

Nicholas Jones Consultants Limited

Arboricultural Assessment and Outline Method Statement

Land to the rear of 8 Withdean Road Brighton BN1 5BL

Prepared by Nicholas Jones BSc. (Hons). MSc. M Arbor A On behalf of Mr Owen Date: 17th January 2022 Ref: NJCL 985



Executive Summary

Nicholas Jones Consultants Limited were commissioned by Mr Owen to prepare an arboricultural report to advise on the potential impacts of the proposed development upon the existing tree population located on land to the rear of 8 Withdean Road, Brighton, BN1 5BL.

The proposed development includes the construction of two detached dwellings, a detached garage and associated vehicular access.

This report confirms that there is one section of a component group proposed for removal to facilitate the proposed development. An additional tree is proposed for removal on the grounds of condition. The tree population in relation to the retention categories defined in British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - recommendations' are provided in Table 1 along with the quantities proposed for retention and removal.

Total	Retained	Removed
3	3	0
1	1	0
5	5	Partial removal
		of 1 group
1	0	1
	3	3 3 1 1

Table 1

Construction activity could potentially affect the retained trees. However, by implementing suitable protection measures and monitoring for the retained trees there is ample scope within the site for the construction process and associated activities required to facilitate the proposed development.



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Validation Statement

This report contains supporting information regarding trees in relation to the proposed development on land to the rear of 8 Withdean Road, Brighton, BN1 5BL.

For Local Planning Authority purposes this report contains the following elements:

- A tree survey in accordance with the guidance contained in British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.' The survey has been undertaken by a competent and qualified arboriculturist.
- A plan indicating a North point, at an appropriate scale and containing tree survey information and tree retention categories as defined in British Standard 5837:2012.
- An assessment of the arboricultural impacts of the proposed development and details of all trees to be removed or retained and any associated measures proposed for their protection.
- An Outline Arboricultural Method Statement detailing the means of tree protection and any constraints posed on the implementation and phasing of work.



1. Introduction

- 1.1 Formal details My name is Nicholas Jones I am the Principal Arboricultural Consultant for Nicholas Jones Consultants Limited. I have 32 years' experience in the arboricultural industry with the past 22 years acting as a consultant. I hold a BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture and an MSc in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry awarded by the University of Central Lancashire. I hold Professional Memberships of the Arboricultural Association, the International Society of Arboriculture and the Consulting Arborist Society. Moreover, I am a Lantra accredited Professional Tree Inspector, giving advice to clients on a wide range of arboricultural and horticultural issues.
- 1.2 This report has been commissioned by Mr Owen in order to advise on the following:
 - The species, size and position of any trees within the area of the proposed development and within neighbouring and adjoining areas where trees may have some significance to the proposed development.
 - The maturity and condition of the trees surveyed with appropriate recommendations for action.
 - The impact of the proposed development upon the tree population in and around the site, along with the impact of retained trees on the end use of the site.
 - Outline measures required to protect retained trees during the development works and the ongoing monitoring of construction works to ensure that retained trees remain protected effectively.



- 1.3 The site is under the administrative jurisdiction of Brighton & Hove City Council. The Council has confirmed that there are no Tree Preservation Orders relating to the site. Moreover, the site is not located within a Conservation Area.
- 1.4 An extant planning consent (Ref: BH2021/015020) exists which relates to the erection of 2no. detached dwellings at the rear of site and 1no. dwelling to replace the existing dwelling at the front of site, along with the creation of vehicular access along north side of site.
- 1.5 The site was visited on 17th January 2022 and an assessment of the trees in the vicinity of the proposed development completed in line with the guidance provided in British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations'.
- 1.6 The proposed development includes alterations to the footprints of the approved dwellings to the rear of the site, along with the construction of a detached garage.
- 1.7 This report should be read with refence to the following drawings (Table 2):

Origin	ator	Drg No	Title
Nicholas	Jones	NJCL 985_01_170122	Tree Layout Plan
Consultants	Limited		
Nicholas	Jones	NJCL 985 02 170122	Preliminary Tree Protection Plan
Consultants	Limited		
Table 2			

Table	2 9
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1.8 The following technical references are made in this report (Table 3):

Originator	Title/Reference	
British Standards Institute	5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations	
Table 3		



2. Arboricultural Impact Assessment

2.1 Development proposals can impact on trees by requiring their removal or by adversely affecting their longevity through disturbance to their rooting environment or the impact of severe pruning. In many cases however it is possible to reduce the levels of disturbance by implementing precautionary measures and by adopting appropriate working practices.

