



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

BS:5837 ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT & METHOD STATEMENT

KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD
GOODCHILD ROAD
WOKINGHAM
BERKSHIRE
RG40 2EP

CLIENT: DAVID SMITH / WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2025

Ref: AIA/AMS 06761 / 2025

REPORT BY: SARAH DUCKWORTH

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LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector



Project: Rainwater Garden and SUDS at King George V playing fields.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides detailed and site-specific information on the steps which will be undertaken to prevent damage to trees at King George V Playing Fields, Wokingham, Berkshire, during the proposed installation of the new SUDs project.

I have been appointed as the site Arboricultural Consultant since the initial design phases of this project and have provided professional arboricultural advice to ensure the final rain garden design is sympathetic to the protection and retention of trees growing on and adjacent to the King George V Playing Field.

The layout and positioning of the proposed rain garden design and associated drainage is reflective of the arboricultural advice, taking into account the identified Arboricultural Constraints posed by the mature trees. Some incursion within the RPA of trees is regrettably unavoidable in this location, however the initial proposed layout has been significantly modified in line with the arboricultural advice to reduce the impact on trees and to keep any ground work required within the RPA of trees to an absolute minimum.

The Arboricultural Method Statement which accompanies this report details the measures which will be undertaken to prevent damage to the trees where they may be at risk during the course of the proposed building works to limit any impact of the scheme on trees or tree roots.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTION

This Arboricultural report has been prepared by Sarah Duckworth, Arboricultural Consultant and provides an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement relating to trees growing within King George V Playing Fields, Wokingham, Berkshire.

This report should be read in conjunction with an earlier BS:5837 Tree Survey (ref: King George V BS 5837 Survey 06761/2025 0.2 dated July 2025).

1.2 SCOPE

The British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' is designed to assist those concerned with trees in relation to construction to form balanced judgments. This report does not therefore seek to put arguments for or against development but provides a means of protecting the trees which may be affected during the proposed groundwork.

The report is for the sole use of the client and its reproduction or use by anyone else is forbidden unless written consent is given by the author.

1.3 DOCUMENTS

The position of trees on the tree plan has been plotted by eye and their locations measured and triangulated against fixed objects on site. The tree plan should not therefore be taken as exact, but the plan is a fair representation of the location of the trees in relation to the property and any proposed ground works. Therefore, the position of ground works and tree protection measures should be measured on site to ensure adequate protection for trees and tree roots.

The Tree Protection Plan which accompanies this report is illustrative and should be used for dealing with tree issues only.

1.4 CAVEATS

The report is valid for a period of two years from the date of issue being 2nd October 2025 and will expire on 2nd October 2025.

DISCLAIMER: This is an independently produced Arboricultural Report. I have no connection with any of the parties involved in this site or application that could influence or bias the opinions expressed in this report.

2. ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) is to evaluate the direct and indirect effects of the proposed building works on the surrounding trees and where necessary recommend solutions or mitigation to protect the trees as appropriate.

This assessment will take account of the effects of any tree loss required to implement the design and any potentially damaging activities proposed in the vicinity of the retained trees.

2.2 PLANNING CONSTRAINTS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

I have confirmed with Wokingham Borough Council that the trees on site are not subject of any Tree Preservation Orders.

CONSERVATION AREA

Kiing George V Playing Field is not within a Conservation Area.

ANCIENT WOODLAND

Kiing George V Playing Field is not located in Ancient Woodland nor is the site within an Ancient Woodland Buffer Zone.

2.3 SOIL

The soil on site was assessed by an appraisal on the British Geological Drift Survey Map only. According to the 1:50,000 scale map records, the bedrock geology for King George V Playing Fields is Bagshot Formation - Sand.

The soil at King George V Playing Fields is therefore likely to be free-draining and resistant to compaction. Sandy soil has less capacity to shrink and swell with changing moisture levels¹.

Foundation depths should be calculated in accordance with NHBC Chapter 4.2 taking into account the presence of any clay and future growth of the adjacent trees to ensure foundations can resist damage as a result of soil desiccation and shrinkage.

