HELLIS SOLUTIONS LIMITED

Arboricultural Method Statement

Land North of Sheepbridge Court Farm, Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield RG7 1PT

OCTOBER 2025 V2.0

Report Name: Arboricultural Method Statement

Our Reference: 25/07/147/NH

Application No.: 232653

Author: Nicholas Hellis, Arboricultural Consultant

Prepared for: Greentech

On the instructions of: Mr. James Jenkison
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Summary

This is an arboricultural method statement. This statement has been written following the recommendations and guidance given within British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction.

The purpose of this report is to describe how the proposed construction activity can be undertaken with minimal risk of adverse impact on the retained trees.

The proposed development is to install a 25ha solar farm for a temporary period of 40 years (EIA Development).

The project management team must instruct an arboricultural consultant to undertake the required monitoring and Wokingham Borough Council must be advised of the appointment prior to the commencement of any works.

The project manager is responsible to ensure that the details of this arboricultural method statement and any agreed amendments are known and understood by all site personnel. Copies of the agreed documents must be kept on site and be readily available at all times. This method statement should form part of the site induction for all personnel.

Site meetings and site monitoring must be confirmed by formal written records circulated to all interested parties; a pro forma record of arboricultural monitoring is provided at Appendix 3.

The construction activity should not adversely impact upon any retained trees if the specified precautions detailed within this arboricultural method statement are followed.

Nicholas Hellis MArborA

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1.0 Instructions

1.1 I have been instructed in writing by Mr James Jenkinson of Greentech to prepare an arboricultural method statement for the implementation of any aspect of development that has the potential to result in loss of or damage to a tree and to prepare a tree protection plan showing the finalized layout proposals, tree retention and tree and landscape protection measures detailed within the arboricultural method statement.

1.2 The proposed development is to install a 25ha solar farm for a temporary period of 40 years (EIA Development).

2.0 Report Limitations

2.1 Trees are living organisms whose health and overall condition can change rapidly. The conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are valid for a period of three years. The period of validity may be reduced if significant changes occur to either the trees or to the landscape within the immediate proximity of the trees.

2.2 This report is neither intended nor suitable for any purpose other than the stated rationale.

3.0 Introduction

3.1 The report has been written following the recommendations and guidance given within British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations (hereinafter BS:5837).

3.2 BS:5837 provides 'recommendations and guidance for arboriculturists, architects, builders, engineers, landscape architects …. and all others interested in harmony between trees and development in its broadest sense.'

3.3 BS:5837 also provides 'recommendations and guidance on the relationship between trees and design, demolition and construction processes', and it 'it sets out the principles and procedures to be applied to achieve a harmonious and sustainable relationship between trees and structures.

3.4 The report is intentionally concise with minimal background explanations. Where appropriate, further guidance and information is included as appendices.

3.5 The report contains the following appendices:

a) a Tree Survey and a Tree Quality Assessment at Appendix 1.

b) a default specification for a protective barrier at Appendix 2.

c) Pro Forma Record of Arboricultural Site Supervision at Appendix 3.

d) The Dirty Dozen - common causes of damage to trees on development sites at Appendix 4.

e) a Tree Protection Plan at Appendix 5.

4.0 Report Rationale

4.1 To describe within an arboricultural method statement how the proposed construction activity can be undertaken with minimal risk of adverse impact on the retained trees.

5.0 Arboricultural Method Statement

5.1 to 5.10 inclusive set out the **general principles** of good arboricultural management for a proposed development site.

5.11 to 5.19 inclusive set out the management details that must be followed to ensure successful tree retention on **this specific site**.

General Principles

5.1 The Tree Plan shows the existing trees numbered and categorised in their present context. The Tree Plan also shows the approximate location of the proposed protective measures for both existing trees and areas of structural landscaping, as necessary. This plan should only be used for dealing with the tree issues and all scaled measurements should be checked against original documents.

5.2 The precise location of protective barriers, their design and the sequencing of their installation and removal should be agreed with the local planning authority on site before any demolition and/or construction activity starts.

5.3 Any Root protection area outside the protective barriers must be covered by ground protection, assuming no suitable existing hard surfacing, based on the recommendations within BS: 5837 until there is no risk of damage from the demolition and/or construction activity. The precise design and the sequencing of the installation and removal should be agreed with the local planning authority on site before any demolition and/or construction activity starts.

5.4 Tree works to enable construction should be agreed with the local planning authority during the application process and on site at the start of construction, if required.

5.5 All landscaping activity within Root protection area has the potential to cause severe damage and any adverse impact must be minimised.