Direct impacts of the proposed development on existing trees

- 2.1.1 This section of the impact assessment uses a matrix to consider the contributory factors that determine an individual trees likely response to disturbance and or root loss as a result of demolition or construction activity within the calculated Root Protection Area.
- 2.1.2 For ease of interpretation the impact assessment matrix largely uses a simple traffic light system to rank the factors in order of their potential impact.
- 2.1.3 Where an impact has a binary outcome then it is determined as either green or red.
- 2.1.4 The individual factors are:
- 2.1.4.1 <u>Tree species:</u> some species show a greater tolerance to disturbance or root loss than others. Species vary greatly in their vigour and ability to compartmentalise decay and dysfunction following wounding/pruning. In determining the tolerance of a species for the purposes of the assessment matrix information has been collated from published work on root pruning and root loss and from personal arboricultural experience and technical knowledge.



2.1.5 <u>Age class (Table 4):</u> Younger trees display a greater tolerance to disturbance or root loss as they have a greater ability to adapt and respond to wounding/pruning.

Age class	Tolerance
Juvenile	
Semi mature	
Early mature	
Mature	
Over mature	
Veteran	
Table 4	

2.1.6 <u>Physiological condition (Table 5):</u> Trees with good vitality will be functioning at an optimum physiological level and will be best placed to tolerate disturbance or root loss.

Physiological condition	Tolerance
Good	
Fair	
Poor	

Table 5

2.1.7 <u>Level of incursion (Table 6):</u> It is a generally accepted principle, particularly in British Standard 5837:2012, that incursions of up to 20% are acceptable, on the basis that the other factors considered here are in favour of a positive response from the individual tree.

Level of incursion (%)	Tolerance	
Up to 15%		
Between 15-20%		
Greater than 20%		
Table C		

Table 6



2.1.8 <u>Extent of level alterations (Table 7):</u> Excavation to varying depths has the potential to negatively impact lateral surface roots or roots present deeper within the soil. Increases in soil levels can lead to soil compaction and asphyxiation of roots.

Extent of alteration (mm)	Tolerance
Reduction of 0-300mm	
Reduction of 300-600mm	
Reduction of 600+mm	
Increase of 0-100mm	
Increase of 100-200mm	
Increase of 200+mm	
Table 7	

2.1.9 <u>Engineering options available (Table 8):</u> Special engineering options can be employed to reduce the impacts on trees, no dig cellular confinement systems can serve to lessen the impacts of vehicular access routes, pile and beam foundations can be utilised to negate the requirement for extensive foundation excavations.

Engineering options available	Tolerance
Yes	
No	
Table 8	

2.1.10 Options for mitigation/enhancements elsewhere in the RPA (Table 9): Impacts can potentially be offset by providing additional rooting volume on an alternative side of the tree or by enhancing the soil conditions in the retained RPA.

Mitigation/enhancement possible	Tolerance
Yes	
No	
Table 9	

2.1.11 <u>Additional factors:</u> Elements they may be relevant to either additional weighting or less significance of the factors above.



2.1.12 <u>Final impact level (Table 10):</u> The final level of impact following consideration of all of relevant elements above. On balance, the level of each element will be used to determine the final impact level. If the level is determined acceptable then details of any mitigation or associated protection will be provided. If the level is determined as unacceptable then the tree will be highlighted for removal, the impacts of which are considered fully in the following section.

Final impact level	Tolerance
Acceptable	
Unacceptable	
Table 10	

- 2.1.13 The Impact assessment matrix is provided in Table 11, the matrix only includes those trees with a proposed incursion into their RPA as a result of demolition, construction or associated required access for those activities.
- 2.1.14 The vehicular access into the site is consistent with the layout approved, without conditions, under BH2021/015020. The Council considered the impacts of the access were acceptable under the extant consent, consequently this application has not duplicated any details relating to the access or any associated impacts.



