

Arboricultural Report:

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

Client: Peter Cox

Site Address: 3 Hobdens Lane, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6SE.

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

Date: 12th June 2026

Ref: aiams1/3hl/26

Executive Summary

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

Construction of a 2 storey & single storey extension, plus garage reconstruction.

Southern Beeches Ltd has been commissioned to assess the impact of the proposal upon trees within and adjacent to the site, setting out protection measures, where necessary, that are to be adopted in order to successfully integrate the development project into its surroundings.

Only one small, low quality apple tree (T1) is required for removal to facilitate the proposed scheme. Therefore, in my opinion the loss of this tree will have a negligible impact, both visually and upon the character of the local landscape. No further pruning of retained trees is required within the current proposal.

A very small portion of the Root Protection Area (RPA) belonging to T7 may be disturbed during construction of hard landscaping within the proposal. However, I believe this aspect has yet to be finalised and in either case, I do not believe this amount of incursion, at the very periphery of the RPA, will have a significant impact upon the long-term health of this tree.

According to the local planning authority's online resources, the site is not located within a Conservation Area and none of the trees within the survey are subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

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 low 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):
Construction of a 2 storey & single storey extension, plus garage reconstruction.
- 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 trees were inspected in accordance with the BS5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations on 23rd May 2026 and a total of 11 tree records are provided within the Tree Survey Schedule (TSS) at **Appendix 1.**

- 2.2 **Tree Survey and Report Limitations:** The trees were visually inspected from ground level from within the site boundary using non-invasive methods only. The height, crown spread and crown clearance for each tree 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 trees (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 semi-detached 2 storey property with gardens to the front and rear. Similar residential properties are located nearby with vehicle access to the site available via an entrance from Hobdens Lane to the north. Both gardens are primarily laid to lawn with herbaceous borders containing some wood shrubs around the perimeter. The front garden contains several fruit trees that are remnants of an old orchard in addition to an older Yew tree located at the north-west corner.
- 3.1.1 Individually, the apple trees may be considered as 'C' grade according to BS5837, although collectively I would regard them as 'B' grade in relation to their landscape contribution. Despite, recent heavy canopy reduction the Yew (T9) should also be categorised as 'B' grade, although this tree is remote from the area of proposed construction and therefore very unlikely to be affected.
- 3.2 The details of trees relevant to the proposal are presented within the Tree Survey Schedule (TSS) at **Appendix 1** with their locations shown upon the Tree Protection Plan (TPP1_3HL_26) at **Appendix 2**.



Fig. 1: View of entrance to 3 Hobdens Lane. T1 and T3 visible within 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 is not located within a Conservation Area and none of the trees within the tree survey are 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 'Cuckfield Stone Bed'- Calcareous Sandstone, indicating that the associated soil is likely to be free draining in nature. 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 construction of a 2 storey & single storey extension, plus garage reconstruction. The following paragraphs assess the impacts of the proposal upon nearby trees and likely implications for the character of the local landscape.

4.2 **Tree Removal and Pruning- Visual Impacts:** Only small, low quality apple tree (T1) require removal to facilitate the scheme. This tree is 4m in height and leaning significantly to the east; therefore, relatively hidden from public view. As a consequence, the visual impact of its loss upon the local landscape and character of the area will be effectively zero in my view. All other existing trees and hedges are to be retained and protected within the current proposal with no requirement for any facilitative pruning.

4.3 **Retained Trees- Root Protection Area (RPA):** It is clear from the TPP at **Appendix 2**, that the proposed extensions lie outside the RPA's of retained trees. Therefore, excavation works to construct the new foundations are extremely unlikely to have any detrimental effects upon the retained trees. There is a tiny incursion (0.6%) into the RPA of Apple (T7) as a result of proposed hard landscaping. However, I do not believe this level of construction activity at the periphery of its RPA will have any detrimental effects upon the long-term health of this tree.

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 dwelling is relatively unchanged and therefore more than adequate in my opinion.

4.5 The impacts of the proposed scheme upon nearby trees are summarised in tables 1 and 2 below. An assessment of the visual impact of the works resulting from the scheme is also provided.

Table 1- Proposed/ Recommended Tree Works

Tree Works (Spec.)	Tree No's	Visual Impact of Works*	Available Replacement Planting (Y/N)	Comments
Fell to ground level. (Sp6)	1	Low	Y	Small, low quality tree. All other large trees and hedges to be retained.
Hand dig excavations and suitable root treatment (Sp8)	7	None	N/A	Small encroachment into RPA of T7 during construction of hard landscaping.

