

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT



TJG ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES
Consultation . Surveys . Reports

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TJG ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES
ASHMORE FARM MK18 5NA

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Proposed Development at Ashmore Farm, Shalstone, Buckinghamshire, MK18 5NA.

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1. Instructions.

1.1 TJG Arboricultural Services have been commissioned to provide an Arboricultural report to inform the process regarding the proposed development at Ashmore Farm, Bucks, MK18 5NA.

1.2 The report has been produced with reference to British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations. The report is aimed at protecting the existing trees within and adjacent the boundary of the site.

The report is supported by the following information:

- A schedule of the relevant trees including tree data and condition assessment.

- A Tree Constraints Plan (TCP)

- An Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

- An Arboricultural Method Statement

- Tree Protection Plan (TPP).

2. Introduction.

2.1 The proposed development shall see two new glamping cabins and two new car parking areas added to the existing site.

2.2 TJG Arboricultural Services were provided with an overview of the site boundary. A tree constraints plan was created to inform the design decision in respect of the impact of any proposed works on the below and above ground parts of trees located on and adjacent to the site.

2.3 As part of the survey all trees were subject to a ground based visual tree assessment (Mattheck and Breloer, 1994) which was carried out by a qualified arboricultural inspector (Lantra Professional Tree Inspection certificate). The

survey is a preliminary assessment and observations have been made solely from visual inspections. This is not a safety survey. No internal decay detection devices have been used to assess the condition of the trees recorded on site.

2.4 The report's recommendations relate only to the conditions found on site at the time of the survey. Any recommendations contained in the report are valid for a period of 12 months from the date of the survey. Any significant alteration to the site that may affect the trees that are present or have planning implications (level changes, post extreme weather events, hydrological changes, additional tree works) will necessitate a re-assessment of the trees and site.

2.5 The tree survey which forms part of this report (see attachment Schedule of Trees) was produced to inform the design and development process. This is not a safety survey, any obvious risks that have been identified have been included in the survey with any preliminary remedial works.

3. Ecological constraints.

3.1 The wildlife and countryside act 1981 and amendments made within and subsequent to the countryside and rights of way act 2000 provides statutory protection to bats, birds and other species that inhabit or use trees. The protection afforded to these species could impose significant constraints on the use of a particular site as well as significantly restrict the timing of any proposed works.

3.2 TJG Arboricultural Services do not offer professional advice on any restrictions in addition to any tree restrictions highlighted in this report. Any potential issues are outside my area of expertise, and you must seek advice from a qualified ecologist to ascertain if any further restrictions apply.

4. Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation areas.

4.1 I have checked Buckinghamshire Councils interactive portal and have found no trees onsite subject to Tree Preservation Orders. The site is not located within a conservation area.

4.2 Any tree works recommended for trees subject to a TPO or within a conservation area may need to be applied for (or notified to the council in the case of a conservation area) separately, unless full planning permission is granted, and this report constitutes an approved document with the main planning application.

5. Site visit.

5.1 A site visit was carried out on Thursday 26th June 2023, by Trevor Garvey for TJG Arboricultural Services LTD. All observations were made from ground level using the VTA method. All measurements except stem diameter and crown spread for cardinal points were estimated.

5.2 The trees this report concerns are located within and adjacent to the boundary of Ashmore Farm.

5.3 Ashmore Farm is a large estate on the outside of the rural town of Shalstone, Buckinghamshire. The site is bordered by other farms and estates with the A422 carriageway to the south.

5.4 Access to the site is via the southern boundary. Access consists of a hard standing driveway which leads from the 422 Carriageway.

Fig 1 aerial view of location (Google Earth).



6. Data collection.

6.1 Information regarding the trees within and adjacent the site boundary was recorded using pocket GIS software. Each tree was inspected and allocated an identification number as indicated in the schedule of trees. For each tree, the following information was collected:

Species

Common name

Age

Height

Stem diameter (measured in mm at 1.5m)

Crown spread

Height and direction of first significant branch

Category (in accordance with BS 5837 cascade chart shown below)

Condition

Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE)

Recommended works

Comments

An overview of tree categorisation's from British Standard 5837:2012.

