

# Silva Arboriculture Ltd

Darren Hood FdSc MArborA - 32 Weller Avenue, Rochester, Kent ME1 2LG – Tel: 01634 846839  
Company Number 10746172



## **SHORNE MEAD, PEAR TREE LANE, SHORNE, KENT, DA12 3JT**

**BS 5837: 2012 Arboricultural Impact Assessment**

December 2024



## CONTACT DETAILS

### **SILVA ARBORICULTURE LTD**

Darren Hood FdSc MArborA,  
Silva Arboriculture Ltd,  
32 Weller Avenue,  
Rochester, ME1 2LG  
United Kingdom

Tel: 07898 788930

Email: [Darren@silva-arb.co.uk](mailto:Darren@silva-arb.co.uk)

# Version control

| Version | Date          | Author                                                                                                           | Changes |
|---------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1       | December 2024 | Darren Hood FdSc<br>MArborA<br> | N/A     |

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## Executive Summary

Silva Arboriculture Ltd has been commissioned by JMS Planning to provide Arboricultural services to support a planning application at Shorne Mead, Pear tree Lane, Shorne, Kent, DA12 3JT referred to as 'the Site'.

The Site is located within the Local Authority of Gravesham Borough Council and is located approximately 5.5km southeast of Gravesend Town Centre.

A total of fifteen arboricultural items have been recorded within the Study Area.

- One individual tree was recorded within the Study Area as Category B.
- Thirteen individual trees and one group of trees was recorded within the Study Area as Category C.

Gravesham Borough Council was consulted in December 2024, via email, to ascertain if any of the recorded trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO), confirmation is still outstanding.

To facilitate the design proposal none of the recorded tree stocks Root Protection Area (RPA) will be breached by the design footprint.

None of the recorded trees will need to be removed and no facilitation pruning will be required.

One Category B tree can be protected with bespoke tree protection. The remaining tree stock can be protected with the existing topography and standard protective fencing.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

Silva Arboriculture Ltd has been commissioned by Mr and Mrs Coward to provide Arboricultural services to support a planning application for the demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of a new dwelling and associated infrastructure at: Shorne Mead, Pear tree Lane, Shorne, Kent, DA12 3JT, referred to as 'the Site'.

This report presents the results of an Arboricultural Survey conducted in line with *BS 5837: 2012 - Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*<sup>1</sup> and is designed to identify arboricultural constraints that could impact development of the Site.

## 1.2 Site Location and Setting

The Site is located within the Local Authority of Gravesham Borough Council, and is located approximately 5.5km southeast of Gravesend town centre. The Site comprises of a residential dwelling and associated landscape planting and is located within a semi-rural residential area. The Site is presented in Figure 1 Tree Constraints Plan.

## 1.3 Proposed Scheme

The proposed application is to seek planning permission for the demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of a new dwelling including a basement, and landscaped gardens.

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<sup>1</sup> British Standards Institution (2012) BS 5837: 2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Tree Survey Methodology

An arboricultural survey was undertaken by Darren Hood FdSc MArborA (Arboricultural Consultant) on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in accordance with *BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.

Observations were conducted from ground level, utilising the “Visual Tree Assessment” (VTA) system as outlined in *The Body Language of Trees, A Handbook for Failure Analysis Research for Amenity Trees No.4*<sup>2</sup>, with the aid of binoculars. For reference, individual trees have been identified with the letter ‘T’ and an associated number and groups of trees have been identified with the letter ‘G’ and an associated number on the tree schedules and plans. The stem diameter of the Site trees was recorded using a rounded down diameter tape and scaled tree calipers at 1.5m above ground level. Measurements were taken in centimetres. The height of the subject tree was estimated to the nearest metre using a digital laser range finder.

Maximum crown spread of the subject tree was measured from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches taken at four compass points (N-E-S-W) using a digital laser range finder where access allowed. Crown spread measurements were taken in metres.

