

Report



Arboricultural Method Statement South Wokingham

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Clancy

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Contents

1	Executive Summary	1
2	Introduction	2
2.1	<i>The Author</i>	<i>2</i>
2.2	<i>Client Instruction.....</i>	<i>2</i>
2.3	<i>Purpose of Report</i>	<i>2</i>
2.4	<i>Assumptions and Limitations.....</i>	<i>2</i>
2.5	<i>Site Description.....</i>	<i>3</i>
2.6	<i>Description of Proposed Development</i>	<i>4</i>
2.7	<i>Tree Survey Methodology.....</i>	<i>4</i>
2.8	<i>Legislation.....</i>	<i>6</i>
2.8.1	<i>Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas</i>	<i>6</i>
2.8.2	<i>Ancient Tree and Woodland Search</i>	<i>7</i>
3	Tree Survey Results	8
3.1	<i>Overview</i>	<i>8</i>
4	Arboricultural Impact Assessment.....	9
4.1	<i>Overview</i>	<i>9</i>
4.2	<i>Tree Removal</i>	<i>11</i>
4.3	<i>RPA Incursion.....</i>	<i>11</i>
4.4	<i>Remedial Planting.....</i>	<i>12</i>
4.5	<i>Tree Pruning</i>	<i>12</i>
4.6	<i>Works within RPA's.....</i>	<i>13</i>
4.7	<i>TPO Permissions Required</i>	<i>14</i>
5	Method Statement	16
5.1	<i>Overview</i>	<i>16</i>

5.2	<i>Facilitation Tree Work</i>	16
5.2.1	<i>Tree pruning and Tree Felling</i>	16
5.3	<i>Working Methods to be Adopted</i>	16
5.4	<i>Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ)</i>	17
5.5	<i>Barriers</i>	17
5.6	<i>Trenching within the RPAs of trees</i>	18
5.7	<i>Arboricultural supervision</i>	19
6	Arboricultural Input	20
6.1	<i>Sequence of Events</i>	20
6.2	<i>Key Contacts during Development</i>	20
6.3	<i>Arboricultural Monitoring</i>	20
7	Conclusion	22
Appendix 1: Tree Constraints Plan (TCP)		I
Appendix 2: Tree Protection Plan (TPP)		II
Appendix 3: Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment		III
Appendix 4: TPO and Conservation Area Check		IV
Appendix 5: Ancient Woodland Search		VIII
Appendix 6: Tree Survey Schedule		IX
Appendix 8: Ground Protection		XI
Appendix 9: Tree Protection Barrier Examples		XII
Appendix 10: Alternate Tree Protection Barrier Example		XIII
Appendix 11: Example Tree Protection Barrier Sign		XIV
Appendix 12: Key Contacts		XV

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Where field investigations have been conducted, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK ADAS Limited.

Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment
-	December 2024	Initial Report
Rev A	March 2025	Updated
Rev B	May 2025	Updated Wording

1 Executive Summary

ADAS was instructed by Clancy to conduct a tree survey and produce an Arboricultural Method Statement for works relating to the project known as SEPD2024 South Wokingham. Clancy are undertaking specific works relating to this project on behalf of Scottish and Southern Electricity networks (SSEN). Other contractors are also involved on the project; however, this Arboricultural Method Statement relates to Clancy works that have the potential to impact upon arboricultural features only.

The purpose of this document is to provide reference and clarification on tree protection and working methods for works near to trees. To achieve this, the methodology for works that may affect the trees will be clearly set out.

An ADAS Arboricultural Consultant carried out an arboricultural survey in line with the British Standard 5837 (2012) 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' (BS5837:2012) methodology. The tree survey recorded the presence of 80 features within influencing distance of the proposed works by Clancy. However, during an additional survey, ADAS found several of the features previously recorded had since been felled. Therefore, ADAS has amended the data within this report to reflect the remaining trees present across the site.

In accordance with section 4.5 and Table 1 of BS5837:2012 the existing trees on the site were categorised according to their quality and value as either category U, A, B, or C. Of the 50 remaining tree features surveyed, five were identified as high-quality (category A), of which two were assessed using the RAVEN - Recognition of Ancient, Veteran & Notable Trees assessment due to having very large girths for their species and were awarded notable status. There were 17 moderate quality (category B), 24 low-quality (category C) and four were assessed as being unsuitable for retention (category U).

A desktop study of Wokingham Borough Council's online mapping service revealed that the site is not located within a Conservation Area (CA). However, there are Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on the site. Additionally, a desk top study of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) online mapping tool, MAGIC Maps, revealed there are no Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland or Ancient Replanted Woodland designations within influencing distance of the works area.

A search on the Woodland Trusts Ancient Tree Inventory confirmed the site does not contain any listed Ancient or Veteran Trees, however, the search found there is one tree awarded notable status within influencing distance of the works. ADAS believes that adopting the approach specified within this report will ensure that the proposed works will not have a significant impact on the health and stability of the trees which are to be retained and will particularly ensure that these trees continue to contribute to the amenity value of the local area.

