

Ashley Tree Surveys



ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Commissioned by : Mr Anthony Sharp
Hurst Grove Estates Ltd.

1a New Road, Reading, RG1 5JD

25th February 2026

Planning Check-List	
BS 5837:2012 Tree Survey	✓
Tree Constraints Plan (TCP)	✓
Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)	✓
Tree Protection Plan (TPP)	✓

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1.0 Contact Details

Client:	Mr Anthony Sharp, Hurst Grove Estates Ltd.
Architect:	Trace Architects
Site Details:	1a New Road, Reading, RG1 5JD
Controlling Authority:	Reading District Council
Date of Survey:	25th February 2026
Arboriculturist:	Kate Ashley Dip Arb L4 ABC Tech. Arbor. A. Ashley Tree Surveys email: ashleytreesurveys@gmail.com

Proposal: Construction of a new dwelling in a currently undeveloped site, inside a Conservation Area.

2.0 Executive Summary

- 1a New Road is a currently undeveloped site which lies within the Redlands Conservation Area.
- The proposal is for the construction of a new two-storey dwelling with access from New Road.
- No high quality trees are affected by the proposal.
- Two Category 'C' trees will require removal, both are minor trees with low value
- The proposed new dwelling has foundations which extend into the RPA of the T5 pollarded Lime Category "C" . The incursion is minor and is , which has amenity value. The proposed new dwelling has foundations which extend into the RPA of this retained tree. The level of incursion is minor as is approx 3.5%.
- Ground screws will provide support for the substructure, to avoid concrete foundations
- Hard surfacing inside the RPA of the T5 retained Lime will be created using a no-dig cellular confinement system.

3.0 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The table of data in Appendix 2 along with the Tree Constraints Plan submitted plan shows the condition of the trees according to *“BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations”*.

8 trees have been surveyed for planning purposes & categorized according to BS 5837:2012. It was found that there were:

TREES

3 Category 'B' Tree (Lime, Cedar, Bay)

5 Category 'C' Tree (Birch, Apple, Lime, Hawthorn)

3.1 Removal of Trees

The following trees will require removal :

T3 - Silver Birch (Cat C) - this birch is a self-generated tree and is very close to the foundations of the neighbouring dwelling. The fast growing nature of this birch means that it will soon start to cause substantial damage to the 3rd party foundations. Early removal is recommended.

T4 - Apple (Cat C) - having low vitality and visible decay

3.2 Tree Works

T7 & T8 are young trees located at the front of the site, close to the boundary fence. Both trees will require relocating to the rear garden, however due to their size and vitality they should respond well to being relocated.

3.3 Incursions

RPA INCURSIONS	TREE NUMBER	PRECAUTIONS
Foundations for proposed dwelling	Affecting T5 Lime - approx area of incursion is 3.5%	Ground screws will be utilised
Hardstanding at front of dwelling	Affecting T5 Lime - approx area of incursion is 8.5%	A no-dig cellular confinement system with a permeable finishing layer will be used

4.0 The Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

4.1 Introduction

The following tree protection measures must be adhered to for the duration of the works. The measures safeguard the retained trees and are designed to protect both the roots and aerial parts of the trees.

A copy of this Method Statement should be made available on-site at all times. Site personnel involved in construction and landscaping should be made familiar with its key implications.

Since 2005 Local Planning Authorities have been granted powers to serve Temporary Stop Notices if agreed protection measures are strayed away from, which can be both costly and time consuming.

4.2 Pre-commencement Meeting

If the Local Planning Authority deem it necessary, a pre-commencement meeting will be held, attended by the Project Arboricultural Consultant, the Site Manager and the LPA Tree Officer. During this meeting potential problems and protection sequencing can be discussed and it is expected that all aspects of the tree protection measures set out in the AMS will be understood and agreed upon. Following this meeting, all parties involved will receive an email from the Arboricultural Consultant containing a record of what was discussed and agreed

4.3 Sequencing & Supervision

The following sequences are governed by operational constraints and subject to change. The Client's arboriculturalist must be notified of any changes to this schedule :

Key Stages:

- Approval of AMS by Reading District Council
- AMS to be issued to Site Manager/Building Company
- Recommended/agreed tree works to be carried out
- Tree Protection fencing and ground protection to be installed
- Cellular confinement without the finishing layer to be installed as ground protection
- Access to be created at the front of the site
- Construction work carried out
- Tree protection fencing and ground protection removed
- Finishing layer to be applied to the cellular confinement
- Landscaping (if any) carried out

Summary of Arboricultural Supervision

ACTIVITY	LEVEL OF MONITORING
Erection of tree protection fencing & ground board protection measures	Sign off required prior to work commencement
Installation of ground screws	Arb Supervision required during ground screw installation

4.4 On-site precautions to protect trees

The following points will be observed at all times:

