

**GREEN EARTH
ARBORICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSULTANTS**



**105 ADDINGTON ROAD, READING,
BERKSHIRE, RG1 5NN.**

Arboricultural Method Statement

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ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

This Arboricultural Method Statement follows on from a tree survey undertaken by Green Earth dated 24/01/19 which should be referred to for tree details. See also plan on page 8.

1. This method statement should be made available to all operatives on the site during the construction works. A Tree Protection Plan (TPP), numbered TPP1-1, on page 8 has been produced which should be read in conjunction with this Arboricultural Method Statement.

2. Pre- start meeting

A pre-start meeting will be arranged between: Local Planning Officer, client, contractor and project Arboriculturalist (either local authority tree officer or appointed consultant). This will consider tree protection measures and work schedule.

3. Regular Visits

During construction a number of site visits will be arranged by the project arboriculturalist, this may vary depending upon the works underway, but should only require a maximum of 3 visits. See attached schedule, appendix 1, page 9.

4. Tree Removal

There are no trees scheduled for removal so care must be taken to ensure no damage is caused to the trees surrounding the development area.

5. Tree Retention

All trees are to be retained.

6. Fencing

The British Standard 5837:2012 recommends a fence be constructed on the Root Protection Area (RPA) line to protect trees. This fence should be erected around the trees to be retained before any works commence on site, the construction details of such a fence following the recommendations of the BS, i.e. a strong scaffolding framework with either plywood boarding or a strong mesh attached firmly to the fence, see fig1.

The trees are growing on the road boundary and therefore there is a high probability that many roots from these trees will be found within the garden of the existing bungalow. Fencing will not be possible of all RPA lines as the areas are compromised by various structures, footpaths and highway land. If the main access to the site is from the front, the hard surface will protect any roots below. A compromise fence will be required and this will not be possible until the hoardings are removed as they dominate the area. On completion of hoarding removal the fence will be erected as indicated on plan TPP19-1. A section of the fence may need to be set back or moved as required to enable some works to take place such as wall building. All soft area over RPA areas will be protected from compaction with boarding lying on 100 mm bark or wood chips. This will be laid before any other work commences.

The fence will be marked with signs as indicated in fig 2 below. The temporary fence will remain in place until completion of the main construction phase and only removed when agreed by the planning officer or arboriculturalist.

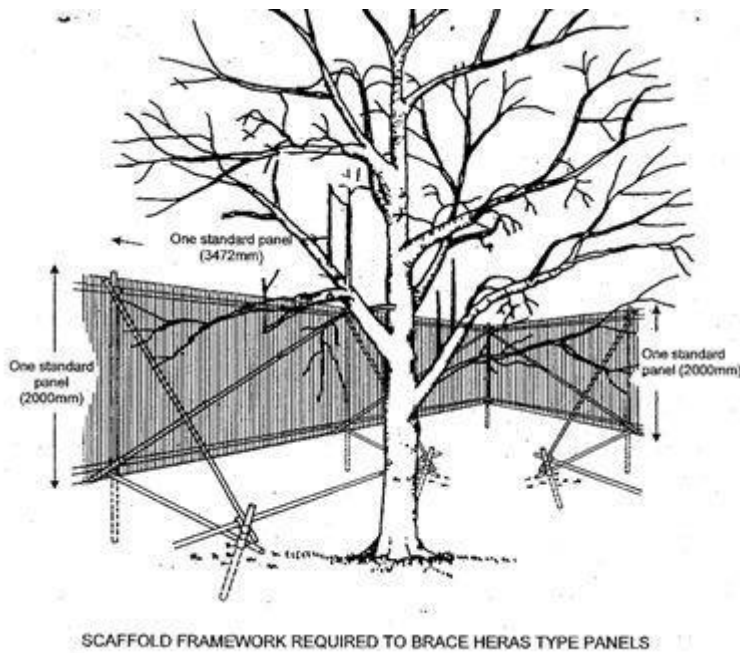


Fig 1



Fig 2

The road side trees will be protected by wrapping with chestnut spile fencing or similar to protect the bark and trunk. Such cladding will be subject to approval from Reading Borough Council. Any new fence must be erected taking care to ensure fencing posts do not damage any roots. The post must be inserted carefully by hand and if large roots are encountered the location of the post should be moved rather than damaging the roots.

7. Demolition

The bungalow and a number of walls are to be removed. This must all be arranged with care ensuring trees are not damaged. All works will be arranged by hand avoiding heavy machinery. Material arising will be removed from site immediately and not stored within RPAs.