*This is a preliminary visual appraisal based upon the opinion of the author having inspected the trees in the context of their current surroundings. None- (no change or beneficial impact) Negligible or indiscernible difference to treed landscape; Low- Noticeable but mitigated by retention of other landscape trees and features; Medium- Obvious but temporary alteration to the treed landscape; High- Obvious and permanent alteration to the landscape.

Visual receptors include the public or community at large, residents, visitors or other groups of viewers together with the visual amenity of potentially affected people.

Table 2. Summary of Impacts of Construction upon Trees*

Tree No.	Landscape Contribution	Impact	Distance / Area ¹	Tolerance ²	Mitigation	Impact Assessment ³
1	Low	Removed to facilitate scheme	N/A	N/A	1. Carry out all permitted tree works prior to commencement. 2. Retain and protect all other trees and hedges.	Low
7	High	Possible root severance/ soil compaction during construction patio	2.9/ <0.6	High	1. Carry out site monitoring. 2. Carry out hand dig excavations and suitable root treatment prior to construction of new footpath.	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.

Specifications for recommended tree works:

General

All work is to conform to BS 3998:2010 'Tree work – Recommendations' and with current arboricultural best practice. Tree works are to be undertaken by a professional and specialist

arboricultural contractor, who carries the appropriate experience and insurance cover, equipment and PPE. All works and processes are to comply with all relevant Planning, Wildlife, Environmental, Conservation and Health and Safety legislation.

Sp6. Felling involves the careful removal of a tree to ground level (or other specified height), either in sections or in one unit (straight felling). The method of felling will be suited to the constraints of the site and judged by the competent operator undertaking the task. Removing the stump may be part of the requirements and this will be carried out using a mechanical stump grinder where accessible.

Sp8. Root pruning is to be carried out or supervised by a competent person (arboricultural contractor). Only sharp and specific pruning tools will be used for the root pruning exercise. No roots are to be pruned if it is considered that their loss (or shortening) will adversely impact upon tree condition or anchorage, immediately or in the future. Any exposed roots will be covered with a material to prevent desiccation. All exposed cut root surfaces will be made as small as possible. If possible roots will be pruned back to side shoot.

- 4.6 **New Tree Planting:** Currently, there is no specific provision for new tree planting within this scheme. If this is to change, the final selection of species, size, and number of trees would be matters to agree with the LPA through a planning condition and all new trees will be specified and planted in accordance with the recommendations in BS 8545 (2014) *Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape –Recommendations*.

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:** In order to afford protection from demolition and construction processes associated with this proposed scheme, tree protection fencing is recommended at the position indicated upon the Tree Protection Plan at **Appendix 2** (TPP1_3HL_26). This should remain in situ for the duration of demolition and construction. Recommended examples of the type BS grade tree protection are included at **Appendix 3**. Where construction pressures are likely to be low, such as the rear garden, it might be appropriate to simply use orange plastic site fencing rather than the standard steel ‘Heras’ type.

5.3 **Hand dig excavations and suitable root treatment** may be required within the RPA of T7 during construction of new hard landscaping. Full details of this methodology can be found within **Appendix 5** below.

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	Permitted Tree works	1	Contractor to carry out tree works as described in Table 1 above
3	Install protective fencing for duration of demolition and construction phases	All retained trees and hedges	PRIOR to any ground works
5	Demolition of existing structures	All retained trees and hedges	AS to monitor tree protection at agreed and suitable intervals
6	Construction phases, including hand dig root investigations and suitable root treatment	7	AS to monitor tree protection at agreed and suitable intervals
7	Remove tree/ ground protection	All retained trees and hedges	No tree protection to be removed without prior agreement with the AS
8	Landscaping phase	All retained trees and hedges	Brief landscape company and sign off

5.4 **Foundations and Services:** Foundations for the buildings, in this case, are located beyond the RPA of retained trees and no special precautions to accommodate tree roots are required. Engineers will advise on foundation design and depth. Existing service routings will be utilised within the current 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:

- Completion of agreed tree works.
- Installation of suitable tree protection fencing: e.g: Heras style metal or orange plastic site fencing.
- Hand dig excavations within the RPA of T7 during landscaping phase (if required).

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

12th June 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; Coccozza, C; Petrik, P; Stojnic, S- 2024: '*Editorial: Combined Abiotic Interactions in Woody Plants*.'

