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ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT FOR 113 OAK TREE ROAD TILEHURST



**Prepared for:
Mr K Roberts
113 Oak Tree Road
Tilehurst
Reading
RG31 6LA**

Ref: SN/AMS-22/25.05v1

15 August 2022



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Summary

This Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) sets out the mitigation required to demonstrate how the root protection areas (RPAs) of retained trees will be protected during the construction of the approved development of 'Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and internal alterations'.

We have calculated the RPAs and they are shown on the mitigation plan ref SN/MIT-22/25.05 included at Appendix 1.

Mitigation is required to demonstrate how the retained tree and groups of trees root protection areas (RPAs) will be protected during any development, including access to the approved development area.

1. Introduction

1.1 Instructions

- 1.1.1 Urban Tree Experts were instructed by Mr K Roberts to prepare an AMS for the approved development at 113 Oak Tree Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 6LA based on the BS 5837:2012 report and tree data, ref SN/5837-22/25.05, and drawings supplied by Mr K Roberts.

2. Scope of this report

- 2.1 The AMS sets out the mitigation required to demonstrate how the retained tree RPA will be protected during the construction of the approved development of 'Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and internal alterations' at 113 Oak Tree Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6LA. This AMS will discharge Condition 4 of the Approved Planning Application No: 220518, dated 3 August 2022.

3. Site visit

- 3.1 The trees were surveyed by Steve Noble (TechArborA) on 25 May 2022 for the preparation of BS 5837:2012 report and tree data, ref SN/5837-22/25.05.

4. General

- 4.1 The key protection issues associated with this scheme in relation to existing trees, in the short, medium and long term, are the need for:
- The protection of trees to be retained from physical damage to their above and below ground structures.
 - The protection of tree habitat.
 - The protection of the soil structure and prevention of damage to tree root systems by chemicals and other noxious substances/materials.
 - Monitoring, supervision and liaison.
- 4.2 Statutory designations.
A search was made on Reading Borough Council's Tree Preservation Order Directory on 25 May 2022. The search revealed that there is a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) number 29/07 in force on tree (T) T1.
- 4.3 This report must be read in conjunction with the following:
- Tree survey schedule included at Appendix 5.
 - Mitigation plan, refSN/MIT-22/25.05 included at Appendix 1.



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4.3 Continued . . .

- Default tree protection barrier (TPB) as specified and detailed in BS5837:2012 Section 6.2, Fig 2, and included at Appendix 2.
- Ground protection measures included at Appendix 4.

5. Introduction

5.1 Terms of reference:

The BS 5837:2012 tree survey reference data was to be reviewed in order to integrate the approved development and safeguard the long-term preservation of the retained trees. This AMS provides guidance on the typical range of processes that are involved during development and seeks to ensure that appropriate methods of implementation are carried out. It further aims to provide a holistic view of the development process and seeks to address any potential issues and conflicts that may arise and provide solutions to these, resolving them in line with current arboricultural and industry best practice guidance.

5.2 The AMS sets out the mitigation required to demonstrate how the retained tree RPAs will be protected during the construction of the approved development of the two storey side extension and single storey rear extension, including access to the approved development area and construction works; and they must be implemented to secure successful tree retention.

5.3 In the absence of industry specific guidance on the installation of underground services, all new services required for this project must conform to the minimum standards required and will be those as set out in the *National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) 2007 Volume 4, Issue 1: Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees*.

5.4 The plan for the construction of the approved development of 'Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and internal alterations' has been overlaid onto the mitigation plan ref SN/MIT-22/25.05. The information contained in the overlay has been used as the basis for this method statement. We have used our extensive experience to interpret these references in the context of evolving good practice and dealing with site specific issues relating to the approved development at 113 Oak Tree Road.

5.5 The mitigation plan is illustrative and can only be used for dealing with the tree issues and all scaled measurements must be checked against the original site drawings. The precise location of all protective measures must be confirmed before any construction activity starts.

