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&Green**

# **Arboricultural Impact Assessment**

The Court Yard, Ickleford, Hertfordshire

Report Reference: BG26.234

**August 2026**



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# 1 Summary

## 1.1 Scope of report

- 1.1.1 Brindle & Green were commissioned by Clear Architects to undertake a BS 5837:2012 Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) on an area of land at Ickleford Bury in Hitchin, Hertfordshire (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). This report summarises any potential arboricultural impacts and outlines a tree protection plan in relation to a full planning application for a dwelling with associated infrastructure and landscaping. Design proposals can be found in Appendix 4. The survey was carried out on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2026.
- 1.1.2 This report is concerned with trees that have the possibility to be impacted as a result of development proposals at the site. This includes trees within the site, as well as any outside the boundary that may be impacted by the development and any subsequent post development activity.
- 1.1.3 This report and accompanying tree survey schedule are produced in accordance with the guiding principles of British Standard BS 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations'.
- 1.1.4 This report and associated tree survey aim to inform tree mitigation and/or removal for potential development at the site; it is not a health and safety survey. Observations on tree form and condition, from which management recommendations are made, are based upon ground-level visual assessments only. It is important to note that trees are dynamic and often unpredictable; even apparently healthy trees may occasionally fail.

## 1.2 Desk study

- 1.2.1 North Herts Council confirmed by email that there are no Tree Preservation Orders nor Conservation Areas relevant to the site; this information is correct as of the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2026.

## 1.3 Summary of conclusions

- 1.3.1 No trees are required for removal to facilitate the development. A tree protection plan, complete with mitigation measures has been proposed for the development. The proposed mitigation will

be the use of a Construction Exclusion Zone. The tree protection plan can be found in Appendix 2.

Table 1: Arboricultural considerations relevant to the site

| Arboricultural Considerations                      | Recommendations                                                                            | Timing                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ)                  | CEZs should be installed to protect retained trees (including RPAs), where required.       | Pre-construction                                            |
| Removal of CEZs and/or temporary ground protection | Removal of the installed tree protection measures after completion of construction onsite. | Post-construction after approval of project arboriculturist |

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Context

2.1.1 The purpose of this survey was to provide an assessment of trees which may be impacted by development proposals at the site. A tree survey schedule, compliant with the guiding principles of BS 5837:2012, is contained within this report.

2.1.2 Results and recommendations contained within this report have been prepared by an experienced arboriculturist and are therefore the view of Brindle & Green Limited. The survey is based on information provided by our client, the development proposals, and the results of the desk study and our survey of the site. This report pertains to this information only.

### 2.2 Purpose of the report

2.2.1 This AIA will evaluate the direct and indirect effects of the proposed development on the site's trees. It will consider the requirement for tree removal to facilitate the design and any potentially damaging activities to retained trees (British Standards Institution, 2012).

2.2.2 An AIA will typically address some, or all, of the following:

- The tree survey (including survey schedule and maps)
- Trees selected for retention
- Trees to be removed
- Facilitation pruning requirements
- Evaluation of the impact of proposed tree losses
- Mitigation measures to implement the design
- Tree protection plan

### 2.3 The site

The red line boundary is approximately 0.04 hectares in extent and comprises concrete hardstanding with a double garage to the southeastern corner. Category C arboricultural

features were surveyed beyond the western and southern site boundaries, within the client's additional land ownership. Residential properties were located to the north and east of the site. The site was located approximately 1.6 miles north of Hitchin, and the wider area was predominated by residential development and agricultural land. The site is the subject of a full planning application for a dwelling with associated infrastructure and landscaping. Design proposals can be found in Appendix 4.

## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Tree survey parameters

3.1.1 The tree survey was undertaken in accordance with the guiding principles of British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations.'

3.1.2 Individual trees, groups of trees, woodlands and hedgerows are surveyed. A group of trees constitutes a cohesive arboricultural feature, either aerodynamically, visually or culturally. Where groups or woodlands are surveyed, individual trees may still be assessed if they vary significantly in their attributes.

3.1.3 Information recorded in the survey includes:

- **Species** – listed by common name. In the case of groups, all woody species present will be recorded.
- **Tree Height** – estimated in metres. In the case of groups, the average group height is recorded.
- **Crown Height** – height to the lowest branch is estimated in metres for each cardinal direction. In the case of groups, the minimum crown height is recorded.
- **Stem Diameters** – diameters of single-stemmed trees on level ground are measured at 1.5 metres above ground to the nearest 10 millimetres. Other commonly encountered trees (i.e. multi-stemmed or those on sloping ground) are measured in accordance with Figure C.1, BS 5837:2012.
- **Crown Spread** – recorded in metres along each of the cardinal points. In the case of groups, the maximum peripheral spread is recorded.
- **Life Stage** – recorded as young, semi-mature, mature, veteran, ancient or dead and defined in Table 2.

Table 2: Definitions of tree life-stages, as recorded in the survey schedule

| Tree life-stage | Definition                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Young           | A tree within its first third of life expectancy. Established, but with significant growth remaining to reach ultimate size.                                                   |
| Semi-mature     | A tree within its second third of life expectancy. Reaching its ultimate potential height, with slowing growth rate but will still increase in stem diameter and crown spread. |
| Mature          | A tree within its final third of life expectancy. Limited potential for any significant further increase in size, even when healthy. Reasonable remaining life expectancy.     |
| Veteran         | A tree with features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species concerned.       |
| Ancient         | A tree that has passed beyond maturity and is very old in comparison to other trees of the same species.                                                                       |
| Dead            | The tree is dead; age up till death is of no significance.                                                                                                                     |

- **General Observations** – including physiological condition (good, fair, poor, decline, dead) and any preliminary management recommendations. In the case of groups, the category awarded is that typical of the group.
- **Life Expectancy** – estimated remaining contribution in years (<10, 10+, 20+, 40+).

3.1.4 Trees will then be categorised as per the criteria shown in Table 3, to ascertain the quality and value of the existing tree stock.