Trees considered for retention	
Category A	Trees considered to be of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years
Category B	Trees considered to be moderate quality with an expected life expectancy of at least 20 years
Category C	Trees of low quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 10 years or young trees with a diameter below 150mm
Trees not considered for retention	
Category U	Trees that are in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years

BS 5837:2012

7. Arboricultural impact assessment.

7.1 11 trees, 3 groups and 4 woodlands have been surveyed and considered to be potentially impacted by the proposed development. 2 category A trees, 5 category B trees, 3 category C trees, 1 category U tree, 3 category B groups, 3 category A woodlands and 1 category B woodland have been recorded.

7.2 The tree constraints plan which accompanies this report shows the above ground constraints (shading has been omitted from certain trees as it will not have any effect on the final development) and the below ground constraints i.e. the anticipated extent of tree roots using a calculation using the stem diameter (section 4.6 BS5837:2012) and taking into consideration any site conditions which may affect root growth.

-
- 7.3 The crown spread of individual trees are shown as a circle in the colour of the categorisation assigned to the tree from the cascade chart. The above ground constraints posed by the trees onsite have been taken into consideration in both the terms of remedial work required and the potential positioning of any structures taking into account shading and future growth where relevant.
- 7.4 The root protection area (RPA) is shown as a circle centered on the base of the stem. Site conditions such as nearby structures may indicate that root growth may have deviated from this format or that roots may be found in higher or lower density within parts of the RPA.
- 7.5 The trees which were surveyed are located within and adjacent to the boundary of the site.
- 7.6 Trees T1 T2 T3 T4 T5 T6 T7 T8 T10 T11 W1 W2 W3 G1 G2 G3 are to be retained, therefor there is no detrimental impact on these trees.
- 7.7 The proposed development is located away from the from the above ground parts of T1 T2 T3 T4 T5 T6 T7 T8 T9 T10 T11 W1 W2 W3 G1 G2 G3. Therefor the proposed development does not impact the above ground parts of trees onsite. No pruning operations are required for site access. Pruning operations have been recommended on Common ash trees within the site due to the presence of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*). Due to the expected increase in personnel onsite these operations have been recommended for safety purposes.
- 7.8 . The proposed development shall be located outside the RPA's of T1 T2 T3 T4 T5 T6 T7 T8 T9 T10 T11 W1 W2 W3 G1 G2 G3. Therefor the proposed development does not impact the below ground parts of these trees. Access to the site is required through the RPA's of T1 T5 T6 T7 W1 G2 G3.

7.9 Construction access through the RPA of retained trees can cause active and passive damage to tree roots undermining the trees structural stability and physiological functions. Active damage would be physical crushing of or contact with tree roots. Passive damage would be the altering of the soil space causing soil compaction. Both these instances can lead to premature tree death. The existing hard surfacing within the RPA of T1 W1 G1 shall be retained throughout the development to act as ground protection. Ground protection as per the Arboricultural Method Statement shall be installed within the RPA's of T5 T6 T7.

7.10 Protective fencing as per the Tree Protection Plan shall be installed to protect unmade ground within the RPA's of retained trees which are not covered by ground protection. Due to the logistics of the site being a working farm which is also home to wild deer, fencing shall not be erected on all parts of the site. Areas of the site where transit is achievable via hard standing surfaces shall not be fenced off. However, signs are to be erected instructing operatives to remain on the hard standing surfaces when transiting the site.

7.11 1 tree has been recommended for removal as per the schedule of trees. T9 is a young Common ash which has been infected with ash dieback. The tree is close to the proposed cabin and has been recommended for removal for safety reasons. T9 is a young self-set tree, and the loss of this tree shall not have an overly negative impact on the character of the site or the local area.

8. Conclusion.

8.1 The design proposals for the development have been assessed broadly in accordance with BS5837:2012 *“trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations”*.

8.2 It is my opinion that the trees identified for retention can be afforded due respect and provided adequate protection, ensuring their safe and healthy retention during the development process.

8.3 10 trees and 3 woodlands and 3 groups group shall be retained, therefor there is no detrimental impact on these trees or the character/amenity value of the local area. Trees within W1 as well as T2 T4 and T11 shall have pruning operations carried out in reaction to ash dieback infections. 1 tree T9 shall be removed. These pruning operations should be carried out by qualified Arborists.

8.4 W2 W3 are classified as ancient woodland, the site is already subject to a woodland management scheme. It is advised that the scheme incorporates future ash dieback management into its regime.

8.5 Provided a robust scheme of tree protection is provided TJG Arboricultural Services believes the trees highlighted for retention within this report can be retained without undue stress on their long-term health.

