DAVID ARCHER ASSOCIATES

ARBORICULTURE | ECOLOGY | LANDSCAPE

Arboricultural Method Statement

Slaugham Garden Nursery

Staplefield Road

Slaugham

West Sussex

Client: WSPA / Nugent

June 2025

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Arcadian Prospect Ltd – trading as David Archer Associates
Company Reg No.: 10627581 (England & Wales)
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1. Introduction

1.1 This arboricultural method statement ('AMS') details the actions to be taken in order to prevent unacceptable damage being caused to the retained trees on the adjacent site during the proposed change of use to a single storey dwelling at Slaugham Garden Nursery, Staplefield Road, Slaugham, West Sussex.

1.2 This AMS complies with the recommendations of British Standard BS 5837: 2012, *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* ('BS 5837'). It is designed to reflect the principles of the tree protection required for the proposed development, and should not be read as a definitive engineering or construction statement for this site. If required, matters relating to the construction detail or engineering performance of any protective measures specified should be referred to a qualified architect or structural engineer, for further information and specification which may be necessary for their practical implementation in a manner that satisfactorily ensures their protective intention or function.

1.3 The AMS should be read in conjunction with, and is to be considered an essential part of, the tree protection plan ('TPP') which is attached to it at **Appendix 2.**

2. Pre-start requirements, liaison & communication

2.1 Before any works of any description take place on the site, the applicant, landowner or promoter of the proposed development ('the developer') shall appoint a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant to act as the supervising arboriculturist for the project, in order to ensure that the specified tree protection measures are carried out during the entire construction process. Confirmation of this appointment, and details of the supervising arboriculturist appointed, shall be provided to the Local Planning Authority ('LPA') before any works commence.

2.2 The developer shall inform the supervising arboriculturist if at any time during the construction process, the site manager is replaced. In this event, the supervising arboriculturist will, within 5 days, arrange a meeting with the new site manager to review all remaining or outstanding aspects of this method statement.

2.3 A copy of this method statement, together with the TPP, shall be given to all personnel who have control over works of any nature within the root protection areas (RPAs) of the trees which are to be retained. The developer will ensure that adequate instruction is given for the implementation of the protection measures outlined within this statement.

3. Tree removals

3.1 The trees listed in *Table 1* below shall be felled to ground level; stumps shall either be ground out to 450mm below ground level, or excavated (grubbed out), as specified.

3.2 No pruning of the retained trees is required to permit construction of the proposed development.

3.3 Tree felling will be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998: 2010, *Tree work - Recommendations*.

Tree no.	Species	BS Category	Work required	Reason for work
1	Goat Willow	U	Fell/ remove tree	Partially collapsed and lying on existing workshop.
G1	Various (See DAA TSS)	C	Fell remove small trees	Proximity to proposed construction and self-seeded, growing at the edge of concrete base.

Table 1 – **Tree removals**

4. Protective fencing

4.1 No vehicles of any kind shall enter the site, nor any works commence, until the root protection areas of the retained trees, as shown on the TPP, have been protected by the erection of protective fencing to the specification found in BS 5837, Section 6.2. The location of the fencing is denoted by the continuous bold purple lines on the TPP.

4.2 The protective fencing shall be at least 2.1m in height and comprise standard 'Heras' welded mesh fence panels mounted on rubber or concrete feet. The panels shall be fixed to each other with at least two anti-tamper clamps, installed so that they can only be removed from inside the fence.

4.3 The fencing shall be supported on the side closest to the retained trees by stabiliser struts braced to the ground at an angle of 45 degrees, and attached to a base plate secured to the ground with ground pins. Where the fencing is to be erected on retained hard surfacing or it is otherwise unfeasible to use ground pins, e.g. due to the presence of underground services, the stabiliser struts should be mounted on a block tray. Notices stating *"Tree Protection Zone – Keep Out"* will be attached with cable ties to every other panel.

4.4 No activity of any kind shall be undertaken behind the protective fencing; there shall be no topsoil stripping, no storage of materials, no access for vehicles or personnel, and no excavation or changes in soil level of any kind.