Tree age was estimated from visual indicators (such as tree size and appearance of bark) and should only be taken as a provisional guide. Age estimates often need to be modified based on further information such as historical records and local knowledge.

In compliance with Table 1 of *BS 5837:2012* the trees surveyed in this report have been categorised according to their arboricultural quality and value. A glossary of survey terms can be found in Appendix A - Explanation of Terms.

### 2.2 Arboricultural Impact Assessment Methodology

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) was undertaken by Darren Hood, FdSc, MArborA (Arboriculturist) in December 2024, as a desk-based study based using the design details and field data collected. Table 1 provides the data sources used.

Table 1: Data sources used

| Document / Plan Title and Author                                      | Date         | Information Type                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Topographical Plan – Sitech Surveying Services – Drawing Number 11603 | October 2020 | Topographical information - DWG    |
| Site Plan– Mark Carter Associates – 3316-020 – Rev G                  | August 2023  | Design footprint information – DWG |

### 2.3 Root Protection Area

The Root Protection Area (RPA) is a recommendation in *BS 5837:2012* and is based upon a minimum area (in m<sup>2</sup>) calculated from the measurement of the tree stem diameter. The resulting area is usually recorded as a generalised circle surrounding the tree on the Tree Constraints and Protection and Impact Plan. In this study, the RPA has been amended to take in consideration of existing roads and built structures in line with section 4.63 *BS 5837:2012*. The RPA is represented in purple in Figure 1. The RPA presents an exclusion zone for construction activity to protect the health of the tree.

<sup>2</sup> Mattheck, C. and Broeler, H. DETR (1994) *The Body Language of Trees: A Handbook for Failure Analysis Research for Amenity Trees No.4*

## 2.4 Survey Limitations

Topographical base mapping was available with full locations of the Site trees; tree positions are therefore considered exact. For the purposes of *BS 5837:2012*, only trees with a stem diameter greater than 75mm, (measured at 1.5m above ground level), have been included within the survey; however, it should be noted that a number of individual trees/shrubs with a stem diameter of less than 75mm were present within the Site. Only trees within the likely zone of influence of the proposed scheme have been included within this report.

Any protective fencing distances are based on a given trees stem diameter taken at 1.5 metres above ground level with each RPA (see Appendix B - Tree Schedules) being calculated from the above ground portions of the tree. It should be recognised that the RPA may not entirely encompass all of the tree rooting material.

Trees are living organisms and as such their health and condition are naturally subject to change over time. Unforeseen future circumstances such as neglect, wilful damage or severe/extreme weather conditions may affect the future health and condition of the trees included in this report.

## 3 Survey Results

### 3.1 Tree Assessment and Categorisation

A total of 15 arboricultural items were recorded within the Study Area. These were recorded as 14 individual trees (T) and one group of trees (G). Full details of the survey data can be found in the Tree Schedule in Appendix B - Tree Schedule and Figure 1: Tree Constraints Plan.

Each arboricultural item was assigned to one of four categories, as listed below:

- Category A arboricultural items: No individual trees were graded as category A (trees of high quality) as part of this survey.
- Category B arboricultural items: One individual tree was graded as category B (trees of moderate quality) as part of this survey.
- Category C arboricultural items: Thirteen individual trees and one group of trees have been identified as category C (trees of low quality) as part of this survey.
- Category U arboricultural items: No individual trees were graded as category U (trees of poor quality unsuitable for retention) as part of this survey.

### 3.2 Tree Species Recorded

Ten tree species were recorded during the survey and were represented throughout the survey area. A summary of the species surveyed can be found within the Tree Survey Schedule located in Appendix B - Tree Schedule and within Table 2 below.