## 3.2 Root Protection Areas (RPAs)

3.2.1 The **Root Protection Areas** are calculated and recorded in the survey schedule. RPAs are expressed in both linear and square metres. The RPA comprises the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability. The RPA is where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority; it is at this distance/around this area that the tree protective fencing should be erected around any trees to be retained.

- 3.2.2 The default position is that structures are located outside the RPAs of trees to be retained. However, development within RPAs might be proposed when technical solutions allow the tree to remain viable. Such specialist guidance is therefore provided herein, where necessary.
- 3.2.3 Under BS 5837 guidance, RPAs are notionally shown in a uniform, circular shape around a tree's stem; however, where existing site conditions prevent root growth, the shape of the RPA will be modified to reflect likely root distribution using sound arboricultural assessment. For this site, no surveyed tree RPAs were modified.

### **3.3 General information and tree survey limitations**

- 3.3.1 Tree surveys will be plotted directly onto a topographical survey whenever possible. If a topographical survey has not been undertaken, a digital OS map of the site will be used.
- 3.3.2 Surveyed trees are plotted using a Trimble TDC600 handheld device, partnered with a Geode GPS receiver (GNS2 Multi-GNSS 1Hz Receiver). Normal error of up to 0.5m can be experienced using this device, however care is taken to use the most accurate reading possible.
- 3.3.3 Where offsite trees have the potential to be impacted by the development proposals, they will be included within the tree survey; all measurements for offsite trees will be estimated from the site. Whenever tree measurements are estimated, this is represented with a # in the survey schedule. Note, detailed visual inspections may not be possible for offsite trees, as potential features/defects may not be visible from the site.

### **3.4 Report lifespan**

- 3.4.1 We expect the results and recommendations of this report to be accurate for 2 years; however, tree condition may change following extreme weather events, damage or other unforeseen circumstances.

Table 3: Cascade chart for tree quality assessment (BS 5837:2012)

| Category and definition                                                                                                                                                   | Criteria (including sub-categories where appropriate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trees unsuitable for retention                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Category U</b><br>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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning).</li><li>– Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline.</li><li>– Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety for the trees nearby, or very low-quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality.</li><li>– <i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve.</i></li></ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Trees to be considered for retention</b>                                                                                                                               | <b>1 Mainly arboricultural values</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>2 Mainly landscape values</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation</b>                                                                               |
| <b>Category A</b><br>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 those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant 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) |
| <b>Category B</b><br>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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 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 | Trees with material conservation or other cultural value                                                                              |

| Category and definition                                                                                                                                     | Criteria (including sub-categories where appropriate)                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                             | 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 | situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality                                                                                                                              |                                                             |
| <b>Category C</b><br>Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm | 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 value |

## **4 Arboricultural Impact Assessment**

### **4.1 Presence of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) or Conservation Areas**

- 4.1.1 North Herts Council has confirmed by email that there are no Tree Preservation Orders nor Conservation Areas relevant to the site; this information is correct as of the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2026.

### **4.2 Potential for tree damage during development**

- 4.2.1 Many development activities have the potential to damage trees, either directly or indirectly. Direct damage could include root severance, accidental damage to the crown or impact damage, whilst indirect damage predominantly involves soil compaction and the subsequent root loss.
- 4.2.2 Severing just one of a tree's major roots during careless excavation for construction can cause the loss of up to 20 per cent of the root system; this undermines the tree's ability to absorb water and leaves it unstable in high winds. In general, 80-90% of all tree roots are found in the top 600mm of soil, and almost 99% of the tree's total root length occurs within the topmost 1m of soil, with some variations depending on soil porosity. The potential nuisance that fine root systems create for the development of specific sites must be weighed against the importance that they play in soil stabilisation on sloping ground (acting in a similar way to geotextile matting).
- 4.2.3 The early provision of physical protection against damage and technical solutions are essential, to ensure the site's retained trees remain healthy and viable.

### **4.3 Potential incompatibilities between the layout and trees proposed for retention**

#### **Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZs)**

- 4.3.1 One Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) is required immediately after the existing concrete hardstanding is removed. This CEZ will protect a portion of the RPAs of the offsite retained G1, which will remain unsurfaced to form a garden.
- A minimum working space of 2m has been provided between the CEZs and proposed dwelling.

- Demolition of the existing garage is required during the first phase of construction.
- Prior to commencement of works on the dwelling, the existing concrete within the area of the recommended CEZ will need to be removed. Concrete will be removed sympathetically to any potential, underlying tree roots in a ‘backwards’ manner from the existing southern brick boundary wall, with the use of hand tools. Once removal of this area is complete, the CEZ must be installed before construction works.
- No CEZs have been recommended in the footprint of the existing garage due to spatial constraints; however, significant rooting material is not expected from T1 or G1 due to the foundations of the garage. New hard surfacing is proposed within the footprint of the existing garage and conventional installation methods are to be used.
- No CEZ has been recommended for T2 due to spatial constraints. A below ground attenuation tank has been proposed adjacent to the RPA of T2, however due to the retained stone wall, there is not sufficient space to recommend CEZ installation. The footprint of the attenuation tank is covered by existing hard surfacing.

### **Permanent ground protection**

- 4.3.2 There is no requirement for permanent ground protection within this scheme.

### **Temporary ground protection**

- 4.3.3 There is no requirement for temporary ground protection within this scheme.

### **Specialist foundations**

- 4.3.4 There is no requirement for specialist foundations, due to the absence of conflict between the proposed dwelling and the RPAs of retained trees.

### **Soft Landscaping within RPAs**

- 4.3.5 Soft landscaping is expected within the RPAs of T1, T2, and G1. The Proposed Ground Floor Plan shows a lawn to the south of the site and raised planting areas throughout. A fence with a gate has been proposed within the RPA of G1; conventional installation methods are considered suitable.

