

**Tree Condition Report**  
**on Behalf of**  
**Mr and Mrs Jarvis**

**Barry Carter BSc M.I.C For**

**In Relation To:**  
***Trees Located at Land Known as Chickenden Barn, Staplehurst Kent. TN12 0DP***



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## 1: Summary

At the request of Mr Andrew Jenner of Jenner Jones LLP, an amendment and addition information has been requested to the report submitted in August 2021.

Consideration must now be given to the trees classified as Trees to the East Side of the Pond where a proposed access to the property is to be located. This will be the principal access point to the development during the construction process and as such a degree of impact will occur to the trees in this area when excavation and placing of material occurs.

## 2: General Observations

The trees in the area details as Trees to the East Side of the Pond are detailed in the attached tree schedule in this report.

I have estimated, in my report, that a root protection area of 5.4m radius should be imposed to avoid causing root disturbance and stress to any of the trees. The willows and alder in this area are less susceptible to disturbance but the oak tree in this area will have root compensation morphology meaning that the roots will seek out dryer ground away from the waterlogged fringes of the pond. In essence this means there will be more surface root spread and balance towards the proposed drive.

## 3: Specific Precautions During Construction for Trees

Excavation in close proximity to the trees will undoubtedly disturb surface roots that are growing away from the waterlogged conditions of the pond. It will be necessary to avoid damage to the surface roots as a degree of root growth compensation will have occurred during the trees life as suitable ground is restricted due to the position of the pond.

To avoid damage to the roots, consideration should be given to placing a permeable geotextile membrane, such as Terram, over the roots. This can then be covered with aggregate suitable to support machinery and vehicles during the construction process whilst allowing the roots to maintain access to air and moisture.

A maximum depth of 250mm above the roots should be imposed. This will comprise of the geotextile, suitable type 1 or similar aggregate, surface scalping's and a suitable permeable surface finish such as gravel or porous bonded gravel.

In addition to the above, the below considerations should be adopted.

- Method Statements for working near to retained trees must be provided prior to work commencement
- Installation of tree protection fencing as described in Appendix 1
- Avoid disturbance to major tree root structures
- Avoid damage to tree stem and bark by plant and lifting equipment
- Conduct necessary remedial tree work prior to construction process
- In sensitive areas within the RPA, carry out digging or piling operations by hand methods especially where large roots are evident
- Protect the ground within the RPA with suitable ground protection designed to withstand heavy weights.
- Avoid ground compaction within the RPA

The extract **Appendix 1** details tree protection according to BS5837 and details the design and specification of tree protection. Alternative fencing may be used if it is authorised by the local planning authority. This can take the form of paneled Heras fencing supported with base plates and secured with clamps or paling type fencing attached to scaffold framework.

It is therefore recommended that any work within the RPA is carried out using techniques agreed with the DPA during the planning approval process. Where possible, manual working techniques should be adopted to avoid unnecessary damage or disturbance to roots or the integrity of the tree. During the work every care must be taken not to cut through roots that have a significant stabilising impact on any tree. Tree roots are robust and will tolerate a degree of disturbance and pruning if conducted in a sympathetic manner.

The authors of this report are not qualified to provide engineering specification for construction techniques, and it will therefore be the architect's responsibility to design and submit suitable systems to the planning authority.

A driveway is proposed to provide access into the development. The drive may be position very close to trees in hedgerow 1 and trees on the western boundary of the pond. It is suggested that rather than use tarmac, block type or other nonporous type surfacing, alternatives should be considered. This will minimise root disturbance and maintain a porous surface that will not impact on moisture or nutrient availability to the trees

When working with the RPA of any tree, all work must take place promptly to minimise the exposure to any severed root regardless of size. Once the work is complete all tree roots must be covered immediately to avoid infection from airborne disease and pathogens.

#### **4 : Tree Survey Schedule**

The following tree survey schedule details specification and species of trees and indicates the retentive vale in years and by BS 5837 categorisation.