¹ P.G. Biddle (1998) Tree Root Damage to Buildings - Volume 1 Causes, Diagnosis and Remedy. Published Willowmead Publishing Limited. Fig. 4.3, Principal Geological Strata Pg. 39

2.4 TREES APPRAISAL

Total Number of individual trees surveyed:	28
Total Number of tree groups surveyed:	2
Number of category 'A' trees / groups:	0
Number of category 'B' trees / groups:	8
Number of category 'C' trees / groups:	21
Number of category 'U' trees:	1

Figure 1 - Tree quality summary

2.5 TREE WORKS AND REMOVAL

One boundary hedge is to be removed to clear the way for the French drain. The hedge is well maintained but of no limited wider visual amenity value and its removal will not detract from the overall amenity provided by trees to the local area.

Consideration should be given to planting a replacement hedge on the opposite side of the access path to ensure there is no loss of vegetation as a result of the works.



Photo 1 – G029 – Privet and Hedge Honeysuckle hedge

In addition, works are recommended to remove T026 (Red Oak). The tree has fungal fruiting bodies of the wood decay fungus *Ganoderma resinaceum* at the base. This fungus causes a serious white rot fungal infection which compromises the tree's root system and can result in tree failure.

I have also noted that the canopy of T026 is in advanced decline. The tree therefore has limited resources by which to resist further spread of decay.



Photo 2 – Fungal fruiting bodies of *Ganoderma resinaceum* at the base of T026 (Red Oak)

2.6 APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

The suitability of planning development in relation to trees is assessed by the Local Authority in accordance with the British Standard 5837: 2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction.

This document requires that the conception and design of the final development layout must take into account the constraints posed by the trees on site. These constraints include not only the existing canopy and likely root spread but also:

- The ultimate height and spread of the trees.
- Potential impact of species characteristics for future residents – evergreen / deciduous, density of foliage, seasonal leaf drop / berries etc.
- Current and future shade patterns.

The default position in planning is that every effort should be made to retain and protect the category A and B trees on site and that new structures should be located outside of the identified RPA's of trees.

The proposed SUDS scheme consists of essential ground work to alleviate surface water flooding in the immediate local area. Whilst all options for the proposed SUDS location has been considered, the ultimate location for the scheme is restricted by the necessity to link the scheme to the existing drainage network.

The proposed SUDS layout has been designed and modified in consultation with the Arboricultural Consultant to reduce any impact on trees. The layout of the rainwater garden is flexible and the edges of the rainwater garden will be plotted on site around the edges of the root protection areas of each tree prior to the commencement of works. The RPA of trees will be measured out on site with the Arboricultural Consultant present to ensure adequate protection for tree roots.

Due to the nature of the project, some ground works are unavoidable within the RPA of retained trees in two areas of the scheme. These are as follows:

- 1) A new drainage run is required to connect the French drain with that of the existing sewer. This drainage run will pass within the RPA of three Horse Chestnut (T022, T023, T025). The maximum length of the trench is 3.6m within the RPA of T022.

Mitigation

The new trench is directed radially to reduce the severance to tree roots. Radial trenches are less damaging than excavation which traverses across the root protection area.

The site is on sandy soil therefore the trench can be excavated using an **AirSpade** under an Arboricultural Watching Brief. Once excavated to the required depth the drainage pipe will be fed under the roots. The trench will then be backfilled around retained tree roots.

The 110mm diameter pipe connection will traverse the outer edge of the Root Protection Area of T019 (Horse Chestnut). This will sever 6.4m² of the entire root protection area of the tree. This is a minor incursion and equates to less than 2% of the overall root protection area of the tree.

Mitigation

In this location, at the edge of the root protection area, an incursion of 2% into the RPA of T019 will not be significant in terms of tree health or stability. However, as a precaution, this trench will also be excavated using an **AirSpade** under an Arboricultural Watching Brief to prevent tearing roots and the pipe fed under larger roots.

2.7 TREE PROTECTION DURING BUILDING WORKS

Retained trees will be physically protected throughout the drainage works with fit for purpose Tree Protection Barriers and Temporary Ground Protection installed in accordance with BS:5837 (2012).

The Tree Protection Fencing and Temporary Ground Protection must remain rigid and complete during development. The area behind the tree protection fencing is designated a Construction Exclusion Zone and should be isolated from all ground work activity.

2.8 CONCLUSIONS

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment has evaluated the potential effects of the proposed drainage works on the existing tree population in accordance with the requirements of BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations.

