

## Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

**207 Upper Woodcote Road, Cavesham, Reading RG4 7JP**

### **1. Site Address:**

207 Upper Woodcote Road, Cavesham, Reading RG4 7JP

### **2. Date of Report:**

22<sup>ND</sup> October 2025

## **1. Introduction**

This Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) has been prepared in accordance with BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'. It provides details of the protective measures to safeguard retained trees during the proposed works at the above address. The statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Tree Protection Plan and construction drawings.

## **2. Tree Survey Summary**

| Tree ID | Species                  | Stem Diameter (mm) | RPA Radius (m) | Distance to Works (m) |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| T1      | Leyland Cypress          | 360                | 4.32           | 10.2                  |
| T2      | Lime (Tilia × europaea)  | 780                | 9.36           | 12.54                 |
| T3      | Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior) | 280                | 3.36           | 10.6                  |
| T4      | Oak (Quercus Species)    | 140                | 1.68           | 12.2                  |
| T5      | Oak (Quercus Species)    | 280                | 3.36           | 12.7                  |
| T6      | Magnolia Stellata        | 120                | 1.44           | 7.5                   |
| T7      | Beech ( Fagus Sylvatica) | 360                | 4.32           | 34.6                  |

|     |                                   |     |      |      |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|------|------|
| T8  | Oak (Quercus Species)             | 340 | 4.08 | 35.1 |
| T9  | Sycamore Maple                    | 335 | 4.02 | 34.1 |
| T10 | Oak (Quercus Species)             | 360 | 4.32 | 35.1 |
| T11 | Oak (Quercus Species)             | 320 | 3.84 | 35.5 |
| T12 | Sycamore Maple                    | 330 | 3.96 | 35.6 |
| T13 | Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum) | 200 | 2.4  | 11   |

### 3. Tree Retention and Protection

All trees are to be retained. Their Root Protection Areas (RPAs) have been calculated using the formula from BS 5837:2012 ( $\text{RPA radius} = \text{stem diameter (mm)} \times 12 \div 1000$ ). Protective barriers shall be installed prior to commencement of any site works to exclude all construction activity from within the RPAs.

Protective fencing shall comprise weldmesh panels (such as Heras-type) securely fixed to a scaffold framework with uprights driven into the ground and braced as per Figure 2 of BS 5837:2012. Fencing shall remain in position until all construction, hard surfacing and landscaping is complete.

### 4. Construction Methodology Near Trees

All work within or near the Root Protection Areas must be carried out with extreme care. Excavation for the new rear conservatory trench foundation and balcony pad footings will be undertaken by hand where within 1 m of the RPA boundary. Roots over 25 mm diameter will be retained where possible and any smaller roots pruned cleanly with sharp tools. Excavated soil will not be stored within RPAs, and no materials, spoil, or machinery will enter the protected zones.

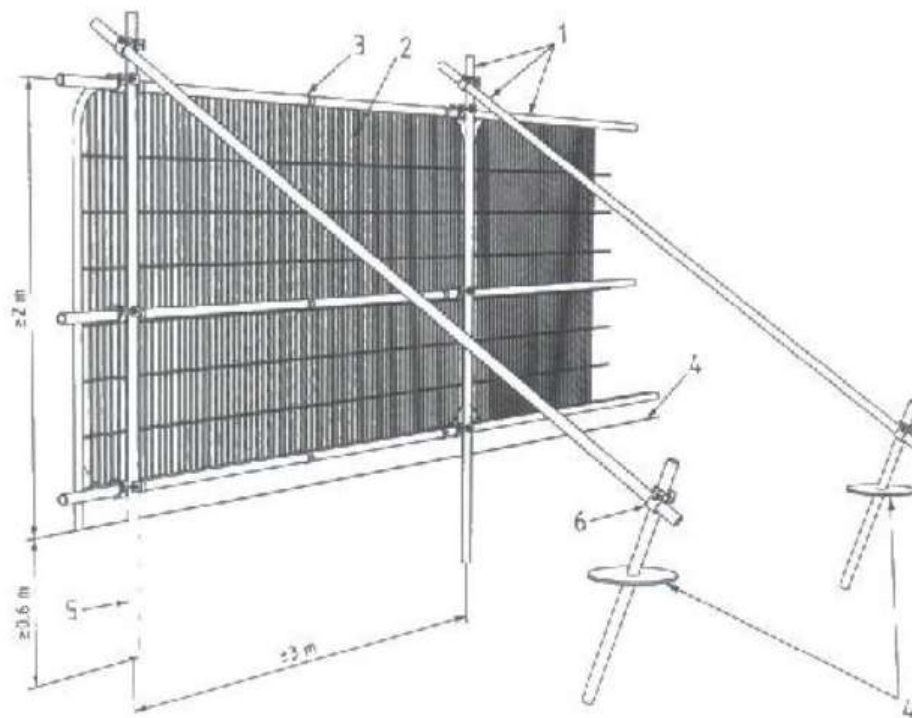
Where surfaces are proposed within or adjacent to the RPA, a 'no-dig' construction method shall be adopted if required. This may include the use of cellular confinement systems or similar load-bearing surfacing above the existing soil level.

