

Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Method Statement
Prepared in Accordance with BS5837:2012

Project:	21 Wivelsfield, Haywards Heath, RH16 4EF
Client:	Divine Property Services
Report Title:	Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Method Statement
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared for the proposed works at 21 Wivelsfield, Haywards Heath, RH16 4EF. The assessment includes tree categorisation to BS5837:2012, a Tree Constraints Plan (TCP), an Arboricultural Impact Assessment, and a Method Statement for both removal of identified low-quality trees and protection of retained trees during development.

The site contains predominantly low-value vegetation, with a single B-category tree (Oak, T6) of modest importance. Tree retention is straightforward, and tree removals will result in no meaningful loss of amenity.

This report provides contractors and site managers with a clear methodology to ensure compliance and protection of retained trees.

2. INTRODUCTION

This report supports the planning and construction phases at 21 Wivelsfield. It has been prepared using information from on site visit and local records.

The objectives of this report are:

- To evaluate the condition, category, and value of on-site trees.
- To identify arboricultural constraints relevant to design and construction.
- To quantify and evaluate impacts arising from development.
- To provide a clear, contractor-ready Method Statement for tree protection and removal.

3. METHODOLOGY

All survey and assessment works were undertaken in accordance with BS5837:2012. Surveying was performed from ground level and involved:

3.1 Survey Techniques

- Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) using industry-recognised methodology.
- Measurement of stem diameters, crown spreads, heights and condition.
- Categorisation into A, B, C or U quality grades.

3.2 Root Protection Area (RPA) Calculation

$\text{RPA radius} = 12 \times \text{stem diameter (in cm)} \div 1000$

RPAs represent the minimum rooting area to be protected during development.

3.3 Constraints Identification

Constraints include:

- Below-ground root protection areas.
- Above-ground canopy and working space.
- Visibility, ecological considerations, and future growth.

3.4 Limitations

Ground-only observations. No invasive inspections.

4. TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

Tree	Species	Height	Diameter	Condition	Category	Notes
T1	Laurel	~2m	multi	Very twisted	U	No value; remove
T2	Laurel	~4m	multi	Poor form	U/C	Low merit; remove
T3	Holly	~6m	multi	Suppressed	C	To be retained; can remove
T4	Douglas Fir	~10m	~400mm est.	Ivy-clad	C	To be retained; can remove
T5	Conifer	~5m	multi	Severely lopped	U	Unsafe; remove
T6	Oak	~8m	600mm	Good	B	To be retained; can remove
Misc.	Saplings	<3m	-	Self-seeded	U	Remove as scrub

5. ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIA)

5.1 Trees to be Removed

- T1 Laurel – Category U
- T2 Laurel – Category U/C
- T5 Conifer – Category U
- Self-seeded saplings – Category U

Impact: Negligible.

The removed trees do not contribute appreciably to landscape character.

5.2 Trees to be Retained

- T6 Oak – B category
- T4 Douglas Fir – C category
- T3 Holly – C category

These trees do not restrict construction and can be protected using simple fencing.

5.3 Overall Impact

The proposed development results in minimal arboricultural impact.

No deviation from standard BS5837 protection practices is required.

6. IMPACT TABLES

6.1 Removals

Tree	Category	Reason	Impact
T1	U	Poor form	Negligible
T2	U/C	Low quality	Negligible
T5	U	Unsafe, lopped	Negligible
Saplings	U	Self-seeded	None

6.2 Retentions

Tree	Category	RPA (m radius)	Measures Required
T6	B	~7.2m	Full exclusion fencing
T4	C	~4.8m	Exclusion fencing
T3	C	~2.4m	Exclusion fencing

7. ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

This arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) has been prepared to ensure that all construction, demolition, and enabling works undertaken at 21 Wivelsfield proceed without causing avoidable harm to retained trees. The AMS forms a mandatory control document for site operations and must be followed by all contractors, subcontractors, and site personnel throughout the duration of the project. Compliance with BS5837:2012 and BS3998:2010 is required at all times.

The measures detailed below establish the protective framework necessary to preserve the health, structural integrity, and long-term viability of the retained trees—T6 (Oak), T4 (Douglas Fir), and T3 (Holly)—and to ensure that all works affecting these trees are undertaken safely, responsibly, and with appropriate arboricultural oversight.

7.1 General Requirements and Responsibilities

1. Principal Contractor Responsibilities

The Principal Contractor shall assume full responsibility for implementing and maintaining all tree protection measures described herein. All site operatives must be made aware of the protective measures as part of a formal site induction. The Contractor must ensure:

- That tree protection fencing is installed before any plant, machinery, or personnel enter the construction area.
- That RPAs are respected at all times, with no encroachment unless explicitly authorised.
- That all subcontractors operate in accordance with this AMS.

2. Arboricultural Consultant Responsibilities

The appointed arboricultural consultant will:

- Oversee installation of protective measures and provide written approval.
- Carry out scheduled and reactive monitoring inspections.
- Approve or reject any proposed variations to the method or extent of protection.
- Provide formal certification upon completion of works.

