Foundations within RPAs

The use of traditional strip foundations can result in excessive root loss and as such should be avoided.
Designs for foundations that would minimize the adverse impact upon trees should include particular attention to the existing levels, proposed finished levels and cross sectional details. Site specific and specialist advice should be sought from the project engineers and arboriculturist.

Root damage can be minimised by using:

- Piles with site investigation used to be determined their optimal location whilst avoiding damage to roots important for the stability of the tree, by means of hand tools or compressed air soil displacement, to a minimum depth of 600mm;
- Beams, laid at or above ground level, and cantilevered as necessary to avoid tree roots identified by site investigation.

Where a slab for minor structures (e.g. shed base) is to be formed within the RPA, it should bear on the existing ground level, and should not exceed an area greater than 20% of the existing unsurfaced ground.

Slabs for larger structures (e.g. dwellings) should be constructed with a ventilated air space between the underside of the slab and the existing soil surface (to enable gas exchange and venting through the soil surface. In such cases, a specialist irrigation system should be employed (e.g. roof run-off redirected under the slab). The design of the foundation should take into account of the effect on the load bearing properties of the underlying soil from the redirected roof run-off. Approval in principle for a foundation that relies on topsoil retention and roof run-off under the slab should be sought from building control authority prior to this approach being relied upon.

Where piling is to be installed near to trees, the smallest practical pile diameter should be used, as this reduces the possibility of striking major tree roots, and reduces the size of the rig required to sink the piles. If a piling mat is required, this should conform to the parameters for ground boarding. Use of the smallest practical piling rig is also important where piling within the branch spread is proposed, as this can reduce the need for access facilitation pruning. The pile type should be selected bearing in mind the need to protect the soil and adjacent roots from the potentially toxic effects of uncured concrete, e.g. sleeved bored piles or screw piles.

This information is compliant with British Standard BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design demolition and construction - Recommendations, section 7.5 Special engineering for foundations within the RPA.

'No Dig' Surfacing

Trees can be affect by construction within the RPAs either through the direct damage caused by the removal of roots, compaction of the rooting environment or secondary damage such as poisoning through leaks and spills (oils, fuels, etc.) or through de-icing (road salt, etc.).

Proposed hard surfacing within the RPAs of retained trees is to be designed so that it can be situated above the existing soil level and to minimise any adverse impact upon the tree RPAs, as the use of traditional foundations can result in excessive root loss through direct removal of roots during excavation and by compaction of the soil beneath the excavation, as such this 'traditional' type of foundation should be avoided.
When designing hard surfacing that is to be situated within RPAs, the design team need to pay particular attention to the proposed usage (pedestrian, domestic traffic, delivery vans, Emergency vehicles, HGVs etc.), the existing and proposed levels of hard surfacing and finished floor levels, edging types and details, proximity to tree trunks and surface rooting, contamination capture, SUDs, etc.

Possible sub-bases (foundations systems) for hard surfacing situated within the RPAs of retained trees could include:

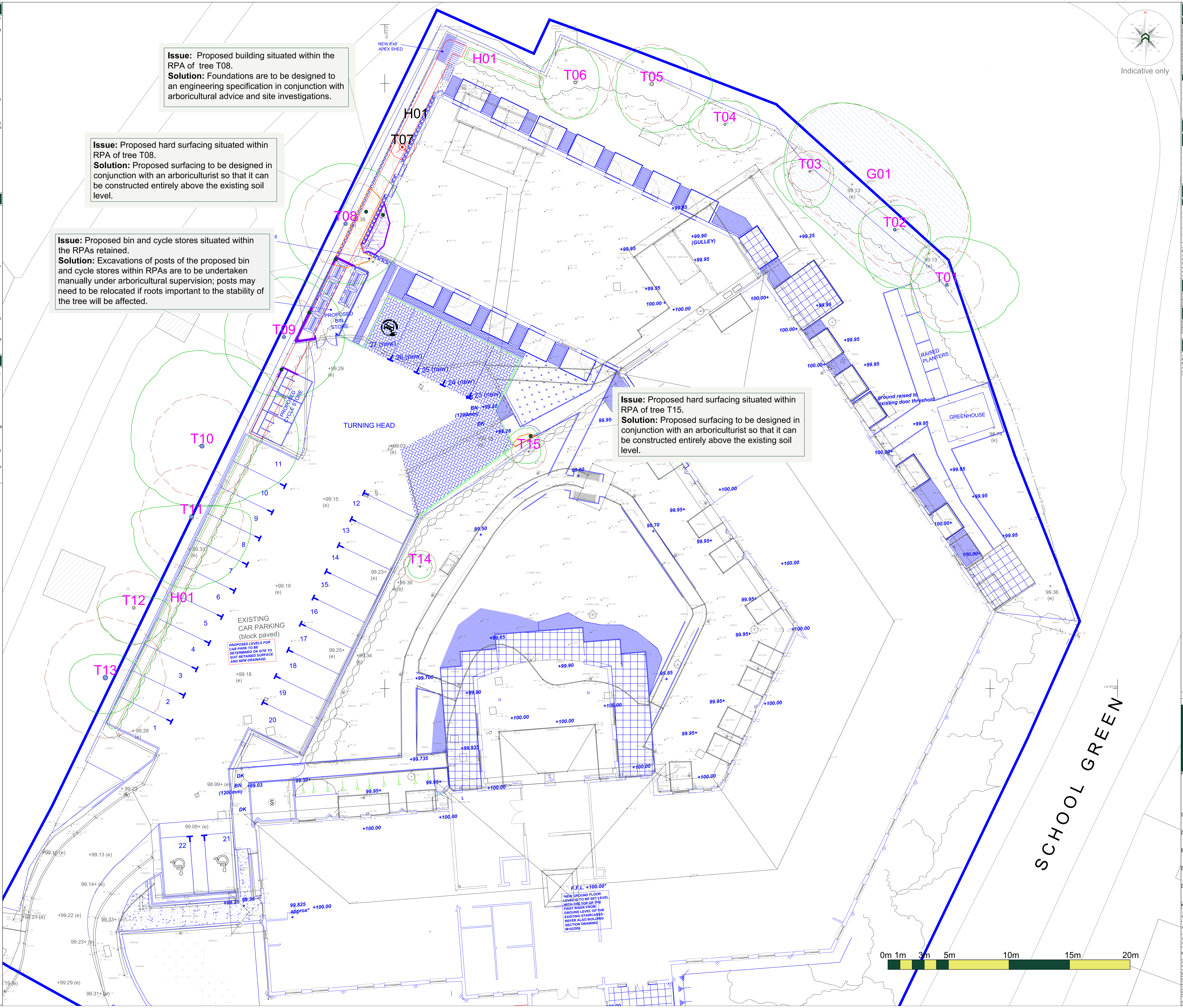
- A proprietary system such as a multi-dimensional confinement system (Cellweb TRP or similar);
- Engineered solution such as a road deck, bridge, etc.

An engineered solution is likely require a level of excavation for site specific investigations to locate roots to aid in foundation design so that a suitable foundation can be designed to avoid roots and for the installation the structure.

NB: The use of a multi-dimensional confinement systems and or an engineered solution will affect the finished level of the hard surfacing by raising the levels and needs to be taken into consideration when designing foundations and setting the finished floor levels of adjacent buildings.

Utility apparatus

Underground utility apparatus
Mechanical trenching for the installation of underground apparatus and drainage severs any roots present and can change the local hydrology in a way that adversely affects the health of the tree. For this reason, particular care should be taken in the rout and methods of installation of all underground apparatus. Wherever possible, apparatus should be routed outside of RPAs. Where this is not possible, it is preferable to keep apparatus together in common ducts, all inspection chambers should be sited outside of the RPAs.
Where underground apparatus is to pass within the RPAs, detailed plans showing the proposed route should be drawn up in conjunction with the project arboriculturist. In such cases trenchless insertion methods should be used with entry and retrieval pits being located outside of the RPAs. If this option is not feasible and providing roots can be retained and protected excavations should be undertaken using hand held tools (air-spade, forks, shovels) or a combination of trenchless and manual excavation (broken trench).
Any design and installation should be undertaken in accordance with the National Joint Utilities Guidelines (NJUG).
Above-ground utility apparatus
Above-ground apparatus(including CCTV cameras and lighting) should be sited to avoid the need for detrimental tree pruning, as such the current and future crown size of the tree should be assessed.
Tree branches can be pruned back with care to provide space, though it is not appropriate for repetitive and significant tree work to bean initial design solution unless this is a suitable management outcome for the tree. Any pruning should be undertaken in accordance with BS3998:2010



Issue: Proposed building situated within the RPA of tree T08.
Solution: Foundations are to be designed to an engineering specification in conjunction with arboricultural advice and site investigations.

Issue: Proposed hard surfacing situated within RPA of tree T08.
Solution: Proposed surfacing to be designed in conjunction with an arboriculturist so that it can be constructed entirely above the existing soil level.

Issue: Proposed bin and cycle stores situated within the RPAs retained.
Solution: Excavations of posts of the proposed bin and cycle stores within RPAs are to be undertaken manually under arboricultural supervision; posts may need to be relocated if roots important to the stability of the tree will be affected.

