



# **Sevington Inland Border Facility**

Arboricultural Report

December 2020

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Arboricultural Report

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## Issue and Revision Record

Revision	Date	Originator	Checker	<b>Approver</b>	Description
P01	19/10/20				First draft
P02	02/12/20				Updated following site visit

Document reference: | 418703-MMD-XX-SV-RP-YB-0001

Information class: Standard

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## 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Purpose of the Arboricultural Report

Mott MacDonald Limited has been commission by the Department for Transport (DfT) to provide environmental-related guidance for works proposed in response to the Sevington Inland Border Facility (IBF) scheme.

The purpose of this report is to review the content, validate and update the *Stour Park West – Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)* (Doc Ref: RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A) issued in May 2019 for the reserved matters approval (ref. 19/00579/AS) for the previous Stour Park Development on the site. This document will determine the potential impact the Sevintgon IBF will have on the existing trees recorded in the Stour Park West – Arboricultural Impact Assessment and provide recommendations for mitigation where appropriate.

For the details of the additional trees and groups that have been removed or retained as part of the Sevington IBF works, refer to the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).

For details of the extents of removal required within the groups please refer to the Sevington IBF vegetation clearance drawing, Appendix D (Doc ref: 419419-MMD-01-MO-DR-C-0201, P01.1).

For all other works not included within the Tree Protection Plan or the vegetation clearance drawing (Appendix D), please refer to the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).

All trees, regardless of their statutory status, are a material consideration in a planning application. *BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction* – *Recommendations*, recognises the potential conflict between trees and development.

#### 1.2 Scope and Methodology

A desk-based assessment was conducted by a Mott MacDonald Arboriculturalist on 02 September 2020. As this update was desk based using only aerial imagery and existing drawings, there were no additional trees surveyed or removed from the survey information present within the Stour Park West AIA.

This report has been updated to revision P02 to be reflective of the current on-site conditions following a site visit on the 26 November 2020.

This Preliminary Arboricultural Scoping Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the principles of *BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction* – *Recommendations*. BS 5837:2012 is intended to assist decision-making regarding existing trees in relation to the potential impact of construction. The recommendations are also aligned with the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees.

## 2 Stour Park West - Arboricultural Impact Assessment

#### 2.1 Stour Park West AIA Review

The review of the Stour Park West Arboricultural Impact Assessment confirmed that it is in line with the BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations.

The full findings and associated drawings can be seen in the Stour Park West AIA (Doc Ref: RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A) however a summary of the tree work recommendations within this document is provided below.

Overall, the proposed development of the previous Stour Park West Development included the removal of eleven individual trees and sixteen tree groups. This following provides a summary of the trees identified for removal:

- Category A i.e. trees of high quality, 0 trees
- Category B i.e. trees of moderate quality, 6 individual trees; 3 tree groups
- Category C i.e. trees of low quality, 3 individual trees; and, 13 tree groups; and
- Category U i.e. trees to be removed for arboricultural reasons, 2 individual trees.

## 3 Sevington IBF

### 3.1 Sevington IBF Update

In comparison to the Stour Park West development, the Sevington IBF works are retaining two further individual trees and five tree groups. Overall, the works required to facilitate the construction of the Sevington IBF include the removal of nine individual trees, eleven complete tree groups and partial removal of a further seven groups. Note, this does not include the hedgerows on the site boundary informed by the vegetation clearance drawings, Appendix D (Doc ref: 419419-MMD-01-MO-DR-C-0201, P01.1). This is comprised of:

Individual trees and complete tree groups

- Category A i.e. trees of high quality, 0 trees;
- Category B i.e. trees of moderate quality, 6 individual trees;
- Category C i.e. trees of low quality, 1 individual tree; and, 11 tree groups; and,
- Category U i.e. trees to be removed for arboricultural reasons, 2 individual trees

Partial removal of the following tree groups

- The southern extent of G20:
- The southern and western extent of G22;
- A centre section of G26;
- A centre section of G30:
- The eastern extent of G31;
- The southern section of G34; and,
- The southern and northern extent of G47

The additional trees and groups which can be retained by the Sevington IBF works, and which were not previously retained as part of the Stour Park West proposals, include:

- Individual trees 79, 80, 97, 98
- Tree groups G47 and G48

The extra trees to be removed as part of the Sevington IBF works, which were previously identified for retention as part of the Stour Park West works, include:

- Individual tree; 87
- Tree groups G32 and G35

Tree 87 has been assessed as Category B, a tree of moderate quality.

