Merewood
Arboricultural Consultancy Services

Arboricultural ASSOCIATION
Professional Member
No. PRO 1047

B.S. 5837 Arboricultural Method Statement at The Old Thatch Lower Sandhurst Road Finchampstead RG40 3TH Rev B

Client: Robert & Lucy Westell
The Old Thatch
Lower Sandhurst Road
Finchampstead
RG40 3TH

Important note for demolition and construction contractors

This document includes requirements for arboricultural supervision by a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant in certain areas and techniques that may involve a specialised input. Adherence to these requirements is necessary for this document to comply with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Prepared by
Simon Hawkins Dip Arb L6 (ABC) N.D Arbor M. Arbor. A.

Date
14/01/2026

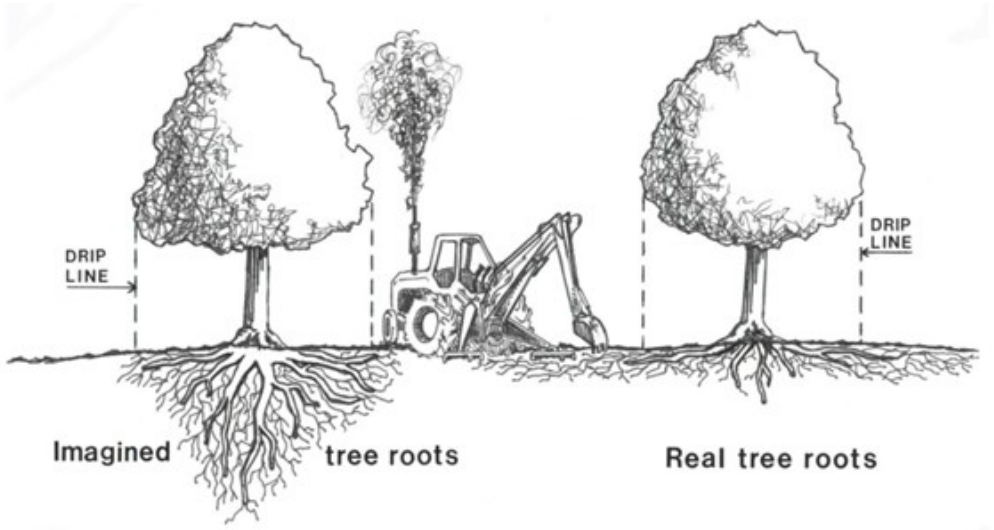


Merewood.
Gregory Road, Hedgerley, Bucks. SL2 3XW
M. 07784 915944 T. 01753 647236
E. s_imon.hawkins@hotmail.co.uk
VAT No: 990 9313 90

Important information for site managers and all contractors and sub-contractors

This method statement has been prepared to address the protection of trees on the site you are working at. Construction works can be potentially damaging to trees in a number of ways, often because of misunderstanding or a lack of knowledge as to how trees grow and function.

The most vulnerable part of any tree is its root system. Contrary to popular belief, the roots of trees do not grow down deep in to the soil but occupy the upper 600mm, growing far beyond the drip line. Much of the root system of trees is all but invisible to the naked eye being made up of very fine roots sometimes only one cell thick. Added to this, the tree depends on an equally fine network of fungal mycorrhizae that help the roots secure nutrients and water. These too are highly vulnerable.



A diagrammatic representation of how a trees' roots really grow.

Tree roots can be damaged by:

- Excavations
- Soil compaction (driving a machine over the soil will cause roots to suffocate)
- Storing materials (resulting in soil compaction)
- Chemical storage/spills (including cement dust, cleaning tools, paint, etc)
- Burning fires
- Contractor parking
- Service trenches

Trees matter. Take care around the site and if you run into problems, contact the arboricultural consultant.

1.0 Brief:

1.1 I am instructed by Robert and Lucy Westell to prepare an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) in respect of a proposed development of the site at The Old Thatch Lower Sandhurst Road Finchampstead.