2 Introduction

2.1 The Author

This document has been prepared by Arboricultural Consultant Florence Mullins. Florence is an Associate member of the Arboricultural Association and has a BSc Hons degree in Ecology and Conservation Management and a Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture.

2.2 Client Instruction

ADAS was instructed by Clancy in October 2024 and again in February 2025 by the issuing of a contract detailing that ADAS would carry out a tree survey and produce an Arboricultural Method Statement for the proposed works located in the South Wokingham area.

2.3 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this document is to provide reference and clarification on tree protection and working methods for works near to trees. To achieve this, the methodology for works that may affect the trees will be clearly set out.

This document is also intended as a reference point for all site operatives and a copy will remain with the site manager for the duration of the development.

2.4 Assumptions and Limitations

This assessment is based upon the information provided by the client in addition to information collected by ADAS during a survey of the site undertaken in November 2024 and February 2025. The documents and drawings considered are detailed within Table 1.

Table 1: Documentation Considered

Author	Document Title	Drawing / Document Number	Date
Dalcour Maclaren	South Wokingham Plan	South Wokingham Plan	Issued November 2024
Issued by Clancy	CON24461-01ex ALP	CON24461-01ex ALP	Issued November 2024
GEOTEC	Topographical Survey	2409s018	Sep 2024
Clancy	South Wokingham Works Sequence	South Wokingham Works Sequence	November 2024

The Tree Constraints Plan (TCP) contained in **Appendix 1** has been developed from the tree survey information and the documents listed above. This has been used to assess the potential impact to each arboricultural feature. For completeness the TCP shows all trees surveyed by ADAS including those that have since been felled as identified during the February 2025 survey. ADAS is unsure who has felled the trees, although it is likely linked to a nearby large-scale development. To distinguish the felled trees, these have been marked up in red on the TCP.

A topographical survey was commissioned for part of the survey area. However, the topographical survey did not cover the full survey extent. Therefore, many of the tree locations are indicative only, should it be found that greater accuracy is required then a full topographical survey will need to be provided.

The Tree Protection Plan (TPP) contained in **Appendix 2** has been developed from the tree survey data and the proposed works. The felled trees identified within the TCP in **Appendix 1** have been removed from the TPP.

This report is not a full hazard or risk assessment of trees and should not be used as such.

Trees are living organisms and are constantly adapting to their ever-changing environment. No tree is completely safe and there is no guarantee that problems or deficiencies may not arise in the future, which have not been identified in this report. Therefore, this report is only valid for a period of one year from the date of the initial site inspection.

2.5 Site Description

The site is situated south of Wokingham town. The western aspect of the site is situated east of a large supermarket (RG40 2NS). There are public footpaths that traverse part of the site, in addition to Emm Brook that extends on the northern aspect of the site in an east to western direction. The Emm Brook creates a marshy grassland and a riparian corridor.

The site traverses over agricultural land in an eastern direction towards East Hampstead Road. Before continuing east through further agricultural land towards Waterloo Road. East of Waterloo Road, the site continues to William Heelas Way, before extending east into the field situated on the eastern aspect of the road.

There are various tree lined field boundary crossings and roadways extending through the site from north to site. Towards the eastern aspect of the site, there is a Balfour Beatty compound. With the exception of the highways and public footpaths on the western aspect of the site, much of the site is not open to the public.

2.6 Description of Proposed Development

The wider development referred to as the South Wokingham 132kV and 33kV Overhead Line (OHL) Diversion project involves the diversion of the existing BW OHL between towers BW13 and BW18, and a 33kV OHL between pole 16 and pole 37. The works are required to facilitate the construction of a new housing development on land to the south of Wokingham.

The proposed works that Clancy are undertaking on the South Wokingham project involve the installation of a new terminal H poles and the removal of existing H poles and the removal of approximately 100m existing underground cable. Access for these works will be off Finchampstead Road. In addition to the installation of ducting under the three neighbouring roads - East Hampstead Road, Waterloo Road, William Heelas Way Road and one field boundary crossing situated near to Ordnance Grid reference SU 83263 68193. Clancy have confirmed the excavations will be undertaken via mechanical excavators using an open cut methodology.

The open cut methodology involves excavating a trench of approximately 1.5m width, within the 10m easement. Following discussions with both Clancy and SSEN, ADAS has been advised the 10m easement, the alignment of which has been pre-agreed with the customer, is required to be cleared to facilitate the works.

The site compound and storage area will be situated outside of all retained tree RPAs. The indicative site compound location is situated within a grassed field west of Waterloo Road, accessed via an existing field gate off Waterloo Road.

2.7 Tree Survey Methodology

A tree survey was conducted in November 2024 and February 2025 by ADAS Arboricultural Consultant Florence Mullins.

