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ARBORICULTURAL

Ms Louise Cutts  
Wessex Planning  
Meadowsweet Cottage  
Morleys Lane  
Ampfield  
SO51 9BJ

Our Ref: **221513 - Let 1**

4 September 2023

Dear Louise

**Re: Tree issues at Home Farm, St John's Road, Hedge End**

I write with regard to my ongoing involvement with the above project. Most recently you asked me to review the use of a Cellular Confinement System (CCS) as a sub base for part of the new access drive into the site and also consider how services could potentially be installed within the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of nearby trees.

I understand from our discussions that the site is allocated for housing in the local plan. I also believe that a CCS system was used on the adjacent project for the areas of surfacing immediately adjacent to our site. Consequently, the construction methodology using a CCS for the new access road would therefore be an extension of this.

I have spoken to Andy Traves at Aqua Callidus Consulting and I understand that based on existing site levels, it will be necessary to undertake some limited excavations related to the new site access. This would need to occur immediately adjacent to the existing offsite installed CCS formation in order to tie the new access in with the existing fixed levels on that site.

The extent of the ground remodelling required will not be fully clear until full engineering details have been worked up. I therefore feel that arboricultural input into the design process (along with arboricultural site supervision) will be required, if indeed the council are minded to grant planning consent for the site. The detail of this, along with full engineering details for the access could be secured and reviewed by the council via a suitably worded planning condition attached to any issued planning consent.

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On the subject of services, I understand that these will need to align with the existing offsite provision and this will require an incursion within the RPAs of adjacent trees. In my view, this could be dealt with via a simple method statement detailing how the ground works will proceed within RPAs and could detail excavation using hand operated tools, compressed air excavation and root pruning where relevant, again all under appropriate arboricultural supervision.

In my experience, a bespoke method statement dealing with service excavations within RPAs is best provided by the ground work contractor (with appropriate arboricultural input). This is because they are obviously the experts in this area and if they are fully engaged from the outset, then there tends to be a better 'buy in' to the process, as opposed to having a work methodology imposed on them by a third party. Again, this detail could be secured and reviewed via a planning condition.

Please get back to me if you need clarification on (or need to discuss) any of the above points.

Yours sincerely



Barrie Draper BSc (Hons) Arb TechCert(ArborA) CertArb(RFS)  
**Arboricultural Consultant**

We confirm we have discussed the site with Mr Barrie Draper and that based on existing site levels, it will be necessary to undertake some limited excavations related to the new site access. This would need to occur immediately adjacent to the existing offsite installed CCS formation in order to tie the new access in with the existing fixed levels on that site.

The site is a small development and consequently services will be of a small capacity/size enabling excavation using hand operated tools, compressed air excavation and root pruning where relevant, again all under appropriate arboricultural supervision.

Yours sincerely



Andy Traves BSc (Hons) CEng MStructE MCIHT  
**Aqua Callidus Consulting Ltd**