4.5 Areas for storing or mixing of fuels, oils or cement shall be agreed at the pre-start meeting. None of these areas shall be within the area behind the protective fencing, and where possible shall not be within 10m of any retained tree.

4.6 No fixtures of any nature shall be attached to the retained trees, and no fires shall be lit in any position where heat could affect their foliage or branches.

4.7 When the installation of the protective fencing is complete, the supervising arboriculturist shall be informed so that they may come and inspect it. If it complies with this statement, the supervising arboriculturist will record the fact and notify the client and LPA.

4.8 If the protective fencing is accidentally damaged or knocked over, the damaged sections shall be immediately marked with high visibility tape or with mesh fencing. The damaged sections shall be replaced or repaired to the original specification within 48 hours. All events of this nature must be recorded and reported to the supervising arboriculturist.

4.9 The protective fencing will not be moved, dismantled or relocated without the prior approval of the supervising arboriculturist. When the construction period is complete the fencing may then be removed, but only after first informing the supervising arboriculturist of this intention.

5. Demolition

5.1 Machinery and vehicles used for the demolition of structures shall be stationed and operated either outside the RPAs, or on existing floorslabs or hard surfacing, reinforced as necessary with additional temporary ground protection to support the working loads without distortion or compaction of underlying soil.

5.2 Structures shall be demolished so that materials are pulled away from retained trees' RPAs and are stockpiled and loaded away without vehicles encroaching into or traversing them.

6. Underground services

6.1 Detailed drawings of proposed underground services have not been produced at this stage of the planning process, thus any potential impacts between trees shown retained on the TPP and proposed services have not been identified. It is likely, however, that services connections to the existing workshop will be capable of re-use to serve the new dwelling.

6.2 At the detailed design stage and subject to planning consent, proposed underground services will be either located outside the RPAs of trees shown retained or will utilise existing service routes.

6.3 It is not anticipated that any existing services within RPAs will require upgrading. In the event that this proves necessary, however, care shall be taken to minimise disturbance and where practicable, trenchless techniques employed; only as a last resort shall open excavations be considered. Where existing services within RPAs are deemed not satisfactory for any further use they should be left in situ rather than being excavated/removed.

6.4 In the unlikely event that incursions into RPAs are unavoidable, any new installation will comply with the methods and guidelines detailed in in the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG), Volume 4, *Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees*, Issue 2, 2007, and in accordance with the specification below.

7. Landscaping

7.1 On completion of construction works, but prior to the commencement of any landscaping works within the protected area behind the protective fencing the developer shall arrange a meeting with the site manager, the supervising arboriculturist and the landscape contractor. The details of this part of the method statement shall be discussed in relation to the proposed landscape operations and a clear sequence of operations established.

7.2 Within the RPAs the following principles will be maintained:

- Existing ground levels shall not be substantially altered.
- No plant or vehicles shall enter the RPA.
- No fuels or chemicals shall be stored within any of these areas.
- Any excavation required for fence posts, log retaining walls or any other landscape structures shall be undertaken by hand, under direct arboricultural supervision. If roots are encountered then the position of the excavation shall be moved to a new location. If this is not possible then any roots with a diameter less than 25mm may be cut cleanly by hand. Any exposed roots shall be re-covered within 24hrs of excavation.
- No structure shall be fastened in any way to the trunks of the retained trees.
- No drainage or irrigation pipes shall be installed within the RPAs of the retained trees.
- Any unwanted vegetation shall be removed by hand.

8. Supervision & monitoring

8.1 At the start of the construction process the supervising arboriculturist shall visit the site on the occasions specified to inspect the tree protection measures (fencing) as installed. If these measures comply with the specifications detailed in this method statement, statements of compliance shall be sent to the developer and copied to the LPA.

