

Mrs HELEN KIRK:
PROOF OF EVIDENCE ARBORICULTURAL MATTERS

Local Authority Planning Application Reference: 2024/62/91242
APPEAL Reference: APP/Z4718/25/3375000

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& design



**PROOF OF EVIDENCE:
ARBORICULTURAL MATTERS**

Appellant

Newett Homes Limited

Respondent

Kirklees Council

Site

Shepley Road, Stocksmoor

Date

January 2026

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Appendix A -Curriculum Vitae

Rev	Issue Status	Prepared/Date	Approved/Date
-	Draft v1	HCK / 14/01/26	SMM / 16/01/26
-	Final	HCK /27/01/27	SMM / 27/01/26

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 I am Mrs Helen Clair Kirk and I hold a National Diploma in Arboriculture from Merrist Wood College and I am a Professional Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and Arboricultural Association. I have worked in the arboricultural industry for over 30 years and have experience in local government as well as being a practical arborist.
- 1.2 I am a Director at FPCR Environment and Design Limited (FPCR) based at the Lockington Office, a post that I have held for the past nineteen years. I lead on all Arboricultural aspects of the Practice and am responsible for overseeing the day-to-day activities of the Arboricultural Team.
- 1.3 At FPCR I have had extensive involvement in planning and development where it relates to Arboriculture and worked on a wide range of development projects where integration of trees and their ongoing management have been major considerations.
- 1.4 I include a full Curriculum Vitae in Appendix A.
- 1.5 In preparing this evidence and to assist the inquiry, I visited the site to undertake an independent site walkover and review of the existing tree cover, visually noting anything of significance relevant to the appeal case.
- 1.6 The evidence which I have prepared and provide for this appeal is true has been prepared and is given in accordance with guidance of my professional institution, the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) and I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions irrespective of by whom I am instructed.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND PLANNING HISTORY

- 2.1 The appeal is being made against the refusal by Kirklees Council ('the Council') of a planning application for residential development for 50 dwellings, areas of open space and a local area of play located on land off Shepley Road, Stocksmoor (Planning Application ref. 2024/62/91242), on 24th April 2025 which cited two reasons for refusal (CD 3.2), neither of which relate to arboriculture.
- 2.2 It should be noted that Mr Dunn, Kirklees Council Tree Officer found no grounds to object to the application in respect of arboriculture (CD4.11 Trees). However, the appeal has attracted a Rule 6 Party that have raised concerns regarding potential impact to two areas of Ancient Woodland (only one of which is directly adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site) as a result of the development. This Proof of Evidence has given due regard to the matters raised in the Rule 6 Statement of Case (CD 8.11) submitted by Stocksmoor Vision where they may relate to arboricultural matters.
- 2.3 This Proof of Evidence has therefore provided evidence in relation to arboriculture and the potential arboricultural impacts to an Ancient Woodland arising from a proposed development only. Matters pertaining to potential ecological impacts to the Ancient Woodland are addressed by Mr. Robert Edmonds, Technical Director at SLR Consulting Ltd, within his Proof of Evidence for Ecology. Matters pertaining to potential hydrological impacts to the Ancient Woodland are addressed by Mr. Gavin Shepherd, Associate Director at Andrew Moseley Associates Ltd within his Proof of Evidence for Flood Risk and Drainage.

