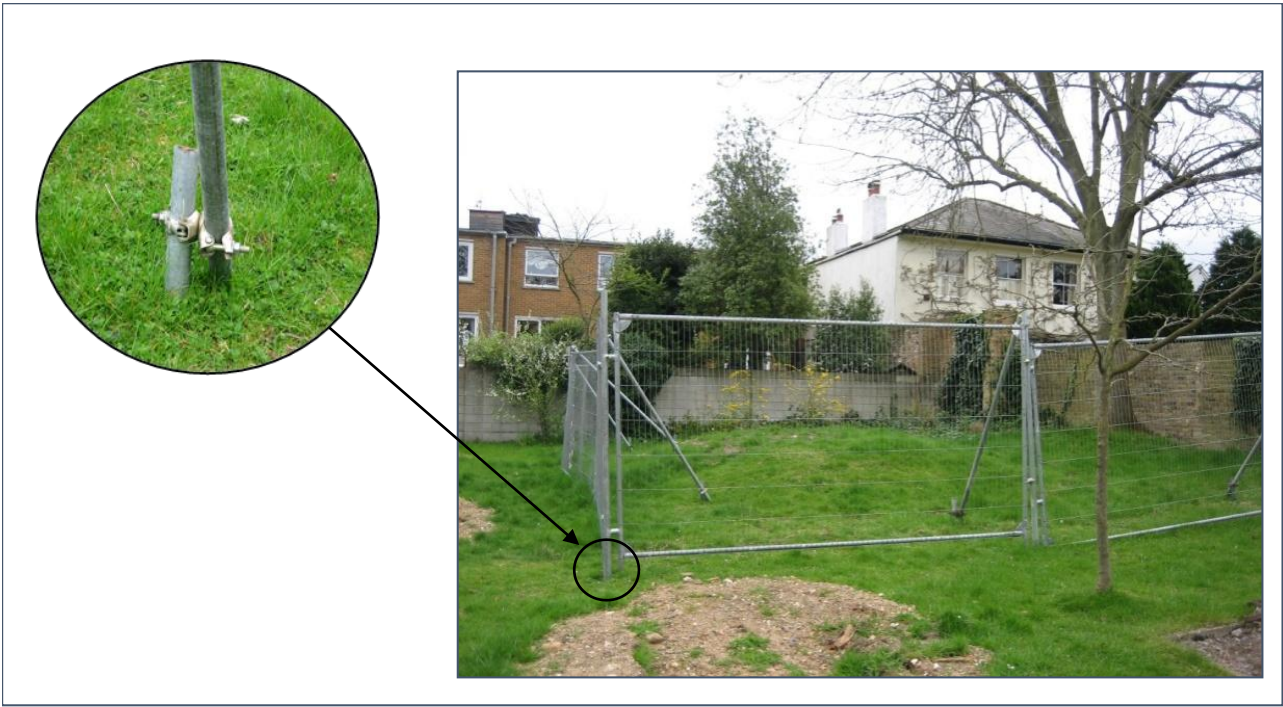


Figure 4 Default specification or protective barrier

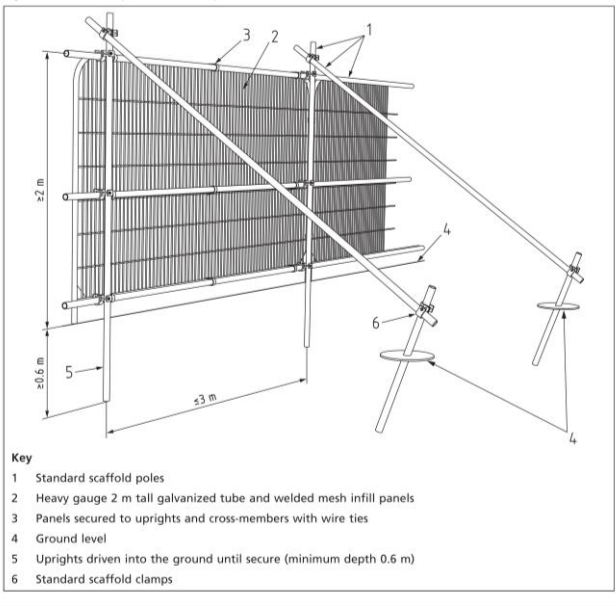
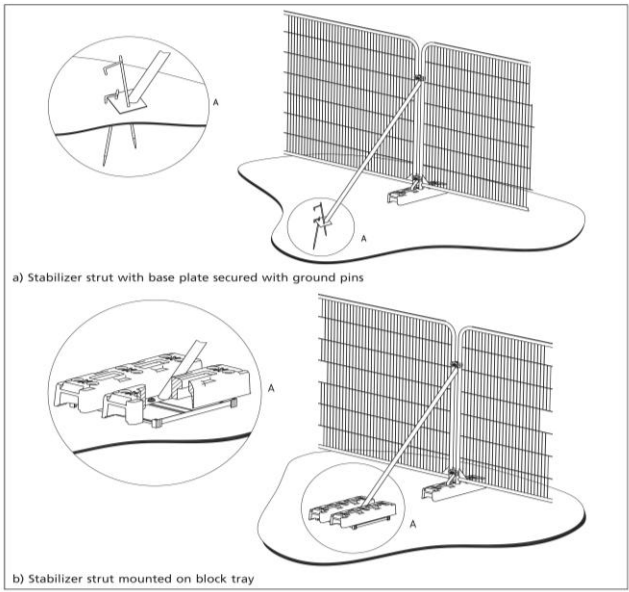


Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing system



Figures above are reproduced with the permission of the British Standards Institute.



Figure 5 - Examples of Protective Fencing Signing



5.0 Box Hoarding

- 5.1.1** In areas where fencing cannot be installed, tree trunks must be protected using box hoarding. This involves encasing the trunk with plyboard panels supported by a sturdy frame, providing protection against accidental damage.



6.0 Ground protection

- 6.1.1** Where fencing is not feasible, ground protection must be employed to safeguard RPAs. Ground protection should be capable of withstanding the intended site traffic without causing soil compaction. For pedestrian areas, a single layer of scaffold boards may be placed on a load-spreading base such as woodchip. For vehicles or heavier plant equipment, more robust systems such as cellular confinement systems or reinforced concrete slabs may be necessary, depending on the load and the specific arboricultural requirements.



Figure 6 Examples of proprietary ground protection panels



Appendix 6: Methods of Work in Close Proximity to Trees

6.2 Working within RPAs

- 6.2.1** Specific procedures must be followed to minimise damage when working within RPAs. Excavation and construction near retained trees should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. When unavoidable, hand digging or air spades should be used to prevent harm to tree roots.

6.3 Removal of hard surfaces within RPAs

- 6.3.1** The removal of hard surfaces, such as paving or walls, within CEZs should be done cautiously. Heavy machinery should not be used as it can compact the soil and damage roots. Instead, surfaces should be broken up with a pneumatic drill or small hydraulic breaker. If necessary, a mini digger may be used, provided its reach does not extend beneath overhanging branches. Roots must remain covered with topsoil or sand to prevent drying out

6.4 Service Installation

- 6.4.1** Service routes should be designed to avoid RPAs wherever possible. If services must pass through an RPA, this work must be carried out by hand or with air spades. Roots over 25 mm in diameter should not be cut without arboricultural supervision, and any smaller roots should be pruned cleanly to reduce potential damage.

6.5 Installing Hard Surfaces within RPAs

- 6.5.1** Hard surfaces proposed within RPAs should be constructed using no-dig methods, with the surface sitting above the ground rather than excavating. Porous materials should be used to allow air and water movement to the roots beneath.