8.2 The supervising arboriculturist shall then visit the site on a regular basis, or when specifically required as set out in *Table 2* below, to ensure that the tree protection measures are kept in place and functioning as designed. Regular contact will be maintained with the site manager to determine any forthcoming operations that may make an impact on these tree protection measures and if arboricultural supervision is required. A record of all monitoring visits will be kept, and copies sent to the developer and the LPA upon request.

8.3 The site manager shall give at least 48 hours' notice to the supervising arboriculturist of any operations, which may make an impact on the RPAs of the retained trees.

8.4 Any alterations or variations in drawings for the site that are in, or within, the RPAs of the retained trees shall be referred in the first instance to the supervising arboriculturist for advice. If these changes make any kind of impact on the retained trees the supervising arboriculturist shall suggest changes that will either avoid damage to the retained trees or offer solutions to minimize the impact. If required, the supervising arboriculturist will liaise with the LPA's tree officer to agree a way forward, since any alterations to the approved details may require the LPA's prior written agreement. Following these consultations, the supervising arboriculturist shall issue revisions to the TPP and this AMS that reflect the changes.

8.5 Where any operations carried out by the developer deviate substantially from this AMS, work must cease immediately and the LPA be informed in writing. A meeting will be convened between the developer, the supervising arboriculturist, the LPA tree officer and the site manager to determine the best method to mitigate any damage that may have occurred. Work shall not be recommenced until appropriate action has been agreed to the LPA's satisfaction.

Visit no.	Trees affected/ relevant	Timing of visit	Function carried out
1	All	Prior to the start of any construction works.	To check protective fencing has been installed in the correct locations and to the correct standard.
2	All	During the demolition of the existing workshop.	To ensure no harm occurs to trees within close proximity.
3	All	Durin the construction of the proposed dwelling.	To ensure no harm occurs to trees within close proximity.
4	All	At any other time which is sensitive in arboricultural terms.	To ensure retained trees are protected from development activities.

Table 2 - **Timings of supervision and monitoring visits**

Michael Roberts | Arboriculutal Consultant
FdSc Dip Arb Tech.Arbor.A.

June 2025

APPENDIX 1 – Tree Schedule

DAVID ARCHER ASSOCIATES

ARBORICULTURE | ECOLOGY | LANDSCAPE

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

Slaugham Garden Nursery
Staplefield Road
Slaugham
West Sussex

June 2025

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Notes for the Tree Schedule

This schedule is based on a tree survey carried out in accordance with the recommendations of British Standard, BS 5837 (2012) "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations" ('BS 5837') by Michael Roberts on Tuesday the 27th May 2025. Weather conditions at the time were dry with scattered cloud. Deciduous trees were not partially fully in leaf.
The information contained in this schedule reflects the condition of the trees at the time of the survey, based on visual inspection from the ground only; they were not climbed, and no internal investigations were undertaken. A BS 5837 survey for planning or development purposes is not a detailed tree hazard or risk survey. As such, no guarantee is given as to the structural integrity or safety of any trees included.
As trees are dynamic organisms and subject to continual growth and change, no dimensions expressed in this schedule may be relied upon for development planning purposes for more than 24 months from the date of survey. Estimated dimensions are marked 'est'.

