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**BS5837:2012 ARBORICULTURAL
METHOD STATEMENT:
31 Wiltshire Road, Wokingham, RG40 1TS**

Dated: 5th July 2024

Our reference: GHA/MS/160778:24

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Arboricultural Method Statement

Location: 31 Wiltshire Road, Wokingham, RG40 1TS
Our reference: GHA/MS/160778:24
Client: G Reece
Dated: 5th July 2024
Prepared by: Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
Date of Inspection: 15th May 2024

Please note that abbreviations introduced in (brackets) may be used throughout the report.

Instructions

Issued by – G Reece

TERMS OF REFERENCE – To survey the subject trees within 31 Wiltshire Road, Wokingham, in order to assess their general condition and to provide an arboricultural method statement for the proposed development, that safeguards the long term wellbeing of the nearby retained trees.

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Executive Summary

The proposal for the site is to renovate the existing building, work that will include extensions to the north and south. The existing access from Wiltshire Road will be reused and the existing parking area will be reduced to create more garden space to the south of the building. A small number of relatively insignificant (C category) shrubs in G8 will be removed / cut back, which will not significantly impact the local or wider landscape. Some minor pruning is proposed to T2, this work is assessed to be minor and will not adversely impact the health or amenity value of the subject tree. The retained trees require protection in accordance with industry best practice and BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations, in order to ensure their longevity.

Documents Supplied

The client supplied the following documents:

- Existing layout plans
- Proposed layout plans

Scope of Survey

- 1.1 The survey is concerned with the arboricultural aspects of the site only.
- 1.2 The planning status of the subject property was not investigated in detail.
- 1.3 A qualified Arboriculturist undertook the report and site visit and the contents of this report are based on this. Whilst reference may be made to built structure or soils, these are only opinions and confirmation should be obtained from a qualified expert as required.
- 1.4 Trees in third party ownership were surveyed from within the subject property, therefore a detailed assessment was not possible and some (if not all) measurements were estimated. Where the stem location of a third party tree has been estimated, this is noted on the plan.
- 1.5 Dense vegetation or climbers (such as ivy) also prohibited full inspections for some trees; this is noted where applicable.
- 1.6 No discussions took place between the surveyor and any other party.
- 1.7 The trees were inspected on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breleor (The body language of tree, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994)
- 1.8 The survey was undertaken in accord with British Standard 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 1.9 Underground services near to trees will need to be installed in accord with the guidance given in BS5837.
- 1.10 The client's attention is drawn to the responsibilities under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

Survey Method

- 2.1 The survey was conducted from ground level with the aid of binoculars if needed.

- 2.2 No tissue samples were taken nor was any internal investigation of the subject trees undertaken.
- 2.3 No soil samples were taken.
- 2.4 The height of each subject tree was estimated using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre.
- 2.5 The stem diameter for each tree was measured in line with the requirements set out in BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 2.6 The crown spreads were measured with an electronic distometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where the crown radius was notably different in any direction this has been noted on the Plan (appendix A) and within the tree table (Appendix B). The crowns of those trees that are proposed for removal, or trees where the crown spread is deemed insignificant in relation to the proposed development are not always shown on the appended plan; however their stem locations are marked for reference.
- 2.7 The Root Protection Area (RPA) for each tree is included in the tree table, both as an area, and as the radius of a circle.
- 2.8 The crown clearance was measured using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where it is significantly lower in one direction, this is noted within the tree table at appendix B.
- 2.9 All of the trees that were inspected during the site visit are detailed on the plan at Appendix A; this plan was produced in colour and **MUST** only be scanned or reproduced in colour. The trees on this plan are categorised and shown in the following format:

COLOUR CODING AND RATING OF TREES:

Category A – Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years. Colour = light **green** crown outline on plan.

Category B – Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years. Colour = mid **blue** crown outline on plan.

Category C – Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 to 20 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm. Colour = uncoloured crown outline on plan.

Category U – Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years. Colour = **red** crown outline on plan.

All references to tree rating are made in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations', Table 1.

The Site

- 3.1 The site is located on Wiltshire Road, a residential through road located to the north of Wokingham.
- 3.2 Access to the property is currently gained via a driveway to the front of the site.