Appendix 1

Tree Survey Schedule- TSS

Site: 3 Hobdens Lane, Ardingly, West Sussex
Date: 23rd May 2026

Surveyor: James Cox
Ref: tss1/3hobdenslane

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	Apple	4	1,4,3,1	1.5/S1.5	M	240	12	2.9	Moderate	Fair	Low	C/U	1,2	<10	Leaning significantly to east Hollow trunk Dead wood/ die back
2	Dog Wood	2.5	1.5	0	Y	40	12	0.5	Normal	Good	Low	C	1,2	10-20	No apparent defects Small garden ornamental
3	Phillyrea	4	1,4,2,2	1/N1	M	260	12	3.1	Normal	Good	Low	C	1,2	10-20	Boundary screen tree Reduced in past No apparent defects
4	Apple	5	2,4,2,1	2/E3	M	360	12	4.3	Normal	Fair	Low	C	1,2	10-20	Trunk wound and cavity One-sided form Reduced in past
5	Plum	7	3,2,2,1	3/N3	M	200	12	2.4	Normal	Good	Low	C	1,2	10-20	Boundary screen trees x2 Reduced in past No apparent defects
6	Domestic Pear	4.5	1,2,2,2	1.5/N1.5	M	230	12	2.8	Normal	Fair	Low	C	1,2	10-20	No apparent defects Suppressed by nearby trees Reduced in past
7	Apple	5	2,3,3,3	2/W2	M	300	12	3.6	Normal	Good	Low	C	1,2	10-20	Trunk wounds and cavities Reduced in past No significant defects
8	Apple	5	2,2,2,1	2/S2	M	210	12	2.5	Normal	Fair	Low	C	1,2	10-20	Hollow trunk Drawn habit Reduced in past
9	Common yew	7	4	0	M	560	12	6.7	Normal	Good	Medium	B/C	1,2	>40	Boundary screen tree Reduced in past Twin stem
G10	Hawthorn	6	4,4,4,3	3/N2	M	370	12	4.4	Moderate	Good	Low	C	1,2	10-20	Boundary tree group Sparser than normal foliage Ivy on main trunks

Tree Survey Schedule- TSS

Site: 3 Hobdens Lane, Ardingly, West Sussex
Date: 23rd May 2026

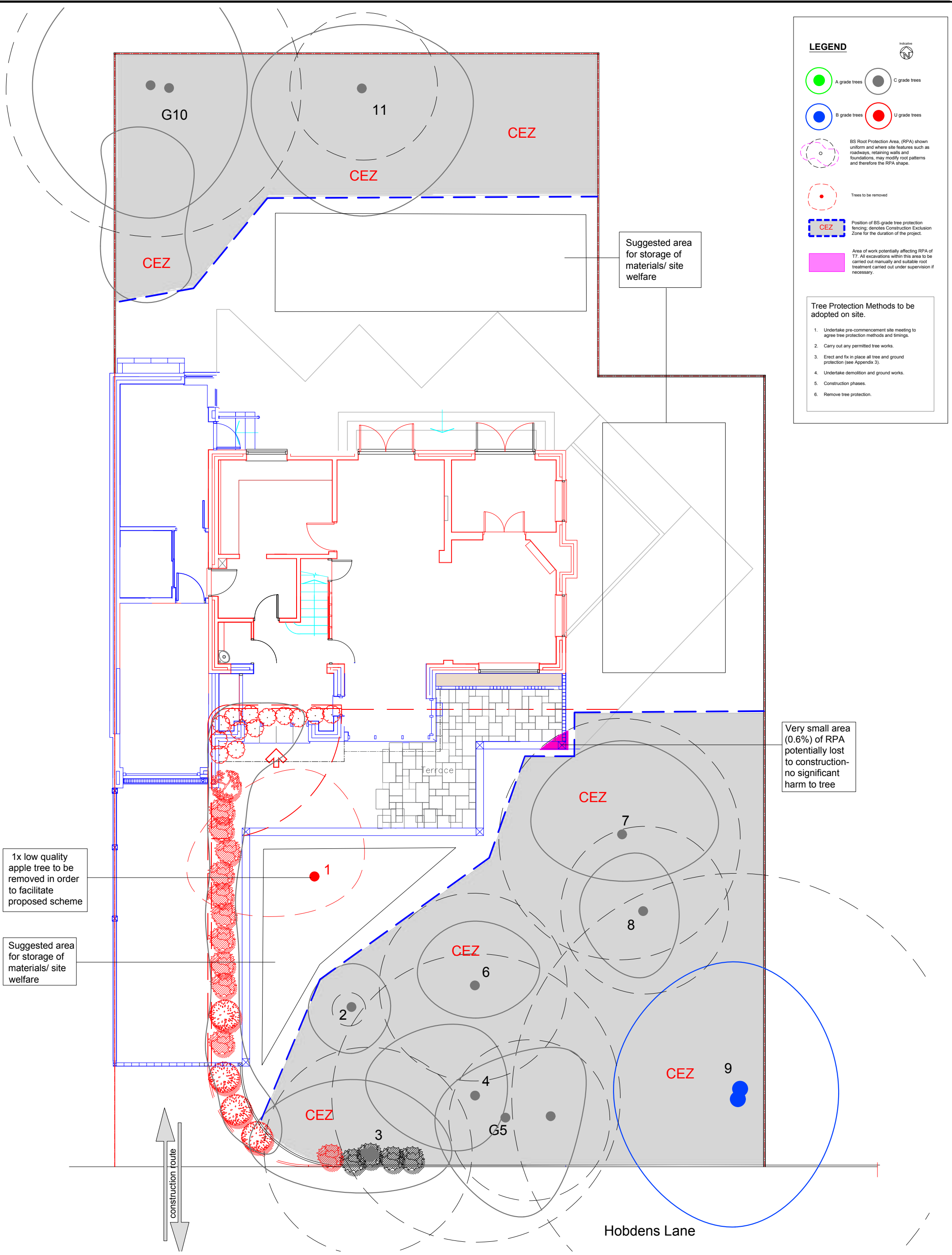
Surveyor: James Cox
Ref: tss1/3hobdenslane

