

Arboricultural Report:

Arboricultural Implications Assessment (AIA) and Preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

Clients: Mr David Ward

Site Address: 4 Farlington Close, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3EH.

Prepared by: James Cox (BSc. Hons, AA Tech Cert Arb, M.Arbor.A)

Date: 3rd July 2026

Ref: aiams1/4fc/26

Executive Summary

The following planning proposal has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for consideration:

Single storey rear extension, conversion of garage, external material change including new porch.

Southern Beeches Ltd has been commissioned to assess the impact of the proposal upon a nearby tree located off-site to the west, setting out protection measures that are to be adopted in order to successfully integrate the development project into its surroundings.

No trees are required for removal or pruning to facilitate the proposed scheme; therefore, in my opinion, the project will have little or no impact upon the visual character of the local landscape.

The footprint of the proposed extension closest to the relevant tree mirrors that of the existing structure. Therefore, although the proposal lies well within the theoretical Root Protection Area (RPA) belonging to tree no.1, it is likely that the existing foundations have deflected the majority of roots into more favourable soil conditions within the surrounding gardens. The proposal scheme plans to utilise the existing foundations upon which to construct the new extension; therefore, the impacts upon the tree and its root system should be negligible if the recommended protection measures within this report are adhered to.

According to the local planning authority's online resources, the site itself is not located within a Conservation Area although the relevant tree (T1) is located within the Heath Conservation Area. The tree is not subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

Subject to implementation of the proposal scheme in accordance with the recommendations set out within this report, it is my opinion that the net impact upon the character of the local landscape and health of significant trees will be negligible and adhere to national and local planning policies.

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1.0 Introduction and Scope

- 1.1 A planning application for the following scheme has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority for consideration. Reference to 'the proposed scheme' below will mean the scheme under consideration by the Local Planning Authority (LPA):
Single storey rear extension, conversion of garage, external material change including new porch.
- 1.2 I have been appointed by the client as a competent and qualified arboricultural consultant to; i) assess relevant trees in accordance with BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction- Recommendations' (The BS); ii) detail the arboricultural consequences of the proposed project and assess its visual impact upon trees and amenity; iii) provide recommendations for effective tree protection where necessary, which are commensurate and appropriate for the scale and type of development.
- 1.3 This report sets out protection measures that may be adopted to ensure effective tree preservation during construction of the proposed scheme. The general principles are that; the established fenced and ground protected areas are exclusion zones for the duration of the construction (or as duly agreed) and; excavations within the BS root protection areas (RPA) of retained trees will be subject to professional assessment.
- 1.4 Any operational practices recommended in this report are to be undertaken by the appropriate specialist company. Operatives are to carry out the relevant risk assessment and record such information, prior to commencement of tasks and work in accordance with current Health and Safety standards, practices and legislation. Unless formally agreed, no contractors are assessed, appointed or monitored by Southern Beeches Ltd. Responsibility and liability of all actions, non-actions, products and services associated directly with this report will be limited to the relevant client and contractor.

2.0 Site Visit and Tree Survey Methodology

- 2.1 The relevant tree was inspected in accordance with the BS5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations on 11th June

2026 and the record is provided within the Tree Survey Schedule (TSS) at **Appendix 1**.

- 2.2 **Tree Survey and Report Limitations:** The tree was visually inspected from ground level from within the site boundary using non-invasive methods only. The height, crown spread and crown clearance was estimated to the nearest metre. The DBH (stem diameter at breast height) was measured to the nearest millimetre where access permitted.
- 2.3 A tree's BS root protection area (RPA) is based upon a radius measurement taken from the trunk centre and is included with reference to para. 4.6 of the BS (See **Appendix 1**). Professional arboricultural judgement may identify modifications to the morphology of an RPA. Any work within a tree's RPA will be subject to professional advice and guidance, particularly where construction is required within this area but beyond the position of fixed tree protection fencing.
- 2.4 A full condition assessment of the tree (including for example the assessment of decay or defects and its implications) has not been undertaken as this information is considered beyond the scope of this report.