The Subject Trees

- 4.1 The details of the subject trees are set out in the Schedule at Appendix B.
- 4.2 Of the thirteen individual trees and groups of trees surveyed, one has been assessed as BS 5837 category A, three have been assessed as BS category B, eight have been assessed as BS category C with the remaining tree being assessed as BS 5837 category U.

Category A	1 tree
Category B	3 trees
Category C	8 trees / groups
Category U	1 tree

The Proposal

- 5.1 The proposal for the site is to renovate the existing building, work that will include extensions to the north and south.
- 5.2 The existing access from Wiltshire Road will be reused and the existing parking area will be reduced to create more garden space to the south of the building.
- 5.3 The proposed location of the above structures can be seen on the appended plan.

Method Statement and Procedures for Development Works

6.1 TREE WORKS

A list of all tree works that are required is included in the tree table at Appendix B. Where any tree work is needed, this work **MUST** be in accordance with British Standard 3998 – 2010 (Tree Work - Recommendations).

6.2 TREE PROTECTION BARRIERS

The position of the proposed protective fencing for the site is shown on the Tree Protection Plan (TPP) by a **pink** line. The position of the fence **MUST** be marked out with biodegradable marker paint on site and agreed with appropriate representatives from the contractor. The fencing **MUST** be erected **prior** to any works in the vicinity of the trees and removed only when all development activity is complete. The protective fencing **MUST** be as that shown in BS 5837 (see Appendix C). The herras panels **MUST** be joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers which **MUST** be installed so they can only be removed from the inside of the fence. The panels **MUST** supported by stabilizer struts, which **MUST** be installed on the inside and secured to the ground using pins or appropriate weights.

The Fence must be marked with a clear sign reading:

“Construction Exclusion Zone – No Access”

6.3 GROUND PROTECTION – LIGHTWEIGHT ACCESS ONLY

An area of the site will require ground protection to ensure that soil erosion or excessive compaction does not occur. The areas where this protection is required are outlined in **orange** hatching on the appended plan. This area **MUST** be covered with a permeable membrane, with 150mm layer of compressible woodchip overlaying it; an 18mm marine ply boards will then be secured on top of the woodchip to allow a 1.5tonne mini-digger to access the area without causing major compaction or soil erosion.



Above: ground protection make-up

6.4 GROUND PROTECTION (EXISTING)

The hard surfacing that exists on the drive provides adequate ground protection and **MUST** therefore be retained in situ for the entirety of the site works until soft landscaping works commence.

6.5 DELIVERY AND STORAGE OF BUILDING MATERIALS

Storage areas **MUST** be on the existing hard surfacing and outside of the tree protection barriers (**pink** lines).

- 6.6 SITE HUTS, WELFARE FACILITIES AND STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND CHEMICALS
All site huts **MUST** be positioned on the existing hard surfacing and outside of tree RPAs and the tree protection barriers (**pink** lines).
- 6.7 MIXING OF CONCRETE
All mixing of cement / concrete **MUST** be undertaken outside of the RPA of all of the retained trees.
- 6.8 INCOMING SERVICES, DRAINAGE AND SOAKAWAYS
From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, the existing drainage system has been assessed as suitable for re-use, and it is assumed that the electric and gas cabling is also satisfactory.
- 6.9 OTHER TREE PROTECTION PRECAUTIONS
- **NO** fires lit on site within 20 metres of any tree to be retained.
 - **NO** fuels, oils or substances which will be damaging to the tree shall be spilled or poured on site.
 - **NO** storage of any materials within the root protection zone.
- 6.10 DISMANTLING PROTECTIVE BARRIERS
Protective barriers must only be completely removed when all machinery, and equipment has left site.
- 6.11 REMOVAL OF THE EXISTING DRIVE SECTIONS TO REVERT TO LAWN
- The surfacing can be removed using a small 360 excavator. The machine **MUST** start work at the points nearest to any retained trees, working backward away from each tree so that the remaining hard surfacing can be used to support the load of the machine and protect the ground. (**NOTE: the size of any such machine should be checked before starting works, to ensure a) the existing surface will support the machine's load and b) that there is sufficient crown clearances to avoid any potential for crown damage**). This work **MUST** be undertaken utilising a banksman.
 - If during the work, any roots from the retained trees are discovered in excess of 25mm, the retained arboriculturalist **MUST** be contacted immediately to assess the roots and arrange subsequent working methods that will cause no damage to the tree(s).
 - Care **MUST** be taken to avoid damage to the soil beneath these structures. If any roots are exposed, these should be covered immediately and the retained arboriculturalist **MUST** be contacted immediately to assess the roots and arrange subsequent working methods that will cause no damage to the tree(s).
- 6.12 SPECIFICATION FOR LAYING NEW GRASS BENEATH TREES
- Any Imported topsoil must be in accordance with the current British Standard 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil and Requirements for Use i.e. good quality, screened and free from contaminants e.g. oil, diesel fuel, toxic materials or heavy metals, perennial weeds etc .

