

ATWORTH ARBORICULTURE LTD



**Arboricultural Method Statement
Arboricultural Implications Assessment**

**Land to the rear of,
13, Market Place,
Wokingham
RG40 1AL.**

**Prepared for:
Mr. Terry Murphy.**

Atworth Arboriculture Ltd, 189 Purlpit, Atworth, Wiltshire SN12 8HJ.

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Instruction

1.0 Site: Land to the rear of 13, Market Place, Wokingham, RG40 1AL.

Planning ref: 232402

Client: Mr. Terry Murphy.

1.1 Atworth Arboriculture Ltd was instructed to supply an Arboricultural Method statement and Arboricultural Implications Assessment for the proposed development at the site above.

1.2 Local Planning Authority – Wokingham Borough Council.

1.3 The development proposal seeks install a new bin store and parking spaces.

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2.0 Arboricultural Method Statement Methodology.

2.1. The Arboricultural method statement provides the means by which areas of construction within or near to the Root Protection Area (RPA) of retained trees can be achieved whilst minimising the impact of construction activity on nearby trees.

2.2 This Statement is written assuming approved Preliminary Management Recommendations (if any) to trees stated in the Tree Schedule Table have since been carried out.

2.3 The excavation of foundations for any structure on sites where trees are present may result in root damage and removal. Where root loss is likely to occur, it is important that a method of construction that minimises the impact on tree roots is utilised.

2.4 Copies of this document will be available for inspection on site.

3.0 Tree Protection Measures

3.1 Normally barrier fencing would be installed around the RPA of retained trees. In this case, all the work is within the RPA of the retained trees and barrier fencing would make it impossible to work.

4.0 Ground protection

4.1 As all of the proposed developments is within the RPA of the retained trees it is necessary to install ground protection to enable room for the construction as set out in 4.2 below and shown on Tree Protection Plan: AA/TPP-04.09.24. as the hatched green area around the bases of T1, T2, T3 and T5

4.2 Ground protection measures are to be implemented as access requirements dictate that fencing off the RPA is not appropriate. Ground protection measures which will allow foot traffic access around the footprint without causing soil compaction. Ground protection is to be laid to the specification of a 100mm deep layer of woodchip laid on top of a geotextile membrane with side abutted scaffold boards laid on top to form a compressible layer suitable for foot traffic and pedestrian operated plant not exceeding 2t.

- 4.3 Any tree protection measures should be regularly checked and maintained to ensure they are in the same alignment and condition they were installed in and still providing the same level of protection that was intended.
- 4.4 Other than works detailed within this method statement or approved in writing by the local planning authority, no works including storage or dumping of materials shall take place within unprotected ground within the exclusion zones defined by the RPA on our TPP.

5.0 Arboricultural site supervision

- 5.1. The supervising arboriculturist, a developer's representative, and a local planning authority (LPA) representative, will attend a pre-commencement meeting before construction work starts. If a LPA representative cannot attend, the supervising arboriculturist will inform the LPA in writing of the details of the meeting. All tree protection measures described in the arboricultural method statement will be fully discussed so that their implementation and sequencing are understood by all the parties. This will include agreeing the form and location of the most appropriate combination of fencing and ground protection to be used as barriers for the construction exclusion zone. Any agreed clarifications or modifications to the consented details will be recorded and circulated to all parties in writing. This meeting is where the details of the program of tree protection will be agreed and finalised, which will then form the basis of any supervision arrangements between the supervising arboriculturist and the developer.
- 5.2 Monthly monitoring for the life of the development is initially required (this could be extended once good practice is established) by the Arboriculturalist with a brief report submitted to the LPA tree officer within 72 hours of each visit.
- 5.3 Once the site is active, the supervising arboriculturist will visit at an interval agreed at the pre-commencement site meeting. This would normally be every two to four weeks for general supervision, but could be at a longer interval, if agreed between the parties. The supervision arrangement will be sufficiently flexible to allow the supervision of all sensitive works as they occur. The supervising arboriculturist's initial role is to liaise with the developer and the LPA to ensure that protective measures are fit for purpose and in place before any work starts on site. Once the site is working, that role will switch to monitoring compliance with arboricultural planning conditions and advising on any tree problems that arise or modifications that become necessary. No agreed protective fencing or ground protection will be altered or removed without prior approval of the supervising arboriculturist. This particularly applies to removal at the end of the construction activity and the final landscaping because there is a high risk of inadvertent harm to trees during these finishing stages.

