RMTTree Consultancy Ltd
36 Chetwode Place, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 4BS – [redacted]

BS5837:2012
Arboricultural Survey
Impact Assessment
&
Arboricultural Method Statement

Site Address:
The Spinney
Northington
Alresford
Hampshire
SO24 9TH

Robert Toll
HND Urban Forestry - ND Forestry - MArborA
Ref: RMT869
Site inspection date: 19th June 2023
Date report published: 5th July 2023
Prepared for Ben Flewett and Rachel Hine

Arboricultural ASSOCIATION Professional Member
PRO2239

Contents

Appendices

1 Instructions

1.1 I was instructed on behalf of the client by Brandon Lashley of MVL Architects on the 12th June 2023 to undertake a survey of trees that are on or adjacent to The Spinney, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9TH in accordance with *British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.

1.2 I am a qualified arboriculturalist as it is detailed at **Appendix 7** and this report has been produced in support of a planning application to Winchester City Council for demolition of existing bungalow with the construction of new replacement dwelling.

2 Introduction

Site Description

2.1 The site consists of bungalow located in the north-eastern corner. Access to the site is provide via a shared access from the eastern side of the site, with the driveway east, west and opening into a small parking area adjacent to the eastern elevation of the house. To the south of the drive is woodland (the spinney).

Image 1 – The Spinney, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9TH is shown by an indicative yellow line

Image courtesy of Google Map Data © 2023

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 Prior to visiting the property I was not supplied with a topographical survey.

2.4 I have annotated the trees, groups, woodland and hedge onto the plans to the best of my ability. I did this by taking measurements from known site features annotated on the ordnance survey drawing and plotting the trees and groups accordingly.

2.5 I have indicatively drawn the outline of the existing driveway onto the tree constraints plan shown at **Appendix 3** to best of my ability.

2.6 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.

2.7 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

2.8 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.

2.9 On the 5th July 2023 I carried out a check on the Winchester City Council online protected tree maps. They indicate that there is a TPO, reference 00419-2003-TPO with the suffix “G1” covering the wooded area adjacent to the south of the bungalow and drive. I have not seen a copy of the TPO document to clarify what is protected as part of the group TPO.

2.10 Trees protected by a TPO or Conservation Area 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.

2.11 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 19th June 2023 and surveyed a total of nine trees, two groups, one hedge and one woodland. The surveyed trees, groups, hedge and woodland 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 four trees, one group and one woodland 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	Dead trees
-	T1, T2, T4, W9, T10	T3, T5, T6, T7, T12, H13	G8	-

2.14 It was noted that there are other trees that are located on or adjacent to The Spinney, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9TH 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**.

2.16 In some instances the diameter measurement has been taken at a height other than 1.5m due to such things as low fork unions. Where this has occurred, I have detailed this in the tree survey schedule shown at **Appendix 2**.

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**.