5.6 It is often difficult to clearly establish the detail of services until the construction is in progress. Where possible, existing services should be used, and all new services ought to be outside Root protection area of retained trees. However, where existing services within Root protection area require upgrading or new services have to be installed in Root protection area, trenchless insertion methods should be used with entry and retrieval pits being sited outside the Root protection area. Provided that roots can be retained and protected, excavation using hand-held tools might be acceptable for shallow service runs. Any adverse impact should be minimised.

5.7 All site storage areas, cement mixing and washing points for equipment and vehicles should be outside Root protection area unless otherwise agreed with the local planning authority. Where there is a risk of polluted water runoff into Root protection area, heavy-duty plastic sheeting and sandbags should be used to contain the run off and prevent contamination.

5.8 Tree protection cannot be reliably implemented without arboricultural input. The nature and extent of that input varies according to the complexity of the issues and the resources available on site. The project management team must instruct an arboricultural consultant to oversee the implementation of the protective measures and management proposals set out in this arboricultural method statement.

5.9 Arboricultural planning conditions can only be reliably and effectively discharged with supervision by an arboricultural consultant. Such supervision must be confirmed by formal written records circulated to all interested parties. These records will form an auditable system of site monitoring and thus enable planning conditions to be discharged. The project management team must instruct an arboricultural consultant to undertake the required supervision.

The following table outlines the stages and nature of participation of the project arboriculturist to ensure successful tree retention.

Time Frame	Attendees	Action
Pre Commencement	Arboricultural Consultant LPA Tree Officer Site Manager	To discuss tree protection measures, arboricultural supervision and notification of interested parties
In Progress	Arboricultural Consultant Site Manager	Supervision and notification of agreed tree protection measures.
Post Completion	Arboricultural Consultant	Inspection of retained trees and notification as agreed

5.10 It is the site manager's responsibility to ensure that the details of this arboricultural method statement and any agreed amendments are known and understood by all site personnel. Copies of the agreed documents should be kept on site and be readily available at all times. This method statement should form part of the site induction for all personnel.

This Specific Site

5.11 The following sets out the management details that must be followed to ensure successful tree retention. It is based on the guidelines and recommendations set out in BS: 5837 and the National Joint Utilities Group: Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity to trees. Volume 4, issue 2. London: NJUG, 2007. (NJUG 4).

5.12 Barriers: a security fence will be erected prior to the installation of the solar panels. The security fence will be erected from 'inside' the site. The security fence will, in effect, provide a protective barrier for perimeter trees and hedgerows. No construction activity will take place within the corridor between the security fence and the perimeter trees and hedgerows.

The barrier protecting the internal hedgerow must be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place around the retained hedgerow and installed at a distance of at least 1.0m from the face of the hedgerow.

Site notices must be attached to protective barriers at regular intervals and in any event not more than 50m apart.

The essence of the proposed development excludes the installation of panels within the root protection areas of retained trees.

Within all tree and hedgerow protection zones:

(a) no materials, equipment, machinery or structure shall be attached to or supported by any part of the retained trees and hedgerows and no materials shall be stored, temporary buildings erected, moveable structures, works, plant or machinery placed, or ground levels altered.

(b) there shall be no mixing of cement or use of other contaminating materials or substances shall take place.

(c) levels shall not be raised or lowered in relation to existing ground levels.

(d) no roots shall be cut, trenches dug, or soil removed.

(e) no buildings, hardened areas or other engineering operations shall be constructed or carried out; and

(f) no vehicles shall be driven or parked within protected areas

5.13 Ground protection: there should be no need to install any ground protection.

5.14 Work within root protection areas: on this site, no work is anticipated within any root protection areas.

5.15 Installation or removal of hard surfacing within root protection area: no new surfacing is anticipated within any root protection areas.

5.16 Soft landscaping within root protection area: no new soft landscaping is anticipated within any root protection area.

5.17 Installation of new services below ground and within root protection area or above ground and within the crown spread of retained trees: all new services will be installed within the security fence and outside any root protection area.

5.18 Work within areas of designated structural landscaping: there are no areas of designated structural landscaping.

5.19 Site monitoring:

The project management team must instruct an arboricultural consultant to undertake the required monitoring and Wokingham Borough Council must be advised of the appointment prior to the commencement of any works.

The project manager is responsibility to ensure that the details of this arboricultural method statement and any agreed amendments are known and understood by all site personnel. Copies of the agreed documents must be kept on site and be readily available at all times. This method statement should form part of the site induction for all personnel.