The tree survey was conducted in accordance with the recommendations contained within BS5837:2012 and the guidance contained in Street Works UK (formerly National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG)) Volume 4 Issue 2.

All trees have been visually inspected from ground level unless otherwise stated, with no climbing or boring tests being undertaken. The comments made on their condition are based on observable factors present at the time of inspection.

The information, shown in **Table 2** below, was recorded as part of the tree survey.

Table 2: Tree Survey Schedule heading descriptions

Column Heading	Description
Tree Ref No.	All individual trees and groups of trees have been given a unique reference number. Each number is prefixed by a letter. ▪ T = Individual tree ▪ G = Group of trees ▪ H = Hedgerow
Species	The English common name has been used.
Single or Multiple stem (S or M)	▪ 'S' represents a tree which has a single clear stem to at least 1.5m above ground level. ▪ 'M(a)' represents a tree where the main stem divides into two to five stems below 1.5m above ground level, and ▪ 'M(b)' represents a tree where the main stem divides into 6 or more stems below a height of 1.5m.
Height (m)	Where possible tree heights are measured using a laser. In some instances, such as in close groups of trees, one height may be measured, and other nearby trees estimated from this height. Measurements are provided in metres.
Stem Diameter (mm)	S _n represents the stem number. Measurements are provided in millimetres at 1.5m above ground level for single stemmed trees.
Very Large Girth (y/n)	Girth is very large for species in accordance with Fig 1.3 of publication 'Ancient and other veteran trees: further guidance on management' Ancient Tree Forum 2013. RAVEN - Step 1
Ancient (A), Veteran (V) or Notable (N)	Result of the RAVEN assessment © Julian Forbes-Laird 2018 www.flac.uk.com; (RAVEN = Recognition of Ancient, Veteran & Notable Trees)
Branch Spread (m)	Measured in metres to the four cardinal compass points (N, E, S, W).
Crown Clearance	(1) Height in metres of the first significant branch, and the direction of growth. (2) Height in metres of lowest part of crown.
Life Stage	The stage at which the tree is within its lifecycle (Y = young, SM = semi mature, EM = early mature, M = mature, OM = over mature)
General Observations	Any relevant observations are recorded, with particular reference to structural and/or physiological condition.
Preliminary Management Recommendations	Recommendations are made where management work is required for reasons of health and safety or sound arboricultural management.
Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	An estimation of how long the feature will contribute to its surroundings. This is recorded in bands of either <10 years, 10+ years, 20+ years and 40+ years.
Tree Quality Grading	The trees are graded to the categories prescribed within BS5837:2012 (U, A, B & C). Details of this grading system can be found in Appendix 3 .

Column Heading	Description
Root Protection Area	Calculated as prescribed in section 4.6 of BS5837:2012, provided as an area (m ²) and a radius from the tree's stem (m).
Note: Those measurements shown in <i>italics</i> have been estimated, usually where access has restricted it being taken.	

2.8 Legislation

2.8.1 Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas

Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have the power to preserve selected trees and woodlands through the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). Similarly, special provision is provided to trees located within Conservation Areas (CAs) which are not the subject of a TPO. The LPAs powers to do this are provided by the following Act of Parliament and its associated regulations:

- Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- Town and Country Planning (Determination of Appeals by Appointed Persons) (Prescribed Classes) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008
- Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012

The principal effect of a TPO is to prohibit the cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees without first obtaining the consent of the relevant Local Authority.

Where works to trees within a CA are proposed, six weeks notification must first be given to the relevant Local Authority.

Unauthorized works to trees either protected by a TPO or those that are located within a CA, could result in an unlimited fine for each tree.

A desktop study of Wokingham Borough Council's online mapping service on 12th December 2024 revealed that the site is not located within a CA. However, the search confirmed that there numerous TPOs on the site. The results from this search are included in **Appendix 4**.

Table 3 below shows the ADAS tree reference number and the corresponding TPO reference.

Table 3: ADAS Tree Reference cross reference to TPO results

ADAS Tree Reference	Wokingham Borough Council TPO Reference	TPO Tree Number
G42 / T40 / T41	TPO-1434-2012	G1
T44	TPO-1341-2010	T1
T78 / T79 / T80	TPO-1341-2010	T6 / T7 / T8
T56 / T58	TPO-1341-2010	T13 / T14
T63	TPO-1340-2010	T1
G68 / T67 / T69 / T70 / G71 / T73	TPO-1340-2010	A1

2.8.2 Ancient Tree and Woodland Search

A search on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory on 12th December 2024 confirmed that the site does not contain any listed Ancient or Veteran Trees, however, there is one oak (*Quercus robur*) (tree ID: 46686) that has been awarded notable status. ADAS has cross referenced the tree number and found it to be ADAS tree reference, T63. This tree is also covered by a TPO (TPO-1340-2010) as listed within **Table 3**.