Root protection area (RPA) definition

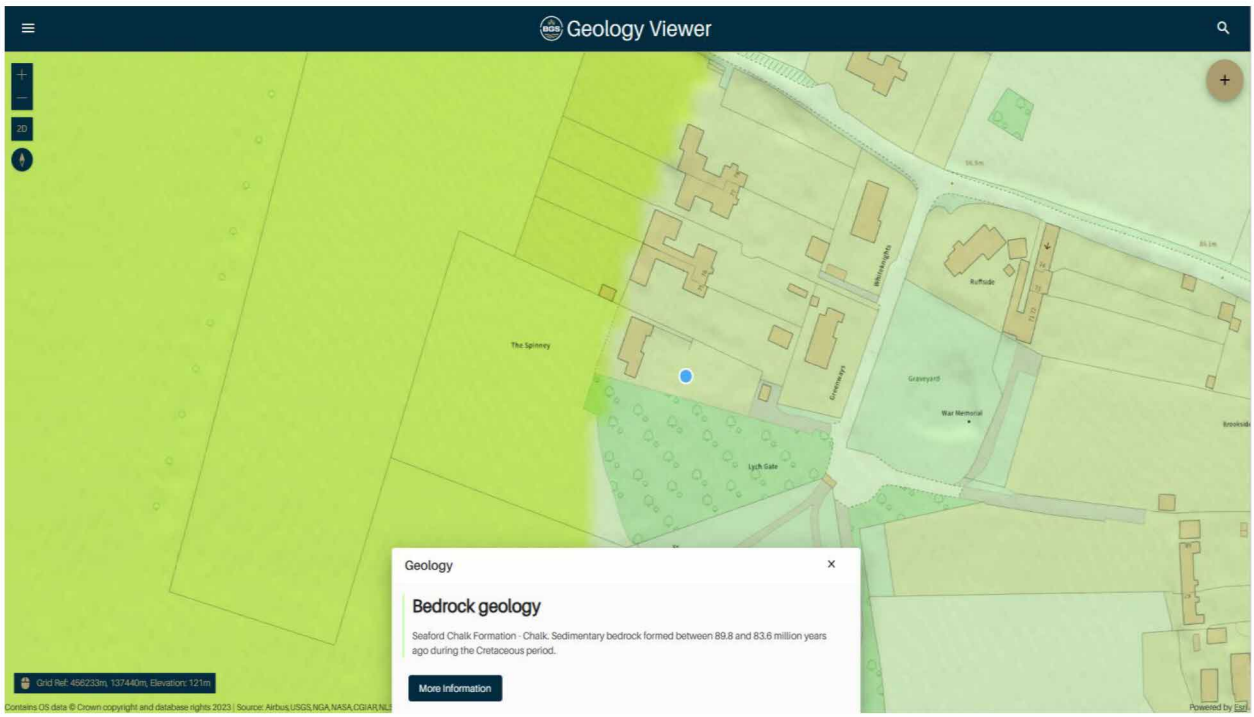
2.18 The RPA is a layout design tool indicating the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree’s viability and where the protection of the roots and soil structure are treated as a priority.

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 Seaford Chalk Formation. This means that the underlying soil is non-shrinkable and as such foundations should not need to be deepened. This is because the soil type will not expand and contract as their moisture content changes 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 1 – The Geology of Britain Viewer 1:50,000 scale indicates that the underlying geology at The Spinney, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9TH is non-shrinkable Seaford Chalk Formation.



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 removals

4.2 To facilitate development, it will be necessary to remove one category C tree T6. Tree T6 is a small specimen which is of little wider public or landscape value. It is removal is therefore considered to be acceptable on this occasion to provide space for construction.

Access facilitation pruning

4.3 To provide space for construction the northern canopy of tree T7 will require reduction by circa 1.5m to line of the tree protection fencing. Tree T7 is a tree of relatively low value in the landscape and the works will remove small diameter branches. As such the works are considered acceptable.

4.4 To maintain adequate clearances for construction vehicles using the existing access tree T10 and group G11 will require crown lifting works to main a clearance of c5m above ground level. These works will result in the removal of mostly small diameter branches which will not be a material risk to the trees. As such the works are considered acceptable.

4.5 All of the access facilitation works are set out at **Appendix 2**.

Tree protection fencing

4.6 Tree protection fencing will be required throughout the construction process to restrict construction access within the RPAs of trees T1 – T5 and T7, and woodland W9. 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**.

4.7 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.

4.8 A notice will be attached to the fencing which says ‘Tree Protection Area. Keep Out!’

4.9 Tree T10 and group G11 are growing behind a wooden fence which will provide adequate protection during development.

4.10 Tree T12 will be adequately protected by hedge H13 so temporary tree protection fencing will not be required during development.

Ground protection

4.11 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 tree T1 there will be a requirement for construction access within its RPA throughout development. Where it is considered that the construction working space or temporary access is justified within its RPA, 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**.

4.12 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.

Deliveries of building materials

4.13 The size of vehicles delivering building materials to the site will need to be of a suitable size to avoid harm to the lower canopies of tree T10 and group G11. Access facilitation works have been specified for these trees to provide a clearance of 5m above ground level.

Areas for site compounds, storage and mixing

4.14 Site compounds will be located away from trees wherever possible and ideally 2m from any protective barriers.

4.15 On this occasion it is proposed to utilise the gravel hardstanding to the north of the driveway for the site compound, storage and mixing as shown at **Appendix 4**.

Services

4.16 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.

Conclusions

4.17 I visited The Spinney, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9TH on 19th May 2023 and surveyed a total of nine tree, two groups, one woodland and one hedge in accordance with BS5837: 2012.

