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PLANNING

IAN KEEN  
LIMITED

**WOODLAND MANAGEMENT  
PLAN**

**FOR**

**MOL LAND  
ADJACENT TO  
TWICKENHAM SORTING OFFICE  
LONDON ROAD  
TWICKENHAM**

**Consent Reference:  
13/1147/FUL**

**Our Reference  
AP/7720/so**

**AUGUST 2015**

**CLIENT  
St James Group Ltd**

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Instructions were received from St James Group Ltd. to produce a woodland management plan that is required via condition of extant planning consent.
- 1.2 This management plan was prepared by assessment has been made by Andrew Poynter BSc (Hons), FArborA, MICFor, MCIHort on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015.
- 1.3 This management plan extends beyond the 'red line' boundary of the planning application, its extent is shown on Ian Keen Limited drawing 7720/03 at Appendix 1.
- 1.4 Planting details for the open 'rough' area are detailed on the Murdoch Wickham 'MOL Landscaping' drawing 1305/005.

## **2.0 The Woodland and its Setting**

- 2.1 The site is approximately one hectare in size and a broadly linear strip on the southern side of the River Crane that has a wooded (wider) central area and has trees from this point eastwards to London Road, herein after referred to as the woodland. At the eastern end and south of the woodland the former sorting office site is being redeveloped for residential use.
- 2.2 West of the wider wooded central area is an area known as Twickenham Rough, the site as a whole is Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) owned by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.
- 2.3 According to information obtained from the (online) 'Geology of Britain Viewer' that contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [2015], the site is located upon a superficial deposit of Kempton Park Gravel (sand and gravel) over London Clay.
- 2.4 The southern railway boundary is fenced, together with fences at the eastern and western boundaries. The northern riverside is unfenced.
- 2.5 There is currently no public access into the site.

- 2.6 Overall the woodland is typical of urban land that was, through limited intervention, succeeding into to first generation woodland.
- 2.7 Flora was principally limited to species associated with urban wooded areas and comprising a mixture of predominantly broad leaf tree species, most of which are native together with mix of understorey and herb layer vegetation.
- 2.8 The most frequent tree species are sycamore, ash and willow with occasional London plane, horse chestnut and holm oak. Understorey consisted mainly of occasional holly and hawthorn.
- 2.9 Due to dense shade the woodland floor was dominated by ivy or leaf litter. Where light permits there were of bramble.
- 2.10 The ecological survey recorded Japanese knotweed in a number of locations throughout the site.
- 2.11 There is an abrupt transition from the woodland edge to the surrounding area of 'rough'. Within the transition zone the vegetation is dominated by bramble leading to large swathes of nettle, willow herb and rank grasses. Occasional self-set trees of mainly English oak, sycamore and willow are present in sporadic locations.
- 2.12 Fauna appears commensurate with the urban woodland environment comprising mainly squirrels and foxes together with pigeons, crows, magpies and jays. There are other common 'garden' bird species present.
- 2.13 There was no evidence to indicate significant deer or rabbit populations.

### **3.0 Management Objectives**

- 3.1 To enhance the relationship between the woodland and proposed dwellings outside its eastern edge.
- 3.2 To retain the woodland in the long term as a vital habitat.

3.3 To retain the woodland as an aesthetic feature, providing screening and visual amenity from a variety of views.

3.4 To provide a resource valued by path users and nearby residents.

#### **4.0 Management Proposals**

4.1 A three metre wide, bonded gravel surfaced footpath and cycle will run through the woodland and the open area to west to provide connectivity.

4.2 The land on either side of the footpath is to be managed with an ecological priority with the establishment of trees through regeneration to add tree cover for the many benefits it provides.

4.3 In addition it is proposed to undertake management of the existing woodland to ensure its longevity and harmonious relationship with the residential dwellings proposed on adjoining land.

4.4 All operations listed shall be undertaken in year 1 in preparedness for handing over to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, and have been designed to avoid the need for onerous ongoing maintenance.

#### **5.0 General management techniques**

5.1 The following key actions will meet and sustain the management objectives:

- Coppicing of ash trees on the eastern edge of the woodland to add a further canopy layer to the woodland and gradate the edge. This will increase light levels at the edge promoting floral diversity and in turn the support of other biodiversity.
- Removal of alien invasive species such as sycamore and turkey oak that can displace other species to reduce diversity of tree and other plant species.
- Remove alien species that, whilst they are not prone to invasion, are not fitting to this semi-natural copse of trees.

