Trevor Heaps

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Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Method Statement & Tree Protection Plan

(to BS:5837 2012)

High Firs, Meadway, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

HP4 2PL

Prepared for Mr & Mrs Wade

Prepared by Trevor Heaps BSc, MICFor, RC. Arbor. A

Date: 16th October 2023

Ref: TH 4174

AA Registered CONSULTANT trees.org.uk

Institute of Chartered Foresters

Registered Consultant

Summary

Retrospective Planning Permission is being sought for the demolition of an existing garage and replacement of a longer but thinner outbuilding of comparable footprint .

The proposals are within influencing distance of a protected Scots Pine and so some basic tree protection measures and working methodology (in accordance with BS 5837:2012) will ensure it is not detrimentally affected during works.

The relationship between the proposal and tree is sustainable and will not result in any unreasonable pressure to carry out inappropriate tree works.

If the proposal is implemented in accordance with the recommendations laid out in this report, neither the trees or wider landscape will be adversely affected.

This is an arboriculturally defensible scheme and there are no (arboricultural) reasons why planning consent should not be granted.

Contents

1.0 Introduction

1.1 I am Trevor Heaps, Director of Trevor Heaps Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd. I hold a First-Class Honours Degree in Arboriculture; I am a Chartered Arboriculturist and a professional member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters; and I am also a Registered Consultant with the Arboricultural Association. Further information about my qualifications and experience is provided in Appendix 1.

1.2 Contact details:

Who	Name	Organisation	Details
Arboricultural Consultant	Trevor Heaps	THAC Ltd., 12 Plover Drive, Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire, SO41 0XF	Tel: 07957 763 533 trevor@trevorheaps.co.uk
Client	Mr & Mrs Wade		
Dacorum Borough Council - LPA	Tree Officer	The Forum, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 1DN	Tel. 01442 228000 E-mail: customer.services@dacorum.gov.uk

2.0 Instruction

2.1 We are to survey all significant trees that could be affected by the proposed works.

2.2 We are then to prepare a report to appraise the effect these works will have on any nearby trees and the surrounding landscape.

2.3 We are then to set out recommendations for the protection of the trees during development - in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' (BS5837).

3.0 Drawings provided.

3.1 Proposed Site Plan – Ref. 1579 P/01/Rev A – Dated 01/08/2022 – Drawn by Farris Associates Ltd.

4.0 Report context

4.1 The site was surveyed by Trevor Heaps on the 30th August 2023.

4.2 The trees were surveyed from within the site at ground level. No climbed inspections were carried out and no root/soil samples were taken for analysis.

4.3 The trees were inspected based on the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) developed by Mattheck & Breloer (The Body Language of Trees, 1994).

4.4 Tree heights, crown spreads and stem diameters were measured with a clinometer, a Disto laser measure and a diameter measuring tape respectively.

4.5 Small trees and shrubs (with stem diameters less than 75mm) were not surveyed.

4.6 This report is based on the information provided (i.e. site plans, proposed drawings, scales, measurements etc.) and our observations during the site visit.

4.7 This report will support a planning application or an application to discharge a tree-related condition and its purpose is to assist and inform the planning process.

4.8 This report does not set out the detailed, working specifications of tree protection measures and engineering / design features, but provides sufficient detail to demonstrate the feasibility of the scheme in principle.

4.9 The report does not assess the potential influence of trees upon load-bearing soils beneath existing and proposed structures (resulting from water abstraction by trees on shrinkable soils).

5.0 Statutory tree protection

5.1 We were advised by the agent that some trees within and adjacent to this site are covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO); which means that if any tree works are required (to the protected trees), an application must be made to the Council (unless the works are approved by virtue of this report being approved as part a planning permission – but please see 5.2).

5.2 Even if approved by way of this report, the Council's consent IS required for works on trees subject to a TPO / within a Conservation Area if:

Development under a planning permission has not been commenced within the relevant time limit (i.e. the permission has 'expired');

Only outline planning permission has been granted; or

It is not necessary to carry out works on protected trees to implement a full planning permission.

6.0 Ecological constraints

6.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) provides statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees.

6.2 In addition to any tree matters considered in this report, these protected animals could impose significant constraints on the use and timing of access to the site.

7.0 The site

7.1 This property is situated within a leafy, residential part of Berkhamsted.

8.0 The soil and topography

8.1 The soils at this site were determined using information provided by the British Geological Survey and observations during the site visit.

8.2 The site is level with no adverse features, and the soil texture is chalky clay to chalky loam. The soil parent material is chalk.

8.3 The soil is depth is shallow and so a thin soil profile is likely. Digging the Parent Material beneath the soil will be extremely difficult at a depth of half a metre (or possibly less).

8.4 Given the information above, the soil has little potential of becoming compacted (which is harmful to tree roots); however, tree protection will not be relaxed.

9.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) and Tree Protection Methods

9.1 The following section describes the potential effects the construction works will have on the subject trees. Mitigation measures are recommended, and this information should be read in conjunction with the supporting Tree Protection Plan (TPP).

9.2 Further information on the subject trees is provided in Appendices 2 & 3.

9.3 Foundations within RPA of retained trees

9.3.1 The footprint of the timber store falls within the RPA of Scots Pine T2. The RPA incursion has been calculated as follows:

Silver Birch T2 – 2.5m of 168m² = 1.5%

9.3.2 To minimise root disruption during construction and to allow room for root growth post-construction, the building will sit on non-invasive foundations (mini-pile and beam).

9.3.3 There will be no excavations or changes of level within the tree's RPA, and the building will be designed around the need for a slightly raised ground-floor level.

9.3.4 The tree is healthy and will tolerate these minor works. Subsequently, there will be no detrimental effect on the health or appearance of the tree, nor the visual amenity or arboreal character of the area.

9.4 Covering of RPA of retained tree.

9.4.1 A new roof is to be erected between the timber store and the edge of the raised tree pit containing Scots Pine T2.

9.4.2 This new structure is open on three sides and so rainwater will still reach the ground below (which is permeable). However, to improve on this situation, a rainwater pipe will direct all rain water from the roof, into channels cut into the permeable surface below. The sloping land will also help this rain water percolate beneath the timber store.