Monitoring is divided into meetings, supervision, observation and inspection.

- Meetings are an assembly of interested parties to agree arboricultural matters affecting the development site.
- Supervision is an act or instance of directing, managing, or oversight of arboricultural matters affecting the development site.
- Observation is the continuous visual observance of works with the potential to damage retained trees.
- Inspection is the systematic and formal evaluation of arboricultural matters affecting the development site.

The following table describes the phase of works, the activity, the level and frequency of monitoring that is required for this project.

Phase of Works	Activity	Monitoring	Frequency of Monitoring
Pre-commencement	Site access for personnel (staff, contractors, and visitors), traffic (staff, contractors, and visitors), and delivery vehicles. Location of the site office, the welfare facilities, the mixing and washing out area/s, fire site, storage area, and parking area for machinery (tele handler, excavator, dumper truck etc). Barriers and ground protection - the location, installation and signage	Site meeting	One-off
Construction	Ongoing maintenance of tree protection	Supervision	Ad hoc
Post-construction	Inspection of retained trees and root protection areas	Inspection	One-off

Site meetings and site monitoring must be confirmed by formal written records circulated to all interested parties. The formal written records will form an auditable system of site monitoring and thus enable planning conditions to be discharged.

6.0 Tree Management

Pre-development tree work

None.

Post-development management for existing trees

6.1 In the absence of specific proposals, the post development management of existing trees should follow the guidance contained within 'Managing trees for safety,' written by the National Tree Safety Group and published by the Forestry Commission in 2011.

6.2 In general, trees should be inspected following severe weather conditions, typically:

a) strong winds (especially of gale force 8 or greater), particularly from an atypical direction,
b) heavy rain reducing root adhesion due to soil saturation, and
c) heavy snowfall leading to branch failure.

7.0 Useful Contact Details

7.1 Useful contact details:

Nick Hellis	Arboricultural Consultant	[redacted]
Trees and Landscape Team	Wokingham Borough Council	
James Jenkinson	Head of Planning Greentech	

Signed [redacted]

Dated: *4th October 2025*

Nicholas Hellis MArborA
Arboricultural Consultant

Appendix 1 - Tree Survey and Tree Quality Assessment

Tree Survey and Tree Quality Assessment

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Average Crown Spread NESW (m)	Height of Canopy (m)	Life Stage	Observations Recommendations Management	Contribution in years	Category	RPA radius (m)
T1	Comon ash	14.0	900 @0.9m agl	7.0	3.0	Middle	The proposed internal access follows the existing agricultural access	40+	B 1/2	10.8
H2	Hedgerow with occasional standards	1.8	n/a	0.6	Ground	Middle	4x middle/mature oak trees within the maintained hedgerow	40+	B 2	Defined by the narrow ditch between the trees and the site
H3	Hedgerow with standards	1.8	n/a	0.6	Ground	Middle	6x middle oak trees, 1x field maple within the maintained hedgerow	40+	B 2	Defined by the narrow ditch between the trees and the site
G4	English oak	12.0	up to 800	7.0	3.0	Middle	A cohesive off-site group of three trees	40+	B 2	Crown spread of tree +1.0m
G5	Mixed native and naturalised, mainly English oak	13.0	up to 900	8.0	3.0	Middle	A cohesive off-site group of mainly oak trees	40+	B 2	Crown spread of tree +1.0m
G6	English oak	16.0	up to 1000	8.0	4.0	Mature	A group of 5/6 trees adjacent to the construction access	40+	B 2	Defined by the narrow ditch between the trees and the track

agl: above ground level #: estimated dimension
tree works required by proposed development are noted in **bold orange** type
recommended tree works to manage the existing tree stock are noted in ***bold blue*** italic text
T: Individual tree **H:** Hedgerow or garden hedge **G:** Cohesive group of trees **W:** Woodland

Tree survey schedule:

a) a sequential reference number for each tree or group of trees (also recorded on the Tree Plan).

b) species (common names only).

c) estimated height in metres.

d) stem diameter measured in millimetres typically at 1.5 metres above ground level.

e) estimated branch spread in metres taken at the four cardinal points, as appropriate; (also recorded on the Tree Plan, as appropriate).

f) height of canopy above ground level, typically over an access, or the site.

g) life stage as follows,

   i. young - a tree in the first third of average life expectancy for species.
   ii. middle - a tree in the middle third of average life expectancy for species.
   iii. mature - a tree in the last third of average life expectancy for species.
   iv. over mature - a mature tree, which by reason of its physical or structural condition, has an estimated remaining contribution of less than 20 years
   v. ancient /veteran - 'a tree which, because of its great age, size or condition is of exceptional value culturally, in the landscape or for wildlife' English Nature.

h) observations, particularly of structural and/or physiological condition, as appropriate and pertinent to the matter being considered.

i) management recommendations, as appropriate.