3.0 Site and Tree Appraisal

- 3.1 The site comprises an existing detached 2 storey property with gardens to the front and rear, located in Farlington Close to the west of Haywards Heath. As such, the site lies within a residential area with similar properties located nearby and vehicle access to the site gained from the north via Farlington Close. The tree relevant to the current proposal is located within the garden of the neighbouring property at 32 Oathall Road to the west.
- 3.2 Details of the Norway Maple are presented within the Tree Survey Schedule (TSS) at **Appendix 1** with its location shown upon the Tree Protection Plan (TPP1_4FC_26) at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.2.1 It is a middle-aged tree of reasonable size and quality located within the neighbouring property, close to the western boundary. The existing extension was apparently constructed approximately 30 years ago and I would estimate the tree to

be similar in age. Therefore, roots of the developing tree are likely to have been deflected by the existing foundations that are approximately 1.2m in depth and there is no indication to date, that the tree has caused direct or indirect damage to the property.



Fig. 1: View of existing rear extension to be demolished and re-constructed with T1 (Norway Maple) visible to the left-hand side of the image.

3.3 Statutory Tree Protection: The Town & Country Planning Act (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) provides legislative protection for trees within England. According to the local planning authorities' online resources, the site itself is not located within a Conservation Area, although the neighbouring property, in which the tree is located is included within

the Heath Conservation Area. The tree is not subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). This should be verified with the local planning authority prior to commencing work on any trees within the site.

3.4 Relevant National Planning Policies include: National Planning Policy Framework- 2024 (NPPF); National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG); National Design Guide- 2019 (NDG);

3.4.1 Paragraphs 136b and 186d of the NPPF 2024 recognises that trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments and states that planning decisions should ensure that existing trees are retained wherever possible.

3.4.2 **Relevant Local Planning Policies include:** District Plan (2014- 2031) (LPP); DP37- Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows; PDP26- Character and Design; DP38- Biodiversity; DP39- Sustainable Design and Construction.

3.5 **Underlying Geology and Soil Type:** According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) website 'Geology of Britain Viewer' geological records suggest that the local bedrock is 'Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand'- Interbedded Sandstone and Siltstone with no superficial deposits. The implications upon overlying soil type, drainage and influence of surrounding vegetation should be discussed with a structural engineer in relation to suitable foundation design for the proposed scheme.

4.0 Proposed Development and Arboricultural Impact Assessment

4.1 The proposed scheme includes erection of a single storey rear extension in close proximity to a neighbouring tree. The following paragraphs assess impacts of the proposal upon the relevant tree and likely implications for the visual character of the local landscape.

4.2 **Tree Removal and Pruning- Visual Impacts:** There is no requirement for trees to be removed or pruned to facilitate the scheme, therefore the visual impact of the proposed extension will be negligible in relation to the character of the local landscape.

4.3 **Retained Trees- Root Protection Area (RPA):** The footprint of the proposed single storey rear extension, adjacent to T1, effectively mirrors that of the existing conservatory. Therefore, although the proposal lies well within the circular theoretical Root Protection Area (RPA) shown upon the TPP at **Appendix 2**, it is likely that the existing foundations have deflected the majority of roots into areas of the surrounding gardens with more favourable soil conditions. This modified RPA is illustrated by the asymmetrical magenta ellipse upon the TPP.

4.3.1 The current proposal will utilise the existing foundations upon which to construct the new extension; therefore, the impacts upon the tree and its root system should be negligible if the recommended protection measures within this report are adhered to. Excavations required within this area highlighted upon the TPP should be carried out using hand tools, from inside the footprint of the building to protect against damage

to any roots that have grown up against the existing foundations, prior to careful construction of the new extension above. Further details relating to this methodology can be found below at **Appendix 5**.

- 4.3.2 Compaction of the soil and subsequent root damage within the RPA of tree no.1 is possible during demolition of the existing conservatory and construction of the new extension, primarily through footfall and the passage of light machinery. Therefore, I have recommended the installation of suitable ground protection within the blue hatched area shown upon the TPP. In this case, heavy duty wooden boarding over a non-compressible substrate such as woodchip would be appropriate. Further details relating to ground protection can be found at **Appendix 3**.



Fig. 2: Roots growing alongside existing structure to be covered with suitable ground protection during demolition and construction phases.

