




Unit 13 Waterways Business Centre
Navigation Drive, Enfield, EN3 6JJ
01992 703 840

enquiries@csgushers.co.uk
www.csgushers.co.uk

Tree report in accordance with BS 5837:2012

Site Address: 18a Frognal Gardens, London, NW3 6XA
Ref: 045196

Arboriculturist: James Forrest / CSG (Usher's) Ltd. (07983443387)
Architect: Richard Webb / Webb Architects (02089680279)
Client: Chris Holdsworth (07415107333)

Signed: 

Report Date: 15th August 2024



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Construction of single-storey rear extension and associated terrace

1.0 Instructions

1.1 I have been instructed by the client, Chris Holdsworth, via e-mail with regards to a planning application to be made by themselves in respect to the above construction project. I shall report on the following in accordance with BS 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations':

1. Tree survey [Appendix 1]
2. Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) [Section 3.0]
3. To produce an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) to include a Tree Protection Plan (TPP) [Section 4.0]

Following a visit to survey the trees knowing the location of the new dwelling, the following arboricultural information is provided in support of the application.

1.2 This report uses CSG Usher's previous report [ref: 031682v2] as a framework. This report was written in 2020 to go alongside a previous application to demolish and rebuild the property. The scale of the alteration this time around is minor in comparison but tree protection is still required. Between the two reports, the make-up of the vegetation around the site has not altered to any meaningful degree.

2.0 The site

- 2.1.1 The proposed development as per drawings provided by the architects is for the construction of a new rear extension. This will be single-storey and extend the footprint 3m to the rear. An associated terrace will also be created.
- 2.1.2 An accurate, to scale map of the site was provided by the client. I have annotated this drawing to produce a TPP and attach this to the report as Appendix 2. This plan presents the proposed layout opposed to the site as it currently exists.
- 2.1.3 Site access will not allow for heavy plant machinery to access the rear of the site. No retained trees pose a height restriction to what can enter the site. Parking of construction vehicles will be on Frogna! Gardens itself, comfortably outside the RPA of T10.

2.2 Trees around the site

- 2.2.1 There are several significant trees located around this site, both part of 18a Frogna! Gardens and 3rd party trees. The wider visual impact of the some of the larger trees is dampened by them being set back from public view but, nonetheless, they provide visual amenity in combination enriching the area as a whole. A schedule of the significant trees, their condition and category of retention is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2.2 The property and neighbouring properties contains a mix of young, semi mature, early mature and mature species including lime, sycamore and horse chestnut. 18a Frogna! Gardens also has a wide array of mature shrubs both in the front and rear gardens. These have not been surveyed but have been acknowledged.
- 2.2.3 This report includes only those trees around the proposal that require assessment as to the impact the process of construction works may have on them and what effect the trees will have on the project in the future. Any trees that are not within a distance 12x their stem diameter may not have not been considered for this report for this reason.

- 2.2.4 The most significant tree with respect to the proposal is a lime (T10) located towards the rear boundary of 18a Frognaal Gardens' rear garden. Very minor landscaping works are planned to occur within the RPA of this tree.
- 2.2.5 Through a check with the Local Authority (London Borough of Camden), there is a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on a tree within the front garden (not marked on survey), mixed in amongst mature shrubbery. This is a false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) that was felled by CSG (Usher's) due to poor health in late 2006. The stump is currently regenerating despite past works to prevent this. There is little in the way of amenity remaining in its current state and its complete removal is recommended to facilitate the proposal.
- 2.2.6 All recommended tree works considered necessary for health and safety reasons or to facilitate the development will be agreed with the Local Planning Authority and undertaken in accordance with the planning conditions attached to the planning consent. They will be undertaken in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree Works', unless otherwise specified with clear justification for any deviation from the British Standard. This will be undertaken by an arboricultural contractor approved by the Local Authority.

2.3 New structures

- 2.3.1 New rear extension to be situated as per architectural drawings.

3.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

3.1 Presence of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) or Conservation Area Designation

- 3.1.1 I have checked on the London Borough of Camden's website and confirmed the site is located within a designated Conservation Area.
- 3.1.2 An e-mail request to the Local Authority seeking to confirm the presence of TPOs on or around this site was been placed by the architect. It was confirmed that a TPO was attached to a tree within the front garden (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). This tree was felled in 2006 with the stump retained (see 2.2.5).

