

Arboricultural Method Statement



**Tyler
Grange**

Abbeyfield School, Chippenham
26th November 2025

TG Report No. 14468_R03a_MK

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14468	R03a	26th November 2025	A
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Section 1: Overview

- 1.1. This Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Limited (TG) for Hydrock on behalf of Wiltshire Council to accompany a planning application for the development of additional buildings within the parcel of land west of Abbeyfield School, Chippenham.
- 1.2. The purpose of this AMS is to detail the procedures for tree removal and tree protection during the construction phase of the development in accordance with planning conditions and industry best practice. This report has been guided by the recommendations of the British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations' (BS5837).
- 1.3. The limitations to the tree survey and this report are set-out at Appendix 4.

Site and Tree Survey

- 1.4. A pre-development tree survey of the site has been completed in accordance with BS5837. Findings for each of the trees surveyed are detailed in the Tree Survey Schedule (See Appendix 1) and the accompanying Tree Constraints Plan (See Plan 1). The Tree Survey Schedule provides a record of each survey entry, including tree reference numbers, species, tree and root protection area (RPA) dimensions, life stage, physiological and structural condition, and arboricultural value.

Section 2: Arboricultural Method Statement

- 2.1. The AMS details the following key areas of work in relation to trees during the site preparation and construction phase:

AMS01 - Timing of Works

AMS02 - Tree Removal

AMS03 - Tree Protection Fencing

AMS04 - Works within Root Protection Areas (RPAs)

AMS05 - General Site Precautions

AMS06 - Procedures for Incidents

- 2.2. The TPP (See Plan 3) shows the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) and branch spread of retained trees. The RPA signifies the area that must be protected during the construction works to avoid harm to the rooting environments of trees. Where development and site works occur within RPAs or close the tree branches, there are mitigative measures and protocols that must be adhered to as detailed within this document. Unless otherwise stated within this document, within the areas protected by tree protection barriers the following shall apply:

- No excavation
- No lowering of levels
- No storage of plant or materials
- No vehicular access
- No fire lighting
- No parking
- No welfare facilities
- No substances harmful to the environment or trees health shall be stored adjacent to or allow to flow into tree protection areas. This includes all fuels, oils, bitumen, cement storage towers and washing arear, building sand, salt or any other chemicals.
- No fires shall be lit in within 15m of the trees canopy.

AMS 01 – Timing of Works and Site Monitoring Requirements

Timing of Works

- 2.3. The development must be carried out in the following order unless otherwise agreed in writing with the LPA. Each step must be completed in accordance with this document and before moving onto the next:

- 1) Tree removals.



- 2) Tree protection fencing installed.
- 3) Site accessible to plant and construction traffic.
- 4) Site clearance and groundworks (cut and fill)
- 5) Construction
- 6) Removal of tree protection fence
- 7) Soft landscape operations

Arboricultural Site Monitoring

- 2.4. Site monitoring by an appropriately qualified Arboriculturist will be undertaken as set-out within the AWA (See Appendix 3). This includes the following key work stages:
- Pre-commencement meeting
 - Tree removals
 - Installation of tree protection barriers
- 2.5. It is the responsibility of the Site Manager to request (with sufficient notice) the attendance of an Arboricultural Consultant to oversee the work as detailed above. It is not the responsibility of Tyler Grange to enforce site monitoring works throughout the course of the development. A copy of the Works Audit and supporting photographic evidence will be completed by the appointed Arboricultural Consultant and issued to the client. Reporting to the LPA's Arboricultural Department will be the responsibility of the client following the completion of each task.