4.4 Retained trees- Post

Development Considerations: The relationship between trees, their growth and living space is common cause for concern and conflicts; through size, excess shading and dropping of debris such as leaves and fruit. In this current scheme, the separation between trees and the proposed habitable space remains unchanged and can be readily managed with light, periodic pruning back along the boundary line if necessary.

- 4.5 The impacts of the proposed scheme upon nearby trees are summarised in table 1 below. An assessment of the visual impact of the works resulting from the scheme is also provided.

Table 1. Summary of Impacts of Construction upon Trees*

Tree No.	Landscape Contribution	Impact	Distance / Area ¹	Tolerance ²	Mitigation	Impact Assessment ³
1	Medium	Soil compaction/ root damage during construction activities	1.0/ 9.7	High	1. Install ground protection as per TPP. 2. Carry out site monitoring.	Low
1	Medium	Possible root severance during construction of foundations/ extension	1.0/ 0	High	1. Carry out excavations and removal of existing foundations using hand tools where necessary. 2. Carry out site monitoring.	Low

1. Distance of construction activities from main trunk of tree (m)/ Area of RPA affected by construction works (%).
 2. Tolerance of species to proposed work within extent of RPA, in association with proposed tree protection
 3. High- long term impact upon tree(s) and landscape; Medium- short term impact upon tree(s) and landscape; Low- no material impact or improvement upon tree(s) and landscape.

5.0 Preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement

5.1 Effective tree protection will be afforded subject to following a logical sequence of events, which will follow a pre-commencement site meeting of relevant parties. A suggested program of works is outlined in Table 3 below together with the recommended relationship between the Site Agent (SA) and Arboricultural Supervisor (AS).

5.2 **Tree Protection Fencing:** The trees relevant to this proposal are all located off-site, and in my opinion, the existing boundary fencing will afford sufficient protection from construction processes associated with the scheme.

Table 3. Proposed Sequence of Operations Requiring Arboricultural Supervision

Stage	Action	Trees affected	Notes
1	Pre-commencement meeting	All	Site meeting with all relevant parties to agree protective measures prior to site work commencing
2	Install ground protection	1	Installed prior to site work commencing as per TPP
3	Demolition of existing structure/ removal of old footings	1	SA to notify AS prior to demolition works
4	Construction of new extension/ foundations	1	AS to monitor tree protection at agreed and suitable intervals
5	Remove ground protection	1	No tree protection to be removed without prior agreement with the AS

5.3 **Ground Protection:** I recommend installing some ground protection (refer to TPP1_4FC_26) at the location indicated upon the TPP, to ensure that roots

belonging to tree no.1 which have grown into the site are not damaged during construction by the regular movement of operatives and light machinery.

Recommended examples of ground protection can be found at **Appendix 3**.

- 5.4 **Hand dig excavations** and careful picking out of the existing foundations are recommended where necessary during demolition of the existing structure and construction of the new extension to protect the roots of T1 from damage/ severance. Full details of this methodology can be found within **Appendix 5** below if required.
- 5.5 **Foundations and Services:** Foundations for the new extension are to utilise those of the existing structure. Engineers will advise on foundation design and depth which may take into consideration the potential impacts that nearby vegetation can have upon structures. Existing service routings will serve the proposed scheme.

6.0 Site Supervision - Arboricultural Specialist

- 6.1 In order to ensure that the tree protection measures are implemented effectively, a ***Pre-Commencement Site Meeting**, usually involving the site agent (SA), arboricultural supervisor (AS) and LPA representative will be undertaken to establish the principal timings and actions. All tree protection measures described within the arboricultural method statement (AMS) are to be discussed and it will be the site manager's responsibility to ensure that all personnel working on site are aware and adhere to the tree protection measures. A copy of this method statement is to be retained on site for the duration of the build process together with a scaled, colour copy of the Tree Protection Plan.

***Pre-commencement means i) before any works including tree felling or pruning and ii) before any ground works or demolition commences and upon completion of the initial installation of the tree protection, including ground protection.**

- 6.2 The appointed arboricultural specialist will finalise site supervision arrangements with the developer, visiting the site at agreed intervals to monitor the tree protection measures and ensure that all guidance is being complied with. The frequency of tree protection monitoring depends upon the nature of the project, normally every two to four weeks for general supervision, or a longer interval if agreed between all parties. In this case, it will be appropriate for the SA to organise with the AS monitoring visits by agreement following the pre-commencement meeting. A written record of these

visits will be circulated to all parties using the site monitoring pro-forma attached at **Appendix 4.**

6.3 The site monitoring arrangement will be sufficiently flexible to allow the supervision of all sensitive works as they occur, however, key times for supervision include:

- Installation of suitable ground protection: e.g: Heavy duty wooden boards over woodchip.
- Hand dig excavations in relation to removal/ alteration of existing foundations prior to construction of the new extension.