- No fires will be lit within 15m of any retained tree on or around the site
- No access permitted inside the tree protection fences
- No materials, equipment or waste to be stored inside the tree protection fences
- Noticeboards, cables or other services will not be attached to retained trees
- Care must be exercised when working close to retained trees.
- Plant and machinery with booms, jibs / counterweights and the passage of tall or wide loads should be controlled by a "banksman" ensuring adequate clearance of trees.
- Material which could contaminate soil such as concrete, oil, diesel, sand is not allowed to be stored inside RPA's of retained trees
- Inside RPA's - No excavation by any other means without arboricultural supervision
- Inside RPA's - No ground level changes whatsoever (without prior written approval)

4.5 Tree works

4.6 Tree Protective Fencing

The Tree Protection Plan (*Appendix 2*) shows the location of protective fencing. Tree Protection Fencing and ground board protection is required on this site and should be installed prior to any construction activity starting. It should also be in place before any materials or machinery are brought onto the site, and before any demolition, development or stripping of soil commences.

The required tree protection fencing should be installed to fence off and clearly designate the construction exclusion zones (CEZ), which are shown on the Tree Protection Plan (TPP - *Appendix 2*). The tree protection fencing comes in the form of 2.4m welded 'Heras' panels as specified by BS5837. The fencing should be supported by a scaffolding framework, which is then braced and secured into the ground. The purpose of the supports is to ensure that the fencing is difficult to move and forms a rigid structure.

On this site the stem of G1a Willow is particularly at risk, therefore the tree should be hessian wrapped and boxed in using marine ply. See full installation advice in the Development Notes

Once the Exclusion Zone has been protected by barriers and ground protection, construction can commence. All weather notices should be fixed to the barriers with the words : 'Construction exclusion zone – Keep Out' - see Fig 2

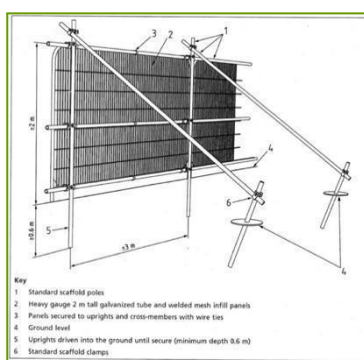


Fig 1 Shows the default specification of protective barriers (taken from BS5837)



Fig 2 Shows examples of the all-weather signage to be attached to protective barriers.

4.7 Ground Board Protection

Ground board protection to be installed which will be an interlocking track forming a new driveway to allow access by construction vehicles, The location of the ground board protection is shown on Tree Protection Plan (*Appendix 2*).

As recommended in BS 5837:2012 appropriate temporary ground boarding will be installed capable of supporting traffic entering or using the site, without being distorted or causing compaction of the underlying soil. For wheeled or tracked machinery it is advisable to use Temporary Track Road Systems or Ground Protection Boards. These consist of interlocking solid polythene sheets which when installed, are capable of dispersing weight.



Fig 3 shows An Example of a ground protection system suitable for use by wheeled machinery

4.8 Specification for no-dig driveway



Fig 4 shows an example of Cellular Confinement System (CCS) during installation



Fig 5 Shows Cellweb geo textile membrane being infilled close to a tree stem

To avoid damage to tree roots within the Root Protection Areas of retained tree T5 Lime, the new area of hardstanding will be constructed using a No-Dig Methodology. Principles set out in *APN 12 Through the Trees to Development, Tree Advice Trust, Patch and Holding* will apply. This is in accordance with the British Standard 5837 (2012) '*Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction*'.

The initial surface should be cleared, levelled and prepared, with no soil stripping, raising, or lowering of soil levels. No excavation machinery to be used within the RPA's for this purpose. Heras fencing panels should be used to protect the extremities of the No-Dig Area and should remain in place until completion of the project.

A three dimensional Cellular Confinement System (CCS), such as Cellweb or Terram will be used as an integral component of the sub-base. The cells act as a suspension layer into which recommended materials are retained.

A Permatex 300 Separation Geo-textile layer is installed on the ground, beneath the cells to prevent retained materials mixing or being pressed into the ground. Support edges for the sides of the cellular system must be permeable in nature to allow gaseous exchange and laid by hand.

CCS sections to be filled using wheel-barrows and boarded walkways, the sections filled with washed aggregates. Type 1 roadstone should not be used. Compact the sub-base to ensure binding with the geogrid. A final porous surface is placed on top, e.g. washed gravel or un-grouted, permeable blocked paving.

4.9 Installation of ground screws inside RPA of T5 Lime

The proposal also includes the construction of the substructure(complete). The position of the ground screws will be determined by the tree roots, with care taken to ensure that there is no damage to structural roots

Barrel Tree Care SGN10 "Installing Structures In Root Protection Areas advises "*digging investigation pits to ensure that no roots over 25mm are present. If larger roots are evident then the investigation pit is back filled and another ground screw site found. Installation will be carried out under arboricultural supervision, and all works will follow a Tree Protection Method Statement (TPMS) to be approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement*"

5.0 Legal Constraints

The site lies in the Readlands Conservation Area, Reading

Statutory Wildlife Obligations: The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (Amended) provides statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees. All tree work operations are covered by these provisions and advice from an ecologist should be obtained before undertaking any works that might constitute an offence.

