



Merewood
Arboricultural Consultancy Services

**Arboricultural Method Statement
for a proposed development
at
Hedsor Court Farm
Sheepcote Lane
Hedsor
SL1 8PE**

Client: Chris Coates

Prepared by
Simon Hawkins N.D Arbor M. Arbor. A.

18/03/2021



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1.0 Brief:

- 1.1 I am instructed by Chris Coates to prepare an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) in respect of a proposed re-development of the site at Hedsor Court Farm Sheepcote Lane Hedsor
- 1.2 I am to advise on the likely impact of the development proposals to the trees on and adjacent to the site. I am to provide recommendations for tree retention and protection, including details of appropriate measures that are to be undertaken in order to minimize the impact of development.
- 1.3 The method statement is required to discharge a planning condition (condition 16 of planning consent ref. 20/07812/FUL for the demolition of the equestrian buildings including the existing dwelling and the erection of a single dwelling with garaging, detached stables and the relocation of the existing access.
- 1.4 The method statement should be viewed as a *heads of terms* method statement specifying the general principles of demolition and construction procedures. The statement will also include more detailed approaches that may be required when working within the root protection areas (rpa's) of trees.
- 1.5 The method statement is based on the best available information at this stage of the planning process and may need to be updated in the context of a specific planning condition when the detail is known.
- 1.6 The purpose of the method statement is to explain how and when the protection measures should be installed, and how they are to be maintained for the duration of the development activity.

2.0 Arboricultural Supervision

- 2.1 An arboricultural consultant will be appointed by the developer prior to the commencement of any works on the site.
- 2.2 Prior to the commencement of works a set up meeting between the main contractor, any (relevant) sub-contractors and the arboricultural consultant will take place.
- 2.3 The meeting will establish a line of communication between the working parties and to understand the parameters of the site, underlining the importance of maintaining and respecting tree protection barriers.
- 2.4 At the meeting the Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) is to be signed off by the person responsible for the day to day running of the site (normally the site foreman).
- 2.5 By signing off the AMS, the responsible person agrees that he/she has read

and understood the method statement and agrees to adhere to it.

- 2.6 In the event of the responsible person being replaced at any time during the development it shall be their responsibility to ensure the new person responsible for the site is made aware of the method statement and the need to adhere to the method statement.
- 2.7 A copy of this report must be permanently available on site for the duration of the development activity. It can also be copied for the purposes of tendering, planning the timing of operations and used as a reference as a general guide on how to protect important trees.
- 2.8 A full scale copy of the tree protection plan is to be available at all times on site including a scale bar.
- 2.9 If any tree work, agreed as part of the planning permission is needed in order to implement the proposed scheme (i.e. felling or pruning works), this will be undertaken before other works commence on site.
- 2.10 No other tree work is to take place without obtaining, in writing, the express consent of the Local Authority.
- 2.11 Once the site becomes active the arboricultural consultant will visit on regular occasions to record specific stages of the development (e.g. demolition, laying of foundations, construction etc.).
- 2.12 All site visits are to be recorded on paper and with accompanying photographs. The purpose of recording the visits is to
 - (a) Provide the developer with proof of compliance in the event of any dispute
 - (b) Allow the LPA to discharge the relevant planning conditions