1. **No.:** Expressed in sequential order starting from number 1 – woodlands, groups & hedges are prefixed as W, G, & H respectively.
2. **Species:** The common name as given in "Collins Tree Guide", Johnson & More (2004).
3. **Height:** Estimated with the aid of a 'Disto' laser rangefinder and expressed in metres, to the nearest metre.
4. **Trunk Diameter:** Measured at 1.5m above ground level and expressed in millimetres to the nearest 10mm; where multiple stems are present they are measured individually, and an aggregated equivalent single trunk diameter is calculated in accordance with BS 5837, in order to derive the tree's root protection area ('RPA').
5. **Radial Crown Spread:** Distance in metres from the centre of the trunk to the outermost edge of the crown at each cardinal point of the compass, rounded up to the nearest half metre; or in the case of uniform or symmetrical crowns, the average distance from the centre of the trunk to the outermost edge of the crown.
6. **Crown Clearance:** Mean height, in metres, from adjacent ground level to the lowest point of the live crown.
7. **Height to First Branch:** Height, in metres, of the first significant branch (>100mm diameter), or to crown break from ground level.
8. **Life Stage:** Young, Semi-mature, Mature, Over-mature, Veteran/Ancient.
9. **Physiology:** The tree's health and vigour in comparison to a typical specimen of the same species and age: Good, Average, Below average, Poor, Dead.
10. **Structure:** The tree's structural condition based on assessment of any visible roots, and of its trunk, main branches and crown, noting the presence of any obvious defects or decay: Good, Average, Below average, Poor, Hazardous.
11. **Landscape Value:** An assessment of the tree's visual importance in the local landscape in its present context: High, Moderate, Low, Nil.
12. **Estimated Years:** Estimate of the tree's likely remaining contribution expressed in years: <10, 10-20, 20-40, 40+.
13. **Comments:** Notes relating to the tree's health and condition, structure and form, estimated life expectancy and importance within the local landscape; including notes of any restrictions to access for inspection, presence of potential habitat features (natural or artificial), or other significant observations.
14. **Category: -** A rating given to trees based on Table 1 in BS 5837, summarised below:

Category 'U' - Trees in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.
Category 'A' - Trees of high quality and value; in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (normally a minimum of 40 years).
Category 'B' - Trees of moderate quality and value; those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (normally a minimum of 20 years).
Category 'C' - Trees of low quality and value; currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (normally a minimum of 10 years), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.
Sub-categories (where appropriate); 1 – Mainly arboricultural qualities: 2 – Mainly landscape qualities: 3 – Mainly cultural values, including conservation.

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clear-ance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physi-ology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Cate-gory
1	Goat Willow	13m	7 stems @ 200mm est	N12.5m E11m S4m W6m	2.5m	2.5m N	Semi-mature	Average	Hazardous	Low	>10	Multi-stemmed from base; partially collapsed and leaning on adjacent building; of limited potential.	U
2	London Plane	16m	525mm	7.5m	2m	2m S	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	40+	Girdling root at south side of trunk; no significant structural defects found at time of survey.	B (12)
3	Hazel	5m	4 stems @ 75mm	N3m E0.5m S2m W2m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	20-40	Of moderate quality, but currently of low value due to small size.	C (12)
4	English Oak	10m	210mm	N4m E2.5m S3m W3.5m	1m	1.5m SW	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	40+	Asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; no significant structural defects found at time of survey.	B (2)
5	Cornelian Cherry	5m	11 stems @ 80mm est	N3.5m E0m S3m W4.5m	0.5m	1m W	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	One-sided crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; of limited potential.	C (12)
6	Snowy Mespilus	6.5m	12 stems @ 100mm est	N3m E4m S4m W5m	0.5m	0.5m	Mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; overgrown surroundings causing minor deadwood from lack of light; cause - Laurel.	C (12)
7	Laurel	9m	24 stems @ 120mm	8m	0m	0.5m	Mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Multi-stemmed from base; of low quality, suppressing better quality trees adjacent; of limited potential due to being drawn up and the likelihood of collapse.	C (12)
8-10	English Oak	8m	#T8 160mm #T9 165mm #T10 160mm	3.5m	2m	2.5m	Semi-mature	Poor	Below average	Low	10-20	Extensive squirrel damage in upper crowns; significant dieback at branch tips; of limited potential.	C (12)
11	English Oak	12m	240mm	N4m E2m S4m W4m	4m	3.5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	40+	Drawn up specimen; no significant structural defects found at time of survey.	B (12)