Ground disturbance must be kept to a minimum. Works to remove footings and foundations will be arranged by hand not disturbing roots. If roots are uncovered close to any structures they must be covered and a qualified Arboriculturalist consulted as to how to proceed.

8. Access

There is a hard surface currently in front of the bungalow. This area partially intrudes into the RPA of T3 but the hard surface is long established and will protect any roots below. The hard surfacing will be kept in situ and used throughout the demolition and building process to provide a firm surface to support all activities. Access will need to be carefully monitored to ensure there is no damage to the trees and that weights passing over the RPA area may be sustained by the existing surface without additional support. Some access will be required over the grass area in front of the hoardings to allow the removal of the hoardings. When access is required it must be protected from compaction by using boards laid onto a layer of 100 mm bark or wood chips.

Soil must not be compacted as oxygen must be able to diffuse into the soil beneath any engineered surfaces. No heavy vehicles or plant will be placed within the RPA. Tracking of construction vehicles must be carefully controlled to prevent further compaction of the ground over the roots.

9. Removal of materials

Removal of any materials such as vegetation or loose materials within the RPA or within 2 metres of it will be carefully removed by hand and taken away from any RPA.

10. Foundations

The north east corner of the proposed house on the north east corner is immediately adjacent to the RPA of tree T1 and there may be more roots in this area on the west side, as on the east side is less favourable, being covered with tarmac roadway and pavement. The corner of the houses will be built avoiding traditional strip foundation, rather the wall will be supported on piles with bridging across to support the walls. The floor should also be supported on piles with a void below. The piles are to be inserted by hand and sleeved to prevent any contamination of the soil close to the roots. Before any concrete is laid, a non-permeable membrane will be laid to prevent any leaching of containments into the rooting area.

11. Levels

To accommodate the new structure and access, ground works will be required. No major ground level changes by digging or soil level raising will be allowed within 1 metre of any RPA.

12. Trenches & Excavations

- 12.1 Trenches within the RPA must be avoided. If the need for any trench within the RPA areas is identified, approval from a qualified Arboricultural Consultant must be sought. They must be dug by hand with no machines allowed in the area.
Any trenches must be kept as narrow as possible to facilitate the laying of the service.

- 12.2 Any roots severed by accident must be cleanly repaired under the supervision of a qualified arboriculturalist.

- 12.3 Any excavation close to an RPA will be closed as soon as possible to prevent desiccation or cold damage to the roots.
- 12.4 If a trench or excavation needs to remain open for a protracted period, the trench sides and bottom will be covered using hessian to prevent desiccation.
- 12.5 Reference to the National Joint Utilities Group publication National Joint Utilities Group publication *Guidelines for Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees*, Vol 4 will provide further guidance.
- 12.6 Any surplus material must be removed by the end of the working day and kept away from the RPA area.

13. Services

Any new services for the building must be brought into and through the site outside the RPAs. Services are connected to the existing bungalow and these should be used for new connections. If new service is required to serve the two separate dwellings any excavations will be arranged by hand with care avoiding severing roots. The trench must be as far away from trees as possible. See section 12.

14. Precaution

At any time if roots are encountered in working areas, work must stop in that area until the advice of a qualified arboriculturalist has been obtained and the way forward agreed.

15. Storage

No materials will be stored within the RPA area. Storage appears to be very limited on site and therefore materials must be carefully controlled and brought onto the site as required. Care must be exercised to ensure no toxic material is stored on the area which may leak into the ground such as fuels, oils, concrete and mortar mixes as these will be detrimental to tree roots. Storage of any such material must be arranged to ensure any spillage is contained.

16. Driveway and Path

There are two new paths serving the properties which will pass through RPA of T1 and T2, consequently these areas will need to be carefully constructed to avoid damage.

The new pathways will be constructed on completion when construction works are complete and the hard surface in front of the existing property is removed. Where it falls within the RPA of either tree it will need to be created from a material which is porous and non-compactable.

17. Pathways

17.1 Any new surface will require two main components to limit possible damage to trees:

- A synthetic load spreading material.
- A non-fines aggregate sub base.

The new pathways will need to be carefully constructed, preferably by hand, and a 'No Dig' solution employed to avoid any excavation.