ADAS also undertook a desktop study of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) online mapping tool, MAGIC Maps, on the 12th December 2024. The search concluded there are no areas designated as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland within influencing distance of the Clancy works. These searches are shown in **Appendix 5**.

3 Tree Survey Results

3.1 Overview

The tree survey identified a total of 50 arboricultural features within influencing distance of the proposed works. In accordance with section 4.5 and Table 1 of BS5837:2012 the existing trees on the site were categorised according to their quality and value as either category U, A, B, or C.

Further details of the tree survey can be found in the survey schedule contained in **Appendix 6**. Trees that were previously recorded during the initial survey that have subsequently been felled, have been identified in the Tree Survey Schedule and have been shaded out.

The tree survey results are summarised in **Table 4** below.

Table 4: Tree survey results summarising the Tree Quality Assessment Grading

Category Description	Tree Quality Assessment Category Grading				Totals
	A	B	C	U	
	Those of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years.	Those of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years.	Those of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.	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.	
Individual Trees	T44, T63, T74, T78, T80	T18, T34, T40, T56, T58, T60, T62 T70, T73, T75, T79	T12, T15, T27, T28, T30, T31, T36, T41, T49, T50, T55, T59, T61, T67, T69	T29, T33	33
Groups of trees	None	G42, G54, G65, G66, G71, G72	G32, G35, G38, G39, G48, G57, G64, G68, G76	G37, G77	17
Total of each category	5	17	24	4	50

Of the four features awarded high quality status, two features T78 and T80 were assessed using the RAVEN - Recognition of Ancient, Veteran & Notable Trees assessment due to having very large girths for their species. Both trees were awarded notable status. In addition a further category A tree, T63 has been awarded notable status as per the search on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory (**Appendix 5**).

4 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

4.1 Overview

The impact the proposed development is likely to have on the existing trees has been assessed under the following categories, and the findings are summarised in **Table 5** below.

- *Trees proposed for removal. This includes trees:*
 - *that are located within the footprint of the proposed works.*
 - *whose RPAs are heavily affected by the proposed works.*
 - *which are to be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.*
- *Retained trees that are at risk of damage through disturbance of RPAs or crowns.*
- *Trees which are unaffected by the proposed works.*

Table 5: Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Impact	Reason	Tree Quality Assessment Category Grading*				Totals
		A	B	C	U	
Features proposed for removal	▪ Condition (Category U). ▪ Access construction ▪ Conflict with works.	T63	T62, T58	48m ² section of G48, 179m ² section of G76, 11m length of G57, T67, T69 , 81m ² section of G68 , 1.5m length of G64 on northern aspect	None	10
Features that are partially removed or at risk of damage through disturbance of RPAs or crowns	Development zones encroach into RPA or impacts the crowns of the trees.	T44 , T74, T78	T56 , G66, G72, T75, T40	T59, T41	None	10
Retained features that are unaffected by the proposed cable route.	All works outside of RPAs and Canopies.	T80	T18, T34, G42 , G54, T60, G65, T70, T73, G71, T79	T12, T15, T27, T28, T30, T31, G32, G35, T36, G38, G39, T49, T50, T55, T61	T29, T33, G37, G77	30
Totals		5	17	24	4	50

Features in bold within **Table 5** hold TPO status.

East of William Heelas Way road, the two moderate quality features G66 and G72 have their main stems situated outside of the 10m wide easement, however, the crowns of the trees forming these features overhang the easement creating an average height clearance of 4m with a lowest clearance of 1.5m. To enable the safe retention of these two features and provide sufficient height clearance, it is recommended the southern parts of the overhanging crowns are lifted to 5m. Furthermore, the RPAs situated within the easement have the potential to be impacted and therefore will be protected during the duration of construction.

The three moderate quality trees T70, T73 and G71, are situated outside of the easement. However, as they are situated within the area TPO (TPO-1340-2010) tree protection fencing will be used to exclude these features from all work-related activity.

Adjoining the Waterloo Road crossing, the low quality T59, has an existing crown extent on the northern aspect to approximately 3m, with a crown clearance of <0.50m. The feature has previously been maintained in line with G57 as an element of a boundary hedgerow. It is recommended the northern crown extent is reduced by 1.6m to the edge of the 10m easement to allow for the features safe retention.

The, moderate quality T56, and the low quality, T59, remaining section of G57, T61 and remaining section of G64 all have the potential to be impacted by the Waterloo Road crossing. The southern RPA of T56 and northern RPA of T59 will both require an incursion loss, due to the work associated with minor ground level alternations within the easement for the duration of the works. Both remaining RPAs will be excluded from the works using tree protection fencing.