Groups G32 and G35 have been assessed as low-quality Category C trees and are therefore easily replaceable with mitigation planting.

For the details of the additional trees and groups that have been removed or retained as part of the Sevington IBF works, refer to the Tree Protection Plans (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).

For details of the extents of removal required within the groups please refer to the Sevington IBF vegetation clearance drawing, Appendix D (Doc ref: 419419-MMD-01-MO-DR-C-0201, P01.1).

For all other works not included within the Tree Protection Plan or the vegetation clearance drawing (Appendix D), please refer to the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).

## 4 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

#### 4.1 Statutory Designations

The primary measures which provide statutory protection to trees are Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Conservation Area (CA) status. Following a study Ashford County Council's online mapping system (<a href="https://www.ashford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/trees-and-hedges/tree-preservation-orders/">https://www.ashford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/trees-and-hedges/tree-preservation-orders/</a> 02.10.2020), it was confirmed that there were no TPOs or CAs within or in close proximity to the proposed works area at the time of the assessment.

### 4.2 Root Protection Areas Explained

It is essential that roots are protected from construction works including physical damage from excavation and changes in soil structure from compaction and changes in ground levels.

The RPA is an area of ground around the base of a retained tree, which is calculated in relation to the stem diameter, where disturbance should be kept to a minimum and avoided if at all possible.

The majority of tree roots grow within the upper 600mm of the soil profile where most nutrients are available as the result of the decomposition of organic matter close to the surface. Rooting conditions become less favourable at depth as the soil density increases, creating anaerobic conditions.

The RPA dimensions for the trees recorded in this report are detailed in the Stour Park West AIA (Doc Ref: RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).

#### 4.3 Trees to be removed

The following trees within Table 1 must be removed to facilitate the construction of Sevington IBF. The locations of these trees can be seen within the Stour Park West Tree Constraints Plans, Appendix E (Doc ref: C111633-01-RevA) and the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).

Table 1: Recommended actions for trees.

Ref	Species	Retention Category	TPO	CA	Recommended Actions
69	Hawthorn	С	No	No	Fell - tree is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).
70	Hawthorn	U	No	No	Fell - tree is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed work as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).
79	Goat willow	С	No	No	Retain – install protective barriers in accordance with BS5837. As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).
80	Goat Willow	С	No	No	Retain – install protective barriers in accordance with BS5837. As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).
83	Ash	В	No	No	Fell - tree is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).

Ref	Species	Retention Category	TPO	CA	Recommended Actions	
84	Ash	В	No	No	Fell - tree is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).	
85	Ash	U	No	No	Fell - tree is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).	
87	Ash	В	No	No	Fell - tree is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works. As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
94	Hawthorn	В	No	No	Fell - tree is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works. As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
95	Hawthorn	В	No	No	Fell - tree is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works. As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
96	Hawthorn	В	No	No	Fell - tree is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works. As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
97	Hawthorn	В	No	No	Retain – install protective barriers in accordance with BS5837. As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
98	Crack Willow	В	No	No	Retain – install protective barriers in accordance with BS5837. As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
G5	Hawthorn	С	No	No	Fell – tree group is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).	
G6	Hawthorn	С	No	No	Fell – tree group is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).	
G7	Hawthorn	С	No	No	Fell – tree group is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).	
G8	Mixed species	С	No	No	Fell – tree group is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).	
G9	Hawthorn	С	No	No	Fell - tree group is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).	
G10	Hawthorn	С	No	No	Fell - tree group is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).	
G11	Hawthorn	С	No	No	Fell – tree group is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).	
G19	Mixed species	С	No	No	Fell - tree group is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).	
G20	Hazel	С	No	No	Partial fell – remove a section of this group (southern extent) as shown in the Sevington IBF vegetation clearance drawing.	