	Impact Assessment Matrix														
Tree number	Tree species	Species tolerance to disturbance/root loss	Life stage tolerance to disturbance/root loss	Physiological condition	Level of incursion (%)	Extent of level alteration (where applicable)	Engineering solutions available	Option of mitigation/remediation elsewhere in the RPA	Additional factors	Comments and observations	Final Impact Level				
T4	Mulberry					N/A			Incursion is limited to external landscaping only	Incursion is within acceptable limits and can proceed without constraint					
Т6	Field Maple					N/A			Incursion relates to the proposed garage which will be constructed on screw piles and above the existing ground level	Incursion is within acceptable limits given a robust system of tree protection in the area along with a detailed construction method statement					
									Incursion relates to the proposed garage which will be constructed on screw piles and	Incursion is within acceptable limits given a robust system of tree protection in the area along with a detailed construction					
17	Ash					N/A		Tabla	above the existing ground level	method statement					

Table 11

Arboricultural Assessment & Outline Method Statement (NJCL 985 V1) Land to the rear of 8 Withdean Road, Brighton, BN1 5BL – 17th January 2022



Potential construction impacts of the proposed development

2.1.15 The use of a system of screw piles and a block/beam construction will ensure that the proposed garage can be constructed above the existing ground level, without impacting the Root Protection Areas (RPA's) of trees T6 and T7. The proposed steps to the rear of the side of the garage will be supported using a cantilevered construction and will have no impact on the existing surrounding ground levels. The installation of the screw piles will need to be completed with due regard for the trees. Further details are provided in section 3 of this report.

Impacts of the proposed tree removals

- 2.1.16 There is no pruning required to facilitate the proposed development. Tree removal is limited to T1 and a small section of G5. The locations of these trees are provided on the Tree Layout Plan (Ref: NJCL 985_01_170122 Appendix 2).
- 2.1.17 The impacts of the proposed tree removals are assessed in Table12.

Impacts of the retained trees on the proposed development

- 2.1.18 The location and orientation of the habitable elements of the proposed development obtain full benefit from available sun light and are located a sufficient distance from the retained trees to ensure that seasonal nuisance is not a significant issue.
- 2.1.19 The proposed garage is located within close proximity of retained trees T6 and T7 and will be subject to both shading and seasonal nuisance attributable to leaf fall. Shading is not considered to be a significant issue as the garage is not habitable. Seasonal nuisance through leaf fall is likely to cause maintenance issues, with regard to the blocking on the component guttering. In mitigation, gutter guards fill be fixed to prevent blockages forming.

Tree Number(s)	Reason for tree removal	Impact of tree removal	Pho
T1	Poor specimen tree that has been subject to unsympathetic past management.	Low impact as this poor-quality tree (U category) is not clearly visible from outside the curtilage of the site.	
G5	Partial removal to facilitate the proposed site layout.	Low impact as this low-quality tree group (C category) is not clearly visible from outside the curtilage of the site. The proposed removal is largely consistent with the requirements of the extant consent BH2021/015020.	

Table 12



hotographs



3. Outline Arboricultural Method Statement

- 3.1 The principal purpose of an Arboricultural Method Statement is to ensure the preservation of retained trees through setting out appropriate working practices, construction techniques and tree protection measures that will be adopted when construction work is undertaken.
- 3.2 Prior to any construction activity on site, the services of a Project Arborist should be retained to advise on tree protection during the construction process.
- 3.3 The following Arboricultural Method Statement includes a Preliminary Tree Protection Plan (Ref: NJCL 985_02_170122 Appendix 2) which identifies the following:
- 3.3.1 Trees to be retained.
- 3.3.2 Proposed Construction Exclusion Zone.
- 3.3.3 Precautionary Area.
- 3.3.4 Tree Protection Measures.

Proposed Construction Exclusion Zone

3.3.5 British Standard 5837:2012 recommendations provide a formula for calculating the Root Protection Area which indicates the area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and soil rooting volume to maintain the trees viability. The protection of the roots and soil within these areas should be treated as a priority. The shape of the RPA and its exact location will depend upon arboricultural considerations and the area will normally be represented on a constraints plan as a circle or polygon.



3.3.6 This information will inform the extent of the CEZ. No work should be undertaken within any of the defined CEZ's that may cause compaction to the soil or the severance of any tree roots.

Precautionary Area

3.3.7 The Precautionary Area is deemed any area inside the RPA of a retained tree that is subject to construction activity, specifically trees T6 and T7. The Precautionary Area is indicated on Drg No. NJCL 985_02_170122 Preliminary Tree Protection Plan Appendix 2. All excavation work within the Precautionary Area, including the installation of the proposed screw piles, should be completed under the supervision of the Project Arborist.