5.6 Precautions when working in the RPA:

The following prohibitions apply within any tree RPA:

- No mechanical excavation whatsoever without prior written agreement from the Local Planning authority (LPA) and Arboricultural Consultant (AC).
- No excavation by any other means without arboricultural site monitoring.
- No hand digging without a written method statement from the main contractor having first been approved in writing by the AC.
- No change or lowering of levels unless agreed in writing with the LPA and AC, except for the removal of grass sward using hand tools in accordance with BS 5837:2012 (section 7.4.2.1).



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5.6 Continued...

- No construction of a sealed hard surface.
- No storage of plant or materials.
- No storage or handling of any chemical including cement washings, unless site specific mitigation is approved by the AC and the LPA.
- No vehicular access without prior written agreement from the LPA.
- No fire lighting.

5.7 In addition to the measures above further precautions are necessary adjacent to trees:

- A minimum 10 metre separation distance, or the RPA radius if it is greater, shall normally be observed between any tree RPA during the cement mixing phases including storage and other substances injurious to tree health, this should include such things as fuels, oil, bitumen, cement (including cement washings), builders' sand, concrete mixing and other chemicals.

5.8 Avoiding damage to stems and branches:

Care shall be taken when planning site operations in proximity to retained trees to ensure that contact with the trees and overhanging branches is avoided. Such contact can result in serious injury to the tree and might make the safe retention impossible. Consequently, any tree protection in proximity to the trees shall be constructed under the supervision of the AC, to ensure that adequate clearance from the trees is at all times maintained.

5.9 Access pruning:

Access facilitation pruning is not anticipated to any of the retained trees.

6. Tree protection general

6.1 Default fencing (BS 5837:2012, Figure 2, section 6; Appendix 2)

If the scheme involves construction activities in close proximity to the retained trees it is considered that the minimum default type fencing must be that shown at Appendix 2. The location for this type of fencing is shown on the mitigation plan ref SN/MIT-22/25.05. If construction work is adjacent to or within an RPA the default tree protection fencing may be inappropriate or unsuitable and therefore any alternative specification to the default above must only be used following a written contingency plan submitted to and approved by the AC and LPA. It should identify the reasons why the default cannot be used, the location and duration required for the substitute fence, and it must be erected under the supervision of the AC. The AC must be given reasonable time to provide advice.

Specific tree protection measures have been considered at conflict points and mitigating measures are set out within this document that are proportionate to the risks associated with this project.



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6.2 Ground protection measures:

Ground protection is required to protect at least a functional minimum mass of undisturbed ground during the construction process and is required to limit compaction or contamination of the RPA. An example of ground protection is set out at Appendix 4 and is considered generic to elements of this scheme. The specific ground protection measures must be installed and maintained during all the construction phases unless work is directly supervised by the AC and agreed by the LPA. The approved works on this site have been assessed and on the basis of the drawings supplied the following site specific precautions and mitigation is required.

7. Site specific precautions and mitigation

7.1 Tree loss:

We anticipate the layout of the approved site development works will require the necessary removal of part of one group to allow full implementation of the planning permission, as shown on mitigation plan ref SN/MIT-22/25.05 and detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Necessary tree removal

<i>Tree No.</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Height (m)</i>	<i>Retention Category</i>	<i>Necessary Tree Removal to Allow Implementation of the Full Planning Permission</i>
G1	Mixed group	3.0	B	REMOVE PART ON NORTH SIDE OF EXTENSION AS SHOWN ON MITIGATION PLAN ref SN/MIT-22/25.05

There is not anticipated to be any tree loss as a result of the British Standard classification for trees of poor health and condition:

7.2 Access Pruning.

Access facilitation pruning necessary to implement the full planning permission is not anticipated to any retained trees.

Any further works that are merely desirable, and not necessary for the implementation of the full planning permission, should be made the subject of a separate Tree Works application and consent must be granted by the local planning authority before any works to any protected trees are undertaken

Mitigation:

- Tree works must be undertaken in accordance with *BS 3998:2010 'Tree work – Recommendations'* and current arboricultural practices.
- At no time must the trees be pruned by the construction contractors.
- All tree pruning must be undertaken by suitably qualified and insured arboricultural contractors under the guidance of the AC.
- All tree works should be timed to avoid the main nesting season for birds between 1 March and 31 August¹.