Ref	Species	Retention Category	TPO	CA	Recommended Actions	
G21	Mixed species	С	No	No	Fell - tree group is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works as shown in the Stour Park West AIA (RT-MME-123906-02 Rev A).	
G22	Mixed species	В	No	No	Partial fell – remove majority of this group (retain southern tip ) as shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
G26	Mixed species	С	No	No	Partial fell - remove a section of this group (centre section) As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
G30	Common hawthorn	С	No	No	Partial fell – remove a section of this group (centre section) as shown in the Sevington IBF vegetation clearance drawing.	
G31	Hazel and hawthorn	С	No	No	Partial fell – remove a section of this group (eastern extent). As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
G32	Hawthorn	С	No	No	Fell - tree group is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works. As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
G34	Mixed species	С	No	No	Partial fell – remove a section of this group (southern section) as shown in the Sevington IBF vegetation clearance drawing.	
G35	Damson, silver birch, hazel	С	No	No	Fell - tree group is in conflict with the footprint of the proposed works. As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
G47	Mixed species	В	No	No	Partial fell - remove a section of this group (southern and northern extent). As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	
G48	Ash	В	No	No	Retain – install protective barriers in accordance with BS5837. As shown in the Tree Protection Plans, Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).	

## 5 Recommendations

Detailed design has been submitted via the Relevant Approval process under article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) (England) Special Development Order 2020. As part of this process An Analysis of the Likely Environmental Effects of the Development has been included as part of the Relevant Approval submission.

The tree survey undertaken forms part of that analysis of the likely environmental effects of the development.

### 5.1 Site Specific Recommendations

The nine individual trees and eleven tree groups within Table 1 have been identified for removal due to direct conflict with the proposed works.

Seven tree groups as stated within Table 1 should be partially removed as shown in the Tree Protection Plans contained in Appendix C (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001 to 04).

A detailed landscape plan has been prepared, and all of the trees removed will be replaced with mitigation planting following the completion of the Scheme.

#### **5.2** Temporary Protective Barriers

Protective barriers should be installed in accordance with BS5837:2012 around all of the trees and groups that are due to be retained, at the distances dictated by the RPA dimensions stated in Table 3.4 of the Stour Park Pre-Development Arboricultural Survey (Report No: RT-MME-120243-08) to protect these trees.

An Arboriculturalist should attend site prior to commencement of the works to confirm the final positioning of the protective barrier.

For the location and alignment of the temporary protective barriers required for the additional trees and groups that have been removed or retained as part of the Sevington IBF works, refer to the Tree Protection Plans (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04). For the location and alignment of the temporary protective barriers required for trees and groups that have not changed, refer to the Stour Park West AIA.

The area within the protective barriers i.e. tree side, will be a 'Construction Exclusion Zone' (CEZ) for the duration of the works.

All weather notices should be erected on the barrier with words such as:

"Tree Protection Area — Keep out".

The following prohibitions shall also apply within the area enclosed by the temporary protective barriers:

- No mechanical digging or scraping
- No storage of plant, equipment or materials
- No vehicular or plant access
- No fire lighting within 10m of tree canopies

- No handling, discharge or spillage of any chemical substance, including cement washings and vehicle washings within 10m
- No action likely to cause localised waterlogging
- No alteration of ground levels
- No construction of hard surfaces
- No attachment of boards, hoarding, cables or notices or fencing to trees
- No storage of excavated materials

Special care is to be taken on sloping ground where spillages could run towards the trees. A collecting channel dug along the outer line of the protective fencing would be one method of avoiding such damage.

If excavators are to be used during construction, at no time is the excavating arm to encroach over the position of the tree protection barriers.

#### 5.3 Wildlife Environmental Law

It should be noted that the Contractor will be responsible under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Conservation of Habitat Regulations 2017 (as amended), and the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, to take all reasonable action to identify the presence of protected species in the works area/surroundings, and comply fully with the law in relation to impacts associated with any instructed works.