9.5 Removal and replacement of hard landscaping within RPA of retained trees

9.5.1 The existing hard surface (impermeable blockwork setts) is to be removed and replaced with a new permeable surface (resin bonded gravel / tarmac).

9.5.2 As a result of this work, the permeable surfaces within the front garden will rise from 32% to 80%.

9.5.3 This will provide a significant improvement to rooting conditions around Scots Pine T2.

10.0 Conclusions

10.1 The retained trees will be protected using up-to-date methodology and guidance provided by the current British Standards (BS 58378:2012). To this end, a site-specific AMS and TPP have been provided. These are found in Section 11 and Appendix 9 respectively.

10.2 Provided the recommendations laid out in this report are followed, the proposals will not detrimentally affect the trees or the character / appearance of the local area.

10.3 The trees do not cause any significant conflicts in terms of construction activities, nor will any significant issues of post-development pressure be likely to emerge that could not be managed with routine, minor tree maintenance.

11.0 The Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

11.1 Effective tree protection relies on following a logical sequence of events and arboricultural supervision. This AMS lays down the methodology for all construction works that may influence significant trees and recommendations for arboricultural supervision are provided in Section 12.

11.2 It is essential that this AMS is observed and adhered to. Therefore, a copy of this AMS must be issued to the building contractor to be integrated into their work schedule and must also be permanently made available on-site for the duration of development.

11.3 This AMS should be read in conjunction with the supporting Tree Protection Plan (TPP), which is found in Appendix 9.

11.4 At this site, operations are to occur in the following sequence (refer to Appendix 4 for further details on underlined methodology; which are listed in alphabetical order):

1. Demolish existing buildings.

2. Commence construction of replacement garage.

3. Working from on top of existing hard surfaces and/or suitable ground protection, install non-invasive foundations for timber store.

4. Commence construction of timber store.

5. Working from on top of existing hard surfaces and/or suitable ground protection, excavate post holes (by hand) for the posts to support the new roof between the timber store and tree pit.

6. Install roof.

7. Lay new permeable surfaces.

8. Cut channels into permeable surface beneath the new roof to allow rainwater to percolate (to be connected to rain water pipe)

9. Make good the permeable surface.

10. Carry out landscaping works.

12.0 Arboricultural supervision

12.1 A suitably-qualified arboriculturalist will provide on-going supervision during construction. The occasions when supervision is required are outlined in Table 2. If the LPA wish to see further supervision, this matter can be dealt with by amending the report and/or by condition.

Table 2: Indicative arboricultural supervision requirements

Supervision details	Required (Y / N)	When	Details	Nature	Sign off
Pre-commencement site meeting	N	Prior to any site activity	To ensure contractors are briefed & understand the AMS & TPP. A site supervisor will be appointed to oversee tree protection & the reporting of any damage to trees or deviation from the AMS - to the project arboriculturist / LPA	Informal and open discussions. Induction form signed by attendees	Details of meeting to be sent to LPA within 5 days
Meeting with tree contractors	N	Prior to protective measures being installed	To ensure tree work instructions are clear and understood.	Informal meeting	No follow up required
Protective measure check	N	Prior to any site activity	To ensure that protective measures are fit-for-purposed and correctly positioned.	Photos to be provided to consultant	Details of to be sent to LPA within 5 days
On-going supervision	N	Every 2 weeks during construction	To ensure that the protective measures have not been moved and continue to be fit-for-purpose.	Site meeting with a site monitoring report to be prepared	Details of to be sent to LPA within 5 days
Supervision of excavation works near trees	N	During construction	To supervise key stages of works near trees (insert which / when)	Site meeting with a site monitoring report to be prepared	Details of to be sent to LPA within 5 days
Meeting with landscape contractors	N	After construction	To provide advice on tree / shrub selection (if not conditioned)	Informal meeting	No follow up required

12.2 A site inspection record (see Appendix 8) will be prepared after each visit and will state the condition of tree protection measures and outline any required remedial action (and timescales).

12.3 To demonstrate compliance, and to help the LPA discharge relevant planning conditions, all site monitoring reports will be forwarded to the LPAs arboricultural officer within 5 working days of the visit.

12.4 NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to arrange meeting dates with the arboriculturist.

13.0 Signature

This report represents a true and factual account of the potential arboricultural impacts, and makes recommendations for appropriate protective measures, at the subject property.

Signed

.....

Trevor Heaps

Chartered Arboriculturist

BSc, MICFor, RC. Arbor. A

Dated

16th October 2023

Appendix 1 - Professional résumé

I am Trevor Heaps, Director of Trevor Heaps Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd. I hold a First-Class Honours Degree in Arboriculture; I am a Chartered Arboriculturist and a professional member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters; and I am also a Registered Consultant with the Arboricultural Association.

Professional training

Arboriculture and Bats: Scoping Surveys for Arborists (BCT & AA) – October 2017
Tree Science (AA) – June 2016
OPM (Oak Processionary Moth) Training (FC) – May 2016
Visual Tree Assessment (Arboricultural Association) - October 2015
Trees and the Law (Dr Charles Mynors) - June 2015
Mortgage (Home Buyers) Report Writing (LANTRA / CAS) - February 2015
Tree Preservation Orders - effective application (LANTRA / CAS) - November 2014
Professional Tree Inspection 3-day course (LANTRA / AA) - July 2014
Arboricultural Consultancy Course (AA) - May 2014
Further down the subsidence trail 1-day course (AA) - April 2013
Getting to grips with subsidence 1-day course (AA) - November 2012

AA – Arboricultural Association

BCT – Bat Conservation Trust

CAS – Consulting Arborist Society

FC – Forestry Commission

Appendix 2 - Tree data schedule

Ref	Name	Age	DBH (mm)	Hgt. (m)	Can. hgt. (m)	Can N (m)	Can E (m)	Can S (m)	Can W (m)	Physio cond.	Struct cond.	Life Exp.	Ret. Cat.	Comments	Rec's (proposed works are highlighted)
T1	Pinus sylvestris (Scots Pine)	SM	100	5	2.5	2	2	2	2	Normal	Normal	40+	C2	Newly-planted tree	
T2	Pinus sylvestris (Scots Pine)	M	610	14	6	4	4	6	4	Normal	Normal	40+	A2		
T3	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	EM	450	10	6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	Normal	Normal	40+	B2		
T4	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	EM	250	10	6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	Normal	Normal	40+	B2		
T5	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	EM	400	10	6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	Normal	Normal	40+	B2		

Appendix 3 - Tree data schedule explanatory notes

This section explains the terms used in the Tree data schedule (Appendix 2).