#### **4.4 The working and access space needed for construction**

- 4.4.1 An existing handstanding access area from Ickleford Bury to the west of the site will be utilised for access by construction vehicles and personnel.
- 4.4.2 Access into exclusion zones is strictly prohibited without prior amendments to the mitigation proposed. Similarly, building materials must also be stored outside of the CEZs to avoid soil compaction or physical damage.

#### **4.5 Trees proposed for removal**

- 4.5.1 There is no requirement for tree removal within this scheme.

#### **4.6 New planting**

- 4.6.1 Due to the absence of required tree removal within the site, mitigatory replanting is not considered an essential requirement for this scheme.

#### **4.7 Proximity of trees to structures – shading, seasonal nuisance and future pressures**

- 4.7.1 Shading will have minimal impact on the proposed bungalow. A shading plan for all trees surveyed can be seen in Appendix 2.
- 4.7.2 The impact of trees on buildings and vice versa and allowance for future growth have all been considered in the siting of the proposed plans. Tree size, future growth and light/shading have received due attention and are not considered to be an issue. Overall, the processes of construction are highly unlikely to have a detrimental effect upon the health of the retained trees, assuming recommendations made in this report are always adhered to by the contractors e.g., the positioning of a stout fence between the retained trees and construction activities prior to the commencement of works.

#### **4.8 Installation of services**

- 4.8.1 A plan of existing services has not yet been provided. The proposed layout indicates a below ground attenuation tank and treatment plant to the west of the site. An electric vehicle charging point and ASHP are proposed to the southwest of the site. Any underground services already existing on site should be utilised where possible to avoid further disturbance of RPAs. If

underground services are to be installed during the establishment of the main access, they are to follow the access into the site (following the roads). If underground services are to be installed this way, then the likelihood of negatively impacting trees is kept to a minimum. Service trenches should be laid at the greatest distance from the trees as possible. Section 7.7 of BS 5837:2012's guidance on services suggests re-routing into an RPA should be avoided when at all possible. If plans were to change and services were to infringe on Root Protection Areas, effort should be taken to lay them using trenchless 'no dig' methods in order to avoid cutting major roots. Modifications to the alignment should also be made to avoid adverse effects on tree growth and soil stability. Services near existing trees and potential new planting should be ducted when possible for future maintenance. Grouping services will also minimise future disturbance where applicable.

#### **4.9 Facilitative pruning works and further management recommendations**

- 4.9.1 The northwestern crown of T3 requires up to 2m crown lift to allow canopy clearance for the garage demolition.
- 4.9.2 Any appointed contractor must carry out tree works according to BS 3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree Work'.

## 5 Conclusion

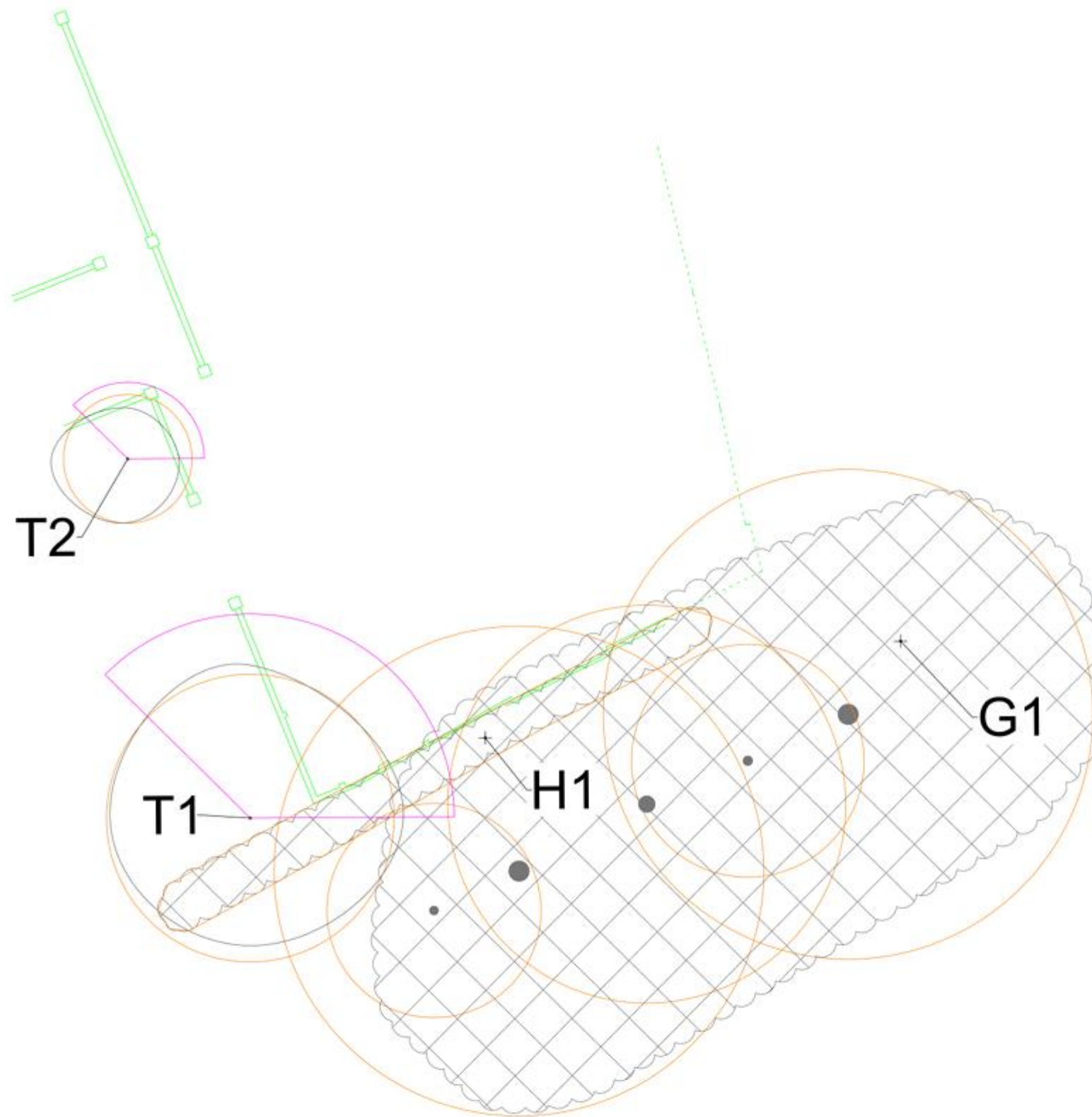
- 5.1.1 All trees identified within this report should be retained.
- 5.1.2 Due to the nature of the development, it is unlikely there will be any major impacts on retained trees if the CEZ is implemented. Fencing should be placed prior to any construction works and can be removed after the works are completed. Appendix 3 provides details of the fencing requirements for Construction Exclusion Zones.