AMS 02 – Tree Removal Works

- 2.6. Trees to be removed will be clearly identified on-site (via spray marking / taping / tagging as required) to avoid erroneous tree works. The appointed Arboricultural Consultant will be contacted if there is any uncertainty on trees to be removed or pruned.
- 2.7. Tree removals will be carried out prior to the installation of tree protection barriers. Guidance will be sought from the appointed arboricultural consultant where tree removal works are to be phased and / or completed after the installation of tree protection fencing.
- 2.8. A geocoordinate AutoCAD file of the TRRP is available upon request which can be used by a surveyor to mark out the extent of tree group removals.
- 2.9. Tree works must be undertaken in accordance with BS3998:2010 by a competent tree contractor and should avoid the main nesting season for birds between 1st March and 31st August each year. If such timescales are unachievable, the advice of an ecologist will need to be sought to determine any further necessary protective and precautionary working measures to avoid disturbance to nesting birds and other wildlife.
- 2.10. The tree surgery contractor is responsible for carrying out any relevant health and safety risk assessment, and insurance, prior to any tree work being carried out.
- 2.11. No trees to be retained shall be used for anchorage or winching purposes.

Tree Removals

- 2.12. The TRRP (See Plan 2) identifies trees to be retained and removed. Trees to be removed are shown with a dashed tree canopy outline and red identification number. The removals will be restricted to and must follow the procedures as listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Tree Removals and Procedures

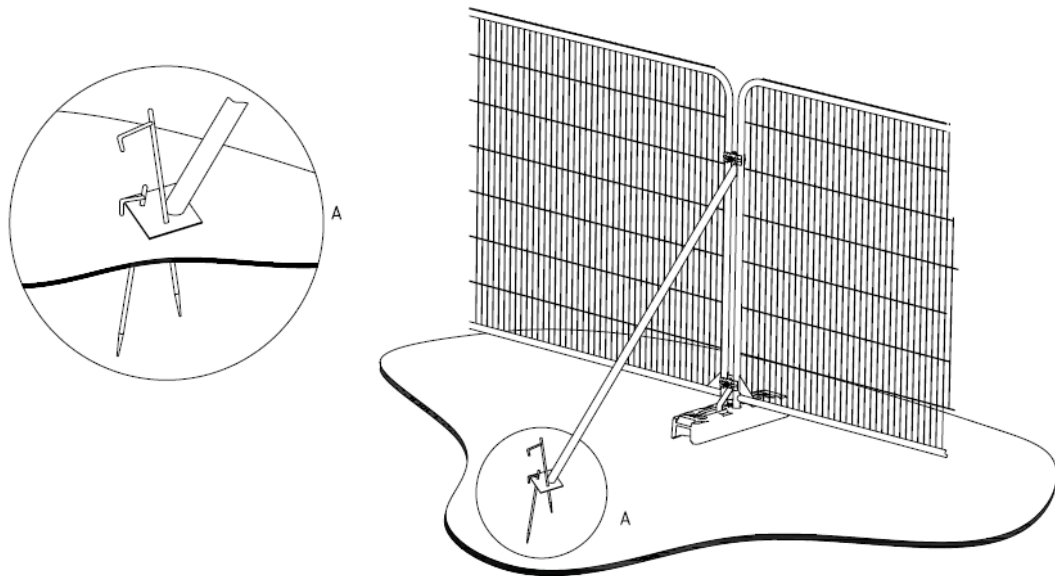
Tree Number	Removal Procedures
G2	Partial removal within group as shown on the TRRP.
G4	Partial removal within group as shown on the TRRP.

- 2.13. Where groups of trees need to be partly removed this is shown as a red dashed outline on the outside and a solid canopy line where the works need to stop. In these areas the works will be in the form of selective removals and or pruning, whichever is appropriate to achieve the suitable clearance shown.
- 2.14. Particular care is required when removing the trees established within cohesive groups to avoid damage to the retained tree cover. This is relevant for tree removals within groups G2 and G4.
- 2.15. Remaining stumps from felled trees and vegetation within the RPAs of the retained trees within G2 and G4 must be carefully cut flush to ground level and left in situ or ground out as opposed to pulled out with a machine. This is required to avoid up-rooting and disturbance within the rooting environment of adjacent retained trees.
- 2.16. Following the proposed tree removals, it will be necessary to review retained tree canopies that form a new edge to groups of trees. This will be applicable to the retained tree canopies within groups G2 and G4. Remedial pruning of over-extended and poorly formed branches should be undertaken to achieve a wind-firm edge along the tree group and to alleviate future canopy encroachment towards the two site accesses.