4.18 At the time of my survey four trees, one group and one woodland were considered to be category B and moderate value. The remaining group, hedge and trees are considered to be category C or U and low value.

4.19 All trees were categorised in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 as shown at **Appendix 1**.

4.20 The development will require the removal of one category C tree to facilitate development.

4.21 The removal of C category trees should not be a material constraint to development.

4.22 Minor works to reduce the northern canopy of category C tree T7 have been specified to facilitate development.

4.23 Crown lifting works to the canopies of tree T10 and group G11, both category B, have been specified over the existing access to provide clearance for vehicles passing under their canopies.

4.24 The trees to be retained will be protected during development and methods for ensuring their protection have been described.

4.25 The development is sympathetic to the leafy character of the area.

5 Arboricultural Method Statement

Access facilitation works

5.1 The agreed pruning works and tree removal will be carried out as preliminary works as detailed at **Appendix 2**. These works will be carried out by suitably qualified arborists to the standards set out in BS3998: 2010 Tree works – recommendations. Heavy machinery must not be used on unprotected ground.

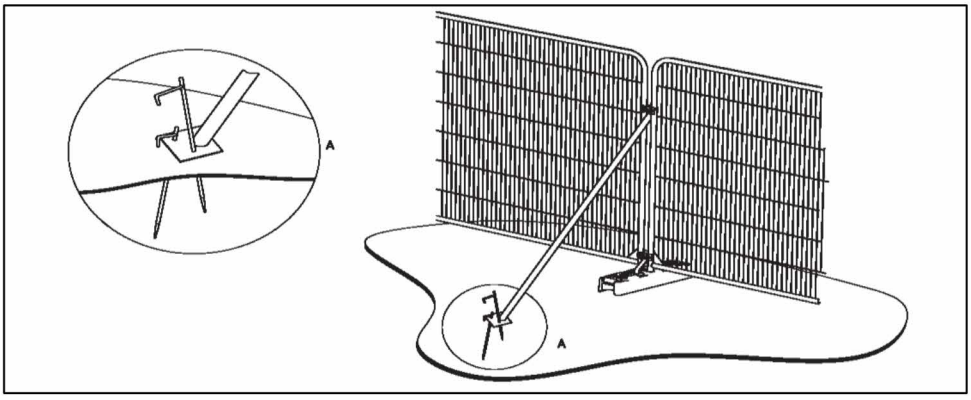
Pre-commencement meeting

5.2 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.

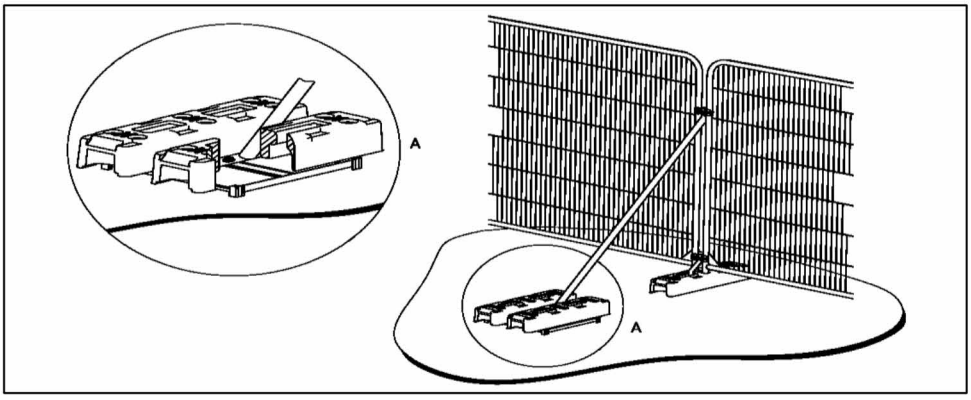
Protective barriers/fencing

5.3 All tree protection barriers will be erected in the positions shown in **Appendix 4** and in accordance with the specifications detailed in Figures 2 and 3.

Figures 2 and 3 – 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

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

Figures 4 – Examples of tree protection warning sign.

5.5 All ground protection will be laid as follows:

Specification of temporary ground protection within RPAs

5.6 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 5 and 6). The plywood may need to be coated with a non-slip paint.