Table 2 Tree Species Recorded

| Common Name     | Botanical Name                  | Presence within the Survey Area - High, Moderate or Low |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Beech           | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>          | Low                                                     |
| Common Oak      | <i>Quercus robur</i>            | Low                                                     |
| Crab apple      | <i>Malus sylvestris</i>         | Low                                                     |
| Field maple     | <i>Acer campestre</i>           | Low                                                     |
| Hazel           | <i>Corylus avellana</i>         | Moderate                                                |
| Highclere holly | <i>Ilex X altaclarensis</i>     | Low                                                     |
| Hornbeam        | <i>Carpinus betulus</i>         | High                                                    |
| Lawson cypress  | <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> | Moderate                                                |
| Strawberry tree | <i>Arbutus unedo</i>            | Low                                                     |
| Sweet chestnut  | <i>Castanea sativa</i>          | Low                                                     |

### 3.3 Age Diversity

Table 3: Age Diversity

| Age Class    | Number of Arboricultural Items | Approximate Percentage |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Young        | 4                              | 27%                    |
| Semi-mature  | 6                              | 40%                    |
| Early-mature | 5                              | 33%                    |
| Mature       | 0                              | 0%                     |
| Over-mature  | 0                              | 0%                     |
| Totals       | 15                             | 100%                   |

### 3.4 Statutory Tree Protection

Gravesham Borough Council was consulted in December 2024, via email, to ascertain if any of the recorded trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO), confirmation is still outstanding.

### 3.5 Soil Type

British Geological Society records show the site Bedrock Geology being of Lambeth Group - Sand, silt and clay. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 59.2 and 47.8 million years ago during the Palaeogene period.

## Arboricultural Impact Assessment

### **3.6 Arboricultural Impacts**

Development can have an adverse impact on trees and other woody vegetation within a site. This can result in: (1) immediate vegetation removal to facilitate the footprint of a new development; (2) potential future tree loss through the early decline of trees due to soil compaction; and (3) root disturbance and damage within a tree's rooting area.

### **3.7 Tree Removal**

None of the recorded trees will require removal to facilitate the design proposal.

### **3.8 Facilitation Pruning**

None of the recorded trees will require facilitation pruning to facilitate the design proposal.

### **3.9 Incursions within Calculated RPA**

The design footprint will not directly impact any of the recorded trees calculated RPA.

### **3.10 Future Potential Impacts**

It is considered that, as the Site is already a residential dwelling, the retained trees will not place any additional future pressures such as excessive shading of dwellings or gardens on the proposed development. It should be noted that tree produced debris, such as leaf fall, will have a limited influence on the proposed end-use of any site, however, as this is a natural phenomenon it should be treated as a regular maintenance issue.

### **3.11 Tree Protection**

One tree (T1) can be protected with bespoke tree protection using 18mm shuttering ply to create to a 900mm x 900mm box section or a size appropriate to the stem diameter around each stem to a height of 1.5m. This will mitigate any potential impact damage to the tree stems during any Site work. Ground protection within the RPA of T1 can be in the form of a single thickness of scaffold boards placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g., 100 mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane.

The remaining tree stock can be protected with in standard tree protection fencing in accordance with specifications set out in section 6.2 of BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations. Existing Site topography will also act as a protective measure.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

A total of 15 arboricultural items were recorded within the Study Area. These include 14 individual trees and one group of trees. All of the recorded arboricultural items are located within the redline application boundary.

No individual trees were recorded within the Study Area as Category A.

One individual tree was recorded within the Study Area as Category B.

Thirteen individual trees and one group of trees were recorded within the Study Area as Category C.

No individual trees were recorded within the Study Area as Category U.

Gravesham Borough Council was consulted in December 2024, via email, to ascertain if any of the recorded trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO), confirmation is still outstanding.