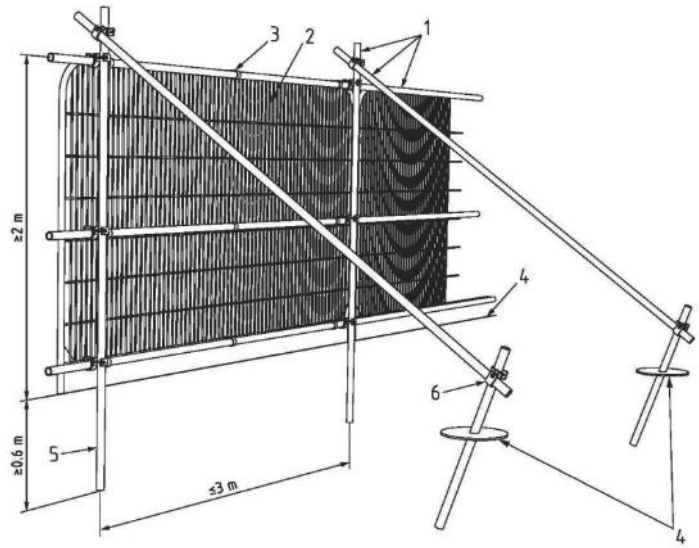
j) estimated remaining contribution in years e.g. less than 10, 10+, 20+, 40+.

k) a category is allocated to each tree or group of trees depending in part upon the information gathered in the tree survey, it depends in part upon the 'cascade chart for tree quality assessment' and it is in part, subjective; and

l) root protection area is based on the guidance given within BS: 5837.

Appendix 2 - Default Specification for a Protective Barrier

Default Specification for a 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

The default specification should consist of a vertical and horizontal scaffold framework, well braced to resist impacts, as illustrated. The vertical tubes should be spaced at a maximum interval of 3 m and driven securely into the ground. Onto this framework, welded mesh panels should be securely fixed.

Reference: BS 5837:2012 Section 6.2.2 Barriers

Appendix 3 - Pro Forma Record of Arboricultural Site Supervision

Record of Arboricultural Site Monitoring

Planning Application No: 232653
Site Address: Land North Of Sheepbridge Court Farm, Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield, RG7 1PT
Proposal: Full planning permission for a 25ha solar farm for a temporary period of 40 years (EIA Development).
Client: ITP Energised
Project Manager: Mr James Jenkison
Local Authority: Wokingham Borough Council
Tree Consultant: Nick Hellis, Hellis Solutions Ltd
Copy to: Client, Project Manager, Local Authority
No. of Photographs provided: ….

Phase of Works	Attendees	Activity	Comment	Level of Site Monitoring	Date of Site Monitoring
Pre - commencement		Site access for personnel (staff, contractors, and visitors), traffic (staff, contractors, and visitors), and delivery vehicles. Location of the site office, the welfare facilities, the mixing and washing out area/s, fire site, storage area/s, and parking area for machinery (tele handler, excavator, dumper truck etc). Tree protection - the location, installation, and signage		Site meeting	

The attendance of the tree consultant is assumed

Phase of Works	Attendees	Activity	Comment	Level of Site Monitoring	Date of Site Monitoring
Construction		Ongoing maintenance of tree protection		Supervision	
Post-construction		Inspection of retained trees and root protection areas		Inspection	