6.6 Examples of a Cellular Confinement System

Figure 7 Cellular Confinement System - Transition detail (Ramp)

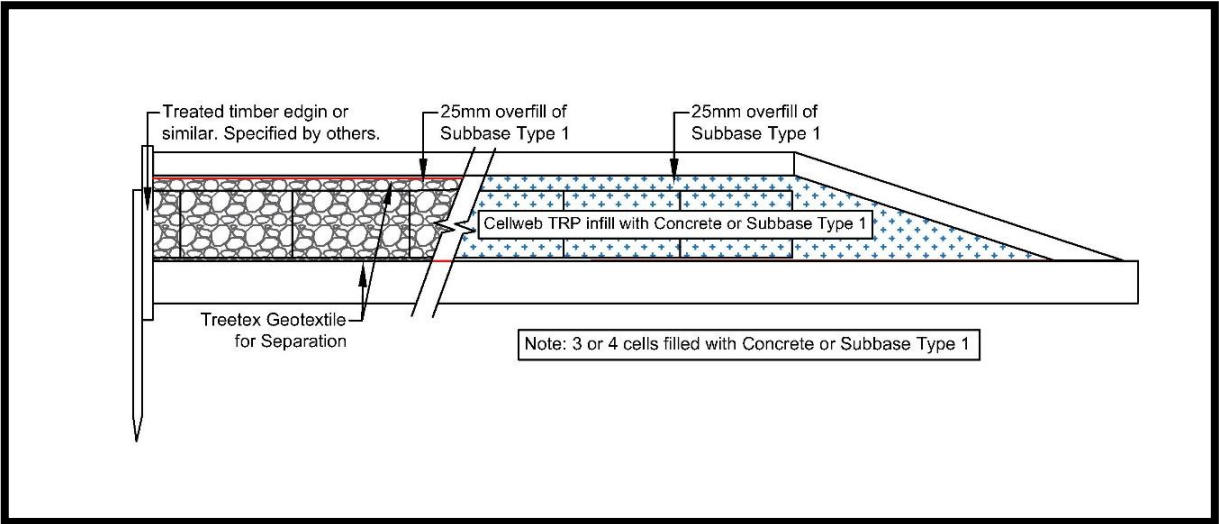


Figure 10 Cellular Confinement System - Timber Edging

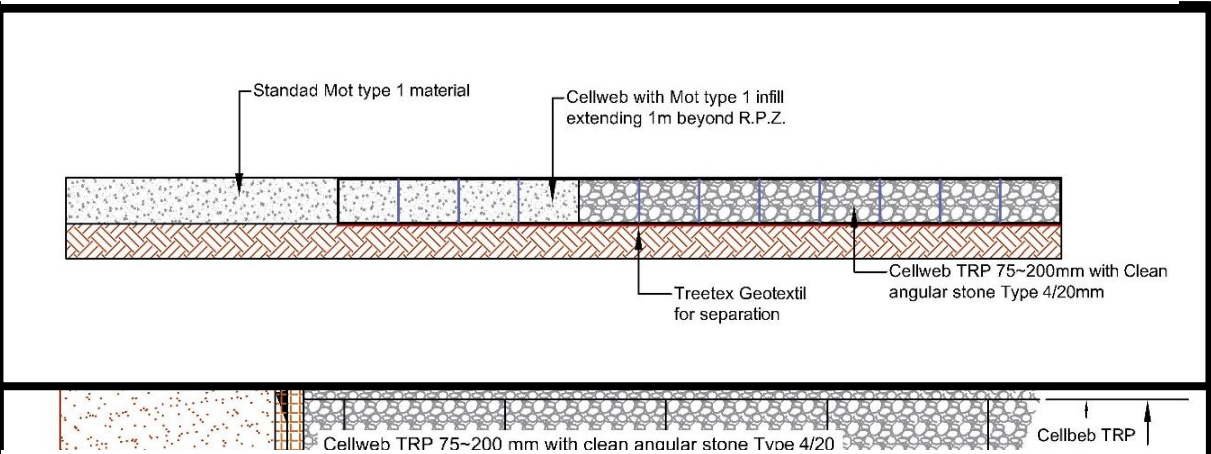


Figure 9 Cellular Confinement System - Kerb Edging

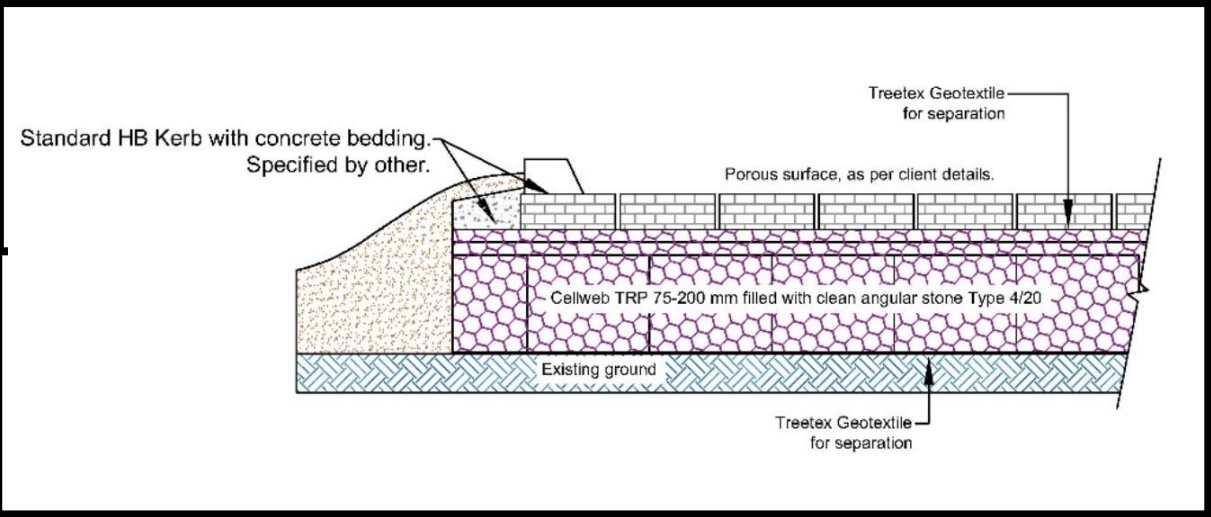


Figure 11 Examples of Cellweb filling with angular stone



6.7 Fencing in RPAs

- 6.7.1** When installing fence posts within RPAs, the holes must be dug by hand, and if significant roots are encountered, the post locations should be adjusted. If small roots are found, sharp, clean cuts should be made. Special care is needed to ensure that wet cement does not come into contact with tree roots.

6.8 Landscaping within RPAs

- 6.8.1** Landscaping work within CEZs requires careful planning to prevent tree damage. Protective fencing should remain in place as long as possible, and where removed, clear markings should be made to delineate the protected zone. Any digging or soil preparation within CEZs must be done by hand, and any topsoil additions should be limited to no more than 100 mm in depth.

Specific Report Caveat and References

7.0 Report Caveats

7.1 Scope of the Survey

- 7.1.1** This report focuses on arboricultural aspects and is based on current tree conditions. As trees are dynamic, future changes may affect their stability and health, and regular assessments are recommended.

7.2 Hedges and Dense Vegetation

- 7.2.1** Due to seasonal or growth-related factors, certain vegetation, such as dense hedges, may contain multiple species that are not readily identifiable during the survey. These limitations will be noted in the tree schedule.

7.3 Maintenance of Vegetation

- 7.3.1** The client is responsible for ensuring that any vegetation near construction zones is assessed and managed in accordance with current building guidelines. A walkover survey should be conducted prior to development.

7.4 Arboricultural Involvement

- 7.4.1** An arboricultural consultant must be involved throughout the development process to ensure tree impacts are monitored and mitigated. Changes in the development plan should be reviewed to avoid any unexpected impacts on trees.

7.5 Report Validity

- 7.5.1** This report remains valid for 12 months. After this period, a reassessment of tree conditions is recommended to ensure accuracy.

7.6 Copyright

- 7.6.1** The contents of this report are the intellectual property of Down to Earth Trees and may not be used or reproduced without written permission.

8.0 References

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