



OAKHURST
ARBORICULTURE

Arboricultural Assessment & Method Statement

On Behalf of: Mr & Mrs Kaur

12 Chivers Drive, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 4EW

Reference: OA-AMS-100725

Date of Issue: 10th July 2025

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 In June 2025, Oakhurst Arboriculture was instructed by Mr. & Mrs. Kaur to undertake a tree survey and to produce this report in support of a planning application for the proposed development of a single story extension at the rear of the 12 Chivers Drive, Finchampstead, RG40 4EW
- 1.2 Following the recommendations of the British Standard BS5837:2012 *Trees In relation to design, demolition and Construction*, this report includes the necessary information to enable the local authority to meet the duty placed upon them by s.197 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990).
- 1.3 It demonstrates that the impact, both direct and indirect, of the proposal, has been assessed and where appropriate, mitigation, compensation and tree protection proposed.
- 1.4 Correct implementation of the tree protection specified within this report is critical for ensuring the retained trees are successfully protected throughout the construction process.
- 1.5 For details of trees to be retained, location and types of protection measures reference should be made to drawing GP-TPP-01A attached in appendix C of this report.
- 1.6 The assessment considers the impact of the proposal on the constraints presented by trees retained within the site, and those on adjacent land. Such impact can be caused directly through construction damage and indirectly from post-development resentment and pressure to detrimentally prune or remove the trees. The latter is often due to a poor juxtaposition between the proposal and trees.
- 1.7 The root protection area (RPA) for each tree represents a minimum area in m² that should be left undisturbed around each retained tree. This is represented by a circle but is fundamentally an area of rooting volume. This is often adjusted to account for constraints to root growth within the site (primarily highways and buildings). Recommendations are provided in the British standard as to the protection of existing trees during the construction process. This is achieved by ensuring a tree protection strategy is implanted before any demolition or construction on site.
- 1.8 This Arboricultural Method Statement has been produced to aid the safe and healthy survival of all trees to be retained on the development site. Implementation of the protection methods and special construction details within this report are integral to achieving this goal.

2 Statutory Legislation

- 2.1 According to Wokingham District Council interactive map <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c0ad4ce95f8e46cfb28bb8cb126eaec0> (checked 10/07/2025) indicates that two subject trees (T1–Oak & T2–Silver birch) are subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO). Further investigation indicates that the subject trees are not within a conservation area.

3 Tree Survey – Scope and Methodology

- 3.1 Tree Survey data can be found – Appendix A – Tree work schedule
- 3.2 The tree survey has been carried out following the recommendations of The British Standard and the trees are assessed objectively and without reference to any site layout proposals. Categories are based on each tree's health and condition, together with an assessment of its life expectancy if its surroundings were to be unchanged.
- 3.3 The reference numbers of surveyed trees and groups of trees are shown on the tree reference plan, which is appended to this report and based on the supplied survey drawing. Stem locations within groups may be estimated, and indicative of canopy only.
- 3.4 The tree survey was carried out from ground level only, with the aid of binoculars as necessary, following the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method.
- 3.5 Where trees are located on neighbouring land an estimated appraisal has been made of their quality and dimensions.
- 3.6 Where stems or branches are obscured by ivy or other materials a full assessment of those parts will not be possible.
- 3.7 Tree heights were measured with a clinometer or estimated in relation to those measured.
- 3.8 Trunk diameters are measured at 1.5m above ground level, where this is not possible, then Figure C.1 of the British Standard is followed.
- 3.9 Tree canopies, where markedly asymmetrical, were measured (or estimated by pacing) in four directions using a laser measure. Symmetrical canopies are measured in one direction only, with dimensions in the remaining directions assumed to be similar. For canopies of groups of trees, the maximum radius for each compass point is measured (more complicated groups will have further notes taken and an accurate representation will be shown on the plan).
- 3.10 All estimated dimensions are noted in the data.

4 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

- 4.1 It is proposed that a single-story extension cross the width of the rear of the house, approximately 8 meters and extending outward into the rear garden by approximately 3 meters.