3.2 Effects on amenity value of the trees from development and facilitation pruning

- 3.2.1 No facilitation works are currently planned to retained trees. No impact on amenity value of the area as a result.
- 3.2.2 T7, T8, T9, T11 are recommended for removal. T7 and T8 to facilitate the construction; T9 and T11 owing to poor condition. It is anticipated that the overall loss in amenity will be minor given all trees are relatively small and are located within the rear garden, away from public view. New plantings can be used to replace the minor amenity loss.
- 3.2.3 The removal of a proportion of the mature shrubbery in the rear garden will have the greater impact on the overall amenity. These items are being removed to facilitate development as well as clearing the way for re-landscaping where extensive planting has been planned to restore any amenity that may have been lost.

3.3 Potential incompatibilities between the layout and the trees proposed for retention

- 3.3.1 Construction activity will technically enter the RPA of T1 when drawn as a nominal circle. Given the established hard standing (pavement, tree surround and tarmac driveway to eastern side of property) in between T1 and the front garden of 18a, it is not anticipated that any significant roots from T1 exist within the section of the RPA that clips the front corner of the rear garden. There is very little in the way of root-induced disturbance of these surfaces that might suggest root encroachment into the RPA.
- 3.3.2 Excavation works (500mm down) to create the new terrace will occur outside the RPA of T10 as drawn as a nominal circle. There is no reason to deviate from a nominal circle. From that point of view, there is no incompatibility between T10 and the proposal.
- 3.3.3 Landscaping works within the rear garden will involve the construction of a timber-framed area of decking within a minor proportion of T10's RPA (marked by blue rectangle on TPP). This will make the back portion of the garden on the same level. The existing paving slabs will be retained and this will allow a solid surface for the footings, eliminating the need for excavation. There will be a void left between the decking surface and the sunken ground – this will ensure the availability of air & water will not be altered. T10's location in a raised area behind a retaining wall with an existing hard standing surround means that little root disruption is foreseeable despite landscaping works being planned within the RPA.
- 3.3.4 T4, T5 and T6 are 3rd party trees whose RPA clips the north-eastern corner of the site. Similar to T1, there is not an anticipation that significant roots will be found in this portion of the garden given the presence of a boundary wall and an established tarmac driveway between the two.
- 3.3.5 Measures have been laid in within the AMS for procedures to follow should roots be encountered in this area but, given factors previously mentioned, there is not an anticipation that any significant roots (over 25mm in diameter) will be encountered. Resultantly, the long-term health of these trees is highly unlikely to be compromised during ground disturbance caused by any excavation works.

3.3.6 The house will connect to the existing rainwater, soil and waste drainage which is located under the driveway in the front garden (marked as storage area on TPP). A tank will also be installed under the driveway to provide additional attenuation to the sewer. All lie in the centre of the current drive outside of the RPA of any retained trees.

3.4 Infrastructure requirements – highway visibility, lighting, CCTV, services etc

3.4.1 There is no requirement for any tree removal or pruning to create adequate highway visibility. There will be no requirement for street lighting or CCTV visibility or services close to any of the retained trees. Should that not be the case, any below-ground services that are installed within or pass through the RPAs of retained trees will be done in accordance with NJUG Volume 4 “Guidance for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity of trees” to minimise the disturbance to the retained trees’ root systems.

3.4.2 No services (unless otherwise highlighted in 3.4.1) or other infrastructure requirements will have any impact on the retained trees as far as I know.

3.5 Mitigating tree loss/new planting

3.5.1 There are sufficient trees of greater value within and surrounding this site to mitigate against the loss of the low value trees being removed.

3.5.2 Replacement tree plantings will be carried out to mitigate against the complete removal of the protected tree previously felled down to stump level.

3.6 Proximity of trees to structures

- 3.6.1 The impact of trees on buildings and vice versa and allowance for future growth need to be considered when designing the foundations and they need to be suitable to withstand the potential indirect damage roots from this tree, and others in the surrounding area, could have. Therefore, foundation design needs to be in accordance with NHBC Chapter 4.2 'Building near trees'.
- 3.6.2 The canopies of retained trees will not overhang the roof of the proposed structure.
- 3.6.3 The significant retained trees are north of the proposal and, therefore, shading is not an issue.
- 3.6.4 Following a prediction derived from previously stated factors, it is not considered likely that significant roots from any retained trees of a diameter greater than 25mm will be encountered within the construction site. Any severance of a small number of minor roots will have an insignificant effect on the future growth and health of the retained trees. Where more significant roots are encountered, procedures laid out in the AMS should be adhered to.
- 3.6.4 Overall the processes of construction should not have a detrimental impact on the trees provided care is taken and the AMS is adhered to.