Ref: Each item of vegetation has its own unique number, prefixed by a letter such that:

T1=Tree S2=Shrub or stump G3=Group H4=Hedge W5=Woodland

Species: Latin (and common names in brackets) are given.

Age:

Y - Young - Usually less than 10 years' old

SM - Semi-mature - Significant future growth to be expected, both in height and crown spread (typically below 30% of life expectancy)

EM - Early-mature - Full height almost attained. Significant growth may be expected in terms of crown spread (typically 30-60% of life expectancy)

M - Mature - Full height attained. Crown spread will increase but growth increments will be slight (typically 60% or more of life expectancy)

V - Veteran - A level of maturity whereby significant management may be required to keep the tree in a safe condition

OM – Over-mature - As for veteran except management is not considered worthwhile

DBH (mm): Stem diameter, measured in mm, taken at 1.5m above ground level where possible.

Hgt. (m): Height: Measured from ground level to the top of the crown in metres.

Can Hgt. (m): Crown height: Measured from ground level to the lowest tips of the main crown begins in metres. Where the crown is unbalanced it is measured on the side deemed to be most relevant. This is usually the side facing the area of anticipated development.

Can N, S, E, W: - Canopy extents
Approximate radial crown spread measured to the four cardinal points (for individual trees only)

Physio cond.: Indicates the physiological condition of the tree as one of the following categories:

Normal - Healthy tree with no symptoms of significant disease

Fair - Tree with early signs of disease, small defects, decreased life expectancy, or evidence of less-than-average vigour for the species

Poor - Significant disease present, limited life expectancy, or with very low vigour for the species and evidence of physiological stress

Very poor - Tree is in advanced stages of physiological failure and is dying

Dead - No leaves or signs of life

Struct cond.: Indicates the structural condition of the tree as one of the following categories:

Normal - No significant structural defects noted
Fair - Some structural defects noted but remedial action not required at present
Poor - Significant defects noted resulting in a tree that requires regular monitoring or remedial action
Very poor - Major defects noted that compromise the safety of the tree. Remedial works or tree removal is likely to be required.
Dead - No leaves or signs of life

Life Exp.: The estimated number of years before the tree may require removal (<10), (10 – 20), (20 – 40), or (40+).

Ret. Cat.: - Retention category: BS5837:2012 Category where:

U = Trees unsuitable for retention. Trees in such a condition that cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years. These trees are shown on the tree plans with red centres.

A = Trees of high quality. Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years. These trees are shown on the tree plans with green centres.

B = Trees of moderate quality. Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years. These trees are shown on the tree plans with blue centres.

C = Trees of low quality. Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm. These trees are shown on the tree plans with grey centres.

Trees of notable quality are graded as Category A or Category B. These trees are sometimes divided further into sub-categories:

Sub-category 1 is allocated where it has been assessed that the tree has mainly arboricultural qualities.
Sub-category 2 is allocated where it is assessed that the tree has mainly landscape qualities.
Subcategory 3 is allocated where it is assessed that the tree has mainly cultural qualities, including conservation.

Trees may be allocated more than one sub-category. All sub-categories carry equal weight, with for example an A3 tree being of the same importance and priority as an A1 tree.

Comments: Tree form and pruning history are also recorded along with an account of any significant defects.

Rec's - Recommendations: Usually based on any defects observed and intended to ensure that the tree is in an acceptable condition.

Appendix 4 – Specifications for tree protective measures

Demolition of existing buildings

Any existing structures to be removed, that are within or close to the RPAs of retained trees, shall be demolished using the 'top-down, pull-back' method. This shall proceed in a manner pulling the structure back into itself, working away from all retained / third-party trees.

Any machinery used during the demolition and clearance of existing buildings must work from a position outside of the RPAs of retained trees and/or be positioned on suitable ground protection. The machinery used shall be as small as practicable.

To avoid unnecessary root disruption, the foundations of all demolished buildings (where within in the RPAs of retained trees) shall either be left in situ or broken up by hand (using a pneumatic drill) under arboricultural supervision (if specified).

Excavation of post-hole footings within Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of retained trees

The RPA of the subject tree shall be clearly marked on the ground with fluorescent marker paint - by tying the spray can to its stem using a pre-determined length of string to represent the tree's root protection radius (RPR) and keeping the string taught when spraying the ground. Cross reference the fourth column of the table in Appendix 2 (DBH mm) with the 2nd column in table 1 below to determine the length of string required.

Table 1. The RPRs given below are for single-stemmed trees.
Please contact the project arboriculturist if the subject tree is multi-stemmed.

Single stem diameter (mm)	Radius of nominal circle (m) / RPR	RPA (m^2)	Single stem diameter (mm)	Radius of nominal circle (m) / RPR	RPA (m^2)	Single stem diameter (mm)	Radius of nominal circle (m) / RPR	RPA (m^2)
75	0.9	3	475	5.7	102	875	10.5	346
100	1.2	5	500	6	113	900	10.8	366
125	1.5	7	525	6.3	125	925	11.1	387
150	1.8	10	550	6.6	137	950	11.4	408
175	2.1	14	575	6.9	149	975	11.7	430
200	2.4	18	600	7.2	163	1000	12	452
225	2.7	23	625	7.5	177	1025	12.3	475
250	3	28	650	7.8	191	1050	12.6	499
275	3.3	34	675	8.1	206	1075	12.9	523
300	3.6	41	700	8.4	222	1100	13.2	547
325	3.9	48	725	8.7	238	1125	13.5	572
350	4.2	55	750	9	254	1150	13.8	598
375	4.5	64	775	9.3	272	1175	14.1	624
400	4.8	72	800	9.6	289	1200	14.4	651
425	5.1	82	825	9.9	308	1225	14.7	679
450	5.4	92	850	10.2	327	1250	15	707

A cable avoidance tool (C.A.T.) will then be used to check for underground cables. If found, their locations will be marked with a biodegradable marker paint (using a different colour to the one used to mark the RPAs).

