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Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan for Royal Berkshire Archives

Client	West Berkshire Council
Site Location	The Royal Berkshire Archives (Formerly The Berkshire Records Office), 9 Coley Avenue, Reading RG1 6AF
Reference	NGAMS270525 Revision C
Date	30 th May 2025

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1.0 Instruction

Nurture Green was instructed by Michael Thurlow (MTP Consultants) to provide an Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan to fulfill Condition 6 of Planning Approval:

PL/21/1485 – 'EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING BERKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS.'

Located at:

The Royal Berkshire Archives (Formerly The Berkshire Records Office), 9 Coley Avenue, Reading RG1 6AF.

2.0 Documents

2.1 The Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan should be read in conjunction with:

- The Royal Berkshire Archives (Formerly The Berkshire Records Office) Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment Ref: NGTS280225 and dated 21st March 2025
- Tree Constraints Plan Drawing No. NGTS280225

3.0 Tree Surgery

3.1 Access facilitation pruning for; T00496, T00510, T00511, T00513 and S1, to allow vehicular / plant access for site works, without causing significant adverse impact on the tree's physiology or amenity value:

- T00496 - reduce branch length by up to circa 2m on the southern quarter of the crown, to leave the crown height at 4m above ground level and in line with the kerb edge.
- T00510 – undertake a branch tip reduction by up to circa 0.5m on the southern quarter of the crown to leave the crown height at 4m above ground level and in line with the kerb edge.
- T00511 – reduce branch length by up to circa 1.25m on the western quarter of the crown, to leave the crown height at 4m above ground level.
- T00513 – reduce branch length by up to circa 2m on the northern quarter of the crown, to leave the crown height at 4m above ground level in line with the kerb edge.
- S1 – Reduce shrub extent to the north by circa 1.25m, back to the kerb edge.
- All pruning works to be undertaken in accordance with British Standard 3998: 2010 Tree work – Recommendations.
- All pruning works to be undertaken in accordance with relevant Wildlife and Habitat legislation.

3.2 Removal of; T00512, a single tree in G3 and the three eastern trees in G4.

- T00512; a Category U tree, which should not be considered as a constraint to the development.
- G3; removal of a single dead tree (southern tree).

- The three eastern trees in G4: The Nurture Green Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Ref: NGTS280225), notes in Section 7.3.7, that the trees in G4 are to be retained and access facilitation pruning undertaken to allow a 3m wide canopy free passage. This passage is now deemed insufficient for construction access / plant.
- All trees to be removed are to be replaced with the species and in the positions shown on the Diversity landscaping scheme; Drawing d467_001 Landscape Proposals, Drawing d467_001 Planting Plan and Schedule, and Document d467.2 Planting Specification.

3.3 Prior to site clearance:

- The erection of tree protective fencing and tree works identified above, the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) will be marked on the ground using spray paint or pegs to ensure the contractor can see the location of these.
- All vehicles and machinery e.g. trucks, chippers etc, will be located outside the marked areas, or on hard standing.
- Machinery will be fuelled outside the RPAs.

3.4 The land on which G2 stands is now owned by a third party and outside the area of planning approval PL/21/1485. The two trees shown to be removed in G2 are an advisory only.

4.0 Tree Protective Fencing

4.1 To protect trees, their root systems, and to ensure safe retention in the long term, prior to any works occurring, the following sequence of events must take place:

- Tree Protective Fencing in the positions shown on Plan Drawing NGTPP270525 Rev: B (Appendix I), is to be erected prior to any implementation of planning approval PL/21/1485, or demolition on site.
- Tree Protective Fencing is to be in accordance with Figure 1 below and is to comprise sections of Heras fencing (or similar), supported by a scaffold stabiliser strut and secured on a block tray.
- Tree Protective Fencing is to remain in situ until the development is complete unless otherwise agreed with the Council's Tree Officer.
- No vehicles will drive or be parked within the fenced area.
- No materials will be stored within the fenced area.
- Warning Notices will be affixed to every third panel or at 12m centres and will be made of all-weather signs stating 'TREE PROTECTION AREA --- KEEP OUT (Figure 2 below).
- A single section (3.5m in length) of Heras fencing is to be used as a gate for access to Yeomanry House by owners and associated personnel. The gate is to be kept shut and secured with a padlock and chain.
- A notice will be affixed to the gate and will be made of all-weather sign stating "NO ACCESS FOR ROYAL BERKSHIRE ARCHIVES CONTRACTORS, VEHICLES OR PLANT'.