3. **Communication Protocols**

Any concerns regarding tree protection or unexpected site constraints must be reported immediately to the arboricultural consultant. No works affecting or approaching RPAs may continue until approval is given. A system of “Stop Work Authority” must be in place to pause activities where tree risks are identified.

7.2 Tree Protection Fencing (Mandatory Exclusion Zones)

Protective fencing shall be installed as a **robust, immovable barrier**, forming the primary physical defence for RPAs.

Minimum requirements include:

- Weldmesh or Heras-panel fencing secured with rubber-foot supports and stabilising struts.
- Fencing to be positioned at the full RPA extent for T6, T4 and T3 unless otherwise shown on approved plans.
- Fencing to remain upright, intact, and in place for the entire construction period.

Inside fenced RPAs the following are strictly prohibited:

- Pedestrian or vehicular access
- Storage of materials, spoil, fuel, or chemicals
- Cement mixing or wash-out areas
- Excavations or ground level changes
- Fires or smoking
- Trenching for utilities or drainage
- Mechanical or hand-driven plant (including wheelbarrows if soil is soft)

Signage reading “*TREE PROTECTION AREA – KEEP OUT*” must be affixed to fencing at 10m intervals or on each panel.

7.3 Temporary Ground Protection

Where limited access within or adjacent to the RPA is unavoidable, temporary ground protection must be installed to prevent soil compaction, root tearing, and disturbance. The system must:

- Consist of scaffold boards over a compressible substrate laid on geotextile membrane, **or**
- A proprietary load-spreading system capable of supporting anticipated construction loads.

Ground protection must remain in place until heavy construction traffic has ceased.

7.4 Supervision and Monitoring

Tree protection must be monitored throughout the project:

- **Initial supervision:** During installation of fencing and ground protection.

- **Routine monitoring:** At key construction phases (e.g., foundations, services installation, landscaping).
- **Reactive monitoring:** If unexpected tree issues or site changes arise.

Monitoring visits will include:

- Assessing tree health and stability
- Checking compliance with exclusion zones
- Verifying ground protection integrity
- Recording any breaches and specifying corrective actions

All visits will be documented in written reports submitted to the site manager.

7.5 Storage, Site Layout, and Contractor Logistics

To ensure tree preservation during construction, the following controls apply:

- Materials must only be stored in designated storage zones outside RPAs.
- Welfare facilities, fuel stores, and generator positions must be located well clear of protected areas.
- Delivery vehicles must not overrun RPAs at any time.
- Mixing of concrete or mortar must take place on impermeable surfaces with wash-out areas placed well outside exclusion zones.
- Any accidental spillages of fuel, oil, or chemicals must be reported immediately, and contaminated soil removed without penetrating into the RPA.

7.6 Works Within RPAs (Only Where Absolutely Necessary)

If work within or adjacent to an RPA is unavoidable, an **Arboricultural Method Variation** must be issued and approved. Permissible operations (subject to supervision) include:

- Removal of old, low-quality surfacing by hand tools only
- Soil decompaction using air-spade technology
- Installation of above-ground or minimal-dig surfaces

Under no circumstances may roots exceeding 25mm diameter be severed without written arboricultural approval.

7.7 Completion Works and Post-Construction Protection

After construction is complete and heavy traffic has ceased:

- Tree protection fencing may only be removed following written approval from the arboricultural consultant.
- Landscaping works must be carried out using manual tools or light machinery only.
- Topsoil additions must be shallow and not raise soil levels within RPAs.
- Any proposed planting near retained trees must consider root density and avoid aggressive species.

8. TREE PROTECTION MEASURES

8.1 Protective Barriers

- Harris or Heras fencing panels secured with rubber feet.
- Positioned at RPA boundary of T6, T4, T3.
- Signage: “TREE PROTECTION AREA – NO ACCESS”.

8.2 Ground Protection

Where access is unavoidable:

- Scaffold boards over geotextile, laid on compression-resistant blocks.

8.3 Site Rules

Within RPAs:

- No vehicles or storage
- No excavation
- No fires
- No chemicals or cement mixing
- No wash-out areas

9. SEQUENCE OF OPERATIONS

The following sequence outlines the required order of arboricultural operations to ensure full compliance with BS5837:2012 and to safeguard retained trees throughout the development process. These steps must be followed precisely, and no deviation shall occur without prior approval from the appointed arboricultural consultant.

1. Pre-Start Meeting and Site Briefing

Prior to any activity on site—including delivery of materials, establishment of welfare facilities, or commencement of demolition—a formal pre-start meeting shall be held. This meeting will be attended by the site manager, groundworks contractor, project arborist, and any relevant subcontractors.

During this meeting:

- The Arboricultural Method Statement will be reviewed in detail.
- The boundaries of Root Protection Areas (RPAs) will be walked and physically marked out.
- Access routes, storage areas, and exclusion zones will be agreed.
- The responsibilities of each party with respect to tree protection will be clarified.
- Any potential conflicts or uncertainties will be resolved prior to commencement.

A record of the meeting shall be produced and retained on site.

2. Installation of Protective Fencing and Ground Protection

Before any machinery enters the site, tree protection fencing must be erected in accordance with the specifications contained in this report and BS5837:2012 (Figure 2 style barriers).

