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**BS5837:2012 ARBORICULTURAL
METHOD STATEMENT:
424-426 Reading Road, Winnersh, RG41 5EP**

Dated: 16th February 2026

Our reference: GHA/MS/777160:26

CONTENTS

Section	Subject	Page
	Instructions	3
	Executive Summary	3
	Documents Supplied	4
	Scope of Survey	4
	Survey Method	5
	The Site	6
	Subject Trees	6
	The Proposal	6
	Method statement and procedures for development works	7
	Conclusion	9
	Recommendations	9
Appendix A	TPP: Tree Protection Plan (Attached as a separate PDF file to maintain its integrity / accuracy)	
Appendix B	Tree Table	
Appendix C	Extract from BS5837:2012 – Protective Fencing	
Appendix D	Site monitoring record sheet	

Arboricultural Method Statement

Location: 424-426 Reading Road, Winnersh, RG41 5EP
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Our reference: GHA/MS/777160:26
Client: U Auja
Dated: 16th February 2026
Prepared by: Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
Date of Inspection: 7th February 2024

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

Instructions

Issued by – U Aja

TERMS OF REFERENCE – To survey the subject trees within 424-426 Reading Road, Winnersh, in order to assess their general condition and to provide an arboricultural method statement for the approved development, that safeguards the long term well being of the nearby retained trees and satisfies condition 4.

The writer retains the copyright of this report and its content is for the sole use of the client(s) named above. Copying of this document may only be undertaken in connection with the above instruction. Reproduction of the whole, or any part of the document without written consent from GHA Trees is forbidden. Tree work contractors, for the purpose of tendering only, may reproduce the Schedule for tree works included in the appendices.

Executive Summary

The proposal for the site is to construct a new apartment block with parking to the rear, following the demolition of the existing buildings. The proposed scheme requires the removal of a small number of relatively insignificant trees and shrubs, which will not significantly impact the local or wider landscape. 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:

1. Existing layout plans
2. 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 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 Reading Road, a residential through road located near to Winnersh town centre.

The Subject Trees

- 4.1 The details of the subject trees are set out in the Schedule at Appendix B.
- 4.2 Please be aware that ash tree(s) were identified during the survey. Many ash trees in the UK are suffering from 'ash dieback' (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) which can cause the rapid decline of affected trees, often rendering them unsafe. Affected trees have been highlighted in the tree table at appendix B and the severity of the infection noted; however please ensure these trees are inspected regularly.**
- 4.3 Of the nine individual trees, and groups of trees surveyed, one has been assessed as BS 5837 category A, with the remaining trees being assessed as BS 5837 category C.

Category A	1 tree
Category C	8 trees / groups

The Proposal

- 5.1 The proposal for the site is to construct a new apartment block with parking to the rear, following the demolition of the existing buildings.
- 5.2 The proposed location of the above structures can be seen on the appended plan.

Method Statement and Procedures for Development Works

THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED BELOW ARE LISTED IN THE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER THAT THEY MUST COMMENCE. ITEMS 6.1 AND 6.2 MUST BE UNDERTAKEN BEFORE ANY CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY ENTERS THE SITE OR BEFORE ANY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY (TO INCLUDE DEMOLITION) COMMENCES.

6.1 TREE PRUNING / REMOVAL

A list of all tree works that are required (including trees to be removed) 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 LPA and 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 (EXISTING)

The hard surfacing that exists to the rear of site for the existing car park provides adequate ground protection and **MUST** therefore be retained in situ for the entirety of the site works.

6.4 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.

6.5 DELIVERY AND STORAGE OF BUILDING MATERIALS

Storage areas **MUST** be outside of the tree protection barriers (**pink** lines) in the areas shown on the appended plan.

6.6 SITE HUTS, WELFARE FACILITIES AND STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND CHEMICALS

All site huts **MUST** be positioned outside of tree RPAs and the tree protection barriers (**pink** lines) in the areas shown on the appended plan.

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 USE CRANES, RIGS AND BOOMS

Precautionary measures **MUST** be observed to avoid contact of any retained trees when manoeuvring cranes rigs or booms into position.

6.9 INCOMING SERVICES, DRAINAGE AND SOAKAWAYS

New services **MUST** be routed to avoid all RPAs of retained trees on site and within nearby sites. From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, there is no reason to assume this isn't possible. Inspection chambers **MUST** be sited outside the RPA.

6.10 NEW PARKING AREAS IN RPAS

The new parking areas within the retained trees RPAs must be installed using the existing hard surface as a sub base.

6.11 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.**

6.12 OTHER TREE PROTECTION PRECAUTIONS

- **NO** level alterations will occur within the RPA of any tree to be retained.
- **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.

6.13 DISMANTLING PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

Protective barriers must only be completely removed when all machinery, and equipment has left site.

Conclusion

- 7.1 Subject to precautionary measures as detailed above, the proposal will not be injurious to trees to be retained.

Recommendations

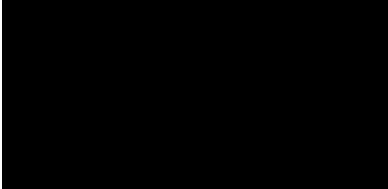
- 8.2 Site supervision – An individual e.g. the Site Agent, must be nominated to be responsible for all arboricultural matters on site. This person must:

- 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.