Issue: Proposed hard surfacing situated within RPA of tree T15.
Solution: Proposed surfacing to be designed in conjunction with an arboriculturist so that it can be constructed entirely above the existing soil level.

PROPOSED LEVELS FOR CAR PARK TO BE DETERMINED ON SITE TO SUIT RETAINED SURFACE AND NEW DRAINAGE.

F.F.L. +100.00*

*NEW GROUND FLOOR LEVEL IS TO BE SET LEVEL WITH THE TOP OF THE FIRST RISER FROM GROUND LEVEL OF THE EXISTING STAIRCASES - REFER ALSO BUILDING SECTION DRAWING M102/205

Arboricultural Impacts

Impacts	Nos. of trees
Trees to be removed	1
Groups / Hedges to be removed (Partial removal of groups)	0 (1)
Trees with proposed incursions into RPAs	3
Groups / Hedges with proposed incursions into RPAs	0
Trees that will require pruning	3
Groups / Hedges that will require pruning	0
Trees to be transplanted	0
Groups / Hedges to be transplanted	0

No.	Species	Proposed structure	Incursion
T08	Common Lime	Building	RPA & Crown
T08	Common Lime	Bin Store	RPA & Crown
T08	Common Lime	Hard surface	RPA & Crown
T09	Common Lime	Bin store	RPA & Crown
T09	Common Lime	Cycle store	RPA & Crown
T15	Cider Gum	Hard surface	RPA & Crown

Arboricultural Impacts - RPAs (Area)

No.	Species	RPA	Incursion	
			(m^2)	(%)
T08	Common Lime	40.0	4.6	11.5
T08	Common Lime	40.0	negligible	0.0
T08	Common Lime	40.0	10.7	26.8
T09	Common Lime	34.9	negligible	0.0
T09	Common Lime	34.9	negligible	0.0
T15	Cider Gum	6.5	0.8	12.3

Tree Work Schedule

No.	Species	Works	Category
H01	A Hedge	Fell: Partial removal of hedge and grind stumps.	C1
T07	English Elm	Fell: Remove tree and grind stump.	U
T08	Common Lime	Prune: Prune for minimum 2m clearance from proposed building and crown-lift to 2.5m over proposed footpath and bin store.	B12
T09	Common Lime	Prune: Crown-lift to 2.5m over proposed bin store and cycle store.	B12
T15	Cider Gum	Prune: Crown-lift to 2.5m over proposed footpath.	C1

All tree work is to be undertaken in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:2010 Tree work - Recommendations.
All arising's are to be removed and the site is to be left as found.
Care is to be taken of the ground around retained trees to make sure that it does not become compacted as a result of tree surgery operations. No equipment or vehicles such as timber lorries, tractors, excavators or cranes shall be parked or driven beneath the crowns of any retained trees, to prevent subsequent compaction and root death.

No. of individual trees to be removed

U	A	B	C
1	0	0	0

No. of groups / hedges to be removed

U	A	B	C
0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)

( ) = Partial removal of a groups

Arboricultural Method Statement

All tree work is to be undertaken in accordance with British Standard Please refer to Arbtech Consulting Ltd. Tree Schedule, Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan, for full details of all surveyed trees and how all aspects of the development maybe implemented without detriment to retained trees.

Rev:	Date:	Notes:
--	--	--

arbtech

Unit 3, Well House Barns, Chester, CH4 0DH
https://arbtech.co.uk, 01244 661170

Project:
Shinfield View Care Home,
School Green,
Shinfield,
Reading
RG2 9EH

Client:
Berkley Care Shinfield Limited

Drawing:
Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Based on:
B123-P01-B

Drawing No: Arbtech AIA 01
Rev: --

Date: Mar 2026
Scale: 1:100 @ A0
Drawn: JAG

Key:

Tree Nos.:	T01	Tree Canopies:	⬭	Trunks:	○
RPAs:	◌	Category 'U' trees:	●	Category 'B' trees:	●
Category 'B' groups:	▨	Category 'C' trees:	●	Trees to be removed:	T07 ⊗
Existing Site:	—	Proposed Site:	—	Incursion - Structures:	▨
Incursion - Hard surfacing:	▨				

All dimensions should be checked on site. No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing.
Please notify us of any discrepancies found. Arbtech Consulting Ltd. cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies in the base drawing in which this plan is based.
This drawing is designed to reflect the principles of the layout or design only, and relates only to the protection of retained trees.
This drawing is not to be read as a definitive part of the engineering or construction designs or method statement. An architect or structural engineer should be contacted over any matters of construction, detailing or specification and for any standards or regulatory requirements relating to proposed structures, hard surfacing or underground services.
This drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

© Arbtech Consulting Ltd, 2021