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BS5837:2012 Arboricultural Survey Impact Assessment & Arboricultural Method Statement

**Site Address:
Gresham House
Fireball Hill
Ascot
SL5 9PJ**

**Robert Toll
HND Urban Forestry - ND Forestry - MArborA
Ref: RMT907
Site inspection date: 3rd October 2023
Date draft report published: 28th February 2024
Prepared for Bill Nixon**



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1 Instructions

- 1.1 I was instructed by the client, Bill Nixon, on the 19th September 2023 to undertake a survey of trees that are on or adjacent to Gresham House, Fireball Hill, Ascot SL5 9PJ in accordance with *British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.
- 1.2 I am a qualified arboriculturalist as detailed at as it is detailed at **Appendix 8** and this report has been produced in support of a planning application to Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council for construction of a single storey extension and sunken terrace.

2 Introduction

Site Description

- 2.1 The site is a residential property with a house, driveway, patio and garden located in the north-eastern half. The south-western half of the site predominantly consists of tennis court. The north-eastern half of the site forms the planning application so the survey has only been carried in in this area.

Figure 1 – Gresham House, Fireball Hill, Ascot SL5 9PJ is shown by an indicative yellow line

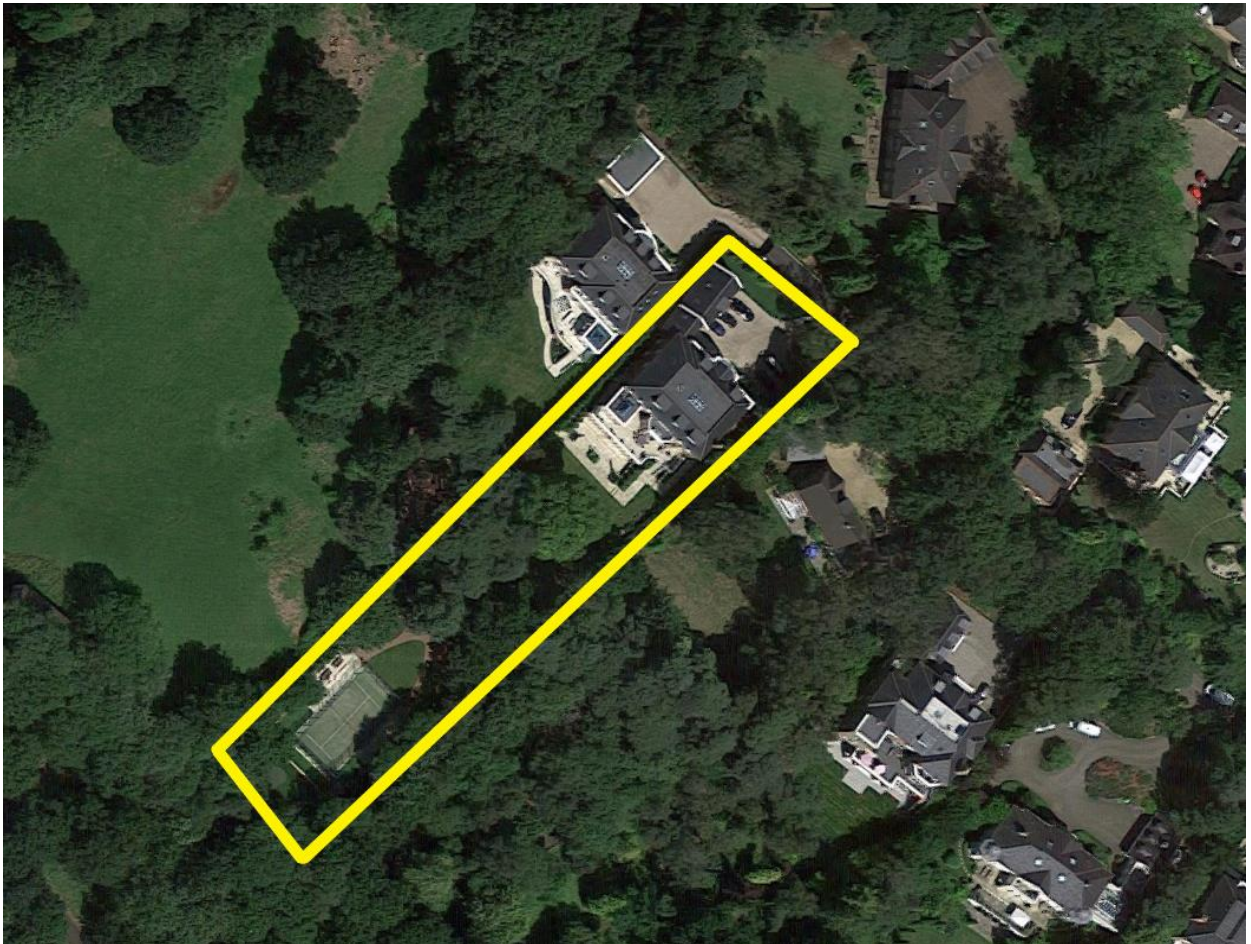


Image courtesy of Google Map Data © 2024

Limitations

- 2.2** I carried out the survey from ground level with the aid of a Bosch GLM 120 C Professional Laser Measure to measure distances, a Nikon Forestry Pro height measurer and diameter tape.
- 2.3** I was supplied with a topographical survey showing the growing locations of all trees on or immediately adjacent to the property was provided prior to the survey being carried out.
- 2.4** All measurements taken to calculate root protection areas and canopy spreads have been measured wherever possible. Where it has not been possible to access certain areas, dimensions have been estimated.
- 2.5** This report does not constitute a safety survey of the trees included within it. It is advised that if there are concerns regarding the risk posed by trees to persons and property then a tree condition inspection should be commissioned.

Legal Restrictions

- 2.6** I have not contacted the local planning authority (LPA) directly to ascertain whether the trees on or adjacent to the site are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) or if they are within a Conservation Order.
- 2.7** On the 26th February 2024 I carried out a check on the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council online maps. They indicate that the property is not within a Conservation Area. The online maps do not show trees that are protected by a TPO.
- 2.8** A check of the planning history indicates that there are trees within the site that are protected by RBWM TPO 39, 2003, however without contacting the LPA directly or viewing the TPO document it is not possible to confirm which trees are protected.