Arboricultural Assessment - Summary

- 2.4 The planning application for residential development on land north east of Shepley Road, Stocksmoor (Planning Application ref. 2024/62/91242) was submitted with a comprehensive Arboricultural Assessment (CD 1.25) produced by FPCR in accordance with guidance contained within *British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations'* (hereafter referred to as *BS5837*), dated April 2024.
- 2.5 The purpose of Arboricultural Assessment (CD 1.25) is to present the results of an assessment of the existing trees' arboricultural value, based on their current condition and quality, and then provide an assessment of impact arising from the proposed development of the site. Potential impacts to the Ancient Woodland were considered within the Arboricultural Assessment (CD 1.25) which concluded that due to the distance from the development to Shepley Mill Wood there would be no harm to trees within the Ancient Woodland.
- 2.6 The base-line tree survey undertaken in November 2023, identified a total of 41 individual trees, two tree groups and one woodland. The single woodland is W1 within the base-line tree survey, Shepley Mill Wood and is the designate Ancient Woodland parcel directly adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site. Tree cover associated with the site was considered typical of open countryside with pastoral context, with the field boundaries supporting a good number of standard individual trees. The tree cover recorded was mostly of mature proportions and consisted of a range of qualities and conditions as would typically be expected, recording trees of low (Category C), moderate (Category B) and high quality, (Category A) from an arboricultural perspective. Shepley Mill Wood was regarded as high quality (Category A) for its Ancient Woodland designation.
- 2.7 When undertaking the base-line tree survey FPCR also assessed if any trees associated with the site would be considered veteran based on the definition provided within National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – Annex 2 - the latest version of which is dated December 2024 which states the following:
- 'A tree which, because of its age, size, and condition, is of exceptional biodiversity, cultural or heritage value. All ancient trees are veteran trees. Not all veteran trees are old enough to be ancient but are old relative to other trees of the same species. Very few trees of any species reach the ancient life-stage.'*
- 2.8 FPCR found none of the assessed trees associated with the site, including the Ancient Woodland boundary closest to the site to be considered ancient or veteran trees under the framework, referring to a range of published literature and guidance pertaining to veteran trees including RAVEN 2 (Recognition of Ancient, Veteran & Notable trees) Julian Forbes-Laird (2023), along with their professional judgement and extensive experience upon which to base their opinion.
- 2.9 A single Tree Preservation Order (TPO 29/89/T2) applies to an individual tree within influencing distance of the site but within the curtilage of a private property on the other side of Shepley Road. This tree was recorded as T41 within the FPCR Arboricultural Assessment. This tree would not be impacted by the proposed development and development of the site will not increase the frequency of remedial pruning which is already necessary to maintain safe clearance of 5.5m above the highway.

Tree Removals to Development and Other Proposed Works to Trees

- 2.10 The submitted Arboricultural Assessment (CD 1.25) identified the removal of three individual trees namely T1, T2 and T3, to provide vehicular access to the site off Shepley Road. The removal of these three, low arboricultural quality (Category C) specimens are unavoidable to provide safe access from this boundary.
- 2.11 Mr Dunn Kirklees Council Tree Officer had no objection to the loss of these trees within his consultation response dated 12.06.2024 (CD 1.25) which stated *"The removal of T1, T2 and T3 to facilitate the access road to the site is a tolerable loss due to their category C classification. Also, the loss of these trees can be mitigated through the new planting suggested."*
- 2.12 The appeal scheme will be providing new landscaping including tree planting, for final approval through Condition, which will not only replace the loss of three low arboricultural quality trees but will also serve to increase local tree cover in the future.
- 2.13 The submitted Arboricultural Assessment (CD 1.25) also highlighted that to achieve a feasible internal layout within the northwestern part of site, would require the trimming back of crown growth from T6 and G1, without requiring their removal. Currently T6 and G1 have asymmetrical crowns extending into site and in the future could conflict with the dwelling proposed on Plot 6 and boundary treatment.
- 2.14 It is therefore proposed that appropriate and acceptable formative pruning would equalise (balance) the crown of T6 and greatly reduce the need for more extensive pruning in the future. This would be entirely appropriate and acceptable from an arboricultural perspective, and no objection was raised to this proposal by the Council's Tree Officer, Mr Dunn within his consultation response (CD 4.11).
- 2.15 The submitted Arboricultural Assessment (CD 1.25) also set out general recommendations for the protection of trees during construction through the erection of the requisite tree protection measures, including Tree Protection Fencing to safeguard trees from damage during construction following the guidance detailed within section 6 and 7 of BS5837 and be applied where necessary for the purpose of protecting trees within the site whilst allowing sufficient access for the implementation of the proposed layout. It was recommended in the Arboricultural Assessment that these protection measures should be detailed as part of a site-specific Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan, which could be imposed as a Condition should this appeal be allowed and is a typical Condition to be applied in this way.
- 2.16 It is important to note that overall the Tree Officer, Mr Dunn responded positively to the application in his consultation response (CD 4.11) supporting the details outlined in the submitted Arboricultural Impact Assessment (CD 1.25) saying he considered *"The design of this site is well thought out with regards to the current tree population. The submitted arboricultural impact assessment is thorough and makes valid recommendations"*.

3.0 POTENTIAL ARBORICULTURAL IMPACTS TO ANCIENT WOODLAND

3.1 The Rule 6 Party in their Statement of Case (CD 8.11) identified two areas of Ancient Woodland as being potentially affected by the appeal proposals, namely Shepley Mill Wood and Hartley Bank Wood (it is noted that the woodland names cited by the Rule 6 Party are taken from the Ancient Woodland Inventory).

3.2 I deal with the two woodlands in turn.

Hartley Bank Wood

3.3 The potential for any deterioration to Hartley Bank Wood as identified within the Rule 6 Party in their Statement of Case (CD 8.11) is as a result of discharge from a combined sewer. This potential impact to the woodland is addressed in detail through the evidence of Mr. Gavin Shepherd (Section 9) covering matters of Flood Risk and Drainage and through the evidence of Mr. Robert Edmonds covering matters of ecological effects to the woodland from sewer discharge.