3.7 Issues to be addressed by the arboricultural method statement (AMS)

- Protective fencing to be established around the retained trees
- Ground protection measures around the RPA of retained trees where work access is required
- Site access
- Contractors parking, welfare facilities and storage areas
- Hard surfaces within the RPA of retained trees
- Remedial tree work
- Construction within the modified RPA of retained trees

4.0 Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) for Tree Protection Throughout the Duration of Demolition and Construction Works

Arboricultural Method Statement includes a Tree Protection Plan to identify:

- Trees to be retained – identified with a continuous black line
- Protective fence positions therefore the Construction Exclusion Zones
- Measurements to identify fence positioning in relation to centre of tree
- Contractor huts and storage areas

4.1 Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZ)

4.1.1 No works will be undertaken within any Construction Exclusion Zone. The Construction Exclusion Zones are to be afforded protection at all times and will be protected by fencing. A protective fence shall be erected prior to the commencement of any site works e.g. before any materials or machinery are brought on site, development or the stripping of soil commences. The fence shall have signs attached to it stating that this is a Construction Exclusion Zone and that **NO WORKS are Permitted** within the fence. The protected fence may only be removed following completion of all construction works.

4.1.2 The fence is required to be sited in accordance with the Tree Protection Plan enclosed with this method statement as Appendix 3. They must ideally be constructed as per figure 2 in BS 5837 2012 and be fit for the purpose of excluding any construction activity (see Appendix 3). Any other fence/barrier used must be fit for the purpose.

4.2 Access Details

4.2.1 Access for construction traffic will be via Frognal Gardens. No plant machinery will have access in to the RPA of any retained trees.

4.2.2 Where incursion into RPAs is unavoidable within non hard-standing areas this will be restricted only to persons. Ground protection for pedestrians within the RPA will consist of single thickness scaffold boards on top of 100mm of woodchip laid on a geotextile membrane.

4.3 Contractors car parking

- 4.3.1 Parking limited to Frognal Gardens. This is a tarmacked highway. Any technical incursion into T1's RPA is not considered an issue.

4.4 Site Huts and Toilets

- 4.4.1 Likely to be within the front garden or on Frognal Gardens. In any case, will not be within T1's RPA.

4.5 Storage Space

- 4.5.1 A designated storage area will be located within front of the property or garden area outside of RPA. Marked on Tree Protection Plan.

4.6 Additional Precautions

- 4.6.1 No storage of materials, lighting of fires will take place within any construction Exclusion Zone. No mixing or storage of materials will take place up a slope where they may leak into a Construction Exclusion Zone.
- 4.6.2 No fires will be lit within 20 metres of any tree stem and will take into account fire size and wind direction so that, no flames come within 5m of any foliage.
- 4.6.3 No notice boards, cables or other services will be attached to any tree.
- 4.6.4 Materials which may contaminate the soil will not be discharged within 10m of any tree stem. When undertaking the mixing of materials it is essential that, any slope of the ground does not allow contaminants to run towards a tree root area. This includes fuels, oils, concrete mix etc.
- 4.6.5 All services, including drainage and soakaways, to be installed outside the RPA of retained trees. Where unavoidable, any below-ground services that are installed within or pass through the RPAs of retained trees will be done in accordance with NJUG Volume 4 "Guidance for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity of trees" to minimise the disturbance to the retained trees' root systems.

4.7 Demolition / Excavation

- 4.7.1 Excavation of any existing hard surface within the RPA of retained trees to be done by hand only. Exposed roots to be wrapped in dry, clean hessian sacking to prevent desiccation and adverse temperature change. Appointed arboriculturist to be called to site to make an assessment on the implication of damage to the roots encountered.
- 4.7.2 Only roots smaller than 25mm in diameter may be pruned back but must be with a clean suitable cutting tool and, preferably, pruned to a side branch. To be done in accordance with NJUG Volume 4 "Guidance for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity of trees". Prior to backfill, hessian wrap must be removed and retained roots must be surrounded by sharp sand prior to soil replacement. Replacement topsoil must comply with BS 3882:2007 'Specification for topsoil and requirements for use'

4.8 Hard Surfaces

- 4.8.1 New hard surfacing (terrace) to the rear of the proposed extension. None to be installed within RPA of any retained trees.