¹ When tree or vegetation clearance work has to be undertaken during the nesting season, a pre-works survey needs to be carried out by a suitably competent person to confirm that the tree works are not likely to cause disturbance to nesting birds. (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), and The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, provides statutory protection to birds, bats, and other tree dwelling species.)



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- 7.3 Site set up and vehicular access to site during demolition and construction works is adjacent to, or over, the RPA of T1, G1 and H1. There will be no changes to the existing driveway hard surfacing. However, the following precautions are required for access to the work area for demolition and construction to minimise compaction from this additional, extraordinary, vehicular access.

Mitigation:

- To ensure the RPA of retained trees remains undamaged, and to prevent contamination and compaction during access, demolition, the erection of scaffolding, and construction work, the TPB must be installed prior to any site activity as shown on mitigation plan ref SN/MIT-22/25.05 using the default temporary protective barrier as specified and detailed in BS5837:2012 Section 6.2, Fig 2, as included at Appendix 2, but typically using Heras panels supported on rubber blocks secured to the ground with road pins, and **remain in situ for the duration of the scheme**. Any alternative specification to the default above must only be used following approval by the AC.
- Where the barrier may need to be temporarily moved to allow works access additional temporary ground protection must be applied as per Appendix 4 and described below. The barrier must only be moved following agreement from the LPA
- To ensure the RPA of the retained trees remains undamaged, and to prevent contamination and compaction during access, demolition, the erection of scaffolding, and construction work, the RPA must be protected with temporary ground protection as set out in Appendix 4; and as detailed on the mitigation plan ref SN/MIT-22/25.05 as “Temporary ground protection”, showing the minimum area.
- The RPA of retained hedge H1 is outside the approved construction area, however, to ensure the RPA remains undamaged, and to prevent contamination and compaction, temporary ground protection is also required.
- The temporary ground protection must be suitable for the maximum weight of vehicles, demolition and construction machinery required for the site. Examples to be used in this case include DuraDeck® ground protection mats, or MegaDeck®HD mats, or similar, laid on top of the existing driveway surface or area adjacent to H1 to minimise compaction from this additional, extraordinary vehicular access.
- All temporary ground protection **must be installed prior to any site demolition or construction activity**, as shown on drawing ref SN/MIT-22/25.05.

- 7.4 Demolition of the existing lean-to conservatory adjacent to the RPA of retained trees T1, G1 and G1. The potential RPA incursion on retained trees during demolition and removal of material will have little impact on the trees providing the mitigation set out below is followed.

Mitigation:

- In order to ensure the RPA of the retained trees remains undamaged, and to prevent contamination and compaction during the demolition works and removal of material, the RPAs must be protected. The tree protection barrier must be installed as shown on drawing SN/MIT-22/25.05 using the default temporary protective barrier as specified and detailed in BS5837:2012 Section 6.2, Fig 2, as included at Appendix 2, and remain in situ until all works activity is completed.



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7.4 Continued . . .

- Where the barrier may need to be temporarily moved to allow works access additional temporary ground protection must be applied as per Appendix 4.
- If the existing buildings are to be demolished using a mechanical excavator, it should be carried out with the excavator positioned outside the RPA of any retained tree, using a toothless bucket, working in a direction away from the edge of the RPA.
- To avoid root desiccation, any roots over 25 millimetres and clumps of fibrous roots below 25 millimetres encountered during this removal process must immediately be covered with topsoil taken from outside RPAs of retained trees or new topsoil imported on to site.
- It is essential that digging into the sub-base when removing existing concrete and hard surfaces over RPAs is avoided.

7.5 Excavations and foundation construction of the approved extensions.

There are no anticipated RPA incursions for the excavation and foundation construction of the approved two storey side extension and single storey rear extension, and therefore no mitigation works are required for this.