Figure 5 – Specification for ply board ground protection

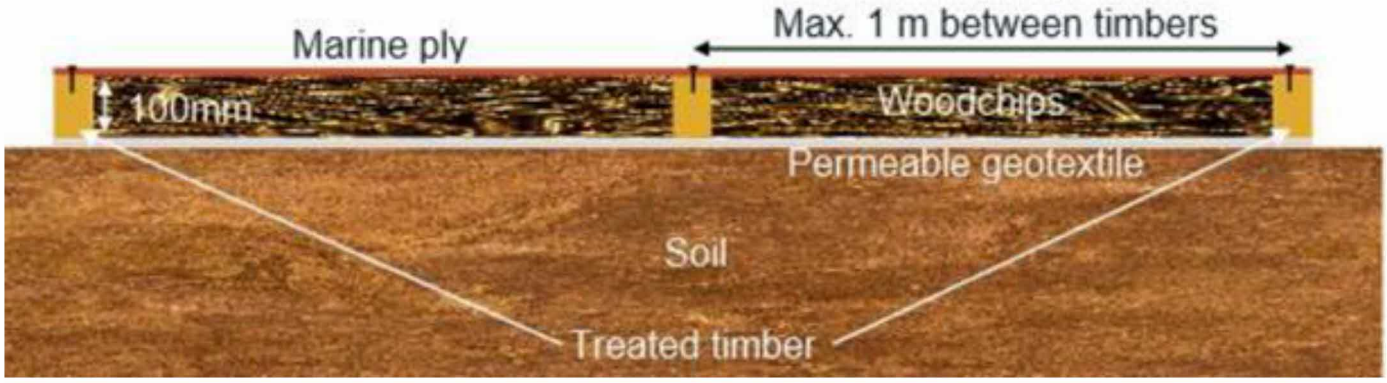


Figure 6 – Plywood sheeting used as ground protection.

5.7 Single thickness of scaffold boards placed on top of driven scaffold frame to form a suspended walkway (Figure 7)

Figure 7 – Specification for scaffold ground protection.

5.8 Development can commence in accordance with the planning consent.

5.9 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
Category U 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	• 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. *NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see* ***4.5 of BS5837:2012***			RED RGB 127.000.000
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	
Category A **Trees of high quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	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).	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features.	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	LIGHT GREEN RGB 000.255.000
Category B **Trees of moderate quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	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.	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.	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	MID BLUE RGB 000.000.255
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	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories.	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.	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.	GREY RGB 091.091.091