- No machinery may be operated within the canopy of any retained tree during the installation of soft landscaping, i.e there must be no mechanical rotivation, rolling or use of other machinery. Any cultivation necessary shall be undertaken by the use of hand tools only. Compaction of the ground within the canopy of any retained tree must not occur. If compaction does occur the ground will be immediately de-compacted with an air spade to a minimum dept of 500mm
- Preparations for turf application will be carried out during appropriate weather conditions. They will include close cutting and spraying any weed growth with a systemic herbicide. All Chemicals used shall be non toxic to human beings, birds and animals, under normal use and chemicals no on the 'Agricultural Chemicals Approved Scheme' current list of approved products shall not be used.
- Time of sowing. Grass seeding/Turfing works may be carried out from May to September in appropriate weather conditions
- No turf will be laid on water logged soils, exceptionally dry weather or during air/ground frost
- Grassing works: Preparation and grassing works shall be carried out in general accordance with the requirements of Section 5 of the current British Standard 4428 Recommendations for General landscape Operations.
- Turfs shall be in supplied in accordance with the current British Standard 3969:1992 Recommendations for Turf for General landscape Purposes. Turfs shall be clean meadow or downland turfs, fibrous and well rooted, free from matted dead grass and perennial weeds and shall have been subject to proper maintenance and treatment with selective weed killers and insecticides during the previous growing season.
- Under no circumstances will the soil levels be lowered or deeply cultivated

6.13 BOUNDARY TREATMENTS

Boundary fencing installation / upgrades **MUST** be undertaken as part of the soft landscaping phase and **MUST** be installed ONLY when all machinery that is on site for the main build has permanently left the site (NB. If needed, boundary fencing can also be installed prior to the commencement of site works, i.e.. before any machinery has been bought onto the site). Where sections of new / upgraded fencing are located within the RPA of ANY tree that is to be retained, this work **MUST** be undertaken by hand using hand tools only. The locations of the new fence upright posts will be finalised following trial digs to confirm there are no major (over 25mm) roots present; if any such roots are found, the location must be altered. If any smaller roots are found, these can be cut using sharp hand sharp tools to leave a 'clean' cut, in order to minimise the risk of infection by decay pathogens. The post holes within the RPAs should then be lined with plastic sheeting before any concrete or cement is placed into the hole, in order that there is no risk of leaching into the nearby soil as the mixture dries.

6.14 ON SITE SUPERVISION

Regular site supervision is essential to ensure all potentially damaging activities near to trees are properly supervised. A pre start site meeting **MUST** occur to ensure all parties are aware of their responsibilities relating to tree protection on site; this **MUST** include a site induction for key personnel.

Key personnel:

Name	Position	Contact number / email:
Glen Harding	Retained arboriculturalist	07884 056 025 Or info@ghatrees.co.uk
TBC	Local authority Arboricultural Officer	TBC
TBC	Site manager	TBC

At this pre start meeting, a supervision programme **MUST** be devised by the site manager and retained Arboriculturalist, ensuring that Arboricultural supervision is present at the appropriate periods during construction. The critical phases as listed below will be supervised inspected on site by the retained Arboriculturalist. The records of these site monitoring visits will be recorded on the site monitoring sheet at appendix D. After this pre start meeting, day-to-day responsibility for tree protection will be devolved to the site manager who will make contact with the retained arboriculturalist as needed.

Critical phases to be supervised / inspected on site by the retained Arboriculturalist:

NOTE: THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THESE ARE SCHEDULED APPROPRIATELY IN LINE WITH THE BUILD PROGRAMME IS WITH THE SITE MANAGER.

