



Merewood
Arboricultural Consultancy Services

**B.S. 5837 Arboricultural Report
Implications Assessment
at
47 Fernbank Road
Ascot
SL5 8HY**

**Client: Amardeep Dosanjh
47 Fernbank Road
Ascot
SL5 8HY**

**Prepared by
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**Date
19/12/2023**



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Instruction

- 1.1.1 I am instructed by Amardeep Dosanjh to undertake an Arboricultural Survey at 47 Fernbank Road Ascot. I am also instructed to assess the likely impact of development proposals and to prepare a tree protection plan detailing how trees shall be protected from the proposed construction activity.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 47 Fernbank Road Ascot is a detached single storey house on the west side of Fernbank Road served by a single entrance drive leading to a parking area at the front of the house.
- 1.2.2 The site is bordered by Fernbank Road to the east and by other residential properties on all other sides. Fernbank Road is located to the north of Ascot village centre, east of Bracknell town centre. The surrounding area is residential and is typified by medium density housing with local shops and schools.
- 1.2.3 The topography of the site is more or less level.
- 1.2.4 It has been established at the time of the survey that the trees on and adjacent to the site are not covered by a Tree Preservation Order nor are they located within a designated Conservation Area (search conducted on Bracknell Forest website dated 19/12/23).

1.3 Survey date

- 1.3.1 The trees at 47 Fernbank Road Ascot were surveyed on Friday, November 17, 2023.

1.4 Scope and Purpose of the report

- 1.4.1 The tree survey and assessment of existing trees has been carried out in accordance with guidance contained within British Standard B.S. 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations' (hereafter referred to as B.S. 5837).
- 1.4.2 The purpose of this report therefore is therefore to firstly, present the results of an assessment of the existing trees' arboricultural value, based on their current condition and quality and to secondly, provide an assessment of impact arising from the development of the site.
- 1.4.3 The report is designed to accompany a planning application for development proposals at the above site. The survey has therefore focused on any trees present within or bordering the site that may potentially be affected by the

future proposals or will pose a constraint to any proposed development.

1.5 Documents referred to

1.5.1 The tree survey and this report has been prepared with reference to the following documents:

The proposed site plan
The schedule of tree constraints (appendix 1)
The plan of tree constraints (appendix 2)
The tree protection plan (appendix 5)

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Tree Survey methodology

2.1.1 A ground level survey of the trees has been carried out in accordance with the criteria set out in Chapter 4 of B.S 5837. The survey has recorded information relating to all those trees within the site and those adjacent to the site which may be of influence on the proposals.

2.1.2 Where applicable, trees with significant defects have been highlighted and appropriate remedial works have been recommended. However, this report should not be seen as a substitute for a full *Safety Survey* or *Management Plan* which are specifically designed to minimise the risk and liability associated with the responsibility for trees. No climbed inspections or specialist decay detection were undertaken.

2.1.3 Evaluation of tree condition within the assessment applies to the date of survey and cannot be assumed to remain unchanged. It may be necessary to review these within 12 months in accordance with sound arboricultural practice.

2.1.4 Trees have been assessed as groups where it has been deemed appropriate. The term group has been applied where trees form cohesive arboricultural features, either aerodynamically, visually or culturally. An assessment of individual trees within groups has been made where there is a clear need to differentiate between them.

2.1.5 Trees have been divided into one of four categories based on Table 1 of B.S.5837, '*Cascade chart for tree quality assessment*'. For a tree to qualify under any given category it should fall within the scope of that category's definition.

Category U - Red	Trees 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.
Category A - Green	Those trees of the highest quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested).
Category B - Blue	Trees of moderate to high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested).
Category C - Grey	Trees of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter of below 150mm
Subcategory 1 concerns mainly arboricultural values, how good a specimen is in terms of form and physiological condition; the value of a tree as a component in a group or in a formal or semi-formal arboricultural feature such as an avenue.	
Subcategory 2 concerns mainly landscape values and considers the importance of a tree or group of trees as an arboricultural or landscape feature. Trees present in larger numbers, such as woodlands for example may attract a higher rating than they would as individuals because of their collective value.	
Subcategory 3 concerns mainly cultural values including conservation, historical, commemorative, or other value such as veteran or wood pasture.	