- 2.9** Trees protected by a TPO benefit from statutory protection and no work can be carried out to them (including cutting roots, branches or felling) without the written consent of the LPA. In the event that planning permission is granted and trees are shown as removed or requiring works to facilitate development then this overrides the protection afforded by a TPO or Conservation Area. The removal of deadwood, the removal of dead trees or works to trees that are urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm, can be carried out under exemption and without the submission of a formal application.
- 2.10** Trees protected by a TPO or Conservation Area does not inevitably necessitate that trees are worthy of being a material constraint as part of a planning application. Trees can be protected but due to any number of reasons, such as poor structural or physiological condition, have become unsuitable for retention. Additionally, a planning approval consequentially overrides these forms of statutory protection.
- 2.11** It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Rights of Way Act 2000 to disturb nesting birds or roosting/breeding bats. When carrying out tree work care should be taken to avoid disturbance. If necessary, advice should be taken to avoid disturbance. If necessary, advice may need to be sought from a qualified Ecologist.

Tree survey

- 2.12** I visited the site on 3rd October 2023 and surveyed a total of nine trees and one group. The surveyed trees and groups were categorised in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 as shown at **Appendix 1** and the tree survey schedule can be seen at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.13** At the time of my survey one tree was considered to be category A and high value, five trees were considered to be category B and moderate value. The remaining trees and group are considered to be category C or U and low value.

Table 1 – Tree categorisations as BS5837:2012

Category A	Category B	Category C	Category U
T1	T3, T4, T5, T8, T9	T6, T7, G10	T2

- 2.14** It was noted that there are other trees that are located on or adjacent to Gresham House, Fireball Hill, Ascot SL5 9PJ but they have not been included within this report. This is because it is deemed that they are:
- far enough from the area proposed for development that they will not be affected;
 - they will be adequately protected by the tree protection measures afforded to the surveyed trees;
 - they are specimens of limited significance;

Measurements

- 2.15** Wherever possible all diameter measurements have been measured using a diameter tape at a height of 1.5m. Where it has not been possible to access the stems at 1.5m above ground level due to such things as dense Ivy, trees being offsite or the tree being inaccessible, an estimated measurement has been taken. All estimated measurements include the word “estimated” or the abbreviation “est” in the tree survey schedule shown at **Appendix 2**.

Root protection area (RPA) definition

- 2.16** The RPA is a layout design tool indicating the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree’s viability and where the protection of the roots and soil structure are treated as a priority.

(British Standard 5837:2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations – The British Standard Institute 2012).

Canopy spreads

- 2.17** The canopy spreads have been measured from ground level using a laser measure and visual assessment. The canopy spreads have annotated on the tree constraints plan and tree protection plan at **Appendices 3 and 4**.