4.9 Soft Landscaping / Use of Herbicides

- 4.9.1 No soft landscaping within 2 metres of the base of retained trees. Only mulch to be placed within this area. Any mulch used must be BS EN 4790:1997 certified and be applied to a depth of no more than 100mm. Mulching material must be kept away from directly contacting the bark of any tree stems.
- 4.9.2 Any herbicide used prior to construction phase shall be systemic, spot applied, and mixed according to manufacturer's recommendations.

4.10 Contingency Plan

- 4.10.1 Water will be made readily available on site and will be used to flush spilt materials through the soil and avoid contamination to tree roots. At the time of any spillage the main contractor will contact an arboriculturist for advice.

4.11 Remedial Tree Works

4.11.1 Tree works (see section 3.2 of AMS) to be done prior to construction phase. All tree works are to be carried out in accordance with BS 3998 (British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work 2010).

4.12 Responsibilities

4.12.1 It will be the responsibility of the main contractor to ensure that the planning conditions attached to planning consent are adhered to at all times and that a monitoring regime in regards to tree protection is adopted on site.

4.12.2 The main contractor will be responsible for contacting the Local Planning Authority at any time issues are raised related to the trees on site.

4.12.3 If at any time pruning works are required permission must be sought from the Local Planning Authority first and then carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree Works'.

4.12.4 The main contractor will ensure the build sequence is appropriate to ensure that no damage occurs to the trees during the construction processes. Protective fences will remain in position until completion of ALL construction works on the site.

4.12.5 Any fencing and signage must be maintained in position at all times and checked on a regular basis by an on-site person designated that responsibility.

4.12.6 The main contractor will be responsible for ensuring sub-contractors do not carry out any process or operation that is likely to adversely impact upon any tree on site.

4.12.7 Appointed arboriculturist must inspect the site at the start of the works and monitor it throughout. They must be on hand to assist and advise on any further arboricultural issues that may arise during the construction phase. All relevant persons must be briefed prior to works commencing laying out the arboricultural protection in place and the measures that must be adhered to so that the trees are protected



Surveyor: James Forrest	Client: Chris Holdsworth	Site: 18a Frogal Gardens, NW3 6XA
Date: 24th July 2024	Weather: Clear	Reference: 045196

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Crown spread (m)	Stem diameter (mm)	Existing height of (m)		Life stage	Condition		Preliminary management	Estimated remaining contribution (Years)	Category grading	ROOT PROTECTION		
					First significant branch	Canopy		Physiological	Structural				Radius of nominal circle (m)	RPA (m²)	Ownership
T1	Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	16#	N 6 S 7 E 7 W 6.5	900	4.0-S#	5.5#	M	<u>Fair</u> . Local Authority tree. Bleeding canker present but not advanced at this moment in time	<u>Fair</u>	None	20+	B1/2	10.80	366	3rd party (Local Authority)
T2	Holm oak (<i>Quercus ilex</i>)	4#	N 1.5 S 0.5 E 1 W 1	100	2.0-W#	2.0#	Y	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Fair</u>	None	10+	C1	1.20	5	18a Frogal Gardens
G3	Mixed species	9#	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Fair</u> . Small 3rd party trees / shrubs that may affect access for larger vehicles using access road to the side of the site	None	10+	C2	N/A	N/A	3rd party (Local Authority)
T4	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	13#	N 4 S 4 E 4 W 4	650#	N/A (restricted view)	N/A (restricted view)	EM	Limited access to view and assess fully	3rd party tree with limited access to fully view. Been reduced recently and does not overhang the site	None	20+	B1*	7.80	191	3rd party (private garden)
T5	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	13#	N 4 S 4 E 4 W 4	650#	N/A (restricted view)	N/A (restricted view)	EM	Limited access to view and assess fully	3rd party tree with limited access to fully view. Been reduced recently and does not overhang the site	None	20+	B1*	7.80	191	3rd party (private garden)
T6	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	18#	N 7 S 7 E 7 W 7	600# / 600#	N/A (restricted view)	N/A (restricted view)	EM	Limited access to view and assess fully	3rd party tree with limited access to fully view. Canopy overhangs the tarmac access road but not the site itself	None	20+	B1*	8.50	226	3rd party (private garden)
T7	Evergreen magnolia (<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>)	5.5#	N 3 S 1.5 E 2.5 W 1.5	300 (at 1.3m AGL - low crown break)	1.5-N#	1.5#	EM	<u>Fair</u>	Ivy obscuring view of mid-crown. Decay noted to stem at 1.3m - relatively minor. Pruning stubs present. Previous reduction history	Remove	10+	C1	N/A	N/A	18a Frogal Gardens
T8	Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	6#	N 2 S 2.5 E 2 W 2	150	1.0-W#	1.5#	SM	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Fair</u>	Remove	10+	C1	N/A	N/A	18a Frogal Gardens