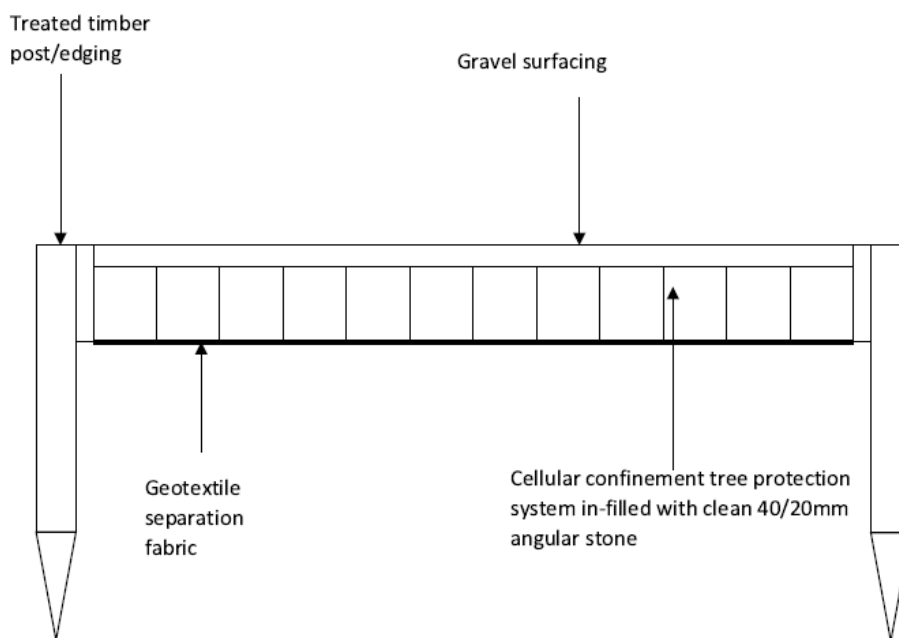
6.0 Work within the RPA's

6.1 Parking area construction

- 6.2 The parking areas will all be constructed using a Geoweb surface (Fig 1 below). This allows water and oxygen into the soil below, benefiting the trees.
- 6.3 Any surface preparation or levelling should be done manually or with handheld power tools.
- 6.4 The following methodology supports the the construction of the proposed parking spaces. The methodology is prepared on the basis of the sequence of operations necessary to complete the construction of the parking spaces with the minimum damage to the trees proposed for retention

- 6.4.1. The Surface layer to be scraped off. This can be done either by hand or by very small machinery.
- 6.4.2 Erect protective fencing to the edge of the construction area.
- 6.4.3 Spread a sub grade material over the length of the footpath area to fill any small ruts.
- 6.4.4 Construct edging using treated timber if required.
- 6.4.5 Lay geotextile mat over smoothed area.
- 6.4.6 Extend the Geoweb perforated tree root protection system over the area of the footpath area with sufficient overlap such that kerbs can be constructed on top of the Geoweb.
- 6.4.7 Fill the voids within the Geoweb with reduced fines Type 1 material working into the site over the top of the Geoweb.
- 6.4.8 Construct finished surface as required in line with guidance illustrations below.