1.2 I am to provide instructions for tree retention and protection, including details of appropriate measures that are to be undertaken in order to minimize the impact of development.

1.3 The method statement is required to support a planning application are for the development of the site including the demolition of the existing house and outbuildings and the erection of a new detached dwelling.

2.0 Arboricultural Supervision

2.1 An arboricultural consultant will be appointed by the developer prior to the commencement of any works on the site.

2.2 Prior to the commencement of works a set up meeting between the main contractor, any (relevant) sub-contractors, a representative from the LPA and the arboricultural consultant will take place. In the event the representative from the LPA is unable to attend, the arboricultural consultant will make a note of discussions and will advise the LPA in writing.

2.3 The meeting will establish a line of communication between the working parties and to understand the parameters of the site, underlining the importance of maintaining and respecting tree protection barriers.

2.4 At the meeting the Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) is to be signed off by the person responsible for the day to day running of the site (normally the site foreman).

2.5 By signing off the AMS, the responsible person agrees that he/she has read and understood the method statement and agrees to adhere to it.

2.6 In the event of the responsible person being replaced at any time during the development it will be their responsibility to ensure the new person responsible for the site is made aware of the method statement and the need to adhere to the method statement.

2.7 A copy of this report will be permanently available on site for the duration of the development activity. It can also be copied for the purposes of tendering, planning the timing of operations and used as a reference as a general guide on how to protect important trees.

2.8 A full scale (1:200) copy of the tree protection plan is to be available at all times on site.

2.9 No tree work is to take place without obtaining, in writing, the express consent of the Local Authority.

2.10 Once the site becomes active the arboricultural consultant will visit on regular occasions to record specific stages of the development (e.g. demolition, laying of foundations, construction etc.).

2.11 All site visits are to be recorded on paper and with accompanying photographs. The purpose of recording the visits is to

(a) Provide the developer with proof of compliance in the event of any dispute
(b) Allow the LPA to discharge the relevant planning conditions

3.0 The development

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 The expected programme of site development where arboricultural input is required is as follows:

1. Pre commencement meeting
2. Proposed tree works
3. Installation of protective fencing
4. Demolition of the existing
5. Erection of main build
6. Removal of tree protection measures

3.2 Tree works

3.2.1 The following tree works are to be carried out in order to facilitate the development:

Operation	Trees affected
Felling	T16 - Beech T17 - Apple T18 – Fig T38 - Hazel T40 – Holly

3.2.2 All tree works are to be carried out in line with the recommendations of B.S. 3998: 2010 Tree work – Recommendations.