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Crown spread (m)	Stem diameter (mm)	Existing height of (m)		Life stage	Condition		Preliminary management	Estimated remaining contribution (Years)	Category grading	ROOT PROTECTION		
					First significant branch	Canopy		Physiological	Structural				Radius of nominal circle (m)	RPA (m²)	Ownership
T9	Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>)	5#	N 0 S 4 E 1 W 1	250# (restricted access to measure)	2.0-S#	1.0#	SM	Stems have died back post-pruning	Ivy obscuring inspection of base and trunk. Leaning markedly to the south	Remove	<10	U	N/A	N/A	18a Froggnal Gardens
T10	Lime (<i>Tilia</i> sp.)	18#	N 6 S 6 E 6 W 6	850# (restricted access to measure)	6.0-E#	6.0#	M	Appears adequate but there was restricted access preventing a view of the tree from all angles	Ivy, basal + epicormic shoots obscuring inspection of base and trunk. Fence restricting access to northern side of trunk. Decay potentially present in old pollard point on northern side - limited view to assess	Strip ivy from lowest 2m of trunk + remove basal + epicormic shoots to allow fuller inspection / Carry out aerial inspection of crown from a climbed position - condition of old pollard points of particular interest	20+	B1*	10.20	327	18a Froggnal Gardens
T11	Privet (<i>Ligustrum</i> sp.)	4#	N 1.5 S 2 E 1.5 W 2.5	150 / 120	1.5-S#	1.5#	EM	<u>Poor</u> . In decline	Ivy obscuring inspection of base and trunk	Remove	<10	U	N/A	N/A	18a Froggnal Gardens

KEY TO TREE SURVEY FORM

Tree No.	Refer to plan
Species	Common name (<i>Scientific name</i>)
Height	Measured in metres from the ground to the top of the crown [Recorded to the nearest half metre for dimensions up to 10m and the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m]. When suffixed with a # it denotes that the value has been estimated.
Crown spread	Measured in metres (N = north / E = east / S = south / W = west) [Rounded up to the nearest half metre for dimensions up to 10m and up to the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m]. When suffixed with a # it denotes that the value has been estimated.
Stem diameter	Measured at 1.5m above ground level [Rounded to the nearest 10mm].
Existing height of	<u>First significant branch</u> – measured in metres from the ground up. Direction of growth noted (N = north / S = south / E = east / W = west) When suffixed with a # it denotes that the value has been estimated. <u>Canopy</u> – measured in metres from the ground up. [Recorded to the nearest half metre for dimensions up to 10m and the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m]. When suffixed with a # it denotes that the value has been estimated.
Age class	Y <u>Young</u> – within 1 st quarter of species' life expectancy SM <u>Semi-mature</u> – within 2 nd quarter of species' life expectancy EM <u>Early mature</u> – within 3 rd quarter of species' life expectancy M <u>Mature</u> – within 4 th quarter of species' life expectancy OM <u>Over-mature</u> – in natural decline
Condition	<u>Good</u> – healthy with no significant defects <u>Fair</u> – generally healthy but with some defects of low significance <u>Poor</u> – Lacking vigour with significant defects <u>Dead / Dangerous</u> – requires urgent removal <u>Minor deadwood</u> – less than 25mm in diameter <u>Moderate deadwood</u> – 25-50mm in diameter <u>Major deadwood</u> – greater than 50mm in diameter

Preliminary management

These may include further investigations for the presence or extent of decay or climbed inspections, ivy removal or pruning works when access is a non-moveable aspect etc (NB this is **not** intended to be a specification for tree work and further advice maybe required prior to implementation). Trees assessed as being in apparently immediately hazardous condition will be notified to the client separately as soon as practicable.

