



DUCKWORTHS  
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

## BS:5837 ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY, IMPACT ASSESSMENT &  
METHOD STATEMENT

9 ERLEIGH ROAD  
READING  
BERKSHIRE  
RG1 5LR

CLIENT: MR. G. HUSSAIN

JUNE 2024

Ref: 06455 / 2024

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This report is written in support of a revised application for alterations to the front garden of 9 Erleigh Road, Reading to form an off-street parking space, including the forming a new crossover and associated works.

Two previous planning applications (213624 & 240206) for 'alterations to the front garden to form off-street parking, including forming new crossover and associated works' were refused by Reading Borough Council on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024 respectively.

The Arboricultural reason given for the refusal of these applications is because the Council's Natural Environment Officer considered the development would have a detrimental impact on adjacent trees.

The Tree Officers advised that because T002 would overhang the proposed parking area, this will lead to future pressure to prune the tree to avoid conflict with the parked vehicles. The Council therefore concluded that the proposal will negatively impact on quality tree specimens.

This new application is for a greatly reduced scheme of works. The scheme is for one parking space which sits outside of the root protection area of T002 (Oak) where it is not under the canopy of any trees.

The Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan in this report details the steps which will be taken to ensure all trees can be successfully protected and retained during and on completion of the proposed building works.

## 1.2 SCOPE

The British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' is designed to assist those concerned with trees and planning to form balanced judgments. This report does not therefore seek to put arguments for or against development but provides a means of protecting the trees which may be affected during development.

## 1.3 DOCUMENTS

A topographical survey was not commissioned for this site. Trees in the plan have therefore been plotted by eye, their positions measured against boundaries and triangulated against fixed objects on site. The position of the trees should not therefore, be taken as exact but the plan is a fair representation of their locations in relation to the proposed build area.

The Tree Protection Plan which accompanies this report is illustrative and should only be used for dealing with tree issues. The precise location of all tree protection measurements should be confirmed with a pre-commencement site meeting before any demolition or construction activity takes place.

## 1.4 CAVEATS

The report is valid for a period of two years from the date of issue being 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and will expire on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

The report is for the sole use of the client and its reproduction or use by anyone else is forbidden unless written consent is given by the author.

The report is not a Tree Risk Management Report or a Hazard Analysis Report and its use as such is invalid.

The report refers to the condition of tree(s) and an assessment of the site on the day the evaluation was undertaken. The trees were assessed from ground level only and not climbed. My assessment of third-party trees was limited where direct access was not available to the adjoining properties.

DISCLAIMER: This is an independently produced Arboricultural Report. I have no connection with any of the parties involved in this site or application that could influence or bias the opinions expressed in this report.

## 2. ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) is to evaluate the direct and indirect effects of the proposed building works and where necessary recommend solutions or mitigation as appropriate. The assessment will take account of the effects of any tree works which may be required to implement the design and identify any potentially damaging activities proposed in the vicinity of the retained trees.

### 2.2 PLANNING CONSTRAINTS

#### TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

I have confirmed on the Reading Borough Council Tree Preservation Order directory that on 6/02/2024 trees at 9 and 7 Erleigh Road were not subject of any Tree Preservation Orders.

The protected status of trees can change therefore you are advised to carry out current checks before carrying out works to trees on site.

#### CONSERVATION AREA

9 Erleigh Road is within the Alexandra Road Conservation Area.

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 all trees in a Conservation Area with a trunk diameter of 75mm or more (measured at 1.5m above natural ground level) are protected (subject to some exemptions). It is an offence to prune, fell or otherwise damage a tree without first giving notice to the Council.

You are required to give the Borough Council six – weeks' notice of works to trees within a Conservation Area (a Section 211 Notification). The Local Authority cannot refuse the works, but it will use the six-week notification to consider whether the work is sufficiently harmful to amenity that it is expedient to serve a tree preservation order on the tree(s) in order to prevent or modify the works.

#### ANCIENT WOODLAND

The site is not located near Ancient Woodland or within an Ancient Woodland Buffer Zone.

## 2.3 SOIL

The soil on site was assessed by an appraisal on the British Geological Drift Survey Map only. According to the 1:50 000 scale map records, the bedrock geology for 9 Erleigh Road is Lambeth Group (formerly Woolwich and Reading Beds) which consists of clay, silt and sand.

Lambeth Group can contain 'shrinkable' clay soil<sup>1</sup>. The soil at 9 Erleigh Road may therefore have some capacity to shrink and swell with changing moisture levels and can be vulnerable to damage as a result of compaction.

## 2.4 ROOT PROTECTION AREAS

The British Standard 5837 advises that a Root Protection Area (RPA) should initially be plotted as a circle centred on the base of the stem. However, where pre-existing site conditions or other factors exist which indicate that rooting has occurred asymmetrically, a polygon of equivalent area should be produced.

