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**Arboricultural Method Statement &
Planting Plan:
4 Copse Avenue, Caversham, Reading, RG4 6LX**

23rd July 2020

Ref: GHA/MS/122560:20a

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Method Statement & Planting Plan

Location: 4 Copse Avenue, Caversham, Reading, RG4 6LX
Ref: GHA/MS/122560:20a
Client: Mr Patel
Date: 23rd July 2020
Prepared by: Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
Date of Inspection: 3rd June 2020

Please note that abbreviations introduced in (brackets) may be used throughout the report.

Instructions

Issued by – Mr Patel

TERMS OF REFERENCE – To survey the subject trees within 4 Copse Avenue, Caversham, Reading, in order to assess their general condition and to provide an arboricultural method statement and planting plan for the approved development, that safeguards the long term well being of the nearby retained trees and satisfies planning conditions numbered 4,5,6 and 7 (decision notice ref: 181306).

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Executive Summary

The proposal for the site is to construct two detached houses to the west of the existing house; a section to the west of the existing house will also be demolished. The existing access from Copse End will be retained and reused for the existing houses as well as the new houses. The proposed scheme requires the removal of a small number of relatively insignificant trees and shrubs, which will not significantly impact the local or wider landscape. The development presents an excellent opportunity to plant some new trees, to enhance the site and local area for the future. The retained trees require protection in accordance with industry best practice and BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations, in order to ensure their longevity.

Method Statement and Procedures for Development Works

TREE PRUNING / REMOVAL

A list of all tree works that are required (including trees to be removed) is included in the tree table at Appendix B; the trees for removal are also shown on the appended plan. Pruning / removal has only been specified for the following reasons:

- Where work is necessary to implement the approved scheme.
- Where works are required for safety reasons.
- Where work is required to improve tree form, or improve the appearance of overgrown areas of the site.

Where any tree work is needed, this work will be in accordance with British Standard 3998 – 2010 (Tree Work - Recommendations).

TREE PROTECTION BARRIERS

It is essential for the future health of the trees to be retained on site, that all development activity is undertaken outside the root protection zone of these trees. The position of the proposed protective fencing for the site is shown on the plan 'Appendix A' by a pink line. The position of the fence **MUST** be marked out with biodegradable marker paint on site and agreed with appropriate representatives from the LPA and contractor. The fencing **MUST** be erected **prior** to any works in the vicinity of the trees and removed only when all development activity is complete. The protective fencing **MUST** be as that shown in BS 5837 (see Appendix C). The herras panels **MUST** be joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers which **MUST** be installed so they can only be removed from the inside of the fence. The panels **MUST** supported by stabilizer struts, which **MUST** be installed on the inside and secured to the ground using pins or appropriate weights.

The Fence must be marked with a clear sign reading:

"Construction Exclusion Zone – No Access"

NEW DRIVEWAY NEAR T2

The existing driveway and dropped kerb will be retained and will form the new driveway. There will be **NO** excavations or level alterations within the RPA of T1 or T2. Some of the driveway to the east of T1 (outside the RPA) will be removed to make way for new planting; this **MUST** be undertaken as outlined below.

METHODOLOGY:

- The top surfaces of any existing hard surfacing must be removed by hand, using hand tools only.
- The removed material must be stored outside of the RPA of all of the retained trees whilst work commences.
- Their sub bases bases must be broken up using a small, lightweight "kango" drill into pieces that can be lifted by hand and removed.
- If during the work, any roots from the retained trees are discovered in excess of 25mm, the retained arboriculturalist must be contacted immediately.

SITE HUTS, WELFARE FACILITIES AND STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND CHEMICAL

All site huts will be positioned outside of the retained trees RPA's.

MIXING OF CONCRETE

All mixing of cement / concrete must be undertaken outside of the RPA of all of the retained trees.

USE CRANES, RIGS AND BOOMS

Precautionary measures must be observed to avoid contact of any retained trees when manoeuvring cranes rigs or booms into position.

INCOMING SERVICES AND SOAKAWAYS

The location of services can be seen on the architect's plans. New services **MUST** be routed to avoid all RPAs of retained trees on site and within nearby sites. From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, there is no reason to assume this isn't possible. Inspection chambers must also be sited outside the RPAs of any nearby trees.