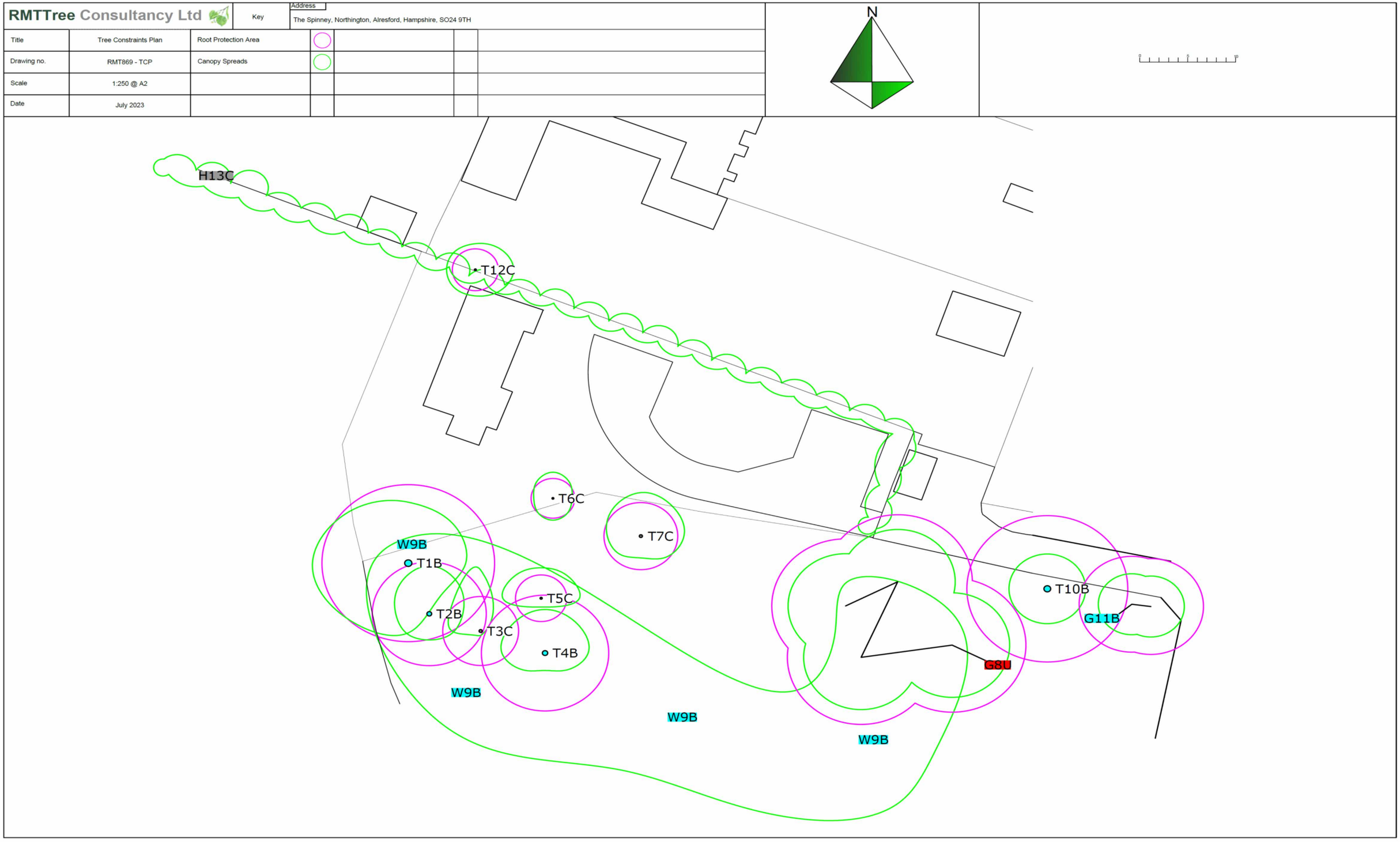
Appendix 2 - Tree survey schedule

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	Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*	17m	751mm	N7m E6m SE5m S8m W10m	3m	Mature	Good	Good	Woodland edge tree. Co-dominant form with adjacent trees.	20+	B	9.0m	255.1m²
T2	Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*	19m	496mm	N5.5m E3.5m S3m W3.5m	1.5m	Mature	Good	Good	Woodland edge tree. Co-dominant form with adjacent trees.	20+	B	6.0m	111.3m²
T3	Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*	13m	330mm	N7m NE1.5m E0.5m S0.5m W3m	0.5m	Semi mature	Good	Fair	Previously lost central stem at 4m.	10+	C	4.0m	49.3m²
T4	Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*	22m	554mm @1m	N5m E4.5m S2m W4.5m	1m	Mature	Good	Good	Woodland edge tree. Co-dominant form with adjacent trees.	20+	B	6.6m	138.8m²
T5	Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*	11m	223mm	N3.5m E4m S1m W4m	2.5m	Semi mature	Good	Good	Woodland edge tree. Co-dominant form with adjacent trees.	10+	C	2.7m	22.5m²
T6	Highclere Holly *(Ilex X altaclarensis)*	6m	190mm	N3m E2m S2.5m W2m	0.5m	Young	Good	Good	Unremarkable tree. **Works required for development:** Remove tree.	10+	C	2.3m	16.3m²
T7	Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*	11m	247mm 205mm	N5m E4.5m S2.5m W3.5m	1m	Semi mature	Good	Fair	Twin-stemmed from 0.7m. **Works required for development:** Reduce northern crown by c1.5m to the line of the tree protection fencing.	10+	C	3.9m	46.6m²