16th February 2026

Signed:



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	21	1000	1	12.00	11	5	8	10	M	4.5 north	40+	A1	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.
T2	Ash	14	140	1	1.68	1	3	1	0	MA	4 east	10-20	C1	Self set tree of little value. Recommend: to be removed.
T3	Lawson cypress	10	190	1	2.28	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	M	3	10-20	C1	Suppressed tree of poor form. Recommend: to be removed.
G4	Leyland cypress	15	300	1	3.60	3	3	3	3	M	4 over site	10-20	C2	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.
T5	Leyland cypress	15	500	1	6.00	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	M	4 over site	10-20	C1	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.
T6	Plum	7	347	2	4.17	3.5	3.5	2	1	OM	2	Less than 10	C1	Poor fork at 0.5m. Tree in onset of decline with several areas of localised decay noted on stems and phellinus present. Recommend: to be removed.

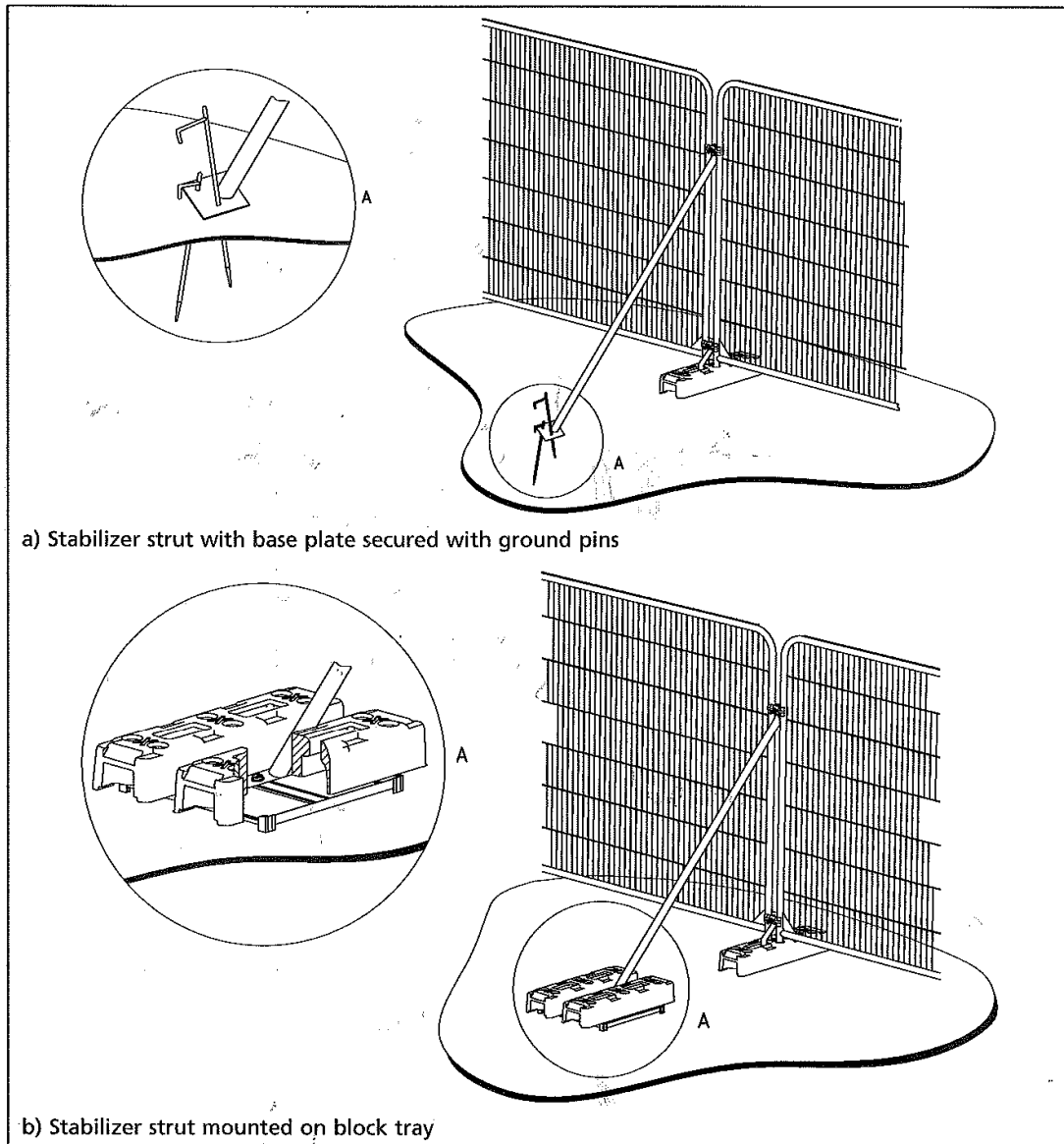
Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
T7	Cherry	7	280	1	3.36	2	2	3.5	3.5	M	2	10-20	C1	Unremarkable tree of modest quality and of limited value in the wider landscape. Recommend: to be removed.
T8	Sycamore	12	310	1	3.72	4	4.5	4	4	M	4 south	10-20	C1	Poor fork noted at ground level. Self set tree of little value. Recommend: to be removed.
T9	Scrub - contains ash, sycamore, elder, cypress, laurel	4 to 7	100	1	1.20	0.5 over site				MA	3 over site	10-20	C2	Scrub growth from neighbouring site. Recommend: crown lift to 5m over site.

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:			