Woodland & Countryside Management Ltd.

Helping you make the most of your land.



NEWLEAZE FARM,
EAST KNOYLE.

Arboricultural Method Statement.

Report by: Steve Russell BSc (Hons). **Date:** 3rd July 2023

Office: 01380 831162 **Mobile:** 07873253425
Email: steve@woodlandcountrysidemanagement.com
Website: www.woodlandcountrysidemanagement.com **INTRODUCTION**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Woodland & Countryside Management Ltd. was commissioned to carry out a BS5837 (2012) Tree Survey on a veteran Oak tree at Newleaze Farm in January 2023. Following a site survey carried out on 24th of January 2023, an initial report was produced on the 30th of January 2023 which provided details of the tree surveyed, plus detailed plans identifying the location of the tree, its calculated Root Protection Areas (RPA) and Tree Shadow. Subsequently following further advice, a detailed plan of the proposed cart shed was produced, and it is this current proposal that is the subject of this Arboricultural Method Statement. All tree survey information has been overlaid on the current plans provided by the client.

1.2 Purpose of Report

This report is to provide the client with a working method statement to enable the tree on the site to be given full consideration in relation to the proposed development on the site. It should be used in discussion with the planning authority to review the tree information in support of the planning submission and as the basis for issuing of planning consent or engaging in further discussion towards that end. This report is based on my site observations and the information provided; I have interpreted this in the context of my experience.

1.3 Qualifications and Experience

My Qualifications are a BSc (Hons) in Countryside Management and National Diploma in Forestry. I have over 45 years' experience in Forestry, Arboriculture and Countryside management primarily in the local authority sector but also the Forestry Commission. I hold numerous NPTC certificates including tree inspection. I have been running Woodland and Countryside Management Ltd. for 12 years. I have worked for Local Authorities, Forestry Commission, MOD, Environmental Organisations, Estates, Estate Agents, Individual landowners and householders. I am a serving member of the Royal Forestry Society and Confederation of Forest Industries. I have also been a part time lecturer in Arboriculture and Woodland Management at Sparsholt and Lackham Colleges.

2 SITE EVALUATION

2.1 Site Visit

The Tree Survey was carried out on the 24th of January 2023. All observation was from ground level, observations were confined to what was visible from within the site and adjacent Public Rights of Way. The weather was bright and sunny.

2.2 Site Description

The site consists of an existing Farm complex with associated barns. There is a large veteran Oak tree to the northeast of the existing buildings. To the south of the Oak is an area of filled and levelled land. There is an adjacent farm asceses track to the east that circles to the south and into the yard area. The Oak tree is a veteran specimen tree it has been crown reduced in the past its roots have developed on a bank adjacent to the filled area. The crown has various cavities, storm damage and other characteristics of a veteran tree including basal decay and all the associated biodiversity benefits such a tree provides. It is likely to be well over 200 years old.



Photo 1 - View from drive looking northeast showing tree and filled pond area.



Photo 2 - View looking southeast showing location between existing buildings.



Photo 3 - Beefsteak fungus in base of stem.



Photo 4 - View showing basal area and filled area.

2.3 Collection of Data

The tree was surveyed as advocated by BS5837 (2012). Category rating was based on BS5837 (2012) Tree Quality Assessment Chart (Appendix 2). The surveyed trees details are set out below and located on the Tree Survey Plan (Appendix 1).

Common Name: Common Oak. **Latin Name:** Quercus robur. **Maturity:** Veteran.
Height: 19.0m. **Number of Stems:** 1. **Stem Diameter:** 1580mm.
Crown Spread - North: 8.0. **East:** 7.0. **South:** 8.5. **West:** 8.5.
Crown Height - North: 3.5. **East:** 3.0. **South:** 3.5. **West:** 3.0.
Condition - Crown: Fair. **Stem:** Good. **Basal Area:** Fair. **Category:** A.
Life Expectancy: 40+ years. **Physiological Condition:** Fair.
Comments: This a veteran tree with all the associated biodiversity and habitat. The crown has been pollarded in the past. There was formally a pond to the southwest which has recently been filled in. There is branch damage in crown as well as cavities. There is fungal decay in the base on east side base and there is dead wood in the crown.