## **Appendix 1 – Tree Survey Schedule**

| Tree ID | Common Name      | Maturity    | Height (m) | No. of Stems | Calculated Stem Diameter (mm) | Radius of Nominal Circle (m) | RPA <sup>(m2)</sup> | Crown Spread (m) |   |     |     | Crown Height (m) |   |   |   | Crown | Stem | Basal Area | BS 5837 Category | Life Expectancy | Phys Condition | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------|------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---|-----|-----|------------------|---|---|---|-------|------|------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                  |             |            |              |                               |                              |                     | N                | E | S   | W   | N                | E | S | W |       |      |            |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| T1      | Common Yew       | Semi-mature | 8          | 10           | 474                           | 5.7                          | 101.6               | 6                | 6 | 5   | 5.5 | 4                | 5 | 6 | 2 | Good  | Fair | Good       | C2               | 10 to 20 yrs    | Good           | In soft landscape area between car parking and driveway. Beyond the survey red boundary line, within client ownership. Multistemmed from base to approximately 2m. Moderate pruning north for vehicular clearance, predominantly unoccluded. |
| T2      | Northern Catalpa | Young       | 3          | 3            | 214                           | 2.6                          | 20.7                | 2                | 2 | 2.5 | 3   | 1                | 1 | 1 | 1 | Good  | Fair | Good       | C1               | 10 to 20 yrs    | Good           | Pollarded at 2m with healthy regrowth. In soft landscape area adjacent to building. Beyond survey redline, but within client's property.                                                                                                     |

| Group ID | Species                               | BS 5837 Category | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| G1       | Lawson Cypress                        | C2               | Average height 12m. Off site on other side of driveway. Mature. Stems plotted individually. Stems obscured by ivy. Bark inclusions at stem junctions. Slight overhang into site, with approximately 5m clearance along driveway. Average stem diameter 595mm. Fair condition. |
| H1       | Privet, Common Elder, Common Hawthorn | C1               | Fair condition with sparse foliage due to significant shading from overhead trees. Young. Considerable minor deadwood throughout. Average height 3.5m and width 1m. Off site. Fair condition. Beyond survey red boundary line, within client ownership.                       |

## **Appendix 2 – Tree Maps & Tree Protection Plan**



Legend

|                                                                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|  | Category C Tree           |
|  | Root Protection Area      |
|  | Shading Arc               |
|  | Category C Group or Hedge |

| Revision | By | Date | Details |
|----------|----|------|---------|
|          |    |      |         |
|          |    |      |         |
|          |    |      |         |

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Project Reference: BG26.234 | THE COURT YARD |
|-----------------------------|----------------|

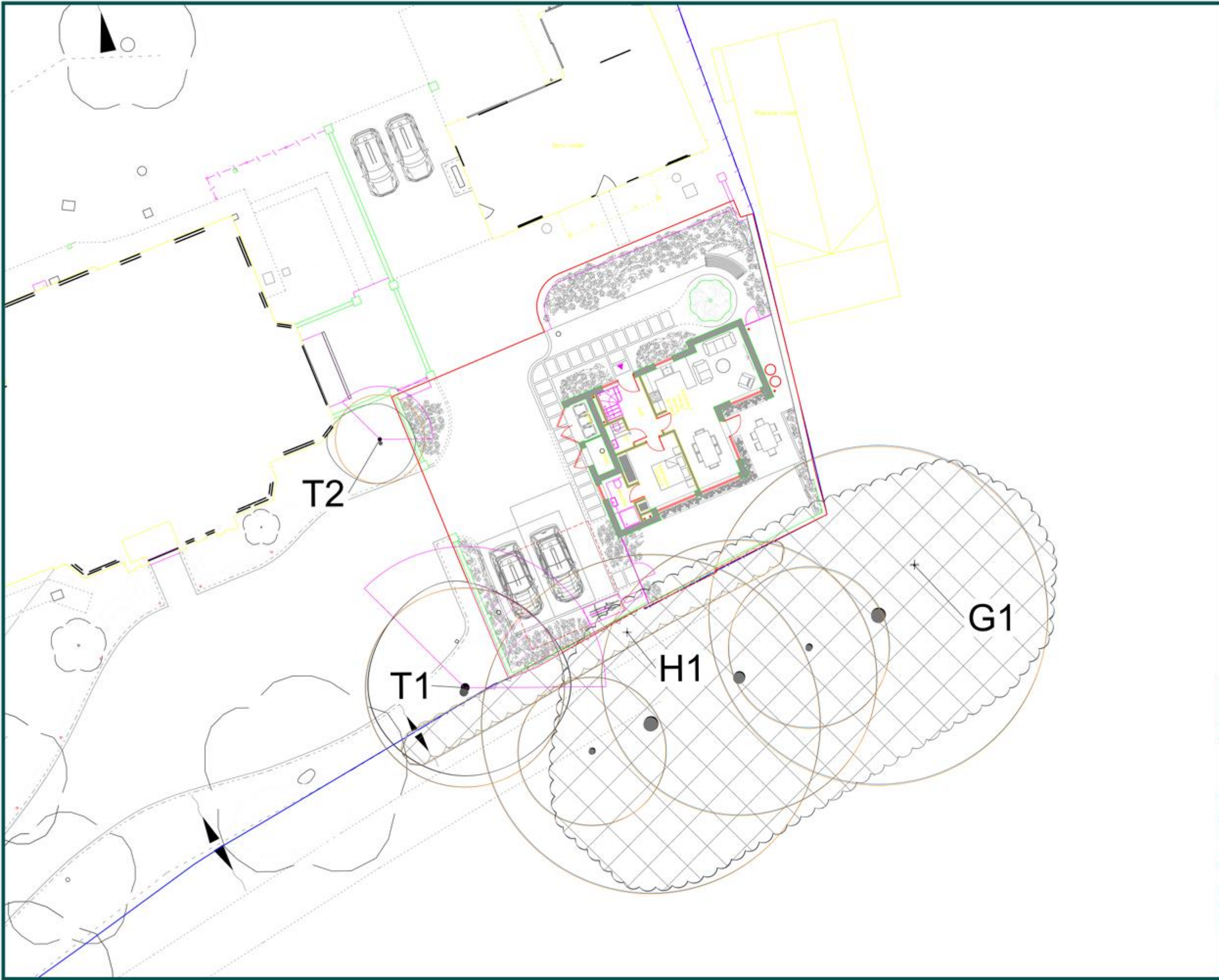
|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Client: CLEAR ARCHITECTS |
|--------------------------|