17.2 Installation Method

- Carefully remove existing hard surface, (unless it can be retained and utilised as the new pathways) within the area. The careful removal of the existing hard surface should provide sufficient space for the new path and with care will not be detrimental to the tree.
- If the ground is very uneven no further excavation should be arranged to achieve levels, rather if necessary, bring low spots up using clean (washed) sharp sand.
- Lay a porous geotextile over the cleared area to receive the new reinforced surfacing. Then install 100mm 'Cellweb' tree root protection system or similar. This may be pegged at the edge; the centre will not need fixing as the edging pegs will tension it, ensuring this material will remain in situ and under sufficient tension. Care will be required when installing the pegs so that they do not damage any roots.
- Once the 'Cellweb' is installed, back fill with maximum 40 mm and minimum 20 mm sized clean angular stone, which is fines free, which is containing no particles smaller than 20 mm, as these would block the passage of air and water. Care should be taken not to over compact this with heavy rollers or 'whacker' plates.
- This may now be top dressed with stone or gravel of choice provided it remains porous - a porous tarmac or porous paver blocks could also be used. Loose material will be laid on geotextile to prevent integration with lower layers.
- The resulting area will then need to be married in with the existing ground level. This should only require very minor adjustments along the edge of the driveway and again using clean (washed) sharp sand or soil.
- As a temporary measure during the works the 'Cellweb' may be covered with boarding awaiting the final surface on completion of the works.
- All access to the site must be carefully controlled, keeping all plant and equipment well away from the trees.
No heavy vehicles or heavy plant will be placed within the RPA.

18. Alternative Access

It may be possible to bring materials into and out of the site from Esleigh road to the north east however care will be needed to avoid the RPA of T1. Supervision must be arranged to ensure any weights are not sufficient to create damage and compaction.

19. Drainage

Any new soak ways required for taking water from the new building must be constructed well away from the RPAs of the retained trees.

20. Report Damage to Trees and Tree Protection Barriers

20.1 Should any damage be caused to the trees, either by the above works or as the result of any other action, the damage should be reported to the site supervisor immediately. The site supervisor shall report to an appropriately qualified arboriculturist, to enable remedial measures to be implemented as agreed with the Planning Authorities' Tree Officer as the trees are under the care of Reading Borough Council.

20.2 Should damage occur to a protective barrier to impair its function in protecting any tree, all work will cease near the damage, until the barrier has been returned to standard.

21 Removal of Protective Barriers

21.1 When the development phase is complete, all drainage and service runs are in place, all site machinery has been removed and any landscaping for the principal area of the site has been implemented, the protective barriers will be dismantled.

21.2 This barrier dismantling must be undertaken with care,

22. Completion Meeting

It is recommended that upon completion of all the works specified above, and in line with the appended schedule, a meeting will be arranged with a qualified arboriculturalist to agree removal of protective fencing.

23. Landscaping

- 23.1 All landscaping works, including making good, within tree protection area will be arranged by hand.
- 23.2 Any soil brought into the site to make up the front garden will be of good quality, free from rubble, stones and weeds. Clay content to be relatively low. Soil will comply with BS3882:2015 - Specification for Topsoil
- 23.3 Ground preparation must be arranged sensitively to ensure root damage is avoided.
- 23.4 Removal of any existing vegetation will be arranged by hand.
- 23.5 No heavy equipment will be used within the RPA.
- 23.6 All soil regrading and disturbance within the RPA will be avoided.
- 23.7 Any plants will be planted individually to minimise root disturbance i.e. no trench planting.
- 23.8 No works will be carried out within the RPA if the soil moisture is of a level likely to allow compaction to occur.

