



ALLARBORICULTURE

07375110399 | 0800 107 3652

e – info@allarboriculture.co.uk

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND METHOD STATEMENT

BS5837:2012

On behalf of:

Simon Belton

Site address:

Treetops,
Croft Road,
Spencer's Wood,
RG2 9EX

Prepared by:

Kristian Chesterman
BSc (Hons)

Report reference:

AAAIATREE

Report date:

25th October 2025

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1.0 Instruction

All Arboriculture has been instructed by Simon Belton to undertake a tree survey in accordance with BS5837:2012 *Trees In relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*, and to produce an Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan. The instruction was received on the 8th October 2025. The tree survey was carried out on the 15th October 2025.

2.0 Statement of purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide local planning authorities with sufficient arboricultural information to consider the effect of the proposed development on nearby trees, and to demonstrate that trees have been carefully considered throughout the development process.

The report includes an arboricultural method statement that describes how work will be undertaken to provide adequate protection of retained trees.

3.0 Associated documents and drawings

This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents and drawings:

1. 2336-P103 - Block Plans
2. British Standards Institute - BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*
3. Tree Protection Plan – AATPPTREE

4.0 Site description

The site is in the semi rural area of Spencers Wood, Reading and is detached residential dwelling. The proposal is the construction of a single storey side extension. The site falls under the jurisdiction of Wokingham Borough Council.

5.0 Vegetation description

The vegetation consists of 5 Category B trees and 1 Category C tree. A search on the councils portal shows the site is not within a Conservation Area and there are no Tree Preservation Orders on or close to the site.

Some tree protection measures and working methodology (in accordance with BS 5837:2012) will be required and will ensure they are not detrimentally affected during construction.

6.0 Arboricultural impact assessment

Table 1: Summary of impacts	
Tree removal	None
Facilitation pruning	None
Demolition within RPA	None
New surfacing within RPA	None
New structures within RPA	T1, T2, T3

Building construction in relation to tree roots: No tree removal is required for the implementation of the proposed development.

The proposed footprint for the garden room extends into the RPA's of T1, T2 and T3. The British Standard allows for the use of special foundations if there is no alternative to placing the structure in this position. The design for the foundations of this building have been assessed and mini piles or house deck foundations will provide the best option if a design is agreed by a suitably qualified engineer. The key point is that the floor of the building will be set at or above ground level with minimum excavation within the Root Protection Areas of T1, T2 and T3.

Building construction in relation to tree crowns: No facilitation pruning is required. It is important that sufficient growing space is allowed between the mature crown extent of each tree and the roof edge of the proposed structures. This is to reduce conflicts of interest in the future and to reduce the pressure to prune trees to keep them clear of roofs.

Tree root and canopy protection: The RPA (Root protection area) of the retained trees should be protected during the development phase with heras fencing and/or ground protection (if required) to ensure heavy machinery is not operated, or materials stored within the rooting area. This can be detrimental to the trees, causing soil compaction and root die back. The protection of the RPA and canopy spread is detailed in the Arboricultural Method Statement below.

Materials delivery, storage and handling: Materials should not be handled or stored within the RPA's of retained trees; the load exerted can result in soil compaction and leachate from spills can be toxic to trees.

Surface drains, soakaways and services: It is important that services, surface drains and soak aways avoid the RPA's of retained trees as roots can be damaged during trench excavations.

7.0 Arboricultural method statement

Implementation and phasing of the proposed development: Prior to any building work commencing on site, a meeting will be held with the tree consultant and site manager present. During the meeting details regarding the location of tree protection will be discussed and a time to reconvene in order to assess the tree protection will be agreed.

Tree protection barriers: Protective fencing **must** be installed prior to the commencement of any construction development activity and will be retained in the positions shown on the tree protection plan (AATPPTREE). The fencing will be to the BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations' (section 6.2) i.e. preformed galvanised steel mesh panels ('Heras' or similar) facings on a driven braced scaffold pole framework. It will be retained at the locations shown until construction is completed. It may be moved or removed only with notice to and consent from the local planning authority.

Ground protection: Temporary ground protection to be installed within the RPA's of T1, T2 and T3 should be capable of supporting pedestrian movements only, a single thickness of scaffold boards placed either on top of a driven scaffold frame, so as to form a suspended walkway, or on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 100 mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane.