|                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| Drawing title: TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN<br>SHEET 1 OF 1 |
|------------------------------------------------------|

|                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Project of issue: INITIAL ISSUE | Date of issue: 13.07.2026 |
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| Drawn: WS                       | Checked and approved: LE  |
| Plot: P01                       | Revision: -               |

BG26.234-BRGR-ZZ-ZZ-DR-ARB-00001





Legend

|                                                                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|  | Category C Tree           |
|  | Root Protection Area      |
|  | Shading Arc               |
|  | Category C Group or Hedge |

| Revision | By | Date | Details |
|----------|----|------|---------|
|          |    |      |         |
|          |    |      |         |
|          |    |      |         |

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Project Reference / Name | BG26.234 THE COURT YARD |
| Client                   | CLEAR ARCHITECTS        |

Drawing title

**ARBORICULTURAL IMPACTS PLAN  
SHEET 1 OF 1**

|                  |          |               |    |
|------------------|----------|---------------|----|
| Project at Issue |          | Date of Issue |    |
| INITIAL ISSUE    |          | 03.09.2026    |    |
| Scale 1:100      | Drawn by | WS            | 50 |
| Checked by       | LE       | P01           | -  |

Legend

-  Category C Tree
-  Root Protection Area
-  Category C Woodland, Group or Hedge
-  Tree Protection Fencing
-  Recommended Extent of Pruning

| Revision | By | Date | Details |
|----------|----|------|---------|
|          |    |      |         |
|          |    |      |         |
|          |    |      |         |

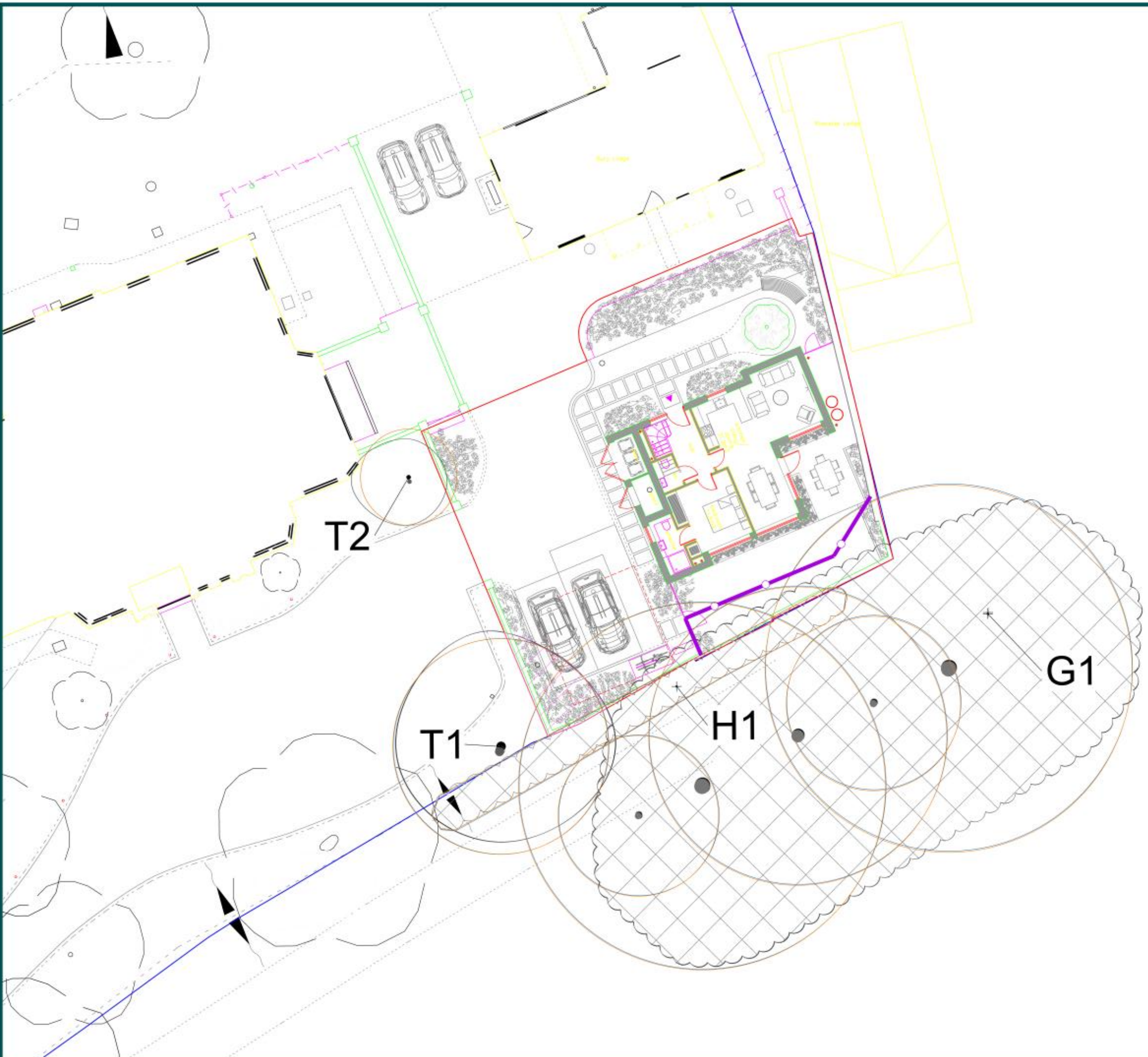
|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Project Reference / Name |                |
| BG26.234                 | THE COURT YARD |