Beefsteak Fungus *Fistulina hepatica* is common in broadleaved trees particularly old Oaks, it causes brown rot in trees, however it is not considered to be pathogenic. Over a long period of time, the fungus will cause decay within the heartwood of the infected tree. It can cause burring in Oak trees, which gradually pierces through to the sapwood of the tree. Long-established decay will eventually cause structural failure to the infected tree but as there are only small areas of the fungus at the present time, there are no immediate concerns for the structural integrity of the tree. That said it would be prudent to put in place a strategic inspection regime on a regular basis (every 3 years or so).

2.4 Interpretation of Data

The Root Protection Area (RPA) for the tree was calculated using the process laid down in section 4.6 of BS5837 (2012). However, this is a simplistic methodology for establishing the minimum distance for protective barriers and consideration should be given to the influencing factors set out in section 4.6.3 of BS5837 (2012) in setting the RPA on this site, such as the area, existing built structures access tracks etc. The calculated RPA of the tree is detailed in the Tree Survey Plan (Appendix 1). The area of the retained trees shadow has also been calculated and is also shown on the Tree Survey Plan (Appendix 1).

2.5 Root Protection Area

The Root Protection Area (RPA) is the area where ground disturbance must be carefully controlled. In principle, no significant disturbance should occur within the RPA of category A, B or C trees as described in the BS5837 (2012) Tree Quality Assessment Chart (Appendix 3), and high levels of care are needed during any activities authorised within the RPA if the trees are to be successfully retained. Consideration also needs to be given to the space needed for the trees to be successfully retained after development has finished i.e., enabling tree crowns have room to develop. This is more important for trees that fall within Category A or B.

Due to the age and structure of the tree it is likely that there has been root retrenchment in line with the crown's natural decline/reduction, and as the tree is of significant age there will be limited crown growth/development and in time it is likely that further crown reduction will be required to maintain the tree in the long term.

3 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

3.1 Impact on Trees

Any development should be made based on the primary assumption that there is no disturbance within the RPAs of the retained trees, particularly those of categories A and B. Careful consideration has been given to the proposed layout so that it has the least impact on trees on the site.

The proposed development of the site will require the footings of the proposed cart shed to be within the calculated RPA of the tree. However, in light of the age of the tree and the reduced crown structure it is likely that there has been a significant retrenchment of the root structure to serve the current crown structure of the tree, so the RPA shown is likely to be in excess of what exists in the ground. However, following the digging of trial pits, the design has taken account of the potential impact on roots and a heli-pile and ground beam foundation with suspended concrete floor solution is proposed.

3.2 Impact on Local Landscape

The impact from the proposals on the tree's visual importance in the local landscape will be minimal.

3.3 Proposals to Mitigate Impact

The successful retention of trees depends on the quality of the protection and the administrative procedures in place to ensure that the protective measures remain in place whilst there is any risk of damage. The Tree Protection Plan (Appendix 3) provides an indication of the area where there will be impact on the calculated Tree RPA. There will be a need to erect protective fencing to protect the majority of the trees RPA. The areas of the RPA outside the Protection Fencing will require full consideration and the access will need to be constructed using a non-dig methodology.

Firstly, an air spade should be used to expose any tree roots in the location of the piles. This and the trial pits will ensure the location of the piles does not impact any roots. Using a heli-piling system will minimise impact on the tree roots. The piles then support ground beams which hold up the building and floor. The beams themselves are placed above the existing ground level which may affect the internal heights of the proposed building and associated access; however, it is calculated that there will be minimal increases in ground level within the RPA.

4 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 Introduction

The Arboricultural Method Statement sets out the protection measures that must be put in place to secure successful tree retention prior to, during and after development. It assumes that the minimum general standards for development issues are those set out in BS5837 (2012). The location and methodology of the protection measures must be approved by the Planning Authority and are subject to a site inspection and approval prior to commencement of works.