- 2.1.6 RPA's of single stemmed trees are calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{RPA radius} = 12 \times \text{stem diameter (measured at 1.5m above ground level)}$$
- 2.1.7 Where a tree has more than one stem, the equivalent single stem diameter is usually recorded. This is calculated by adding the squares of the stems and then finding the square root of the total. The radius of the RPA is then calculated by multiplying the equivalent stem diameter by 12.
- 2.1.8 Occasionally this method is not appropriate (e.g. for coppiced specimens where there are many stems). In such cases the diameter at ground level may be recorded to provide a suitable RPA calculation.
- 2.1.9 Where access is restricted an estimate of the stem diameter is provided and this is indicated in the appropriate column.

3.0 Results

3.1 Results summary

- 3.1.1 Appendix 1 presents details of the individual trees and groups found during the assessment including heights, stem diameters and rpa's, crown spread (normally measured to cardinal points unless otherwise indicated), an indication of physiological and structural condition, age class, any appropriate management recommendations, estimated life expectancy and a BS5837 category of quality.

- 3.1.2 The survey has revealed that that of the 4 trees and 1 group of trees surveyed, 0 are category 'A'; there are 3 category 'B' trees; there is 1 category 'C' tree plus 1 category 'C' group; and there are 0 category 'U' trees.

4.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

4.1 A Description of the Proposed Development

- 4.1.1 The proposed development includes the demolition of the existing structure and the construction of a pair of semi-detached dwellings with associated parking.

4.2 Proposed tree works

- 4.2.1 The development would require the removal of the birch (T1), a category 'C' tree. This tree is growing on neighbouring land, so agreement to remove the tree would have to be sought from the owner of the tree.

4.3 Changes to soil levels

- 4.3.1 There are no changes to soil levels proposed within the RPA's of trees to be retained.

4.4 The Impact of Demolition

- 4.4.1 The proposals require the demolition of the existing structure before other works can begin on the site. The movement of plant machinery around the side of the structure and the movement of hardcore arisings to a suitable holding area has the potential to cause soil compaction and branch damage.
- 4.4.2 The tree protection plans show that there is enough space for machinery to be able to manoeuvre without coming into contact with the crown spreads of trees. There will be no discernible effect on trees arising as a result of the demolition work.

4.5 The Impact of Excavations

- 4.5.1 The excavations required for the foundations of the new buildings would remain outside the RPA's of the retained trees and will have no discernible effect on these trees.
- 4.5.2 There is a very small encroachment from the proposed patio onto the RPA of the yew (T2). It is considered that the construction of the patio, with a fairly shallow foundation will have no discernible effect on the tree in this instance.

4.6 The Impact of Accessing the Site

- 4.6.1 The movement of machinery (and pedestrians) around a site has the potential

to impact on the trees. The tree protection plan (appendix 5) illustrates where protective fencing shall be erected prior to the commencement of the build.

4.6.2 The protective barriers include the boundary fence (already installed), which is to remain in place throughout (and after) the development.

4.6.3 There will therefore be no impact on retained trees as a result of accessing the site.

4.7 The Impact of Construction Site Activities

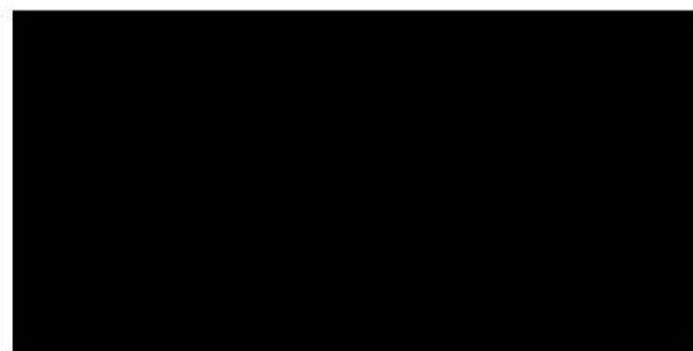
4.7.1 Deliveries and storage will be made by way of the existing driveway, using the existing driveway/hard surfaced area to the front. There are no issues arising from this.