3.3 Erection of fencing

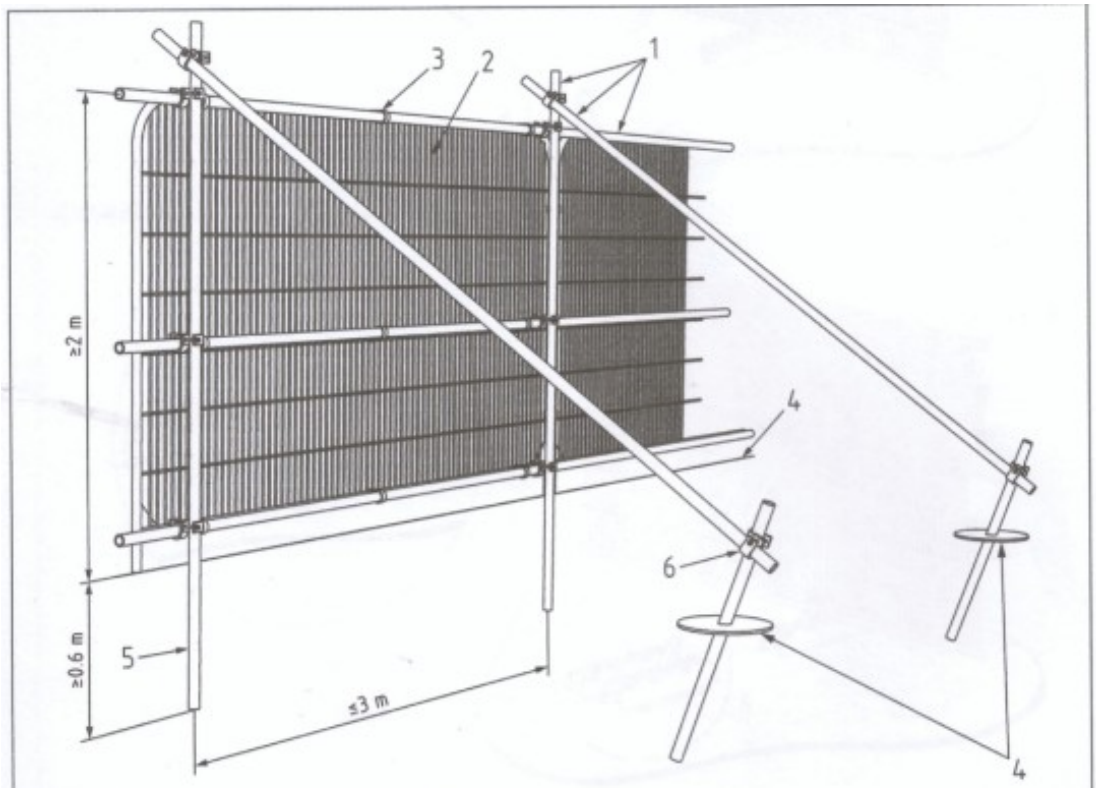
3.3.1 The tree protection plan (appendix 1) shows the line and position of the root protection fencing to be erected prior to any other works taking place on site.

3.3.2 The root protection fencing installation shall be approached from within the central working zone to avoid damage within the root protection area itself, in accordance with the recommendations of BS 5837/2012, as illustrated by Fig. 1.

3.3.3 The fencing for the root protection zones shall be constructed of scaffold tube uprights (set at 3m intervals with diagonal braces driven securely into the ground). Thereafter 'Heras' type fencing shall be attached to the scaffold framework using either steel strapping or scaffold clamps. The fencing shall comply with the requirements of the British Standard B.S. 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations'.

3.3.4 The fenced off areas are to be regarded as a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ). This area is to be considered sacrosanct and strictly off limits to any construction activity including any movement of machinery, storage of materials or parking of contractors' vehicles.

3.3.5 The fencing protecting the RPA is not to be moved unless this has been specifically detailed in the AMS or with the written agreement of the LPA.



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

Fig. 1 Protective fencing in accordance with B.S. 5837

Fig 2. Signage attached to fencing reinforces the protection afforded by these barriers

3.3.6 There is to be no burning of any materials or substances within 10m of the root protection barriers.

3.3.7 There is to be no storage of cement bags, chemicals or any other toxic or potentially toxic substances within the CEZ.

3.3.8 Once the fencing has been properly installed, the retained arboricultural consultant will visit the site to confirm the correct installation of the fencing.

3.3.9 The installation of the fencing will be photographed and recorded and a record of this will be passed on to the arboricultural officer at the Local Authority.

3.4 **The installation of ground protection**

3.4.1 The tree protection plan (appendix 1) shows the position of the ground protection measures do be put into place prior to any other works taking place on site.

3.4.2 The areas illustrated (the existing access road and driveway) shall be covered by ground protection matting (such as Ground Guards – Maxi Trak Extra Heavy duty), suited to supporting the weight of construction traffic (recommended load bearing 50t – maximum 80t)

3.4.3 The separate mats shall be joined together using joiner kits to lock the panels together.

3.4.4 The mats shall be underlaid by a layer of woodchips at least 150mm thick at the outset to provide an additional layer of cushioning (see Appendix 2).

3.4.5 The layer of woodchips shall be periodically checked for erosion and wear and

shall be topped up as appropriate to ensure the continuing effectiveness of the additional protection.