4.2 Protection Barriers

Temporary tree protection fencing is required to protect the RPA of the trees. The temporary fencing is to be erected prior to the start of the development works; this will be retained and maintained for the full duration of the construction works, only being moved back to complete the access works once the main building has been completed. BS5837 (2012) states that where protective barriers are used these should be fit for purpose; BS5837 (2012) section 6.2.2 sets out the default position, however it also states in 6.2.2.3 that 'where the site circumstances and associated risk do not necessitate the default position, an alternative specification should be prepared and agreed by the local planning authority'.

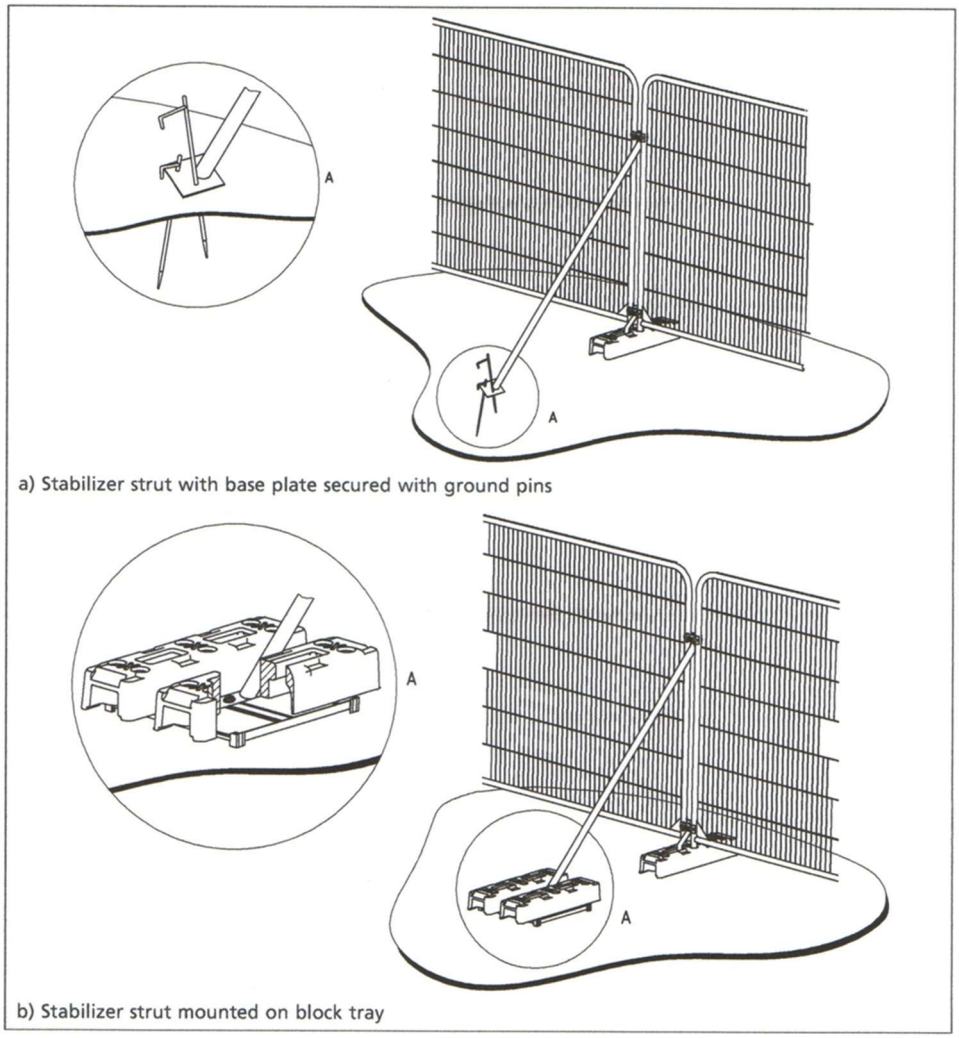

Figure 1 - Above Ground Protection Fencing

Due to the nature of the site, it is proposed that an above ground stabilising system of protective fence with stabilisers in block trays as per Figure 3b of BS5837 (2012) will be used (Figure 1). The protective fencing will be erected as per the Tree Protection Plan (Appendix 3) and is shown in Orange on the plan. The fencing will link to the existing farm building and the adjacent hedge boundary to create a fully enclosed protection area.