AMS 03 – Tree Protection Fencing

- 2.17. Tree protection fencing must be installed to protect the roots, trunks and branches of retained trees from damage.
- 2.18. Tree protection barriers will be fully installed before the arrival of any plant or construction activity on-site. The barriers will serve to prohibit any access into the RPAs, and unless otherwise stated in this AMS, tree protection barriers will remain in place for the duration of the construction works until the construction work is deemed completed.
- 2.19. The TPP (See Plan 3) identifies the location of the tree protective fencing. To ensure accurate positioning and to avoid costly adjustments, the tree protection fence must be set out by a surveyor with all node points being marked clearly on site for the fencing contractor to work to. A geocoordinate AutoCAD file of the TPP is available upon request.
- 2.20. The fencing will comprise a scaffold framework, well braced to resist impacts, with vertical tubes spaced at a maximum of 3m to add further stability. Onto this, weldmesh panels will be securely fixed with wire or scaffold clamps.

- 2.21. An alternative reduced specification will be used for low-intensity areas and for hedgerows as shown on the TPP. This reduced specification will comprise a heras panels braces by a stabiliser strut and secured to ground with pins.



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins

- 2.22. Stages for installing Tree Protection Fence are as follows:
- 1) Clearance of vegetation (where required) to allow working access to install the protection fence;
 - 2) Setting out of fencing node points or spray marked by an appointed arboricultural consultant;
 - 3) Fence is installed and signs installed;
 - 4) Appointed Arboricultural Consultant attends site to inspect protection fence on-site; and
 - 5) Site accessible to construction traffic.
- 2.23. Special attention is essential in maintaining the protective barriers during the construction phase, ensuring that it remains rigid and complete as well as fit for the purpose intended. Protective barriers will be inspected frequently and repairs shall be made immediately where required.
- 2.24. All-weather notices will be attached to the barriers with words such as 'Construction Exclusion Zone – No Access' (See signage example at Appendix 2).
- 2.25. Any alterations to the tree protection fence otherwise as stated within this AMS must only be completed under the guidance of a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant.

AMS 04 - Works within Root Protection Areas (RPAs)

- 2.26. The TPP (See Plan 3) shows the RPAs of retained trees. This signifies the area that must be protected during the constructions works to avoid harm to the rooting environments of trees.

Where development and site works occur in these areas, there are mitigative measures and protocols to adhere to as detailed within the document.

Soft landscaping within RPAs

- 2.27. All landscaping and associated ground preparation within RPAs will be carried out sensitively to ensure root damage is mitigated as much as is practicable. At no time is any heavy plant to be used within any protected area.
- 2.28. Removal of existing vegetation will be carried out by hand; turf may be removed using a mechanical turf stripper or by hand.
- 2.29. Soft Landscaping operations within RPAs will be conducted when no plant machinery is to be working on the site for the remainder of the build.
- 2.30. No Rotovators are to be used within the RPAs of retained trees.

Planting within RPAs

- 2.31. Should the existing soil be compacted or have a poor structure which may hinder the development of any new planting, soil decompaction techniques may be used upon consultation with the project arboriculturist.
- 2.32. Planting operations within the RPAs of trees will adopt the following tree protection measures / stages:
 - 1) Remove Tree Protection fence to allow access to area;
 - 2) Remove existing vegetation by hand;
 - 3) Do not reduce any high spots or excavate in any way;
 - 4) With the use of a wheelbarrow Import good quality topsoil into the area and level to a depth no more than 100mm with hand tools;
 - 5) Dig individual planting pits for each plant by hand (including hedging which must not be trench planted); and
 - 6) Any mulch should also be imported and spread by hand.