|        |                  |
|--------|------------------|
| Client | CLEAR ARCHITECTS |
|--------|------------------|

|               |                                      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Drawing Title | TREE PROTECTION PLAN<br>SHEET 1 OF 1 |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|

|             |               |                  |            |
|-------------|---------------|------------------|------------|
| Prepared by | Initial Issue | Issue Date       | 03.09.2026 |
| Scale       | 1:100         | Scale            | S0         |
| Drawn       | WS            | Checked/Approved | LE         |
| Issue       | P01           | Version          | -          |

BG26.234-BRGR-ZZ-ZZ-DR-ARB-00003



# Appendix 3 – Tree Protection General Guidance

## Tree protection specification – protective fencing

The protective fencing used must be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity.

The default fencing specification should be as per Figure 1 and comprise of a vertical and horizontal scaffold framework. The fencing must be a minimum of 2m tall and well braced to resist impacts. Upright scaffold poles must be driven into the ground by a minimum of 0.6m and spaced at maximum intervals of 3m. Onto this framework, welded mesh infill panels will be secured to the uprights and cross-members with wire ties. The fence should be supported on the inner side by bracing poles. Care must be taken when locating the bracing poles to avoid contact with structural roots.

When the site circumstances prevent the use of driven poles (e.g. due to existing hard surfacing), the fencing specification should be as per Figure 2. This will consist of 2m tall welded mesh panels (e.g. Heras) on rubber or concrete feet, with the mesh panels held together with a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers. Distance between the fence couplers should be at least 1m and uniform across the fencing. Stabiliser struts on the inner side of the fence should be attached to a base plate secured with ground pins (Figure 2a) or mounted onto a block tray (Figure 2b).

Tree protective fencing must have all-weather notices attached at regular intervals, such as those in Figure 3 and Figure 4. The notices must include wording such as 'CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE – NO ACCESS' or 'TREE PROTECTION AREA – KEEP OUT'. The tree protective fencing must remain *in situ* and intact until completion of construction; they may be removed after agreement with the project arboriculturist and their removal discharged to the Local Planning Authority.

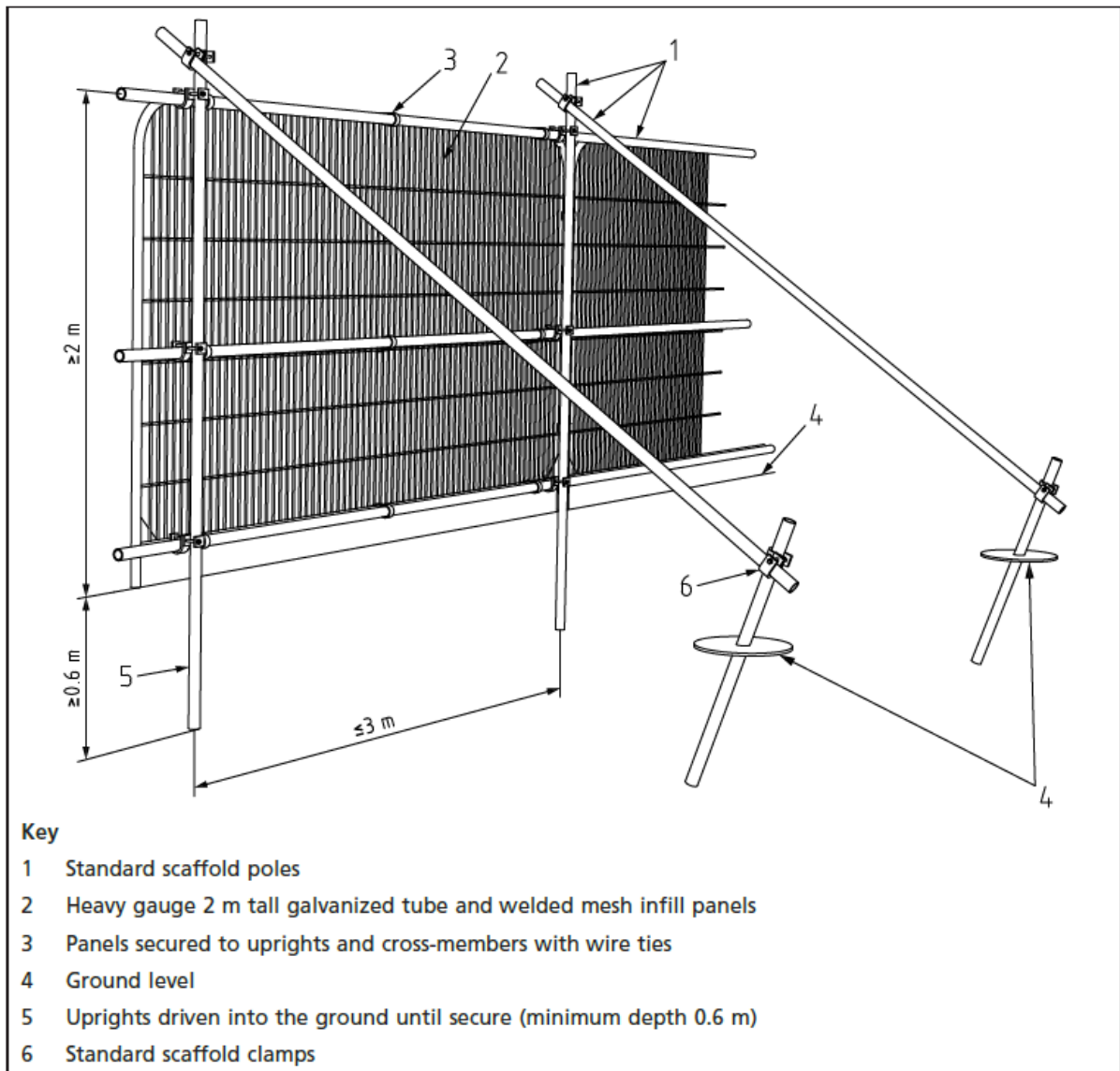


Figure 1: Default specification for tree protection fencing (Figure 2 in BS 5837:2012)