- Prior to tree pruning / removal to ensure work is correctly identified. **Date and time to be confirmed.**
- Following completion of the erection of protective fencing to ensure it is constructed to the correct specification at the required proximity to ensure the healthy retention of the trees. **Date and time to be confirmed.**
- Removal of sections of drive in RPAs. **Date and time to be confirmed.**

Conclusion

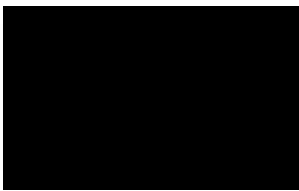
- 7.1 In conclusion, the principal arboricultural features within the site can be retained and adequately protected during development activities.
- 7.2 Subject to precautionary measures as detailed above, the proposal will not be injurious to trees to be retained.

Recommendations

- 8.2 Site supervision – An individual e.g. the Site Agent, must be nominated to be responsible for all arboricultural matters on site. This person must:
- a. Be present on the site the majority of the time.
 - b. Be aware of the arboricultural responsibilities.
 - c. Have the authority to stop any work that is, or has the potential to cause harm to any tree.
 - d. Be responsible for ensuring that all site personnel are aware of their responsibilities towards trees on site and the consequences of the failure to observe those responsibilities.
 - e. Make immediate contact with the local authority and / or retained arboriculturalist in the event of any related tree problems occurring whether actual or potential.
- 8.3 It is recommended, that to ensure a commitment from all parties to the healthy retention of the trees, that details are passed by the architect or agent to any contractors working on site, so that the practical aspects of the above precautions are included in their method statements, and financial provision made for these.

5th July 2024

Signed:

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Glen Harding.

Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
For and on behalf of GHA Trees

Appendix A
TREE PROTECTION PLAN
(see separate PDF)

Appendix B

TREE TABLE

Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
T1	Oak	19	800	1	9.60	9	9	9	9	M	4	40+	A1	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.
T2	Cherry	6	100	1	1.20	3	2.5	2.5	3	M	2.5	10-20	C1	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated. Unremarkable tree of modest quality and of limited value in the wider landscape. Cut back on south side in past. Recommend: cut back laterally on south side by 1.5m.
T3	Whitebeam	4	20	1	0.24	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	M	2	10-20	C1	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.
T4	Italian cypress	9	100	1	1.20	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	M	1	10-20	C1	Small tree of limited value in the wider landscape.
T5	Norway maple	8	180	1	2.16	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	M	2	20-40	B1	Future potential - fine young tree.
T6	Lawson cypress	11	220	1	2.64	4	2	2	4	M	2 over site	10-20	C1	Declining crown. Topped in past. Recommend: crown lift to 2.5m to allow fence installation.

Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
T7	Lime	17	780	3	9.36	5	6	5	6	M	4 east	20-40	B1	Ivy prevented full inspection. Recommend: remove ivy and reinspect.
G8	Mixed scrub / shrubs - mainly holly, laurel, cypress	up to 6	100	1	1.20	as plan				M	0	10-20	C2	Scrub growth. Recommend: cut back to historic dimensions.
T9	Lawson cypress	16	240	1	2.88	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	M	3	10-20	C1	No significant / notable defects observed during inspection.
T10	Holly	13	255	2	3.05	3	3	3	3	M	2 north	10-20	C1	Unremarkable tree of modest quality and of limited value in the wider landscape.
T11	Maple	13	720	1	8.64	3	3	2	1	OM	5 north	Less than 10	U	Declining crown with 60% live growth. Limb losses in past. Ganoderma at ground level west side.
T12	Ash	16	440	1	5.28	2	3	2	2	M	8 north	10-20	C1	Early signs of Ash dieback noted. Minor crown dieback observed from ground level.
T13	Lawson cypress	15	397	2	4.76	3	3	3	3	M	1	20-40	B1	No significant / notable defects observed during inspection.