## 5: Tree Location Plan





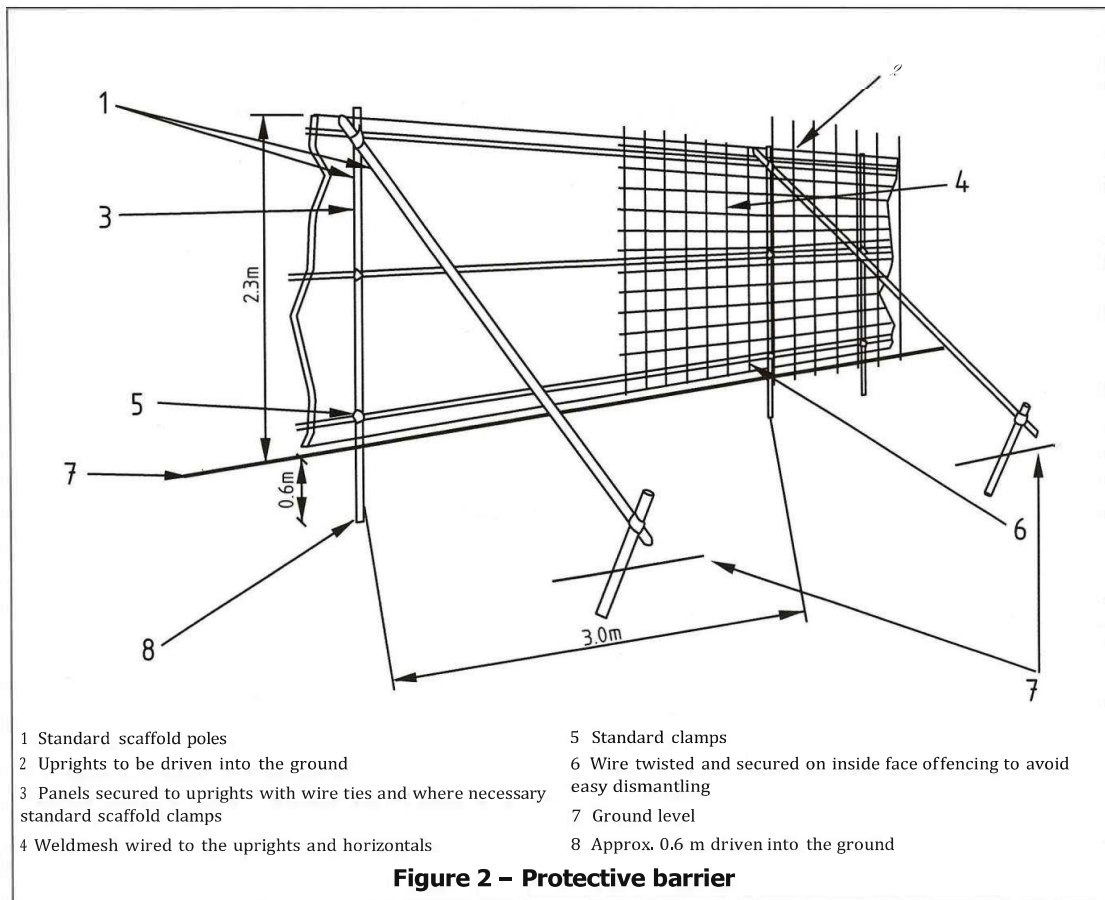
**Appendix 1 :**  
**Tree Protection Barrier and Root Protection**

### 9.3 Ground protection

**9.3.1** Where it has been agreed during the design stage, and shown on the tree protection plan, that vehicular or pedestrian access for the construction operation may take place within the root protection area (RPA), the possible effects of construction activity should be addressed by a combination of barriers and ground protection. The position of the barrier may be shown within the RPA at the edge of the agreed working zone but the soil structure beyond the barrier to the edge of the RPA should be protected with ground protection.

**9.3.2** For pedestrian movements within the RPA the installation of ground protection in the form of a single thickness of scaffold boards on top of a compressible layer laid onto a geotextile, or supported by scaffold, may be acceptable (see Figure 3).

**9.3.3** For wheeled or tracked construction traffic movements within the RPA the ground protection should be designed by an engineer to accommodate the likely loading and may involve the use of proprietary systems or reinforced concrete slabs (see **11.8** and **11.9**).