ON SITE SUPERVISION

A detailed supervision programme will be devised by the developer and retained Arboriculturalist, ensuring that Arboricultural supervision is present at the appropriate periods during construction; all phases listed below will be overseen by the retained arborist and site manager with an invitation also extended to the local authority tree officer. It is deemed necessary for the retained arboriculturalist to visit the site at the following critical points.

- Prior to tree pruning / removal to ensure work is correctly identified. **Date and time yet to be agreed, however once confirmed, these dates will be sent to the Local Planning Authorities Arboricultural Officer in order that he / she can attend if required.**
- Following completion of tree pruning / removal to ensure work is completed to the correct specification. **Date and time yet to be agreed, however once confirmed, these dates will be sent to the Local Planning Authorities Arboricultural Officer in order that he / she can attend if required.**
- Prior to erection of protective fencing to ensure it is located in the correct locations. **Date and time yet to be agreed, however once confirmed, these dates will be sent to the Local Planning Authorities Arboricultural Officer in order that he / she can attend if required.**
- Following completion of the erection of protective fencing to ensure it is constructed to the correct specification at the required proximity to ensure the healthy retention of the trees. **Date and time yet to be agreed, however once confirmed, these dates will be sent to the Local Planning Authorities Arboricultural Officer in order that he / she can attend if required.**
- In addition to the above, random inspections of the site may also be undertaken during construction to ensure the Arboricultural responsibilities are being fulfilled by the developer. A full, written assessment of each visit will be sent the Local Planning Authority and copied to the developer at the expense of the applicant. Any issues relating to tree protection will subsequently be addressed immediately.

Once a commencement date has been confirmed for works on site, a representative from the applicant will contact the relevant officer from the local planning authority to arrange a pre-start site meeting. During this meeting, future requirements for site supervision will be agreed. The records of future site monitoring will be recorded on the site monitoring sheet at appendix D, and submitted to the local planning authority for their records.

OTHER TREE PROTECTION PRECAUTIONS

- No fires lit on site within 20 metres of any tree to be retained
- No fuels, oils or substances which will be damaging to the tree shall be spilled or poured on site.
- No storage of any materials within the root protection zone.

SOFT / HARD LANDSCAPING

The location of the new driveway, parking areas and patios is shown on the appended plan all of which are outside of retained trees RPAs. Porous materials **MUST** be used for all new hard landscape areas.

MATERIALS FOR PATIOS: Marshalls Indian Sandstone Riven Buff Multi Paving Slab 600 X 300 X 22 mm

MATERIALS FOR CAR PARKING AREAS: Marshalls Piora permeable paving.

BIRD BOXES

Two new bird boxes will be installed on boundary fences. These will be: Apex Classic Bird Box-Type 2 and New England Bird Box-Type 1 as shown in the photos below:



REMEDIATION / REPLACEMENT PLANTING

The new trees that have been specified are detailed below; the plan at appendix A shows the proposed locations.

Code on plan	Species	Size
NT1	Field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i> Street)	12/14cms girth
NT2	Field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>)	12/14cms girth
NT3	Tulip (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)	12/14cms girth
NT4	Tulip (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)	12/14cms girth
NT5	Silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	12/14cms girth
NT6	Field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>)	12/14cms girth
NT7	Field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i> Streetwise)	12/14cms girth
NT8	Silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	10/12cms girth
NT9	Silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	10/12cms girth
NT10	Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	10/12cms girth
NT11	Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus aria</i>)	10/12cms girth
NT12	Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	10/12cms girth
NT13	Tulip (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)	10/12cms girth
NT14	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	10/12cms girth
NT15	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	10/12cms girth
NT16	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	10/12cms girth
New Ilex hedging – 34m length	<i>Ilex crenata</i> 'dark green'	35cms tall, 10litre pot, 4 plants per metre.
New Hornbeam hedging – 24m length	Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>)	60 – 90cm whips – bare rooted, 5 trees per metre.