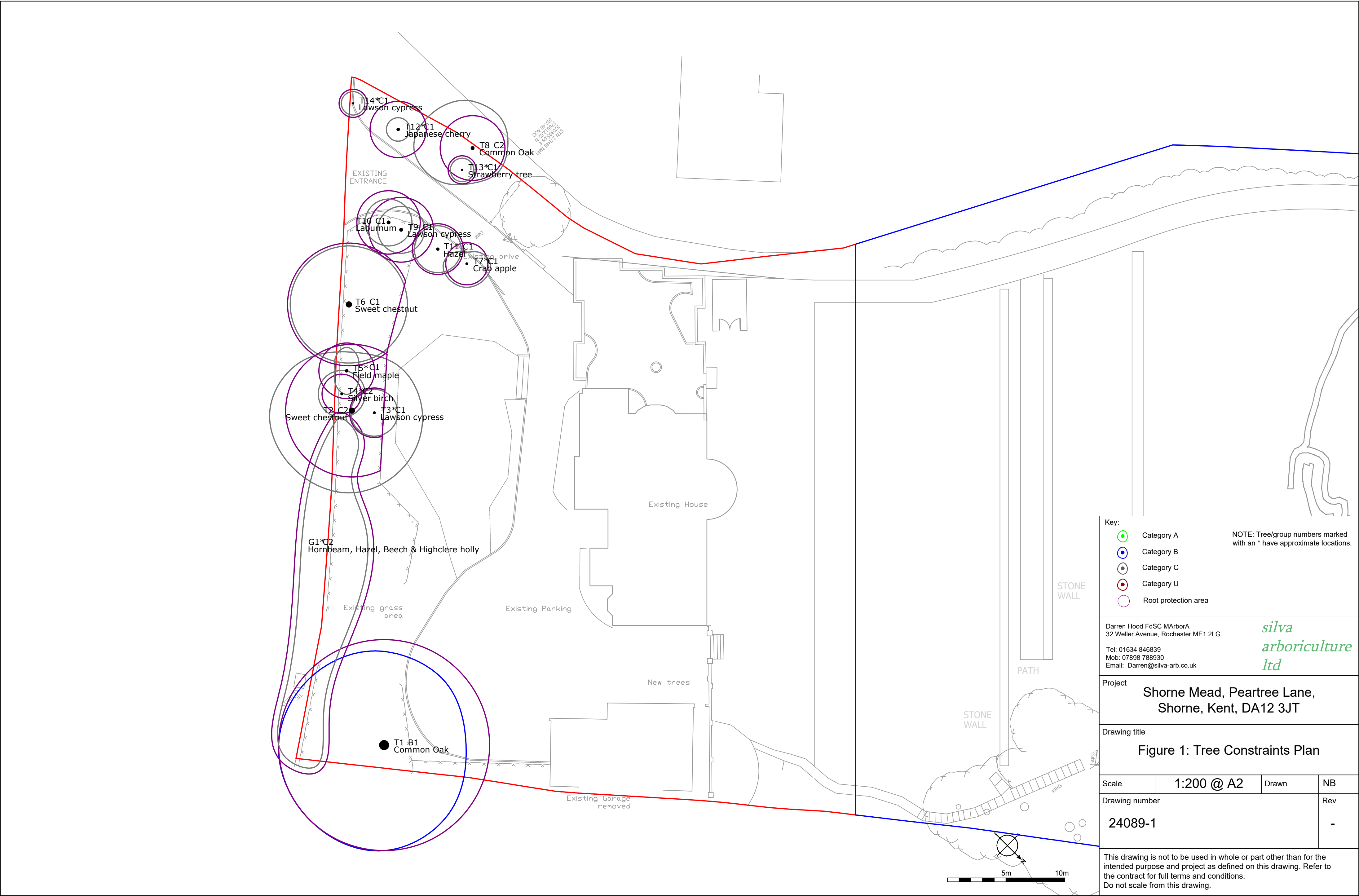
To facilitate the design proposal none of the recorded tree stocks RPA will be breached by the design footprint.

None of the recorded trees will need to be removed and no facilitation pruning will be required.

The Category B tree (T1) can be protected with bespoke tree protection. The remaining tree stock can be protected with the existing topography and standard protective fencing.