6.4 Key responsibilities for the SA regarding supervision include:

- Knowledge of on-site arboricultural matters.
- Dissemination of this information to site operatives.
- Day to day presence on site.
- Point of communication between Arb. Supervisor (AS) and site operatives.
- Authority to stop any works causing harm to soil environment for replanting.
- Contact AS/ LPA in the event of tree related issues on site.

7.0 Precautions during Landscaping

7.1 The following steps (both general and site specific), are advisable in relation to implementing any landscape works, which may have the potential to affect retained and or protected trees:

1. Advise arboricultural supervisor of intended time frame of landscape work in advance of commencement.
2. Re-locate existing tree protection fencing/ground protection to enable landscape work to proceed.
3. With bio-degradable spray paint or site pins with plastic tape, mark out the position of the relevant tree root protection areas (RPA) as per the tree protection plan.
4. Within the RPAs, avoid using any mechanical tools or vehicles (e.g. tracked or wheeled machinery).
5. Spread any mulch or top soil manually, with the use of wheel barrows and hand tools. It will be acceptable to use of the back actor of a tracked excavator to spread piled top soil or mulch into the RPAs of protected trees provided the bucket does not come in contact with the ground and that the power unit is positioned outside of the RPAs at all times.
6. Any planting pits are to be excavated manually within the RPAs of any retained trees.
7. Multiple passes within the RPAs along one route, pedestrian and with wheel barrows will require some ground protection to be installed prior to working. Ground protection can be scaffold boards over wood chip for example.
8. A record of the landscape working method is to be made and provided to the Council for their file.

9. Hard landscaping features will be constructed under supervision within the RPA of retained trees and will avoid, where possible, the re-grading of soil.

8.0 General Site Care

1. No fires will be lit on site.
2. No access will be permitted to within the fenced or otherwise protected areas (unless for site accommodation or Authorised agreement) at any stage during construction.
3. No materials, equipment or debris will be stored within the fenced areas unless agreed with the arboricultural supervisor.
4. Areas for mixing are to be located beyond RPAs of trees and contained to prevent leaching into the soil.
5. A copy of this report and the Tree Protection Plan is to remain on site at all times.

I trust that the information provided above is clear and helpful but if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.



James Cox
BSc. Hons, AA Tech Cert Arb, M.Arbor.A

3rd July 2026

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The survey and report are concerned with the arboricultural aspects of the site only. This report is primarily concerned with the condition of existing trees and the application of current guidance for their retention. No documented information has been provided regarding any site-specific history of ground disturbance, root damage or severance, changes in soil levels, previous utility installations or any changes in site conditions.

Trees are large dynamic organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly, therefore due to the changing nature of trees and other site considerations, this report and any recommendations made are only valid for the 12-month period following the site survey.

Subsidence Risk Assessment: Any discussion of soil characteristics is only presented where this may have a direct effect on tree growth. This report does not seek to address the specific area of subsidence risk assessment.

Foundation Design: The design and construction of foundations should be informed by appropriate soil sampling and laboratory testing in accordance with NHBC Chapter 4.2. This report does not specifically relate to risks associated with subsidence, heave or other forms of disturbance associated with tree root growth or tree removal.

Please note that all relevant planning approvals and approval to planning conditions must first have been issued by the relevant planning authority in order for this report to become effective. We strongly advise that you consult your planning advisors before implementing any recommendations set out in this report.