4.3 Protection Surfacing

Construction of the access will be carried out at the end of the development, the protective fencing being moved back to the edge of the proposed access to allow construction within the RPA, this will be in line with BS5837 2012 Section 7.4, as shown in Figure 2 below, and is guided by Arboricultural Practice Note No 12 'Through the Trees to Development'. Where the access and parking areas are within tree RPAs it is recommended that a proprietary cellular confinement system that will allow water and gas movement be used e.g., the Cellweb TRP® Cellular Confinement System. Effective this will provide load spreading to avoid compaction and will require no excavation to the existing surface. Any edge retention will be custom designed to avoid any significant excavation into existing soil levels. This will be pre-formed edging secured by metal pins. The protective fencing will be erected as per the Tree Protection Plan (Appendix 3) and is shown in Pink on the plan.

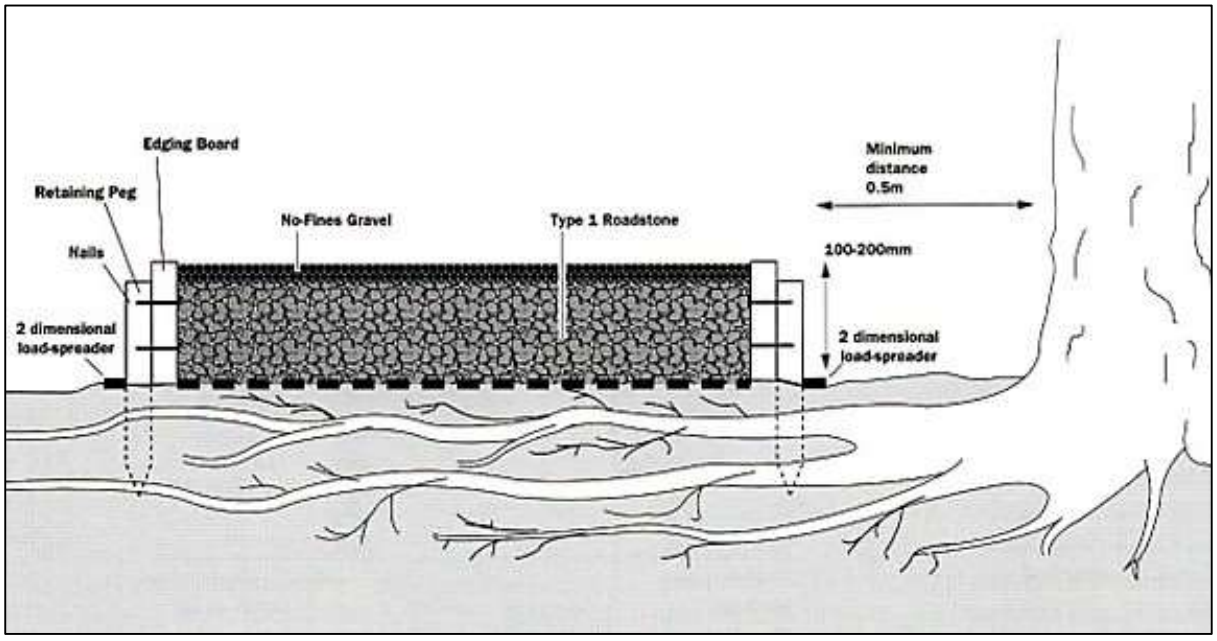

Figure 2 - Protection Surfacing

4.4 Construction Scaffolding within RPA

Where the RPA is impacted purely for scaffolding rather than physical construction and where practical to do so a system of ground protection scaffolding must be put in place and must be erected as per BS5837 (Figure 3). Protection will consist of a single thickness of scaffold boards placed either on top of a driven scaffold frame, so as to form a suspended walkway or on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g., 100 mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane. No vehicular access, storage or tipping will be permitted in these areas. The areas where this will be required are shown in Purple on the Tree Protection Plan (Appendix 3).