**FIGURE 1. Tree Constraints Plan.**





**Key:**

- Category A
- Category B
- Category C
- Category U
- Root protection area

NOTE: Tree/group numbers marked with an \* have approximate locations.

Darren Hood FdSC MARborA  
32 Weller Avenue, Rochester ME1 2LG

Tel: 01634 846839  
Mob: 07898 788930  
Email: Darren@silva-arb.co.uk

*silva  
arboriculture  
ltd*

Project

Shorne Mead, Peartree Lane,  
Shorne, Kent, DA12 3JT

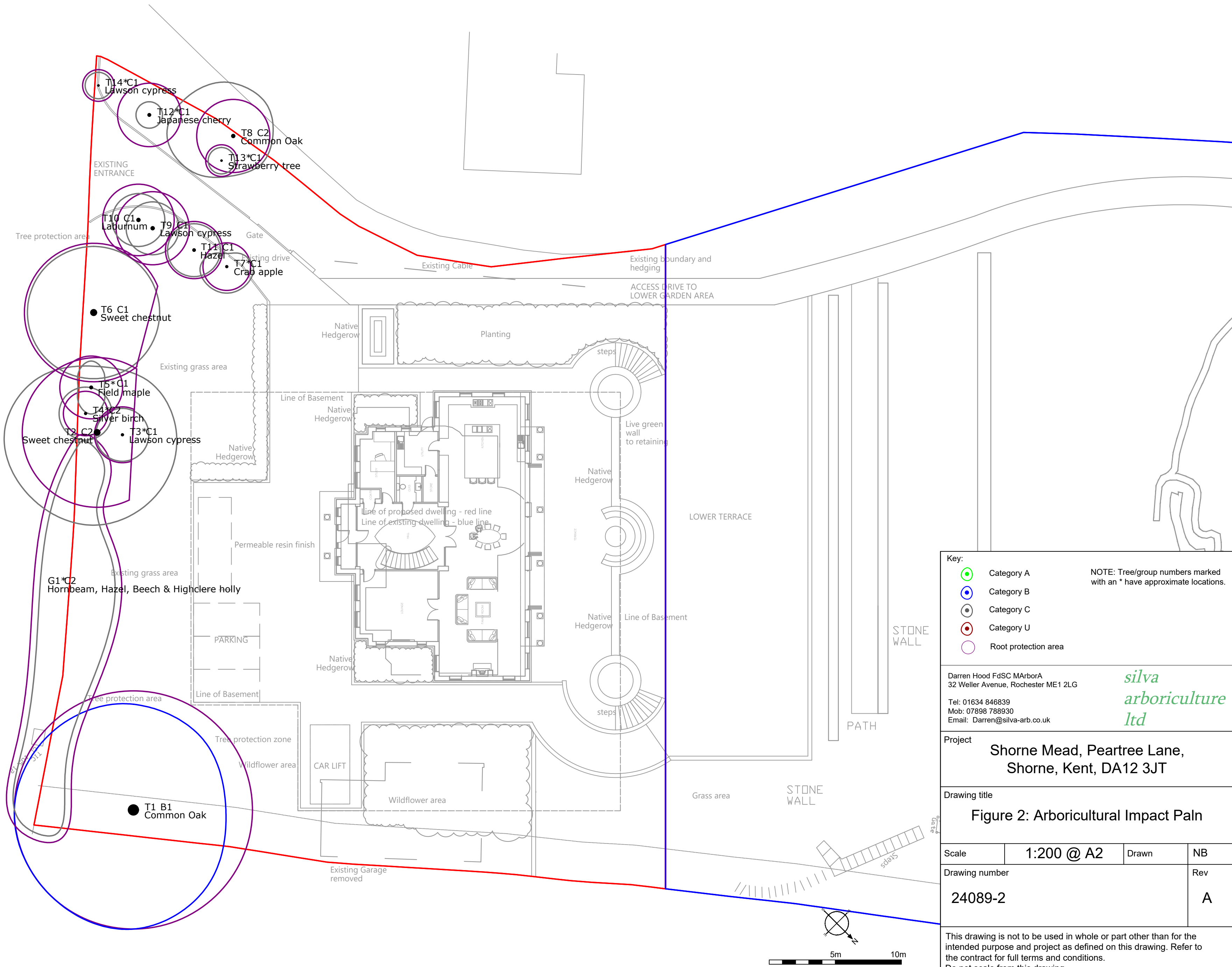
Drawing title

Figure 1: Tree Constraints Plan

|                |            |       |     |
|----------------|------------|-------|-----|
| Scale          | 1:200 @ A2 | Drawn | NB  |
| Drawing number |            |       | Rev |
| 24089-1        |            |       | -   |

This drawing is not to be used in whole or part other than for the intended purpose and project as defined on this drawing. Refer to the contract for full terms and conditions.  
Do not scale from this drawing.

## **FIGURE 2. Arboricultural Impact.**



**Key:**

- Category A
- Category B
- Category C
- Category U
- Root protection area

NOTE: Tree/group numbers marked with an \* have approximate locations.

Darren Hood FdSC MARborA  
32 Weller Avenue, Rochester ME1 2LG

Tel: 01634 846839  
Mob: 07898 788930  
Email: Darren@silva-arb.co.uk

***silva  
arboriculture  
ltd***

Project

Shorne Mead, Peartree Lane,  
Shorne, Kent, DA12 3JT

Drawing title

Figure 2: Arboricultural Impact Pain

|                |            |       |     |
|----------------|------------|-------|-----|
| Scale          | 1:200 @ A2 | Drawn | NB  |
| Drawing number |            |       | Rev |
| 24089-2        |            |       | A   |

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Do not scale from this drawing.

## **APPENDIX A. Explanation of Terms**

### **Age Class**

Young – Trees in the first fifth of full life expectancy

Semi-mature – Trees in the second fifth of full life expectancy

Early-mature – Trees in the third fifth of full life expectancy

Mature – Trees in the fourth fifth of full life expectancy

Over Mature – Trees having reached full life expectancy and trees in natural decline

Veteran – Trees of interest biologically, culturally and aesthetically because of their age

### **Stem Diameter**

The diameter of the stem measured in millimetres (mm) at a height of 1.5m above ground level