4.7.2 Materials are to be set down at the front of the house where they can either remain in situ until needed, moved to a more appropriate area or be brought under cover if necessary. Materials can be moved about the site by wheelbarrow or by hand.

4.7.3 The area to the front of the house is to be used for the mixing of concrete and the storage of hazardous chemicals and petrochemical products and will also provide a suitable area for mortar mixing in line with COSHH regulations to ensure there is no detrimental effect on trees.

4.8 Summary

4.8.1 The proposed semi-detached houses can be built without any discernible effect on the significant trees on the site.



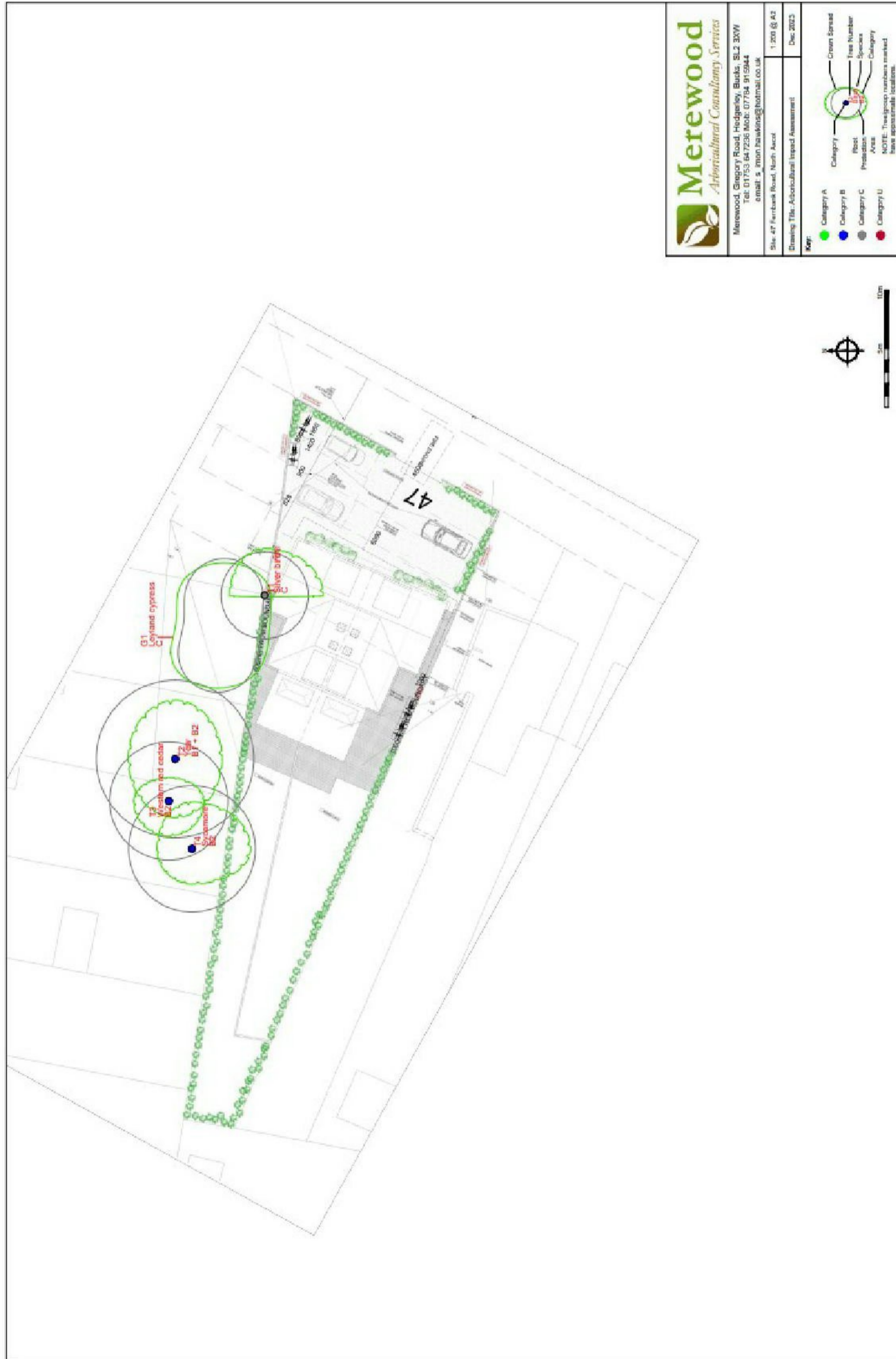
Simon Hawkins Dip Arb L6 (ABC), ND Arb, MArborA