Tree Stock & Nursery Specification:

- The new trees must be as those classified in section 7.1 of BS 3936 – Nursery Stock Part 1: Specification for Trees and Shrubs.
- A suitably qualified and experienced Arboriculturalist should select all trees and shrubs from a reputable Nursery / Tree supplier.

Timing of Planting:

Tree planting should be undertaken in the appropriate planting season between 1st November and 31st March, a suitable time for the commencement of these works will be agreed between GHA Trees and the owner of the site, in agreement with the Local Planning Authority.

Planting & Young Tree Protection:

- A representative from GHA Trees should meet with the tree-planting contractors on site to explain the scope of the planting scheme and ensure all work is done in line with industry best practice.
- All trees are to be planted by suitably experienced persons using appropriate planting equipment and techniques.
- Trees should be planted no deeper than the nursery mark and 'soil firmed' to ensure satisfactory interaction between the roots and the soil.
- All tree roots are to be covered and protected until such time that they are to be planted.
- All new trees will be supported using two wooden stakes and hessian tree ties. The ties will be installed to act as a cross bar and will rot away after 2 growing seasons.
- The hornbeam hedge will be protected using spiral guards and support canes.

Aftercare & Watering:

- The new specimens that are to be planted will require watering during dry periods. This should be done either early in the morning or late evening to allow the trees to gain full benefit. Each new tree will receive 20 – 25 litres of water each week for the first three growing seasons from April to October (adjusted for weather as appropriate).
- The trees will be kept free from weed and grass competition, with elimination of all weeds within a 1m radius of the main stems for the first three growing seasons. A layer of mulch of 50 – 75mm depth will be installed and topped up annually for the first three growing seasons to maintain this depth.
- All support guys are to be monitored and adjusted to allow the tree to grow freely. Stakes will only be removed when the trees no longer require them and having become sufficiently established.

Pruning Requirements for new Trees / Hedges:

- The new trees will not require any regular management.
- The Ilex hedge will be kept at 1m in height through annual trimming.
- The hornbeam hedge will be kept at 1.5m in height through annual trimming.

SPECIFICATION FOR LAYING NEW GRASS BENEATH TREES

- Any Imported topsoil must be in accordance with the current British Standard 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil and Requirements for Use i.e. good quality, screened and free from contaminants e.g. oil, diesel fuel, toxic materials or heavy metals, perennial weeds etc .
- No machinery may be operated within the canopy of any retained tree during the installation of soft landscaping, i.e there must be no mechanical rotivation, rolling or use of other machinery. Any cultivation necessary shall be undertaken by the use of hand tools only. Compaction of the ground within the canopy of any retained tree must not occur. If compaction does occur the ground will be immediately de-compacted with an air spade to a minimum dept of 500mm
- Preparations for turf application will be carried out during appropriate weather conditions. They will include close cutting and spraying any weed growth with a systemic herbicide. All Chemicals used shall be non toxic to human beings, birds and animals, under normal use and chemicals no on the 'Agricultural Chemicals Approved Scheme' current list of approved products shall not be used.
- Time of sowing. Grass seeding/Turfing works may be carried out from May to September in appropriate weather conditions
- No turf will be laid on water logged soils, exceptionally dry weather or during air/ground frost
- Grassing works: Preparation and grassing works shall be carried out in general accordance with the requirements of Section 5 of the current British Standard 4428 Recommendations for General landscape Operations.
- Turfs shall be in supplied in accordance with the current British Standard 3969:1992 Recommendations for Turf for General landscape Purposes. Turfs shall be clean meadow or downland turfs, fibrous and well rooted, free from matted dead grass and perennial weeds and shall have been subject to proper maintenance and treatment with selective weed killers and insecticides during the previous growing season.
- Under no circumstances will the soil levels be lowered or deeply cultivated

DISMANTLING PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

Protective barriers must only be completely removed when all machinery, and equipment has left site. A minimum of seven days notice must be given to the local planning authority prior to dismantling works begin.