Special surfacing: I have not been provided details for any new surfacing but if it is proposed within the RPA's of retained trees, the existing ground will be graded up to form a no dig surface utilising a 3D load spreader, a no-fines aggregate and permeable finish. All works close to and within the RPA's will need to be carried out strictly by hand.

Installation of specialist foundations: The proposed footprint extends into the RPA's of T1, T2 and T3. Mini piled foundations will be used. The key point is that the floor of the building will be set at or above ground level within with minimum excavation.

For installation of the mini piles these principals must be adhered to:

- Minimal excavation will take place within the RPA's of the trees
- Trial holes will be excavated using a hand auger or air spade when placing the piles to ensure that large roots are not damaged. If roots over 25mm diameter are found the final pile position will be adjusted to accommodate them.
- The piles will support a suspended floor or floor beams that will not be sunk into the ground.

-Tree roots will be protected during the piling process by preventing any leachates from wet concrete coming into contact with them by using prefabricated piles, or a sheath around the pile.

-Piling rigs must be small tracked machines with low ground pressure and work off proprietary temporary ground protection mats to minimise compaction. Arboricultural supervision will be required during the piling works.

Storage and handling of materials: This site has sufficient space for materials to be stored and handled outside of the RPA's of retained trees.

Contractors parking: There is sufficient space on site for parking.

Welfare facilities: Toilets and hand washing facilities shall be made available within the property and there is space for temporary facilities.

Surface drains, soakaways and services: No details of new service runs have been provided at this stage. They should be routed to avoid the RPA's of retained trees. If this is not possible, special techniques must be employed to place the services within the RPA of the trees. The British Standard suggests a range of trenchless methods suitable for various applications including micro tunnelling, surface launched directional drilling, Pipe ramming and Impact Moleing/thrust boring. It is important common ducts should be used where it is not possible to avoid the RPA. Further guidance on installing underground services adjacent to trees can be found in the NJUG Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees (Volume 4 Issue 2). This document outlines a number of techniques that may be used for trenching near trees, including trenchless techniques, discontinuous trenching and hand digging.

Supervision: The project arboriculturalist will attend the site to inspect the tree protection and ensure that it has been laid out as prescribed in the method statement and meets the requirements of BS5837:12 and also the installation of foundations. It is the responsibility of the site manager to inform the arboricultural consultant when inspections are required.

Tree works: No tree works are required.

Sequencing of works

1. Installation of Tree Protection as shown on the TPP.
2. Arboricultural Consultant to check Tree Protection at this stage.
3. Main construction phase
4. Remove tree protection when all construction activity has ended.
5. Carry out landscaping works (**if required**).
6. Completion

Contacts

Architect and Agent:

Name:

Tel:

E:

Arboricultural Consultant:

Name: K Chesterman

Tel: 07375110399

E: info@allarboriculture.co.uk

APPENDIX 1 - Tree Schedule Schedule

Tree No	Species	Height (m)	Trunk Diameter (cm)	Crown spread (m)		Crown height above ground (m)	Life stage	General observations	BS 5837 cat	Root protection area (m)
1	Western Red Cedar <i>Thuja plicata</i>	12	51	5	4	3	Mature	Basal decay. Suppressed. Lean to the NE.	C	6.1
				4	4					
2	Poplar <i>Populus nigra</i>	24	62	6	6	4	Mature	Lean to the West.	B	7.4
				6	6					
3	Poplar <i>Populus nigra</i>	24	70	6	6	4	Mature	Lean to the West. Co dominant.	B	8.4
				6	6					
4	Poplar <i>Populus nigra</i>	24	55	6	6	4	Mature	Co dominant.	B	6.6
				6	6					
5	Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	8	48	5	5	2	Mature	Basal decay. Previously reduced. Deadwood present.	B	5.7
				5	5					
6	Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	15	60	5	4	2	Mature	Off site tree. Lean to the East.	B	7.2
				5	5					

APPENDIX 1 - Tree Schedule Schedule

Survey Key

Diameter (mm)

Stem diameter in millimetres measured at 1.5m above ground level. Where the stem is divided below 1.5m, measurement is taken as directed by BS:5837 Annex

C. RPA - Root Protection Area

RPA circle radius is determined from Annex D of BS:5837. R- Radius

A – Area

Branch Spread (m)

Radial crown spread in metres, measured for each of the four cardinal points of the compass from the centre of the trunk. Low branches

N E
W S

Height above ground in metres of the lowest branch and use of the 4 cardinal points of the compass.