3.4 Hartley Bank Wood is located approximately 600m northeast of the appeal scheme and approximately 1.34 km downstream (Figure 3 1, Proof of Evidence, Mr Robert Edmonds). There is no hydrological connectivity between the appeal scheme and largest compartment of Hartley Bank Wood, which is located on the west and south facing slopes of the valley formed by Stone Wood Dike (paragraph 3.2, Proof of Evidence, Mr Robert Edmonds).

3.5 There are no planned construction works that may impact individual trees and their rooting environments within Hartley Bank Wood and as such there is no risk to trees within the Ancient Woodland.

Shepley Mill Wood (W1)

3.6 The Arboricultural Assessment (CD 1.25) recorded Shepley Mill Wood as W1 in the baseline tree survey and observed the woodland as comprising a mix of native species with English oak *Quercus robur*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* being the dominant species composition along with occasional silver birch *Betula pendula*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, holly *Ilex aquifolium* and hazel *Corylus avellana*.

3.7 Shepley Mill Wood (W1) is identified as Ancient Woodland on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) and correspondingly on Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC), maintained by Natural England.

3.8 The woodland as a whole was considered a good example of a native species woodland and of high arboricultural value and as such regarded as Retention Category A, in recognition of its Ancient Woodland designation.

- 3.9 Standing Advice in relation to Ancient Woodland, Ancient and Veteran Trees is jointly prepared by the Forestry Commission and Natural England to provide advice, guidance, and recommendations and form the Governments position when deciding planning applications for developments which potentially affect these entities. Standing Advice sets out the types of potential impacts that can occur, both direct and indirect to Ancient Woodlands and how those impacts should be assessed. It is therefore appropriate for any form of development to take account of Standing Advice when preparing designs and offer protection against any adverse effects that development may have on Ancient Woodlands.
- 3.10 In terms of protection for Ancient Woodlands and Veteran trees, Standing Advice states "*For ancient woodlands, the proposal should have a buffer zone of at least 15 metres from the boundary of the woodland to avoid root damage (known as the root protection area).*" While Standing Advice doesn't differentiate between Root Protection Areas (RPA) as described within BS5837 and Buffer Zones, it does states that a tree survey should follow guidance in BS:5837 when determining the extent of an RPA for trees.
- 3.11 The RPA in accordance with BS:5837 for W1, based on an assessment of tree cover along the woodland edge was calculated at 6m based on a stem diameter of 500mm. In accordance with BS:5837, the RPA for any individual tree (not veteran or ancient) should be capped at a radial distance of 15m, measured from the stem of a tree, thus, a buffer zone of no less than 15m in accordance with Standing Advice will automatically capture the RPA of all non-veteran trees in accordance with the guidance set out in BS:5837.
- 3.12 While Standing Advice suggests larger buffer zone will be needed where other impacts are likely to extend beyond this 15m distance, the design of the Appeal Scheme has been informed by an Arboricultural Assessment (CD 1.25) and Ecological Impact Assessment (CD 1.26) which both concluded that the designed buffers are adequate to ensure no deterioration of Ancient Woodland habitats. So, a Buffer Zone of 15m in this instance is considered acceptable having been informed by professional judgement and following government and non-statutory guidance in relation to Ancient Woodland.
- 3.13 While the desire for an increased Buffer Zone is noted within the Rule 6 Statement of Case (CD 8.11), from an arboricultural perspective in the case of the appeal proposal there would be no requirement to increase the Buffer Zone beyond 15m, unless there were any veteran or ancient trees present along the woodland edge. As in accordance with Standing Advice, any Veteran and Ancient Tree should be provided an increased stand-off calculated slightly differently to that of an ancient woodland buffer or RPA in calculated in accordance with BS5837, but as there were no veteran or ancient trees recorded, a standard 15m buffer would be appropriate.
- 3.14 While an RPA should be measured from the stem of a tree, Standing Advice requires a 15m Buffer Zone be provided from the boundary of the woodland to protect the woodland from adverse impact as stated in paragraph 3.10. In the case of Shepley Mill Wood, the Ancient Woodland buffer has been provided from the woodland boundary as identified on the AWI and MAGIC dataset which is delineated on the ground by a stonewall and fence forming the field boundary. This 15m buffer zone has been shown on an Annotated Tree Retention Plan in purple (FPCR 11329-T-02 Rev C), appended to this Proof of Evidence.