Tree Removals

- 4.2 Trees (T6 – Conifer hedge) will need to be removed to facilitate this proposal, details of which are listed in Appendix A – Tree Works Schedule

Tree Surgery

- 4.3 No tree surgery work or tree surgery will be needed is proposed, details of which are listed in Appendix A – Tree Works Schedule.

Construction Impact

- 4.4 Within the root protection area (RPA) of T001 & T002 the proposed development will extend by approximately 10% (T001) & 8% (T002).

- 4.5 For the proposed development it will require a low impact foundation method of construction to accommodate the proposal.

- 4.6 Construction access within the RPA will require ground protection for T001& T002.

- 4.7 T6 will need to be removed to enable access for construction

Summary

- 4.8 Provided the tree protection strategy is implemented as outlined in the following method statement, it is my opinion that this proposal will have an acceptable arboricultural impact.
- 4.9 Should the council wish to see more onerous tree protection methods; this can be ensured via an appropriately worded planning condition and should not be the basis for a reason for refusal.

5 Arboricultural Method Statement

- 5.1 The tree protection on this site is subject to implementation as detailed in the following sections.

- 5.2 The recommendations of the British Standard have been applied where viable. Where deviations from the preferred approach are required, impact on any retained trees is minimised through a combination of supervision from an Arboricultural Clerk of Works and adherence to the associated method statement.
- 5.3 It is imperative that the strategy is followed to avoid not only impact upon the trees, but to adhere to any planning conditions, should consent be granted.
- 5.4 The information within this section must be passed to the site foreman and cascaded to all relevant personnel involved in the project.
- 5.5 Any questions about the content or its implementation should be directed to **Oakhurst Arboriculture on 07766 747 046**, before action is taken.
- 5.6 Listed in the appendices are the tree locations and their protection, tree survey data and existing site features along with the proposed construction and other factors that could impact the trees.
- 5.7 The plan must be read in conjunction with this method statement.

Timing of Operations

- 5.8 The following phasing and monitoring procedures are designed to protect the trees that are to be retained on site, from pre- development stage throughout construction to ensure their survival post development.
- 5.9 The order in which the works should commence is as follows:
 - 1. Pre- Commencement Site meeting** – This should include a detailed discussion of the exact position of the protective fences, the necessity to ensure adequate supervision at key stages and who is responsible on site for the welfare of the trees.
 - 2. Tree Surgery** – Including all felling and pruning works.
 - 3. Tree Protection Fencing** – Fencing should be erected prior to any development work commencing on site. No further work should be carried out until the tree officer has approved the deployment of the fencing.

4. **Tree Stem Box Protection** – Boxing of stems should be constructed prior to any development work commencing on site. No work should be carried out until the tree officer has approved the construction of the stem protection boxes.
5. **Temporary Ground Protection** - Following the initial tree works and the installation of the tree protection barriers, but prior to any construction traffic entering the site, temporary ground protection shall be installed as shown on the 'Tree Protection Plan'.

Should any of the protection measures prove incompatible with any of the build elements of the building program, please call 07766 747 046 to discuss options.

Tree Surgery/Felling

- 5.10 It is recommended that all tree work including felling and pruning shall be carried out prior to the start of the construction process. Details of all trees works to be carried out are listed in the tree works schedule located in Appendix A. All tree works should be carried out in accordance with current industry best practice, BS3998:2010 Tree Work - Recommendations.
1. All tree work should be carried out by fully qualified and competent contractors such as Arboricultural Association Approved Contractors. The works should be discussed with the Arboricultural supervisor on site.
 2. All operations should be carefully carried out to avoid damage to the trees being worked on and adjacent trees. No trees to be retained shall be used for anchorage or winching purposes.

Avoiding Damage to Retained Trees

- 5.11 Care should be taken to ensure no damage occurs to the retained trees throughout the development, either through the demolition and construction process or through vehicle access and material delivery a banksman must oversee proceedings to ensure trees remain unharmed.

- 5.12 Any pruning work required to allow access for high vehicle access should be carried out at the tree surgery stage in accordance with BS3998:2010 and done by suitably qualified specialist staff.
- 5.13 Special care will be required when using cranes to avoid contact with the canopies of the trees. Provision may be required for special measure if outriggers need to be used close to or within the RPA. Advice should be sought from the Supervising Arboriculturalist.