Age class

(NP) Newly planted – a tree within 3 years after planting

(Y) Young – a tree within its first one third of life expectancy

(EM) Early Mature – a tree within its second third of life expectancy

(M) Mature – a tree in its final one third of life expectancy

(OM) Over Mature – a tree having reached its maximum life span and is declining in health and size due to old age

(V) Veteran – a tree in the second or mature stage of its life and has important wildlife and habitat features including; hollowing or associated decay fungi, holes, wounds and large dead branches.

(A) Ancient – a tree in the ancient or third and final stage of their life that is of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of its age, size and condition

Physiological Condition

GOOD – a tree in a healthy condition with no significant problems

FAIR – a tree generally in good health with some problems that can be remediated POOR – a tree in poor health with significant problems that can't be remediated DEAD – a tree without sufficient live material to sustain life

Structural Condition

An assessment of the structural/safe condition of the tree categorised into:

GOOD – a tree in a safe condition with no significant defects

FAIR – a tree in a safe condition at present but with defects or with significant defects that can be remediated POOR – a tree with significant defects that can't be remediated.

EC - Estimated remaining contribution in years (based on the species and its current condition)

<10 Up to 10 years

10+ 10 years or more

20+ 20 years or more

40+ 40 years or more

Category (Tree quality assessment)