Fig. 3 Ground Guards – Maxi Trak Heavy duty is ideal for the ground protection required here.

3.5 **Demolition**

3.5.1 The demolition of all of the existing house will take place before the construction works begin.

3.5.2 The protective fencing shall be installed as shown of the Tree Protection Plan before demolition works commence, and following the completion of demolition works, shall be moved to the position shown for fencing after demolition.

3.5.3 The existing structure is to be dismantled using a standard 'top down' method, pulling the structure down from the roof using a JCB or similar machinery.

3.5.4 All materials are to be separated as far as possible for recycling and shall be collected from the driveway areas to the front of the house.

3.6 **Site access**

3.6.1 The site is to be accessed by way of the existing access road (Drift Lane) leading up from Lower Sandhurst Road.

3.7 **Foundations**

3.7.1 The new house is expected to be constructed using traditional strip foundations.

3.7.2 Excavated soil from the foundations will be moved to the front of the site for disposal.

3.7.3 If roots are encountered and root pruning is unavoidable, cuts shall be made at

the nearest suitable point in the root system, such as a root junction. Final pruning cuts are to be made at right angles to the axis of the root to leave as small a wound as possible.

3.7.4 All pruning cuts shall be made with sharp horticultural tools such as secateurs, pruning shears of a saw (not a spade, shovel, pickaxe or mattock) and the final cut shall be as smooth as possible free of jagged edges.

3.8 Mortar mixing

3.8.1 Concrete and mortar (when not delivered by cement lorry) will be mixed in a dedicated area at the side of the house.

3.8.2 All mortar mixing and handling of any other hazardous materials shall take place outside the rpa's of trees. Water run-off from the cleaning of either a mortar tower or concrete mixers is to be directed away from rpa's and will take place as far from trees as possible.

3.8.3 If necessary a confinement area controlling the run-off shall be installed, incorporating an impermeable layer of strong plastic sheeting help within a raised bed. Washing of cement mixers shall take place only within the confined area.

3.9 Storage of materials

3.9.1 Materials are to be delivered by way of the existing access road (Drift Lane) leading up from Lower Sandhurst Road to the delivery/set down area at the front of the house to be either stored or distributed to where needed at the time.

3.9.2 Materials can be moved about the site either by fork lift truck, wheelbarrow or by hand, as needed.

4.0 Post construction

4.1 Final removal of tree protective fencing

4.1.1 Following the conclusion of all construction operations scaffolding and protective fencing will be removed to allow for landscaping operations to take place.

4.1.2 Great care is needed at this stage from ground work contractors to continue to observe tree protection requirements. No machines are to be used within rpa’s which specifically includes rotovators and all new planting and soil level variations must be agreed and supervised by the arboriculturist.

4.2 Laying the cellular confinement product

4.2.1 The tree protection plan shows then areas where a cellular confinement system is to be installed for the driveway.

4.2.2 The exact specification for the cellular confinement systems will be determined by engineers employed by the supplier of the product according to soil bearing tests, predicted usage and manufacturers recommendations. If necessary a planning condition requiring this detail, prior to the commencement of works can be used.

4.2.3 The principles of laying a cellular confinement system are set out in the Arboricultural Association Guidance Note12 'The Use of Cellular Confinement Systems near Trees: A Guide to Good Practice.' Broadly speaking the method followed is replicated each time such a system is installed and is as follows:-

4.2.4 The materials for the no-dig driveway shall be delivered to an area adjacent to the main entrance and stored there, ready for moving onto the working area. No machine or vehicle is to move onto the working area at any time prior to the laying of the cellular confinement system.

4.2.5 Prior to the laying of the cellular confinement system, the soil will be made level (by building up), removing any vegetation by hand and removing tree roots using a stump grinder if needed. Sharp sand shall be used to ramp up over any protruding roots.