BOUNDARY TREATMENTS

Where existing fencing needs replacing this will be like-for-like using close board fencing 1.8 tall. Boundary fencing installation / upgrades **MUST** be undertaken as part of the soft landscaping phase and **MUST** be installed **ONLY** when all machinery that is on site for the main build has permanently left the site (NB. If needed, boundary fencing can also be installed prior to the commencement of site works, i.e.. before any machinery has been bought onto the site). Where sections of new / upgraded fencing are located within the RPA of ANY tree that is to be retained, this work **MUST** be undertaken by hand

using hand tools only. The locations of the new fence upright posts will be finalised following trial digs to confirm there are no major (over 25mm) roots present; if any such roots are found, the location must be altered. If any smaller roots are found, these can be cut using sharp hand sharp tools to leave a 'clean' cut, in order to minimise the risk of infection by decay pathogens. The post holes within the RPAs should then be lined with plastic sheeting before any concrete or cement is placed into the hole, in order that there is no risk of leaching into the nearby soil as the mixture dries.

Recommendations

- The site works should progress as follows to ensure the healthy retention of the trees.
 - a. Tree works, in accordance with BS3998
 - b. Installation of all tree protection measures.
 - c. Construction.
 - d. Soft landscaping.
- Site supervision – An individual e.g. the Site Agent, must be nominated to be responsible for all arboricultural matters on site. This person must:
 - e. Be present on the site the majority of the time.
 - f. Be aware of the arboricultural responsibilities.
 - g. Have the authority to stop any work that is, or has the potential to cause harm to any tree.
 - h. Be responsible for ensuring that all site personnel are aware of their responsibilities towards trees on site and the consequences of the failure to observe those responsibilities.
 - i. Make immediate contact with the local authority and / or retained arboriculturalist in the event of any related tree problems occurring whether actual or potential.
- It is recommended, that to ensure a commitment from all parties to the healthy retention of the trees, that details are passed by the architect or agent to any contractors working on site, so that the practical aspects of the above precautions are included in their method statements, and financial provision made for these.

23rd July 2020

Signed:



Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
For and on behalf of GHA Trees

Appendix A

Appendix B

Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
T1	Sycamore	20	600	1	7.20	7	2	7	7	M	6 east	20-40	B1	Off site - full inspection not possible.
T2	Lawson cypress	17	400	1	4.80	2	2	2	2	M	3	10-20	C1	Off site - full inspection not possible.
T3	Holly	8	250	1	3.00	2	2	2	2	M	3	10-20	C1	Off site - full inspection not possible.
T4	Plum	4	250	1	3.00	1	1	1	1	M	3	Less than 10	U	Declining crown.
T5	Sycamore	12	250	1	3.00	1	2	2	2	M	2	Less than 10	U	Declining crown.
T6	Elder	4	100	1	1.20	2	2	1	2	M	2	10-20	C1	Small tree of little value.
T7	Sycamore	12	250	1	3.00	3	3	5	6	M	4	10-20	C1	Off site - full inspection not possible.
T8	Malus	5	160	1	1.92	2	2	2	2	M	2	10-20	C1	Small tree of little value. Recommend: to be removed.
G9	Sycamore	18	500	1	6.00	6	8	8	8	M	6 north	20-40	B2	Off site - full inspection not possible.
T10	Malus	4	226	2	2.72	3	3	3	3	M	2	10-20	C1	Small tree of little value.
T11	Malus	2	100	1	1.20	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	M	1	10-20	C1	Small tree of little value. Recommend: to be removed.
T12	Cherry	13	350	1	4.20	5	2	5	5	M	6 south	10-20	C1	Off site - full inspection not possible.