Appendix 1

Schedule of tree constraints

Tree no	Species	Height	Stem diameter	Crown spread				Physiological condition	Structural condition	Age	Observations/ Management recommendations	Life expectancy	Category
				North	South	East	West						
T1	Silver birch	17	310 (est)	3	5	4	0	G	F	M	Largely smothered by the conifers in G1	20 - 40	C
T2	Yew	17	560 (est)	4	4	5	5	G	G	M		40+	B1 + B2
T3	Western red cedar	12	420 (est)	3	3	2	3	G	G	M		40+	B2
T4	Sycamore	16	450 (est)	3	5	4	3	G	G	M		40+	B2
G1	Leyland cypress	13	280 (est)	4	4	3	3	G	G	M	Overgrown screening hedge	40+	C

Appendix 3 Impact Assessment Plan



Merewood
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Site: 47 Fernbank Road, North Ascot
Drawing Title: Arboricultural Impact Assessment
1:200 @ A2
Dec. 2023

Key:

- Category A
- Category B
- Category C
- Category U
- Crown Spread
- Tree Number
- Species
- Category

NOTE: Tree numbers marked have appropriate positions.

Appendix 4

Method Statement

1.1 Preliminary works

- 1.1.1 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.
- 1.1.2 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.

1.2 Protective fencing

- 1.2.1 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.
- 1.2.2 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, illustrated by Fig. 1.