3 Soil Assessment

- 3.1 The soil assessment is necessary to establish whether the soil on the proposal site is shrinkable. Tree roots and those of other vegetation have the potential to extract moisture from shrinkable soils such as clay, making the soil expand and contract as the soil desiccates and re-hydrates. Where new structures are proposed on shrinkable soils and close to trees, foundations will need to be sufficiently deepened or able to withstand to minimise the risk of indirect damage to foundations.
- 3.2 No soil assessments have been undertaken however a check on the Geology of Britain Viewer gives the soil type as Windlesham Formation - Sand, silt and clay. This means that the underlying soil is shrinkable and as such foundations will need to be deepened because of the risk of root induced subsidence of clay soils. If further assessments are undertaken that show that there is shrinkable clay, then foundations must be designed in accordance with the guidance within the National House Building Council's Standards Chapter 4.2 Building near trees or similar guidance.

Figure 2 – The Geology of Britain Viewer 1:50,000 scale indicates that the underlying geology at Gresham House, Fireball Hill, Ascot SL5 9PJ is shrinkable Windlesham Formation - Sand, silt and clay.



4 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Arboricultural Impact Assessment overview

- 4.1 The arboricultural impact assessment assesses the direct and indirect effects of the proposed design on trees that are growing or adjacent to the site. Where appropriate mitigation will be recommended to prevent or minimise harm and details mitigation as appropriate. Consideration will be given to the practicality of the design and the viability of tree retention.

Tree protection fencing

- 4.2 Tree protection fencing will be required throughout the construction process to restrict construction access within the RPAs of trees and groups T1 – G10. The areas to be protected by the tree protection fencing can be seen as blue lines on the accompanying Tree Protection Plan at **Appendix 4**.
- 4.3 Tree protection fencing will consist of 1.8m high wire mesh panels placed in rubber blocks. The panels will be securely bolted together to prevent movement and a backstay must be attached to each panel to prevent movement and resist impacts. Un-braced weld mesh panels on unsecured rubber or concrete feet will not be used as these are not resistant to impact and are too easily removed by site operatives.
- 4.4 A notice will be attached to the fencing which says 'Tree Protection Area. Keep Out!'

Ground protection

- 4.5 It has been stated above, the RPA is a sacrosanct area of ground where encroachment by construction activities should be avoided wherever possible. In the case of trees T1, T8 and group G10 there will be a requirement for construction access within their RPAs throughout development. Where it is considered that the construction working space or temporary access is justified within their RPAs, this will be facilitated by a set-back in the alignment of the tree protection barrier and suitable ground protection will be installed. Areas to be protected with ground have been shown as orange hatching at **Appendix 4**.
- 4.6 In all cases the objective should be to avoid compaction of the soil, which can arise from the single passage of a heavy vehicle or continual pedestrian movement over the same area, especially in wet conditions. Compaction of the soil can impair root development and function leading to a decline in the physiological and structural condition of the tree.

Detritus in gutters

- 4.7 The proximity of the tree T8 to the proposed rear extension has significant clearances due to the 7m crown clearance above ground level. There is however the risk of leaves and detritus build up in gutters so it is considered necessary for gutter guards to be installed. These guards will deflect detritus, thereby minimising the risk of build-ups and blockages.

Areas for site compounds, storage and mixing

- 4.8 Site compounds will be located away from trees wherever possible and ideally 2m from any protective barriers.
- 4.9 On this occasion it is proposed to utilise the existing driveway for the site compound, storage and mixing as shown at **Appendix 4**.

Services

- 4.10 The proposed layout of incoming (water, gas and electricity) and outgoing (foul sewer) services is not yet established but they should be installed outside root protection areas. If it is necessary for a trench to be dug through an RPA a specific method statement will be required which will need to specify that the trench will be hand dug and that care will be taken to preserve all roots encountered which are larger than 25 mm diameter.
- 4.11 It is anticipated that services will be routed from those serving the existing house. If it is necessary for new services to be routed through the RPAs of trees, a method statement to minimise harm to roots has been provided.