4.2.6 The use of heavy machinery to install the cellular confinement system shall be avoided to minimise the risk of causing soil compaction within the RPA. The product shall be installed using a wheelbarrow and a shovel.

4.2.7 The stone aggregate used to backfill the cells shall be stored within the materials storage area, adjacent of the cellular confinement system.

4.2.8 A base geotextile layer made of polypropylene or polyester (min 300g/m^2) with a CBR puncture resistance of 4000N shall be laid out covering the entire area to be surfaced. If more than one sheet is needed the sheets shall overlap by at least 30cm.

4.2.9 With the geotextile layer laid down, the panels of the cellular confinement system shall be stretched out to cover the area required. The panels shall be held in place using J-hooks (steel reinforcing bars bent into a 'candy-cane' shape) or similar (e.g. construction pins or wooden stakes).

4.2.10 Working from outside the no-dig area inwards, the backfill shall be added to create a surface on which workers can then step on in order to continue filling in the product. The backfill shall be made up of a free draining subbase material using crushed 20/40 stone that has been screened and washed. If 20/40 is not available, 4/20 stone can be used provided it has been washed or graded to contain no fine particles (fines).

4.2.11 The aggregate shall be overfilled by a minimum 25mm to help to protect the geocells. Where possible vehicle use shall be restricted to outside the RPA but where the use of tracked vehicles across the RPA is unavoidable, vehicles shall continue to work progressively beyond the RPA in order to avoid

manoeuvring which could result in distortion of the cellular confinement product.

4.2.12 The settlement of the infill material shall be achieved by a minimum of four passes of a smooth roller (max. weight 1000kg/m width without vibration) or alternatively by several passes with a tracked excavator.

4.2.13 The cellular confinement system shall be held in place at the edges using a peg and board edging, using thick tanalised boards, spacing the pegs at 1m intervals to prevent bowing.

4.2.14 The upper layer shall then be completely covered by a geo-textile fabric with an overlap of at least 20mm at the edges to prevent any particles migrating from the upper surface into the cells. If more than one sheet is needed they shall overlap by at least 30cm. The geotextile layer shall be made of polypropylene or polyester (min 300g/m^2) with a CBR puncture resistance of 4000N.

4.2.15 The finished surface of the cellular confinement system shall be permeable to allow the continued passage of air and water to the soil below. If necessary fresh geotextile layer shall be laid down (replacing the old one) onto the aggregate of the panel to act as a separation layer to ensure there is no contamination of dust and dirt seeping through from the finished layer to the cells below.

4.2.16 The final surface layer shall be gravel held in place by plastic stabilisation grids, such as a Core TRP Gravel Grid (Fig.4).

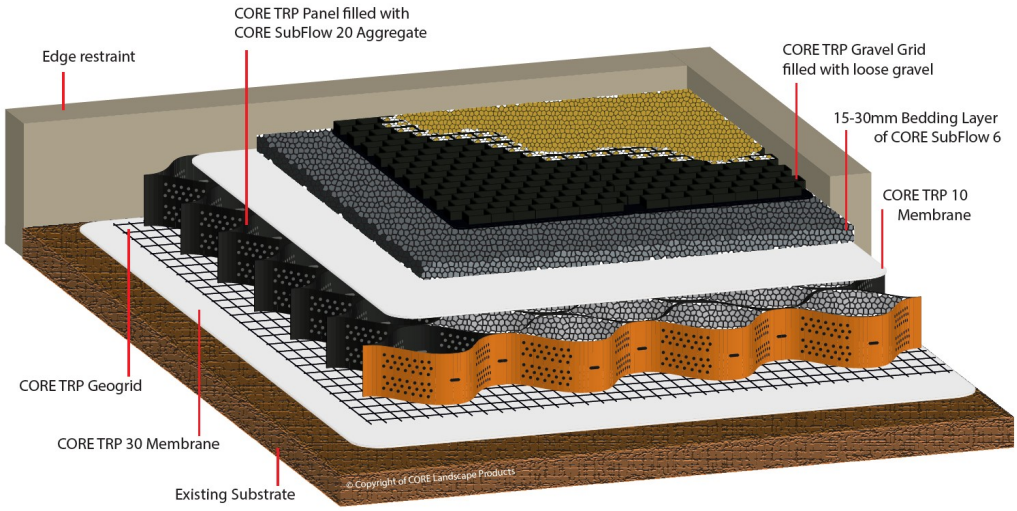


Fig. 4 The Core Drive product (cross section) using plastic grids and loose gravel as a final finish (image couretsey CORE LP).