If the required tree works are to be carried out during the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive), trees will need to be inspected by a qualified ecologist within the 24-hour period prior to the commencement works.

## 6 General Tree Protection Measures

#### 6.1 Risk to Trees from Construction Activity

Trees can be easily damaged by construction processes, with both the tree roots and the main structure of a tree susceptible to a range of impacts. Root damage can affect the anchorage and stability of the tree, as well as preventing or inhibiting the absorption of water and nutrients. Damage to the trunk and branches leaves the tree more exposed to disease and decay.

Activities that can cause damage to tree roots include:

- Trenches
- · Alterations in soil level
- Non-porous surfaces
- Compaction of soil
- Changes in soil hydrology
- Root exposure
- Soil pollution (i.e. oil spill, incorrect application of herbicide and/or other chemicals)
- Fires

Activities that can cause damage to tree trunks include:

- Pressure from materials stored against trunks
- Physical impact from plant and equipment
- Incorrect pruning
- Exposure of bark or leaves to chemicals
- Damage to bark from mowers and strimmers

Any works associated with this scheme that could affect the existing trees as described above must be discussed and approved by a qualified Arboriculturalist prior to commencement.

### 6.2 Site Compounds

All construction compounds, storage facilities and deliveries must aim to make use of existing hard surfaces to avoid unnecessary compaction within RPAs. If compounds require siting within RPAs, appropriate footings or ground cover must be used to avoid root damage or compaction of the soil and siting must ensure that any damage to aerial parts of retained trees is avoided.

## **Appendices**

## A. Tree Schedule Definition of Terms

Tree Referencing	Individual Trees: Number Grouped Trees: G (+number) Hedgerows: H (+number) Woodlands: W (+number)					
Life stage	Young Usually <15 years  Semi-mature Significant growth expected, approximately one third of life expectancy complete  Early-Mature Full height achieved with further significant growth possible, up to two thirds of life expectancy complete  Mature Full height has been achieved with possible spreading of the canopy, usually past two thirds of overall life expectancy  Veteran Usually a tree of significant age with characteristics that give additional cultural, landscape and conservation benefits,  Over-mature A tree declining due to age as indicated by deterioration in the health and condition of its crown and trunk.					
Species	Botanical Name: conforming to the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN). For universal plant recognition. Common Name: commonly used names usually on a local and national scale.					
Tree Height	The vertical distance between the base of the tree (where soil and buttress meet) and the tip of the highest branch on the tree.					
Crown Height	Measured from ground level to the height at which the main crown begins.					
Stem Diameter	Stem diameter is measured in mm at 1.5m above ground level, in accordance with Annex C of BS 5837:2012.					
Crown	Measurements taken from all four cardinal points in metres.					
Crow, Stem and Basal Condition	Good Usually healthy with no symptoms of poor health or disease.  Fair Exhibiting signs of poor health or minor disease infections that are not considered to be hazardous.  Poor Disease present in considerable quantities or with very poor physiological vigour.  Very Poor Tree is in a moribund state in extremely poor condition, usually with little chance of recovery.					
General Physical Condition	Good A tree with no significant structural defects.  Fair Minor defects may have been observed but are not considered to be immediately hazardous.  Poor Significant defects found. Tree requires monitoring or remedial works.  Very Poor Major defects that require immediate remedial work or the removal of the tree.					
Life Expectancy	The estimated number of years before the tree may require removal should no unexpected mechanical or environmental impacts occur to the tree.					
Retention Category	Please refer to Cascade Chart for tree quality assessment table in Appendix B.					
Comments	Notes are made to inform of any possible defects, peculiarities or points of interest that may relate to the trees position, physiology, safety and possible effects on developments.					