24. General

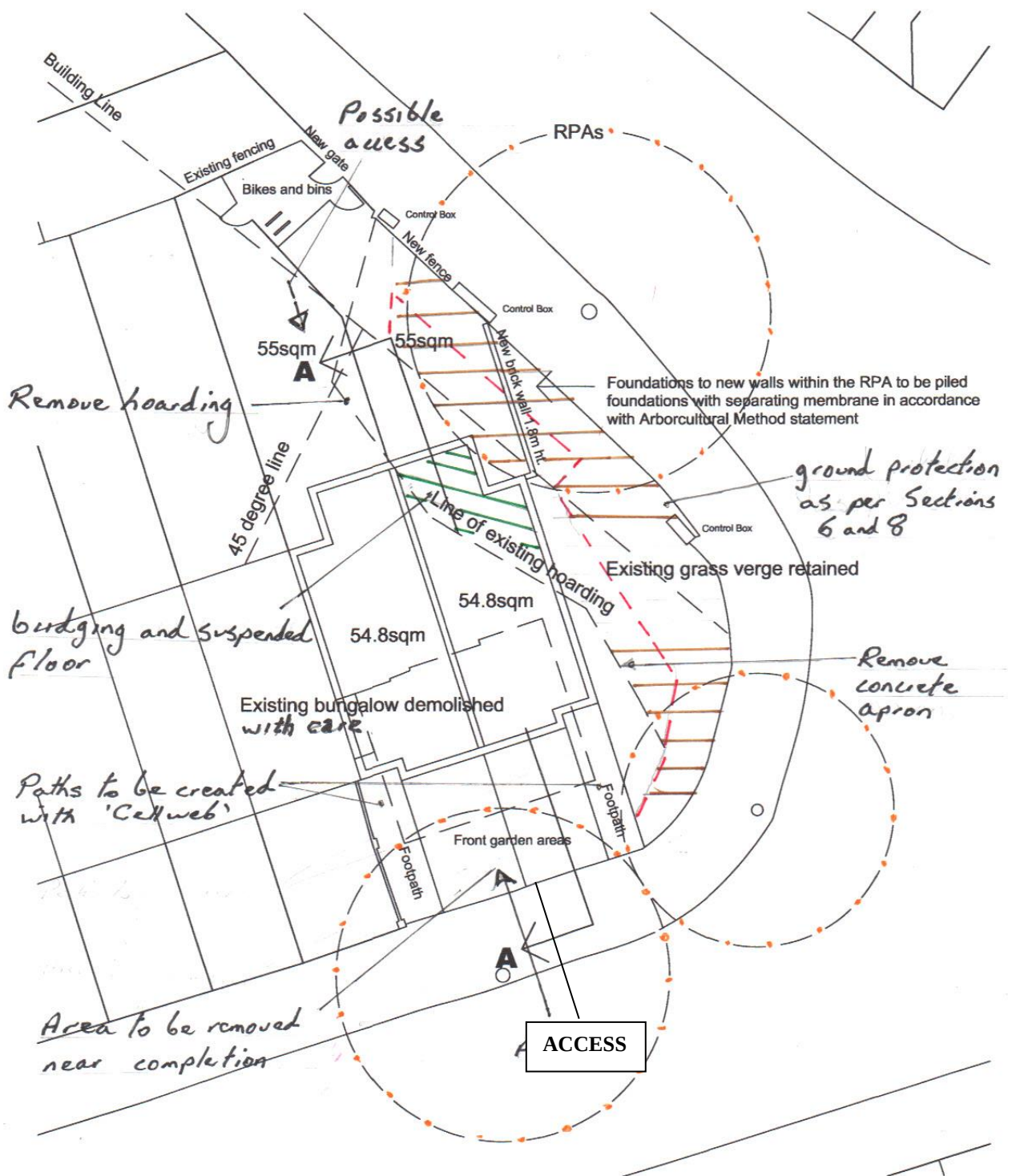
24.1 Any roots exposed during works must be kept covered as much as possible and excavations containing roots must be refilled as soon as possible to prevent desiccation of the roots. Alternatively if excavations must be left open for any time the roots must be covered with hessian sheeting to prevent desiccation but plastic sheeting must not be used.

24.2 Care will be needed to ensure the tree canopies are not damaged by cranes or high plant and machinery. High machines must be avoided on site but if essential the use of cranes, jibs or machine arms must be carefully supervised at all times to avoid contact with and damage to any branches. In the unlikely event that any tree is accidentally damaged requiring branch removal or repair this must be reported immediately to Reading Borough Council and repairs arranged by a competent arboricultural contractor working to BS3998:2010, 'Recommendations for Tree Work'.

24/01/19

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Proposed 1:200 Site Plan

**105 ADDINGTON ROAD.
TREE PROTECTION PLAN.
TPP19-1**

Appendix 1.

PROPOSED SITE VISITS TO 105 ADDINGTON ROAD, PROVISIONAL STAGES REQUIRING INSPECTION OR APPROVAL, additional visits may be inserted or removed.

Form to be completed on site and copies sent to Reading Borough Council planning and site agent.

Stage	Work	Supervision by Arboriculturalist	Signed off	Copy to RBC	Copy to site agent	Comments
Stage 1	Prestart meeting to agree: 1. Fence line 2. Steps to protect trees 3. Access arrangements	Attend meeting Agree fencing Agree steps Agree access				
Stage 2	1. Check tree protection in place. 2. General inspection of site and supervise demolition work.	Survey the site to ensure protection of trees in place. Trees are not being damaged.				
Stage 3	1. Digging service trenches. 2. Installation of bridging suspended floor	Survey to ensure correct construction with no damage to any tree.				
Stage 4	1. Check tree protection in place. 2. General inspection of site. 3. Check new pathway construction	Survey the site to ensure protection of trees remains in place.				
Stage 5	1. Completion meeting. 2. Dismantle tree protection	Inspect and agree removal.				