4.3 **Site monitoring**

4.3.1 It should be noted that British Standard B.S. 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations' states at section 6.3 that

'…The project arboriculturist appointed by the developer can help monitor site activity, but enforcement is the responsibility of the local authority.'

4.3.2 The monitoring of the site shall be undertaken by an appointed arboriculturist and shall include site visits to advise and to confirm the correct installation of protective fencing and any other specialist input that may be needed.

4.3.3 Each visit shall be recorded and shall include photographs that are to be shared with the Local Authority. This shall take the form of email communication and if considered necessary, further site meeting with the tree officer.

4.3.4 The monitoring of the site shall be undertaken by an appointed arboriculturist and shall include site visits to advise and to confirm the correct installation of protective fencing and any other specialist input that may be needed.

4.3.5 Each visit shall be recorded and shall include photographs that are to be shared with the Local Authority. This shall take the form of email communication and if considered necessary, further site meeting with the tree officer.

Arboricultural checklist

Ref	*Work Activity*	*Schedule of Works*	*Refer*	*Recommendations*
General site works and tree related operations				
01	Pre-start site meeting	Pre-start site meeting with LPA tree officer, site manager, client representative and arboriculture consultant to agree scope of any works, where required		
02	Protect trees to be retained	Barriers should be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and should remain rigid and complete. Barriers are to be located in accordance with Merewood Tree Protection Plan	B.S. 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction: Section 6.2.2 Merewood Tree Protection Plan	Ongoing monitoring by appointed person
03	Protective fencing to be inspected by LPA (if required)	Contractors to give LPA at least 2 working days' notice of the erection of the temporary protective fencing.		Appointed person to contact LPA prior to completion of fencing.
04	Maintain the temporary protective fencing	Contractors to ensure the temporary protective fencing is maintained throughout the entire construction period and record any breach of the tree protection.	B.S. 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction: Merewood Tree Protection Plan	Appointed person responsible for arboricultural protection measures shall monitor fencing monthly, recording details
05	Works within the Root Protection Area (RPA)	Adopt hand dig methods for reducing levels to avoid damage to roots. Where limited root pruning is unavoidable it should be made at a suitable place within the root system, avoiding damage to surrounding tissue. Final pruning cuts shall be made at right angles to the axis of the root. The final cut wound should be smooth and as small	B.S. 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction: Section 7.2 Merewood Tree Protection Plan	All tree work should be carried out by a suitably tree qualified tree surgeon, preferably an Arboricultural Association approved contractor.

		as possible, free from ragged torn ends. Where root pruning is required to roots over 25mm in diameter, works should be overseen by a suitably qualified Arboriculturist. Any root pruning should be completed in accordance with BS 3998:2010.		

Signatures:

I confirm that I have attended a pre-application site meeting with the contractors and have gone through the requirements of the Arboricultural Method Statement and that a copy is available in the site office.

Arboricultural Consultant

I confirm that I have attended a pre-application site meeting with the arboricultural consultant and that I am responsible for the correct procedures being followed in accordance with the Arboricultural Method Statement and that a copy is available in the site office.

Site Manager/Foreman

Contact details:

Simon Hawkins – Arboricultural Consultant 07784 915 944

Architects – Twenty-20 Architecture 01344 513514

Wokingham Council – Council Offices 0118 974 6000

Appendix 1
Tree Protection Plan