- 3.15 As can be seen on the Annotated Tree Retention Plan (FPCR 11329-T-02 Rev C), the 15m Buffer Zone would fully encompass both the canopy and RPA of all trees along the woodland boundary.
- 3.16 All dwellings, including associated driveways and roads are situated well outside of the 15m Buffer Zone, with the nearest building (a pumping station) being approximately, 34.5m from the woodland boundary. There is a proposed retaining wall which will be necessary to achieve acceptable gradients from the estate road at a distance of approximately 23.5m from the woodland boundary at its closest point. This is the closest form of development to the Ancient Woodland, but again this structure is situated outside of both the Buffer Zone and RPA and should therefore be deemed acceptable.
- 3.17 Standing Advice highlights the importance of avoiding impacts to Ancient Woodland, but also provides advice on reducing impacts, mitigating impacts that can't be avoided, and compensating for any loss or damage through the Mitigation Hierarchy. In this instance appropriate measures to reduce against harmful effects to the woodland during the construction phase would be the erection of Tree Protection Fencing positioned as a minimum at the extent of the Buffer Zone.
- 3.18 These protection measures, which should follow the guidance given within BS:5837, would ensure there would be no direct harm to the rooting areas of trees within the outermost edge of the Ancient Woodland arising from construction activities. Measures to protect trees could be detailed within an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) imposed by way of a condition should this appeal be allowed in a similar manner to protection given to the remainder of the retained trees associated with the site.
- 3.19 The proposals are therefore considered in my view to provide a sustainable, harmonious and non-harmful long-term relationship between the Ancient Woodland and development which is also the conclusion reached by Mr Dunn in his consultation response (CD 4.11) where he states *"The design is a sufficient distance from the ancient woodland to the east that there should be no impact whatsoever."*

General Hydrological Impacts to Shepley Mill Wood (W1)

- 3.20 A further matter raised within the Rule 6 Statement of Case (CD 8.11), is drainage and any potential changes the appeal proposals may have on local hydrology that in turn may adversely affect the Ancient Woodland.
- 3.21 The potential for any hydrological changes that may adversely impact Shepley Mill Wood is addressed in detail through the evidence of Mr. Gavin Shepherd (Section 7) covering matters of Flood Risk and Drainage and through the evidence of Mr. Robert Edmonds covering matters of ecological effects to the woodland (Section 3).
- 3.22 As taken from the evidence of Mr Robert Edmonds, *"surface water is to be attenuated on-site and discharged to the unnamed watercourse to the east of site. This unnamed watercourse is a tributary to Stone Wood Dike, which flows through Shepley Mill Wood and this discharge will be subject to relevant licencing and permitting requirements from the Environment Agency and / or local Land Drainage Authority which will set water quality limits and discharge rates to adhere to. This will ensure that the Appeal Scheme will not lead to the deterioration of the Ancient Woodlands."* (paragraphs 3.35 and 3.41, Proof of Evidence, Mr Robert Edmonds).

- 3.23 In summary, through their evidence Mr Shepherd and Mr Edmonds concluded that the appeal scheme would not result in any deterioration of the Ancient Woodland from hydrological changes.

4.0 POTENTIAL ARBORICULTURAL IMPACTS TO SHEPLEY MILL WOOD THROUGH DELIVERY OF DRAINAGE CONNECTION

- 4.1 The proposals will require a physical drainage connection from the development and the proposed underground attenuation tank positioned on the easternmost edge of the development to an existing stream which runs along a section of the site's northeastern boundary, which adjoins the Penistone Line railway.
- 4.2 The potential arboricultural impacts of a direct nature through delivery of the proposed drainage strategy have been discussed here within this Proof of Evidence as it was not a matter discussed within the submitted Arboricultural Assessment (CD 1.25).
- 4.3 An overlay of the Proposed Indicative Engineering Levels forming part of the Flood Risk Assessment (Newent Homes drawing no. Z159 dated 22/02/2024) (CD 1.18) has been incorporated in the Annotated Tree Retention Plan (FPCR 11329-T-02 Rev C) to assist in identifying the relationship and any potential conflicts between the drainage proposals and the existing trees, including the Ancient Woodland.
- 4.4 The position of the drainage connection is dictated by what is essentially the start of an existing stream which is formed of the outfall from a 450mm diameter pipe which emerges from the railway embankment, with it being impractical to extend the stream further into the site beyond its current position.
- 4.5 The drainage connection point is proposed at approximately 16.7m from the westernmost edge of Shepley Mill Wood (W1), 1.7m beyond the Buffer Zone and as such should be considered acceptable in accordance with Standing Advice. It would however be sensible that the installation of the pipe work and construction of the headwall be detailed within an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) imposed by way of a condition should this appeal be allowed, to ensure any adverse impact to W1 from the construction work could be reduced to the absolute lowest risk. This is entirely possible and therefore no direct damage to trees within the Ancient Woodland would occur.
- 4.6 While the drainage connection avoids the Buffer Zone and RPA of trees within Shepley Mill Wood (W1), a connection to the existing stream cannot avoid the RPA of T38, a moderate quality (Category B within BS:5837), mature sycamore situated on the railway embankment beyond a dry-stone wall.
- 4.7 While it should be noted that T38 does not form part of the Ancient Woodland designation, excavation within the RPA of this tree does have the potential to adversely impact its future health. While works at a distance of 8m from the base of a tree are highly unlikely to impact structural roots responsible for the stability of the tree which are typically found within 3m of the stem of a mature tree, excavation necessary to install the pipe and head wall could expose and potentially sever smaller diameter roots responsible for the uptake of water and nutrients.