Category U – Tree in poor condition that cannot realistically be

retained for longer than 10 years Category A – Trees of high quality

Category B – Trees of moderate quality Category

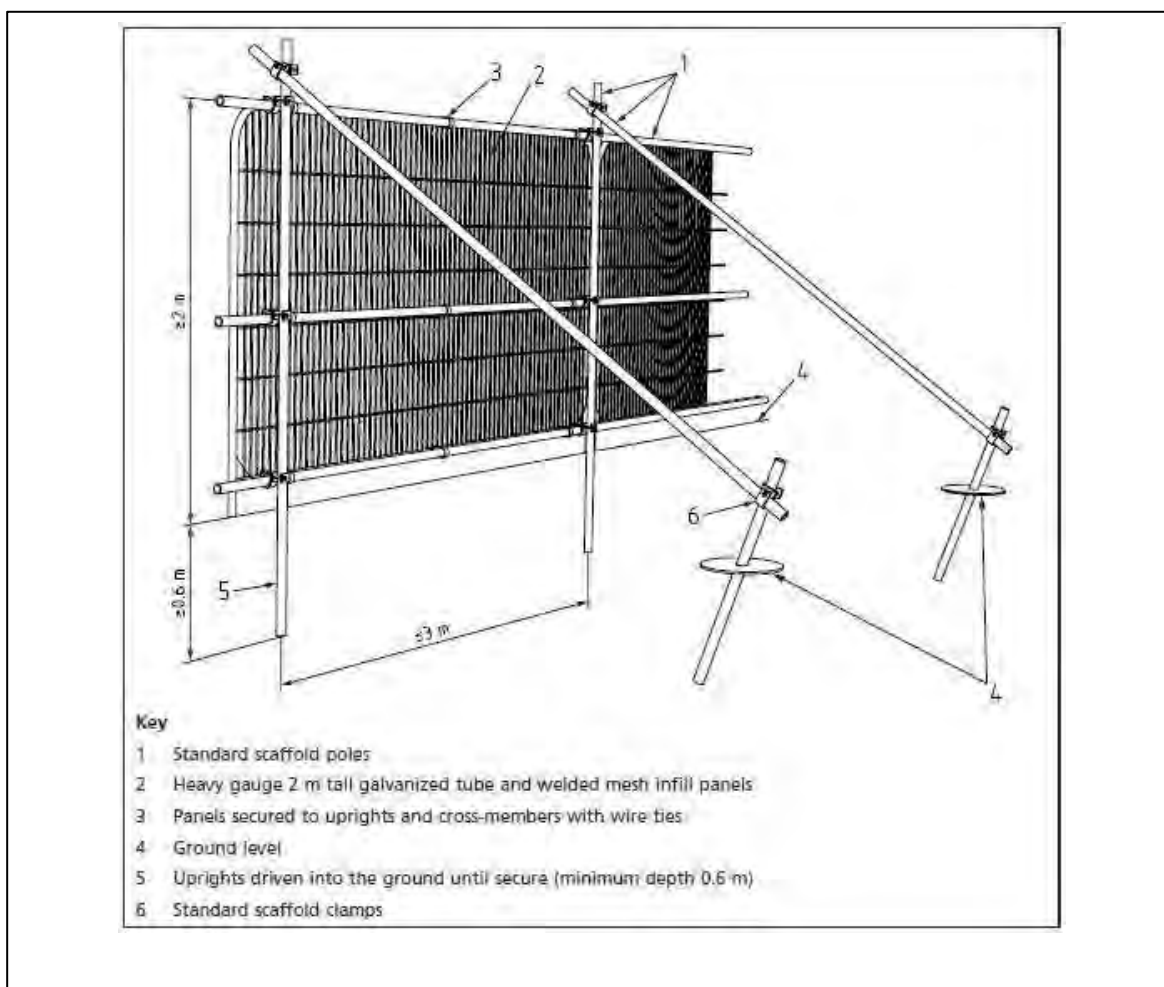
C – Trees of low quality

APPENDIX 2 – Protective Fencing

Protective fencing should be erected before any construction commences on site. It should also be in position to protect important trees prior to demolition.

Protective fencing should stay in position until all construction activity has finished.

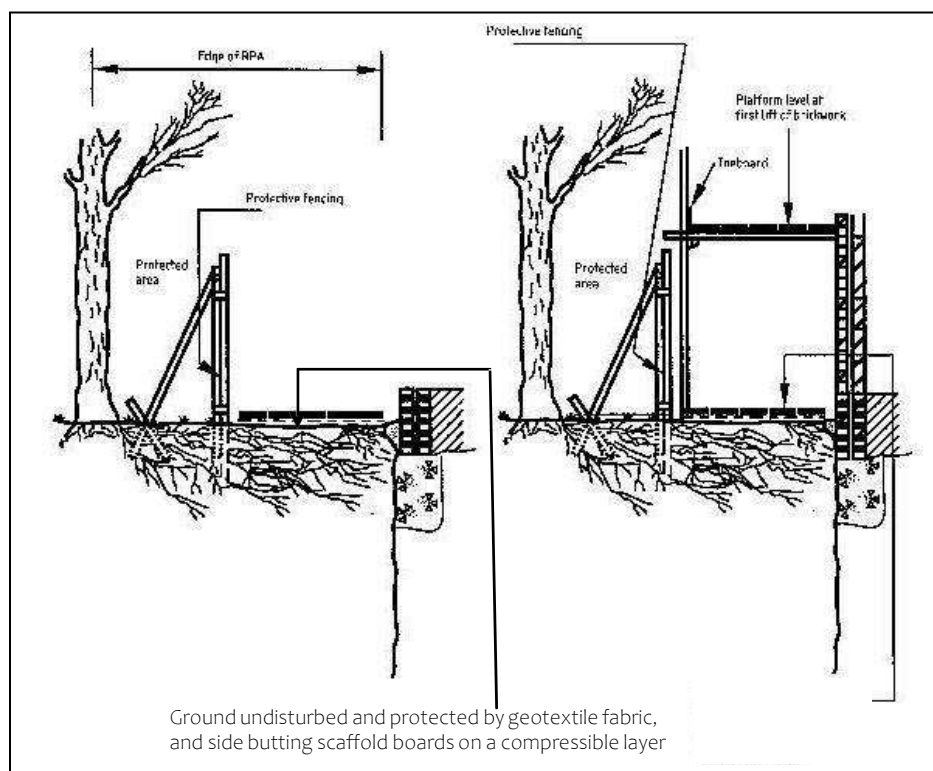
‘Fencing should be established at the minimum distance set out in British Standard 5837:2012 *‘Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations’*. Excavations should not encroach into the fence position and it is appropriate to keep at least 0.5m between the fence and any changes in level.