6.0 Conclusion

APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Tree Constraints Plan (TCP)

Appendix 2 - Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

APPENDIX 2 –ARBORICULTURAL TREE SURVEY DATA

(SEE TABLE BELOW)

No.	Common Name / Latin Name	DBH	Height(m)	Canopy	AC	SU LE	Observations	Physic	Struct Form	Cat	RPA	Other Notes
T1	Common Lime <i>Tilia X europaea</i>	680	H 18m FB 3m/S	N 7.5 E 7.5 S 7.5 W 7.5	EM	40+	Lime with stem close to boundary wall and boundary fence. Canopy to E has been reduced over the adjacent garden. Heavy coverage of ivy observed which is covering stem and is invading crown.	GOOD	GOOD	B1	R = 8.16.	OFF SITE TREE
T2	Atlantic Cedar <i>Cedrus libani</i>	580	H 24m FB 3m/S	N 7.0 E 7.0 S 7.0 W 7.0	EM	40+	Stem close to the boundary wall. Large area of understory ivy noted directly underneath cedar (on-site) with some self-generated trees have also established	GOOD	GOOD	B1	R = 6.96	OFF SITE TREE
T3	Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	150 115 = 190	H 6m FB 1m/E	N 2.5 E 2.5 S 2.5 W 2.5	SM	10+	Self-generated birch with 2 small leaning stems, base on boundary (0.2m) from the party wall and therefore foundations of adjacent extension. Both stems lean away from the party wall and towards the site. Roots will soon start to undermine neighbours foundations	FAIR	POOR	C1	R = 2.28	FELL Birch is not sustainable. Birch roots will cause damage to neighbours foundations.
T4	Common Apple <i>Malus domestica</i>	185	H 4m FB 0.1m/S	N 2.5 E 2.5 S 2.5 W 2.5	M	20+	Pruning wounds and some decay noted on stem and branches	FAIR	FAIR	C1	R = 2.22	No works required

T5	Common Lime <i>Tilia X europaea</i>	630	H 6m FB 0.25m/N	N 2.0 E 2.0 S 2.0 W 2.0	EM	20+	Pollarded lime close to boundary wall with regrowth and large amounts of epicormic at base. Brambles covering base.	FAIR	FAIR	C1	R = 7.56	Lime is close to street therefore has amenity value.
T6	Bay Laurel <i>Laurus nobilis</i> Multi-stem	160 x 6 stems = 392	H 8m FB 0.25m/N	N 3.0 E 3.0 S 3.0 W 3.0	EM	20+	Large bay with stem close to boundary fence. Access to base not possible but appears to be 4 stems and well balanced canopy. <i>T6 stem is 18.5m from front of site</i>	FAIR	FAIR	B1	R = 4.70	OFF SITE TREE
T7	Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	75	H 3m FB 0.25m/N	N 1.0 E 1.0 S 1.0 W 1.0	Y	20+	Young tree planted in the far right corner of the plot. Good form and vitality and a tree which can be safely moved when it is the winter dormant season	GOOD	FAIR	C1	R = 0.9	MOVE IN DORMANT SEASON
T8	Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	75	H 3m FB 0.25m/N	N 1.0 E 1.0 S 1.0 W 1.0	Y	20+	Young tree planted in the far right corner of the plot. Good form and vitality and a tree which can be safely moved when it is the winter dormant season	GOOD	FAIR	C1	R = 0.9	MOVE IN DORMANT SEASON

SUPPORTING IMAGES



Image 1 – Showing T1 Lime & T2 Cedar at rear of site



Image 2 – T2 off-site Cedar



Image 3 – T3 Silver Birch which is close to adjacent dwellin



Image 4 – Showing front of site towards New Road



Image 5 – Showing T5 Pollarded Lime



Image 6 – Showing T6 off-site Bay Laurel

KATE ASHLEY - RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

2016 to Present

- I enrolled at Merrist Wood College, Surrey and studied arboriculture from June 2014 to June 2016, achieving a Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture.
- I have spent the last 10 years undertaking a full range of tree surveying & report writing in my local area of the Chilterns, including BS:5837 surveys, AIS, AMS, Tree Work applications and Duty of Care. I'm provided work streams via Heritage Tree Services, 1st Class Trees and four architect firms, including Trace Architects.
- I have 8 years of experience of Arb Supervision including residential builds and large infrastructure projects (Thames Water at Greenwich Park, London).
- Member of the Arboricultural Association since 2019, with Technician Membership, I maintain a CPD log of training and courses, including conferences, on-line training and Arb Association webin

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