The moderate quality T75 and high quality T74 are both situated outside the northern aspect of the easement, with their southern crowns overhanging the easement, creating a minimum height clearance of 1m for T74 and 3m for T75. To allow for the features safe retention and provide sufficient height clearance, it is recommended both T75 and T74 have the southern crowns lifted to 5m.

The high quality notable tree, T78, situated south of the easement, has a minimum height clearance of 1m. To allow for the trees safe retention and provide sufficient height clearance, it is recommended the northern crown is lifted to 5m.

The two high quality features, T74 and T78, of which T78 hold TPO status (TPO-1341-2010), and moderate quality T75, have the potential to be impacted by the excavation due to their RPAs being situated within the 10m easement, in addition there is the potential for the trench to pass through a section of their RPAs. The RPAs not included within the trench footprint will be protected by ground protection and tree protection fencing along the edge of the easement.

Adjoining the Easthampstead Road crossing, the high-quality category A tree, T44 has the potential to be impacted, although there are no scheduled excavations to be undertaken within the RPA, there is the

potential for work associated activity / vehicle movement to be undertaken within the RPA. Therefore, the RPA will be excluded with tree protection fencing and the use of ground protection where there is no existing hard standing. The RPAs of the moderate T40 and low quality T41 (TPO-1434-2012), will also likely have an incursion loss due to the RPAs extending into the northern aspect of the easement, and the ground levelling works associated with this particular crossing.

The one low quality feature, T15 and one moderate quality feature, T18, are not directly impacted upon by the proposed works, however, their RPAs will be protected and excluded from all work-related activity by the use of tree protection fencing.

The two low quality groups G38 and G39 are situated in reasonable proximity to the work associated with installing a new H pole. However, the RPAs are excluded from work activities using tree protection fencing.

4.2 Tree Removal

The following features have been identified as requiring removal due to being situated within the 10m easement and to allow for safe working practices when excavating the trench / installing the cable.

There is one high quality notable tree, T63, which holds TPO status (TPO-1340-2010) and two moderate quality features T62 and T58. Of which T58 holds TPO status (TPO-1341-2010). There are seven individual low quality features that require either full or partial removal comprising of; 48m² section of G48, 179m² section of G76, 81m² section of G68 holding TPO status (TPO-1340-2010), 11m length of G57, 1.5m length of G64 and two individual trees T67 and T69, both of which hold TPO status (TPO-1340-2010).

The 48m² section of the low quality G48, and 81m² section of G68 consists of young scrub that does not ordinarily meet the requirements to be included within a BS5837:2012 Survey, however, they have been included for a complete overview. Therefore, the removal of the section of G48 and G68 will not have a significant arboricultural impact, nor will it require remedial planting. It should instead be left to naturally regenerate on completion of the works.

No further groups or individual trees require removal to facilitate the works. The project arboricultural consultant should be consulted if additional trees are required for removal as the project progresses and permissions sought from Wokingham Borough Council.

4.3 RPA Incursion

The low quality T59 is situated outside the southern aspect of the 10m easement. The topography of the easement in this particular location will require some minor levelling to enable the trench to be safely installed. This will create an incursion into the RPA by 1.6m², reducing the overall RPA from 13.1m² to 11.5m² resulting in a percentage loss of 12.2%. This is deemed to be within the trees tolerable limits.

The moderate quality T56 is situated outside the northern aspect of the 10m easement. The topography of the easement in this particular location will require some minor levelling to enable the trench to be safely installed. This will create an incursion into the RPA by 12.4m² reducing the overall RPA from 113.1m² to 110.7m² resulting in a percentage loss of 10.9%. This is deemed to be within the trees tolerable limits.

The low quality T41 is situated outside the northern aspect of the 10m easement. The topography of the easement in this particular location will require some minor levelling to enable the trench to be safely installed. This will create an incursion into the RPA by 8.23m² reducing the overall RPA from 191.2m² to 182.9m² resulting in an RPA percentage loss of 4.3%. This is deemed to be within the trees tolerable limits.

The moderate quality T40 is situated outside the northern aspect of the 10m easement. The topography of the easement in this particular location will require some minor levelling to enable the trench to be safely installed. This will create an incursion into the RPA by 6.6m² reducing the overall RPA from 215.4m² to 208.8m² resulting in an RPA percentage loss of 3%. This is deemed to be within the trees tolerable limits.

The specified RPA percentage losses have been calculated to be within the trees tolerable limits. It is not anticipated this will have a long term detrimental impact on the trees (T59, T56, T41 and T40) overall health and vitality.

4.4 Remedial Planting

To mitigate the loss of the one high quality, two moderate, partial / full loss of the seven low quality features (with the exception of G64 and G68) required to facilitate the proposed development. It is recommended a remedial planting scheme that addresses the clients Natural Environment Policy in conjunction with the Wokingham Borough Council, should be delivered to ensure there is a no-net loss of biodiversity 'units', as calculated using the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Metric; comprising of a suitable mix of locally sourced native tree species, and species already present within the site to the original location. Suitable species would include but are not limited to Oak (*Quercus robur*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

4.5 Tree Pruning

The southern aspects of the crowns forming two moderate quality features G66 and G72 overhang the easement creating an average height clearance of 4m with a lowest clearance of 1.5m. It is recommended the southern aspects of these trees crowns are lifted to 5m.