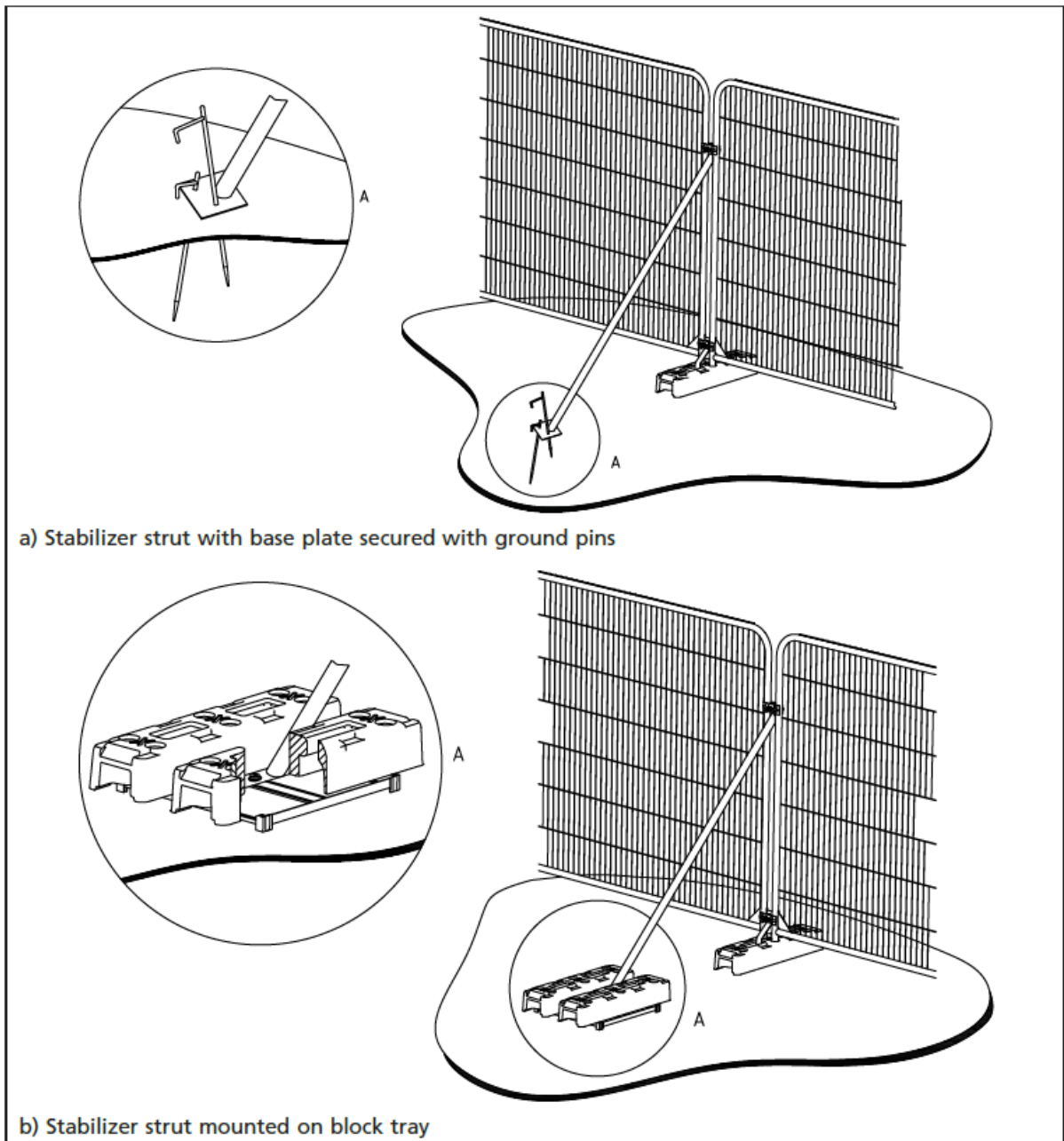


Figure 2: Alternative specification for tree protection fencing (Figure 3 in BS 5837:2012).



# **TREE PROTECTION AREA KEEP OUT!**

**(Town & Country Planning Act 1990)**

**Trees enclosed by this fence are protected by  
planning conditions and/or are the subjects of  
a Tree Preservation Order.**

**Contravention of a Tree Preservation Order  
may lead to criminal prosecution.**

**Any incursion into the protected area must be  
with the written permission of the local  
planning authority.**



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info@brindlegreen.co.uk  
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Figure 3: Tree protection fencing signage.



## **PROTECTIVE FENCING**

**Fencing must be maintained in accordance with the approved plans and drawings for this development**



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Figure 4: Tree protection fencing signage.

## **Other considerations – statutory controls and wildlife**

### **Statutory controls**

Trees may be statutorily protected due to their location within a Conservation Area, or by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Brindle & Green Ltd have undertaken TPO and Conservation Area searches to inform this report, using Local Planning Authority online mapping services or by confirming directly with the LPA. The protection status of trees may change between the issuing of reports and the commencement of works onsite; therefore, it is strongly recommended that tree protection status is checked directly with the LPA prior to the commencement of any tree work onsite. Separate works applications to protected trees are not required provided that the works are specified in this report, that this report is submitted to the LPA as part of the planning application and that planning consent is granted.