- 4.8 It is not anticipated that the installation of this drainage connection and the construction of a sensitively designed headwall within the RPA of T38 would be of any significant detriment or require the removal of T38 due to the small proportion of the overall RPA shown to be affected. A detailed Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) imposed by way of a condition, could also require supervision by an appointed Arboricultural Clerk of Works (AcoW) ensuring any adverse impact to T38 from the construction work could be reduced to the absolute lowest level.

5.0 POTENTIAL ARBORICULTURAL IMPACTS TO SHEPLEY MILL WOOD THROUGH INCREASE IN PUBLIC ACCESS

- 5.1 The Rule 6 Statement of Case (CD 8.11) also raised concern for the potential of indirect harmful effects to Shepley Mill Wood (W1) from the appeal proposals, through increase in public access to the Ancient Woodland. Standing Advice outlines the risks of potential damage to Ancient Woodland habitat, through trampling of plants and erosion of soil by people accessing the woodland or tree root protection areas as a cause of loss or deterioration of Ancient Woodland and offers advice to planning authorities in decision making as to what would be acceptable and what would not.
- 5.2 Having reviewed the proposals, no direct links are proposed by the appeal scheme from the development to Shepley Mill Wood. The topography of the eastern slope of the appeal site drops steeply down towards the woodland at an approximately 24% gradient (1:4) thus would be quite unsuitable for a pedestrian link, and in itself likely to deter most people from attempting to access the woodland from the site.
- 5.3 Following Standing Advice, any direct access to the woodland from the development site would also be further discouraged through new landscaping including fencing and hedgerows, which along with the retaining wall, would restrict access to the woodland from the proposed development and finalised through Condition for approval by the LPA.
- 5.4 It is reasonable to assume that future occupants wanting the access the woodland for recreation would access the woodland via Shepley Road through existing access points on Shepley Road (a squeeze stile) which link onto existing footpaths. This potential minor increase in footfall on existing informal paths through the woodland which are already well trodden, is highly unlikely to further degrade the soil condition which is already well compacted and as such is unlikely to cause significant harm or result in the deterioration of the Ancient Woodland, from an arboricultural perspective.

6.0 POTENTIAL ARBORICULTURAL IMPACTS THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFSITE HIGHWAY WORKS

- 6.1 Indicative offsite highway improvement works to Shepley Road/ Stone Wood Lane detailed within the Stone Wood Lane Proposed Highway Improvements Plan (drawings referenced 25072-GA-01/02/03/04) and addressed by Mr Phil Owen within his Transportation and Highways Proof of Evidence, show multiple new passing places along Shepley Road/ Stone Wood Lane.
- 6.2 The improvement works are within the adopted highway and while they have the potential to require trimming of trees, hedgerows and shrubs to maintain safe clearance to the highway no loss of tree cover is identified, or likely to be necessary.
- 6.3 There are areas of extended verge and new carriageway proposed within the calculated theoretical RPA of tree cover along Shepley Road/ Stone Wood Lane, however due to existing ground conditions where the new carriageway is proposed within heavily compacted ground at the edge the existing carriageway, again it is not anticipated that the works would result in significant loss of rooting material or result in detriment to tree health and potential removal.
- 6.4 Should during implementation of the highway works it become apparent that some tree loss is required, the loss of this tree cover which is generally of low arboricultural quality and mostly self-set material which has suffered damage from vehicles, would not be a significant detriment to the local landscape and there would be opportunity to replace this tree cover within suitable locations in the nearby vicinity to ensure no loss of canopy cover.
- 6.5 It is also important to note that no works are proposed within Shepley Mill Wood (W1) or the 15m Ancient Woodland Buffer Zone.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 In conclusion, there are no arboricultural reasons to refuse the appeal proposals.
- 7.2 The development has been informed by a comprehensive Arboricultural Assessment prepared in accordance with BS 5837:2012 which attracted no objection from the Local Planning Authority's Tree Officer. Tree loss is minimal, being limited to three low quality specimens, and is capable of being fully mitigated through replacement planting which would also deliver net arboricultural and green infrastructure benefits.
- 7.3 Shepley Mill Wood, the only Ancient Woodland adjacent to the site, is fully protected by a minimum 15m buffer zone in accordance with Standing Advice. All built development, including drainage infrastructure, is located outside this buffer and with appropriate tree protection measures detailed within an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) secured by condition, there will be no direct or indirect arboricultural harm to the Ancient Woodland during construction.
- 7.4 Post development, there is no direct pedestrian link proposed from the development to Shepley Mill Wood and the proposal will seek to discourage any access to the woodland through appropriate new landscaping. While development of the site may increase public access to Shepley Mill Wood this is highly likely to be through existing access points linking to existing footpath which is highly unlikely to result in deterioration of the Ancient Woodland.
- 7.5 Accordingly, from an arboricultural perspective, the appeal proposals are acceptable, policy compliant, and provide no justification for dismissal of the appeal.