AMS 05 - General Site Precautions

- 2.33. The following points must be observed during both advanced works and the construction process:
 - The site compound area must be established outside of the unprotected RPAs prior to undertaking demolition and or construction works on-site, inclusive of any areas for materials storage, contractor parking and mixing must also be established outside of the RPAs;
 - No fires will be lit on-site;
 - Cutting down, uprooting, damaging or otherwise destroying any retained tree is prohibited;

- No access will be permitted inside RPAs unless under the guidance of a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant or otherwise stated within this AMS;
- No materials, equipment or debris will be stored within the RPA at any time unless otherwise stated within this AMS;
- If during demolition or construction, there are any excessive levels of dust build-up on retained trees then trees must be hosed down immediately with a clean water supply;
- Notice boards, telephone wires or other services must not be attached to any part of retained trees;
- Materials which will contaminate the soil (e.g. concrete, cement, chemical toilets, diesel oil, vehicle washings etc.) must not be permitted within, or close to RPAs of retained trees. Consideration must be given to any sloping ground on-site to ensure that contamination of soil in the RPA would not occur if there were spillage, see page or displacement elsewhere on-site. To avoid any associated damage or injury occurring to the trees as a direct result of contact with contaminants, works including cement mixing, re-fuelling and tool or machine washing will not be permitted within 20m uphill of any retained tree and
- Contamination of the soil by fuel and lubricant leaks must be avoided at all costs. If such a situation arises the project arboriculturist must be notified to assess the situation and prescribe remedial measures.

AMS 06 - Procedures for Incidents

2.34. If any breach of the approved tree protection measures occurs:

- The site manager must be informed immediately;
- The Local Planning Authority Tree officer (or other Planning Officer) must be informed, as well as the appointed project Arboriculturist at the earliest opportunity;
- Swift action must be taken to halt the breach and prevent any further breaches; and
- All preventative action and details of agreed remedial works must be recorded and reported to the LPA.

Appendix 1: Tree Survey Schedule



Tree Number	Common Species Name	Height (m)	Trunk Diameter (mm)	Crown Spread (m)				Height of Crown Clearance (m)	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Comments/Preliminary Management Recommendations	RPA Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m2)
				N	E	S	W								
G1	Ash, Field Maple, Goat Willow, Crack Willow, Sycamore	10m	200 av.	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	Semi-Mature to Mature	Fair	Fair	B.2	Mixed species tree group established to the east of the site, moderate value as a collective feature with individuals of lesser value	2.4	N/A
G2	Ash, Elm, Field Maple, Goat Willow, Crack Willow, Hawthorn, Hazel, Blackthorn	9m	200 av.	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	Semi-Mature to Mature	Fair to Poor	Fair to Poor	C.1.2	Mixed species tree group / hedgerow established along ditch to south of site, scattered dead elm throughout.	2.4	N/A
G3	Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, Blackthorn	5m	150 av.	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.00	Semi-Mature to Mature	Fair to Poor	Fair to Poor	C.1.2	Mixed species tree group / hedgerow established along south-western boundary, lots of dead elm throughout.	1.8	N/A
G4	Blackthorn, Bramble, Hawthorn, Hazel	3.0	75 av.	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.00	Young to Mature	Fair to Poor	Fair to Poor	C.1.2	Unmanaged group of predominantly bramble and blackthorn that has spread into the site from the existing field boundary, limited arboricultural merit.	.9	N/A

Appendix 2: Signage Example



Note: Digital A4 copies can be obtained via contacting Tyler Grange.