3.0 The development

3.1 Overview

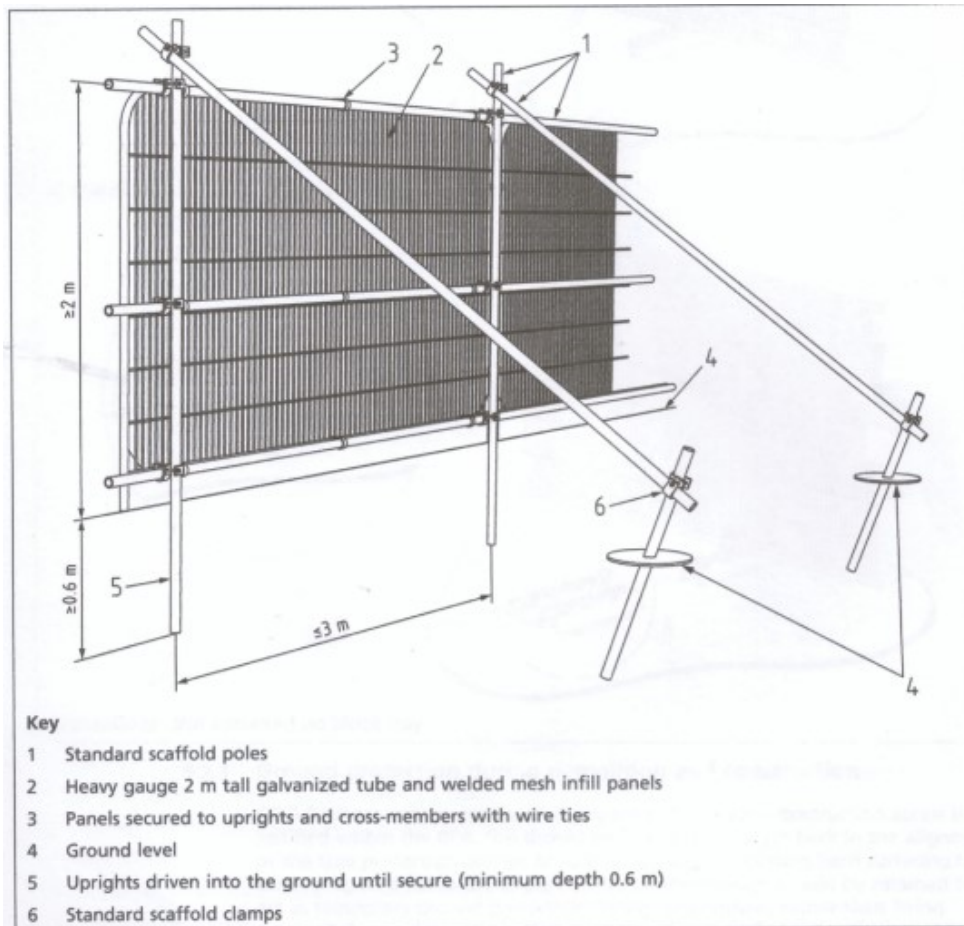
- 3.1.1 The expected programme of site development where arboricultural input is required is as follows:
 1. Pre commencement meeting
 2. Agreed tree removal and pruning
 3. Installation of protective fencing
 4. Demolition of existing structures
 5. Excavation of foundations
 6. Erection of main build
 7. Installation/re-connection of services
 8. Removal of tree protection measures
 9. Final landscaping

3.2 Tree removal and pruning

- 3.2.1 The proposed project does not require the removal or pruning of any trees.
- 3.2.2 If the need for any any tree works does arise in order to implement the proposed scheme (i.e. felling or pruning works) this is to be agreed in writing with the LPA first.

3.3 Erection of fencing

- 3.3.1 The tree protection plan (appendix 1) shows the line and position of the root protection fencing to be erected prior to any other works taking place on site. The fencing is to be erected as per the main construction phase shown on the tree protection plan (see also installation of no dig driveway).
- 3.3.2 The root protection fencing installation shall be approached from within the central working zone to avoid damage within the root protection area itself, in accordance with the recommendations of BS 5837/2012, as illustrated below.
- 3.3.3 The fencing for the root protection zones shall be constructed of scaffold tube uprights (set at 3m intervals with diagonal braces driven securely into the ground). Thereafter 'Heras' type fencing shall be attached to the scaffold framework using either steel strapping or scaffold clamps. The fencing shall comply with the requirements of the British Standard B.S. 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations'.
- 3.3.4 The fenced off areas are to be regarded as a Construction Exclusion Zone. This area is to be considered sacrosanct and strictly off limits to any construction activity including any movement of machinery, storage of materials or parking of contractors' vehicles.
- 3.3.5 The fencing protecting the RPA is not to be moved under any circumstances unless this has been specifically detailed in the AMS or agreed on site with the arboricultural consultant present.
- 3.3.6 Ignoring the fencing barriers may constitute a breach of the planning permission and may also be regarded as in contravention of any formal tree protection that applies (Tree Preservation Orders/ Conservation Areas).
- 3.3.7 There is to be no burning of any materials or substances within 10m of the root protection barriers.
- 3.3.8 There is to be no storage of cement bags, chemicals or any other toxic or potentially toxic substances within the CEZ.



Protective fencing in accordance with B.S. 5837



Signage attached to fencing reinforces the protection afforded by these barriers

3.3.9 Once the fencing has been properly installed, the retained arboricultural consultant will visit the site to confirm the correct installation of the fencing.

3.3.10 The installation of the fencing will be photographed and recorded and a record of this will be passed on to the arboricultural officer at the Local Authority.

3.4 **Demolition**

- 3.4.1 The demolition of all of the existing building and other structures will take place before the construction works can begin.
- 3.4.2 The existing barn is to be soft stripped including removal of electrics and plumbing, all to be made safe. Glass and glazing are to be removed by hand.
- 3.4.3 Access equipment is to be erected and the roof tiles removed by hand and cleared from the site in skips.
- 3.4.4 Timber roof trusses /soffits/ guttering and downpipes will be removed by hand.
- 3.4.5 Demolition of higher structures will take place using a standard 'top down' method, pulling the existing structures down from the roof using a JCB or similar machinery.
- 3.4.6 Debris will be directed towards the interior of the structures, leaving any walls closest to trees until last as far as safely possible in order to minimise any impact from debris.