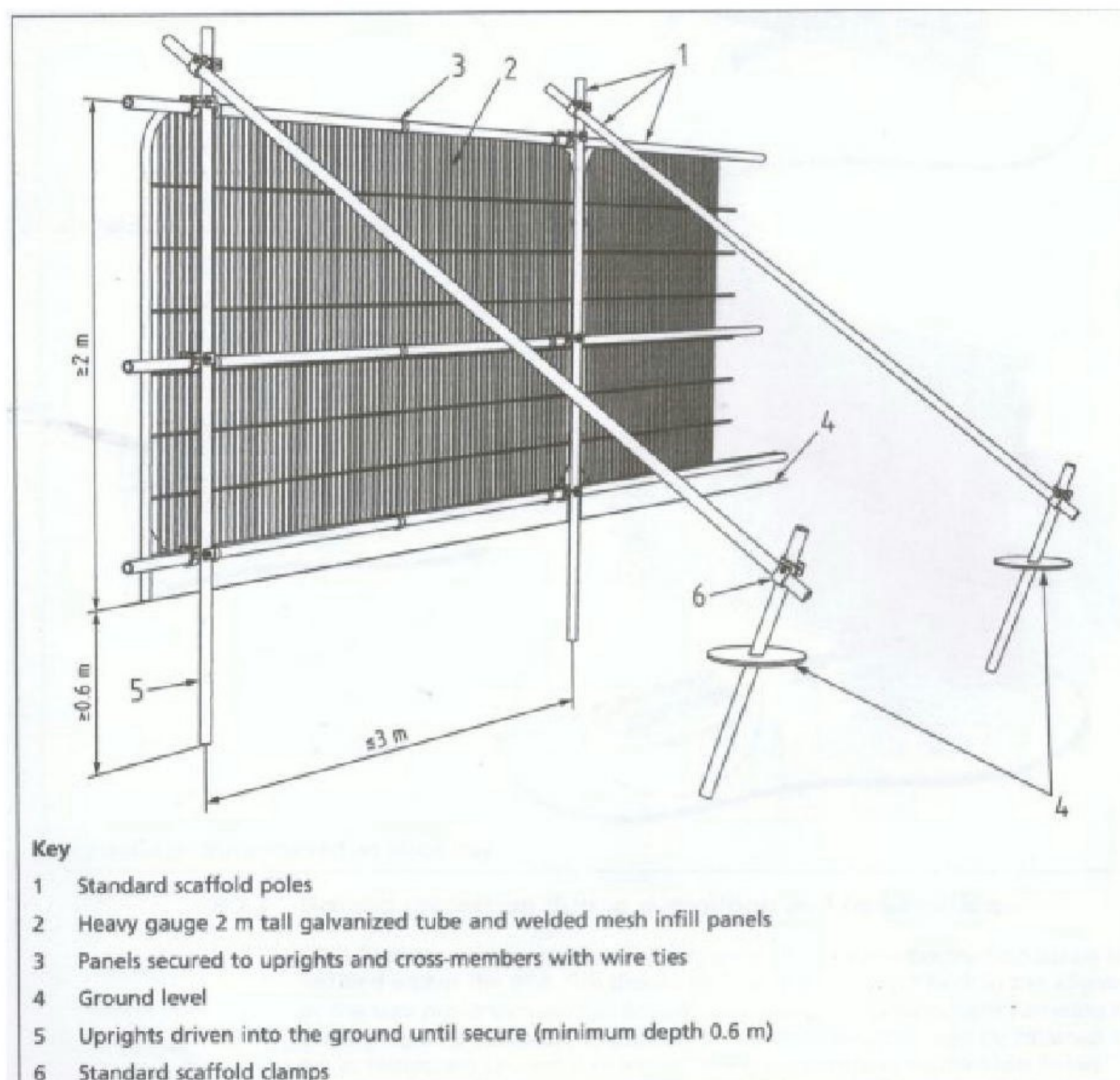


Fig. 1 Protective fencing in accordance with B.S. 5837

- 1.2.3 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'.
- 1.2.4 The fenced off areas are to be regarded as a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ). 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.
- 1.2.5 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.
- 1.2.6 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).
- 1.2.7 There is to be no burning of any materials or substances within 10m of the root protection barriers.
- 1.2.8 There is to be no storage of cement bags, chemicals or any other toxic or potentially toxic substances within the CEZ.

1.3 **Access**

- 1.3.1 Access to the rear of the site will be made by way of the side of the houses.
- 1.3.2 Materials required at the back of the houses will be transported by hand or by wheelbarrow.