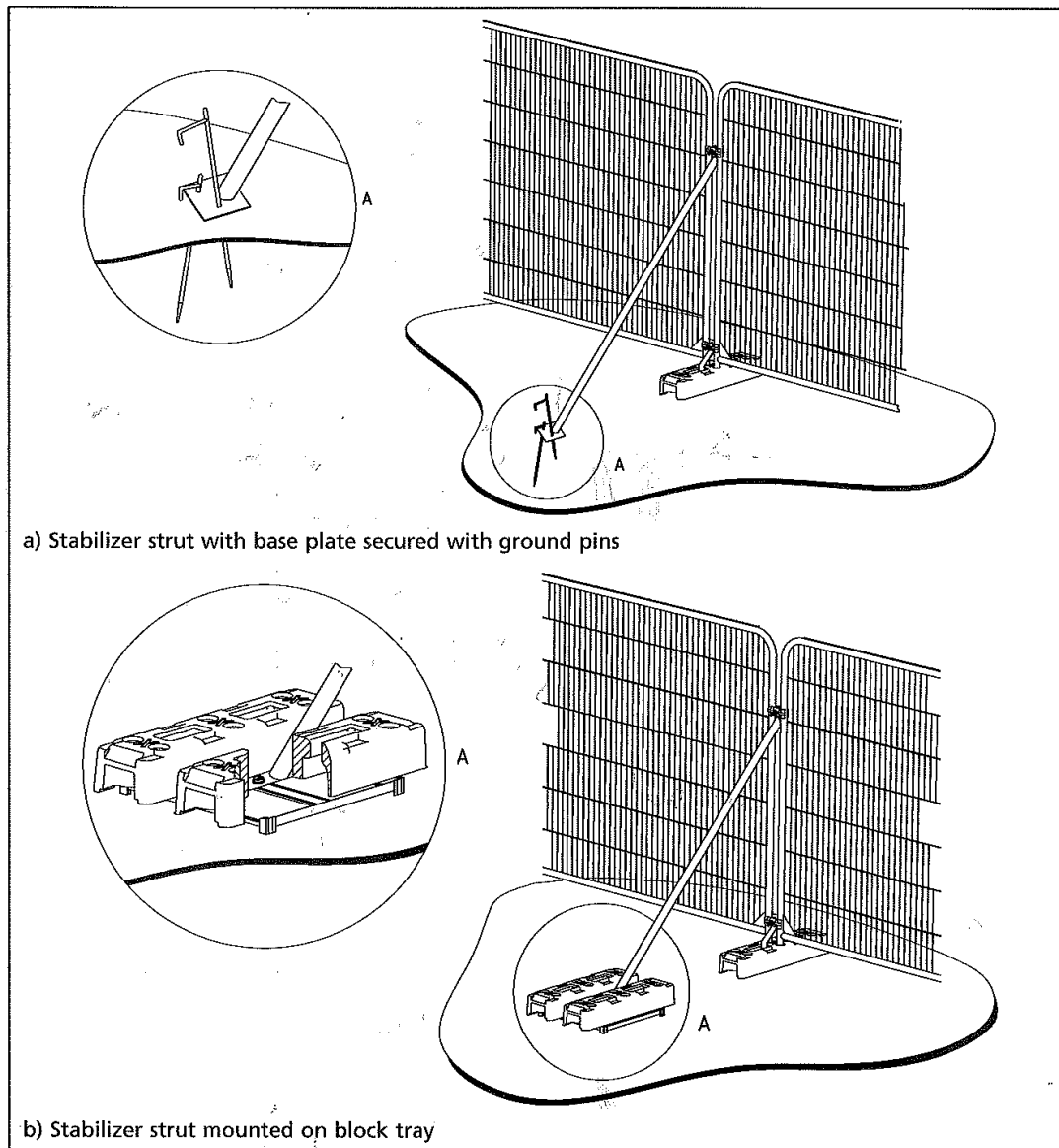
Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
G13	Leyland cypress	17	350	1	4.20	5	5	5	5	M	2 over site	10-20	C2	Lapsed hedge. Recommend: to be removed (with consent from owner).
G14	Lawson cypress	12 to 18	200	1	2.40	3	3	3	3	M	2 over site	10-20	C2	Lapsed hedge. Recommend: to be removed (with consent from owner).

KEY :

Tree No: (T= individual tree, G= group of trees, W= woodland)
Age class: Young (Y), Middle aged (MA), Mature (M), Over mature (OM),
Veteran (V)
Height (Ht): Measured in metres +/- 1m

Appendix C

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



Appendix D

Site Monitoring Sheet

Site:			
Project:			
Client:		Contact:	
Site monitoring inspection date:			Name of inspector:
Notes:			
Action required to rectify any issues:			
Date Action taken:			
Site monitoring inspection date:			Name of inspector:
Notes:			
Action required to rectify any issues:			
Date Action taken:			
Site monitoring inspection date:			Name of inspector:
Notes:			
Action required to rectify any issues:			
Date Action taken:			