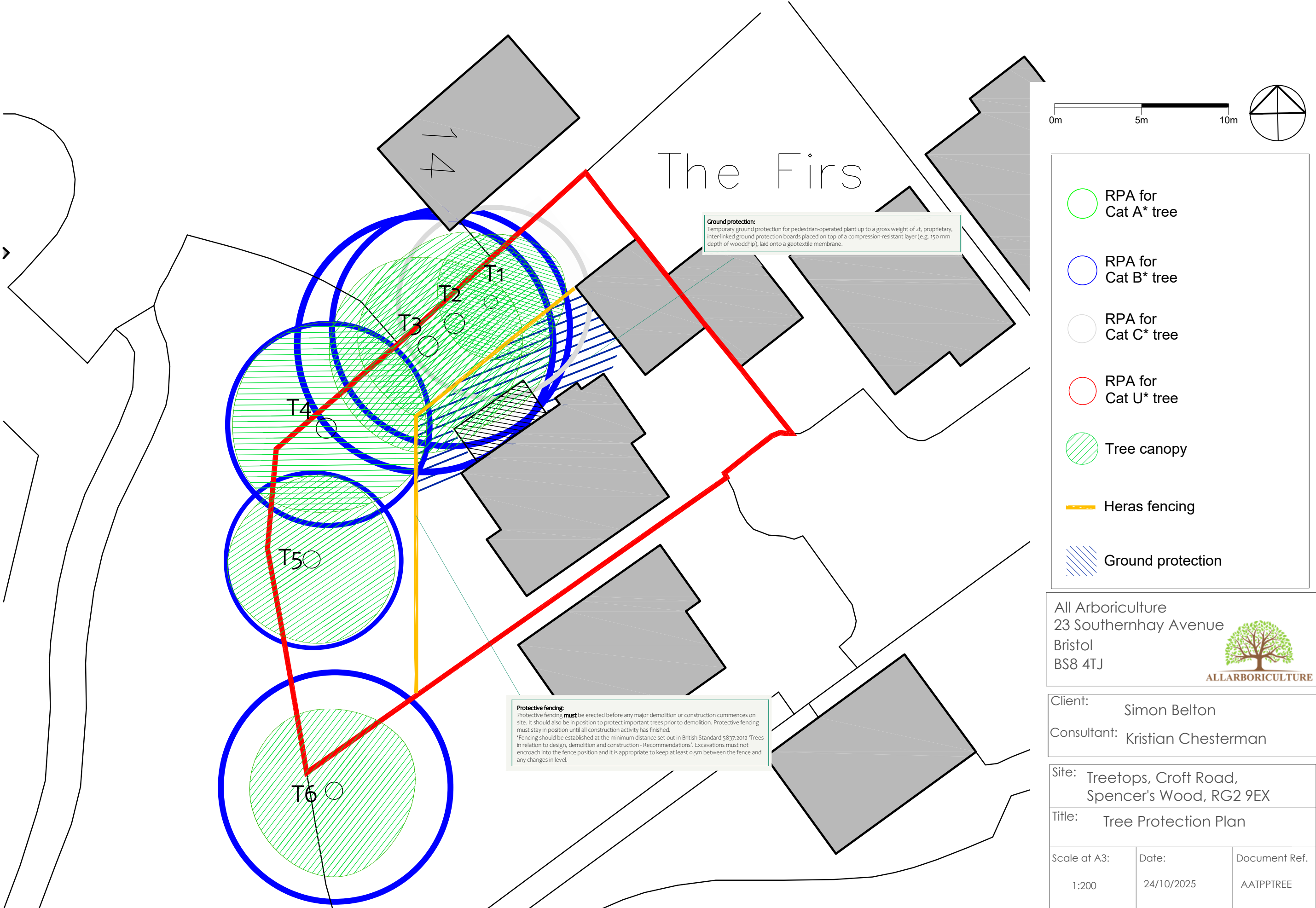


APPENDIX 2 – Ground Protection

Where ground protection measures are necessary, they can be provided by laying a geotextile mat onto the existing ground level and adding to this compressible materials, such as bark mulch or sharp sand to form a safe, level surface. Onto this surface is laid scaffold boards which become the working surface for the duration of the construction phase.

Where scaffolding is proposed above the area requiring protection the footway can be suspended above ground level using the upright scaffold poles onto which horizontal supports can be attached and then boards used to form the footway surface. A geotextile mat should be laid on the ground beneath to prevent contamination from materials dropped through the footway.





All Arboriculture
23 Southernhay Avenue
Bristol
BS8 4TJ



Client: Simon Belton
Consultant: Kristian Chesterman

Site: Treetops, Croft Road,
Spencer's Wood, RG2 9EX

Title: Tree Protection Plan

Scale at A3:	Date:	Document Ref.
1:200	24/10/2025	AATPPTREE