Tree Protection Fencing

- 5.14 The tree protection fencing shall be erected prior to any of the following taking place; Plant and Material delivery, Soil stripping, Construction works, Utility installation, and Landscaping. When trees are near boundaries the RPA may extend into adjacent land, it is not necessary to erect barriers on adjacent land unless this is being used for access.
- 5.15 Once erected the fencing should be inspected by the Supervising Arboriculturalist to ensure it is in the correct location and suitable for purpose. The fencing should also be inspected by the site supervisor on a regular basis and any concerns should be raised with the supervising Arboriculturalist.
- 5.16 The tree protection fencing should be suitable for purpose to protect the tree from vehicle and machinery damage throughout the construction process. An example of the type of tree protection fencing as recommended in BS5837:2012 is attached with this report as Appendix B.
- 5.17 The fencing should have signs attached warning that access into these areas is not permitted without written authority from the supervising Arboriculturalist.

Tree Stem Protection Box

- 5.18 The Tree Protection Boxes shall be erected before any of the following takes place; Plant and Material deliveries, Demolition works, Soil stripping, Utility installation and Landscaping.
 - 1. The stems should be wrapped in hessian sheeting up to a height of 3m above ground level. Then a layer of 'Chestnut palling fence should be wrapped around the stems to a height of 3m above ground level and then a box marine plyboard should be constructed around the stem but should not be attached to the stem.
 - 2. Once erected the boxes should be inspected by the Supervising Arborist to make sure they are suitable for purpose.

3. The boxes should remain in place for the duration of the construction.

Restrictions within the Tree Protection Areas

5.19 Inside the Tree Protection Areas, the following rules shall apply;

- No mechanical excavation whatsoever.
- No excavation by other means without a detailed method statement being agreed by supervising Arboriculturalist.
- No hand digging without a written method statement having first been approved by the project Arboriculturalist.
- No lowering of the levels for any purposes (except removal of grass sward using hand tools).
- No storage of plant or materials.
- No storage or handling of any chemicals including cement washings.
- No fire lighting.
- No vehicle access without ground protection and agreement from the supervising Arboriculturalist.

Temporary Ground Protection

5.20 Any ground protection required as shown on the Tree Protection Plan (TTP), must be capable of supporting loads evenly without causing soil compaction, ruts or divots, which will inhibit the tree's root's ability to uptake vital nutrients and moisture from the soil.

5.21 The type of ground protection required will depend on the size and weight of the equipment and machinery to be used. The temporary ground protection should be capable of supporting any traffic entering or using the site without being distorted or causing compaction of underlying soil. For example, as stated in BS 5837:2012, section 6.2.3;

- For pedestrian use only, place a single layer of scaffold boards on a driven scaffold frame or on a compression-resistant layer to form a suspended walkway. (e.g. 100mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane.
- For pedestrian-operated plant up to a gross weight of 2t, proprietary, inter- linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 150mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane.
- For wheeled or tracked construction traffic exceeding 2t gross weight, an alternative system (e.g. proprietary systems or pre-cast reinforced concrete slabs) to an engineering specification designed in conjunction with arboricultural advice, to accommodate the likely loading to which it will be subjected.

5.22 The details of the type of temporary ground to be used should be included in the construction method statement.

5.23 Gound protection must remain in place until completion of construction.

Low Impact Foundations

5.24 Where the extension extends into the root protection areas of retained trees, low impact foundations shall be used. These will be designed to eliminate excavations in order to prevent direct damage to the trees on neighbouring land.

5.25 Full foundation specifications have yet to be confirmed. However, it is expected that concrete pad and ground beams shall be utilised.

5.26 The location of the new foundations and pad locations shall be marked out.

5.27 Excavations for the concrete pads within the root protection area shall be carried out by using hand tools (e.g. low impact pneumatic tools and digging spade). All spoil shall then be moved by hand or in wheelbarrows either to be stored on the tarmac driveway or immediately removed from site. Excavations for the concrete pads outside the root protection area may be removed using a toothless bucket with machinery to be operated from outside the root protection area.