With regards to the calculation and presentation of the RPA, BS:5837 advises 'the RPA for each tree should initially be plotted as a circle centred on the base of the stem. Where pre-existing site conditions or other factors indicate that rooting may have occurred asymmetrically, a polygon of equivalent area should be produced. Modifications to the shape of the RPA should reflect a soundly based arboricultural assessment of likely root distributions.'

I have used my professional experience and knowledge to plot suitable polygons, in accordance with BS:5837 which represent a realistic representation of each tree's likely rooting area. This is based on the following assertions regarding the likely pattern of tree root growth in an urban landscape.

- Tree roots do not grow freely under the adopted highway where the compacted and anaerobic conditions are not conducive to healthy tree root growth. The RPAs of highway trees (T001 & T005) have been offset away from the highway as a fair reflection of their likely root distribution.
- Tree roots are likely to hit the kerb and travel beyond the RPA radius recommended in BS:5837. For this reason, the polygon is wider where it runs parallel with the road.
- The RPA also is extended north into the residential gardens of 7-13 Erleigh Road as the ground is less compacted and easier for root penetration.
- Mid-footpath there are a number of old service trenches visible in the tarmac so it is also likely that tree roots will be exploiting the less compacted areas around the services.

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<sup>1</sup> Figure 4.3 'Principal Geological Strata, indicating strata which often comprise 'highly shrinkable' and 'shrinkable' clays.' P.G. Biddle, Tree Root Damage to Buildings. Volume 1 – Causes, Diagnosis and Remedy. Pub.1998 Willowmead Publishing Limited.

- My assessment also identifies that the RPA of T005 is unlikely to extend to the full extent of the BS:5837 RPA as the long-term management of the tree as the tree is regularly pollarded back to trunk and has none of its original primary branch structure remaining. A tree which has 90-100% of its photosynthetic leaf area removed on a regular basis will not have the same rooting area as an uncut tree of a similar age. Such a tree simply cannot support such a large rooting area on such a small canopy.

If the Council considers that an alternative shape of RPA is required, I would be open to discussion on the subject provided reasonable evidence is available to support it.

## 2.5 TREES APPRAISAL

|                                        |   |
|----------------------------------------|---|
| Number of individual trees surveyed:   | 5 |
| Number of tree groups surveyed:        | 0 |
| Number of category 'A' trees / groups: | 0 |
| Number of category 'B' trees / groups: | 1 |
| Number of category 'C' trees / groups: | 4 |
| Number of category 'U' trees / groups: | 0 |

**Figure 1 - Tree quality summary**

The most visually significant trees in relation to 9 Erleigh Road are growing within the public highway and form a wider avenue of Limes. T001 is a younger tree which has been subject to regular stem damage from parking vehicles, exacerbated by the form of the stem which leans slightly towards the public highway. The tree has a poor structural form being undermined by a weak fork with a significant area of bark inclusion approximately 5m above ground level.

Other trees are growing within the front garden of neighbouring property 7 Erleigh Road. These include a mature Oak which is a category 'B' tree with a broad, asymmetrical canopy which extends over the front garden of 9 Erleigh Road.

All other trees within the garden of 7 Erleigh Road are category 'C' trees and hedges, unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher BS:5837 categories. However, collectively, it is recognised that collectively, all the trees enhance the amenity of the Alexandra Road Conservation Area.



Photo 1) – Poor fork 5m above ground level (T001 – Lime)



Photo 2) – Historic wounding at the base of T001 Lime



Photo 3) T005 Lime - The rooting area for this tree is unlikely to extend to the full extent of the BS:5837 RPA as the long-term management of the tree as a pollarded will reduce tree root growth.



Photo 4) – Oak (T002) growing within the garden of 7 Erleigh Road

## 2.6 TREE WORKS AND REMOVAL

No tree works are required to facilitate the build.

## 2.7 APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

British standard 5837 ('Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction') advises (par.7.4.2.3) that any new permanent hard surfacing should not exceed 20% of any existing unsurfaced ground within the RPA.

| Ref  | Species | BS:5837 Category | New incursion into RPA (m <sup>2</sup> )            | Total BS:5837 RPA | % incursion into tree RPA |
|------|---------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| T001 | Lime    | C1               | 0.75 m <sup>2</sup><br>(excavation into offset RPA) | 41m <sup>2</sup>  | 1.8%                      |
| T002 | Oak     | B2               | 0.3m <sup>2</sup><br>(new, porous parking)          | 72m <sup>2</sup>  | 0.4%                      |

Figure 2 - Impact data relating to tree root protection areas.

The proposed new access / parking space will require minimal encroachment of less than 2% of the rooting area of the adjacent trees (T001 & T002). This is well below the maximum guidelines of 20% and will be negligible in terms of tree health.

The proposed parking space is mostly outside of the RPA for T002 (Oak). However, the applicant intends that the parking area and associated areas of hard standing will still be of a 'no-dig' construction, installed on a no-dig and porous surface to enable tree roots to continue to thrive in this area on completion of the ground works.

