Woodland & Countryside Management Ltd.

Helping you make the most of your land.



EURIDGE MANOR, PASSING BAYS.

Arboricultural Method Statement.

Report by: Steve Russell BSc (Hons). **Date:** 21st October 2024

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Woodland & Countryside Management Ltd. was commissioned to carry out a BS5837 (2012) Tree Survey in October 2024 on two trees on land at Euridge Manor adjacent to proposed passing bays. Following a site survey carried out on 18th of October 2024, the information has been put together in this Arboricultural Method Statement. All tree survey information has been overlaid on OS Master Map data.

1.2 Purpose of Report

This report is to provide the client with a working method statement to enable the two trees on the site to be given full consideration in relation to the proposed passing bays. 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 14 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 18th of October 2024. 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 overcast.

2.2 Site Description

The site consists of a narrow rural lane, running through countryside, with open fields and woodland, some bounded by dilapidated stone walls and others with hedges. The lane varies in width and is of tarmac construction. There are a number of proposed passing bays, two of which will impact on existing trees.

Passing Bay 5 (Appendix 1) is proposed to widen the lane to 5.0m by removing the existing hedge and wall and restoring these behind the line of the new passing bay. The line of the cut starts next to the last tree in a line. This is a Sycamore 15.0m. high, with a DBH of 450mm. and spread of 4.0m. The tree is Category C, with a life expectancy of 40 years +. The opposite side of the lane is maturing woodland.



Photo 1 - View of area of the proposed passing bay 5 from the north with the Sycamore tree to the right.

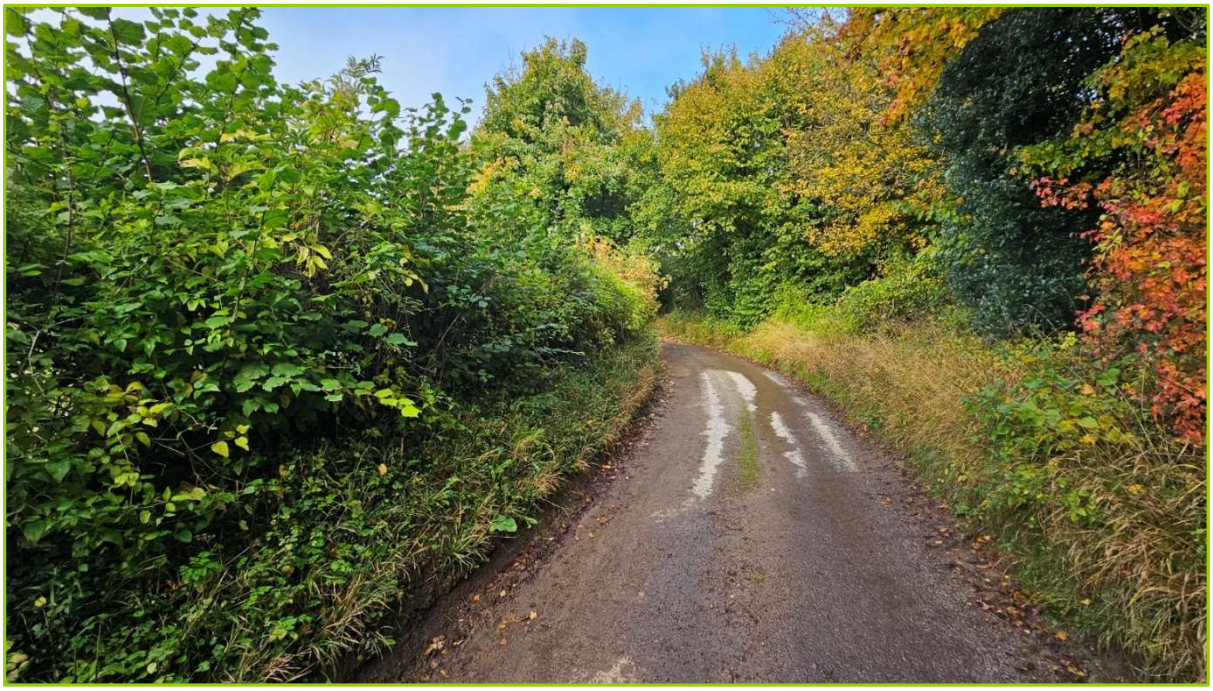

Photo 2 - View of area of the proposed passing bay 5 from the south with the Sycamore tree to the middle in the distance.