7.6 Details of excavation and installation of services were not available at the time this method statement was prepared, but the plans indicate that services, including drainage and soakaways for the approved extension will be connected to existing services and that additional excavations for this approved development will not be required. The following generic mitigation applies in case of any amendments:

Mitigation:

- Any amendments to proposed services, rainwater soakaways and foul drainage details must be submitted to and approved in writing by the AC prior to any works starting on site.
- The tree protection barrier must be installed prior to any construction activity and in the location as shown on drawing SN/MIT-22/25.05 and remain in situ until all construction activity is completed. All excavations within the RPA of any retained trees affected by below ground works must be undertaken by hand or an approved trenchless technique.
- If roots less than 25 millimetres in diameter are encountered during excavation, they must be cut cleanly with a sharp hand saw and covered with damp hessian to prevent them from drying out. Roots greater than 25 millimetres in diameter must remain in place and the AC contacted.
- In the absence of industry specific guidance on the installation of underground services, all excavations within the RPA of any retained trees affected by below ground works must be undertaken by an acceptable technique, as described in NJUG Guidelines². In order of preference the techniques are:
 - Wherever possible trenchless techniques should be used.
 - Broken trench - hand-dug.
 - Continuous trench - hand-dug
- Soakaways and septic tanks must be sited outside of any RPA.

² National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) Volume 4, Issue 2: 16/11/2007 - *Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees.*



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- 7.7 Landscaping. Detailed landscaping construction plans had not been received before the preparation of this AMS, however the following mitigation must apply within, and adjacent to, the RPA of retained trees.

Mitigation:

- The tree protection barriers must be installed prior to any site activity as shown on drawing SN/MIT-22/25.05 and remain in situ for the duration of the scheme; this will also include any landscape operations unless this is otherwise agreed with the AC.
- Any surface vegetation requiring removal within the RPAs must be agreed with the AC, furthermore it must only be removed by hand tools in accordance with BS 5837:2012, 7.4.2.1. Under no circumstances must mini excavators or similar machinery be used to remove the surface vegetation in RPAs, this includes landscaping operations.
- All excavations within retained tree RPAs must be undertaken by hand and lined with impermeable 1000 gauge polythene sheeting before filling with concrete to avoid root damage caused by leachate.
- If roots less than 25 millimetres in diameter are encountered during works they must be cut cleanly with a sharp hand saw and covered with damp hessian to prevent them from drying out. Roots greater than 25 millimetres in diameter must remain in place and the AC contacted.
- Construction of any patios, footways and sealed areas in the RPAs must be undertaken using a “no dig” cellular confinement system; made of high-density polyethylene conforming to *ISO 13426-1:2003 Geotextiles and geotextile-related products – strength of internal structural junctions – Part 1: Geocells*; designed to support the anticipated traffic, such as Geoweb®, Cellweb®, CORE TRP®, or similar product; over a permeable, non-woven geotextile membrane (300g/m² minimum), infilled with granular, no fines, PH neutral 20-40 millimetre washed, angular stone infill.
- The cells should be fully expanded, the stone should be spread and lightly pushed into the cellular matting to minimise future rutting but avoid soil compaction.
- The minimum depth of the cellular confinement system will need to consider the access requirements. The manufacturers recommend 75 millimetres Cellweb® TRP confinement system for foot and cycle traffic.

- 7.8 Details of spoil movements, storage of materials, skips, temporary on-site parking, site office and welfare facilities were not available at the time this method statement was prepared. The following mitigation must apply within, and adjacent to, the RPA of retained trees.

Mitigation:

- Spoil and building materials must not be stored in the RPA of the retained trees.
- Skips, parking and welfare facilities must be sited beyond the RPAs of retained trees.
- The TPB and temporary ground protection must be installed prior to any site activity as shown on mitigation plan ref SN/MIT-22/25.05.



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8. Arboricultural supervision

- 8.1 Site supervision is considered unnecessary and would be disproportionate to the risk associated with the work. A suitably qualified Arboriculturist must be engaged to provide technical advice should it be required.

9. Contingency plans

- 9.1 A general contingency plan for this project should be prepared by the main contractor for controlling such things as chemical/fuel spillage, run off from cement washings, sewage or water leaks, site collisions and emergency access into or adjacent to tree RPAs.