Arboricultural supervision

- 4.12 It is recommended that an appointed arboriculturalist is instructed to oversee tree protection for the duration of the construction/landscaping contract(s). Alternatively, a designated person (site foreman or site owner) should take on the responsibility of overseeing tree protection. If appointed, the appointed arboriculturist will be consulted on any issues that may arise concerning trees and will visit the site as often as necessary to ensure that trees are protected and/or at the following key stages:
- Prior to contractors commencing works on site in order to meet with the supervising architect and/or the contractor's nominated site manager and Tree Officer to ensure that the principles of tree protection are understood and the procedure, timescale and materials for installation of tree protection are agreed;
 - Following installation of tree protection but prior to any works commencing on site to confirm that it is fit for purpose;
 - Arboricultural site monitoring circa every 8 weeks;
 - At any time that there are potential conflicts with tree protection;
 - At the completion of construction works to confirm that tree protection may be removed to enable final landscaping;
- 4.13 A pre-start meeting should be held on site with the appointed arboriculturist and the contractor's representative(s) so that the precise details of the schedule of works together with details of installation of tree protection can be agreed and personnel induction carried out. The site manager/foreman will be fully briefed on tree protection measures and procedures before any workers or sub-contractors are permitted onto the site. Following induction, a copy of the Induction Sheet (**Appendix 7**) will be

provided to and be signed by the site manager/foreman in recognition of acceptance of their role in enforcing day to day tree protection.

- 4.14 All contractors involved in the project have a duty to comply with all the specified tree protection measures and all workers will be provided with induction by the site manager/foreman and be required to sign an Induction Sheet confirming they have understood the protection measures. Signed sheets will be kept on site for inspection. No enabling works will take place until after the meeting has been held and tree protection has been installed, inspected and approved as fit for purpose.
- 4.15 Fencing and ground protection will not be removed under any circumstances during construction unless with the express approval of the local planning authority. If in any doubt the site manager must contact the appointed arboriculturalist.

Conclusions

- 4.16 I visited Gresham House, Fireball Hill, Ascot SL5 9PJ on 3rd October 2023 and surveyed a total of nine trees and one group in accordance with BS5837: 2012.
- 4.17 At the time of my survey one tree was considered to be category A and high quality, five trees were considered to be category B and moderate value. The remaining trees and group are considered to be category C or U and low value.
- 4.18 All trees were categorised in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 as shown at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.19 The development will not require the removal or pruning of any surveyed trees or groups.
- 4.20 The fall of detritus into gutters has been considered and suitable mitigation in the form of gutter guards have been proposed.
- 4.21 The trees to be retained will be protected during development and methods for ensuring their protection have been described.
- 4.22 The development is sympathetic to the leafy character of the area.

5 Arboricultural Method Statement

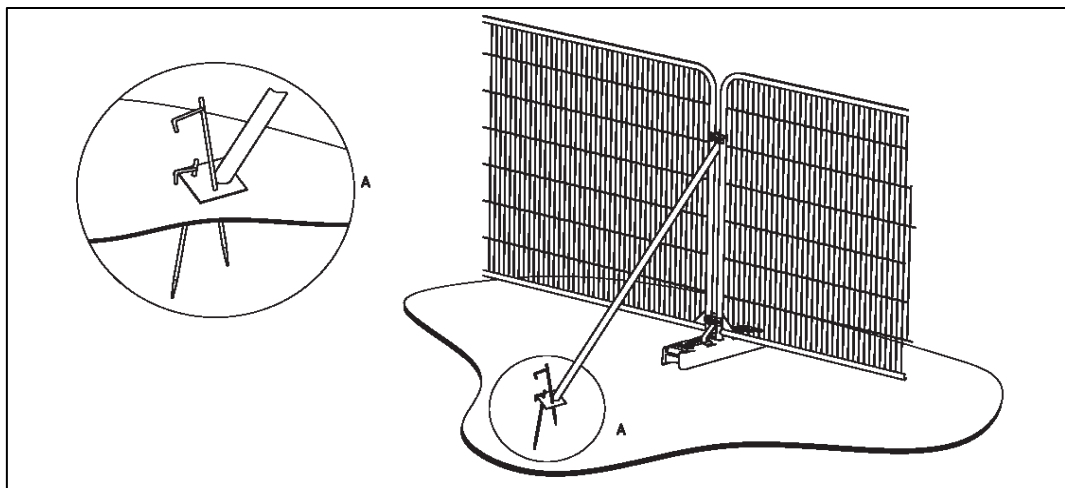
Pre-commencement meeting

- 5.1 Prior to the commencement of development all tree protection will be erected and a site meeting will be held between the appointed building contractors, the appointed arboriculturalist and local authority Tree Officer as it is stipulated at **Appendix 5**. This meeting is necessary to agree that the position of the tree protection is correct.