The proposed location of the access point and drop kerb requires excavation in a small of less than 0.75m<sup>2</sup> on the periphery of T001's offset Root Protection Area. This area will be excavated by hand under arboricultural supervision and if any woody roots are present they will be cut back to the edge of the area using sharp, clean hand tools.

Following completion of the no-dig surface, topsoil can be used to grade the edge of the no-dig parking surfacing to meet the adjacent ground level. The area will be planted with English Holly – *Ilex aquifolium* which will form a native, evergreen hedge and prevent vehicles from leaving the parking area. Plants will be planted in 3 litre pots, 4 per metre to provide an instant barrier.

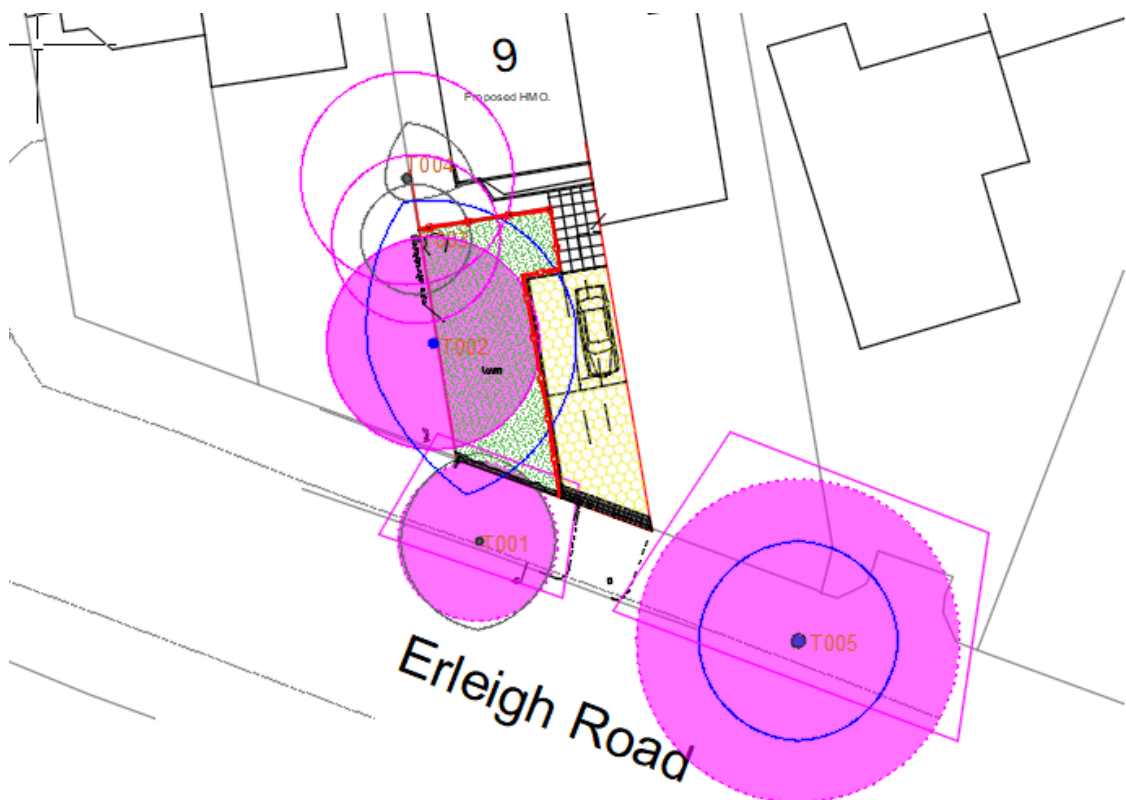


Figure 3 – Satisfactory relationship of proposed new parking space in relation to the RPA's of adjacent trees.

## 2.8 LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF NEW PARKING SPACE AS IT RELATES TO T002 (OAK)

The canopy of T002 (Oak) overhangs the front garden of 9 Erleigh Road and Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Officers have raised concerns in the previous planning applications that this may lead to future pressure to prune the tree to avoid conflict with parked vehicles.

**To address these concerns, this revised application moves parking to the eastern edge of the site where it is not under the canopy of the Oak (T002).**

In April 2023, Reading Borough Council raised no objections to works to raise the canopy of T002 (Oak) to create 3.5m canopy clearance above ground level and to cut back individual secondary and tertiary branches as required to provide 0.5m canopy clearance to phonelines which cross the garden of 9 Erleigh Road.

With future growth of the tree, these small branches will need to be reduced again back to the same point in order to prevent damage to phone lines. The presence of the phone lines means that the lower canopy will always need to be cut back to some degree, in order to prevent damage to phone lines and this in turn ensure adequate clearance to the proposed parking space.