- Undertake selective pollarding and coppicing, particularly of willow species, to enable retention of deadwood and decayed resources near proposed pathways for the benefit of saproxylic species. In addition, coppicing and pollarding will ensure long term retention of canopy cover at the river edges.
- Gradated vegetation management at the edges of the proposed pathway that, due to its broadly east-west orientation will provide 'woodland ride' conditions that will favour certain species of flora and fauna.

5.2 A schedule of operations is included at Appendix 2 and a plan showing the locations of the woodland operations is at Appendix 3.

5.3 The Japanese knotweed recorded on site within the ecological surveys will be treated and managed separately as there is a planning condition dealing with that specific task.

5.4 Preparation of the site for longevity in its proposed form will ensure the future management requirements can be sustained following handover to the local authority.

5.5 Natural regeneration will be selected to sustain the tree stock in the long term with ongoing coppicing and felling to support the establishment of indigenous native trees.

## **6.0 Timing and operations**

6.1 All works shall be undertaken in the period between November and March.

6.2 Work during this period will be post-bird nesting period, there are not understood to be any further ecological constraints for the proposed works.

## **7.0 Review of Woodland Management Plan**

7.1 Typically this plan should be reviewed every 5 years and be informed by monitoring of the wood and its surrounds together with changes of policy and any ecological findings that substantiate change.

7.2 Following the handover, future management of the woodland will be the responsibility of the local authority, therefore the review period will be determined by the local authority's own management policies, however it is anticipated that established principles will be followed.

## 8.0 References

8.1 This Woodland Management Plan has been prepared with the aid of the following:

Title	Source
Ecological Assessment (ref ECO2720.EcoAss.vf, dated June 2013)	Aspect Ecology
Technical Note 002 – Woodland Strategy	Ian Keen Limited
Bulletin 123: Managing rides, roadsides and edge habitats in lowland forests.	Forestry Commission; Richard Ferris and Clive Carter.
Silvicultural Systems	Oxford University Press; John D. Matthews
Woodland habitats	Routledge Habitat Guides; Helen J. Read and Mark Frater.

Signed:



Date: 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015

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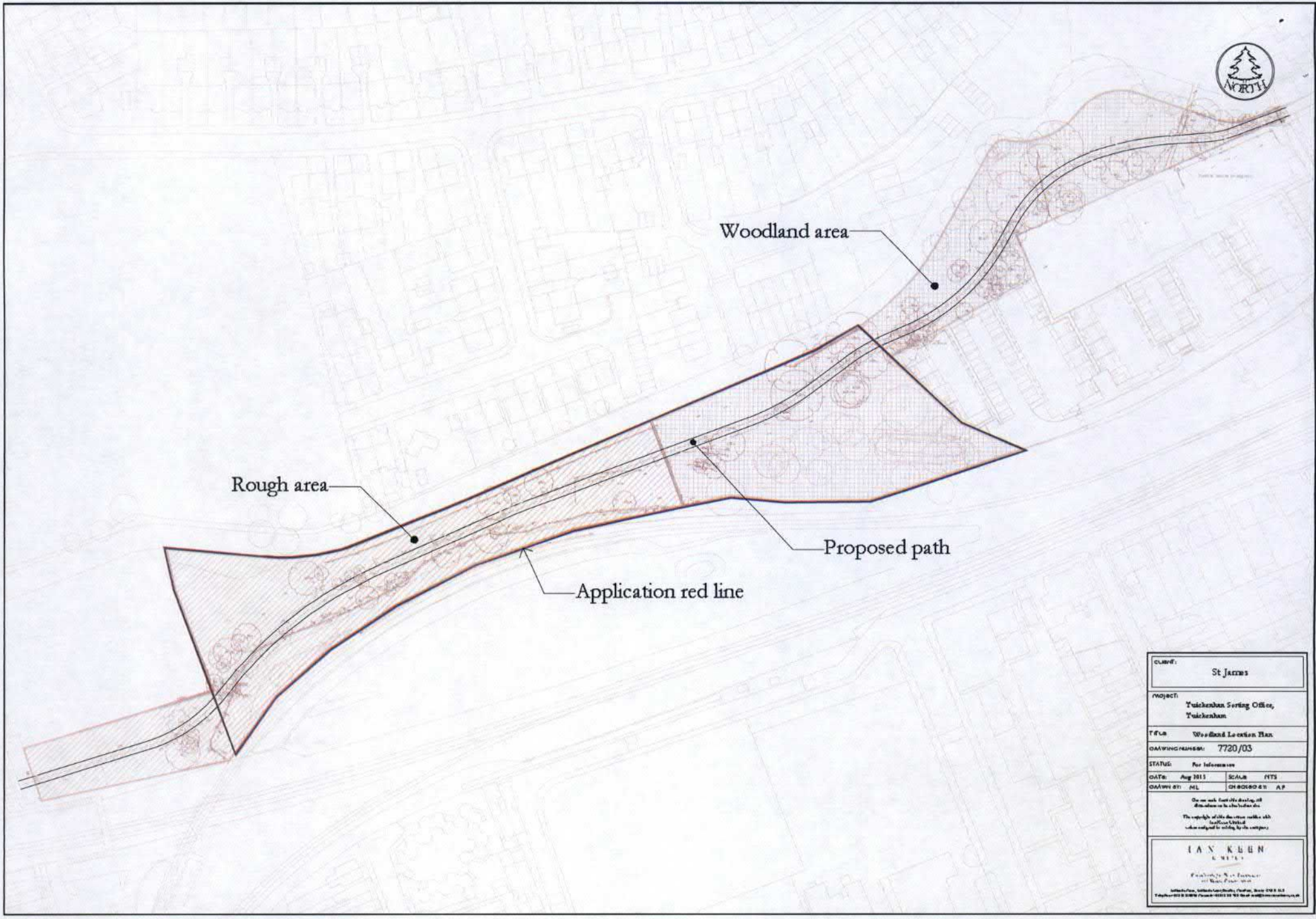
  