Signed.......... Date...10/8/2023

Trevor Garvey (Dip Arb, TechArborA).

Arboricultural Method Statement for tree protection throughout the duration of works.

Suggested/recommended control measures for construction works in or near to the root protection zone are discussed in this chapter. The table below sets out a simple schedule of works that should be followed to ensure the trees are adequately protected:

Planning consent	Check planning decision for any specific recommendations relating to trees
Site preparation	Any tree work recommendations authorized to be carried out. Installation of any tree protection measures.
Construction preparation	Site cabins and materials delivered.
Demolition/construction phases	Construction as per arboricultural method statement. Supervised work within RPAs.
construction completion	Site inspection by arboriculturist. Tree protection measures removed.
Soft landscaping	New tree planting.

1. Tree works prior to construction.

1.1 Following the approval of Buckinghamshire Councils appointed tree officer, all tree works shall be carried out to BS3998:2010 “tree work – recommendations” or BS 5837:2012 “trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations”. Tree works should be undertaken before the commencement of other site operations.

2. Protective fencing.

- 2.1 Protective fencing shall be installed as per the dimensions set out within the Tree Protection Plan. Protective fencing shall be erected to protect the unmade ground within the RPA of T1 T2 T3 T4 T11 G1 G3 W2 W3 W4. Signposts shall be installed at the entrance of the site and at the entrance to farm yard area instructing operatives to remain on existing hard standing surfaces when transiting the site. All operatives shall be briefed on the access routes to and from the site entrances and the permitted workspace once within a construction area.
- 2.2 Protective fencing shall be installed as per BS5837:2012 “trees in relation to design, demolition and construction”. The fencing shall be installed prior to construction beginning and in a manner in which it cannot be easily moved and shall remain in place until construction has been completed (Fig 2).
- 2.3 Once the fences have been positioned the RPA’s shall become construction exclusion zones (CEZ). Signs shall be affixed to the fencing notifying site operatives of their importance (Fig 3).
- 2.4 Within Construction Exclusion Zones the following guidelines shall be followed:
- No mechanized digging or excavations
 - No movement of construction traffic on unmade ground or parking of vehicles
 - No storage of building materials
 - No storage of fuels or chemicals
 - No fires to be lit within close proximity to trees

3. Site access.

3.1 Site access shall be from the southern entrance and follow the existing hard surface tracks.

4. Contractor's car parking.

4.1 All contractor parking shall be located within the existing driveway area of the site. No contractor parking shall be within the RPA of retained trees.

5. Site huts and storage.

5.1 Site huts and storage shall be located within the farm yard on existing hard standing surfaces.

5.2 Any materials which are moved closer to the proposed development prior to immediate use shall be stored on adequate ground and not inside the RPA's of retained trees.

5.3 Any materials which have the potential to spill/leak shall be stored away from the RPA of retained trees on an anti-pollutant geotextile to prevent soil contamination if necessary.

6. Demolition.

6.1 There is to be no demolition within the RPA's of retained trees.

7. Service installation.

7.1 No services shall be installed within the RPA's of retained trees.

8. Ground level changes.

8.1 There shall be no ground level changes within the RPA's of retained trees.

9. Ground protection.

9.1 Existing hard surfacing shall be retained for as long as possible to act as ground protection during the construction phase.

9.2 Ground protection shall be installed as per the Tree Protection Plan, ground protection shall be installed within the RPA of T5 T6 T7. Ground protection shall be installed prior to protective fencing.

9.3 Ground protection shall be installed with operatives working inwards into the RPA, ground protection shall be removed with operatives working backwards out of the RPA.

9.4 Suitable ground protection shall be installed as per BS5837:2012 trees in relation to design, demolition and construction.

9.5 For pedestrian access into the RPA a single thickness of scaffold board placed upon a compression resistant layer as in 100mm of woodchip laid onto a geotextile membrane.

9.6 For pedestrian operated plant up to a gross weight of 2 t, proprietary, inter linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression resistant layer of 150mm of woodchip laid onto a geotextile membrane.

9.7 For wheeled or tracked plant exceeding 2 t gross weight proprietary systems to an engineering specification suitable for the likely loading shall be installed.