Photo 5 – Canopy of T002 (Oak) prior to permitted works to cut back to clear phone lines in 2023

## **2.9 TREE PROTECTION DURING BUILDING WORKS**

All retained trees will be protected during the installation of the parking space and associated areas of hard standing with fit for purpose Tree Protection Barriers in accordance with BS:5837 (2012).

The fencing will remain vertical and complete during development. The area behind the tree protection fencing is designated the Construction Exclusion Zone and should be isolated from all activity during work on the site.

## **2.10 SERVICES**

No changes to services will be required.

## **2.11 CONCLUSIONS**

This report considers the arboricultural impact of the new revised application for alterations to the front garden to form off-street parking, including a new crossover and associated works at the front of 9 Erleigh Road.

The revised application is for a greatly reduced parking area which is not under the canopy of the adjacent Oak and almost entirely outside of the tree's Root Protection Area.

The new parking area has been designed to eliminate any conflict with the trees on site. The final aesthetic surface of the no-dig driveway will be porous to enable tree roots to continue to grow and thrive under the driveway on completion of the landscaping works.

Trees will be protected during installation in accordance with the guidance and recommendations in BS:5837 (2012) - Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction during installation and excluded from the build area with fit for purpose tree protection fencing.

On completion of the ground works the edge of the parking will be graded down with some topsoil and planted with low-level hedging to prevent vehicles moving off the parking space when maneuvering.

Provided the steps detailed in the Arboricultural Method Statement are followed in full, the works can be undertaken without harm to trees and the application is considered to be acceptable in arboricultural terms.

### 3. ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT (AMS)

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#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

This Arboricultural Method Statement specifies the detailed methodology that will be employed to prevent damage to the trees growing on and adjacent to 9 Erleigh Road during the installation of a drop kerb and off-road parking space. The correct and timely installation of tree protection measures such as tree protection fencing is critical to ensure the long-term retention of a healthy tree stock on or adjacent to the development.

This method statement will be read, approved and agreed to by all key personnel prior to the commencement of works within the site.

**WARNING: FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT ONCE APPROVED CAN CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO TREES AND MAY INVALIDATE YOUR PLANNING CONSENT.**

#### 3.2 SITE SUPERVISION AND MONITORING.

A site visit will be held once the Tree Protection Fencing is installed as shown on the Tree Protection Plan. The Local Authority Tree Officer will be given a minimum of five days' notice of the time and date of the meeting so that they may attend should they wish to do so.

The purpose of the pre-commencement meeting will be for the appointed Arboricultural Consultant to confirm the location and construction of the Tree Protection Measures and ensure a common understanding of the requirements for Tree Protection within the site.

If the Local Planning Authority is unable to attend, photographic evidence of the tree protection fencing will be emailed to the appointed planning officer once it has been erected.

The project arboriculturist will monitor site activity during the following phases of development:

1. During excavation of less than 0.75m<sup>2</sup> on the periphery of T001's offset Root Protection Area adjacent to the site entrance ahead of laying of the blue concrete sets.

The appointed Arboricultural Consultant will also notify the Local Authority Tree Officer 5 days prior to the tree protection measures being removed on completion of development.

A copy of the Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan will be available on site for reference.

### 3.3 ON SITE TREE SUPERVISOR

In addition to the appointed Arboriculturist, there will be a designated on-site 'tree supervisor', a member of the installation team who is responsible for ensuring no works are undertaken on site except in complete accordance with the approved Arboricultural Method Statement when the Arboricultural Consultant is not present.

The on-site tree supervisor will:

- Be present on site most of the time.
- Be aware of the arboricultural responsibilities relating to the protected / retained trees on site.
- Have the authority to stop any work that will, or have the potential to, cause harm to any tree.
- 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.
- Make immediate contact with the Council and/or the retained arboriculturalist in the event of any related tree problems occurring whether actual or potential.
- To ensure a commitment from all parties to the healthy retention of the trees. These details will be passed 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.

### 3.4 PROTECTED SPECIES

In accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act - 1981, Conservation - Natural Habitats -Regulations 1994 and Countryside Rights of Way Act - 2000, the site owner will consider the timing and type of tree work operations to avoid causing disturbance to any nesting or breeding birds or bat roosts that may be present within trees.

It is an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places.

Non-urgent major tree work involving tree removal or reduction and hedge cutting operations should not be undertaken during the bird nesting or breeding season, which is considered to be from 1 March to 31 July. However, depending on seasonal temperatures, some birds continue breeding into August and September.

All wild birds, their young, their eggs and active nests are protected under law. It is an offence to damage a nest intentionally while it is in use or being built and hedge cutting is highly likely to damage nests or cause them to be deserted.

### **3.5 TREE PROTECTION FENCING**

No works will be undertaken (including site clearance or deliveries to site) prior to the Tree Protection Fencing being installed as identified in the Tree Protection Plan.