The design has been carefully developed in consultation with an Arboricultural Consultant to avoid unnecessary tree loss and to minimise impacts on retained trees through sensitive layout planning and construction techniques.

Where incursions into Root Protection Areas are unavoidable, mitigation measures—such as the use of AirSpade excavation under arboricultural supervision—have been specified to minimise the risk of root damage.

The removal of one tree and a low-value hedge has been justified on arboricultural grounds and will not significantly impact on the amenity or character of the site. Replacement planting is recommended to maintain green infrastructure in the area.

With the implementation of the recommended protective measures and ongoing arboricultural supervision during key stages of the works, the proposed development can be delivered without significant adverse impact on the health or long-term viability of the retained trees.

3. ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT (AMS)

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This Arboricultural Method Statement specifies the detailed methodology that will be employed to prevent damage to the trees during the proposed installation of a new SUDs project at King George V Playing Fields, Wokingham, Berkshire.

The correct and timely installation of tree protection measures such as tree protection fencing is critical to ensure the long-term retention of a healthy tree stock on or adjacent to the drainage scheme.

This method statement will be read, approved and agreed to by all key personnel prior to the commencement of ground work within the site.

WARNING: FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT ONCE APPROVED CAN CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO TREES AND MAY INVALIDATE YOUR PLANNING CONSENT.

3.2 SITE SUPERVISION AND MONITORING.

The schedule proposed here for site supervision and monitoring is considered reasonable and proportionate to the arboricultural issues and intensity of ground works within the site.

The Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan once approved, will be provided to all 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.

The Tree Consultant will be present on site when the root protection areas of individual trees are measured and marked out on site with temporary chalk paint.

Tree Protection Fencing and temporary ground protection will then be installed around the edge of the root protection areas and as shown on the Tree Protection Plan. Photographic evidence of the tree protection fencing will be emailed to the appointed planning officer once it has been erected.

The project arboriculturist will monitor site activity during the following phases of development:

- During **AirSpade** trenching within RPA of T022, T023 & T025.

A copy of the Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan will be available on site for reference.

3.3 TREE WORKS

The following facilitate tree work will be undertaken prior to the commencement of any groundworks on site:

Ref:	Species	Works	Cat.
G029	Privet & Shrub Honeysuckle (<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> & <i>Lonicera nitida</i>)	Fell boundary hedge and grub out stumps	C2

Figure 2. Schedule for tree works

In addition, the removal of T026 (Red Oak) is recommended in the interests of health and safety.

3.4 TREE WORKS GOOD PRACTICE

All tree works shall be undertaken in accordance with BS:3998 2010 'Tree Work Recommendations'.

No vehicles will be driven beyond the existing driveway onto unprotected ground during the course of the tree work operations.

Chippings arising from the tree work will not be piled around the bases of trees on or off the site. Wood and any other arisings from the tree work will not be burnt on site.

3.5 PROTECTED SPECIES

In accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act - 1981, Conservation - Natural Habitats -Regulations 1994 and Countryside Rights of Way Act - 2000, the property owner will consider the timing and type of tree work operations to avoid causing disturbance to any nesting or breeding birds or bat roosts that may be present within trees.

It is an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places.

Non-urgent major tree work involving tree removal or reduction and hedge cutting operations should not be undertaken during the bird nesting or breeding season, which is considered to be from 1 March to 31 July. However, depending on seasonal temperatures, some birds continue breeding into August and September.

All wild birds, their young, their eggs and active nests are protected under law. It is an offence to damage a nest intentionally while it is in use or being built and hedge cutting is highly likely to damage nests or cause them to be deserted.

3.6 TREE PROTECTION FENCING

The outer Root Protection Areas of each tree will be measured and marked out on site to ensure maximum protection of tree roots. Once measured out, the Tree Protection Fencing will be installed along the marked line of the RPA where possible and as identified in the Tree Protection Plan.

The Tree Protection Fencing will consist of a vertical and horizontal scaffold framework braced well to resist impact. The vertical tubes will be spaced at a maximum distance of 3m and driven securely into the ground. Onto this framework welded mesh – ‘Heras’ style fencing panels or similar will be securely fixed. (See Appendix C).

The fencing will be located at all times to protect the retained trees and their rooting areas and will remain vertical, rigid and complete during development.