In addition to one further moderate quality feature, T75 and one high quality feature T74 have their southern crowns overhanging the easement, creating a minimum height clearance of 1m for T74 and 3m for T75. It is recommended both T75 and T74 have the southern crowns lifted to 5m.

The one high quality notable tree, T78, has a minimum height clearance of 1m on the norther aspect of the crown over the easement, it is recommended this tree has its northern crown lifted to 5m. Due to high quality notable feature T78 holding TPO status (TPO-1341-2010) permissions must be granted by Wokingham Borough Council prior to any facilitation tree works.

The low quality T59, has an existing crown extent on the northern aspect to approximately 3m, with a crown clearance of <0.50m. It is recommended the northern crown extent is reduced by 1.6m to the edge of the 10m easement.

No further pruning is anticipated to facilitate the works. Should it become apparent once works have started, further facilitation pruning is required, no works should be undertaken until the permission has been granted from Wokingham Borough Council and the project arboricultural consultant has been consulted who can advise on the best practice guidance prior to any pruning works commencing.

4.6 Works within RPA's

The potential works to be undertaken within the RPA's of retained trees are summarised in **Table 6**, along with details of recommended mitigation measures. Further RPA guidance can be found in **Appendix 7**.

Table 6: Summary of potential damage to retained trees.

Tree Number	Species	Potential Cause of Damage	Mitigation
T44	Oak	Root damage and crown damage from works associated activities within the RPAs	- Use of banksmen for all work with machinery with booms. - Use of tree protection fencing to exclude as much of RPA as possible from Clancy operations. - Ground protection to be used where there is no existing hardstanding within the RPA.
T40, T41, G57, T59	Various	Root damage and crown damage from RPA extending into the easement.	- Use of banksmen for all work with machinery with booms. - All roots calculated within the RPA incursion within the easement can be cut back to the easement edge if ground levelling is required under arboricultural supervision. - If ground levelling is not required, ground protection shall be installed to protect the RPA within the easement for passage of vehicles and pedestrians. - Use of tree protection fencing along the edge of the easement to prevent accidental damage to

Tree Number	Species	Potential Cause of Damage	Mitigation
			retained trees adjacent to the easement.
G66, G72	Oak	Root damage / severance and crown damage from RPA extending into the easement	- Use of banksmen for all work with machinery with booms. - Use of tree protection fencing along edge of easement to exclude RPA from Clancy operations. - Use of ground protection for RPAs within the easement. - Trench location to be situated within easement outside of RPA.
T74, T78, T75	Various	Root damage / severance and crown damage from cable duct installation	- Use of banksmen for all work with machinery with booms. - Use of tree protection fencing to exclude RPA for edge of easement. - Ground protection to be used for passage of vehicles / pedestrians within RPA. - Arboricultural supervision for all excavations within the RPAs of T74, T75 and T78. - All roots greater than 25mm diameter to be retained. - Excavations to be undertaken using a vacuum excavator / air lance or hand digging methodology. - Prior and upon completion of the excavation, ground protection will be used to cover the whole easement within this section due to overlapping RPAs. - Ground protection may only be removed from the trench location during the trenching operations.

4.7 TPO Permissions Required

Of the 10 features that require either partial or full removal to facilitate the works, the following features hold TPO status: G68, T67, T69 (TPO-1340-2010), T63 (TPO-1340-2010) and T58 (TPO-1341-2010).

Of the four features that require a percentage loss of their overall RPA, the following features hold TPO status: T40, T41 (TPO-1434-2012) and T56 (TPO-1341-2010).

Of the six features that require facilitation pruning works, only the following feature T78 holds TPO status (TPO-1341-2010).

Full permission must first be granted by Wokingham Borough Council prior to any work commencing pertaining to works on / around TPO trees.

5 Method Statement

5.1 Overview

The contractors working for / on behalf of Clancy will be following the precautions set out below.

5.2 Facilitation Tree Work

5.2.1 Tree pruning and Tree Felling

The removal of T63, T62, T58, T67, T69, 48m² section of G48, 179m² section of G76, 81m² section of G68, 11m length of G57 and 1.5m length of G64. In addition to the facilitation pruning works to G72, G66, T59, T75, T74 and T78 must first be undertaken, prior to construction operations commencing.

No further facilitation works or tree removal are anticipated prior to the commencement of Clancy works. However, if it becomes necessary as the project progresses the project arboriculturist should be consulted and permission for Wokingham Borough Council granted.