Tree No.	English Name	Height (m)	Radial Crown Spread	Ground Clearance	Age	Stem Diameter	Protection Multiplier	R.P.R	Growth Vitality	Structural Condition	Landscape Contribution	B.S. Cat	Sub Cat	Useful Life	General Observations
11	Crab Apple	6	4,3,2,3	1.5/N1.5	M	180	12	2.2	Normal	Good	Low	C	1,2	10-20	Drawn habit 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



LEGEND

- A grade trees
- B grade trees
- C grade trees
- U grade trees
- BS Root Protection Area, (RPA) shown uniform and where site features such as roadways, retaining walls and foundations, may modify root patterns and therefore the RPA shape.
- Trees to be removed
- Position of BS-grade tree protection fencing; denotes Construction Exclusion Zone for the duration of the project.
- Area of work potentially affecting RPA of T7. All excavations within this area to be carried out manually and suitable root treatment carried out under supervision if necessary.

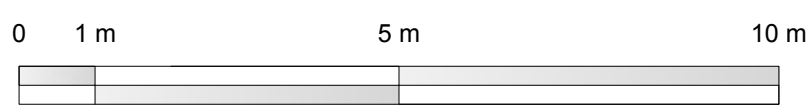
Tree Protection Methods to be adopted on site.

1. Undertake pre-commencement site meeting to agree tree protection methods and timings.
2. Carry out any permitted tree works.
3. Erect and fix in place all tree and ground protection (see Appendix 3).
4. Undertake demolition and ground works.
5. Construction phases.
6. Remove tree protection.

1x low quality apple tree to be removed in order to facilitate proposed scheme

Suggested area for storage of materials/ site welfare

Very small area (0.6%) of RPA potentially lost to construction- no significant harm to tree