5.28 The turf and top layer of soil within the root protection area shall be removed using hand tools (e.g. digging spade) down to a maximum depth of 50mm. shall then be moved by hand or in wheelbarrows either to be stored on the tarmac driveway or immediately removed from site. The turf and top layer of soil outside the root protection area may be removed using a toothless bucket with machinery to be operated from outside the root protection area.

5.29 A peg and board frame shall be used to contain the concrete for the ground beams. 50mm x 50mm timber stakes shall be hammered into the ground along the setting out line. 25mm x 125mm timber rails shall be fixed across the stakes with screw fixings.

5.30 Polythene sheeting shall be laid over areas to be concreted and securely wrapped over the timber frame to avoid any leakage of concrete.

5.31 The concrete foundations shall then be poured, levelled and allowed to set prior to the timber frame being removed.

APPENDICES

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6 APPENDIX A: TREE WORK SCHEDULE

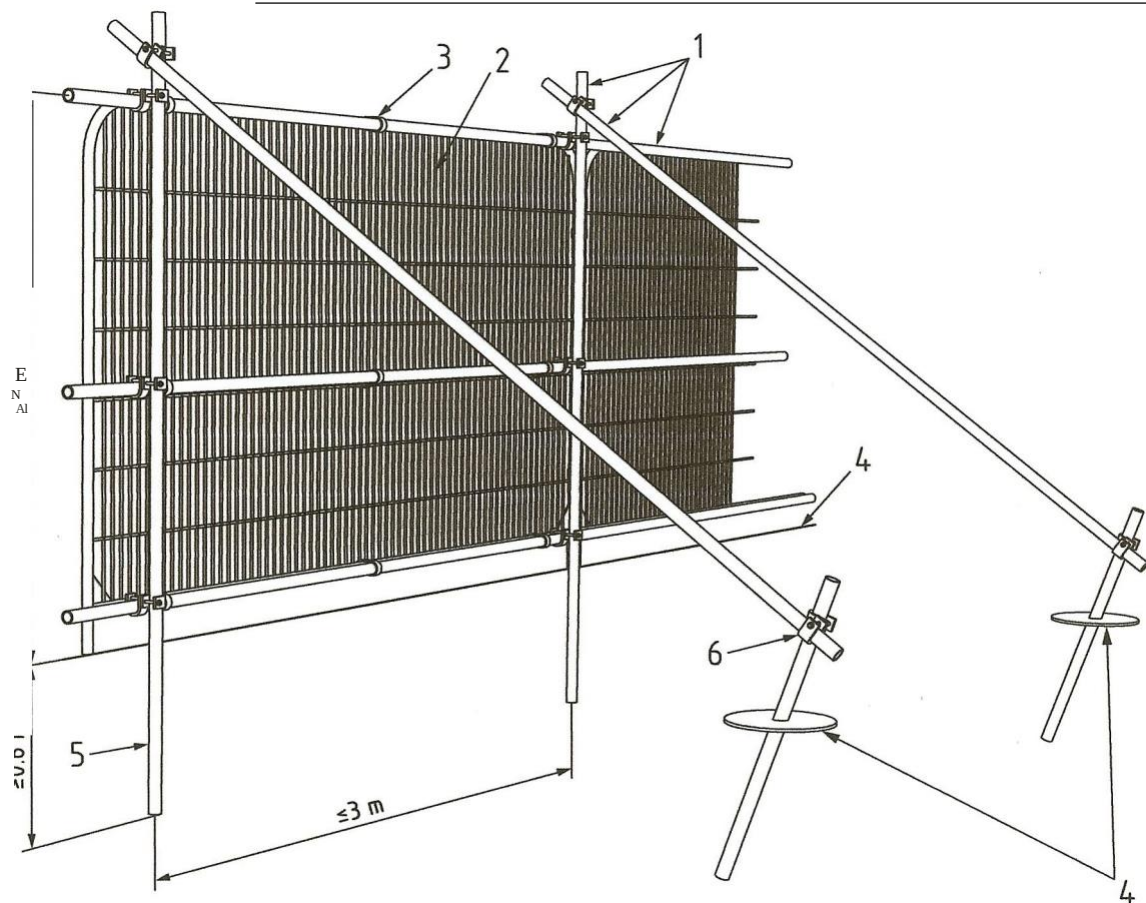
Measurements	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Category Grading	Symbols
Height - Meters Stem Diameter - Millimeters at 1.5m above ground level Branch Spread - Meters (North, South, East and West) Crown Clearance - Meters RPA Radius - Meters Estimated Remaining Contribution - Years FSB - First Significant Branch - Meters	Y - Young SM - Semi-Mature EM - Early Mature M - Mature OM - Over-Mature V - Veteran	G - Good F - Fair P - Poor D - Dead	A - High (green) B - Moderate (blue) C - Low (grey) U - Poor/Trees for removal (red) Sub-Categories: 1 - Mainly Arboricultural value 2 - Mainly Landscape value 3 - Mainly Cultural value	< - Less than ~ - Approximately > - Greater than
RPA - Root protection area (equivalent to a circle with a radius 12x the stem diameter measured at 1.5m above ground level)				

Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Comments	Measurements2	Recommendations
T001	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 18 Stem Diam(mm): 640 Spread (m): 6N, 6E, 6S, 6W Crown Clearance (m): 7 Lowest Branch (m): 7(SW) Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 40+ Years	Good overall Physiological and Structural condition. Located in the centre of the rear lawn which is dry, slight flaring of buttress roots and some minor mechanical damage to some of the surface roots, with no suggestion of decay when manually sounded with a nylon mallet, straight stem with evidence of historic crown lifting and epicormic growth recently removed from around included pruning wounds, historically crown has been reduced with occluded pruning wounds and epicormic growth present on on lateral limbs a possible indication of drought stress, good canopy cover with so minot deadwood present	A2	Radius: 7.7m. Area: 186 sq m.	This tree will not have to be removed to facilitate a proposed future development. This tree will form the constraint to the XXXX side of the site. The surfacing and levels in the RPA should not be altered as long as the tree is being retained.	Other Reference: Distance1: Distance2: Custom Number 3: Physiological Cond: Good Structural Cond: Good Bat Habitat: Unknown	Pre construction: No action required. During construction: Tree protection box to protect ... Ground protection for construction traffic ... Manual Excavation for ... Post construction: Mitigate soil compaction by ...
T002	Silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam(mm): 600 Spread (m): 7N, 4E, 6S, 5W Crown Clearance (m): 5 Lowest Branch (m): 2(S) Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Good/Fair overall Physiological and Structural condition. Tree located on W boundary of property, minor flaring of butrees roots which sound solid when sounded with nylon mallet, large historic vertical wound on stem at 1m NE with exposed heartwood and including no evidence of extensive decay of heartwood when sounded with nylon mallet, minor epicormic growth on stem to crown brake, historic pruning wounds on stem occluding, crown dominance to N, S, W due influence from adjacent Oak, crown extending out 5owards neighbouring dwelling, minor deadwood in crown	B1	Radius: 7.2m. Area: 163 sq m.	This tree will not have to be removed to facilitate a proposed future development. This tree will form the constraint to the XXXX side of the site. The surfacing and levels in the RPA should not be altered as long as the tree is being retained.	Other Reference: Distance1: Distance2: Custom Number 3: Physiological Cond: Good Structural Cond: Good Bat Habitat: Unknown	Pre construction: No action required. During construction: Tree protection box to protect ... Ground protection for construction traffic ... Manual Excavation for ... Post construction: Landscaping around tree to ...

Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Comments	Measurements2	Recommendations
T003	Photinia davidiana (<i>Photinia davidiana</i>)	Small Tree	Height (m): 3 Stem Diam(mm): 100 Spread (m): 1N, 1E, 1S, 1W Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Good/Fair overall Physiological and Structural condition.	C2	Radius: 0.0m. Area: 634 sq m.		Other Reference: Distance1: Distance2: Custom Number 3: Physiological Cond: Fair Structural Cond: Fair Bat Habitat: Unknown	Pre construction: No action required. During construction: No action required. [customise this list on website BS5837 page]
T004	Siberian crab apple (<i>Malus baccata</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 3.5 Stem Diam(mm): 200 Spread (m): 3N, 2.5E, 3S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 2 Lowest Branch (m): 2(S) Life Stage: Early Mature Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Good/Fair overall Physiological and Structural condition. Located on E boundary adjacent to brick boundary wall, historic pruning wounds present in crown, crown raised to W over lawn, crown dominance to N, E, S due to influence from adjacent Oak	C2	Radius: 2.4m. Area: 18 sq m.	This tree will form the constraint to the XXXX side of the site. The surfacing and levels in the RPA should not be altered as long as the tree is being retained.	Other Reference: Distance1: Distance2: Custom Number 3: Physiological Cond: Fair Structural Cond: Fair Bat Habitat: Unknown	Pre construction: No action required. During construction: Protect trees with protective barriers - as shown on plans.
T005	Apple (<i>Malus sp.</i>)	Tree 5 stems	Height (m): 6 5 stems, avg.(mm): 120 Spread (m): 1.5N, 3E, 3S, 3W Life Stage: Early Mature Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Good/Fair overall Physiological and Structural condition. Multi stemmed tree located outside of boundary wall adjacent to public footpath, all measurements are estimated	C2	Radius: 3.2m. Area: 32 sq m.	This tree does not form a constraint to the redevelopment of the site.	Other Reference: Distance1: Distance2: Custom Number 3: Physiological Cond: Good Structural Cond: Fair Bat Habitat: Unknown	Pre construction: No action required. During construction: No action required.
T006	Lawson cypress x4 (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>)	Hedge 4 trees	Height (m): 2.5 4 stems, avg.(mm): 100 Spread (m): 1N, 0.5E, 1S, 0W Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: <10 years	Fair/Poor overall Physiological and Structural condition. Small hedge located on boundary line restricting access to rear garden, poor needle cover, possibly from over trimming, no long-term future	C2	Area: 12 sq m.	These trees will have to be removed to facilitate a proposed future development.	Other Reference: Distance1: Distance2: Custom Number 3: Physiological Cond: Poor Structural Cond: Fair Bat Habitat: Unknown	Pre construction: Remove tree. During construction: No action required.

7 APPENDIX B: TREE PROTECTION FENCING

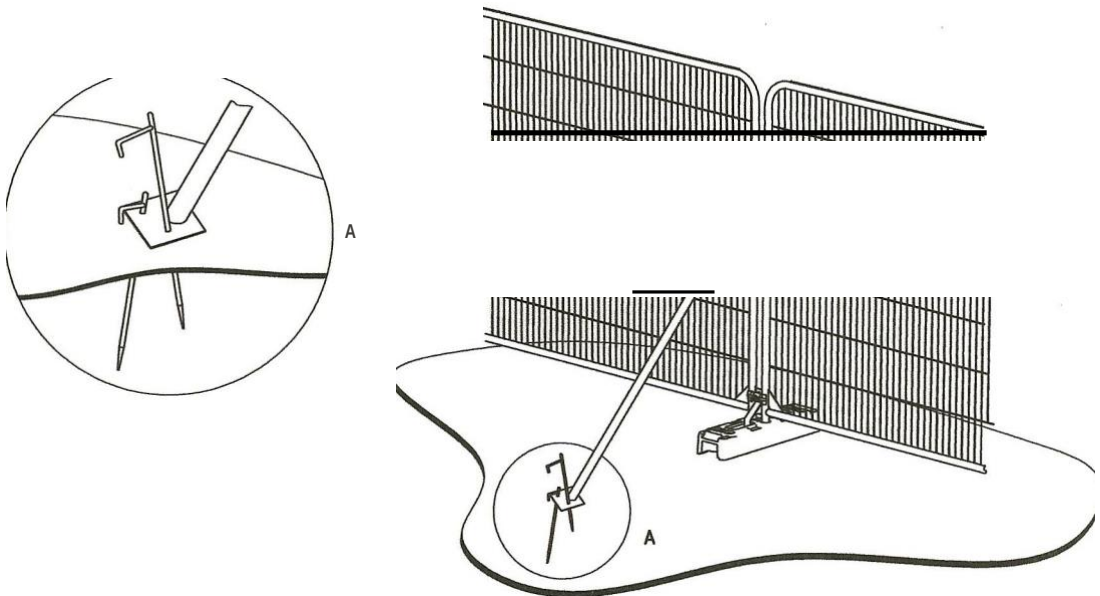
Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier



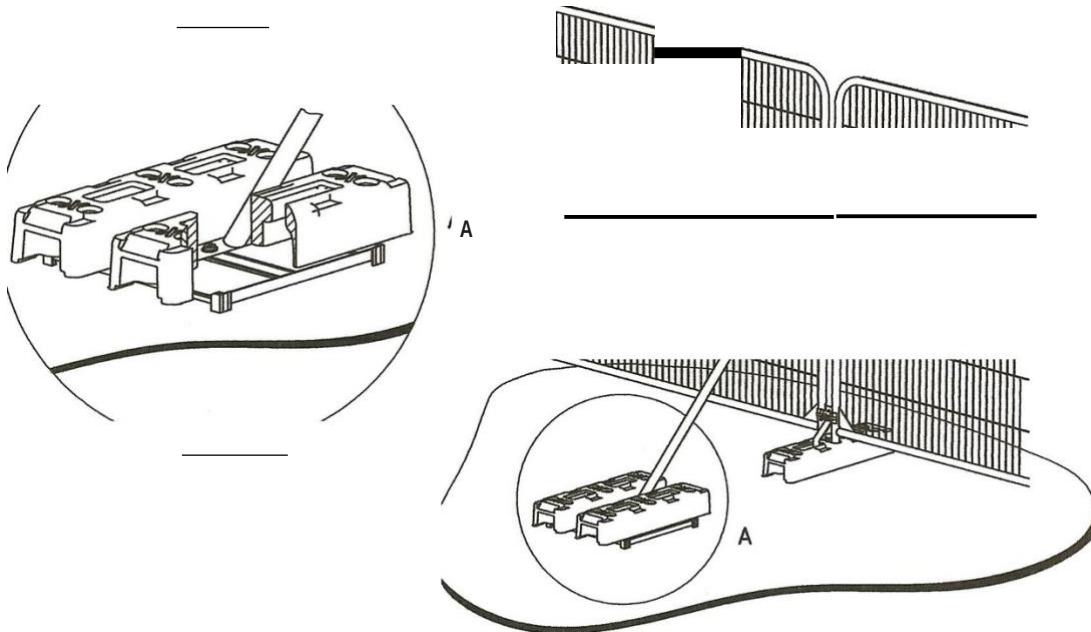
Key

- 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

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



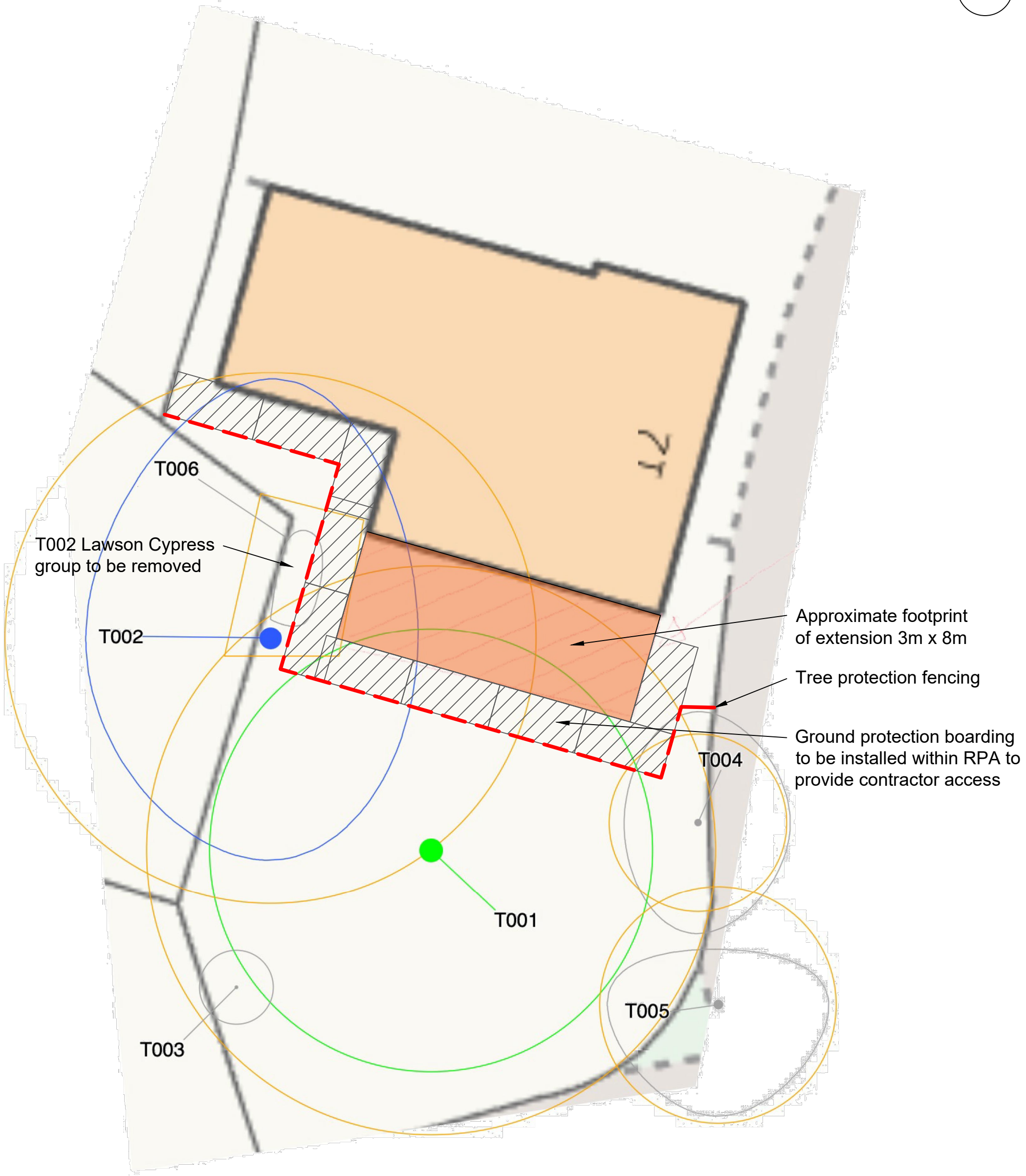
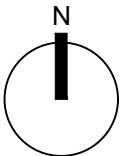
a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



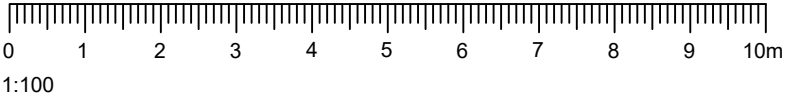
b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray

8 APPENDIX C: PLANS & PHOTOGRAPHS

- **TREE PROTECTION PLAN - 01A**



Proposed site plan - 1:100 @ A3



BS:5837 (2012) Arboricultural Key Notes: Canopy spreads have been estimated in metres at four cardinal points to derive an approximate representation of the crown. Root Protection Areas (RPA) have been calculated from measuring the stem diameter of the tree/shrub at 1.5m above ground level, and are plotted as dotted circles around the tree stem.	A category tree (surveyed tree of high quality)	Ground protection boarding	Oakhurst Arboriculture M: 07766 747046 E: alex@oakhurstarboriculture.com www.oakhurstarboriculture.com <table><tr><td>Revision</td><td>Date</td><td>Details</td></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>09/07/25</td><td>Initial plan created</td></tr></table> Client 12 Chivers Drive, Finchampsted RG40 4EW Drawing Title Tree Protection Plan DWG No. GP-TPP-01A Scale 1:100@A3 Date 09/07/25	Revision	Date	Details	A	09/07/25	Initial plan created
	Revision	Date		Details					
	A	09/07/25		Initial plan created					
	B category tree (surveyed tree of moderate quality)								
	C category tree (surveyed tree of low quality)								
U category tree (surveyed tree unsuitable for retention)									
Tree protection fencing									



T1 – Oak located in central area of rear garden



T2 – Silver birch located on the right-hand boundary



T4 – Crab Apple & T5 – Apple located on either side of left-hand boundary



T6 – Conifer hedge located on right-hand boundary