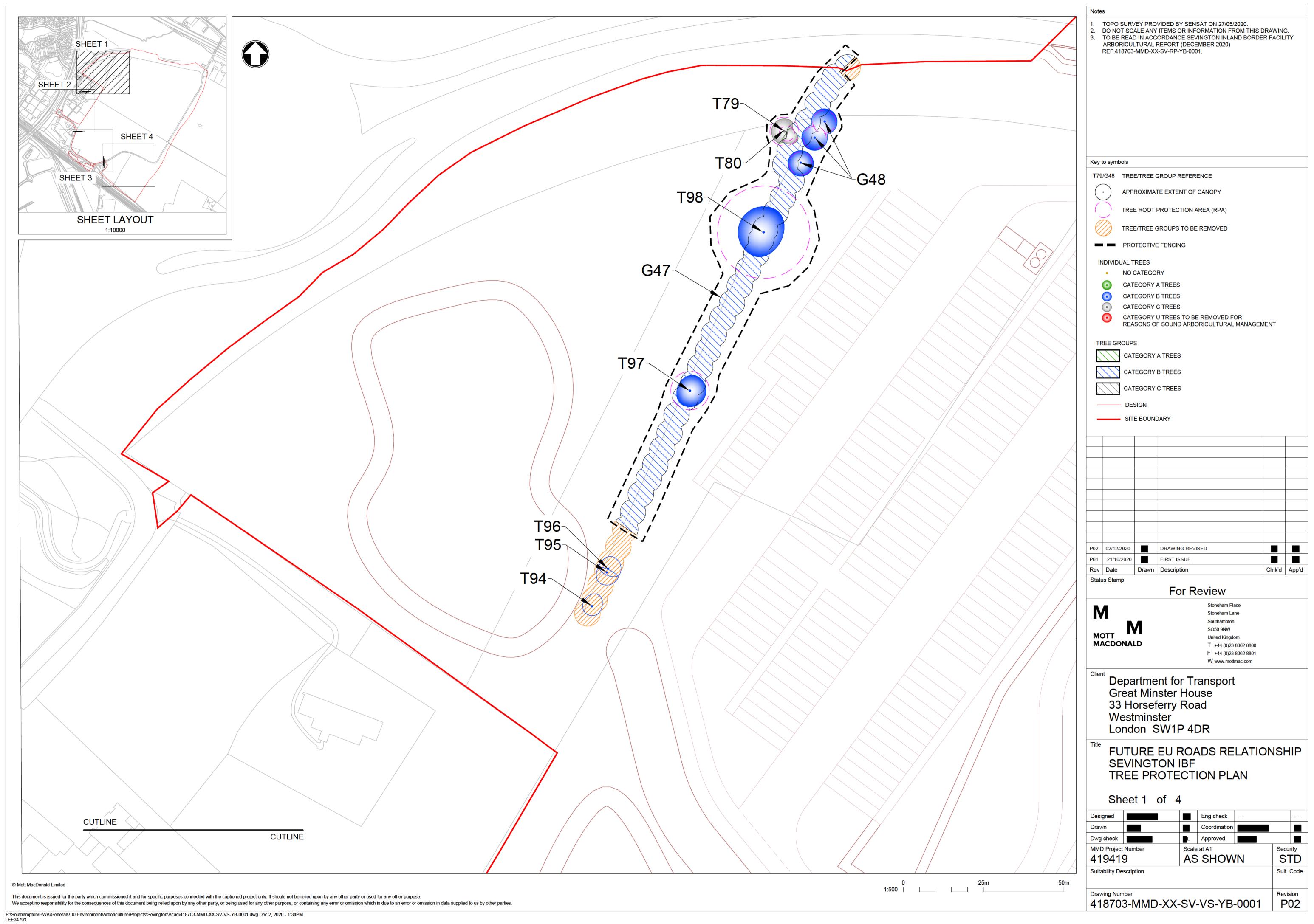
## B. BS 5837:2012 Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment