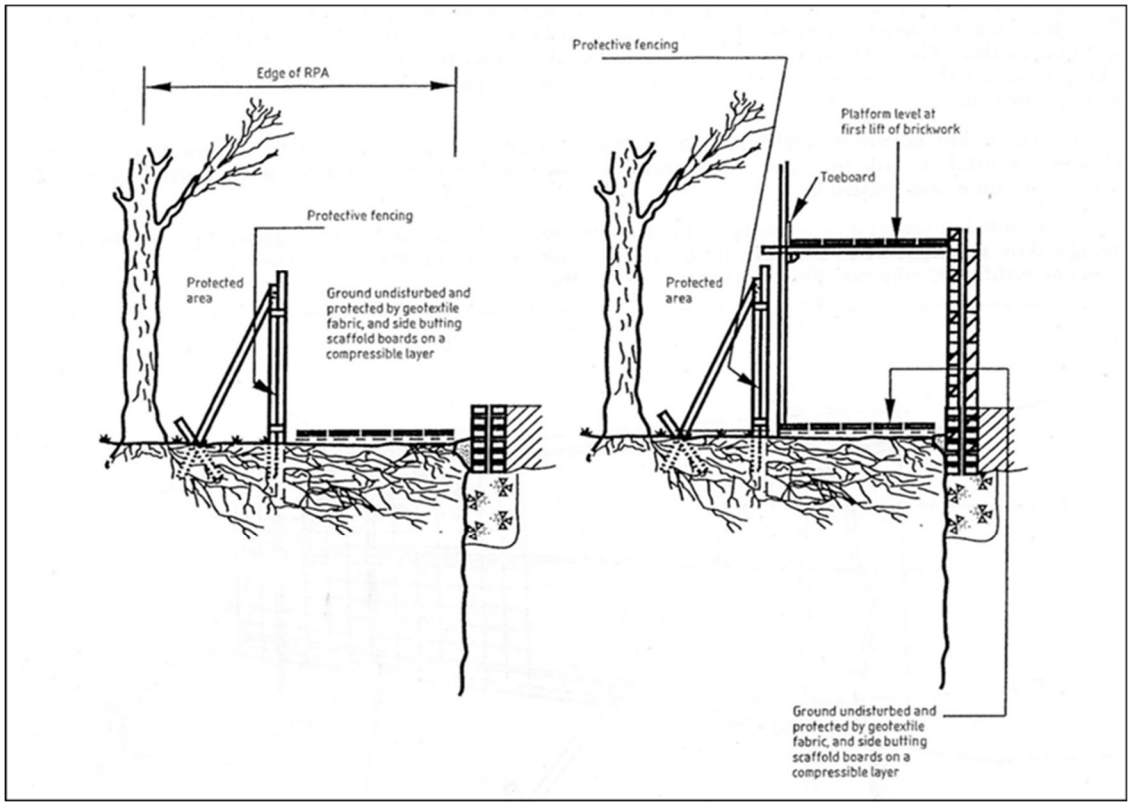

Figure 3 - Protection Scaffolding

4.5 General Excavation

Other than the proposed piling, no other excavation is proposed within the calculated RPA, however all excavation within 2.0m. of the RPA must be carried out by hand digging and targeted to avoid any roots. Should any roots be exposed and need to be removed, these should be cut 10-20cm behind the final face of excavation. Retained roots must be protected from direct sunlight, drying out and extreme temperatures by an appropriate covering. Roots greater than 25mm should be retained where possible, roots 25 - 100mm should only be cut in exceptional circumstances and following guidance from the Arboricultural Advisor.