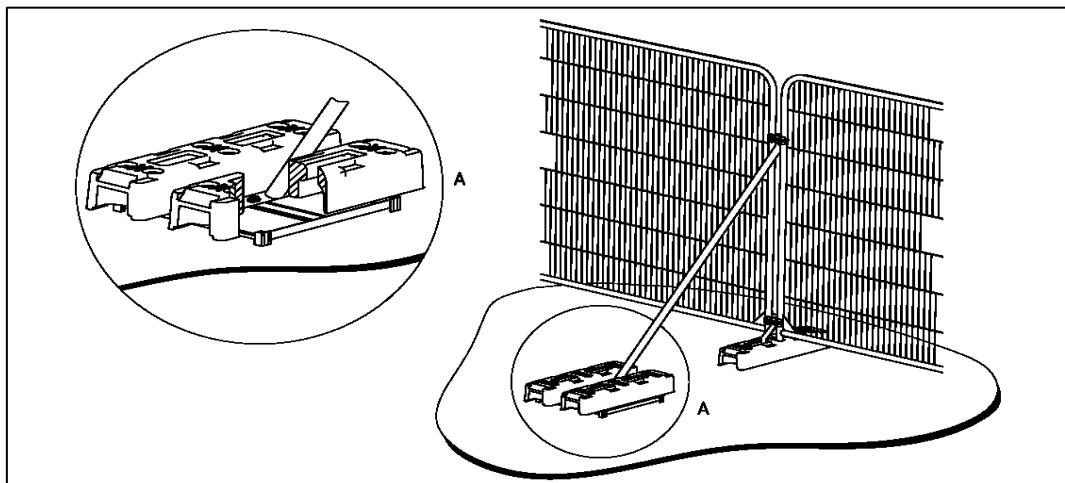
Protective barriers/fencing

- 5.2 All tree protection barriers will be erected in the positions shown in **Appendix 4** and in accordance with the specifications detailed in Figures 3 and 4.

Figures 3 and 4 – Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray

Image taken from British Standard 5837:2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

Warning signs

5.3 All weather notices will be attached to the tree protection fencing.

Figures 5 – Examples of tree protection warning sign.



5.4 All ground protection will be laid as follows:

Specification of temporary ground protection within RPAs

5.5 A permeable geotextile such as Terram will be laid and onto this will be placed treated timber (100 mm x 80 mm) at spacings of no more than 1m. The area between the timber bearers will be filled with a compressible material such as woodchips and will then be covered by 20 mm thick marine ply which will be screwed down onto the timber (Figures 6 and 7). The plywood may need to be coated with a non-slip paint.

Figure 6 – Specification for ply board ground protection

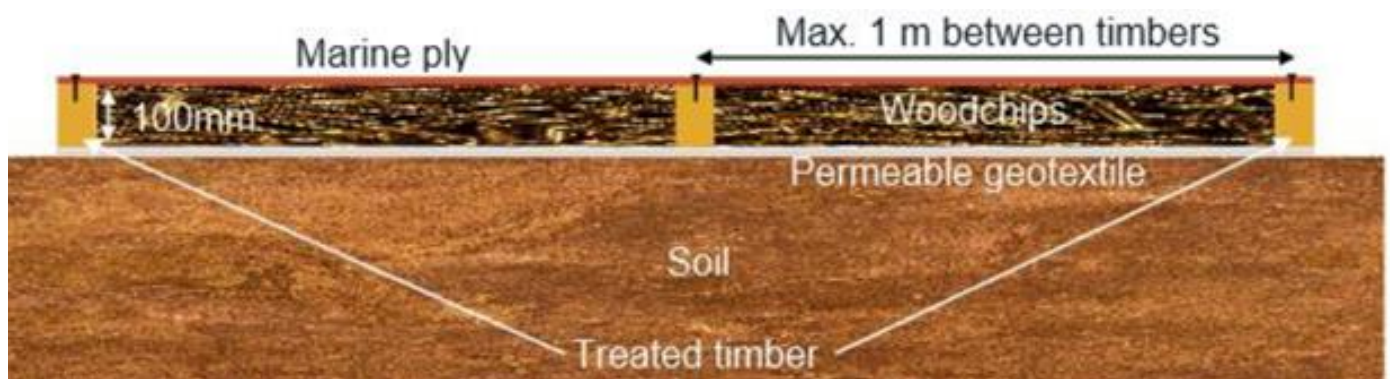


Figure 7 – Plywood sheeting used as ground protection.



- 5.6** Single thickness of scaffold boards placed on top of driven scaffold frame to form a suspended walkway (Figure 8)

Figure 8 – Specification for scaffold ground protection.



- 5.7** Development can commence in accordance with the planning consent.