10. Queries

Any queries regarding this report should be addressed, in the first instance, to Urban Tree Experts:

Bramley House
Newnham Bridge
Tenbury Wells
Worcestershire
WR15 8NX

Telephone: 01189 762 902
Email: info@tree-surveys.com

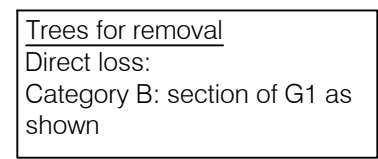
Steve Noble (Tech Cert Arbor A)
Arboricultural Consultant
Tree Surveys and Urban Tree Experts
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www.tree-surveys.com



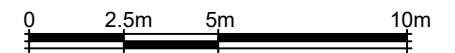
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APPENDIX 1



	Trees/Groups/Hedges retained - refer to report for information
	Tree number - refer to report for information
	Group number - refer to report for information
	Existing site features
	Root protection area (RPA)
	Proposed extension
	Tree protection barrier (TPB) - refer to report for information
	Trees for removal
	Temporary ground protection - refer to report for information



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APPENDIX 2



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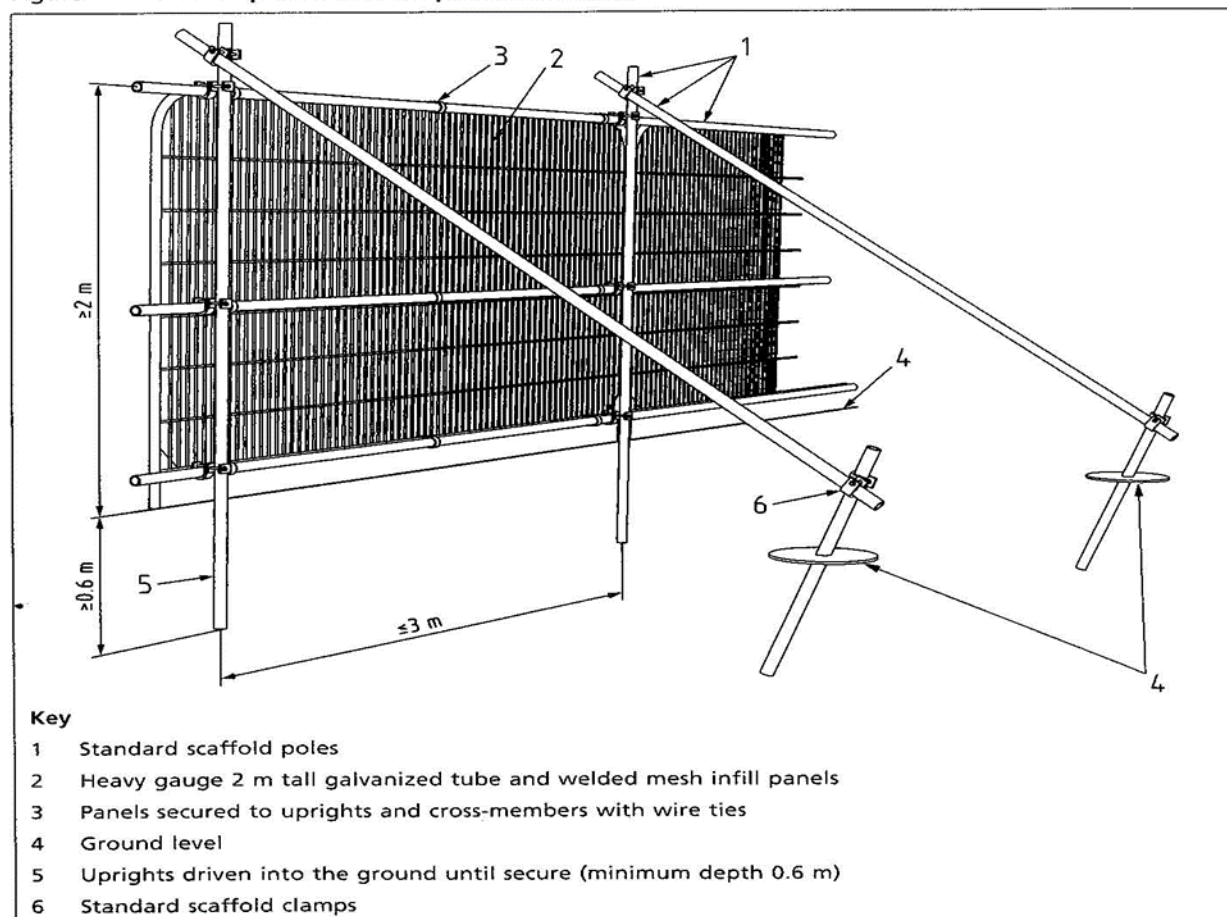
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BS 5837 FIGURE 2 TREE PROTECTION