Appendix 3: Arboricultural Works Audit

Works Requiring Supervision	Tree or Group No.	Date Completed and Report to LPA
Pre-commencement onsite meeting with project Arboriculturist and Site Manager to discuss tree protection measures throughout demolition and construction phases.	All trees within the site.	
Spray marking of tree removals as identified in the Tree Retention and Removal Plan (14468/P03) and detailed within the Arboricultural Method Statement.	G2, G4	
Spray marking of or inspection barrier position as identified on the Tree Protection Plan (14468/P04) and detailed within the Arboricultural Method Statement prior to occupation of the site for demolition and construction purposes.	G2, G3, G4	
General site inspection (monthly basis recommended unless otherwise agreed with LPA) as detailed within the Arboricultural Method Statement.	All retained trees	



Appendix 4: Report Limitations and Tree Legislation

Limitations of Survey

- A4.1 The comments made are based on observable factors present at the time of inspection. Although the health and stability of trees in their current context is an integral part of their suitability for retention, it must be understood that this report is not a tree risk assessment and should not be construed as such. While every attempt has been made to provide a realistic and accurate assessment of the trees' condition at the time of inspection, it may have not been appropriate, or possible, to view all parts or all sides of every tree to fulfil the assessment criteria of a risk assessment.
- A4.2 No tree can be considered entirely safe, given the possibility that exceptionally strong winds could damage or uproot even a mechanically 'perfect' specimen. It is therefore usually accepted that hazards are only recognisable from distinct defects or from other failure-prone characteristics of the tree or the site. An assessment of the potential influence of trees upon existing buildings or other structures resulting from the effects of trees upon shrinkable load-bearing soils or the effects of incremental root or branch growth, are specifically excluded from this report.

Un-assessable Risks

- A4.3 Any alteration to the application site or development proposals could change the current circumstances and may invalidate this report and any recommendations made. Detail of the site's logistical issues (e.g. site storage and the construction programme) may not be finalised until after consented development. As this report has been prepared in advance of consent, some of its contents may need to be updated as more specific information becomes available once the post-consent project management commences. Although this document will remain the primary legal reference in the event of any disputes, some of its content may be superseded by authorised post-consent amendments.
- A4.4 The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) makes it an offence to disturb nesting birds or recklessly endanger a bat or its roost. Bats are also a European protected species and are additionally protected under the Conservation (Habitats & c) Regulations 1994 and 2010 (as amended). The survey findings, constraints, opportunities and design or mitigation recommendations included within that report must be read alongside this document.
- A4.5 A lack of recommended work does not imply that a tree does not pose an unacceptable level of risk and likewise, it should not be implied that a tree will present an acceptable level of risk following the completion of any recommended work.