4.6 Removal of Structures

The existing log store lean-to will be removed from the eastern end of the northern building. This sits within the calculated RPA and any base removal must be carried out by hand where possible or with low impact pneumatic tools. Removal of all material will be by hand. Removal will be from the undisturbed surface and any exposed roots will be covered in topsoil.

4.7 Installation of New Services

There are no details of services at this stage, however all services will be installed from existing points, with new services being located outside the RPA.

4.8 Site Storage, Cement mixing and Washing Points

Fuel storage, materials storage, handling and mixing areas and washing points for equipment and vehicles must all be located outside the RPA. There will be no burning of waste material on the site; all waste material will be removed from site.

4.9 Tree Protection Supervision

Tree protection will be overseen by the Arboricultural Advisor, who will ensure all the proposed protective measures set out in this Method Statement are implemented and carried out in accordance with the approved details. This will require monitoring visits as set out in section 4.13 below.

4.10 Tree Management Works

There are no tree management works proposed, however should any be required, these should be carried out to BS3998 (2010) Tree Work Recommendations being carried out by a qualified Arboricultural contractor and with consent from the Local Planning Authority.

4.11 Soft Landscaping

Other than the minor ground level changes proposed as part of the access any re-profiling must be kept outside the RPA and ground levels should be maintained at original levels where they extend over the RPA.

4.12 Site Management

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure that the details of the Method Statement and any subsequent details and amendments are fully understood by all site personal. The developer will also be responsible for alerting the Arboricultural Advisor of any unforeseen works that have potential to impact on any RPA and to take advice on the works and implement any recommendations made. The developer will also be responsible for the provision of site visit records and certificates of completion.

4.13 Site Monitoring

The proposal has the potential to have an impact on the trees on the site and will require regular monitoring to ensure protection measures are installed and maintained. Several visits will be required by the Arboricultural Advisor and will be as follows:

1. When erecting the Protection Fencing.
2. When excavating/fitting the piles.
3. On completion of the main structure prior to moving back the Protection Fencing to allow construction of the access.
4. On completion of all works prior to the Protection Fencing being removed.

5. CONTACT DETAILS.

5.1 Owner

Brian Ashford-Russell

5.2 Planning Consultant

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5.3 Architect

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5.4 Arboricultural Advisor

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6. SUMMARY

This is a veteran Oak tree of exceptional habitat and biodiversity value. It is considered that the proposed development can carried out with care and that it will have limited impact on this veteran Oak tree. This report provides an Arboricultural Method Statement that ensures the development can be completed with mitigation and protection works whilst maintaining the tree which although in decline will have a significant role/impact on the environs of the site for a considerable time into the future on the site.

7. APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 Tree Survey Plan
Appendix 2 BS5837 (2012) Tree Quality Assessment Chart
Appendix 3 Tree Protection Plan

Date: 3rd July 2023

Steve Russell BSc (Hons)
Woodland & Countryside Management Ltd.

APPENDIX 1

WOODLAND & COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT LTD.

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NEWLEAZE FARM
EAST KNOYLE

SCALE :	DATE :	
1 : 500 @ A3	30/01/2023	N

PLAN TITLE: FULL TREE SURVEY PLAN

PLAN REF: WCM/SSR/BL/MW/NF/FTSP/1

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0 40m

LEGEND

Crown Spread

Root Protection Area

Shading Arc

Category 'A'

Category 'B'

Category 'C'

Category 'U'