All felling and pruning operations should be conducted in accordance with BS3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree Work;' current arboricultural industry guidelines and best practice; and all relevant Health & Safety standards. Tree work is a specialist task that requires operatives to be appropriately qualified, skilled, and adequately insured. Guidance on selecting an appropriate contractor can be obtained from the Arboricultural Association, who also maintains a directory of Approved Contractors. The Arboricultural Association can be contacted on 01242 522152 or via their website <http://www.trees.org.uk>.

5.3 Working Methods to be Adopted

The following general precautions will be taken where works are proposed within or adjacent to the RPA or above ground parts of trees:

1. Crown lifting will take place prior to any construction activity commencing and on conformation from the project arboricultural consultant and Wokingham Borough Council.
2. No excavations will be conducted within 1m of the base of any tree without arboricultural supervision.
3. Ground protection, such as Tuff Track will be installed along the route prior to any construction activity commencing where there is no hard standing for vehicle movement / storing of spoil within the retained trees RPAs. An example of TuffTrack is included in **Appendix 8**.
4. Use of machinery with booms will have a banksman to prevent accidental contact of the boom with the retained trees.

5. As the roots of the trees extend well beyond the limits of the RPAs, no fuels or chemicals should be poured or stored within an area equal to the height of the tree.
6. No materials or equipment should be stored within the RPAs of any trees.
7. Nothing will be attached to the trees.
8. All excavations pertaining to the trench within the RPAs of T74, T75 and T78 will be undertaken with arboricultural supervision and the use of a vacuum excavator / air lance, or suitable hand dig approach.
9. All excavations pertaining to changes in ground level within the RPAs of T40, T41, T56 and T59 will be undertaken with arboricultural supervision.
10. Tree protection fencing and Ground protection will be installed around retained trees as detailed on the TPP in **Appendix 2** prior to works commencing in an area.
11. All excavations outside of the retained trees RPAs can be done by the contractors preferred method without arboricultural supervision but with the tree protection measures installed as advised in **Section 5**.

5.4 Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ)

The CEZ is defined as either side of the works area and around the retained trees by the RPAs shown on the TPP contained in **Appendix 2**. Where possible the CEZ is positioned to protect both the crowns and the Root Protection Areas (RPA) of the retained trees.

5.5 Barriers

In line with Section 6.2.2 of BS5837:2012, which requires that the tree protection barriers be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and that they provide adequate protection to the trees, it is proposed that they will consist of 2m tall, welded mesh panels supported on concrete feet. Each panel will be secured to its neighbour with a minimum of 2 anti-tamper couplers secured so that they can only be undone from inside the CEZ. The panels will be further supported by stabilizer struts which will be pinned to the ground. An example of this type of barrier is contained in **Appendix 9**.

Due to the nature of the site, fixed tree protection barriers for the duration of the works may not be feasible, therefore the protection barriers should be used in a 'rolling' method as various sections of work get completed. Their precise location and construction will be agreed on site between the project arboricultural consultant and the Clancy Site Manager before any site works commence. An alternative method of tree protection fencing can consist of standard site plastic 2m long Chapter 8 barriers secured in place with metal stakes to prevent movement as shown in **Appendix 10**. This alternative type of fencing will be easier for contractors to implement as the works progress across the site.

Inside the CEZ the following prohibitions will be complied with:

- No excavations, including by hand, unless approved by Wokingham Borough Council.
- No storage of machinery.
- No storage or handling of building materials, fuel, chemicals, or spoil.
- No fires.
- No vehicular access.
- No pedestrian access, unless approved by Wokingham Borough Council.
- No alteration, increase or decrease, to existing ground levels, unless approved by Wokingham Borough Council.
- No excavation or installation of services, unless approved by Wokingham Borough Council.

To ensure that the CEZ remains intact, the tree protection barriers will not be moved or temporarily dismantled except in specific situations. Such events are to be discussed and approved by the project arboricultural consultant and Clancy site manager.

To enable site operatives to appreciate the purpose of the protective fencing and reduce the risk of operatives attempting to move them, all-weather notices will be erected on the barriers like the example in **Appendix 11**. The barriers will only be adjusted or removed if prior written approval is obtained from the project arboricultural consultant.

5.6 Trenching within the RPAs of trees

In the first instance temporary exclusion fencing shall be installed as described in **Section 5.5** above.

There is minimal existing hard standing across the works area, therefore, when trenching within the RPAs, the following precautions will apply.

- All excavations within the RPAs of T74, T75, T78, T40, T41, T56 and T59 will be carried out under the supervision of the project arboricultural consultant who will advise on root pruning and tree protection methods.
- The trench within the retained trees RPAs will be kept as narrow as possible and not exceed the approximate 1.5m width.
- Roots encountered less than 25mm diameter will be pruned back to the trench edge using a pruning saw or secateurs to leave a clean cut. No roots larger than 25mm diameter will be severed at any time without first consulting the project arboricultural consultant.
- A vacuum excavator will be used when excavating within the RPAs of T74, T75 and T78. If a vacuum excavator is not feasible in these areas, then hand digging will be required.
- When working within the RPAs of T40, T41, T56 and T59 the excavator will use light scrapes to expose any roots. When the root has been exposed it can be cut back to the easement edge. The digger shall not rip roots out during excavation leaving frayed edges.