Passing Bay 6 (Appendix 2) is proposed to widen the lane to 5.0m by cutting back the bank close to the base of the Ash tree. From the OS Master Map plan and on-site investigation, it would appear that the majority of the cut is into slump material which has developed over many years. The tree sits at the back of the proposed passing bay. The Ash is 14.50m. high, with a DBH of 640mm. and spread of 7.0m. The tree is Category C, with a life expectancy of 10-20 years, this is based on the fact that the area is already badly affected by Chalara, and this leaves the tree susceptible to the disease, although it currently shows good health and no signs of disease. There is some minor dead wood within the crown. The severing of the Ivy from the tree in the past has also enhanced its prospects in the longer term. The opposite side of the lane is maturing woodland.



Photo 3 - View of area of the proposed passing bay 6 from the south with the Ash tree on the left.

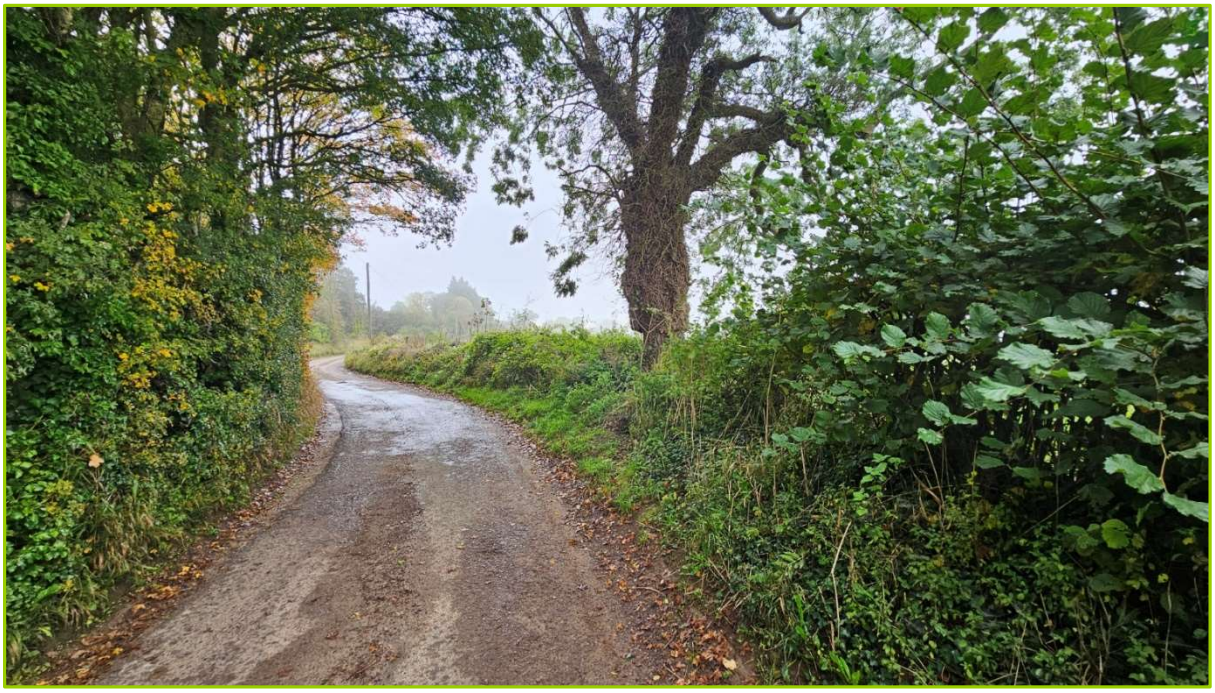

Photo 4 - View of area of the proposed passing bay 6 from the south
With the Ash tree on the right.