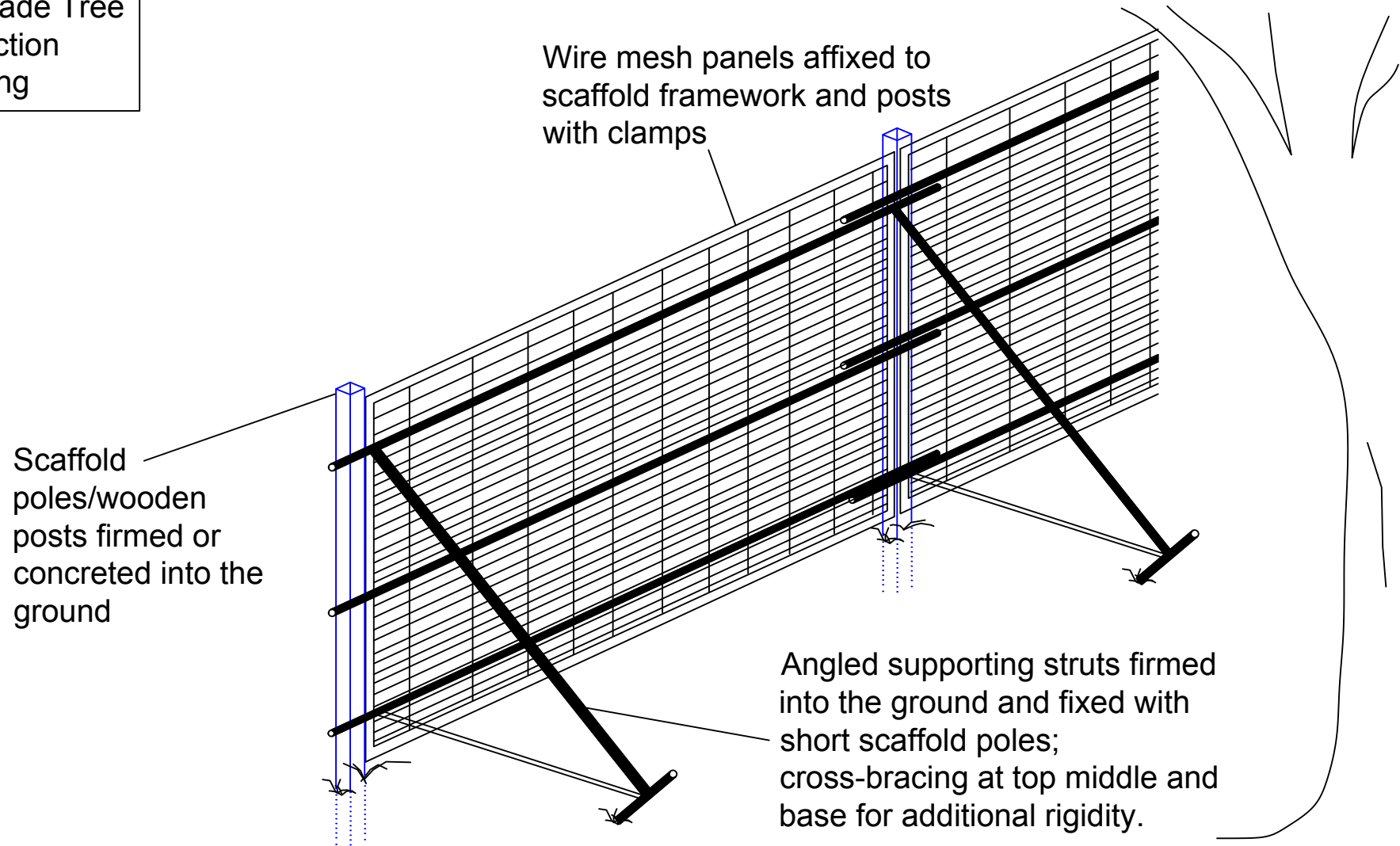


Scale: 1:100

Client :	Mrs and Mrs Cox	SOUTHERN BEECHES LTD The Haven Henfield Common North Henfield West Sussex BN5 9RL t: 01273 491886 m: 07771 803433 e: james@southernbeeches.co.uk	
Project :	3 Hobdens Lane, Ardingly, West Sussex		
Title :	Tree Protection Plan		
Scale :	1:100 @A3	Dwg No : TPP1_3HL_26	Rev : /
Date :	Jun. 2026		
Do not scale from this drawing. Any discrepancies are to be reported to Southern Beeches Ltd. This drawing is to be used when printed to scale & in colour.			

Appendix 3

BS-grade Tree Protection Fencing



Tree Protection Fencing- 'wire mesh' type



Specifications:

- 2.4m Hoarding
- 3.0m 100 X 100mm square wooden posts
- 3 X 38 X 87mm wooden rails affixed to posts
- 2.4m X 1200 outside grade ply panels (12mm) affixed to rails/posts.
- 50 X 100mm angled supporting struts affixed internally (quantity as required).

Supporting posts fixed into position using concrete. All post holes to be manually excavated, retaining all roots of protected trees of 25mm diameter and above. All post holes are to be lined with 1mm gauge polythene before pouring concrete (heavy-duty rubble bags are suitable liners). Post holes to be no larger than 300 X 300mm.

'Heras' (Style) Fencing

'Heras' fencing describes the 2.4m galvanised steel mesh panelled fencing normally supplied with block bases and block trays. **Block bases are to be used in conjunction with angled scaffold struts only. The use of blocks only is not effective.** For extra barrier vertical stability, scaffold poles set at a 45° angle upon the 'tree-side' of the barrier and fixed to the ground at the end of each panel. Upright supporting posts will be braced at the top and the base for added support.

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.