At no time will Tree Protection Fencing be removed or relocated contrary to the recommendations in this report, without professional arboricultural advice and without the prior consent of the Local Authority Tree Officer.

The Appointed Arboricultural Consultant will notify the Tree Officer once Tree Protection Measures are installed on site and 5 days prior to the Protection Fencing being removed on completion of development so that a representative from the Local Authority may visit the site if considered necessary.

All-weather signage stating ‘TREE PROTECTION AREA – KEEP OUT’ will be attached to the outer perimeter of the Tree Protection Fencing. (A sample sign is attached to Appendix D of this report)

3.7 TEMPORARY GROUND PROTECTION

Temporary Ground Protection will be installed in accordance with the Tree Protection Plan.

Temporary Ground Protection will be constructed from rigid load bearing temporary roadway sheets such as ‘euroboards’ or similar or ply sheets a minimum of 15mm thick. Temporary Ground Protection is designed to prevent compaction or rutting within the tree’s rooting area which can occur from vehicle traffic and repeated, frequent footfall.

Ground Protection within the rooting area of trees will only be removed on completion of the landscaping works.

3.8 METHODOLOGY FOR AIRSPADE EXCAVATION IN THE RPA

The routes of the new drainage channels will be clearly marked on site and the sides of the work space edged with temporary ground protection.

Tools and Equipment

- AirSpade (or similar air excavation tool) powered by a compressor (minimum 90–150 cfm).
- Hand tools: plastic or wooden trowels, secateurs, root snips (no sharp spades).
- NO MECHANICAL DIGGING EQUIPMENT.

Excavation Technique

Wooden boards will be erected around the trench to stop flying stones and reduce dust. The AirSpade operative will wear appropriate PPE – safety glasses with a side shield or goggles, ear defenders and gloves. In very dusty conditions, respiratory protection may be required.

Turf will be removed along the route of the trench by hand using a sharp spade. Once clear of turf, the drainage trench will be excavated in layers using the AirSpade.

1. The first to 100–150 mm depth will be cleared and then the Arboricultural Consultant will review the trench and assess for root density.
2. Excavation will continue in 100-150mm layers under arborist guidance.
3. The trench will be excavated radially from the tree trunk outward to avoid tearing roots. Any roots present will be exposed gently to avoid desiccation or physical damage.
4. Once the trench is clear, the pipework will be fed under the retained tree roots.
5. As part of the ground works, roots <25 mm diameter will be retained where possible. Roots >25 mm: must not be cut unless agreed by the arboricultural consultant.
6. Where root pruning is essential, sharp, sterile tools will be used. In such cases, the appointed Arboricultural Consultant will document root density and condition and record any pruning or root damage.
7. Where roots are left in the open for more than 60 minutes, they will be covered with damp hessian or topsoil to prevent drying.
8. On completion of the pipe installation the trench will be backfilled immediately with the soil removed from the trench and topped up with screened topsoil where necessary.

3.9 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Roots can be killed by pollution of the rooting area by chemicals and leaching. Loose, granular or liquid materials, including cement mix and fuel will be stored on an impermeable membrane and well away from the root protection areas of retained trees.

Particular care will be taken in the planning of deliveries if they require wide or tall loads and plants with booms, rigs or counterweights which can cause serious and permanent damage to trees making their safe retention impossible.

3.10 UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

In the event of unforeseen circumstances whereby it is not possible to work in accordance with the Arboricultural Method Statement, then advice should be sought immediately from a qualified Arboriculturist.

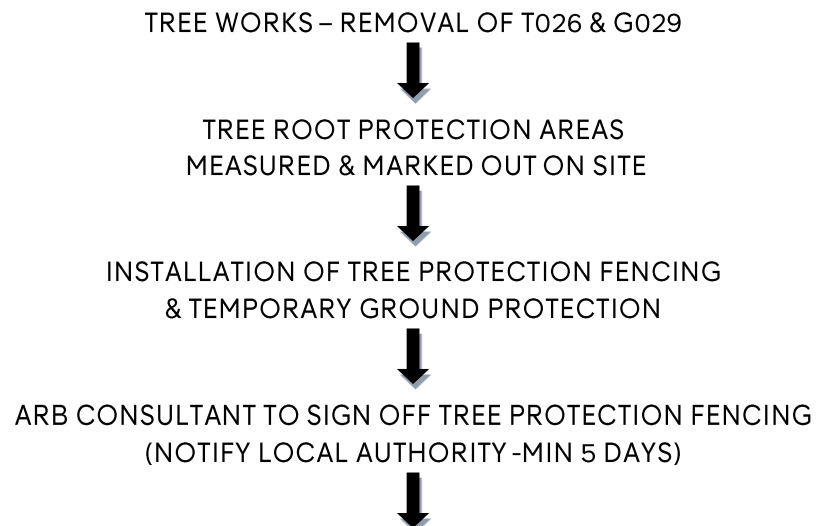
THERE SHALL BE NO DEVIATION FROM THIS METHOD STATEMENT WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH A QUALIFIED ARBORICULTURIST AND / OR THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY.