Figure 1

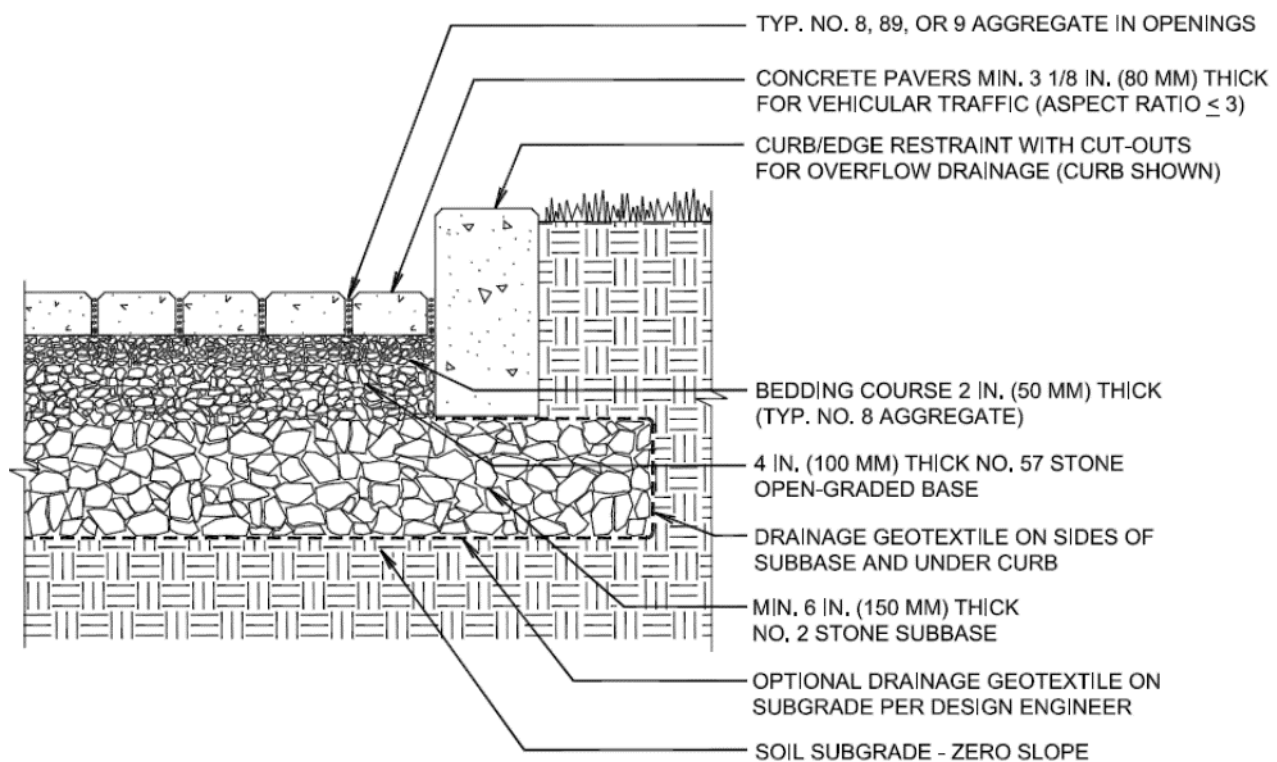


6.4 Permeable paving

- 6.5 Permeable paving will be used as a path from the end of Waterford Way across the strip of land next to the bin store. To the front of the bin store and just beyond the rear entrance to No 13, Market Place. This is shown as a black hatched area on the tree protection plan AA/TPP-04.09.24.
- 6.6 Any existing surface that is to be prepared prior to the installation of the permeable paving system should be done by hand and handheld power tools such as Kangol's.
- 6.7 If roots are found during this process they should be dealt with as described in the general precautions below.

- 6.8 The method for installing the permeable paving is set out below in figure 2.
- 6.9 tumbled block pavior such as Marshalls Tegula should be laid on permeable surface such as sand that allows water and oxygen to the roots.
- 6.10 If there is any levelling necessary between surfaces, this should also be done manually.

Figure 2



NOTES:

1. 2 3/8 IN. (60 MM) THICK PAVERS MAY BE USED IN PEDESTRIAN AND RESIDENTIAL APPLICATIONS.
2. NO. 2 STONE SUBBASE THICKNESS VARIES WITH DESIGN. CONSULT ICPI PERMEABLE INTERLOCKING CONCRETE PAVEMENT MANUAL.
3. NO. 2 STONE MAY BE SUBSTITUTED WITH NO. 3 OR NO. 4 STONE.
4. SELECT GEOTEXTILE PER AASHTO M 288.

6.11 Bin storage area

- 6.12 A bin storage area is to be installed to the west of the site, close to T1.
- 6.13 The store will be made up of 3 sides wooden fence with one side made up of 2 double opening doors.

6.14 All holes for posts will be dug manually.

6.15 The ground for the store will be permeable block paving as described above.

6.16 Retaining wall/fence

6.17 A new boundary wall is proposed for the south of the site.

6.18 The posts will be I shaped with railway sleepers or treated wood panels slotted between posts as shown in picture 1 below.

Picture 1



6.19 Any post holes should be manually dug.

7.0 New planting

7.1 As part of the development it is proposed to install a new hedge along most of the southern boundary of the site as shown on the Tree Protection Plan, AA/TPp-04.09.24. This hedge will be a mix of common beech *Fagus sylvatica* and Copper beech *Fagus sylvatica purpurea*.

7.2 The hedge saplings should be 100cm high and planted 3 per meter. Once the hedge has filled out and grown it should be kept to the required height and will provide a good screen.