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APPENDIX 1

Woodland location plan



Woodland area

Rough area

Proposed path

Application red line

CLIENT:	St James
PROJECT:	Yuschenko Spring Office, Yuschenko
TITLE:	Woodland Location Plan
DRAWING NUMBER:	7720/03
STATUS:	For Information
DATE:	Aug 2013
DRAWN BY:	ML
CHECKED BY:	AF
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APPENDIX 2

Management operations

## Operations

- 1.0 Coppicing of ash trees on the eastern edge of the woodland.
- Coppice trees within 10 metres of eastern woodland boundary where it abuts new development.
  - Brushwood up to approximately 150mm diameter to be chipped and discharged across the woodland floor locally, and therefore not left in piles.
  - Cordwood and timber to be stacked in piles away from the boundary fence, preferably along the edge to the resulting woodland edge, some 10 metres from the property boundaries.
- 2.0 Removal of alien invasive species such as sycamore, holm oak and turkey oak.
- Selected trees to be marked prior to removal for confirmation by the council's tree officer.
  - Where appropriate, only prominent trees of c.500mm of greater will be retained to add diversity.
- 3.0 Remove alien species that, whilst they are not prone to invasion, are not fitting to this semi-natural copse of trees. This would include species such as horse chestnut.
- Selected trees to be marked prior to removal for confirmation by the council's tree officer.
  - Where appropriate, only prominent trees of c.500mm of greater will be retained to add diversity.
- 4.0 Undertake selective pollarding and coppicing near proposed pathway and the river edges.
- Selected trees to be marked prior to removal for confirmation by the council's tree officer.
  - Trees within up to 7 metres of the river and path edge may be coppiced or pollarded with an emphasis on those species associated and tolerant of that form of management.
  - Other specimens that have been
- 5.0 Gradated vegetation management at the edges of the proposed pathway.
- All vegetation within 3 and 5 metres of the footpath to be removed, the extent of removal between 3 and 5 provides for the incorporation of scalloped edges to maximise the ecological opportunity for species diversity.
  - The first metre will be mown (or strimmed) two times per year to maintain an open ambience to the path and allow for the establishment and sustained presence of herb layer species.

**APPENDIX 3**

Woodland Operations Plan

Operations

1.0 Coppicing of ash trees on the eastern edge of the woodland.

- Coppice trees within 10 metres of eastern woodland boundary where it abuts new development
- Brushwood up to approximately 150mm diameter to be chipped and discharged across the woodland floor locally, and therefore not left in piles.
- Cordwood and timber to be stacked in piles away from the boundary fence, preferably along the edge to the existing woodland edge, some 10 metres from the property boundaries.

2.0 Removal of alien invasive species such as sycamore, holm oak and turkey oak.

- Selected trees to be marked prior to removal for confirmation by the council's tree officer.
- Where appropriate, only prominent trees of c.500mm of girth will be retained to add diversity.

3.0 Remove alien species that, whilst they are not prone to invasion, are not fitting to this semi-rural copse of trees. This would include species such as horse chestnut.