KEY :

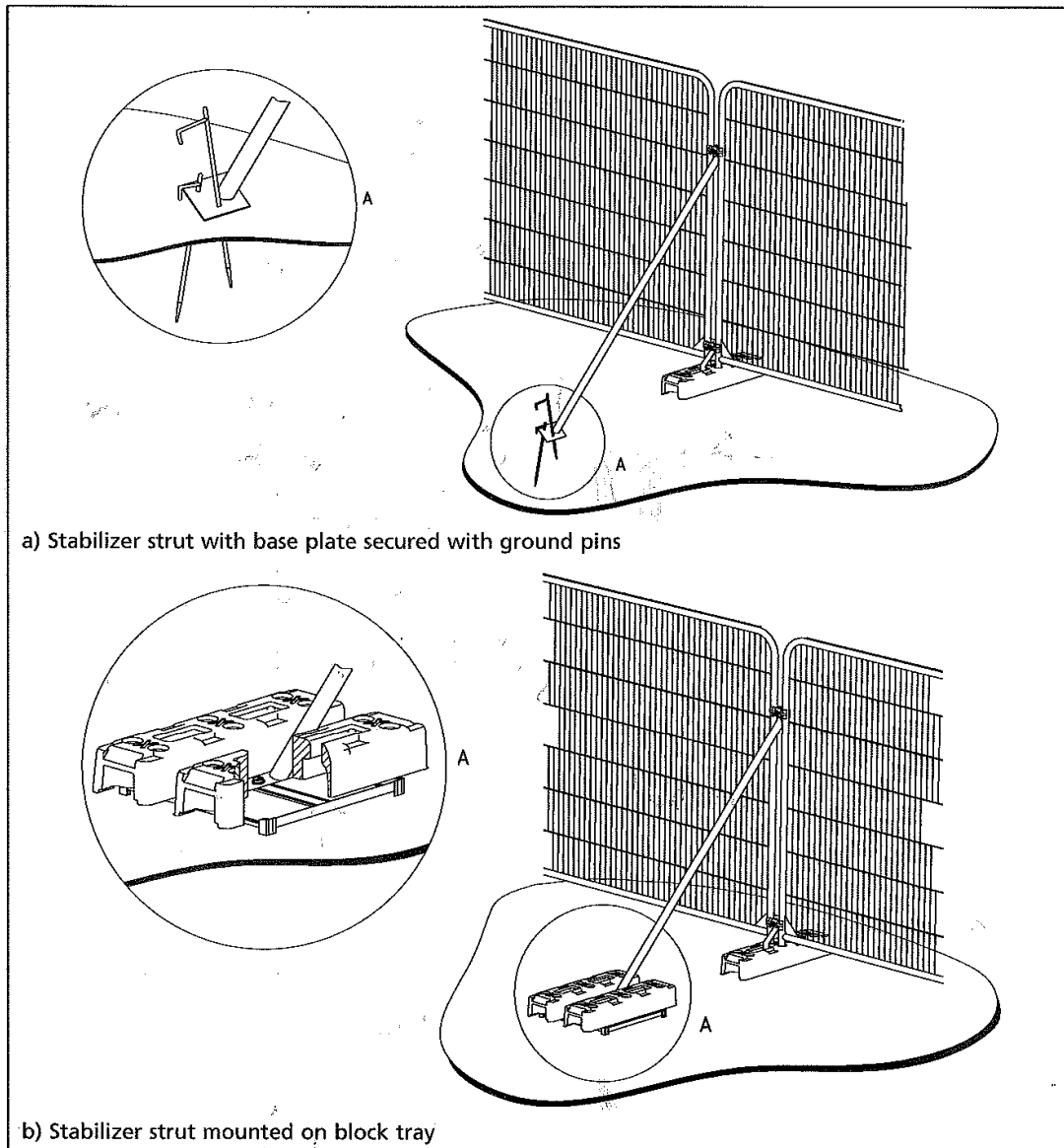
Tree No: (T= individual tree, G= group of trees, W= woodland)

Age class: Young (Y), Middle aged (MA), Mature (M), Over mature (OM),
Veteran (V)

Height (Ht): Measured in metres +/- 1m

Appendix C
TREE FENCING DETAIL

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



Appendix D

Site Monitoring Sheet

Site:			
Project:			
Client:		Contact:	
Site monitoring inspection date:			Name of inspector:
Notes:			
Action required to rectify any issues:			
Date Action taken:			
Site monitoring inspection date:			Name of inspector:
Notes:			
Action required to rectify any issues:			
Date Action taken:			
Site monitoring inspection date:			Name of inspector:
Notes:			
Action required to rectify any issues:			
Date Action taken:			