0 40m

LEGEND

RPA Buffer

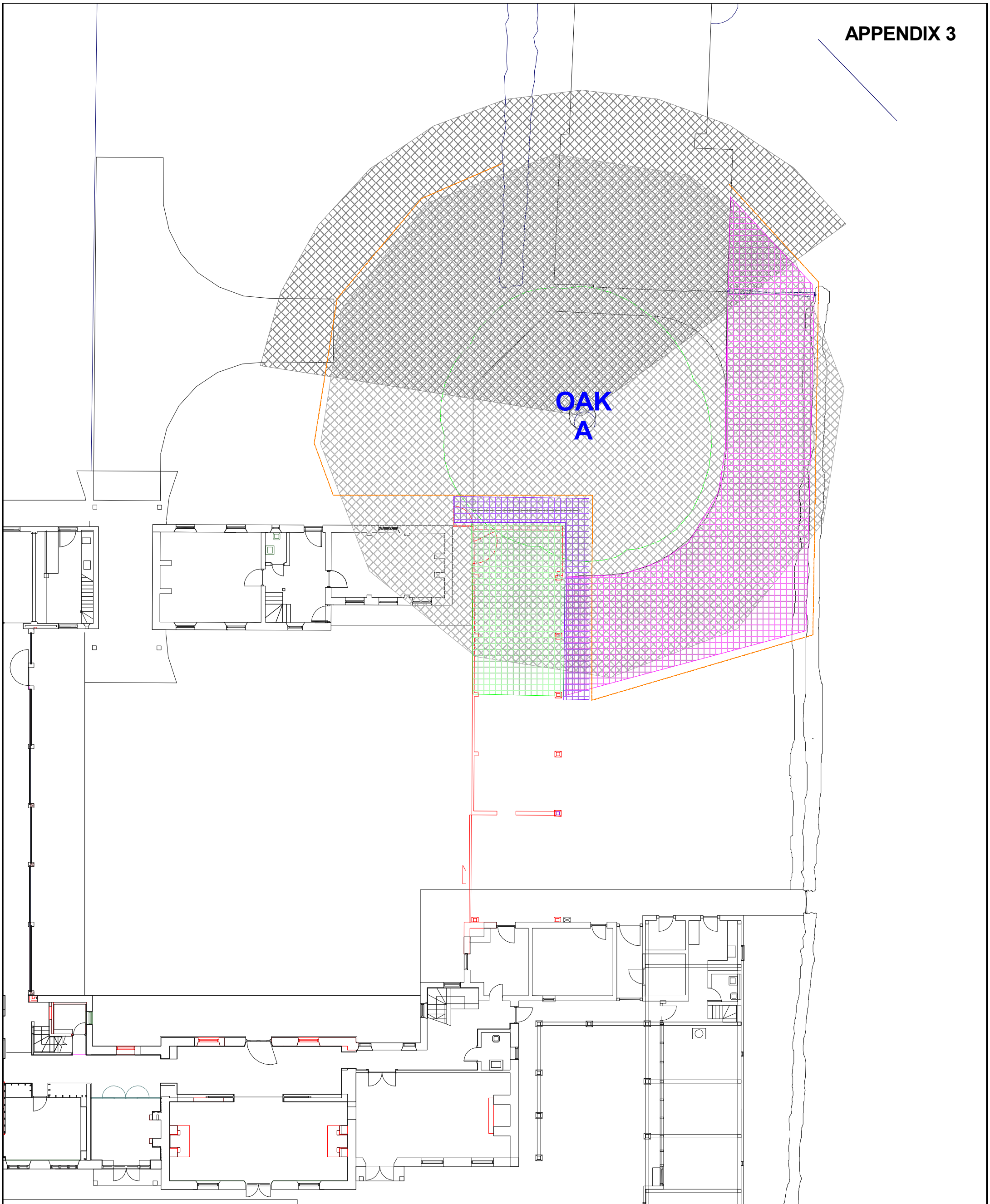
Oak
A

APPENDIX 2

BS 5837 (2012) CASCADE CHART FOR TREE QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)				
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 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) • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality *NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.*			See Table 2
	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 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)	See Table 2
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	See Table 2
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 value	See Table 2

APPENDIX 3



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PROPOSED CART SHED

SCALE :	DATE :
1 : 200 @ A3	03/07/2023

PLAN TITLE: ROOT PROTECTION AREA
PLAN REF: WCM/SSR/BL/MW/JJ/NLF/FTSP/1

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LEGEND

- Protection Surfacing
- Non-dig Foundations
- Protection Scaffolding
- Protection Fencing