References:

1. Matheny, N, Clark, J. R, 1998. '*Trees and development; A technical guide to the preservation of trees during land development*'. ISA
2. Costello, L.R, Jones, K. S, 2003. '*Reducing infrastructure damage by roots: A compendium of strategies*.' ISA Western Chapter.
3. Parker, J, 2022. 'An introductory guide to young tree management' Arboricultural Association
4. TDAG, 2014: 'Trees in Hard Landscapes: A guide for delivery'
5. TDAG, 2023: 'Trees, Planning and Development' A guide for delivery'
6. Hirons, A; Sjoman, H, 2019: 'Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure' A guide for specifiers. TDAG
7. NHBC Chapter 4.2, 2021: 'Building Near Trees'
8. Goswami, B- 2024: '*Heavy Metals in Soil and Their Impact on Plant Health: A Contamination Study.*'
9. Torun, H; Cocozza, C; Petrik, P; Stojnic, S- 2024: '*Editorial: Combined Abiotic Interactions in Woody Plants.*'

Appendix 1

Tree Survey Schedule- TSS

Site: 4 Farlington Close, Haywards Heath, West Sussex.
Date: 26th June 2026

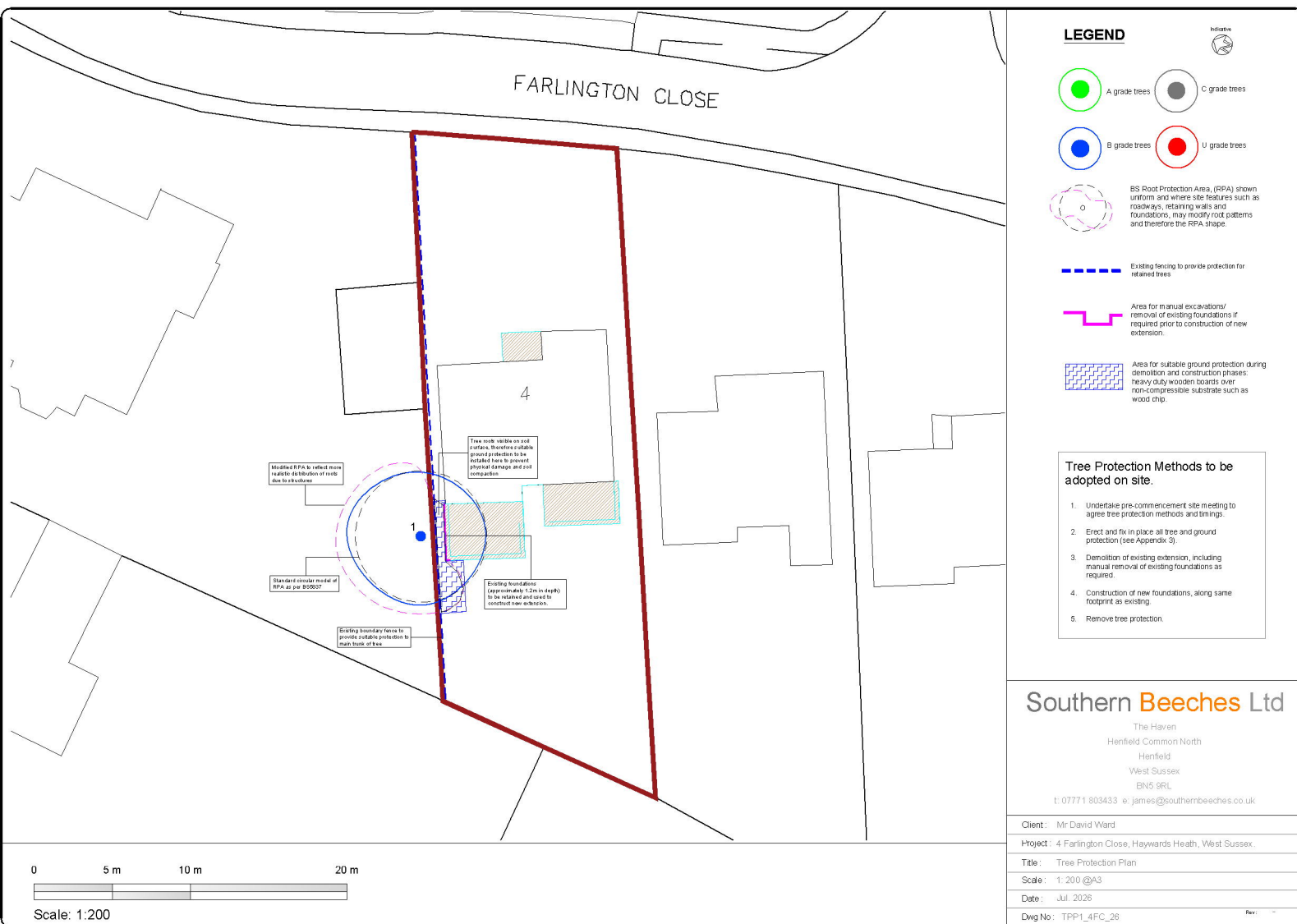
Surveyor: James Cox
Ref: tss1/4farlingtoncls