The attendance of the tree consultant is assumed

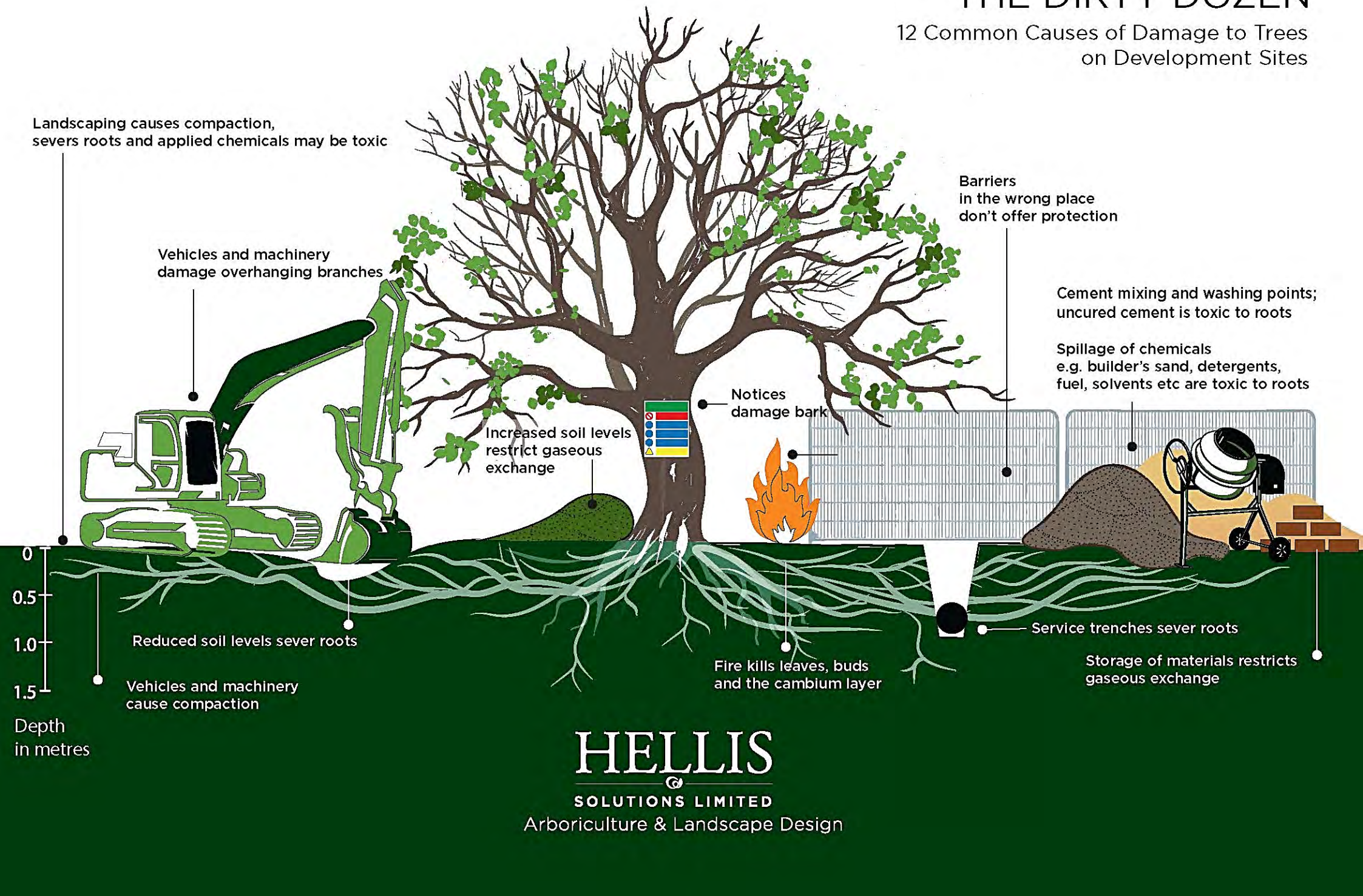
Monitoring falls into four categories, namely meetings, supervision, observation, and inspection.

- Meetings are an assembly of interested parties to agree arboricultural matters affecting the development site.
- Supervision is an act or instance of directing, managing, or oversight of arboricultural matters affecting the development site.
- Observation is the continuous visual observance of works with the potential to damage retained trees.
- Inspection is the systematic and formal evaluation of arboricultural matters affecting the development site.