Working off either ground protection or an existing hard surface, the optimal locations for the post-holes (i.e. between roots) will be determined by hand, using tools such as a fork, spade, trowel, stiff brush or an air spade.

If roots below 25mm in diameter are discovered, they can be severed cleanly back to a suitable growth point with sharp secateurs or a sharp pull saw. If roots over 25mm in diameter are discovered, they will be bent / relocated as best as possible. If impractical, then the above process will be repeated.

When the post-hole location(s) have been determined, the remainder of the hole(s) will be hand-dug and lined with plastic sheeting (to avoid concrete residues leaching into rooting area/s of the retained trees).

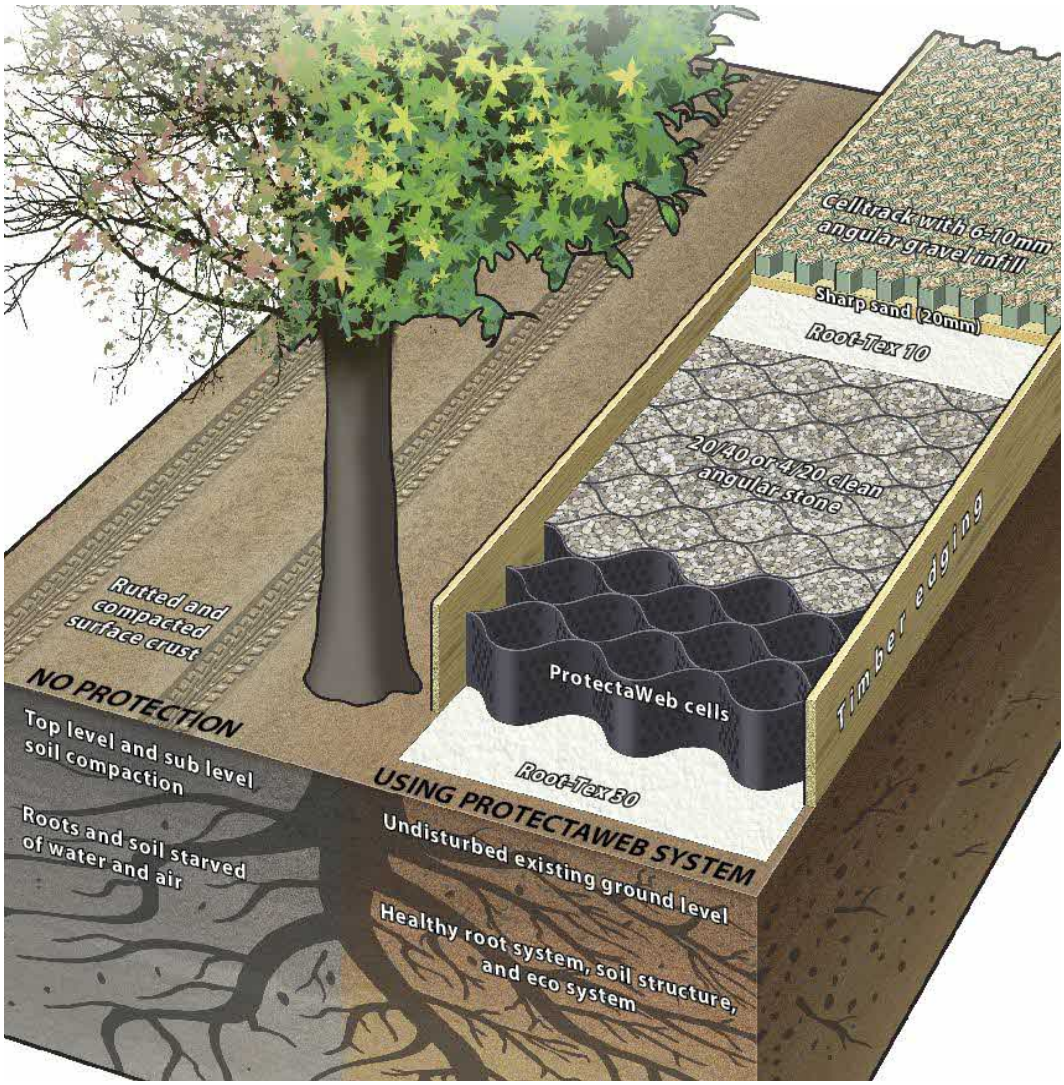
The posts shall then be set in place and back-filled with concrete.

The structure-supporting beam(s) can now be fixed to the posts and construction can commence.

No-dig surface installations

The no-dig construction principles are outlined below and the areas to which they apply are shown on the TPP (shaded with orange honeycomb). A useful example diagram (by Protectoweb) is shown below (Figure 4).

Figure 4: A good example of the principles of a no-dig surface.



The surface vegetation will be treated with a suitable systemic herbicide and then removed by hand.

Any localised depressions will be filled in with sharp sand (not builders' sand, which has a high salt content) to create an even surface profile. The area will not be 'rolled' or consolidated in any way.

Timber edging boards (or similar) will be installed along the perimeter of the no-dig area. The fixing posts and pegs for the edging boards will be located carefully to avoid damaging to tree roots.

A layer of geotextile fabric will be laid across the 'no-dig' area, overlapping adjacent rolls by a minimum of 150mm (it may be necessary to lightly pin the geotextile in place until the overlying layers are installed).

The 3D Cellular Confinement System (3DCCS) will be opened, laid and pinned in place between the edging boards (it may be necessary to cut it to size using a sharp knife, or it can be left uncut and folded up against the edgings if preferred).

The system is available in various depths for varying loadings, but each site should have a specific design detailed to ensure the correct depth of product is used. Unless the existing ground conditions are very soft then the following can apply:

50mm deep for Pedestrians and Cycleways, non-vehicular traffic

75mm deep for Pedestrians, Cycleways and vehicles (up to 1.5 tons)

100mm deep for Cars, 4 x Wheel Drives, Vans etc. (up to 6 tons)

150mm deep for Fire Trucks, Removal Vehicles and Dust Carts (up to 20 tons)

200mm deep for construction vehicles, cranes etc. (40 tons and above)

The 3DCCS will be pinned in place using steel fixing pins to keep it open and fully expanded position whilst the cells are being filled and to stop the structure from being pushed up by migrating aggregate during the filling process. The fixing pins will be driven in so that they are just touching the top of the cells but do not compress the fabric.