Tree Protection Fencing will consist of a vertical and horizontal scaffold framework braced well with diagonal supports driven securely into the ground. The vertical tubes will be spaced at a maximum distance of 2.0m and onto this framework a plastic mesh barrier fence will be securely fixed. This is to achieve full protection, allowing the fencing to follow the tight corners around the parking areas.

The fencing will be located at all times to protect the retained trees and their rooting areas and will remain vertical, rigid and complete during development.

At no time will Tree Protection Fencing be removed or relocated contrary to the recommendations in this report, without professional arboricultural advice and without the prior consent of the Local Authority Tree Officer.

The appointed Site Manager will notify the Tree Officer once Tree Protection Measures are installed on site and 5 days prior to the Protection Fencing being removed on completion of development so that a representative from the Local Authority may visit the site if considered necessary.

### **3.6 CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE**

The area behind the tree protection fencing and temporary ground protection is designated the Construction Exclusion Zone and is to be isolated from all activity during work on the site.

THERE WILL BE NO STORAGE, PARKING, VEHICLE MOVEMENT OR PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY, TEMPORARY OR OTHERWISE, WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE AT ANY TIME DURING THE COURSE OF THE BUILD.

### **3.7 NO-DIG DRIVEWAY CONSTRUCTION**

Existing vegetation within the area of the new parking areas can be scraped off by hand or killed off using a systemic 'Glyphosate' based weed killer which when used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions will not have any long-term detriment on tree roots or reside in the soil post application. Weather conditions should be dry without wind to avoid drift.

Once the ground flora has died back, the site will be prepared by raking back all debris and plant matter a minimum of seven days' post herbicide application. Any ruts in the ground will be levelled with a coarse pH neutral sand or clean angular stone.

Excavation will be undertaken by hand at the parking entrance to install a subbase for the blue concrete sets which will be laid to create a short incline up to the no-dig parking area as shown on the Tree Protection Plan (TPP 06455/2024).

A Treetex geotextile separation fabric will be laid across the site, overlapping adjacent rolls by a minimum of 150mm. It may be necessary to lightly pin the Geotextile in place until the overlying layers are installed.

A Cell web system 75-200mm deep will then be opened out and pinned in place between the edging boards. Pin spacing will vary according to the site conditions but will generally be required at 1m – 2m centres on flat surfaces, mainly placed around the perimeter of the area and where adjacent sections of the cellular confinement system abut each other, with less in the middle of the area.

The open cells will be filled with clean, open graded aggregate with particles 25mm, (no fines Type 1 Roadstone of a non-marine source) working toward the tree from the furthest point away and using the filled cells as a platform.

Once the Geo-textile grid has been installed and filled with aggregate as per the manufacturer's recommendation it will be topped with a TrueGrid Porous Ground Paving or similar grass paving to driveway & parking bays. Where necessary, following completion of the development, topsoil can be used to grade the edge of the surfacing to meet the adjacent ground level.

Posts should be sunk to mark the edge of the driveway and prevent vehicles from leaving the driveway when maneuvering.

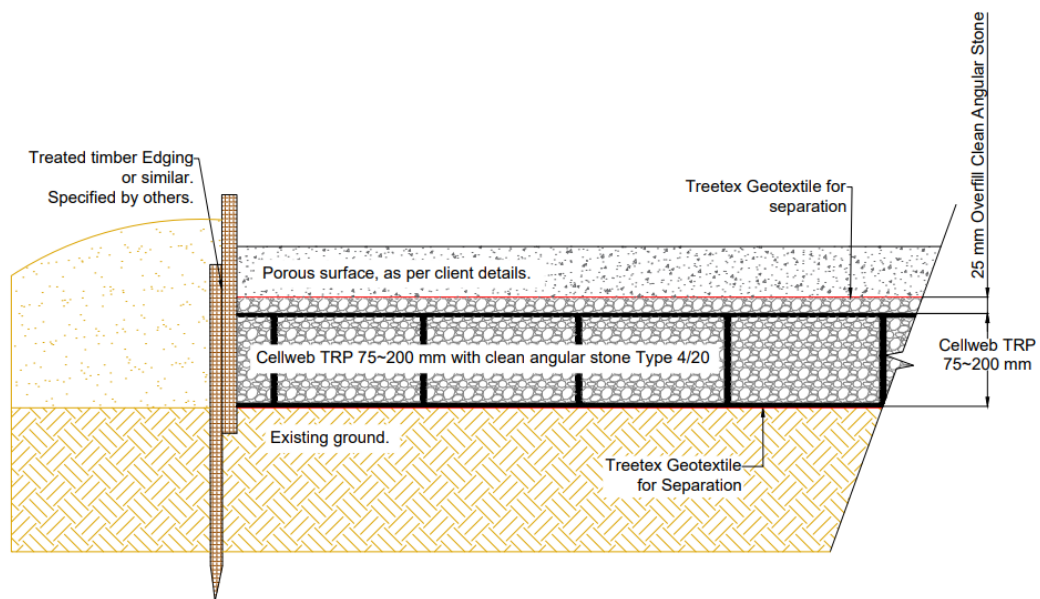


Figure 4 - Indicative no-dig driveway construction using Geosynthetics Cellweb

### **3.8 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Roots can be killed by pollution of the rooting area by chemicals and leaching. Loose, granular or liquid materials, including cement mix and fuel will be stored on an impermeable membrane within the identified storage areas and well away from the Trees Root Protection Areas.

