

Tree Protection Scheme and Method Statement

Proposed Garage and Workshop – The Old Church, Farley Hill

Planning Application: PP-15137961

Local Planning Authority: Wokingham Borough Council

Accompanying Drawing: Tree Protection Scheme Plan – Version 3

1. Purpose

This statement accompanies the Tree Protection Scheme drawing and describes the measures proposed to protect existing trees during construction of the approved garage and workshop.

The intention is to minimise disturbance to trees and their root systems whilst allowing the development to proceed safely and practically.

The scheme has been developed with reference to BS 5837:2012, *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*, and the existing tree information submitted with the planning application.

2. Existing Trees and Root Protection Areas

Eight trees, identified as T1–T8, are shown on the accompanying drawing.

The calculated Root Protection Areas (RPAs) are indicated by black circles, allowing the relationship between the existing trees, proposed development, vehicle access and protective fencing to be clearly identified.

The proposed protection measures take account of the existing site layout, including the established driveway, brick boundary wall and proposed building footprint.

3. Temporary Protective Fencing

Temporary Heras fencing will be erected in the positions indicated by the purple lines on the accompanying drawing.

The principal fenced protection boundary measures approximately 7 metres across the northern section and 14 metres along the eastern side of the development.

The fencing will be supported using the following arrangements:

- **Northern and southern ends:** Freestanding Cuplock scaffold towers, approximately 1.8 m × 1.3 m × 3 m high, will provide support to the Heras fencing. These will each weight approximately 150kg and be appropriately braced internally. They will be assembled on Scaffold boards to act as spreaders under the vertical standards. These towers will be carefully constructed around trees T2 and T5 to add a further layer of protection to their trunks.

- **Eastern boundary:** The Heras fencing will be braced to the existing solid brick boundary wall at approximately 2 m height. The braces will be 2"x2" timber screwed into the existing wall/fence and secured with a spreader plate to the top rail of each pair of adjoining fence panels.

These arrangements are intended to provide a stable protective barrier without the need to excavate holes for conventional fencing posts within sensitive root areas.

Where temporary supports are positioned on unpaved ground within RPAs, suitable load-spreading measures will be used to minimise localised ground pressure. The stability and security of all fencing supports will be checked before construction commences.

Protective fencing will be installed before construction work begins and retained throughout the works until the risk of damage from construction activities has passed.

4. Protection of Root Systems

The proposed building has been designed to minimise unnecessary disturbance to existing tree roots.

The garage incorporates two different foundation arrangements:

- **Garage section:** A reinforced concrete ground-bearing slab.
- **Workshop section:** Ground-screw foundations, avoiding the need for continuous excavated foundations in this part of the building.

Where construction operations occur within identified RPAs, particular care will be taken to minimise excavation, soil compaction and damage to existing roots.

No unnecessary excavation, changes in ground levels or storage of construction materials will take place within the protected areas.

Any significant roots encountered during necessary construction operations will be protected from avoidable damage, and work will be stopped locally if an unforeseen conflict requires further assessment.

5. Construction Access and Materials Storage

Construction vehicles will use the existing driveway, as identified on the accompanying drawing.

Vehicle movements will be restricted to established access areas and the working areas necessary for construction. Vehicles and machinery will not enter the fenced tree protection areas.

Building materials will be stored within the designated materials storage area, shown to the west of the proposed garage.

No materials, spoil, fuels, cement washout or other potentially harmful substances will be deposited within the fenced protection areas.

6. Construction Working Practices

Throughout the construction period:

- Protective fencing will remain in position and will not be moved without prior agreement where required.
- No excavation or mechanical ground disturbance will take place within fenced protection areas.
- No construction equipment or materials will be stored against existing tree trunks.
- No fires will be lit close to retained trees.
- No storage of machinery, parking of vehicles, deposit or excavation of soil or rubble, or disposal of liquids will take place within the fenced protection areas.
- Care will be taken to prevent damage to tree branches from machinery, equipment and deliveries.
- Any accidental damage to trees or significant roots will be assessed and appropriate remedial action taken.

All persons undertaking work on site will be made aware of the tree protection arrangements before commencing their activities.

7. Completion of Works

The temporary protective fencing will remain in place until construction operations that could affect the retained trees have been completed.

Following completion, the temporary fencing and its supporting structures will be carefully dismantled and removed without unnecessary disturbance to the surrounding ground.

8. Conclusion

The proposed tree protection arrangements provide a practical method of safeguarding the existing trees during construction of the garage and workshop.

By combining temporary protective fencing, use of the existing driveway, designated materials storage, carefully controlled construction operations and ground-screw foundations where proposed, the scheme aims to minimise potential harm to retained trees and their root systems.

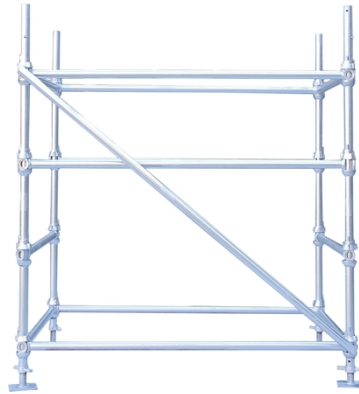
The arrangements are illustrated on the accompanying Tree Protection Scheme Plan – Version 3.

TREE PROTECTION SCHEME

Supporting Photographs | Appendix A

The Old Church, Farley Hill • Planning Application 261905 • Condition 4

Figure 1 — Example Cuplock scaffold tower



Illustrative example of a freestanding Cuplock tower proposed as support for temporary Heras tree-protection fencing.

Figure 2 — Existing boundary wall



Existing brick boundary wall with timber upper section, proposed as the fixing location for temporary heras fence braces.