Tree No.	English Name	Height (m)	Radial Crown Spread (m)	Ground Clearance (m)	Age	Stem Diameter (mm)	Protection Multiplier	R.P.R	Growth Vitality	Structural Condition	Landscape Contribution	B.S. Cat	Sub Cat	Useful Life	General Observations
1	Norway Maple	12	4,4,4,5	2/W2	Middle Aged	350e	12	4.2	Normal	Good	Medium	B	1,2	20-40	Located off-site; inspection limited by access Roots affected by structures No apparent defects

Notes:

- 1. Height describes the approximate height of the tree in meters from ground level.
- 2. Radial Crown Spread refers to the average crown spread in meters from the stem centre. The dimension is estimated.
- 3. Ground Clearance is the height in meters of crown clearance above adjacent ground level together with the height and direction of the lowest branch
- 4. Stem Diameter is the diameter of the stem measured in millimetres at 1.5m from ground level. The diameter may be estimated (e), where access is restricted.
An average (a) may be taken for tree groups. A full inspection is always recommended.
- 5. Protection Multiplier is 12 for single-stemmed trees; for multi-stemmed a cross-sectional area is calculated to derive the DBH, which in turn is multiplied by 12.
- 6. Protection Radius is a radial distance measured from the trunk centre and is used to calculate the BS RPA.
- 7. Growth Vitality - Normal growth, Moderate (below normal), Poor (sparse/weak), Dead (dead or dying tree).
- 8. Structural Condition - Good (no or only minor defects), Fair (remediable defects), Poor - Major defects present or suspected.
- 9. Landscape Contribution - High (prominent landscape feature), Medium (visible in landscape), Low (secluded/among other trees).
- 10. B.S. Cat. refers to British Standard 5837:2012 Table 1 category and refers to tree/group quality and value; 'A' - High, 'B' - Moderate, 'C' - Low, 'U' - Remove or very poor quality.
- 11. Sub Cat refers to the retention criteria values where 1 is Arboricultural, 2 is Landscape and 3 is Cultural including Conservation/ecological, historic and commemorative.
- 12. Useful Life is the tree's estimated remaining effective contribution in years.

Appendix 2



Appendix 3

Ground Protection

Fig. 1 Heavy duty boards over sharp sand and wood chip



Installing heavy-duty OSB boarding over a depth (min. 50mm) of sharp sand and/or wood chip between the tree protection fencing and the foundation line of new development is effective in protecting roots, which grow in the soil beyond the position of the fencing.

Appendix 4

Site Monitoring Record

Site Address:		Client:		Inspector:		Site Agent:	
Date	Activity	Comments	Actions	By whom	Signed (on behalf of Southern Beeches)	Signed (on behalf of client)	
	Protective Fencing						
	Construction Exclusion Zone						
	Ground Protection						
	Remedial Works						

Notes:

Appendix 5

Manual Excavation in the Vicinity of Trees

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Within and adjacent to areas of construction, trees valued as important landscape assets may exist. It is possible such trees are protected by legislation in the form of a Tree Preservation Order, conservation area or by planning conditions. In either case, disregard of the tree's well-being by causing damage to the roots, trunk or branches may be an offence. Consent from the Local Planning Authority may be required to undertake works that may have an impact on the tree prior to commencement.

1.2 Whilst the trunk and branches of a tree can be seen and therefore more easily avoided, tree roots are concealed beneath the ground. Their hidden nature can lead to inadvertent damage from construction processes. Dependent upon the extent of any root damage, the whole tree can be adversely affected. It is for this reason that it is necessary to ensure adequate precautions are adopted when considering construction in the vicinity of trees.