### **Bats**

Several British bat species will roost in trees. All bats in the United Kingdom and their habitats are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is an offence to damage or destroy any bat roost, intentionally or recklessly obstruct a bat roost, deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat or intentionally kill, injure or take any bat.

### **Breeding birds**

All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. In addition, for species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly cause disturbance at, on or near an 'active' nest.

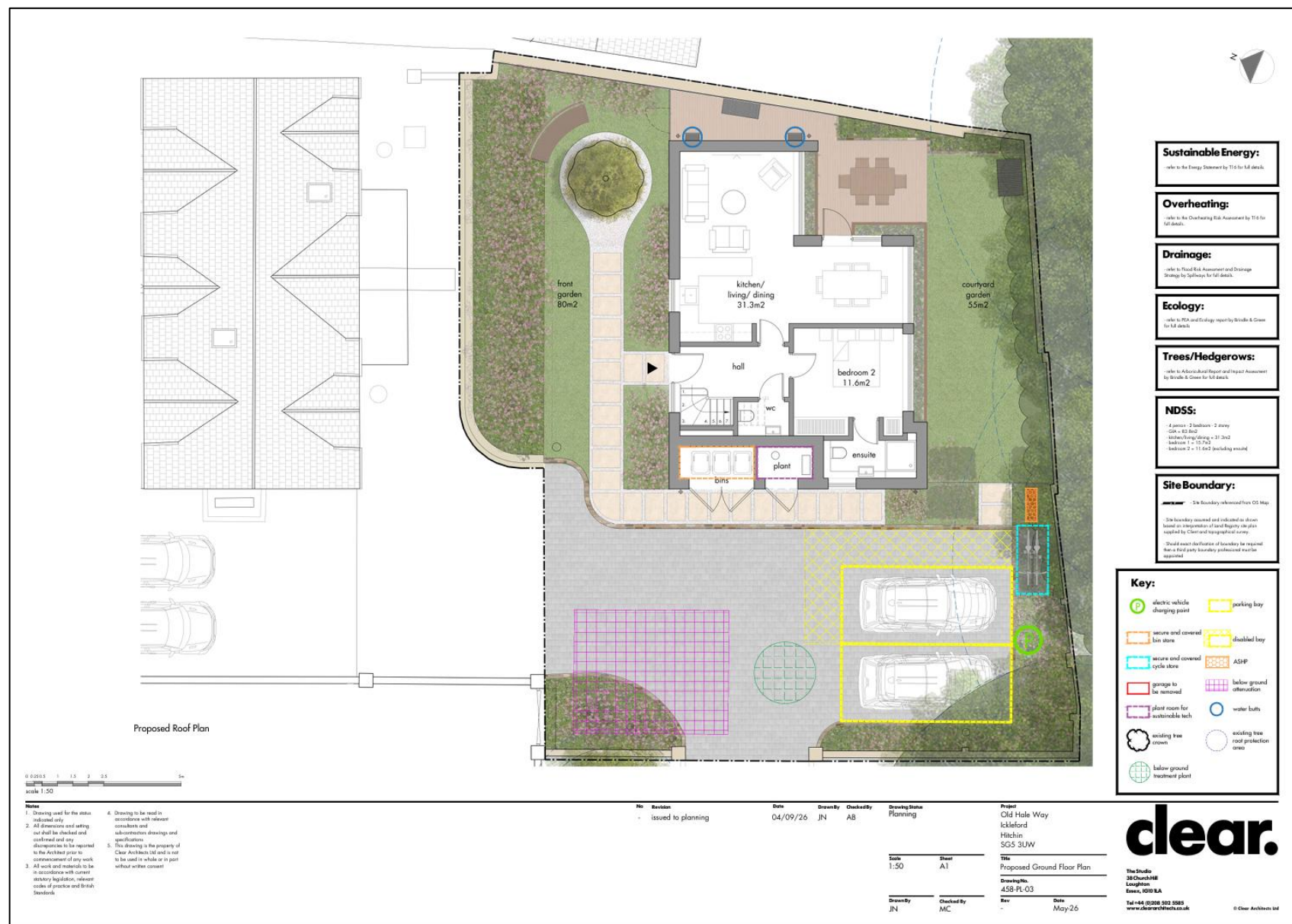
Vegetation clearance, including tree and hedgerow removal, during the period March to August can be damaging to active bird nests during the main breeding season. Vegetation clearance on site should ideally take place in the months September to February, outside of the main bird breeding season.

Any vegetation clearance proposed between the months of March and September should be subjected to a search for active birds' nests 24 hours prior to commencement of works. This should confirm whether all or some clearance is achievable. In addition to a pre-works check,

the clearance of vegetation between the months of March and September should be supervised by a suitably experienced ecologist.

## **Appendix 4 – Site Plans**





## Appendix 5 – Site Photographs

| Image                                                                               | Description                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
|   | <p>Offsite tree T1 behind onsite garage.</p> |
|  | <p>Offsite G1 and H1.</p>                    |

## Appendix 6 – General References

British Standards Institution, 1989. *BS 4428:1989 - Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces)*. BSI Standards Limited.

British Standards Institution, 2010. *BS 3998:2010 - Tree work - Recommendations*. BSI Standards Limited.

British Standards Institution, 2012. *BS 5837:2012 - Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*. BSI Standards Limited.

Mattheck, C., Bethge, K. & Weber, K., 2015. *The Body Language of Trees (Encyclopaedia of Visual Tree Assessment)*. Karlsruhe: Karlsruhe Institute of Technology - Campus North, a merger of Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH.

Roberts, J., Jackson, N. & Smith, M., 2018. *Tree Roots in the Built Environment*. 3 ed. London: The Stationery Office.

Rose, B., 2020. *The Use of Cellular Confinement Systems Near Trees: A Guide to Good Practice*, UK: Arboricultural Association.