Gutter guards

- 5.8** Gutter guards like those shown at Figure 9 will be installed within the drainpipes of the dwelling.

Figure 9 – Gutter brush leaf guard filter.



Service installation

- 5.9** If new service trenches and manholes are unavoidable within the RPAs of surveyed trees, they will be excavated using hand tools or compressed air device.
- 5.10** Following completion of all development the tree protection can be dismantled to allow landscaping works to take place.

Appendix 1 – British Standard 5837:2012 tree categorisation chart




TREES UNSUITABLE FOR RETENTION				
CATEGORY AND DEFINITIONS	CRITERIA			IDENTIFICATION ON PLAN
<p>Category U</p> <p>Those 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning). Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline. Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality. <p><i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5 of BS5837:2012</i></p>			<p>RED . RGB 127.000.000</p>
TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION				
CATEGORY AND DEFINITIONS	CRITERIA - SUBCATEGORIES			IDENTIFICATION ON PLAN
	1 Mainly arboricultural values	2 Mainly landscape values	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
<p>Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years</p>	<p>Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue).</p>	<p>Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features.</p>	<p>Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)</p>	<p>LIGHT GREEN . RGB 000.255.000</p>
<p>Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years</p>	<p>Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation.</p>	<p>Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality.</p>	<p>Trees with material conservation or other cultural value</p>	<p>MID BLUE . RGB 000.000.255</p>
<p>Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm</p>	<p>Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories.</p>	<p>Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits.</p>	<p>Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.</p>	<p>GREY . RGB 091.091.091</p>

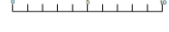
Appendix 2 - Tree survey schedule

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Trunk dia. at 1.5m	Canopy Spread	Crown Height (m)	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments/ Recommendations	Useful Life Expect	BS5837 grade	Root Protection Area	
												Radius	RPA Area
T1	Scarlet Oak (<i>Quercus coccinea</i>)	30m	925mm	NE9.5m SE9.5m SW8m NW8m	E6m SE3m	Mature	Good	Good		40+	A	11.1m	387.1m ²
T2	Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)	25m	633mm	NE4m SE4m SW4m NW4m	22m	Mature	Good	Poor	Medium sized deadwood 25mm to 100mm. Previously removed north-eastern stem at 10m agl with several woodpecker holes and cavity within main stem.	<10	U	7.6m	181.3m ²
T3	Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)	25m	579mm	NE4m SE4m SW3m NW3m	18m	Mature	Good	Good	Etiolated specimen.	20+	B	6.9m	151.7m ²
T4	Common Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	21m	938mm	NE6m SE3m SW13m NW6m	4m	Mature	Good	Good	Medium sized deadwood 25mm to 100mm. Co-dominant form with adjacent trees.	20+	B	11.3m	398.0m ²
T5	Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)	25m	775mm	NE3m SE3m SW3m NW3m	20m	Mature	Good	Good	Medium sized deadwood 25mm to 100mm.	20+	B	9.3m	271.7m ²
T6	Common Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	25m	450mm est	NE5m SE3m SW3m NW5.5m	4m	Early mature	Good	Fair	Off-site tree. Etiolated specimen. Main stem bends at 3m and straightens at 4.5m, consistent with previous suppression.	10+	C	5.4m	91.6m ²

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Trunk dia. at 1.5m	Canopy Spread	Crown Height (m)	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments/ Recommendations	Useful Life Expect	BS5837 grade	Root Protection Area	
												Radius	RPA Area
T7	Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	20m	350mm est	NE6m SE3m SW2.5m NW4.5m	8m	Mature	Good	Fair	Off-site tree. Unremarkable tree.	10+	C	4.2m	55.4m ²
T8	Common Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	16m	400mm	NE5.5m SE7m SW5m NW4m	7m	Semi mature	Good	Good	Off-site tree.	20+	B	4.8m	72.4m ²
T9	Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	18m	600mm est 500mm est	NE7m SE7m SW7m NW7m	7m	Mature	Good	Good	Off-site tree.	20+	B	9.4m	276.0m ²
G10	Group of Leyland Cypress Silver Birch Sawara cypress	21m	Max 508mm	NE3m SE3m SW3m NW3m	2m	Mature	Good	Good	Unremarkable group.	10+	C	6.1m	116.7m ²