Tree Protection Measures

3.3.8 Protective fencing should be erected in accordance with section 6 of BS5837:2012 and as indicated in Figure 1. The proposed location of the protective fencing is indicated on Drg No. NJCL 985_02_170122 Preliminary Tree Protection Plan Appendix 2.

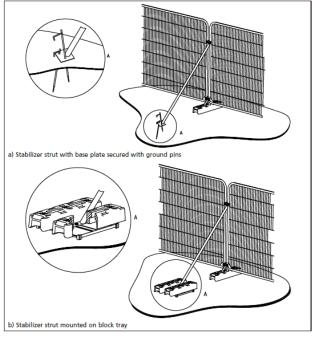


Figure 1



- 3.3.9 In addition, ground protection measures will be installed within the RPA's of trees T6 and T7, to facilitate pedestrian construction access around the proposed garage. The location of the temporary ground protection is indicated on Drg No. NJCL 985_02_170122 Preliminary Tree Protection Plan Appendix 2.
- 3.3.10 The ground protection should accord with the guidance contained in section 6 of British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations and 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.

Detailed Arboricultural Method Statement

- 3.3.11 Pursuant to the Council's preference to ensure confident tree retention during development, a detailed Arboricultural Method Statement should be prepared, which expands on the outline detail provided above. This could reasonably be requested by Condition.
- 3.3.12 Within a Detailed Arboricultural Method Statement, Heads of Terms are advised to include:
 - a detailed method statement for the installation of the proposed garage including details of the machinery requirements relating to the installation of the screw piles and additional protection measures required.
 - details of the phasing of work and a scheme for auditing tree protection, site supervision and monitoring with subsequent reporting to the LPA.



4. Summary & Conclusions

- 4.1 British Standard 5837: 2012 contains clear and current recommendations for a best practice approach to the assessment, retention and protection of trees on development sites. The proposed development has followed this guidance by:
 - Seeking arboricultural advice to inform the layout and design of the proposal
 - Respecting the constraints posed to development of the site by the retained trees, and taking proactive steps to ensure their protection during development
 - Continuing to take advice on all aspects of the proposal that may impact upon the retained trees
- 4.2 It is my professional opinion that the proposals put forward allow for confidence in the long-term retention of the existing tree cover and would not result in any detriment to the character of the local area and the wider treescape.
- 4.3 From an arboricultural perspective the principle of the proposed development is therefore considered supportable in terms of Local Policy relating to trees. This opinion is strongly subject to the adoption of future safeguards for protecting trees.
- 4.4 In summary, I consider that there are no valid arboricultural issues that reasonably restrict the proposed development of the site.



Prepared by Nicholas Jones BSc (Hons). MSc. M Arbor A.

Date: 17th January 2022



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<u>Appendix 1 – Tree Survey</u>

The trees within the area of the proposed development, and within neighbouring and adjoining areas where trees may have some significance to the proposed development, have been assessed and are recorded in the tree schedule (**Appendix 1**). Tree locations are plotted onto Drg No. NJCL 985_01_170122 Tree Layout Plan (**Appendix 2**). The trees have been visually assessed from ground level only using non-invasive methods of inspection. Tree height is an estimation, crown spread and height to underside of canopy are measured with a laser range finder.

The survey information collated for each tree is as follows:

- > Tree reference number: As recorded on the site plan.
- > Tree species: Common name and full botanical classification
- Life stage: (J) Juvenile, (SM) Semi mature, (EM) Early mature, (M)
 Mature, (OM) Over mature, (V) Veteran
- Estimated remaining contribution in years e.g.: Less than 10, 10-20, 20 40, more than 40
- > Height: In metres
- Stem diameter measured in millimetres as follows:
 - Single stem trees measured at 1.5m above ground level
 - Multi stem trees (less than five stems) total of all stem diameters measured at 1.5m above ground level
 - Multi stem trees (more than five stems) mean stem diameter measured at 1.5m above ground level
- Crown Spread: Measured at the four cardinal points (Metres)
- Height to underside of canopy: Measurement from ground level to the lowest branch (Metres)
- > Physiological condition: Good, Fair, Poor, Dead



- Structural condition: Assessed as previous item on presence of decay and potential structural defects
- > Quality assessment category: As defined in Table 1.1
- Comments and observations: Information regarded as relevant by the assessing arborist
- Preliminary management recommendations: Details of any remedial action required to address significant defects and or facilitate development
- Adjusted root protection area radius (Metres) calculated in accordance with the formulas provided in chapter 4.6 and Annex D of BS5837:2012

A full hazard assessment of the trees, such as decay detection and mapping, has not been undertaken as this is considered beyond the scope of this report. Obvious hazards and defects that would reasonably affect the trees contribution to the landscape have been fully considered and are detailed in the tree survey schedule.