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
G8	Group of Common Ash *(x4)*	26m	Max 638mm	N6m E6m S6m W6m	5m	Mature	Fair	Good	Symptoms of Ash Dieback within crowns.	<10	U	7.7m	184.1m²
W9	Woodland predominantly consisting of Sycamore Common Ash	25m	-	-	-	Mature	Good	Good	Predominantly Sycamore with Ash interspersed. Ash with symptoms of Ash Dieback.	20+	B	-	-
T10	Common Yew *(Taxus baccata)*	10m	700mm est	N4m E4m S4m W4m	4m	Mature	Good	Good	**Works required for development:** Crown lift over access to provide c5m clearance above ground level.	20+	B	8.4m	221.7m²
G11	Group of Common Yew *(x2)*	10m	Max 462mm	N3.5m E3.5m S3.5m W3.5m	3m	Mature	Good	Good	**Works required for development:** Crown lift over access to provide c5m clearance above ground level.	20+	B	5.5m	96.6m²
T12	Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*	9m	200mm est	N3m E4m S3m W3m	7m	Semi mature	Good	Good	Unremarkable tree.	10+	C	2.4m	18.1m²
H13	Hedge consisting of Common Beech Leyland cypress	5m	-	N0.5m E0.5m S0.5m W0.5m	0m	Semi mature	Good	Good	Hedge.	10+	C	-	-

Appendix 3 – Tree Constraints Plan – RMT869 – 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 @ A2.



Appendix 4 – Tree Protection Plan – RMT869 – 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 @ A2.