Particular care will be taken in the planning of deliveries if they require wide or tall loads and plants with booms, rigs or counterweights which can cause serious and permanent damage to trees making their safe retention impossible.

There will be no open fires on site during the building works.

### **3.9 LANDSCAPING**

The following rules will be followed during all future landscaping works in order to prevent harm to the trees:

- Tree roots can be damaged by severance, compaction, pollution and desiccation. In view of this, there should be no excavation or changes in ground levels within the identified rooting areas of retained trees following completion of the development.
- Where new fencing is proposed, post holes within the rooting areas of trees will be dug using a post hole digger to keep hole size to a minimum. Where substantial roots over 30mm are encountered, the location of the hole will be moved in order to avoid them. Post holes will be fully lined in order to prevent concrete coming into direct contact with tree roots.

### **3.10 UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES**

In the event of unforeseen circumstances whereby it is not possible to work in accordance with the Arboricultural Method Statement then advice should be sought immediately from a qualified Arboriculturist.

THERE SHALL BE NO DEVIATION FROM THIS METHOD STATEMENT WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH A QUALIFIED ARBORICULTURIST AND / OR THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY.

## APPENDICES

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- A. Survey Data
- B. Key
- C. Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment
- D. Tree Data
- E. Plans
- F. Phasing of works
- G. Contacts
- H. Tree Protection Fencing Structure
- I. Qualifications

## APPENDIX A - SURVEY DATA

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- The trees were surveyed on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 from ground level only.
- Heights were estimated as part of a group. Soil samples were not taken.
- The tree survey identified 5 trees growing on or adjacent to the site which were relevant to this planning application.
- The trees on site were assessed for their quality and benefits within the context of the proposed development and categorised in accordance with the recommendations in the BS: 5837:2012 – 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction'.

## APPENDIX B - KEY

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Ref: T001 = Tree 1

G001 = Group 1

A001 = Area 1

W001 = Woodland 1

Species: Common name (Botanical name)

Height: Measured with a clinometer (m) where possible or estimated when part of a group

Stem: Stem diameter taken at 1.5m with girth tape or rule and recorded in millimeters

Branch spread: Paced measurements at compass points or with a laser measure.

Crown clearance: Existing height above ground level of canopy and / or first significant branch direction of growth in metres e.g., 2.4 (N) where relevant.

Epics: Lower canopy created by epicormic growth.

Age Class: Newly planted - 3 years following planting.

Young - Tree well established but with juvenile crown form

Young Mature - Tree in first third of usual life expectancy for species

Mature - Tree in second third of usual life expectancy for species

Over Mature - Tree in final third of usual life expectancy for species / exhibiting signs of crown retrenchment & senescence.

Veteran - Older than usual for species or with historical/ cultural / ecological value

General Observations: Made with reference to physiological condition (health, vigour) and structural condition, noting evidence of decay, structural weakness and physical defect and preliminary management recommendations.

Estimated Remaining Contribution: Estimated in years - less than 10, 10-20, 20-40, 40+

BS: 5837:2012 category rating: In accordance with the guidelines of the British Standard.

 Category 'A' tree (Green)  Category 'C' tree (Grey)

 Category 'B' tree (Blue)  Category 'U' tree – Fell (Red)

RPA Area BS:5837 (2012) Root Protection Area calculation in square metres

RPA Radius BS:5837 (2012) Root Protection Area calculation circle radius in metres.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The root protection area radius is for information only and may not be appropriate in every case. BS:5837 advises that *'the RPA for each tree should initially be plotted as a circle centered on the base of the stem. Where pre-existing site conditions or other factors indicate that rooting may have occurred asymmetrically, a polygon of equivalent area should be produced. Modifications to the shape of the RPA should reflect a soundly based arboricultural assessment of likely root distributions.'*