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clear-ance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physi-ology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Cate-gory
12	Goat Willow	11m	285mm	N5.5m E5.5m S3m W5.5m	4m	2m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; no significant structural defects found at time of survey.	B (12)
13	Hazel	6m	6 stems @ 100mm est	4.5m	1m	0.5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	20-40	Of moderate quality, but currently of low value due to small size; of only low-level screening value.	C (12)
14	Himalayan Tree-Cotoneaster	8m	140mm 115mm 100mm 130mm	N1.5m E2m S4.5m W6m	2m	2m	Mature	Below average	Below average	Low	10-20	Drawn up specimen; asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; at risk of failure if companion shelter removed.	C (12)
15	Himalayan Tree-Cotoneaster	8m	140mm 160mm	N3m E5m S0.5m W7m	1.5m	1m	Mature	Below average	Hazardous	Low	<10	Drawn up specimen; at risk of failure if companion shelter removed; twin stemmed from base; tight compression fork beginning to split apart.	U
16	Scots Pine	15m	275mm	3m	9m	10m	Semi-mature	Poor	Below average	Low	<10	Drawn-up and mutually suppressed; difficult to see if crown is completely dead but;; in significant, immediate & irreversible overall decline.	U
17-18	Goat Willow	#T17 16m #T18 13m	#T17 450mm 300mm #T18 200mm 190mm 170mm	7.5m	4m	2.5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Three stemmed; drawn up specimen; no significant structural defects found at time of survey.	B (2)
19	Blue Atlas Cedar	15m	380mm	N4m E4m S2m W3m	5.5m	4.5m N	Semi-mature	Below average	Below average	Moderate	20-40	Drawn up specimen; asymmetrical crown as suppressed by adjacent specimens; of potential if laurel removed.	B (2)
20	English Oak	18m	1070mm	N12m E9m S15m W12.5m	W7m	3m SW	Mature	Average	Good	High	40+	Hollows between buttresses; common of Inonotus dryadues; major deadwood in crown; characteristic of veteran tree forming; of good potential; notable tree.	A (12)
21	Holly	6m	130mm 120mm 100mm 160mm	N3m E3.5m S3.5m W4.5m	0.2m	1m	Mature	Average	Below average	Low	20-40	Previous hedgerow tree; suppressed by planted Lawson Cypress to provide screening to garden nursery.	C (12)

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clear-ance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physi-ology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Cate-gory
22	English Oak	14m	1000mm	N9m E11m S12m W3m	5m	5m	Mature	Below average	Below average	High	20-40	NW-W side of trunk and crown significantly damaged due to fire. However NE E and S sides of crown in leaf; in recovery; appear to be stable.	C (2)
G1	Ash (x3), Goat Willow (x2), Hazel (x2) and English Oak	Min 5m Max 9m	Avg 150mm	NE4m SE3m SW4m NW3m	1m	2m	Young	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Growing 1.2m from edge of existing building; at edge of concrete pad, which extends out from building; crowns overhang adjacent building; crowns touching adjacent building; will require pruning or removal for the change of use to allow safe working space or ingress of light.	C (1)
G2	Lawson Cypress	Min 8m Max 16m	Min 75mm Max 300mm	4.5m	2m	4m	Semi-mature	Below average	Below average	Moderate	10-20	Planted as screening now too large for situ and supressing better native trees; should consider removal.	C (12)