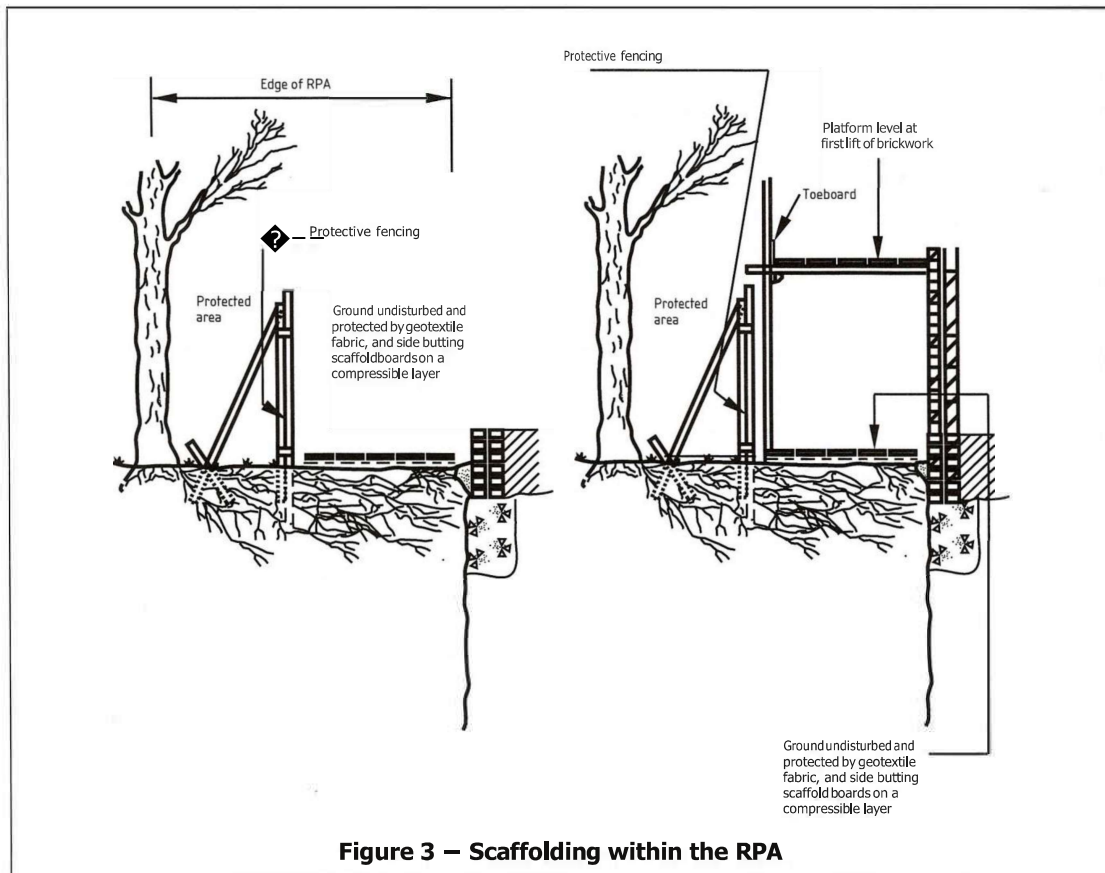


Figure 3 – Scaffolding within the RPA

#### 9.4 Additional precautions outside the exclusion zone

9.4.1 Once the exclusion zone has been protected by barriers and/or ground protection, construction work can commence. All weather notices should be erected on the barrier with words such as:

"Construction exclusion zone - Keep out".

9.4.2 In addition the following should be addressed or avoided.

- a) Care should be taken when planning site operations to ensure that wide or tall loads, or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights can operate without coming into contact with retained trees. Such contact can result in serious damage to them and might make their safe retention impossible. Consequently, any transit or traverse of plant in close proximity to trees should be conducted under the supervision of a banksman to ensure that adequate clearance from trees is maintained at all times. In some circumstances it may be impossible to maintain adequate clearance thus necessitating access facilitation pruning (see **11.2.1**).
- b) Material which will contaminate the soil, e.g. concrete mixings, diesel oil and vehicle washings, should not be discharged within 10 m of the tree stem.
- c) Fires should not be lit in a position where their flames can extend to within 5 m of foliage, branches or trunk. This will depend on the size of the fire and the wind direction.
- d) Notice boards, telephone cables or other services should not be attached to any part of the tree.