The 3DCCS will be filled with clean, open-graded angular aggregate, normally in the particle size range of 5mm - 45mm, working toward the tree(s) from the furthest point away and using the filled sections as a platform.

A light vibratory compaction plate (whacker) will be used to settle the stone into the cells and the permeable surface will then be installed on top of the filled, cellular confinement system.
If the proportion of RPA covered by a no-dig surface is greater than 20%, the wearing surface must be permeable.

Photo 3: Three stages of a 'no-dig' driveway under construction.

Non-invasive foundation designs

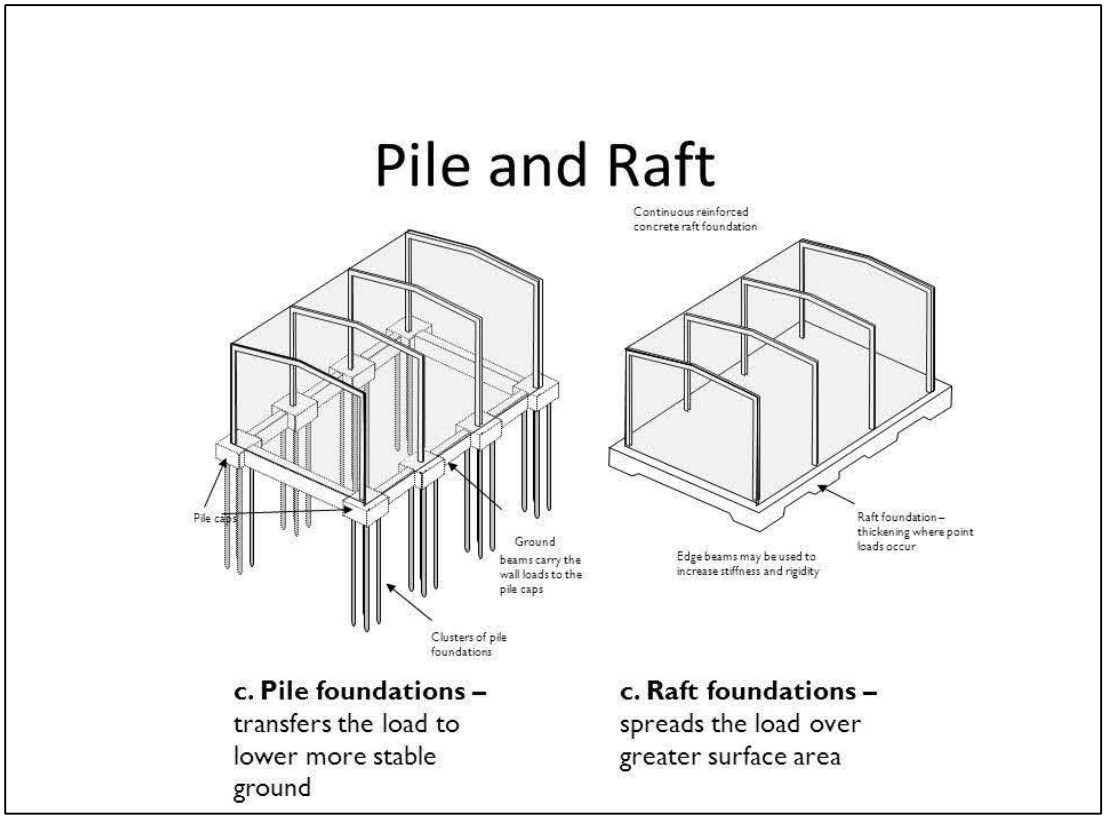
To minimise root disruption, non-invasive foundations (such as pile and beam or ground screws) will be used to support the structure and the following guidance shall be followed: A useful example diagram (by Professor Chris Gorse & Ian Dickinson) is provided below (Figure 3).

The RPAs of the affected tree(s) will be marked on the ground with biodegradable marker paint.

A cable avoidance tool (C.A.T.) will then be used to check for underground cables. If found, their locations will be marked with a biodegradable marker paint (using a different colour to the one used to mark the RPAs).

Working off either ground protection or an existing hard surface, the optimal locations (between roots) for the piles / ground screws will be determined by hand, using tools such as a fork, spade, trowel, stiff brush or an air spade.

Figure 3: A good example of commonly used non-invasive foundations.
Note – to avoid tree root damage, the ground beam / raft MUST sit at / above ground level.



If roots below 25mm in diameter are discovered, they can be severed cleanly back to a suitable growth point with sharp secateurs or a sharp pull saw. If roots over 25mm in diameter are discovered, they will be bent / relocated as best as possible. If impractical, then the process (from 4.4.4) will be repeated.

When the location(s) for the piles / ground screws have been determined, the piling / screwing rig (which shall be as small as practically possible) shall work from on top of suitable ground protection (see 4.1) or a pre-existing hard surface.

The structure-supporting beam(s) can now be fixed to the top of the piles / ground screws and construction can commence. Note: The underside of the proposed structure / floor-base will sit on top of the highest level of the trees' RPAs (i.e. there will no alteration of ground levels).

If required, engineering methods can be used to direct moisture to the underlying tree roots.

The foundations will need to be designed by a structural engineer (https://www.istructe.org/).

Details of the foundations must be submitted and approved in writing by the LPA.

Removal of existing hard surfaces / rubble

Working off either an existing hard surface or suitable ground protection, machinery can be used to carefully peel back and remove existing tarmac or concrete. Other surfaces, such as rubble or block paving, must be removed by hand.

Sub-bases can be removed mechanically if it is unlikely that roots will be found beneath it (this must be approved by the arboricultural consultant). Underlying (soft) ground levels must be retained and will not be excavated.

All newly exposed soil and exposed roots will be covered with damp hessian or 100 mm of topsoil.

Machinery can be used to move the topsoil close to the exposed area, but the topsoil itself will be spread by hand.

Machinery will not be sited on any exposed rooting area / RPA.

Resin-bonded surface

Working off suitable ground protection, the existing hard surface shall be removed by hand (see methodology below) or the existing vegetation shall be treated with a suitable systemic herbicide. When the vegetation has died, the turf layer (usually about 5cm deep) will be removed (using hand tools).