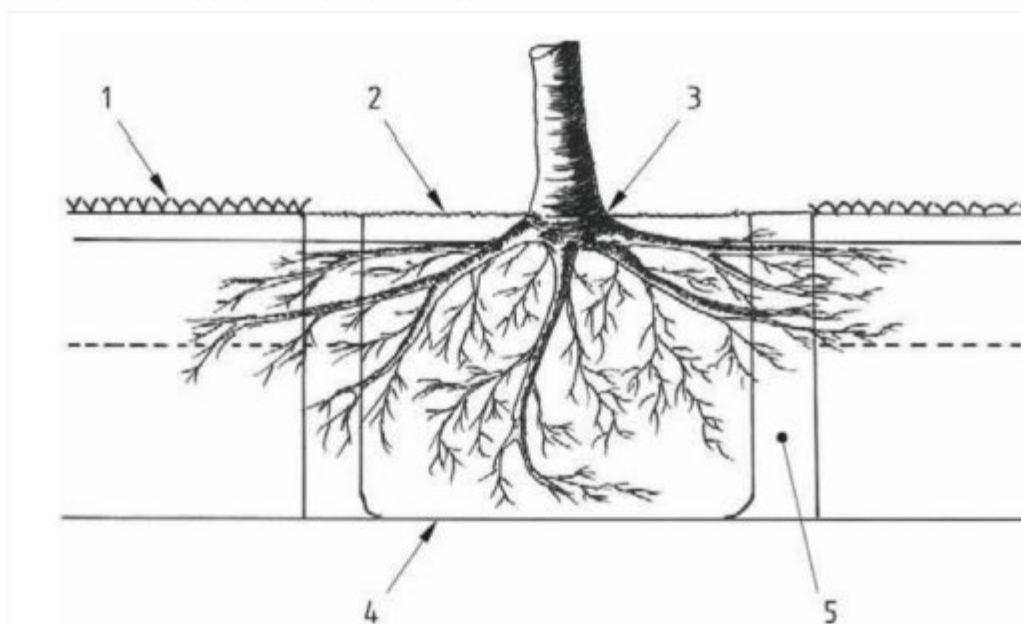
8.0 Tree Planting/Retaining Scheme

8.1 It is proposed to plant a new Whitebeam *Sorbus aria* in the northeast corner of the site as shown on the appended AA/TPP-04.09.24. The tree should be selected and planted following BS8545. Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape.

8.2 The local soil conditions are loamy with naturally high ground water, which should support most trees.

- 8.3 The new tree should be 100 – 150cm high bare root stock,
- 8.4 A planting pit to be manually excavated and following general risk assessment for planting works. Sides and base to be scarified (with fork). Tree to be placed centrally into the planting pit, which is 15% larger than the root ball*.
- Introduce perforated 60mmØ aeration pipe around base with min. 1 x riser fitted with plastic cap to supplier's recommendations.
- 8.5 The tree is to be secured into an upright position with the use of treated timber round stakes (min. 50mm Ø X 1.8m, firmed) and proprietary flexible tree ties (alternatives can be used).
- Backfilled with subsoil and graded loam (upper 150mm only) with 30% sharp sand and 15% organic matter and heeled-in.
- Level soil around tree base (nursery line) and top dress with preferred capping e.g. gravel, steel planting grille, wood mulch, loose blockwork. Fig 2. Example
- of typical tree planting pit (from BS8545:2014) Selection and Supply of Advanced Nursery Stock (ANS) or Semi-mature.

Figure F.1 Tree pit design: Planting in grass



Key

- 1 Grass sward
- 2 Tree pit surface as large as possible, with organic mulch layer
- 3 Root flare
- 4 Base of tree pit undisturbed unless drainage problems are apparent
- 5 Backfill replicating existing topsoil/subsoil profile.

- 8.6 Retained saplings.

- 8.7 As well as the mature trees that are being retained, there are several self-seeded oak tree saplings along the southern edge of the site that it would be desirable to retain.
- 8.8 Once the development is completed, the saplings should be treated as newly planted in order for them to thrive.

9.0 Care of the tree and hedges after planting

9.1 Watering

Young trees need adequate water to become established. Although rainfall may be adequate in some areas and in some seasons, additional water may be needed, particularly after planting when root systems are limited. After the initial watering at planting, deciduous trees do not need additional water until the first leaves have reached full size, but then will need water 4-5 times per week and every day during the plus 90 degree days of summer.