Figure 1. Tree Protective Fencing

Stabiliser strut mounted on block tray

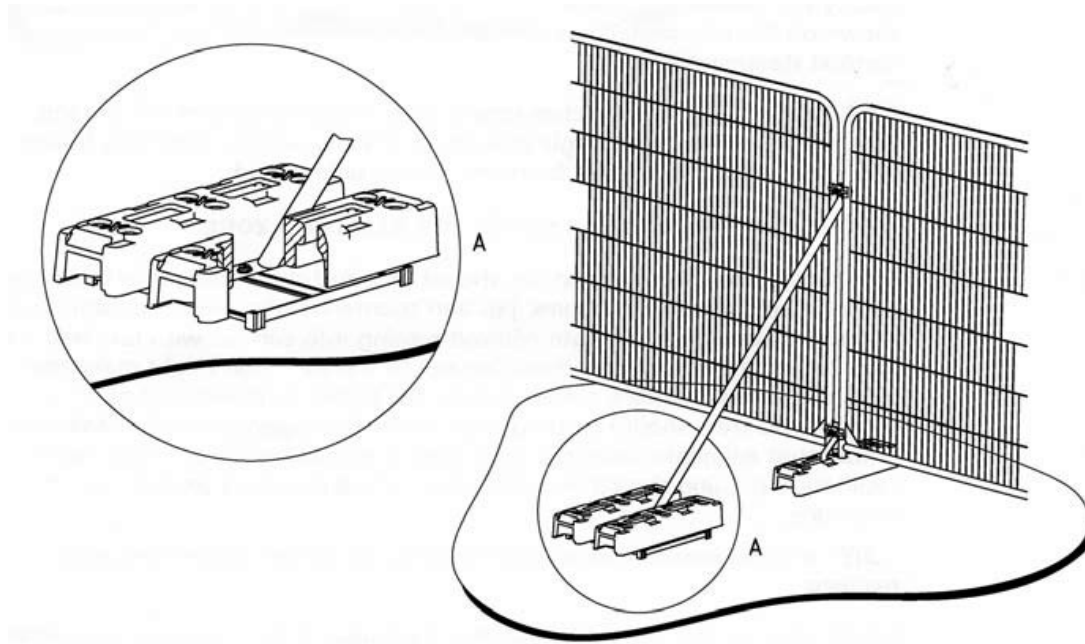


Figure 2. Warning Notice



5.0 Box Protection for Tree Stems

5.1 The following tree protection measure is to be installed around the remaining trees in G4.

- Box Protection will be erected in the positions shown on the Tree Protection Plan Drawing NGTPP270525 Rev: B (Appendix I), prior to the implementation of planning approval PL/21/1485, or demolition.
- Warning Notices will be affixed to the box protection and will be made of all-weather signs stating 'TREE PROTECTION AREA --- KEEP OUT (Figure 2 above).

Figure 3. Box Protection for Tree Stems



6.0 Construction Precautions

- The tree protection measures outlined are to be retained throughout demolition and development unless agreed with the council's Tree Officer.
- The route to be taken by plant through the site is limited to the existing access from Coley Avenue through to the existing car parking area for the Royal Berkshire Archives, and where appropriate is lined with tree protective fencing.
- All plant will have a banksman to ensure any possible damage to the site canopy is avoided, or kept within acceptable levels.
- Under no circumstances whatsoever is the Tree Protective Fencing or Box Protection to be removed, or people / plant / vehicles enter the protected areas without the express prior consent of the Tree Officer.
- No storage of material / chemicals / plant etc will be permitted on areas of soft landscaping, or within the protected areas as shown on the Tree Protection Plan Rev B (Appendix I), within the Royal Berkshire Archives site.
- No mixing, or storage / discharge of fuel should take place within the protected areas as shown on the Drawing NGTPP270525 Rev: B (Appendix I), nor in any position where the slope of the ground could lead to contamination of the RPA.

- Fires should not be lit within 10m of the canopy edge, branches or stem.
- The approved Arboricultural Method Statement should be kept readily available on site, fully understood and adhered to by the site agent and contractors undertaking operations that could impact trees.
- Liquids (fuel etc.) should be stored as far away from protected areas as is reasonably practicable.
- Spill kits and drip trays should be provided and maintained in close proximity to where liquids are stored, dispensed and used.
- Materials should be stored in accordance with manufacturer's Safety Data Sheets.
- The Building Contract Manager will be responsible for contacting the LPA at any time issues are raised related to the trees on site. If at any time pruning works are required permission must be sought from the Local Planning Authority first and then carried out in accordance with BS 3998 2010.
- Protective fences and boxes will remain in position until completion of ALL construction works on the site.
- The contractor shall contact an appointed arboricultural specialist or the LPA Tree Officer if any breaches of the tree protection measures occur.

This report is valid for 1 year from the date below. The report is invalidated if there are any changes to site conditions including alterations to the rooting area, changes in surface and sub-surface drainage patterns or if arboricultural work other than that specified above is undertaken without the approval of Nurture Green.

Survey carried out by; Jason Trewinnard, MSc (Arboriculture), Tech Cert (ArbA).

Date: 30th May 2025