1.3 Hand digging rather than excavation by mechanical means has proved to be an effective way of limiting the effects of construction on nearby trees. It is often considered impractical, time consuming and costly to excavate by hand when machinery exists specifically for the purpose of digging. However, avoidance of unsustainable damage being caused to important trees through hand digging may far outweigh subsequent costs associated with legal penalties and loss of amenity.

1.4 Below are detailed the basic principles to acknowledge in respect of tree roots and the practical steps that can be taken to effectively avoid causing unsustainable damage to trees.

1.5 It is assumed that all operations are commenced only AFTER having undertaken and recorded appropriate risk assessments in line with current and relevant Health & Safety legislation, common industry practice and guidance.

2.0 Tree/Root Damage – How it can occur

2.1 The majority of tree roots exist in the upper 600mm to 1000mm of soil.

Excavations of the soil in the vicinity of trees, to this depth, can be harmful to tree roots and consequently the tree.

2.2.1 Tree root systems comprise two main root types, those that anchor the tree in the ground and those that supply the tree with water and elements. Roots that support the tree are woody and those that are involved with the conduction of water and nutrients are non-woody or fibrous. Both types of roots can be damaged directly by severing or crushing. Fibrous roots can die from asphyxiation by soil compaction and/or soil contamination. Trees differ in their tolerance of root loss or disturbance, according to their species and condition or both.

2.3 The larger the root damaged, the greater the impact on the tree.

3.0 Hand Digging in the Vicinity of Trees – The Process

3.1 First it is necessary to consider all available options to construct beyond the likely range of influence on the tree's condition – normally beyond 1m from the tree's trunk and within an area below the tree's canopy or by referring to an area calculated using the formulae at para 4.6.1 of BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations'. This area is called the Precautionary Zone or Root Protection Area. When it is established that no options are available other than to construct within this zone, hand digging will be needed. When considering hand digging, an appointed specialist supervisor/consultant will be able to advise during construction and must be on site at the commencement of works.

3.2 Before beginning to dig, mark out the tree's precautionary area with ground marker paint, clearly on the ground. This will identify the area within which hand digging must take place. For safety and before beginning to dig, ensure there are no underground services or objects that may cause injury if damaged. Any existing protection fencing is to be located to the nearest position of construction and fixed in place, between the tree and area of construction. It will be clearly visible to operators thereafter where hand digging will need to be undertaken. The use of mechanical

digging equipment to remove the top surface layer (50-100mm) is to be avoided and hand tools are required for this exercise too.

3.3 When hand digging, using typical hand tools, carefully work around roots, retaining as many as possible. Using a brush or compressed air will expose roots cleanly before deciding whether it will be necessary to prune. Care must be taken not to damage roots including the roots' bark.

3.4 Retain all roots with a diameter greater than 25mm. Where such roots must be removed, after consulting a trained arboriculturalist (e.g. Local Authority Tree Officer or the appointed Arboricultural Consultant), these roots must be pruned with sharp cutting tools such as a handsaw, secateurs or pruners. The cut must leave the smallest wound possible and the root must be left as long as practicably possible. Roots in excess of 50mm diameter are to be retained and protected by surrounding the root with un-compacted sharp sand, void-formers or other compressible materials.

3.5 Where roots do not exist, e.g. beyond the depth of the rooting area, mechanical excavation should not be considered without specialist supervision.

3.6 All spoil is to be deposited beyond the precautionary zone. Soil build-up can cause roots to die.

3.7 As soon as practicable, exposed roots are to be covered with loose backfill material such as soil/sand mix or a hessian-type material to offer immediate protection from drying winds and desiccation. When excavating for the introduction of posts, pads or piles, the sides of the pits should be lined with a geotextile material to prevent the potential for lime scorching of small diameter roots.

3.8 Where it is impossible to avoid completing the construction in one day for example, any exposed roots or their cut ends are to be covered with sacking material over night to prevent drying out and to add protection. This is particularly important in winter months, where frost can cause further damage to roots.

3.9 Upon completion of the hand digging, where appropriate protection fences are to be re-located and fixed in their original position.

Attached is an extract from the National Joint Utilities Group publication V4 2007, 'Guidelines for the planning installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity to trees'.

Before considering hand digging and determining precautionary zones or root protection areas, specialist arboricultural advice should be sought.