1.4 **Mortar mixing**

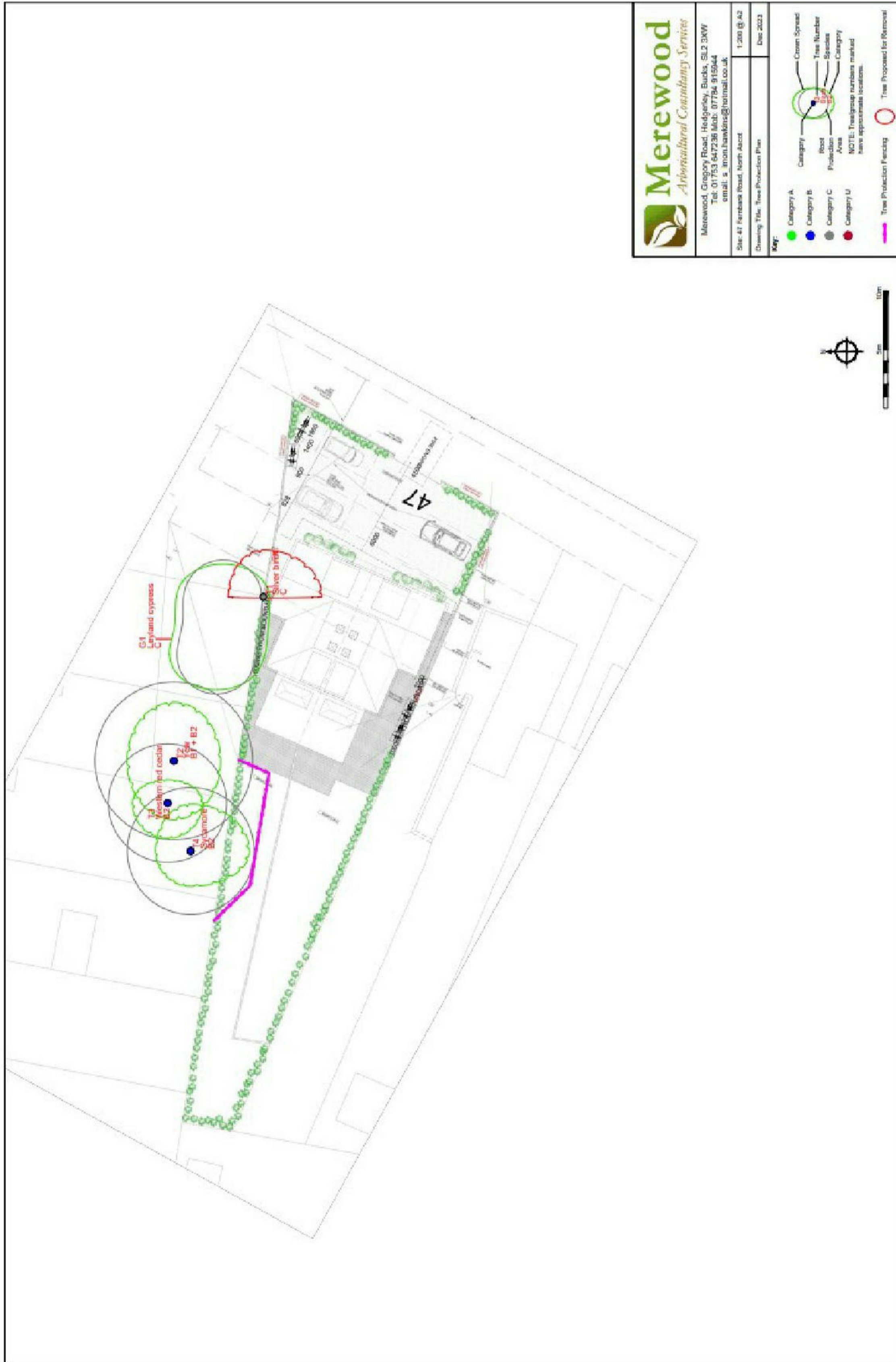
- 1.4.1 Concrete (when not delivered direct by concrete lorry) and mortar will be mixed to the front of the house in a dedicated area on the parking spaces.
- 1.4.2 All mortar mixing and handling of any other hazardous materials shall take place outside the rpa's of trees. Water run-off from the cleaning of concrete mixers is to be directed away from rpa's and should take place as far from trees as possible.

1.5 **Post construction**

- 1.5.1 Following the conclusion of all construction operations, site huts, scaffolding and protective fencing will be removed to allow for landscaping operations such as turf reinstatement to take place.
- 1.5.2 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.

Appendix 5 Tree Protection Plan



Appendix 6

Qualifications and experience

- I am Simon Hawkins, proprietor of Merewood Arboricultural Consultancy Services.
- I hold the Level 6 Professional Diploma in Arboriculture. This is the highest level of award in the industry.
- I hold the National Diploma in Arboriculture which I attained in 1987. I have studied and practised Arboriculture for over 30 years, during which time I have been involved with both the private and public sector.
- I hold the LANTRA award for professional tree inspections
- I hold professional member status of the Arboricultural Association (M. Arbor A.), recognised as a higher vocational level within the industry.
- 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 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 a Tree Preservations Order.