This fencing must:

- Be installed at the full extent of the RPA wherever practicable.
- Be securely braced to prevent accidental displacement.
- Include clear signage stating *“TREE PROTECTION AREA – KEEP OUT”*.

Where temporary access within an RPA is unavoidable, approved ground protection (e.g., scaffold boards on compressible material over geotextile) shall be installed simultaneously. No soil stripping, excavation, or deliveries may occur until fencing has been installed and signed off.

3. Arboricultural Inspection and Certification

Once fencing is installed, the project arborist will return to site to inspect:

- Correct fencing location and specification
- Ground protection installation where required
- Adequacy of exclusion zones
- Condition of retained trees before works begin

A compliance certificate or written authorisation will then be issued. *This certification must be obtained before any site clearance begins.*

4. Removal of T1, T2, T5 and Self-Seeded Saplings

Tree removal shall proceed only after protections are in place. Works shall be carried out by qualified arborists using sectional dismantling methods where required to avoid branch or stem impact within RPAs or against structures.

Key requirements:

- No heavy plant to operate within RPAs.
- Arisings to be removed or chipped outside protected areas.
- Stumps to be ground, not excavated, to minimise soil disturbance.
- Retained trees must be visually checked for accidental damage after removal activities.

This phase also presents the earliest opportunity to identify any previously concealed defects.

5. Construction Phase With Ongoing Arboricultural Monitoring

During construction, adherence to protection measures is mandatory. The arboricultural consultant will undertake periodic monitoring visits to ensure:

- Fencing remains intact and in the correct position
- No unauthorised access or storage occurs in RPAs
- Ground protection remains serviceable
- No signs of tree stress, bark injury, or soil contamination appear
- Contractors remain compliant with the Method Statement

Reports from these visits will be issued to the site manager and retained for audit purposes.

Any required modifications to protection measures must be approved by the arborist before implementation.

6. Completion, Removal of Protection Measures & Final Sign-Off

Once all heavy construction, surfacing, and landscaping activities are completed, the site manager shall notify the arboricultural consultant. Only after written approval may tree protection fencing and ground protection be removed.

During the final visit, the arborist will:

- Inspect retained trees for signs of damage, stress, or soil compaction
- Confirm that no unauthorised encroachment into RPAs occurred
- Verify that all operations followed the approved sequence
- Provide final certification confirming compliance

This certification may be required by the Local Planning Authority as part of post-development conditions.

10. CONCLUSION

The arboricultural assessment undertaken for the site at 21 Wivelsfield demonstrates unequivocally that the overall arboricultural sensitivity of the land is low, both in terms of existing tree quality and in the degree to which the current arboricultural resource provides meaningful constraint to development. The tree population is dominated by Category U and low Category C specimens, most of which exhibit suppressed, distorted, or structurally compromised forms resulting from historical neglect, inappropriate past management, or competition pressures within the garden environment. These trees offer limited amenity, negligible public visibility, and minimal ecological or landscape function. Consequently, their proposed removal does not constitute a loss of strategic arboricultural value nor does it undermine the site's capacity to support a more coherent and sustainable treescape in the long term.

The three trees recommended for retention—T6 (Oak), T4 (Douglas Fir) and T3 (Holly)—represent the only specimens with identifiable future potential or structural integrity warranting preservation within the context of the proposed development. Their Root Protection Areas are modest, readily accommodated within the site layout, and capable of being safeguarded using standard BS5837:2012-compliant protective measures. The retention of these trees does not necessitate any specialised engineering solutions, nor does it introduce exceptional design constraints. Instead, their RPAs can be protected through simple exclusion fencing, supported where necessary by temporary ground protection during the construction phase.

The development proposals do not encroach into RPAs, nor do they require alterations to levels, installation of underground services, or any construction-related activities that would foreseeably compromise the physiological functioning, structural stability or long-term

viability of the retained trees. The absence of direct impacts, coupled with the low potential for indirect harm, means that the risk profile associated with arboricultural considerations is minimal. Furthermore, the retained trees are internally located within the site and do not form part of the wider public realm, meaning their amenity contribution—while positive at a site level—is not strategic in wider landscape terms.

It is also important to recognise that the removal of the low-quality Category U trees represents a positive arboricultural intervention. It removes structurally poor and declining vegetation that would otherwise pose future maintenance burdens or present unmanaged risk. Their removal increases opportunities for intentional, high-quality planting that can deliver significantly greater canopy cover, ecological value and landscape coherence over time. In this respect, the proposed development presents an opportunity to enhance, rather than diminish, the overall arboricultural character of the site.

With adherence to the Arboricultural Method Statement and continued compliance with the protective measures described within this report, there is no foreseeable arboricultural barrier to the implementation of the proposed development. The precautionary controls set out are proportionate, industry-standard, and fully sufficient to ensure that retained trees remain healthy, stable, and structurally secure throughout the construction process. On this basis, the development can proceed confidently and responsibly, with negligible arboricultural risk and without any material loss of tree-related amenity to the surrounding environment.