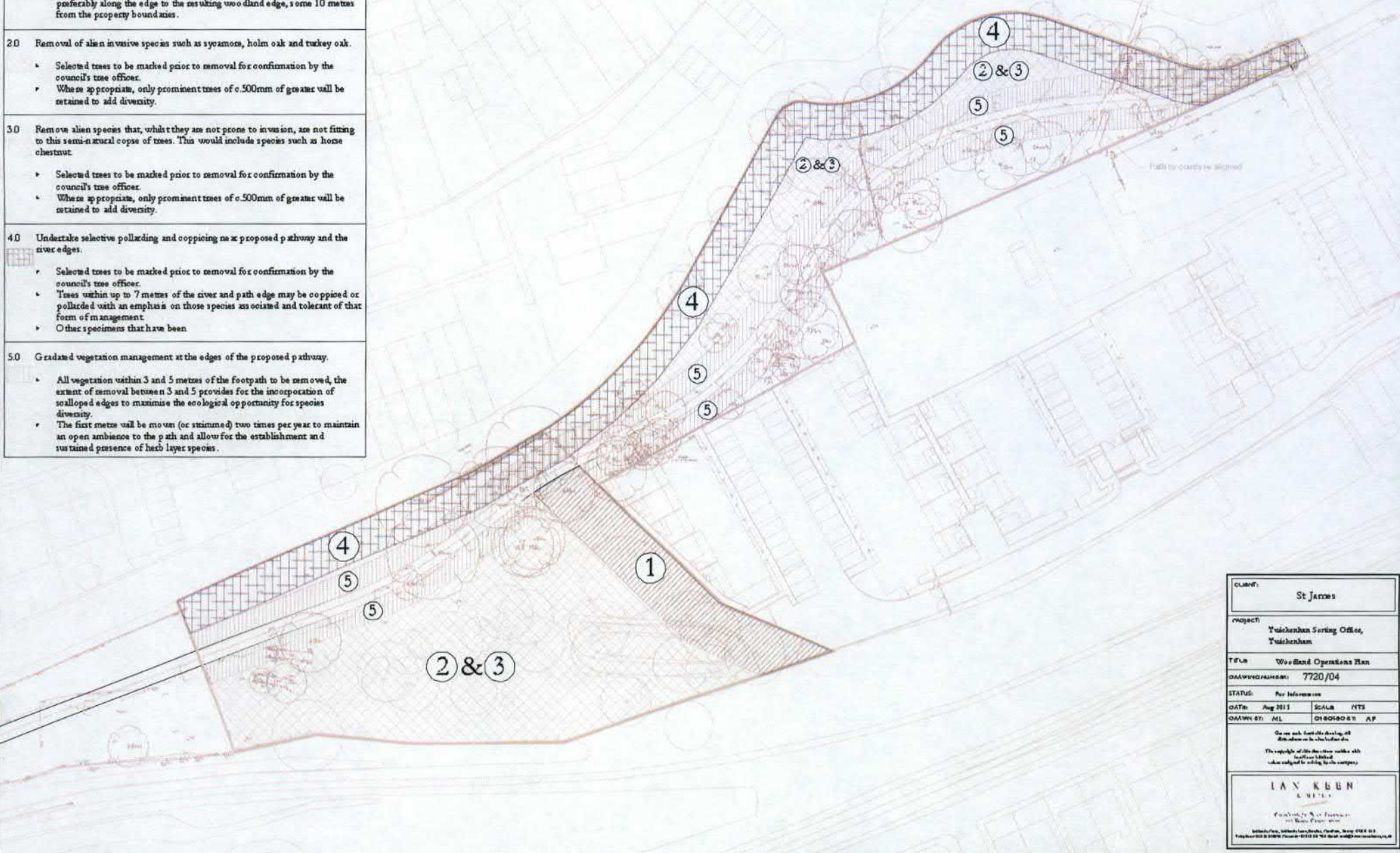
- Selected trees to be marked prior to removal for confirmation by the council's tree officer.
- Where appropriate, only prominent trees of c.500mm of girth will be retained to add diversity.

4.0 Undertake selective pollarding and coppicing near proposed pathway and the river edges.

- Selected trees to be marked prior to removal for confirmation by the council's tree officer.
- Trees within up to 7 metres of the river and path edge may be coppiced or pollarded with an emphasis on those species associated and tolerant of that form of management.
- Other specimens that have been

5.0 Gradual vegetation management at the edges of the proposed pathway.

- All vegetation within 3 and 5 metres of the footpath to be removed, the extent of removal between 3 and 5 provides for the incorporation of scalloped edges to maximise the ecological opportunity for species diversity.
- The first metre will be mown (or strimmed) two times per year to maintain an open ambience to the path and allow for the establishment and sustained presence of herb layer species.



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