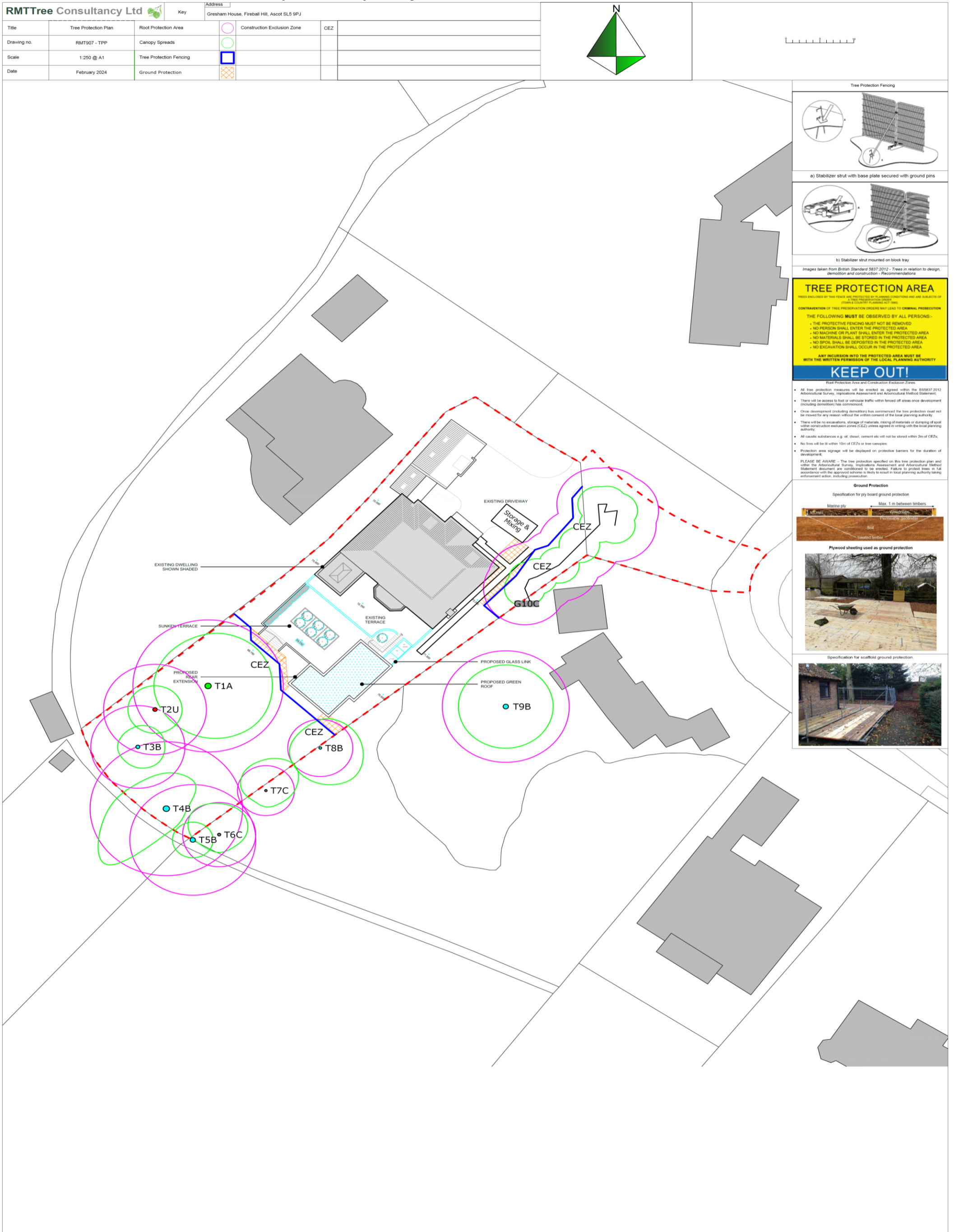
Appendix 3 – Tree Constraints Plan – RMT907 – TCP
Tree constraints plan (TCP) showing retained trees, tree numbers, root protection areas (magenta circles/polygons) and canopy spreads (green lines). The plan has been provided separately as a PDF at a scale of 1: 250 @ A1.

RMTTree Consultancy Ltd 		Key	Address Gresham House, Fireball Hill, Ascot SL5 9PJ	
Title	Tree Constraints Plan	Root Protection Area		
Drawing no.	RMT907 - TCP	Canopy Spreads		
Scale	1:250 @ A1			
Date	February 2024			



Appendix 4 – Tree Protection Plan – RMT907 – TPP

Tree protection plan (TPP) showing retained trees, tree numbers, root protection areas (magenta circles/polygons) and canopy spreads (green lines). The location of protective fencing is shown as blue lines and ground protection as orange hatching. The plan has been provided separately as a PDF at a scale of 1: 250 @ A1.