British Standard 5837:2012 provides guidance for the assessment of trees on development sites and suggests four primary quality assessment categories and three associated sub-categories into which trees should be placed. These categories are defined in Table 1.1:



Category & Definition		Criteria		Identification on Plan										
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	 that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (i.e. 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 													
Trees to Be Considered for	Retention													
	Criteria - Subcategories													
Category & Definition	1. Mainly arboricultural qualities	2. Mainly landscape qualities	3. Mainly cultural values, including conservation	Identification on Plan										
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 or 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)	Light Green										
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 as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating that 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	Mid Blue										
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 150mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present on groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value, and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefit	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	Grey										

Table 1.1

Arboricultural Assessment & Outline Method Statement (NJCL 985 V1) Land to the rear of 8 Withdean Road, Brighton, BN1 5BL – 17th January 2022

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Site:	Land to the rear of 8 Withdean Road	Da	ite:	17	.01.2	2022	Reference No:					NJCL	- 985		Surveyor:	N D Jones		
imber				condition	/ Assessment ategory	Comments and	Preliminary	ction Area iined trees	ction Area (m) for trees									
Tree number	Tree species	Life s	Estimated remaining contribution (years)	Tree Height (m)	Number o	Stem diameter (mm)	N	E	S	w	Height to unders canopy (m)	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Quality As Cateç	observations	Management Recommendations	Root Protection Area (m²) for retained trees	Root Protection Area Radius (m) for retained trees
T1	Yew	М	<15	3	1	350	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	Fair	Poor	U	Poor specimen, heavily and poorly pruned	Fell to ground level	55	4.2
T2	Rowan	SM	40+	5	1	180	4.0	4.0	3.5	2.5	2.5	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen	No work required	15	2.2
Т3	Plum	SM	<15	6	1	180	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair specimen located on the northern boundary of the site	No work required	15	2.2
13		SIVI	< 15	0		100	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	Fall	Ган		Fair specimen located on the northern boundary	NO WORK required	15	2.2
T4	Mulberry	М	40+	9	1	500	4.0	5.5	2.0	5.3	2.0	Good	Fair	A1	of the site	No work required	113	6.0
	Mixed														Mixed species group on the eastern side of the site, providing an effective visual	Partial removal of the western section to facilitate the proposed		
G5	species	SM	<15									Fair	Fair	C2	screen	development	N/A	N/A

Arboricultural Assessment & Outline Method Statement (NJCL 985 V1) Land to the rear of 8 Withdean Road, Brighton, BN1 5BL – 17th January 2022



Site:	Land to the rear of 8 Withdean Road	Da	ite:	17.01.2022			Reference No:					NJCL	985		Surveyor:	N D Jon	es	
Tree number	Tree species	Life stage	Estimated remaining contribution (years)	Tree Height (m)	Number of stems	Stem diameter (mm)	N	Crown spread (m) N E S W				Physiological condition	Structural condition	Quality Assessment Category	Comments and observations	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Area (m²) for retained trees	Root Protection Area Radius (m) for retained trees
T6	Field Maple	M	40+	17	1	900	7.0	4.5	8.0	7.5	.+ Height to underside 0 of canopy (m)	Good	Good	а А1	Fair specimen located adjacent to the southern boundary Located off site to the south, early indications of ash die back in the upper	No work required No work required currently, consider removal in the next	366	 10.8
<u>Т7</u> Т8	Ash	M	<10 40+	<u>17</u> 17	1	790 400	9.0 5.0	7.0 6.0	<u>10.0</u> 5.0	<u>10.0</u> 4.5	5.0 4.0	Fair Fair	Fair Fair	C1	Fair specimen, located off site to the south	5 years	282 72	9.5 4.8
G9	Mixed species	M	<15									Fair	Poor	C2	Unmanaged mixed species group located on the southern boundary of the site adjacent to the public footpath. Component trees in poor condition due to dense ivy cover	None	N/A	N/A