10. Foundations within Root Protection Areas.

10.1 No foundations are to be dug within the RPA's of retained trees.

11. Hard surfacing within Root Protection Areas.

11.1 No new hard surfacing shall be installed within the RPA's of retained trees.

12. Soft landscaping within exclusion zones.

12.1 Soft landscaping shall respect the rooting areas of retained trees. The removal of spoil and import of materials shall be outside specified RPA's.

12.2 Should excessive work be required within the RPA's, handheld tools only shall be permitted in this area.

12.3 Water shall be readily available onsite and used to flush any spilt material through the soil to limit contamination of tree roots.

12.4 If any tree roots are uncovered, they shall be wrapped in a damp hessian cloth and covered with topsoil as soon as possible.

13. Responsibilities.

13.1 It will be the responsibility of the main contractor to ensure that any planning conditions attached to planning consent are always adhered to and that a monitoring regime in regard to tree protection is adopted on site.

13.2 The main contractor will be responsible for contacting the Local Planning Authority (LPA) at any time issues are raised related to the trees on site.

13.3 If at any time pruning works are required permission must be sought from the LPA first and then carried out in accordance with BS 3998 Recommendations for Tree Works 2010.

13.4 The main contractor will ensure the build sequence is appropriate to ensure that no damage occurs to the trees during the development processes. Ground protection will remain in position until completion of ALL construction works on the site.

14. Arboricultural supervision.

14.1 It is recommended a number of short inspections of the subject trees should be undertaken by a consultant arboriculturist familiar with BS5837 (2012) operations during the extent of the project. This inspection will ascertain the extent, if any, of stress and damage caused by construction works in the root protection zones.

14.2 Any mechanical excavation works undertaken within the RPA should be supervised by an arboriculturist.

Note: The Tree Schedule, Tree Constraint Plan and Tree Protection Plan have been made available as attachments.

APPENDIX.

Fig 2 example of protective fencing BS5837:2012.

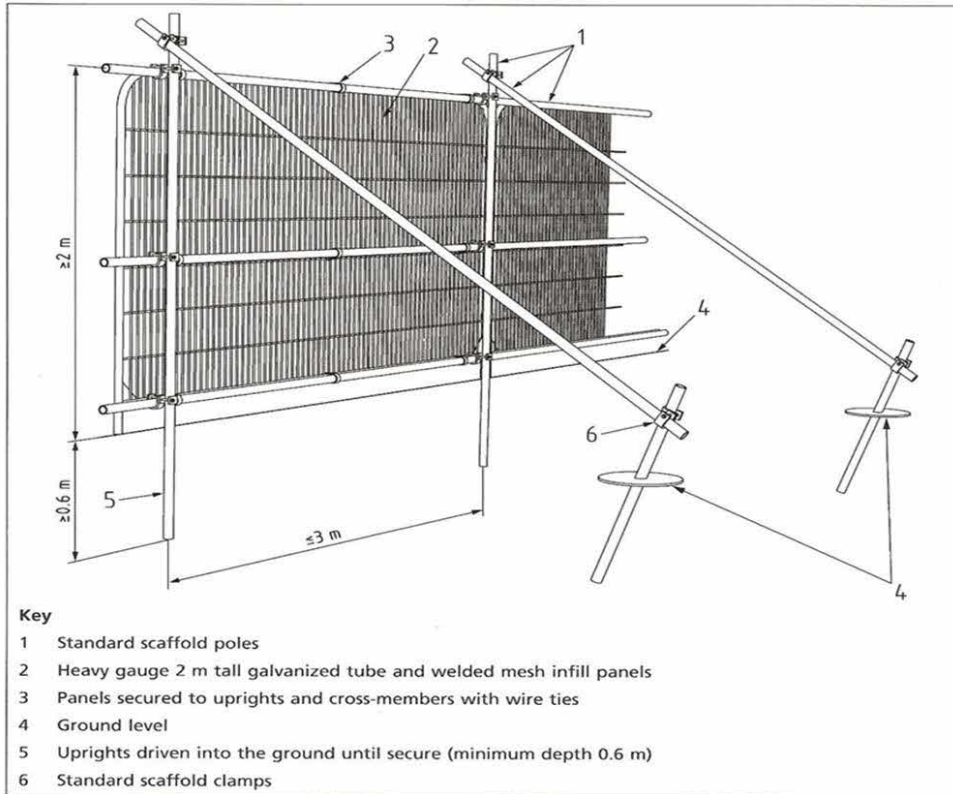


Fig 3 example of protective fencing sign.



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