Working with the new bare surface, any localised depressions will be filled in with sharp sand (not builders' sand, which has a high salt content) to create an even surface profile. The area will not be 'rolled' or consolidated in any way.

Once the even surface profile has been formed, a layer of geotextile fabric will be laid across the 'no-dig' area and a gravel grid (or similar low profile 3D cellweb system) will be laid on top. In principle, this system will normally be cellular and filled with crushed stone, although the detail may vary with different products. The new resin-bonded surface can now be laid.

Conventional kerb edges (set in concrete-filled trenches) are likely to result in damage to roots and should be avoided. Edge retention in RPAs must be designed to avoid any significant excavation into existing soil levels (BS 5837, 7.4.3) and there are several approaches that are fit for this purpose: Railway sleepers pinned in place or wooden boards are two options, depending on the expected loading of the surfacing. A permeable soil fill can then be used to batter the grade back down to the existing soil level.

Photo. An example of a resin bonded driveway being laid on a gravel grid system.

Soft landscaping within or close to the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of retained trees

The following precautions are necessary to avoid damage to trees (where activities are to take place within their RPAs):

Ground levels will not be changed;

Soil must be of good quality and free of contaminants and other foreign objects potentially injurious to tree roots. The topsoil must satisfy the requirements of BS3882:200;

No heavy machinery will be operated within the RPAs of retained trees during the installation of soft landscaping;

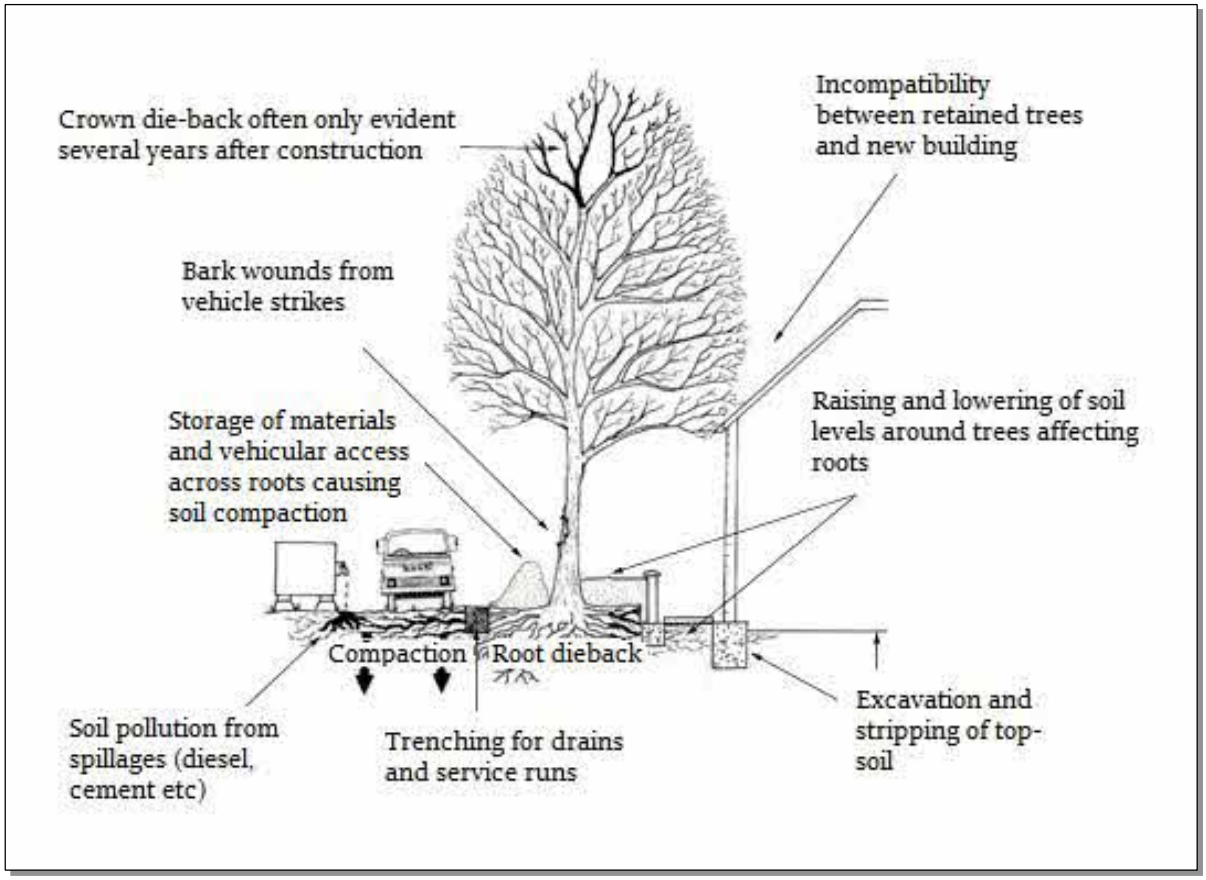
Unwanted vegetation shall be removed manually or by using systemic herbicide that will not damage tree roots;

No fuels or chemicals shall be used or stored within these areas; and

No irrigation or drainage pipes shall be installed within the RPAs

Appendix 5 – General precautions and further information

Figure 4: Common problems for trees on development sites
(http://www.leics.gov.uk/highway_req_development_part7_appendix_f)



5.1 Services and drainage: Surface run-off water shall be sent to existing drains and/or soakaways located outside the RPAs of retained tree(s). If trenching is required within the RPA of retained trees to provide routes for services, this work shall be undertaken using mole boring and / or hand digging (under arboricultural supervision).

5.2 Storage of materials: No materials or spoil are to be stored within areas protected by protective fencing and/or ground protection. The same applies for existing hard surfaces that are being used as ground protection.

5.3 Spillages: If any cement residues fall within root protection areas, it shall be swept up, bagged and removed from site – it shall not be washed away with water.

5.4 Demolition: Where any existing structures are to be demolished, they will be done so inwardly (away from root protection areas / retained soil).

5.5 Levels: There is to be no alteration of ground levels within the area protected by protective fencing and/or ground protection, unless previously specified and agreed upon. The same applies for existing hard surfaces that are being used as ground protection.