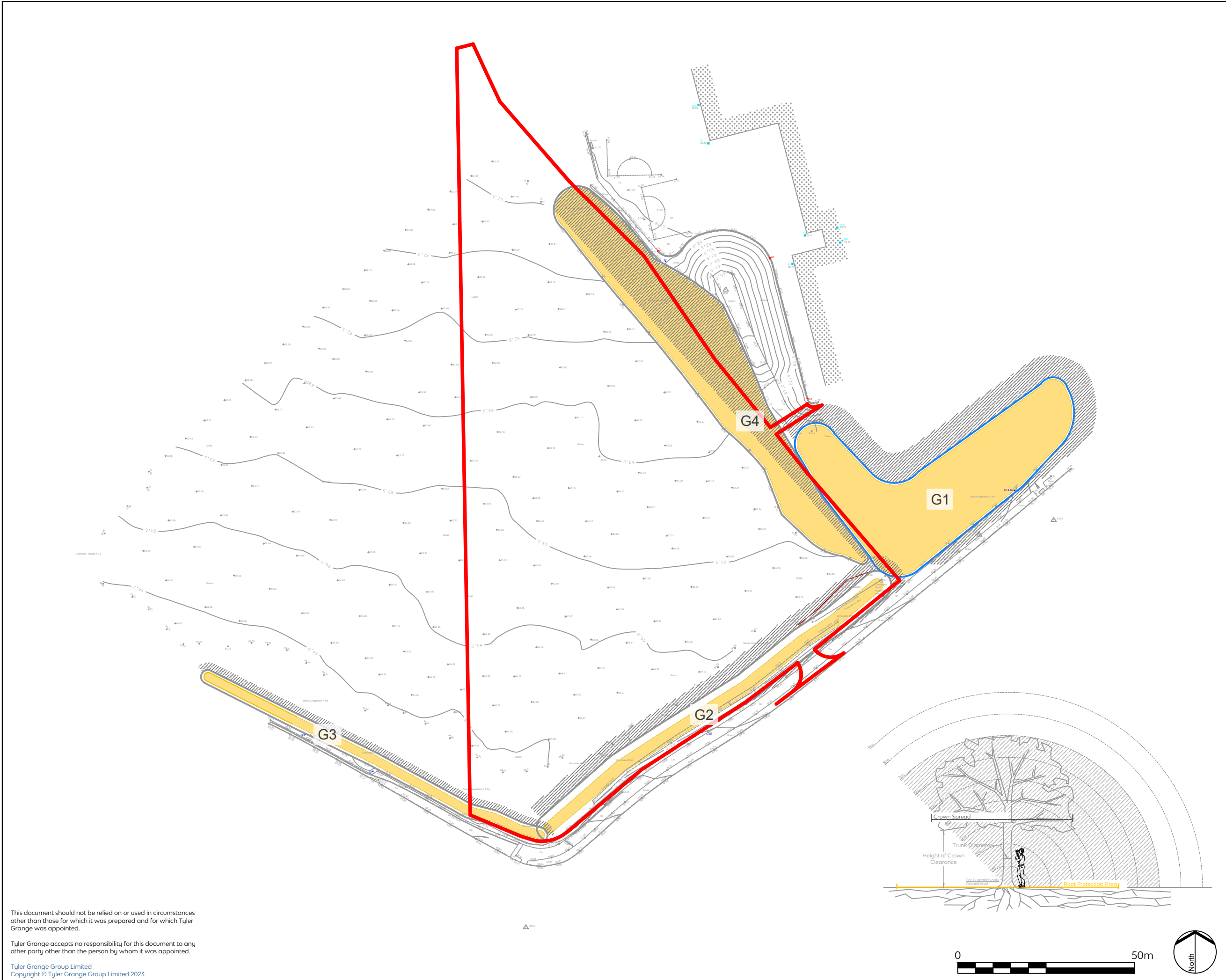
Plans:

Plan 1: Tree Constraints Plan (TCP), (14468/P02)

Plan 2: Tree Retention and Removal Plan (TRRP), (14468/P03)

Plan 3: Tree Protection Plan (TPP), (14468/P04)





Site Boundary

Category A - Trees of High Quality and Value

Category C - Trees of Low Quality and Value

Root Protection Areas

Tree Shading Constraints

**Denotes trees and groups not identified on topographical survey. Locations approximated using measurements taken on site and aerial imagery.*