### **Crown Spread**

Average measured in metres using a ground tape where possible

### **Physiological Condition**

Good – Healthy tree with no signs of ill health and signs of good extension growth for species

Fair – Trees with signs of disease, minor defects and decreased life expectancy due to physical damage

Poor – Trees with significant disease, significantly reduced life expectancy and/or under major physiological stress

Dead – Dead tree or trees with over 70% crown dieback

### **Structural Condition**

Good – Trees with no significant defects

Fair – Trees with remedial defects which require minor tree surgery works

Poor – Trees with remedial defects which require significant tree surgery works or felling

Dead – Trees which require felling

### **BS 5837 Retention Category**

Each tree, group of trees or hedge is assigned to a retention category where:

*Table A1                      Categorisation of trees*

| <b>Category</b> | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A               | Trees of high quality and value, retention is highly desirable                                                                                                    |
| B               | Trees of moderate quality and value where retention is desirable                                                                                                  |
| C               | Trees of low quality and value, or young trees with a stem diameter <150mm. Category C trees may be retained, replaced or in the case of younger trees, relocated |
| U               | Trees of poor quality unsuitable for retention or trees which should be removed                                                                                   |

In addition, each tree, group of trees or hedge is assigned to a retention sub-category where categorisation is for:

*Table A2                      Reasons for Categorisation*

| <b>Sub-category</b> | <b>Reason for Categorisation</b>               |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1                   | Mainly arboricultural qualities                |
| 2                   | Mainly landscape qualities                     |
| 3                   | Mainly cultural values, including conservation |