5.6 Fires: No fires are to be lit within 20 metres of the stems of retained trees.

5.7 Above ground damage to trees: Care must be taken in planning the location and operation of machinery to avoid above ground damage to trees. BS5837 (2012) Section 6.2.4.1 states 'Planning of site operations should take sufficient account of wide loads, tall loads and plant with booms, jibs and counterweights (including drilling rigs) in order that they can operate without contacting retained trees. Such contact can result in serious damage to trees and might make their safe retention impossible. Consequently, any transit or traverse of plant in proximity to trees should be conducted under the supervision of a banksman, to ensure that adequate clearance of trees is always maintained. Access facilitation pruning should be undertaken where necessary to maintain this clearance.

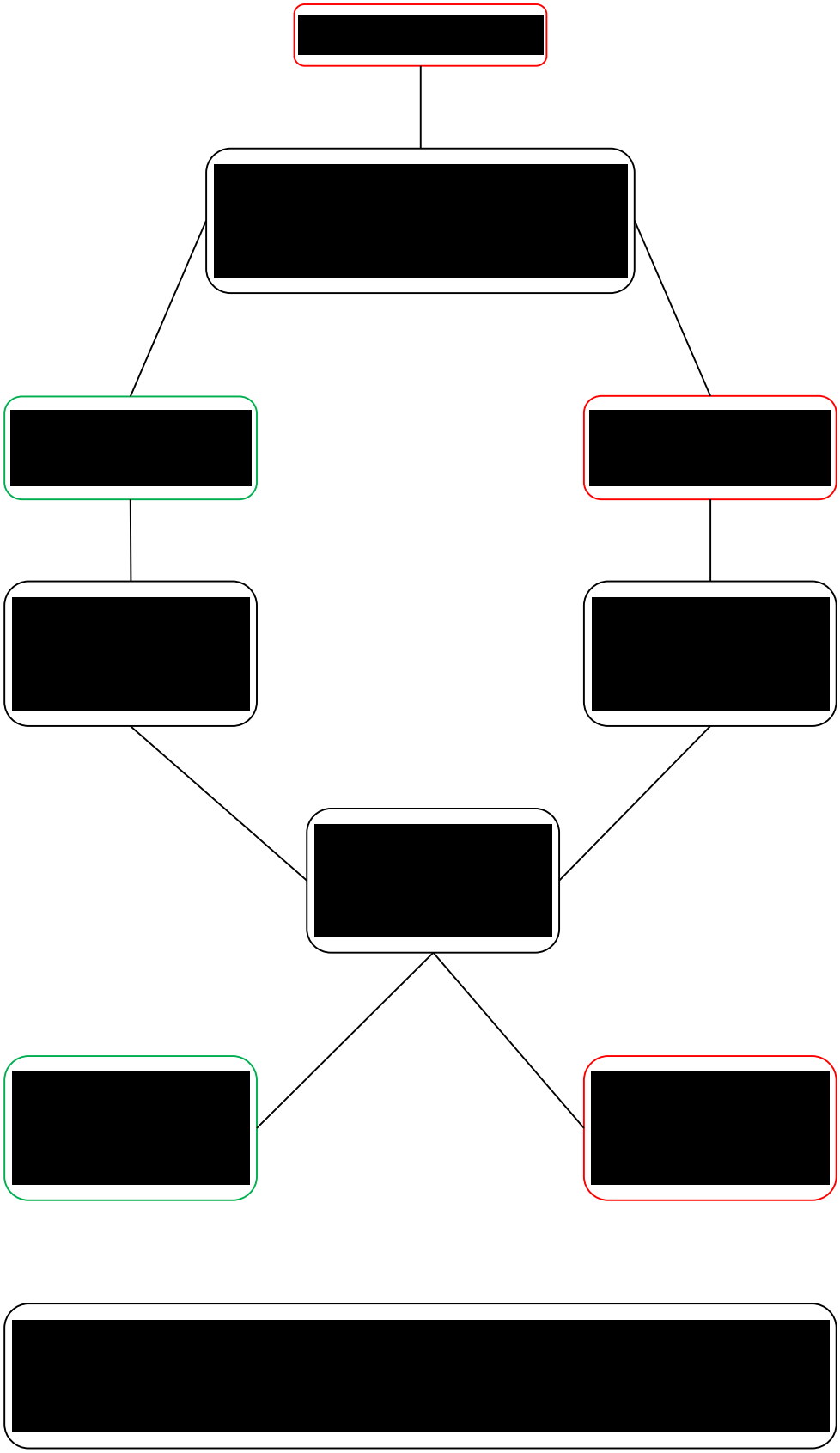
5.8 Remedial works and soil improvement: Exposed soils are easily compacted resulting in loss of water and gaseous exchange; this can lead to root death (and subsequently tree death).

5.8.1 To relieve ground compaction, which may have resulted from the use of vehicles or by the storage of materials, the soils should be broken up to allow air to penetrate and for the soil structure to be restored. There are various methods to achieve this, such as: auguring the soil by hand / fork or pneumatic excavation (e.g. with an air spade); both should be combined with soil structure improvements (see 5.8.2).

5.8.2 The soil structure can be improved by incorporating a compost or mulch within the topsoil, of 75-100mm in depth. This can be spread over the surface and gently forked into the soil. If bark chip is used as mulch, NPK fertilizer should be added to counteract the nitrogen depletion of the soil. There is also the option of adding mycorrhizal fungal which may also improve root function.

5.9 Choosing an arborist: When appointing a tree works contractor, please only use properly qualified and experienced companies who comply with current British Standards (3998) and always check that they carry Public Liability Insurance within a minimum of £2,000,000 cover, and the relevant Employers Liability Insurance. A list of contractors approved by the Arboricultural Association can be found at www.trees.org.uk or by calling 01242 522 152.

Appendix 6 - Procedure to follow in case of damage to retained trees



Appendix 7 - Induction form for all site personnel

Site name: .....

App. No.: .....

Appointed Site Supervisor: .....

I have had explained to me by the Site Manager the key implications of the Arboricultural Method Statement relating to the development at the above site.

I am aware that trees have shallow roots and any excavation works beneath the canopy could cause irreparable damage.

I am aware that the tree protective fencing / ground protection must remain in its original position and must not be moved without the approval of the appointed Arboricultural Consultant.

I understand that certain operations must be supervised by the appointed Arboricultural Consultant and that these must not start until the consultant is present and has given approval.