9.2 Soil Management

It is essential to maintain an area free of turf and weeds around tree trunks, because turf and weeds compete for water and nutrients, and some produce chemicals toxic to other plants. A small turf-free area around a tree also reduces the need for mowers to come close. This clear area must be at least 25cm in radius. Larger areas add little benefit. After four or five years, tree roots are extensive enough that other plants close to their trunks are not a problem, although mower operators should still exercise caution.

A 75-100mm-thick mulch and manure material placed on the soil surface, controls most weed seedlings. In addition, mulch protects the soil from compaction and erosion, conserves moisture, moderates soil temperatures, provides an all-weather surface for walking, and allows plants to root in the fertile and well-aerated surface soil. The mulch should not be added until 1 month after the tree has been planted so that it does not interfere with the root system obtaining oxygen. Keep mulches at least two inches away from the trunks of trees to minimize disease and rodent damage. A wide range of organic and inorganic materials can be used.

All soft areas should be planted with a wildflower mix for shade/hedgerow.

10.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

- 10.1 Effects of the proposed development on amenity value on or near the site.
- 10.2 All but 1 of the mature trees on the site that are close to the proposed development are to be retained.
- 10.3 In it's present condition, the area is unsightly and the trees have had no maintenance (Picture 2)

Picture 2



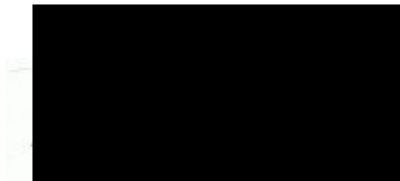
- 10.4 Pruning and felling works to facilitate development.
T2, T6, T7, T8, T9, T10 and T11 (category C) are to be felled to facilitate the development.
- 10.5 Ivy will be cut and removed from the stems and crowns of all retained trees. The Ivy will be cut by hand saw.
- 10.6 The crowns of the retained trees should be lifted to 5m. The crowns should be cleaned, and any dead wood removed.
- 10.7 All tree work should be carried out by a fully qualified and insured tree surgeon working to BS3998 (2010), Tree work.

11.0 Precautionary Measures

- 11.1 It should be the arboriculturist's duty to monitor site works relating to trees and where necessary take photographs to inform the LPA that the works are taking place in accordance with LPA planning conditions in relation to trees. It remains the responsibility of the LPA to enforce any breach in conditions.
- 11.2 Any relocated or removed fencing should be replaced as soon as is practicable (once approved works within it are complete) and once again treated as the Construction Exclusion Zone. Any excavations within the RPA that are to be backfilled should be lightly tamped and left proud. Prior to backfilling, retained roots should be surrounded with topsoil or un-compacted sharp sand (builders' sand should not be used because of its high salt content, which is toxic to tree roots), or other loose inert granular fill, before soil or other suitable material is replaced. This material should be free of contaminants and other foreign objects potentially injurious to tree roots.
- 11.3 Any tree roots whilst exposed should immediately be wrapped or covered to prevent desiccation and to protect them from rapid temperature changes. Hessian sacking is

recommended. Any wrapping should be removed prior to backfilling, which should take place as soon as possible.

- 11.4 The proposed works within the RPA may be justified by implementing soil amelioration elsewhere if this is deemed suitable. We also recommend soil amelioration as a sound and beneficial tree care strategy. Once all works within the RPA have been completed, a 50-100mm layer of 1-year (minimum) seasoned woodchip mulch should be laid down in a circle of similar size to the tree's RPA (where practical) in order to help improve the rhizosphere and soil medium in which the tree is growing. This will help ensure the tree's vitality for the future and minimise the adverse effects of damage to the soil structure and any root removal that may have taken place during the works.
- 11.5 If roots are found to be in the way during works, they may be pruned back neatly with an appropriate hand saw or bypass secateurs so long as they are below 25mm in diameter. Roots larger than this require arboriculturist advice.
- 11.6 No materials that are likely to have an adverse effect on tree health such as oil, bitumen or cement (including cement washings) should be stored and handled well away from the outer edge of any RPA.
- 11.7 Fires on site should be avoided. When they are unavoidable, they should not be lit in a position where heat could affect foliage or branches. The potential size of fire and wind direction should be taken into account when determining its location and it should be attended at all times until safe enough to leave. Also take note of statutory litigations in force in the area before lighting fires.
- 11.8 No vehicles or pedestrian traffic will be allowed to enter areas once protected by fencing, unless permitted otherwise by the LPA and should be accompanied by the arboriculturist at all times.



Vince Cainey BSc

5th September 2024