Root Protection Areas (RPAs), enclosed by Default Temporary Protective Fencing, as detailed below and to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority (LPA), shall:

1. Be protected throughout the development process, as specified and detailed in BS 5837:2012 Section 6.2, Fig 2
2. Be erected prior to any construction, demolition or excavation works and remain in place for the duration of the project.
3. Preclude any delivery of site accommodation and or materials and or plant machinery.
4. Preclude all construction related activity, with the sole exception of specified arboricultural works and any other works carried out under supervision that has been agreed by all parties, and:
5. Preclude the storage of all development related materials and substances including fuel, oils, additives, cement and or any other deleterious substances.
6. Any incursions into RPAs must be by prior arrangement, following consultation with the LPA.

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier



Key

- 1 Standard scaffold poles
- 2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
- 3 Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties
- 4 Ground level
- 5 Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)
- 6 Standard scaffold clamps



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APPENDIX 3

TREE PROTECTION ZONE KEEP OUT!

NO DIGGING OR TRENCHING
NO STORAGE OF PLANT OR MATERIALS
NO VEHICLE ACCESS
NO FIRE LIGHTING
NO CHEMICAL HANDLING
AVOID PLANT CONTACT WITH TREE CANOPY
REPORT ANY DAMAGE
TO TREES OR FENCING IMMEDIATELY



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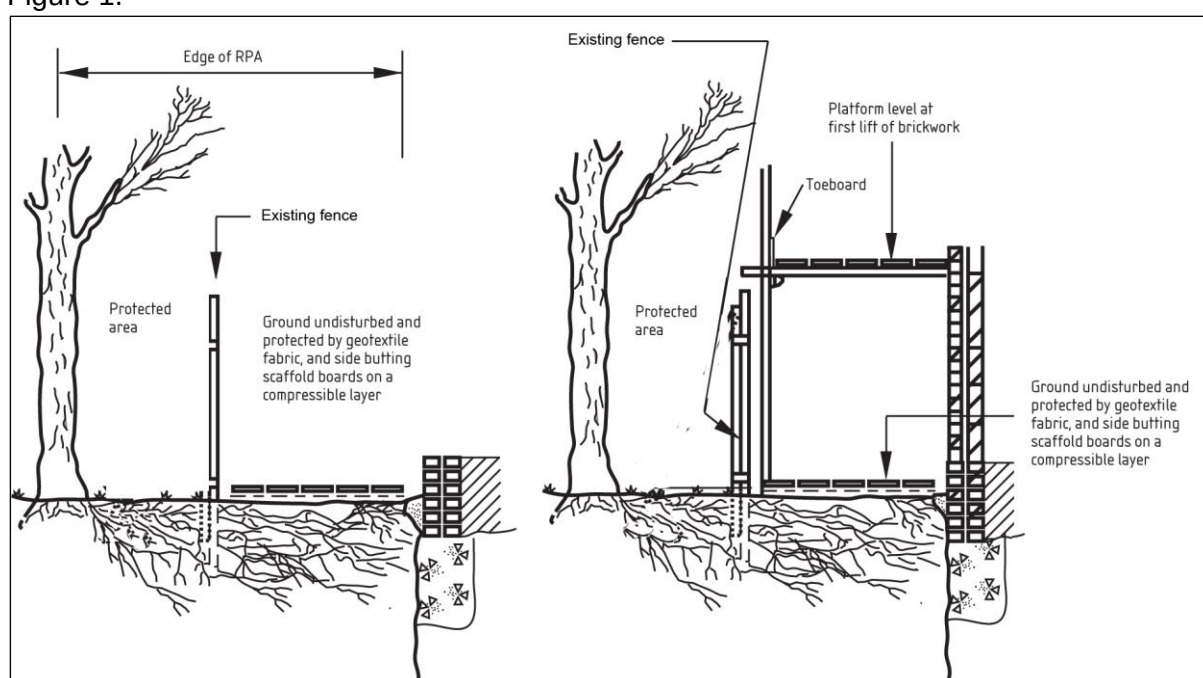
APPENDIX 4