## APPENDIX B. Tree Schedules

Client: **Mr and Mrs Coward**

Project: **Shorne Mead, Peartree Lane, Shorne, Kent, DA12 3JT**

Survey date: **29<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Surveyor: **Darren Hood FdSc MArborA**

Table B1 - Tree Schedule

| Tree reference number | Species                                            | Height (m) | Stem diameter (mm) | Crown spread (m) | Height of crown clearance (m) | Age class | Physiological condition | Structural condition | Comments                                                                    | Estimated remaining contribution (years) | Category grading |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|
| T1                    | Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )                | 22         | 750                | N8 E7<br>S9 W9   | 6                             | EM        | Good                    | Fair                 | No clear leader. Minor deadwood north side of crown. Historic storm damage. | 20+                                      | B (1)            |
| T2                    | Sweet chestnut ( <i>Castanea sativa</i> )          | 14         | 420                | N5 E6<br>S7 W7   | 3                             | SM        | Fair                    | Fair                 | On roadside bank. Historical pruning.                                       | 10+                                      | C (2)            |
| T3                    | Lawson cypress ( <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> ) | 12         | 150                | N2 E2<br>S2 W2   | 0                             | Y         | Fair                    | Fair                 | On bank. Supressed on southern side; not on topographical.                  | 10+                                      | C (1)            |
| T4                    | Silver birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> )             | 16         | 140                | N2 E2<br>S2 W2   | 4                             | Y         | Good                    | Fair                 | On bank. Suppressed south; not on topographical.                            | 10+                                      | C (2)            |
| T5                    | Field maple ( <i>Acer campestre</i> )              | 13         | 2 stems @ 140      | N2 E1<br>S2 W1   | 3                             | SM        | Fair                    | Fair                 | Twin stemmed. Topped. Supressed; not on topographical.                      | 10+                                      | C (1)            |
| T6                    | Sweet chestnut ( <i>Castanea sativa</i> )          | 14         | 8 stems @ 150      | N5 E5<br>S5 W5   | 3                             | SM        | Fair                    | Fair                 | Coppice stool previously topped at 3m. On bank. Outside chain-link fence.   | 10+                                      | C (1)            |
| T7                    | Crab apple ( <i>Malus sylvestris</i> )             | 6          | 150                | N1 E2<br>S2 W2   | 3                             | EM        | Fair                    | Fair                 | Behind gate; not on topographical.                                          | 10+                                      | C (1)            |
| T8                    | Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )                | 10         | 230                | N4 E3<br>S3 W5   | 4                             | Y         | Good                    | Fair                 | Overhanging boundary.                                                       | 10+                                      | C (2)            |

| Tree reference number | Species                                               | Height (m) | Stem diameter (mm) | Crown spread (m) | Height of crown clearance (m) | Age class | Physiological condition | Structural condition | Comments              | Estimated remaining contribution (years) | Category grading |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|
| T9                    | Lawson cypress<br>( <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> ) | 16         | 230                | N2 E2<br>S2 W2   | 3                             | EM        | Poor                    | Fair                 | None.                 | 10+                                      | C<br>(1)         |
| T10                   | Laburnum<br>( <i>Laburnum anagyroides</i> )           | 5          | 3 stems @<br>130   | N2 E2<br>S2 W2   | 2                             | SM        | Fair                    | Fair                 | Multi stemmed.        | 10+                                      | C<br>(1)         |
| T11                   | Hazel ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> )                     | 10         | 4 stems @<br>90    | N2 E2<br>S2 W2   | 0                             | SM        | Fair                    | Fair                 | Coppice regrowth.     | 10+                                      | C<br>(1)         |
| T12                   | Japanese cherry<br>( <i>Prunus serrulata</i> )        | 3          | 200                | N1 E1<br>S1 W1   | 1                             | EM        | Fair                    | Fair                 | Not on topographical. | 10+                                      | C<br>(1)         |
| T13                   | Strawberry tree<br>( <i>Arbutus unedo</i> )           | 3          | 100                | N1 E1<br>S1 W1   | 1                             | EM        | Fair                    | Fair                 | Not on topographical. | 10+                                      | C<br>(1)         |
| T14                   | Lawson cypress<br>( <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> ) | 2          | 100                | N1 E1<br>S1 W1   | 0                             | Y         | Fair                    | Fair                 | Not on topographical. | 10+                                      | C<br>(1)         |

