Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Statement.

The woodland areas described in this report have been planted within the last twenty years using indigenous species and have established well.

The woodland is divided into three areas, area one (Pod location 1) and area two (Pod location 2) are intersected by the overhead power supply line with an open ride below its length. Area three is separated from one and two by an open paddock and lies close to the boundary where the proposed carpark will be sited.

In all areas the default species is Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior) and any areas on the plans not showing individual trees or species groups should be assumed are populated by this species.

The woodland areas are treated as such and single trees identified on the plans are noted for species reference only and not for any other arboricultural significance. (In any case most trees have a DBH <150mm)

With the exception of one Horse Chestnut (Aesculus Hippocastanum) that is located on the edge of the paddock all of the trees in these areas are categorised as B2 (BS 5837:2012). The Horse Chestnut falls into A2 as it is the only significant example of its species in this woodland planting. Still a young tree with a DBH of 75mm

General Topography

The land Is elevated to the South East and falls gradually away to the North West.

Where the land has been poorly maintained the drainage ditches have become overgrown with grasses and self-seeded trees and shrubs.

There are several well maintained pathways around the woodland areas that are used by the owners for access.

Area 1

(Please refer to plan PW/003A for this area and area 2)

Species present;

Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)

Rowan (Sorbus Aucuparia)

Oak (Quercus Petrea)

Hawthorn (Crataegus Monogyna)

Holly (Ilex Aquifolium)

The default species in this area is Ash with some shrub Hawthorn and Holly set out along the main path running South East to North West. DBH range is from 75 to 150mm.

Trees in this area fall into category B2 and have not been maintained since planting.

No thinning or formative pruning has taken place and as such there are several trees of each species that are of poor form. Some also have structural defects such as multiple growths causing twin or multiple leaders and causing included bark to be formed.

These trees can be easily identified and their removal would provide the first thinning of the woodland to allow the better specimens to develop.

A program of maintenance has been started by the current owners who bought the property in September 2016 with the lower growth being removed to raise the overall crown of the woodland.

The location of the Glamping Pod in this woodland will require the removal of five trees all of which are Ash and are in the centre of the woodland. The removal of these trees will not adversely affect the overall crown of the area as due to the current density of planting it would be difficult to identify them from distance.

As noted in Picture 1 the trees to be removed are marked with tape and annotated with DBH in mm showing a range of 80 to 140 mm DBH (1.5m from ground)

Area 2

Species present;

Oak (Quercus Petrea)

Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)

Rowan (Sorbus Aucuparia)

Hawthorn (Crateagus Monogyna)

Holly (Ilex Aquilfoium)

Birch (Betula Pendula)

The species are grouped as marked on the plan and in this area the default species are Ash and Birch with the other groups set out along the main path running South East to North West. DBH range is from 75 to 150mm across the species.

Trees in this area fall into category B2 and have not been maintained since planting.

No thinning or formative pruning has taken place and as such there are several trees of each species that are of poor form. Some also have structural defects such as multiple growths causing twin or multiple leaders and causing included bark to be formed.

These trees can be easily identified and their removal would provide the first thinning of the woodland to allow the better specimens to develop.

The new owners as of September 2016 have begun a program of maintenance in this area also with the lower growth being removed to raise the overall crown of the woodland.

The area identified for siting the Glamping Pod falls into a natural clearing and no trees will require removal.

Area 3

(See plan PW/003B)

Species present;

Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)

Oak (Quercus Petrea)

Hawthorn (Crataegus Monogyna)

Horse Chestnut (Aesculus Hippocastanum)

Wild Cherry (Prunus Avium)

Birch (Betula Pendula)

Category B2 trees as areas one and two (Except Horse Chestnut as described previously)

This area has been planted at the same time as the others and displays a similar density of planting and lack of maintenance although the new owners have begun remedial works here as well. As mentioned previously there is one example of a Horse Chestnut sited on the edge of the paddock/woodland area and this is expected to become a significant tree in this landscape.

This area is more obviously divided by species with a greater size group of Oak than in the other areas. Ash is again the more dominant species here. DBH range is from 75 to 150mm across the species.

Of the two Wild Cherries there is one that has been planted/self-seeded within the area of proposed parking however it is rooted in the ditch that has not been maintained and will be removed as the ditch is re-instated.

The other Wild Cherry will remain untouched and is not close to this development.

There are three Ash trees as seen in the Picture 2 that will require removal to allow the parking area to be constructed. They are 110, 120 and 130mm DBH (1.5m from ground). Whilst these trees are on the outer edge of the woodland planting they form part of the greater crown area and when viewed from outside the property the overall shape and size of the entire woodland crown area will largely be un-affected as the trees behind them will become more prominent.

There is a natural break in the Hawthorn Boundary Hedge at the point indicated for vehicle access and there is one Hawthorn plant here that has considerable decay in the stem and will be removed. The hedge will be pruned and maintained thereafter

Picture 1

Picture 2

Access and Contruction.

(Considering BS 5837:2012)

The site is currently accessed by four wheel drive vehicle and ATV to allow maintenance to the woodland areas to be carried out.

The Glamping Pods chosen for this development are of modular design and construction. They are constructed in pre-built panels on site allowing each section to be manually handled from the vehicle to the site of construction.

Due to the relatively light nature and wooden construction of each Pod they can be built up on a variety of 'foundations' and in this case the post and frame style base will be used. This will allow the posts to be sympathetically installed by hand digging and avoiding the root systems of surrounding trees.

This design will also allow the trees to grow unhindered and without causing ground pressure over existing root structures.

As the trees surrounding the Pods grow they will be maintained to prevent branches interfering with the 'structure'. The base of the crown of these trees in the immediate vicinity will be kept above the roof height of the Pod.

No heavy machinery is required for the installation and each panel is approximately 2.6 x 1.2m.

The services required will be brought in along the main ride following the power line and will be hand dug thereafter to reach each Pod. Foul waste will be similarly routed from the second Pod site down to the ride, along to the first Pod site and out to a sewage treatment plant sited outside the woodland area with the treated water running into the ditch at the location that again requires re-instating and maintenance. (In accordance with Building Regulations 2000, H2)

As existing routes will be used to deliver materials to the each Pod site and manual handling used thereafter there are no specific protection measures that will be required.

The established route for vehicle access along the main ride does not fall within any Root Protection Area (RPA). The main drive to the house will be used to deliver materials for the carpark area and although not expected, should vehicle access be required on the woodland side this will be limited according to the RPA of the trees present.

Suggested remedial works

There are several ditches across the site that have not been maintained and the land would benefit from these being re-instated and maintained. The new owners have begun a program of tree maintenance by way of removing lower growth from trees. This will allow a better air flow through the wood. Areas one and two will benefit from a process of thinning and this can be started by removing the trees that are less likely to succeed due to poor form and growth. The woodland can then be reassessed to establish if any further thinning is required and suitable trees selected.