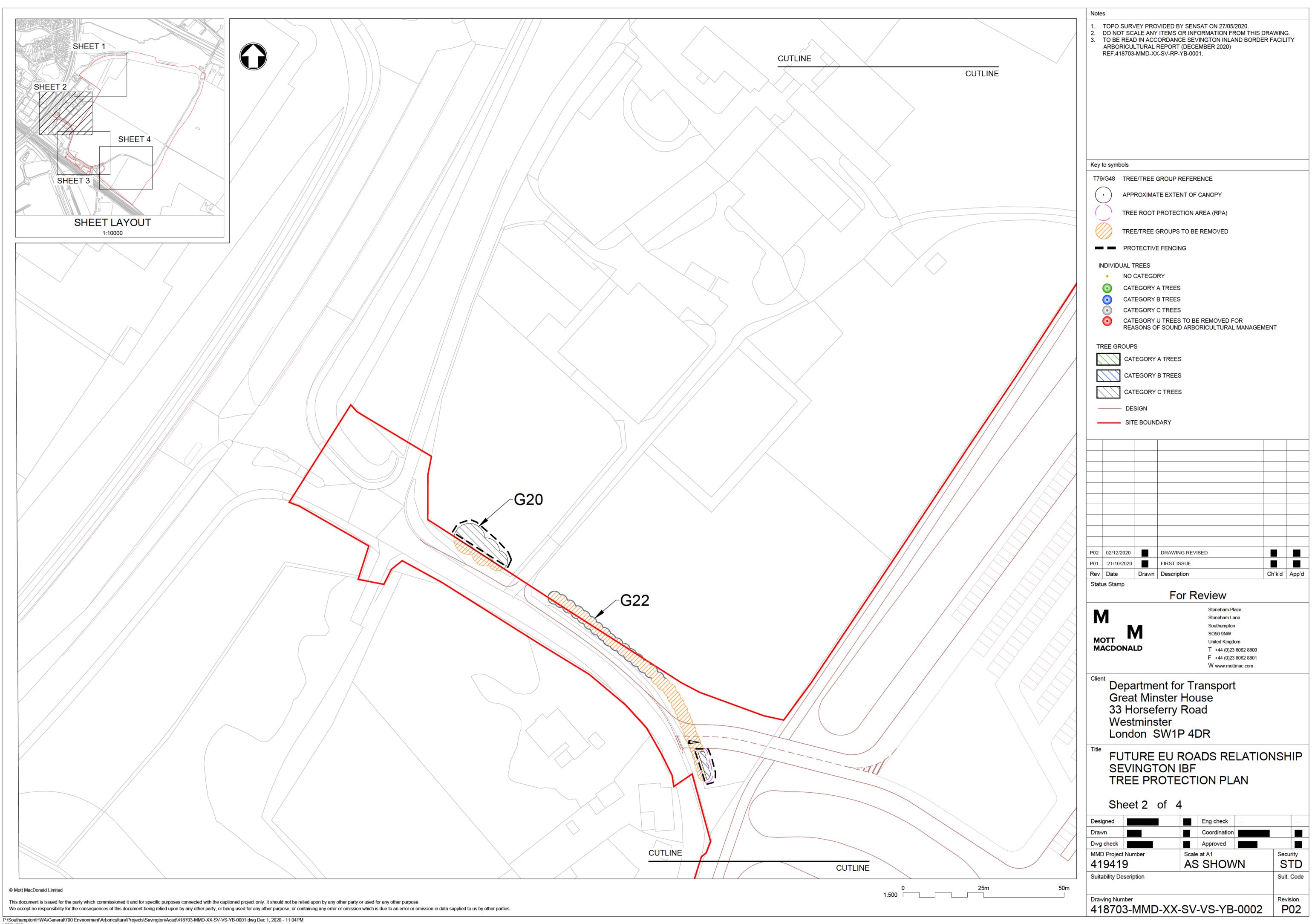
Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)							
Trees unsuitable for retention (see note)								
Category U  Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years.	trees in the context  I rees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline.  Trees inforted with mathematical significance to the health and/or action of the results and irreversible overall decline.							
	1. Mainly arboricultural reason.	2. Mainly landscape qualities	3. Mainly cultural values, Including conservation					
Trees to be considered for retention:								
Category A  Trees of a high quality, with an estimated life of 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 of 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).					
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 growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than 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.					
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 150 mm.	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits.	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.					