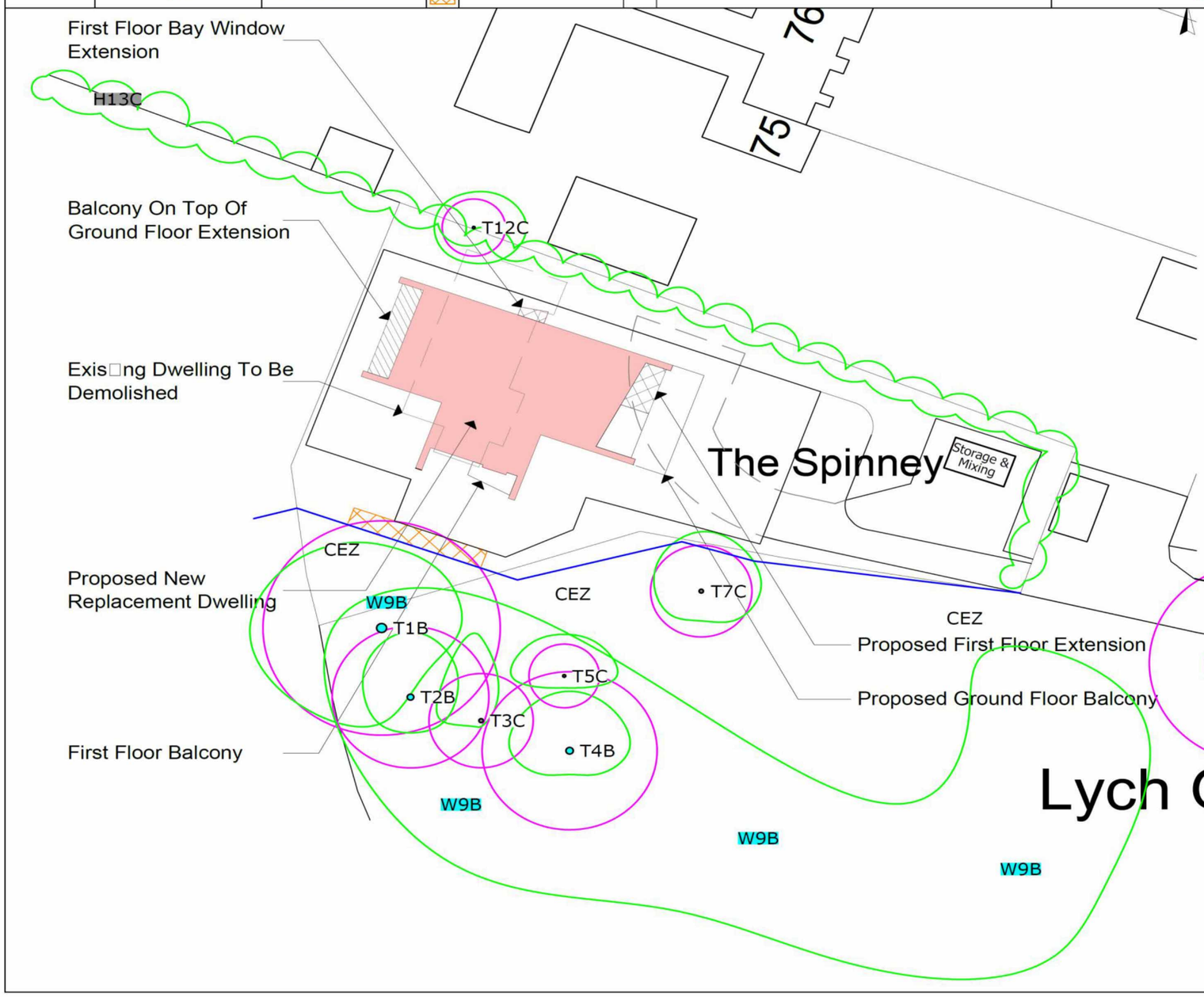
RMTTree Consultancy Ltd

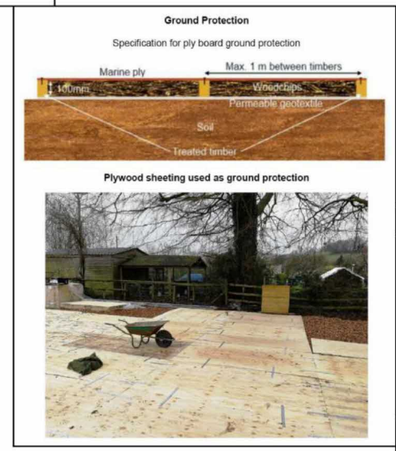
Key

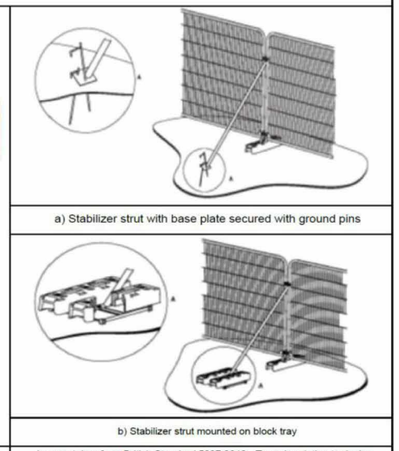
Address: The Spinney, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9TH

Title	Tree Protection Plan	Root Protection Area		Construction Exclusion Zone	CEZ
Drawing no.	RMT869 - TPP	Canopy Spreads			
Scale	1:250 @ A2	Tree Protection Fencing			
Date	July 2023	Ground Protection			

N







a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins

b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray

Images taken from British Standard 5837:2012 - Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations

TREE PROTECTION AREA

TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY PLANNING CONDITIONS AND ARE SUBJECTS OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)

CONTRAVENTION OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS MAY LEAD TO **CRIMINAL PROSECUTION**

THE FOLLOWING **MUST** BE OBSERVED BY ALL PERSONS:-

- THE PROTECTIVE FENCING MUST NOT BE REMOVED
- NO PERSON SHALL ENTER THE PROTECTED AREA
- NO MACHINE OR PLANT SHALL ENTER THE PROTECTED AREA
- NO MATERIALS SHALL BE STORED IN THE PROTECTED AREA
- NO SPOIL SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE PROTECTED AREA
- NO EXCAVATION SHALL OCCUR IN THE PROTECTED AREA

ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSON OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

KEEP OUT!

Root Protection Area and Construction Exclusion Zones

- All tree protection measures will be erected as agreed within the BS5837:2012 Arboricultural Survey, Implications Assessment and Arboricultural Method Statement;
- There will be access to foot or vehicular traffic within fenced off areas once development (including demolition) has commenced;
- Once development (including demolition) has commenced the tree protection must not be moved for any reason without the written consent of the local planning authority;
- There will be no excavations, storage of materials, mixing of materials or dumping of spoil within construction exclusion zones (CEZ) unless agreed in writing with the local planning authority;
- All caustic substances e.g. oil, diesel, cement etc will not be stored within 2m of CEZs;
- No fires will be lit within 10m of CEZs or tree canopies;
- Protection area signage will be displayed on protective barriers for the duration of development;

PLEASE BE AWARE – The tree protection specified on this tree protection plan and within the Arboricultural Survey, Implications Assessment and Arboricultural Method Statement document are conditioned to be erected. Failure to protect trees in full accordance with the approved scheme is likely to result in local planning authority taking enforcement action, including prosecution.

Specification for scaffold ground protection.

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.	✓
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 – 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 preservations 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.