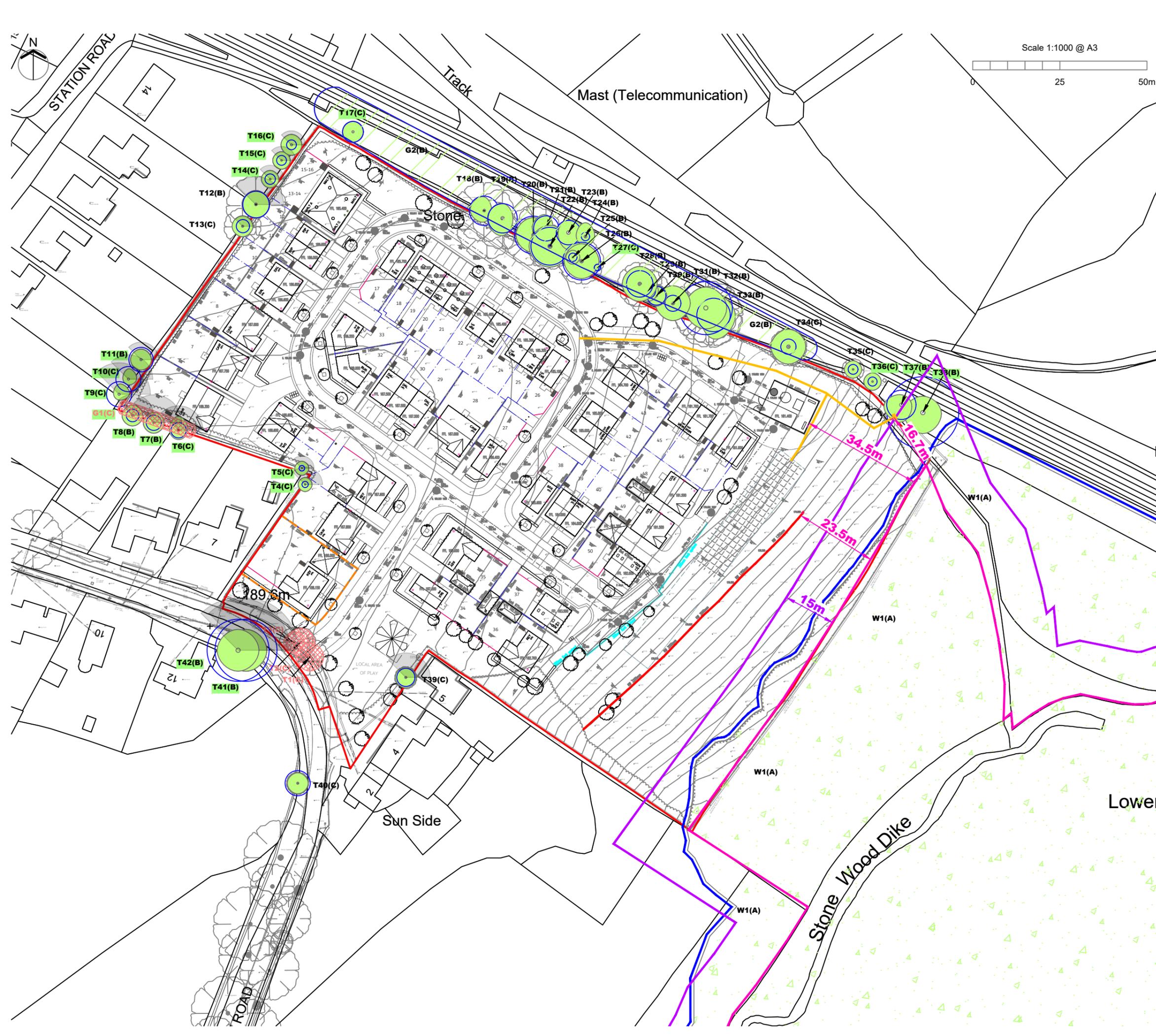
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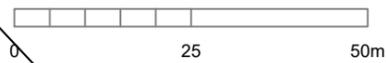
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Figure 1:
Annotated Tree Retention Plan (11329-T-02 Rev C)