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Site:	Land to the rear of 8 Withdean Road	Da	ite:	17	.01.2	2022	R	eferei	nce N	o :		NJCL	985		Surveyor:	N D Jones		
Tree number	Tree species	Life stage	Estimated remaining	Tree Height (m)	Number of stems	Stem diameter (mm)	Cr N	Crown spread (m) N E S W			Height to underside of	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Quality Assessment	Comments and observations	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Area (m²) for retained trees	Root Protection Area Radius (m) for retained trees
 T10	Elm	EM	<20	16	2	300 300	5.0	6.0	1.5	5.0	3.0	Fair	Fair	B1	Twin stemmed tree located off site to the south, one sided due to pruning of the southern aspect	Crown raise to achieve a clearance of approximately 4.5m over the application site	81	5.1

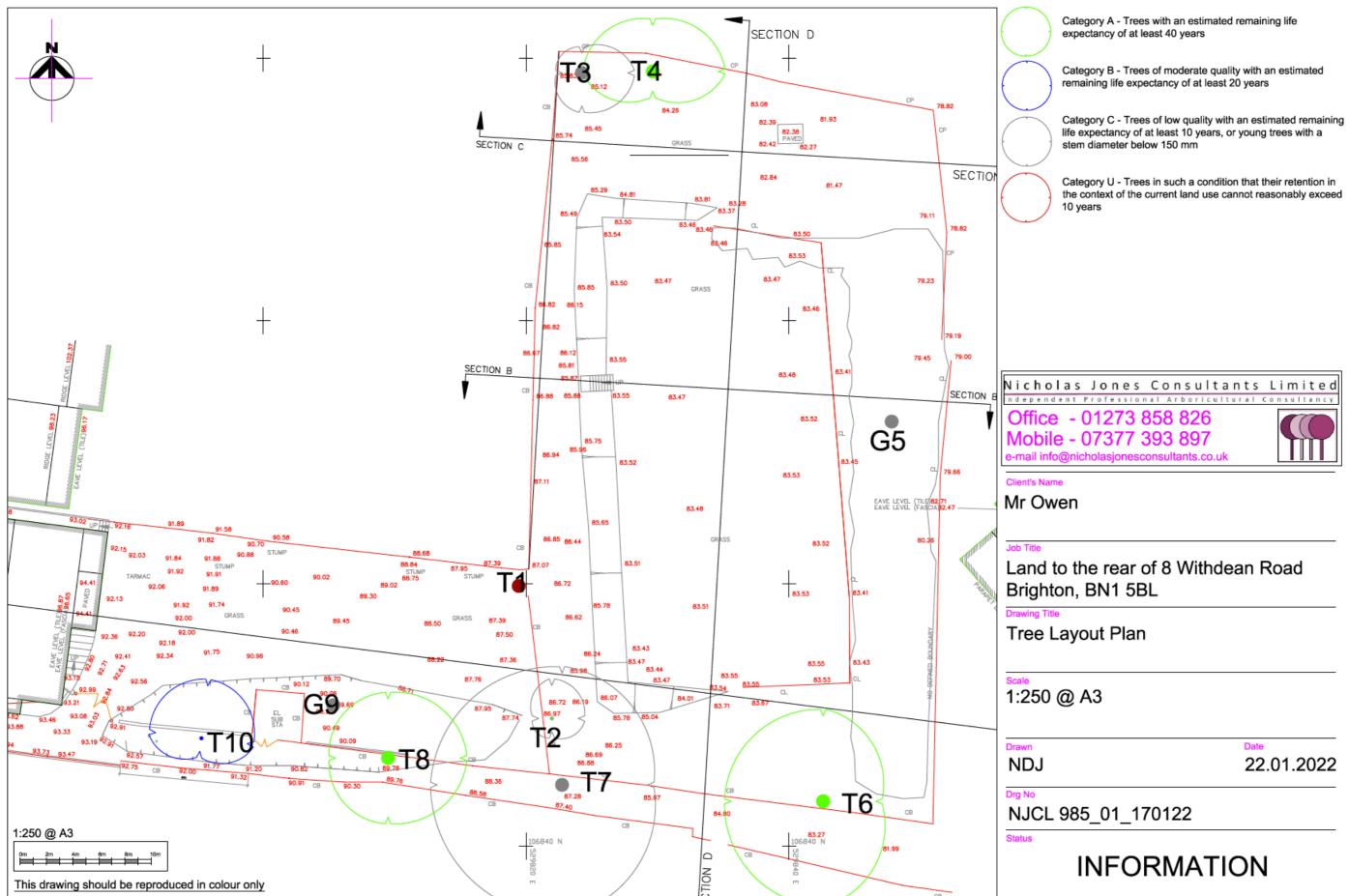
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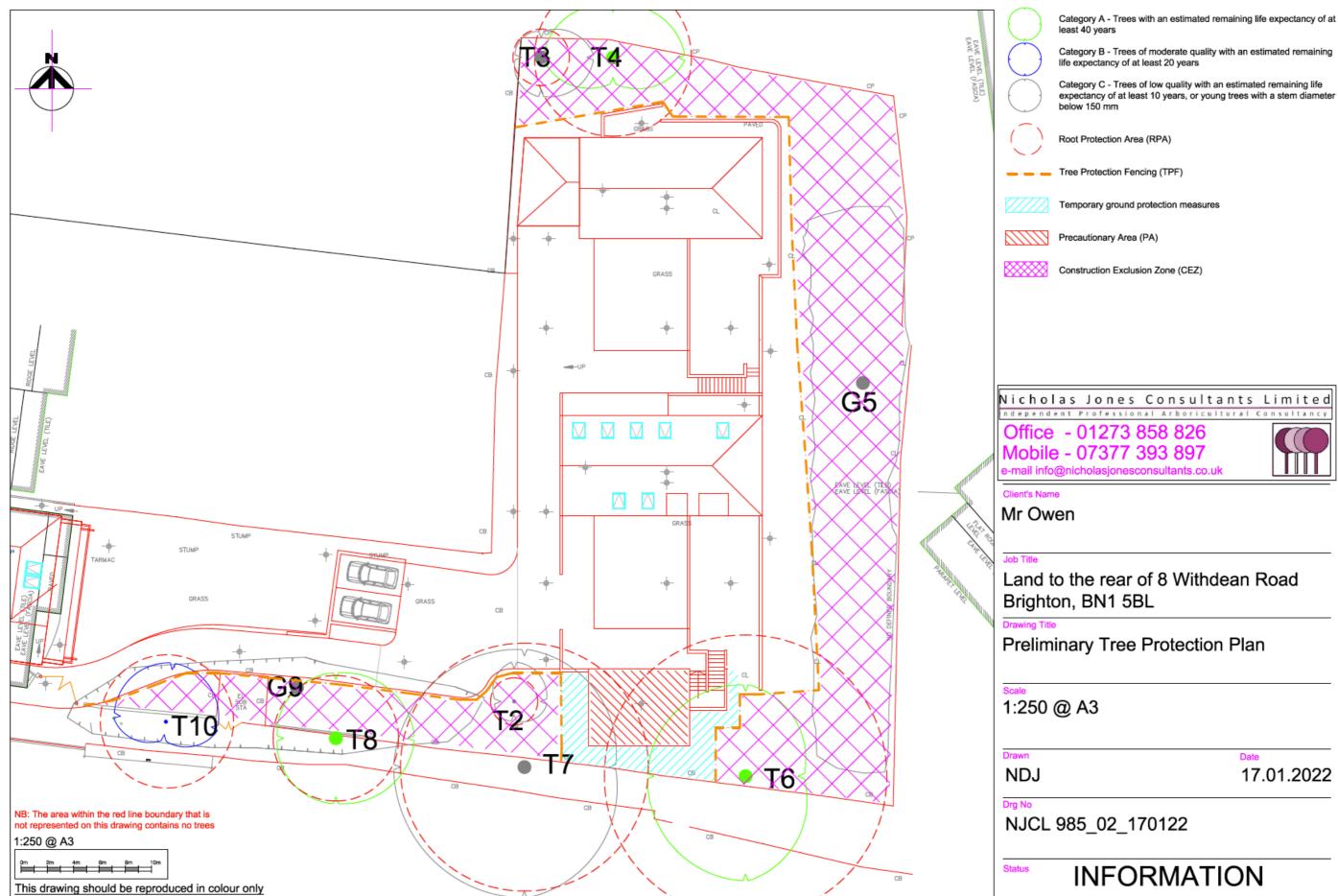
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Appendix 2 - Drawings

*Do not scale from the drawings reproduced within this report

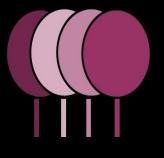




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