Photo 5 - View of the Ash tree showing severed Ivy.

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 3).

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, of the existing tarmac lane, this will have restricted the development of roots of any trees growing adjacent, these trees will have developed compensatory root growth to compensate for the restricted area of development. The calculated RPA of the tree is detailed in the Tree Survey Plans (Appendix 1 + 2), also the likely root development is also shown in the appendices in light blue.

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. Both trees in this case are Category C.

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. The proposed passing bays will both potentially impact on the RPAs of the two trees, however taking account of the likely extent of the RPAs the impact is likely to be minimal and not have any significant impact of the main roots. As such both trees can be retained as they are, with no management works, other than the cutting back of the sucker/base growth on the Sycamore.

3.2 Impact on Local Landscape

There will be no impact from the proposals on both the tree's importance in the local landscape, and their retention will ensure any habitat etc is not affected. Wall and hedge repositioning is proposed at bay 5, a 5.0m. wide wildflower margin is also proposed inside the field boundary.

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.

As the works to create the passing bays will be carried out from the lane, no protection fencing or surfacing measures are proposed. However, there will need to be monitoring during construction to ensure that no significant roots are impacted.

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 Excavation

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.

4.3 Removal of Structures

The existing wall at bay 5 will be removed and reused to build the new retaining wall. Only stone on the surface and within the excavation area will be removed.

4.4 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 RPAs. There will be no burning of waste material on the site; all waste material will be removed from site.

4.5 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 and when the excavation is carried out.

4.6 Tree Management Works

There are no tree management works proposed other than the removal of the sucker/base growth from the Sycamore, however should any management work 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.

4.7 Soft Landscaping

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

4.8 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.

5. CONTACT DETAILS.

5.1 Planning Consultant

Ben Pearce
Director
Land Development & Planning Consultants Ltd
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Email: benpearce@ldpc.co

5.2 Arboricultural Advisor

Steve Russell BSc (Hons)
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6. SUMMARY

It is considered that the passing bay proposals can be carried out without the need to remove either tree, or without any significant long term impact on the trees. Clearly over time the trees as with any roadside trees will require regular inspection to ensure they are in a safe condition.

7. APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 Tree Survey Plan Bay 5
Appendix 2 Tree Survey Plan Bay 6
Appendix 3 BS5837 (2012) Tree Quality Assessment Chart



Date: 21st October 2024

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

APPENDIX 1

Passing Bay 5

Syc.

LEGEND

Crown Spread

Root Protection Area

Shading Arc

Category 'A'

Category 'B'

Category 'C'

Category 'U'

0 12m

WOODLAND & COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT LTD.

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Land at Euridge Manor
Passing Bay 5

SCALE : 1 : 150 @ A3

DATE : 21/10/2024

N

PLAN TITLE: TREE SURVEY
PLAN REF: WCM/SSR/BP/EM/PB5/TSP/1

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LEGEND

Likely RPA

Passing Bay

Hand Excavation

Repositioned Hedge behind Retaining Wall

APPENDIX 2

Passing Bay 6

Ash

LEGEND

Crown Spread

Root Protection Area

Shading Arc

Category 'A'

Category 'B'

Category 'C'

Category 'U'

0 12m

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Passing Bay 6

SCALE : 1 : 150 @ A3

DATE : 21/10/2024

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PLAN TITLE: TREE SURVEY

PLAN REF: WCM/SSR/BP/EM/PB6/TSP/1

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LEGEND

Likely RPA

Hand Excavation

Passing Bay

APPENDIX 3

BS5837:2012 Table 1 - 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 [BS5837:2012] 4.5.7.*			
	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)	
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	
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	