Scale 1:1000 @ A3



- KEY**
- Woodland (Colour Indicates BS5837:2012 Category)
 - Tree/Group to be Retained
 - Tree/Group proposed to be removed subject to relevant permissions
 - Root Protection Area
 - Tree / Group Positioned by Topographical Survey
Tree / Group Positioned by Aerial Imagery
 - Individual / Group Number and BS5837:2012 Category
 - Ancient Woodland Boundary
 - Ancient Woodland Buffer Zone in Accordance with Standing Advice (15m)
 - Drainage Connection and Headwall
 - Retaining Structure
 - Distance from Ancient Woodland Boundary

NOTES

All dimensions to be verified on site. Do not scale this drawing, use figured dimensions only. All discrepancies to be clarified with project Arboriculturalist. Drawing to be read in conjunction with Arboricultural Assessment and Appendix A - Tree Schedule.

Drawing has been produced in colour and is based on digital information in .dwg format, aerial images and/or GPS location where appropriate. A monochrome copy should not be relied upon. The exact position of individual trees or species included as part of a tree group, woodland or hedgerow should be checked and verified on site prior to any decisions for foundation design, tree operations or construction activity being undertaken. Further survey work would be required for calculating foundation depths.

Trees are living organisms that change over time, the condition of all trees illustrated herein, are to be checked by the project Arboriculturalist should works commence 12 months after the date of this survey.

SOME TREES MAY BE SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CONSTRAINTS. IT IS THEREFORE ADVISED THAT NO WORKS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO ANY TREES ILLUSTRATED HEREIN WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE RELEVANT AUTHORISATION TO DO SO UNLESS AGREED AS PER THE APPROVED PLANS THROUGH PLANNING CONSENT.

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rev	date	description	by
-	08.04.2024	First Issue	JW
A	23.04.2024	Revision	JW
B	20.01.2026	Appeal Annotations	EC
C	22.01.2026	Revision	EC

masterplanning ■
 environmental assessment ■
 landscape design ■
 urban design ■
 ecology ■ FPCR Environment and Design Ltd
 architecture ■ Lockington Hall
 arboriculture ■ Lockington
 Derby DE74 2RH



client
Newett Homes

project
**Shepley Road
Stocksmoor**

drawing title
**ANNOTATED
TREE RETENTION PLAN**

scale
1:1000 @ A3

drawn/checked
EC / HCK

date
January 2026

drawing number
11329-T-02

rev
C

APPENDIX A:

Curriculum Vitae

CURRICULUM VITAE

SYNOPSIS

Helen is a Chartered Arboriculturalist and brings 30 years' experience of the Arboricultural profession to the practice, after having worked for local authorities and private companies including a background as a practical arborist.

Prior to joining the practice 19 years ago, her experience included eight years as a County Council Arboricultural Officer dealing with a wide range of matters associated with tree care in the public domain and advising other council departments on tree related issues such as managing council owned trees throughout the highway network and in country parks, where public safety is high priority. Work with the local authority also involved administering and advising on legal protection of trees through Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas, processing applications for tree work and preparing for planning appeals. She has proven experience with production of comprehensive arboricultural management programs; woodland management plans; and forestry related projects, including Community Forestry, veteran tree assessments and advice for Mineral Planning and Reclamation sites.

In her current role she provides regular advice to private clients, Local Authorities and other associated professional bodies on issues relating to the provision of care and maintenance of trees and has developed extensive experience undertaking tree surveys and assessment in accordance with Standard *BS5837 (2012): Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations* to inform new developments and preparing Arboricultural Method Statements. Daily work involves regular liaison with statutory and non-statutory conservation bodies and other major organisations in relation to trees.