B

Redline boundary - updated

26/11/2025

A

Redline boundary - updated

15/02/2023

Rev

Description

Date



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Project title

Abbeyfield School, Chippenham

Drawing title

Tree Constraints Plan

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Date

26.11.2025

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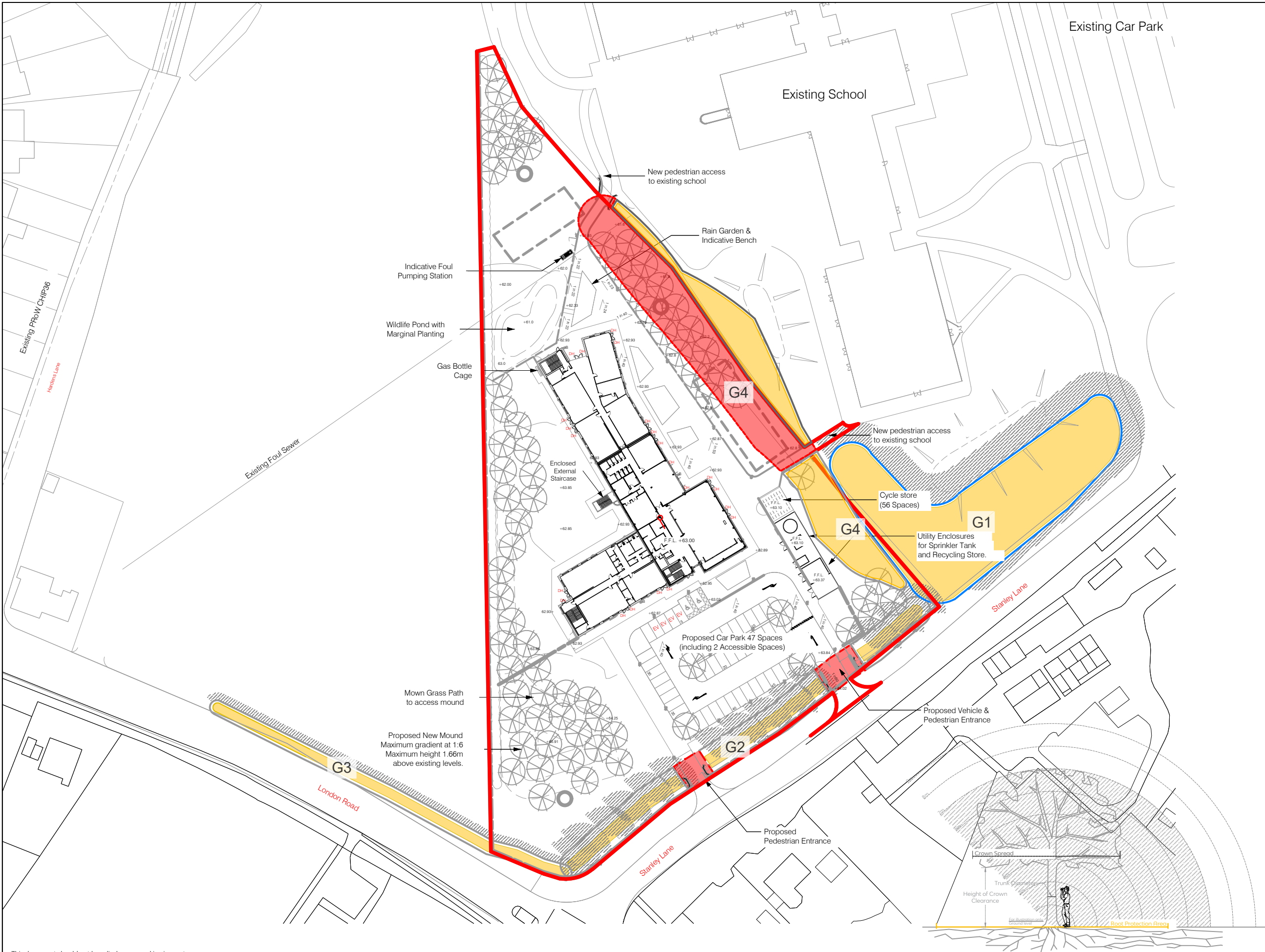
RM

Drawing number

11468_P02

Revision

B



- Site Boundary
- Category A - Trees of High Quality and Value
- Category C - Trees of Low Quality and Value
- Root Protection Areas
- Tree Shading Constraints
- Proposed Tree Removals

*Denotes trees and groups not identified on topographical survey. Locations approximated using measurements taken on site and aerial imagery.