- Temporary proprietary surfacing, such as TuffTrak which is flexible and conforms to the existing surface (and will therefore not require excavation or infill to level out surfaces), will be used for all vehicle and pedestrian movements to prevent compaction of the ground when working within retained trees RPAs. An example of TuffTrak is shown in **Appendix 8**.
- No roots will be left exposed for a period of over 24 hours.
- Spoil will not be stored within the RPAs of any retained trees, unless suitable round protection is in place.
- Backfill should, where possible, contain originally excavated material.
- Consultation and approval for any changes to the AMS will be required from the project arboricultural consultant and Wokingham Borough Council.

5.7 Arboricultural supervision

Arboricultural supervision is recommended for the works through the RPAs of T74, T75, T78, T40, T41, T56 and T59.

If at any point throughout the works further advice is required regarding safe retention of the trees, the project arboriculturist should be contacted.

6 Arboricultural Input

6.1 Sequence of Events

The following Arboricultural Sequence of Events shall be referenced during the works process:

Wokingham Borough Council Approved Arboricultural Method Statement
▼
Pre-commencement site meeting (if necessary) / Arboricultural Toolbox Talk
▼
Facilitation tree works as described in as described in Section 5.2
▼
Installation of temporary tree protection fencing in work areas on a 'rolling' method and installation of ground protection
▼
Commencement of works with arboricultural supervision within the RPAs of T74, T75, T78, T40, T41, T56 and T59
▼
All Clancy works completed
▼
Removal of tree protection fencing

6.2 Key Contacts during Development

A list of key contacts relevant to this site that may be required throughout the duration of the works has been included in **Appendix 12**.

6.3 Arboricultural Monitoring

A Project Arboricultural Consultant will be appointed to monitor the tree protection measures on site. The purpose of this is to ensure the protection measures remain in situ and continue to provide sufficient protection to the trees.

This role will initially entail the Project Arboricultural Consultant liaising with the works contractor and Wokingham Borough Council to ensure the recommended protection measures are suitably installed. Once the tree protection measures have been installed, and construction activity commences, the extent of any on-going site monitoring is at the discretion of Wokingham Borough Council.

A formal record of these supervisory visits will be kept on file; a copy should also be circulated to all relevant parties, including the Wokingham Borough Council. The Project Arboricultural Consultant will be

kept informed of the progress of works and of any changes to the AMS. The site manager will be made aware of the importance of keeping vehicles and machinery to the temporary ground protection and the correct use of tree protection fencing to prevent damage to trees present on the site.

7 Conclusion

The tree survey conducted in November 2024 and February 2025 identified a total of 50 arboricultural features within influencing distance of the proposed works, located in South Wokingham.

A desktop study of Wokingham Borough Council's online mapping service revealed that the site is not located within a Conservation Area. However, the search confirmed that there are TPOs on the site. Additionally, a desk top study of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) online mapping tool, MAGIC Maps, revealed there are no Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland designations on the site, although a search on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory confirmed that the site does not contain any listed Ancient or Veteran Trees, however, there is one oak that has been awarded notable status.

The proposed works requires the removal / partial removal of 10 features comprising of one high quality notable tree, T63 (TPO-1340-2010), two moderate quality features T62 and T58. Of which T58 holds TPO status (TPO-1341-2010). In addition to seven low quality features comprising of; 48m² section of G48, 179m² section of G76, 81m² section of G68 (TPO-1340-2010), 11m length of G57, 1.5m length of G64 and two individual trees T67 and T69, both of which hold TPO status (TPO-1340-2010).

Facilitation tree work is required to two high quality feature T74 and T78. The feature T78 is of notable status and holds TPO (TPO-1341-2010), three moderate quality features G66, G72 and T75 and one low quality feature T59.

The works also require the percentage loss of the RPAs within tolerable limits, to the features; low quality T59 and T41, and two moderate quality features T40 and T56. Of these features three hold TPO status, T40, T41 (TPO-1434-2012) and T56 (TPO-1341-2010).

The following features that hold TPO status requiring either, full removal, partial removal, facilitation pruning or excavation works are G68, T67, T69, T58, T40, T41, T56 and T78. Subsequently, full permission must first be granted by Wokingham Borough Council before works commence.

ADAS is satisfied that if the recommendations contained within this Arboricultural Method Statement are followed, then the proposed development can take place with minimal harm being caused to the retained trees on site providing the specified tree protection measures are in place as described within the report and on the TPP in **Appendix 2**.