I confirm that I will bring any concerns about potential damage to trees to the attention of the Site Manager.

I am aware that I must not cause damage to any of the retained trees on or adjacent to the site. Damage may be caused by direct means (i.e. physical damage caused to roots or the trunk/branches of the tree) or by indirect means (e.g. by fire or toxic materials entering the rooting environment of the tree).

Print Name: .....

Sign Name: .....

Date: .....

Appendix 8 - Site inspection record

Date: Time:	Planning reference:
.....	.....
Site:	
.....	

Those present in addition to project arboriculturist:

Client / Agent: .....

Project / Site manager: .....

LPA arboricultural officer: .....

Other (specify): .....

	Yes	No	Notes
Tree protection measures located in accordance with TPP?			
Any disturbance within construction exclusion zone?			
Any materials stored within construction exclusion zone?			
Any evidence of damage to tree roots, stems or canopies?			
Any works programmed before next planned site visit that may affect retained trees? (if yes, provide details below)			

Additional site visit required to ensure compliance with required action? (Y / N)

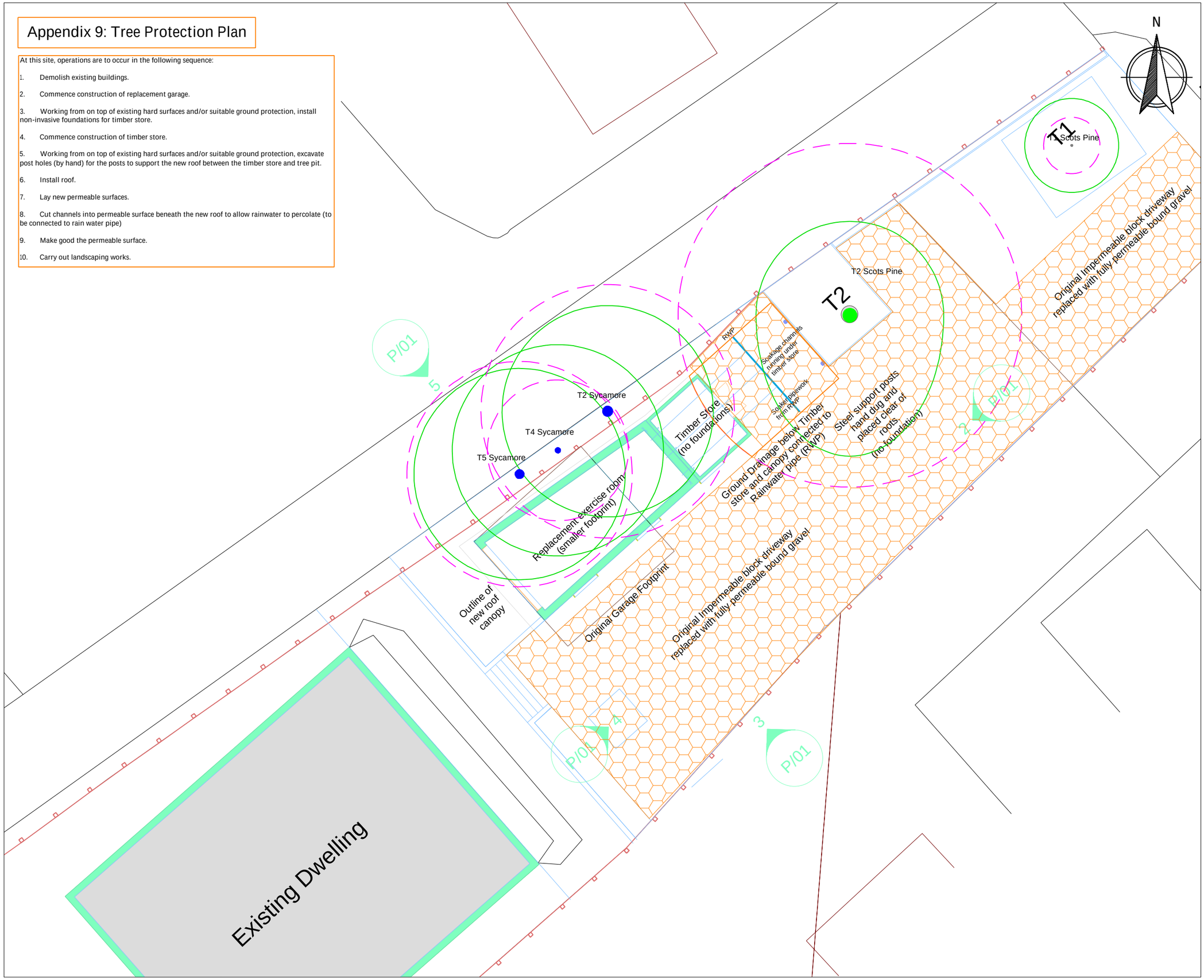
Proposed visit date:

Signed: Date:

Appendix 9: Tree Protection Plan

At this site, operations are to occur in the following sequence:

1. Demolish existing buildings.
2. Commence construction of replacement garage.
3. Working from on top of existing hard surfaces and/or suitable ground protection, install non-invasive foundations for timber store.
4. Commence construction of timber store.
5. Working from on top of existing hard surfaces and/or suitable ground protection, excavate post holes (by hand) for the posts to support the new roof between the timber store and tree pit.
6. Install roof.
7. Lay new permeable surfaces.
8. Cut channels into permeable surface beneath the new roof to allow rainwater to percolate (to be connected to rain water pipe)
9. Make good the permeable surface.
10. Carry out landscaping works.



Plan Legend

- Tree/s to be retained
- Tree/s to be removed
- Centre colours
- Category A Tree
- Category B Tree
- Category C Tree
- Category U Tree
- Root Protection Area (RPA) If amended, the original is a dotted blue circle
- RPA Incursion. Area covered by new roof and timber store (where non-invasive foundations are to be used)
- New permeable surfaces (replacing non-permeable)

Scale: 1:150 @ A3 (0, 3m, 6m)

Site Address: High Firs, Meadway
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 2PL

Client: Mr & Mrs Wade
Drawing No: TH/A3/4174/TPP

Job Ref: TH 4174 | Date: 16/10/2023

Trevor Heaps
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End of Report