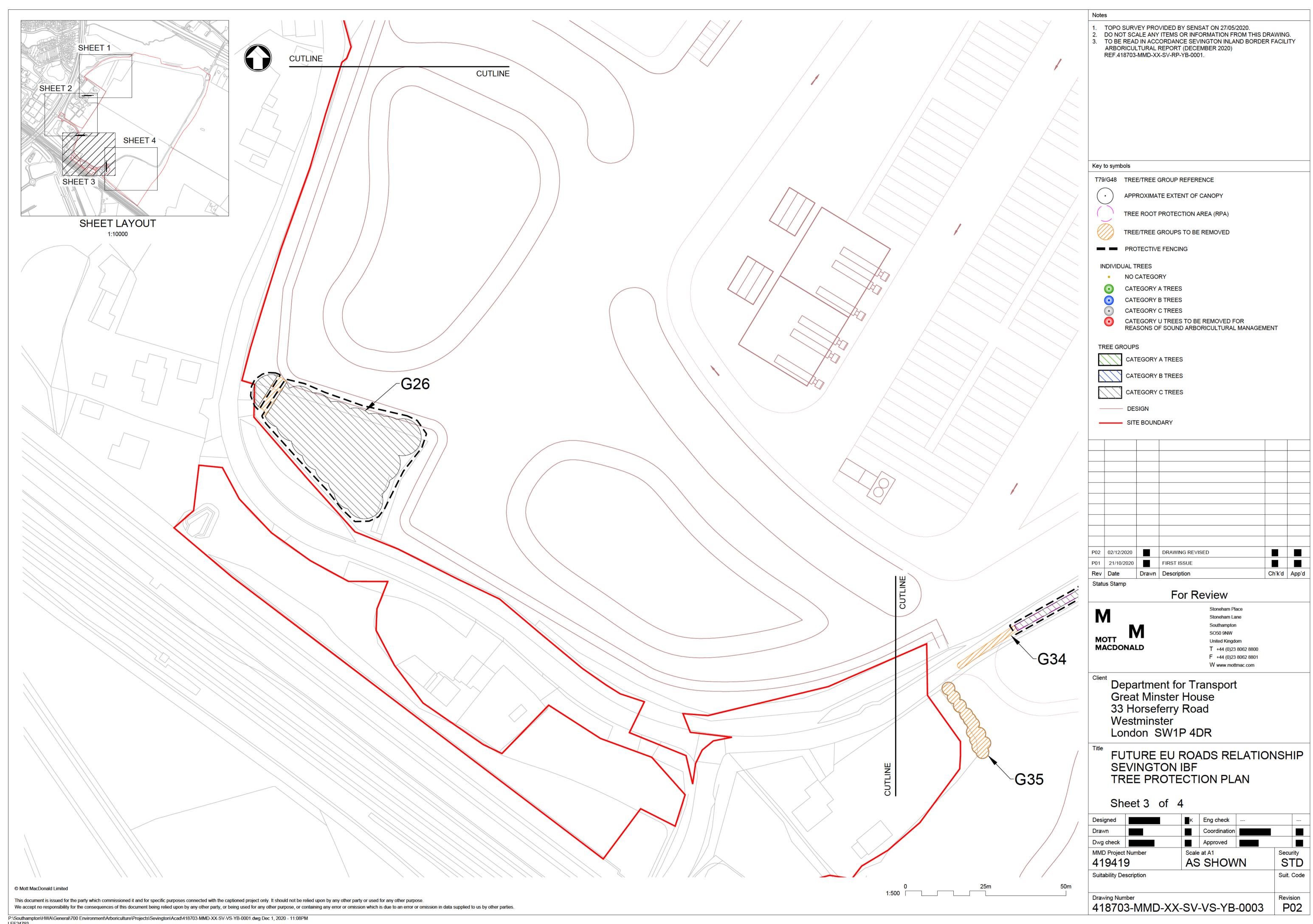
## C. Drawings

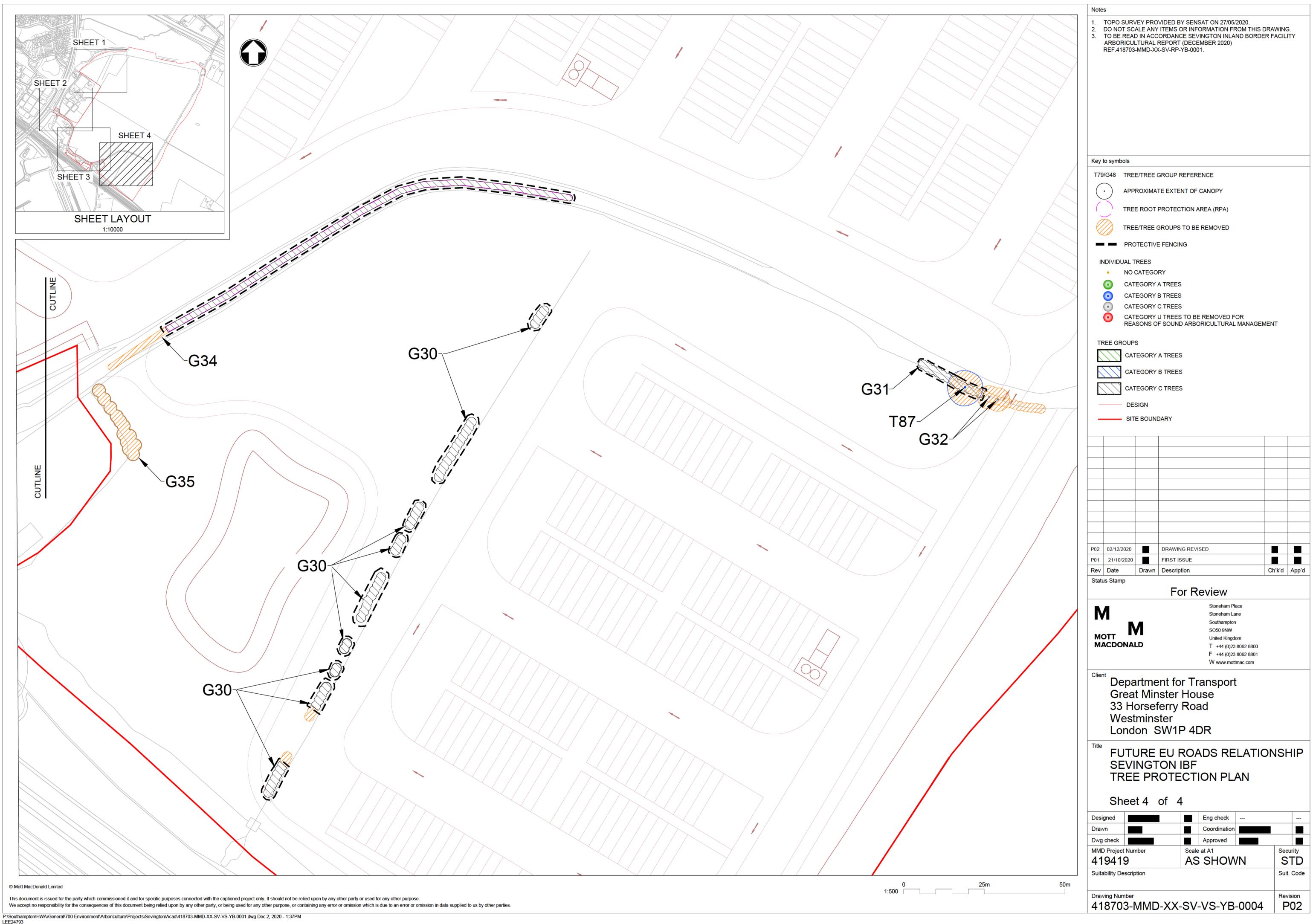
#### **C.1** Tree Protection Plans

- Sheet 1 of 4: 418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001\_P02
- Sheet 2 of 4: 418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0002\_P02
- Sheet 3 of 4: 418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0003\_P02
- Sheet 4 of 4: 418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0004\_P02









# D. Vegetation Clearance Drawing (Doc ref: 419419-MMD-01-MO-DR-C-0201, P01.1)



# E. Stour Park West Tree Constraints Drawings (418703-MMD-XX-SV-VS-YB-0001-04).