Appendix 4 - The Dirty Dozen

THE DIRTY DOZEN

12 Common Causes of Damage to Trees on Development Sites



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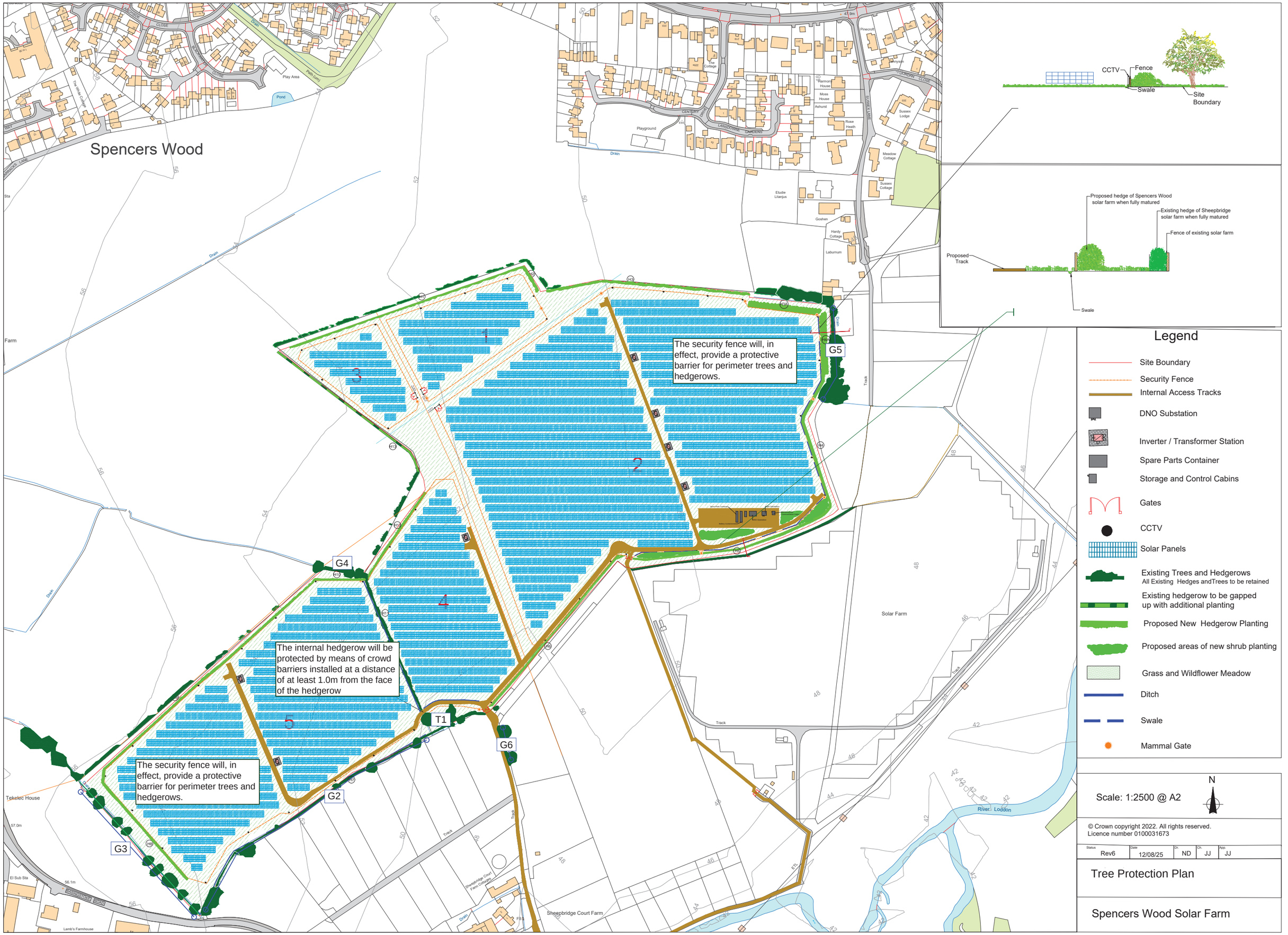
Appendix 5 - Tree Protection Plan


Spencers Wood
The security fence will, in effect, provide a protective barrier for perimeter trees and hedgerows.
The internal hedgerow will be protected by means of crowd barriers installed at a distance of at least 1.0m from the face of the hedgerow
The security fence will, in effect, provide a protective barrier for perimeter trees and hedgerows.
G1
G2
G3
G4
G5
G6
T1
1
2
3
CCTV
Fence
Swale
Site Boundary
Proposed hedge of Spencers Wood solar farm when fully matured
Existing hedge of Sheepbridge solar farm when fully matured
Fence of existing solar farm
Proposed Track
Swale
Legend
Site Boundary
Security Fence
Internal Access Tracks
DNO Substation
Inverter / Transformer Station
Spare Parts Container
Storage and Control Cabins
Gates
CCTV
Solar Panels
Existing Trees and Hedgerows
All Existing Hedges andTrees to be retained
Existing hedgerow to be gapped up with additional planting
Proposed New Hedgerow Planting
Proposed areas of new shrub planting
Grass and Wildflower Meadow
Ditch
Swale
Mammal Gate
Scale: 1:2500 @ A2
N
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Licence number 0100031673
Status Rev6
Date 12/08/25
Dr. ND
Ch. JJ
App. JJ
Tree Protection Plan
Spencers Wood Solar Farm

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