APPENDICES

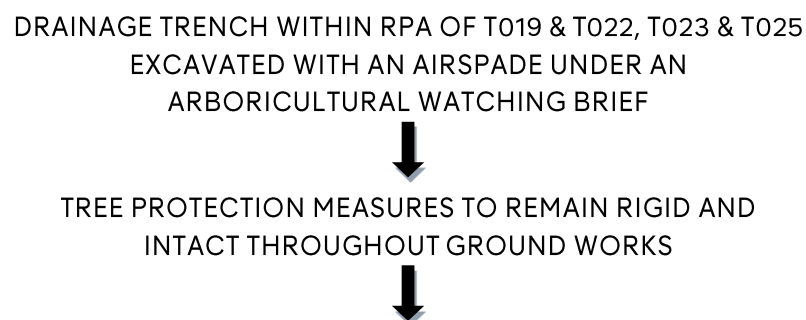
- A. Phasing of works
- B. Documentation
- C. Tree Protection Fencing
- D. Tree Protection Signage
- E. Contacts
- F. Qualifications

APPENDIX A – PHASING OF WORKS

STAGE 1 (PRE-COMMENCEMENT)



STAGE 2 (DEMOLITION & CONSTRUCTION)



STAGE 3 (POST DEVELOPMENT)



APPENDIX B - DOCUMENTATION

Attached as separate pdf documents:

BS:5837 Pre-Planning Arboricultural Tree Survey:

Ref: **KING GEORGE V SURVEY 06761 2025 0.2(BS:5837)**

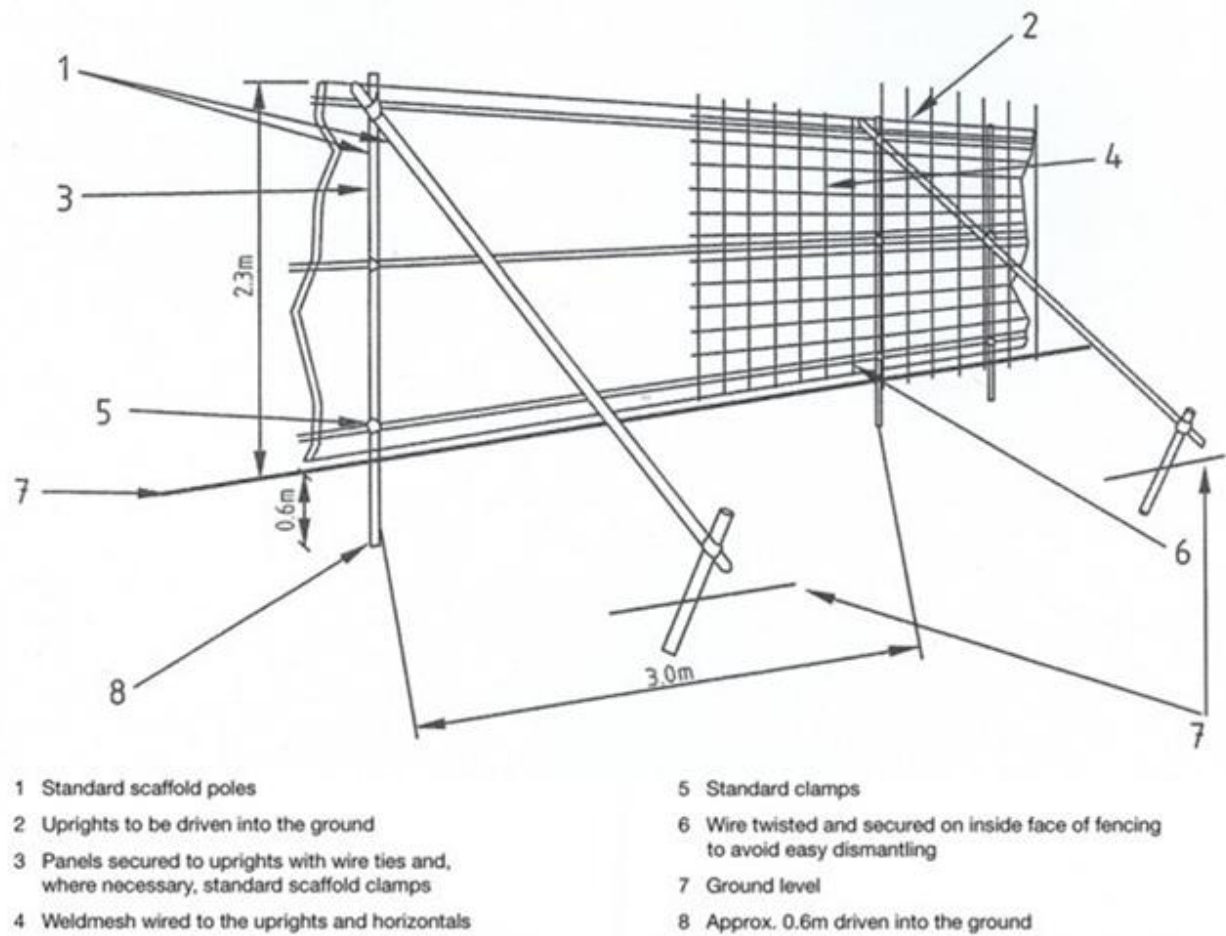
Tree Constraints Plan:

Ref: **KING GEORGE V TCP 06761 2025 0.2**

Tree Protection Plan:

Ref: **KING GEORGE V TPP 06761 2025**

APPENDIX C – TREE PROTECTION FENCING



APPENDIX D - TREE PROTECTION SIGNAGE



TREE PROTECTION AREA KEEP OUT !

**(TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)
TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY
PLANNING CONDITIONS AND/OR ARE THE SUBJECTS OF
A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER.
CONTRAVENTION OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER MAY
LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.**

**ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE
WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LOCAL
PLANNING AUTHORITY.**

APPENDIX E - CONTACTS

Arboricultural Consultant

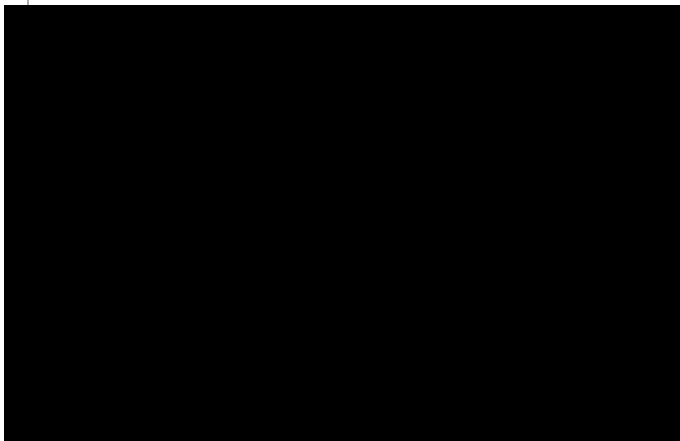


Local Planning Authority

Wokingham Borough Council

T: 0118 974 6000

Client



APPENDIX F - QUALIFICATIONS

This Arboricultural report has been prepared by Sarah Duckworth, Independent Arboricultural Consultant, trading as Duckworth's Arboriculture Limited.

I have over 20 years' experience working in the field of Arboriculture and for the past 17 years I have worked as a Local Authority Tree Officer both directly and independently providing contracted support. Since 2010 I have worked as a private consultant carrying out a range of Arboricultural Reports and Assessments for private clients.

I hold the Royal Forestry Society's Professional Diploma (Level 6) for which I received the Lockhart Garrett Award commendation and the Arboricultural Association's Technicians Certificate (with Distinction).

I am a LANTRA qualified Professional Tree Inspector and a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association.