Protective fencing will be fit for purpose. Complying with figure 2-3 in BS5837:2012 (See below) unless otherwise specified and agreed in writing by the LPA. For example, the use of a wooden post framework with plywood hoarding as alternative form of protection providing that it can be securely installed without causing any root damage, or in a low risk environment using orange builders mesh supported by road pins

**BRITISH STANDARD**

**BS 5837:2012**

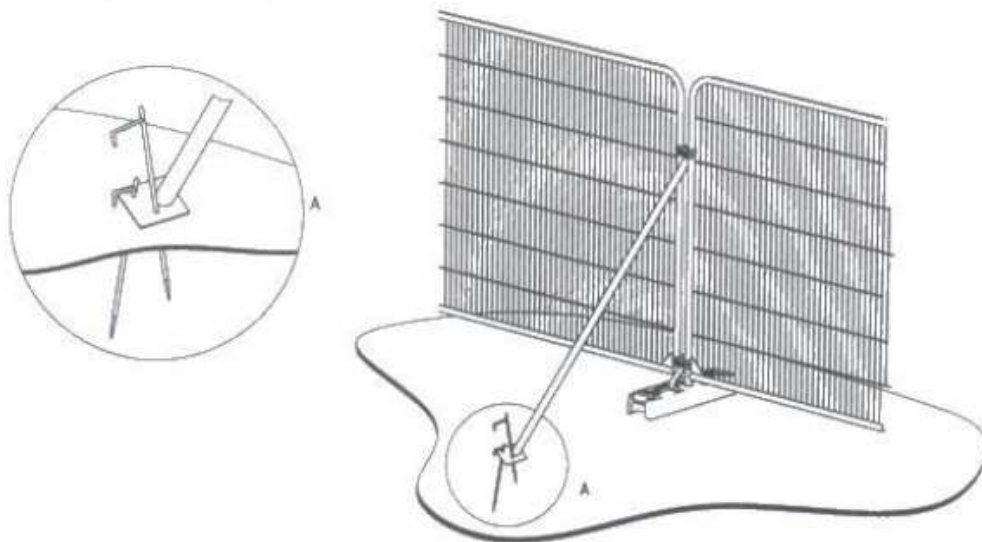
Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier



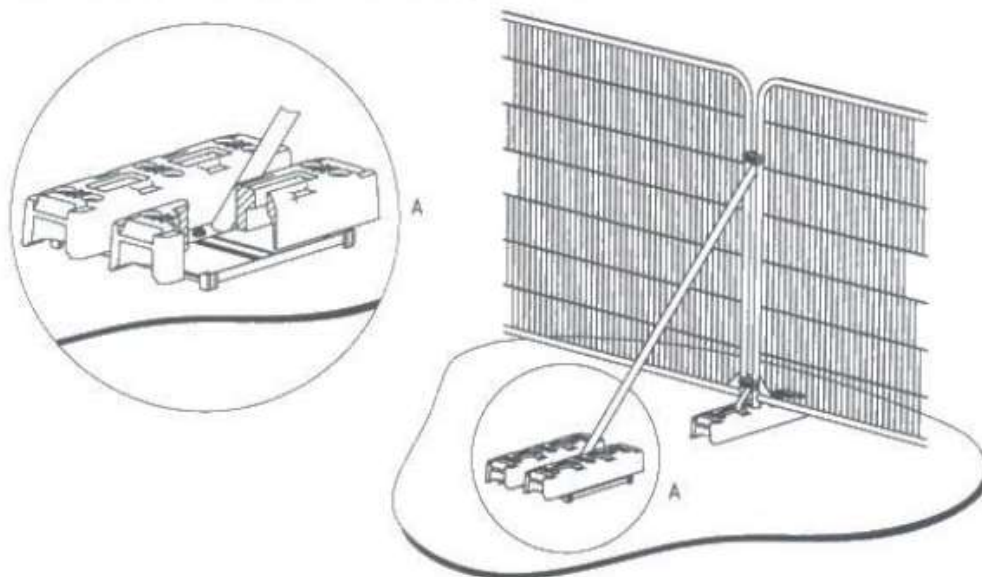
**Key**

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

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray

Protective fencing will:

Be erected prior to any demolition or construction (excluding pre-development tree works) taking place at distances specified with the tree protection plan

Have appropriate all-weather warning signed clearly affixed

Remain in place until completion of the construction phase

## **5. Site Supervision**

An arboricultural consultant or competent person shall inspect the installation of tree protection fencing prior to the start of any works, and carry out monitoring visits at key stages of construction. Records of inspections shall be retained and made available to the Local Planning Authority upon request.

## **6. Summary of Protective Measures**

- Tree protection fencing to be erected prior to any site works.
- Fencing to remain until completion of construction and landscaping.
- No storage, mixing of materials, or vehicular access within the RPA.
- Any excavation near RPAs to be undertaken by hand with roots retained where feasible.
- Ground protection to be used if temporary access is required within 1 m of the RPA boundary.
- Arboricultural supervision to be provided during sensitive phases of work.

Prepared in accordance with BS 5837:2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction.

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## Construction and Trees

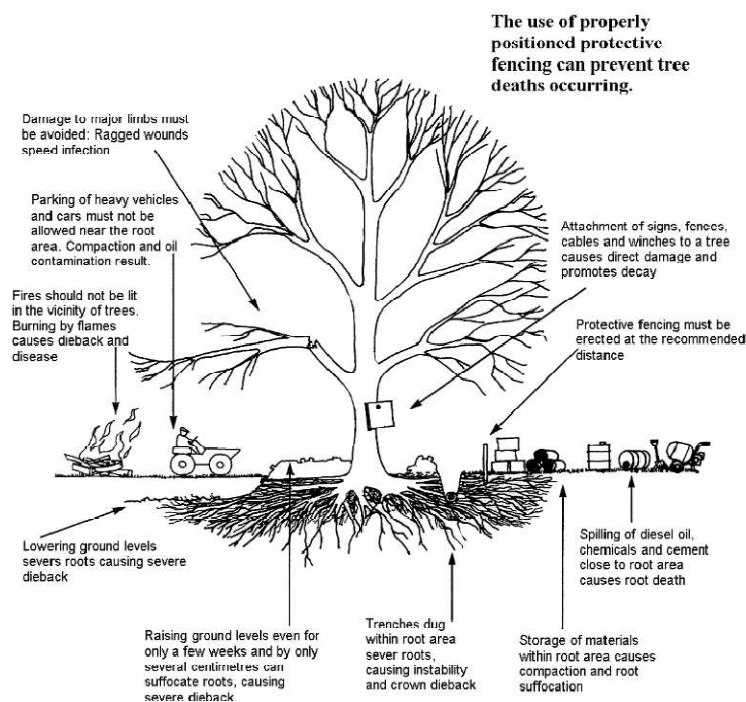
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### Why Is Fencing Erected Around Trees?

1. The major cause of damage to trees on construction sites is due to **soil compaction**.
  2. Roots use the spaces between soil particles to obtain Oxygen, Water and Nutrients.
  3. Heavy plant and machinery compresses (compacts) the soil, squashing out the air spaces and preventing root function.
  4. A compacted soil structure will stay compacted.
  5. Consequently the tree suffers and will show signs of branch die-back.
  6. Symptoms such as die-back may take several years to appear.
  7. Soil compaction over roots can be prevented by maintaining a fenced exclusion zone over the tree roots.
  8. The exclusion zone distance is calculated using British Standard 5837.
  9. Protective Fencing is installed at the calculated distance.
  10. Protective Fencing is a condition of planning approval, if it is removed or repositioned the construction firm is in breach of a condition and may be subjected to legal action.
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## *Common causes of Tree Death*



The use of properly positioned protective fencing can prevent tree deaths occurring.