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Abbeyfield School, Chippenham

Drawing title
Tree Retention and Removal Plan

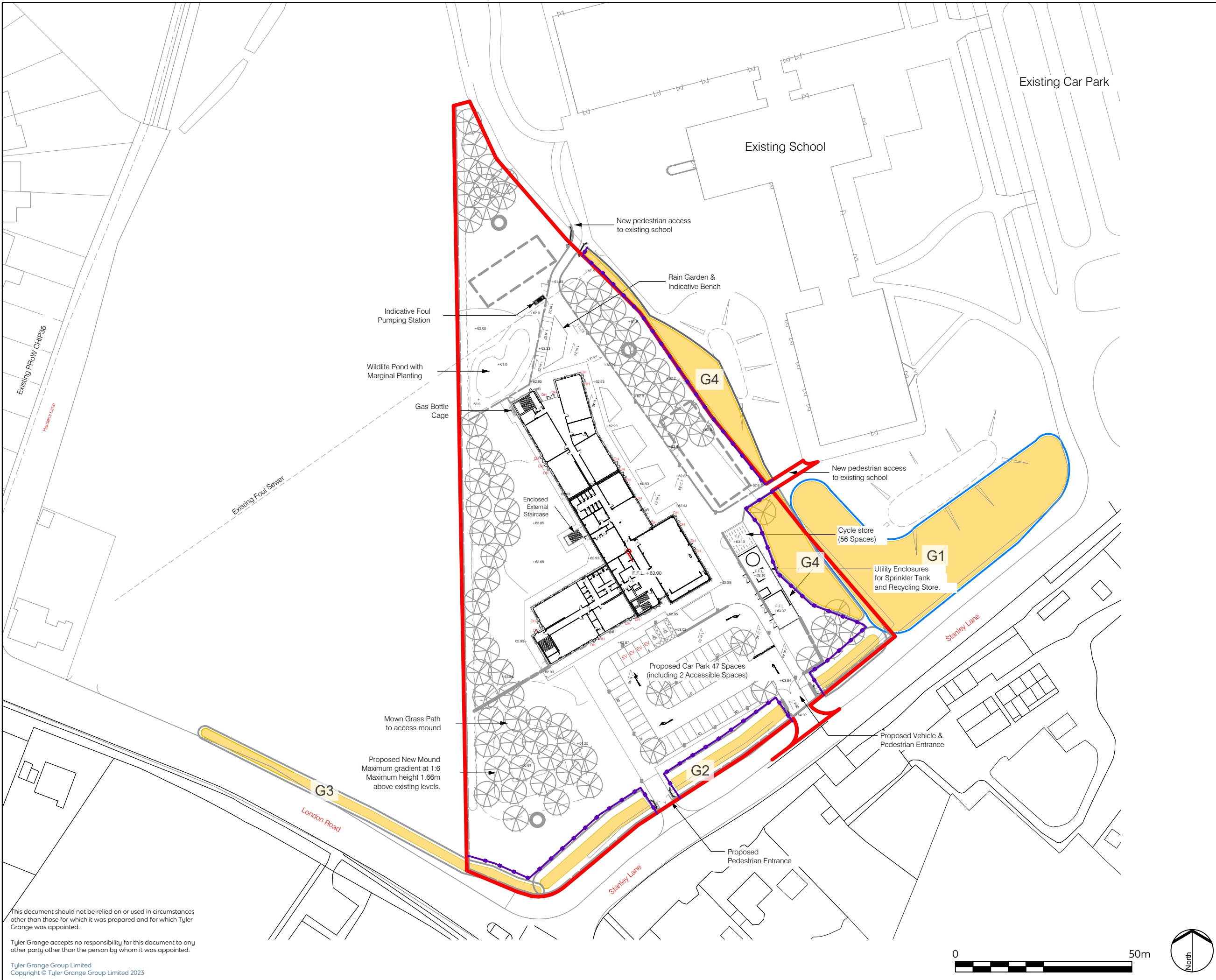
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Revision
B

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Site Boundary

Category B - Trees of Moderate Quality and Value

Category C - Trees of Low Quality and Value

Root Protection Areas

Tree Protection Barrier Locations

*Denotes trees and groups not identified on topographical survey. Locations approximated using measurements taken on site and aerial imagery.

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