## APPENDIX C - BS:5837 (2012) TABLE 1: CASCADE CHART FOR TREE QUALITY ASSESSMENT

| Category & Definition                                                                                                                                                      | Criteria (including sub-categories where appropriate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Trees unsuitable for retention                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Category U</b><br>Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years. | Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g., where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning.<br>Trees that are dead or showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline.<br>Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and / or safety of other trees nearby or very low-quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality.<br>NOTE: Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                            | <u>Mainly Arboricultural Qualities</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <u>Mainly Landscape Qualities</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <u>Mainly cultural values including conservation</u>                                                                                  |
| • Trees considered suitable for retention                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Category A</b><br>Trees of High Quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years.                                                               | Trees that are particularly good examples of their species especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and / or principal trees within an avenue)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and / or landscape features.                                                                                                                                                   | Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood pasture) |
| <b>Category B</b><br>Trees of Moderate Quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years                                                            | Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remedial defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality to merit the category A designation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little contribution to the wider locality. | Trees with material conservation or other cultural value.                                                                             |
| <b>Category C</b><br>Trees of Low Quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.               | Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Trees present in groups or woodlands but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/ or trees offering low or only temporary / transient landscape benefits.                                                     | Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.                                                                          |

## APPENDIX D - TREE DATA

| Ref. | Species                            | Structure       | Measurements                                                                                                          | Spread                           | General Observations                                                                                                                                                           | Retention Category | RPA                              | Summary                                                                                                                         |
|------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| T001 | Lime<br>(Tilia sp.)                | Tree            | Height (m): 14<br>Stem Diam(mm): 300<br>Crown Clearance (m): 5<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature<br>Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years | N:4<br>E:3.5<br>S:4<br>W:3.5     | Major weak stem fork at 5m with significant areas of bark inclusion. Structurally poor. Fork will deteriorate with further growth of stem. Foliage dense, reasonable vitality. | C2                 | Radius: 3.6m.<br>Area: 41 sq m.  | Physiological Condition: Fair<br>Structural Condition: Physical Defect<br>Public Amenity Value: Good                            |
| T002 | Pedunculate Oak<br>(Quercus robur) | Tree            | Height (m): 15<br>Stem Diam(mm): 400<br>Crown Clearance (m): 4<br>Life Stage: Mature<br>Rem. Contrib.: 40+ Years      | N:3<br>E:6.5<br>S:6.5<br>W:7     | Boundary tree, offsite. Girdling roots. Asymmetrical canopy due to competition for light with adjacent trees. 5m from front boundary, 8 from house.                            | B2                 | Radius: 4.8m.<br>Area: 72 sq m.  | Physiological Condition: Good<br>Structural Condition: Fair<br>Public Amenity Value: Moderate<br>Inspection Limitations: Access |
| T003 | Common Holly<br>(Ilex aquifolium)  | Tree<br>2 stems | Height (m): 11<br>2 stems (mm): 300,100<br>Crown Clearance (m): 2<br>Life Stage: Mature<br>Rem. Contrib.: 40+ Years   | N:2.5<br>E:2.5<br>S:2.5<br>W:2.5 | Ivy clad multistem tree, 2.8m from house                                                                                                                                       | C2                 | Radius: 3.8m.<br>Area: 45 sq m.  | Physiological Condition: Fair<br>Structural Condition: Fair<br>Public Amenity Value: Low<br>Inspection Limitations: Ivy clad    |
| T004 | English Yew<br>(Taxus baccata)     | Tree            | Height (m): 9<br>Stem Diam(mm): 400<br>Crown Clearance (m): 2<br>Life Stage: Mature<br>Rem. Contrib.: 40+ Years       | N:2.5<br>E:3<br>S:1<br>W:1       | Ivy clad multistem tree, multistem in upper crown. Tight forks between branches.                                                                                               | C2                 | Radius: 4.8m.<br>Area: 72 sq m.  | Physiological Condition: Fair<br>Structural Condition: Fair<br>Public Amenity Value: Low<br>Inspection Limitations: Ivy clad    |
| T005 | Lime<br>(Tilia sp.)                | Tree            | Height (m): 12<br>Stem Diam(mm): 610<br>Crown Clearance (m): 5<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature<br>Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years | N:4.5<br>E:4.5<br>S:4.5<br>W:4.5 | Swept stem. Twin stem from 4m. Maintained as apollard.                                                                                                                         | B1                 | Radius: 7.3m.<br>Area: 167 sq m. | Physiological Condition: Fair<br>Structural Condition: Physical Defect<br>Public Amenity Value: Good                            |

## APPENDIX E - PLANS

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Attached as separate pdf documents

- Tree Protection Plan ref: [TREE PROTECTION PLAN 06455 / 2024](#)

## APPENDIX F – PHASING OF WORKS

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### STAGE 1 (PRE-COMMENCEMENT)

INSTALLATION TREE PROTECTION FENCING



SITE MEETING TO SIGN OFF TREE PROTECTION FENCING  
(NOTIFY LOCAL AUTHORITY -MIN 5 DAYS)



### STAGE 2 (DEMOLITION & CONSTRUCTION)

EXCAVATION OF DROP KERB  
& BLUE CONCRETE SETS UNDER ARBORICULTURAL SUPERVISION



INSTALLATION OF NO-DIG HARD STANDING



TREE PROTECTION MEASURES TO REMAIN RIGID AND INTACT  
THROUGHOUT GROUND WORKS.