3.5 **Foundations**

- 3.5.1 The foundations will be excavated using standard methods (i.e. a digger with a bucket to produce a strip foundation). Where this is to be used the digger is to sit at the side of the footprint, depositing earth into a dumper truck which will take the excavated soil to the side of the site for disposal by lorry.
- 3.5.2 If pile foundations are to be used the piling rig will sit inside the footprint of the new dwelling working from back to front to exit out at the sides without moving across any root protection areas.
- 3.5.3 The spoil from the foundations will be loaded onto tipper lorries and taken away. No excess soil is to be deposited within the site parameters.

3.6 **Mortar mixing**

- 3.6.1 Concrete (when not delivered direct by concrete lorry) and mortar will be mixed to the front of the site in a dedicated area or using a mortar tower.
- 3.6.2 All mortar mixing and handling of any other hazardous materials shall take place outside the rpa's of trees. Water run-off from the cleaning of either a mortar tower or concrete mixers is to be directed away from rpa's and should take place as far from trees as possible.
- 3.6.3 A confinement area controlling the run-off shall be installed, incorporating an impermeable layer of strong plastic sheeting held within a raised bed. Washing of cement mixers shall take place only within the confined area.

3.7 Storage of materials

- 3.7.1 Materials are to be delivered to the main delivery/set down areas at the front of the new dwelling using the existing driveway.
- 3.7.2 Materials will be re-distributed to the designated storage areas about the site by hand, wheelbarrow or by small machine (fork lift, dumper truck, etc).

3.8 Crane operations

- 3.8.1 The offloading of materials such as roofing joists is to be undertaken using a mobile crane where needed. The TPP shows that there is room for a mobile crane to be positioned appropriately at the front of the new dwelling, where it can hoist materials over the building using an extension arm, without coming into contact with the branches of the trees.

3.9 Drains and services

- 3.9.1 The proposed drain and service runs have not yet been detailed but are expected to use the service runs will be connected, as is normal practice, close to the new building underneath the driveway. This allows plenty of room for any excavations of trenches that may be necessary without any interference with the root protection areas of the retained trees.

4.0 Post construction

4.1 Final removal of tree protective fencing

- 4.1.1 Following the conclusion of all construction operations, site huts scaffolding, and protective fencing and ground protection measures will be removed to allow for landscaping operations to take place.
- 4.1.2 Great care is needed at this stage from ground work contractors to continue to observe tree protection requirements. No machines are to be used within rpa's which specifically includes rotovators and all new planting and soil level variations must be agreed and supervised by the arboriculturist.

Signatures:

I confirm that I have attended a pre-application site meeting with the contractors and have gone through the requirements of the Arboricultural Method Statement and that a copy is available in the site office.

Arboricultural Consultant

I confirm that I have attended a pre-application site meeting with the arboricultural consultant and that I am responsible for the correct procedures being followed in accordance with the Arboricultural Method Statement and that a copy is available in the site office.

Site Manager/Foreman**Contact details:**

Simon Hawkins – Arboricultural Consultant 07784 915 944

Planning Consultant– Rob Clarke 01923 449355

South Bucks Council Offices 01895 837210

Appendix 1

Tree protection plan



HEDSOR COURT

HEDSOR COURT FARM



Merewood, Gregory Road, Hedgerley, Bucks, SL2 3XW
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email: s_imon.hawkins@hotmail.co.uk

Site: Hedsor Court Farm, Sheepcote Lane, Hedsor 1:250 @ A1
Drawing Title: Tree Protection Plan Sept 2020

Key:

● Category A	Category	○ Crown Spread
● Category B	○ Root Protection Area	○ Tree Number
● Category C		○ Species
● Category U		○ Category
		○ Tree Protection Fencing BS5837:2012

Appendix 2

Qualifications and experience

- I am Simon Hawkins, proprietor of Merewood Arboricultural Consultancy Services.
- I hold the National Diploma in Arboriculture which I attained in 1987. I have studied and practised Arboriculture for over 38 years, during which time I have been involved with both the private and public sector.
- I hold professional member status of the Arboricultural Association (M. Arbor A.), recognised as a higher vocational level within the industry. I am committed to undertaking continuous professional development in order to maintain my knowledge and skill set at the highest modern levels.
- I have undertaken an intensive course in the principles and application of VTA Visual Tree Assessment. I have been assessed and found to have attained the advanced level of technical competence of a VTA Practitioner with Elite Training.
- I hold the LANTRA award for professional tree inspections
- I have over 18 years' experience working in the public sector, during which time I have dealt with all aspects of trees and development in the town planning context, within the inner city; in a greater London Borough; and in the Green Belt. Typically, I have worked with planners, developers, architects and other professionals in the construction industry in which I provide advice and assistance in dealing with arboricultural matters.
- I have appeared at numerous appeals, informal hearings and public enquiries to make formal representations. I have also appeared as an expert witness in court with regard to breaches of Tree Preservations Orders.