Estimated remaining contribution

An estimate of the remaining life contribution in years that the tree or group of trees is expected to have based on species, condition on the site in its current context. The following bands are used:

<10 - Tree is dead or dying and unlikely to contribute beyond 10 years

10+ - Tree is assessed as being able to contribute to the site for 10+ years

20+ - Tree is assessed as being able to contribute to the site for 20+ years

40+ - Tree is assessed as being able to contribute to the site for 40+ years

Category grading

A = Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years

B = Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years

C = Trees of low quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm

U = Trees in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for >10 years

1 = Mainly arboricultural qualities

2 = Mainly landscape qualities

3 = Mainly cultural values, including conservation

* = denotes that the category grading is temporary and requires additional measures (e.g. climbed inspection, removal of ivy, full access all around the tree etc.) before an actual grading can be assigned

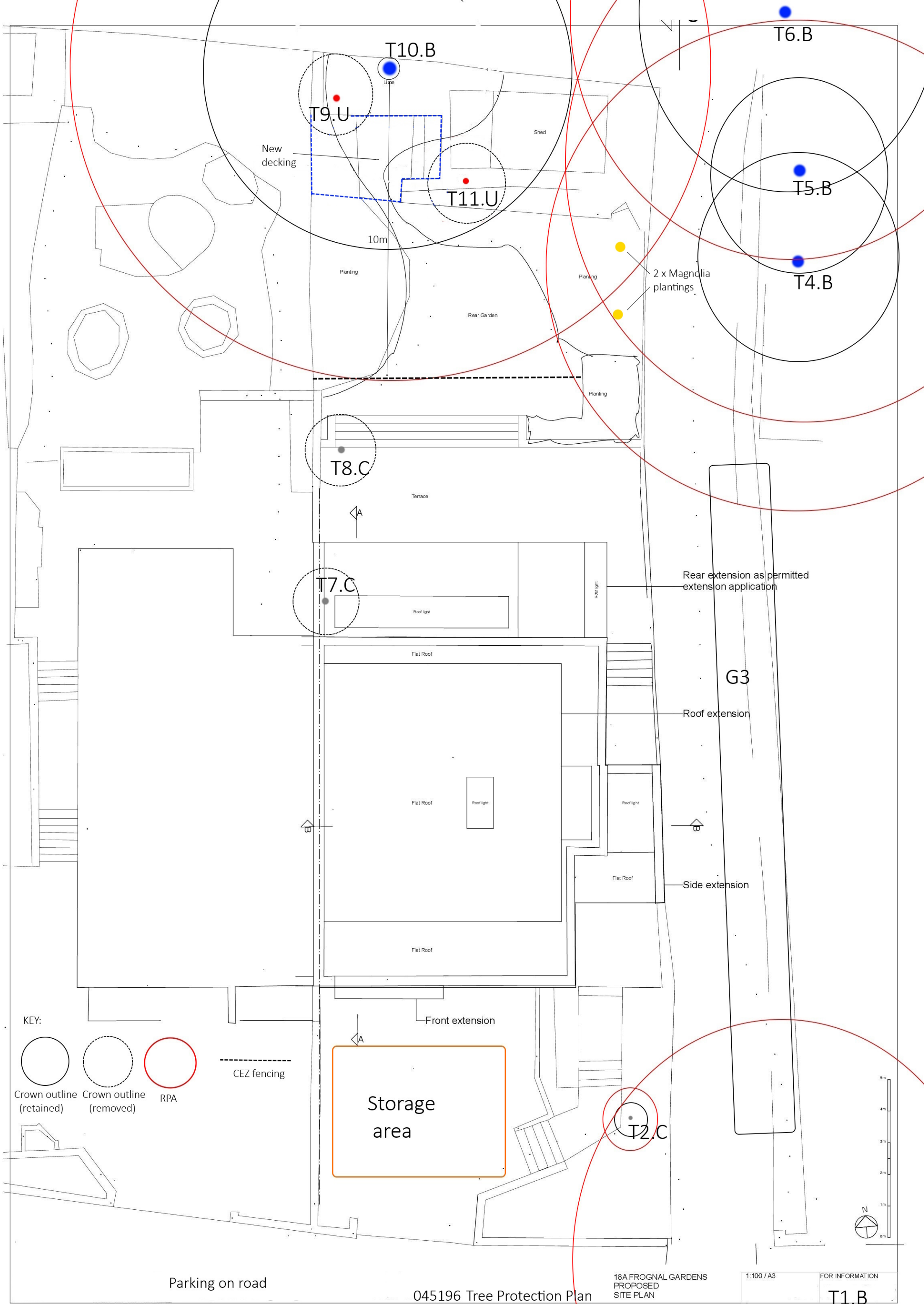


Figure 2 – Default specification for protective barrier