She is highly experienced in the field of planning and development where trees are involved providing recommendations, advice and practical solutions to assist in the design of new development to ensure successful retention and integration with trees, including formulation of planning application submissions, compliance with planning conditions, landscape advice, tree planting, method statements and appeals. Helen has given expert evidence at several planning inquiries. She also has extensive experience in risk feature identification and diagnosing ill-health in trees.

Helen is an Assessor and Vice Chair of the Examination Board for the Institute of Chartered Foresters Professional Membership Entry.

Helen Kirk

ND Arb. MArborA MICFor



Position

- Director

Professional

- Professional Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters
- Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association

Education

- BTEC National Diploma in Arboriculture
- Lantra Accredited Professional Tree Inspector (PTI)
- VALID Validator (Tree Risk Benefit Assessor)
- Expert Witness Institute report writing and cross-examination
- Trees and Mortgage / Insurance report writing
- Utility Arboriculture Level 3
- Risk Assessment for Commercial Arboriculture
- Forestry Commission Land Reclamation to Forestry

Expertise

- Arboricultural Impact Assessment
- Arboricultural Method Statements and Tree Protection Schemes
- Arboricultural Management Programs and Tree Work Specifications
- Tree Inspections / Surveys
- Visual Tree Assessment and Tree Hazard Evaluation
- Tree Risk & Benefit Assessment
- Veteran Tree Assessments
- Decay Detection and Diagnosis of Ill Health in Trees
- Vegetation related structural damage investigation
- Woodland Management Plans
- Forestry Related Advisory Work

SELECTED PROJECTS

Helen Kirk

ND Arb. MArborA MICFor

New Century Park, Coventry

Provision of advice in respect of a proposed drainage strategy to serve a major new residential development through an area of estate parkland, production of technical details necessary to discharge planning conditions for tree protection and liaising with appointed contractors to agree construction methodologies to safeguard several veteran and TPO trees.

Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham

Preparation of a comprehensive tree survey to contribute to Supplementary Planning Guidance alongside Birmingham City Council, for the re-development of the hospital site. Following adoption of the SPG in 2008, assisting as part of a project design team in master planning for a planning application to re-develop the hospital complex for residential use.

Cranbrook Extension, Nr. Exeter Airport

Carrying out large scale tree surveys for a major development area to the east of Exeter for residential expansion. Coordination of Tree Constraints plan production and reports of tree condition to identify significant constraints to assist in preparation of preliminary site layouts of residential parcels, road networks and green infrastructure / open space provision.

Nottingham Trent University

Formulation of an Arboricultural Management Study for the three University Campus sites, namely City, Clifton and Brackenhurst. The primary objective of tree management being public safety. Includes a program of cyclical inspection of trees and provision for increasing the tree stocks within the three sites.

Buckminster Park, Buckminster, Nr. Melton Mowbray

Production of a full Parkland Tree Assessment and study for provision of new trees in the context of the historic Repton landscape. The site supported a number of old trees, including some of veteran status.

Longworth Lane, Bartestree

Arboricultural Impact Assessment to BS 5837 (2012) of the site in support of an outline planning application for residential development and gave evidence at the Public Inquiry for the Appellant on arboricultural matters following refusal.

Land to the west of Finchampstead Road, Wokingham

Provided evidence for the Appellant at the Public Inquiry on arboricultural matters for an appeal against refusal of planning for a residential development and SANG application.

North Worcestershire Golf Course, Birmingham

Provided evidence for the Appellant at the Public Inquiry on arboricultural matters for an appeal against refusal of planning for a large-scale residential development. Appeal successful for the appellant.

North Street, Biddenden

Provided evidence for the Appellant at the Hearing on Arboricultural matters for an appeal against the non-determination of an outline planning application for residential development. Appeal successful for the Appellant.

EXPERIENCE GAINED PRIOR TO JOINING FPCR:

Shugborough Park, Milford, Nr. Stafford

Parkland Tree and Forestry Management Plans including Woodland Grant Scheme Applications and veteran tree assessments. Development of tree maintenance programs and long-term tree planting projects for the Lichfield Estate.

Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Cannock District

In an advisory capacity to the AONB team working and advising on aspects of Forestry Management across the AONB, including management of veteran trees.

Brocton Coppice, Nr. Stafford

Coordination of the production for a twenty-year woodland management plan for the management of an area of 85 hectares (210 acres) of Ancient Oak Woodland and heath land. This lowland wood pasture contains 600 veteran oak trees and a range of nationally rare invertebrates.

Leek Street Tree Pruning Program, Leek, Staffordshire

Development and Implementation of a cyclical program of tree maintenance for 2500 street trees within the town of Leek, including pruning, felling programs and replacement tree planting contracts.