TEMPORARY GROUND PROTECTION

Any temporary ground protection that may be required within an RPA shall conform to section 6.2.3. of BS 5837:2012, an example is shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1.



Option 1 – No vehicle access required.

1. Prior to installing ground protection the area beneath it must be lined with heavy duty polythene (1000/250 microns) to prevent contamination of the soil within the protected RPA.
2. Side butting scaffold boards shall be fitted to ensure adequate cover of the area to be protected.
3. Prior to any demolition or construction works, site preparation, excavation or delivery of plant and materials the Arboricultural Consultant shall inspect the temporary ground protection.
4. The temporary ground protection shall remain in place until completion of the project and only removed following receipt of written permission from the LPA.

Option 2 - Vehicle access required

In place of the above items 1, 2 and 3 the use of a temporary metal track, such as DuraDeck® ground protection mats, MegaDeck™ or Rig Mats, they should be laid on a 150mm deep layer of woodchip or sharp sand to minimise compaction and prevent damage to surface roots.



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APPENDIX 5

BS5837:2012 Tree Survey

Tree Surveys

Client: Mr K Roberts
 Project: 113 Oak Tree Road
 Survey Date: 25/05/2022
 Surveyor: Steve Noble



Bramley House
 Newnham Bridge
 Tenbury Wells
 Worcestershire
 WR15 8NX
 Phone: 0118 976 2902

Tree and Tag No Species	Hght (m)	Stems		Crown		Age	RP A (m²) R (m)	Phys Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Recommendations Survey Comment	Cat ERC
		No	Ø (mm)	Spread (m)	Clear (m)						
1											
Copper Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'</i>	27	1	840	N E S W	7 7 7 7	3 3 3 3	M A: 319.2 R: 10.07	Good	C: Good S: Fair B: Good	Twin stemmed at 3 metres AGL	A.2 >40 yrs
2											
A Group --	0	0					A: 0 R: 0	Fair	C: Fair S: Fair B: Fair	Mixed group	B 10 to 20 yrs
3											
A Hedgerow - <i>Spp.</i>	3	0					A: 0 R: 0	Good	C: Good S: Fair B: Fair	Well maintained boundary hedge	B
Age Classifications: N Newly planted EM Early Mature Y Young M Mature SM Semi-mature OM Over Mature Condition: C Crown S Stem B Basal area Stems: Ø Diameter (Eq) Equivalent stem diameter using BS5837:2012 definition ERC: Estimated Remaining Contributio											

Report selection criteria.

Projects.

113 Oak Tree Road

Date Range.

Any Date

Work types.

----> -No Selection made-

Latest Survey.

All surveys for the selected trees.
---> Last survey for each selected tree.

Work Completed.

---> Work Completed
---> Work Not Completed

Number of trees in selected Project(s)	3
Number of trees in Report selection	3

Age Classifications:	N	Newly planted	EM	Early Mature	Condition:	C	Crown	Stems:	Ø	Diameter
	Y	Young	M	Mature		S	Stem		(Eq)	Equivalent stem diameter using BS5837:2012 definition
	SM	Semi-mature	OM	Over Mature		B	Basal area		ERC:	Estimated Remaining Contributio