Appendix 5 – Arboricultural site supervision schedule

Activity	Supervision Required
Pre-commencement meeting between the local authority arboricultural officer, the appointed arboriculturalist and the appointed building contractor.	✓
Arboricultural site monitoring circa every 8 weeks.	✓
At any time that there are conflict issues with the agreed tree protection.	✓

Following every visit the appointed arboriculturalist will fill out the site monitoring form which is shown at **Appendix 6** and this will be forwarded to the LPA.

Appendix 6 – Site monitoring form

RMTTree Consultancy Ltd 			
Site monitoring form			
Date of visit		Site	
Consultant in attendance			
Observations/status of tree protection/comments:			
Recommendations (if necessary):			
Date of next visit		Signature	

Appendix 7 – Tree Awareness – Site induction Sheet

SITE NAME: Gresham House, Fireball Hill, Ascot, SL5 9PJ

Trees are an important part of this development and they must not be damaged in any way, including indirectly through compaction/contamination of soil, so that they can fully integrate into the finished project and stay healthy well into the future. All persons working on this site have a responsibility to be aware of trees and to abide by tree protection procedures.

How can trees can be damaged?

Above the ground – contacts and impacts with branches and trunk (for example by machine operations: piling rigs, high-sided vehicles, crane use, fixings to trunk, unauthorised cutting back of branches). Make sure there is adequate clearance under the tree canopy and don't stray close to the trunk. Damage to bark allows infections to enter the tree.

Below the ground – roots spread out from the trunk horizontally at shallow depth and are therefore easily damaged. Vehicle and pedestrian movements and storage of materials on unprotected ground causes compaction, especially in wet weather, and must be avoided. Soil stripping during site clearance or landscaping is prohibited in root protection areas. The effects of root damage may take some time to become obvious, but can result in disfiguring dieback of leaves and branches, or even death.

Tree protection procedures

Provided that the simple steps below are followed most tree protection is straightforward:

- Stay out of tree Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZs). These are the areas of ground surrounding retained trees that are protected by barriers and/or ground protection. If you need to go into a CEZ, you must first gain authorisation from the Site Manager.
- No construction activity of any description within CEZs, e.g. soil stripping, cement mixing, services installation, storage of materials etc.
- No fires within 20m of trunk of any retained tree.
- If authorised to work within a CEZ you must follow the procedures set out in the **Arboricultural Method Statement**.
- If damage occurs, you must inform the Site Manager who must, in turn, inform the appointed arboriculturist.

Planning Authority enforcement action needs to be avoided:

- 'Breach of Conditions' notices can prevent a site from being signed-off.
- 'Temporary Stop Notices' halt site operations and result in associated high costs.
- Wilful damage/destruction of TPO/Conservation Area trees can result in company and/or individual prosecutions - fines can be anything up to £20,000 (County Court fines are unlimited). Remember that fines may apply to the person committing the offence as well as the site owner and main contractors!

I have received site induction in tree awareness and tree protection procedures

PRINT NAME

SIGN

DATE

Appendix 8 – Qualifications and experience

Robert Toll has been working with trees since 2004 when he completed his studies.

In 2000 he began his studies at Riseholme College, Lincoln where achieved a pass with merit in Forestry at National Diploma level. In 2002 he attended Moulton College in Northampton where he gained a Level Five Higher National Diploma in Urban Forestry with merit.

In 2004 Robert began work as a temporary tree inspector at Northampton Borough Council, undertaking inspections of trees in response to enquiries from the public. After 4 months Robert took up a permanent tree inspector role at Coventry City Council which predominantly involved undertaking safety inspections of trees on school sites.

In 2006 Robert moved to Warwick District Council to take up a temporary post of Tree Protection Officer which involved reviewing old area tree preservation orders and identifying those trees which were considered worthy of protection under new specific orders. He also streamlined the council procedure for making new tree preservation orders, cutting the time from making to serving from up to 2 weeks to within 2 hours.

In 2008 Robert moved to Hart District Council, Hampshire to take up the role of Tree Officer within the planning department. This role included determining works trees applications, commenting on planning proposals, liaising with the public and providing arboricultural advice to other departments within the Council.

Between 2014 and 2016 Robert took up the role of Tree Officer at Elmbridge Borough Council, Surrey, once again carrying out tasks such as determining works trees applications, commenting on planning proposals and liaising with the public. While at Elmbridge Borough Council he passed the Arboricultural Association's Professional Tree Inspection course.

Robert is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association.