APPENDIX 2 – Tree Protection Plan

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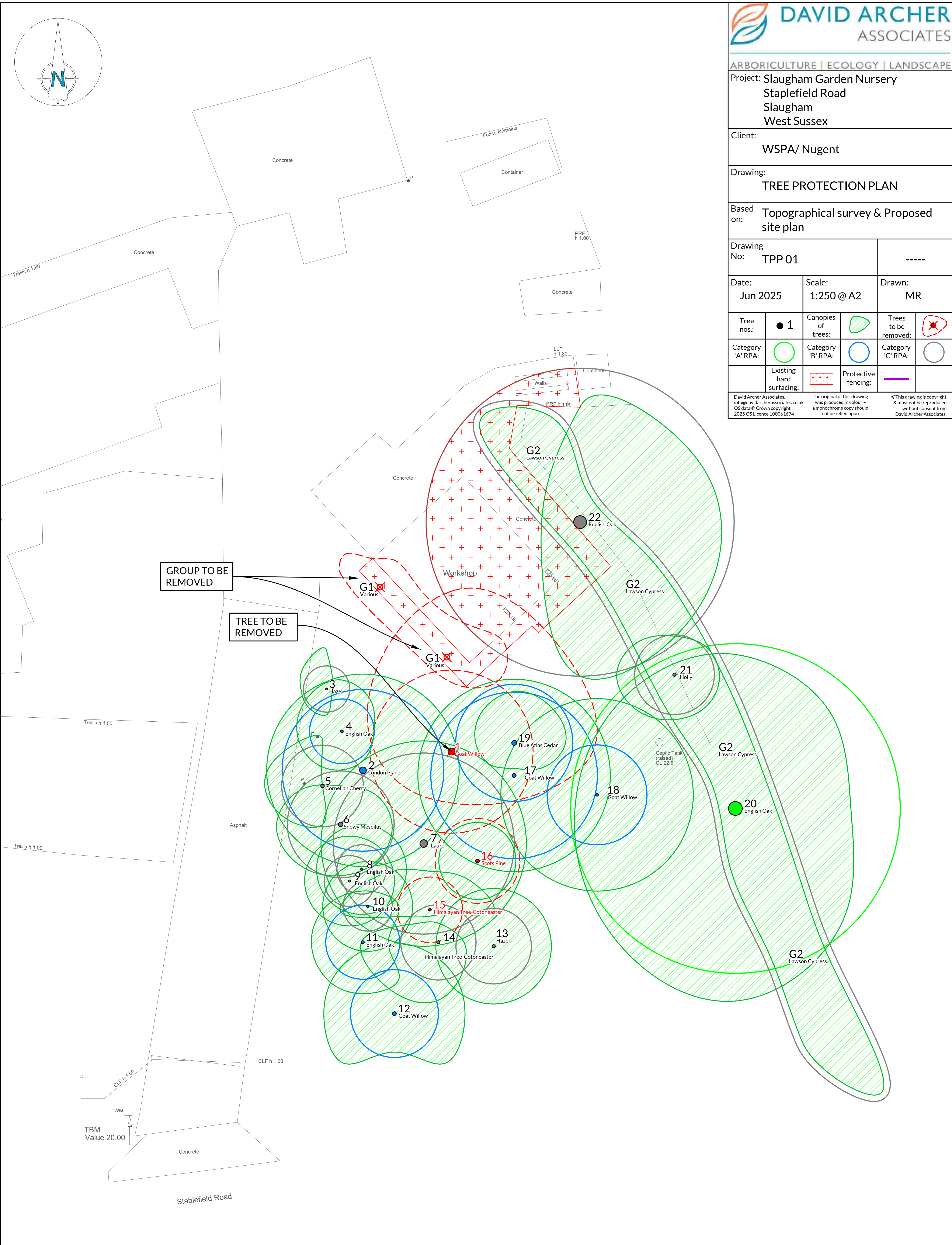
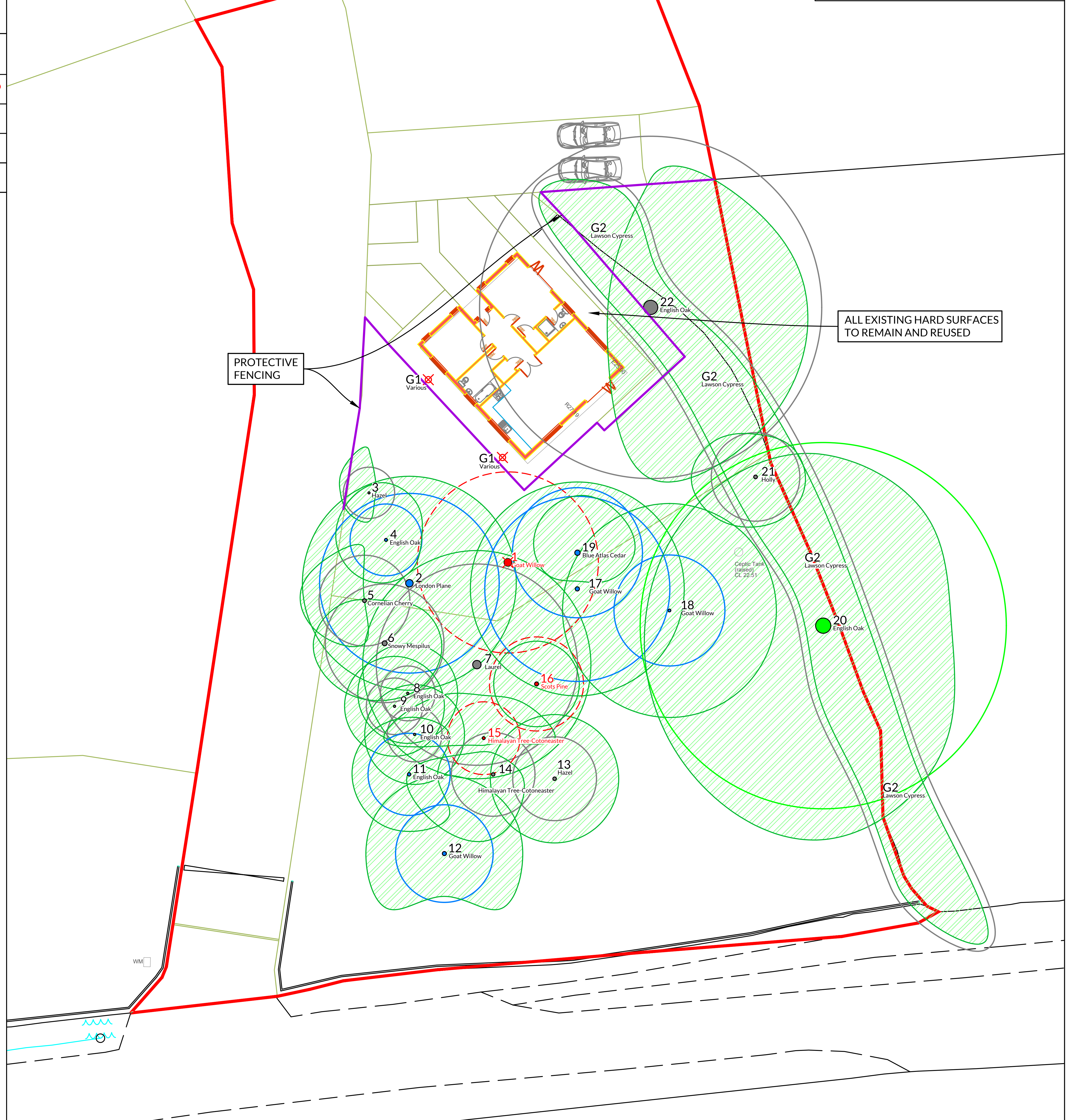
Project:	Slaugham Garden Nursery Staplefield Road Slaugham West Sussex
Client:	WSPA/ Nugent
Drawing:	TREE PROTECTION PLAN
Based on:	Topographical survey & Proposed site plan
Drawing No:	TPP 01 -----
Date: Jun 2025	Scale: 1:250 @ A2 · Drawn: MR

Tree nos.:	● 1	Canopies of trees:		Trees to be removed:	
Category 'A' RPA:		Category 'B' RPA:		Category 'C' RPA:	
Existing hard surfacing:		Protective fencing:			



VIEWPORT 1

EXISTING SITE PLAN SHOWING HARD-SURFACING & INDICATING PROPOSED TREE REMOVALS



VIEWPORT 2

PROPOSED PLAN INDICATING TREE PROTECTION MEASURES

0m 5m 10m 15m 20m 25m

1:250@A2

PROTECTIVE FENCING

To comprise of 2m tall welded mesh panels on rubber or concrete feet. Panels are to be joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers, installed so that they can only be removed from inside the fence. The panels should be supported on the inner side by stabiliser struts, which should be attached to a base plate and secured with ground pins.