Table B2 Group Schedule

| Tree reference number | Species                                                                                                                                                                      | Height (m) | Stem Ø (mm) | Average Radial Crown Spread (m) N-E-S-W | Height of crown clearance (m) | Age class | Physiological condition | Structural condition             | Estimated remaining contribution (years) | Category grading |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|
| G1                    | Hornbeam ( <i>Carpinus betulus</i> ) (x5), Hazel ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> ) (x3), Beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ) (x2) and Highclere holly ( <i>Ilex X altaclarensis</i> ) | 6          | Avg 150     | 1                                       | 0                             | SM        | Fair                    | Fair – Scattered hedge planting. | 10+                                      | C (1)            |

Table B3 Root Protection Area

| Tree reference number | Species                                            | Stem diameter (mm) | Radius of nominal circle (m) | RPA (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| T1                    | Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )                | 750                | 9                            | 254.5                 |
| T2                    | Sweet chestnut ( <i>Castanea sativa</i> )          | 420                | 5                            | 79.8                  |
| T3                    | Lawson cypress ( <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> ) | 150                | 1.8                          | 10.2                  |
| T4                    | Silver birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> )             | 140                | 1.7                          | 8.9                   |
| T5                    | Field maple ( <i>Acer campestre</i> )              | 2 stems @ 140      | 2.4                          | 17.7                  |
| T6                    | Sweet chestnut ( <i>Castanea sativa</i> )          | 8 stems @ 150      | 5.1                          | 81.4                  |
| T7                    | Crab apple ( <i>Malus sylvestris</i> )             | 150                | 1.8                          | 10.2                  |
| T8                    | Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )                | 230                | 2.8                          | 23.9                  |
| T9                    | Lawson cypress ( <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> ) | 230                | 2.8                          | 23.9                  |

| Tree reference number | Species                                                                                                                                                                      | Stem diameter (mm) | Radius of nominal circle (m) | RPA (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| T10                   | Laburnum ( <i>Laburnum anagyroides</i> )                                                                                                                                     | 3 stems @ 130      | 2.7                          | 22.9                  |
| T11                   | Hazel ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> )                                                                                                                                            | 4 stems @ 90       | 2.2                          | 14.7                  |
| T12                   | Japanese cherry ( <i>Prunus serrulata</i> )                                                                                                                                  | 200                | 2.4                          | 18.1                  |
| T13                   | Strawberry tree ( <i>Arbutus unedo</i> )                                                                                                                                     | 100                | 1.2                          | 4.5                   |
| T14                   | Lawson cypress ( <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> )                                                                                                                           | 100                | 1.2                          | 4.5                   |
| G1                    | Hornbeam ( <i>Carpinus betulus</i> ) (x5), Hazel ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> ) (x3), Beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ) (x2) and Highclere holly ( <i>Ilex X altaclarensis</i> ) | Avg 150            | 1.8                          | 10.2                  |

Table B3      Key to Categories

| Tree Reference Number | Category   |
|-----------------------|------------|
| T/GXX                 | Category A |
| T/GXX                 | Category B |
| T/GXX                 | Category C |
| T/GXX                 | Category U |

## **Appendix C Selected Site Photographs**



*Photo 1 Stem of T1 Common oak.*



*Photo 2 T3 and retaining wall.*



*Photo 3 T1 and part of G1 showing bank.*