### STAGE 3 (POST DEVELOPMENT)

REMOVE TREE PROTECTION MEASURES  
NOTIFY LOCAL AUTHORITY -MIN 5 DAYS)



HEDGE PLANTING / LANDSCAPING WORKS

## APPENDIX G – CONTACTS

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## APPENDIX H - TREE PROTECTION FENCING

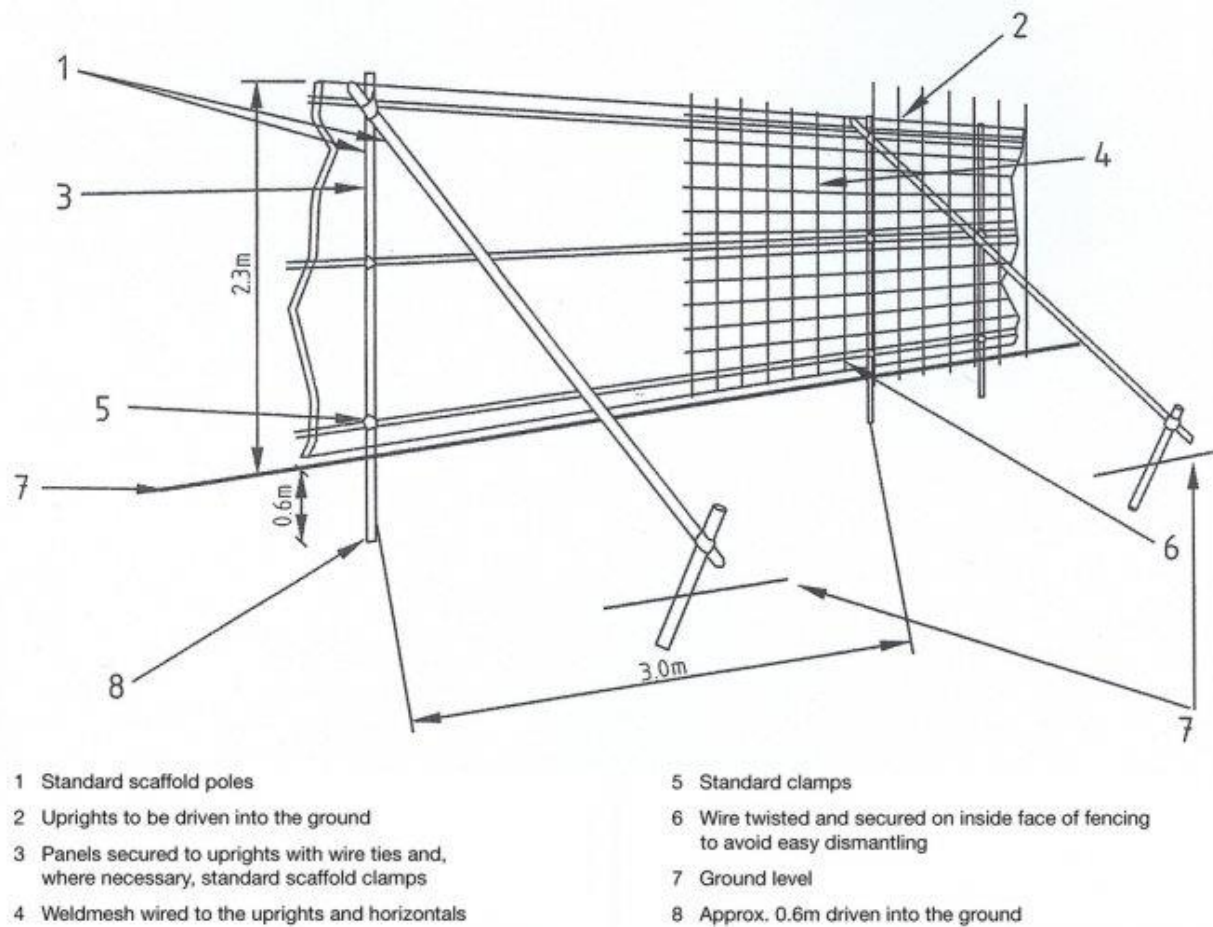


**Figure 2. – Protective fencing for RPA**

## APPENDIX I - QUALIFICATIONS

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This Arboricultural report has been prepared by Sarah Duckworth, Independent Arboricultural Consultant, trading as Duckworth's Arboriculture Limited.

I have over 19 years' experience working in the field of Arboriculture and for the past 16 years I have worked as a Local Authority Tree Officer both directly and independently providing contracted support. Since 2010 I have worked as a private consultant carrying out a range of Arboricultural Reports and Assessments for private clients.

I hold the Royal Forestry Society's Professional Diploma (Level 6) for which I received the Lockhart Garrett Award commendation.

I also hold the Arboricultural Association's Technicians Certificate (with Distinction) and am a LANTRA qualified Professional Tree Inspector.

I am a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association.