Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan.

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1. Summary

This statement has been produced to inform a planning application for the replacement of an existing extension (known as the Pavillion) of a property located at The Old Vicarage, Main Street, Winwick, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 5PN.

The Site and proposed development have been assessed in accordance with the relevant British Standard, BS 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations'.

The following information does not constitute a health and safety survey or report. Where concerns for tree health and safety exist the necessary and appropriate tree inspections should be undertaken.

This report considers only the arboricultural component of the Site. It does not include the fauna, or the entire flora present on the Site and should not be used as an ecological appraisal.

The Arboricultural survey was carried out in December 2024.

2. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide local planning authorities with sufficient arboricultural information to consider the effect of the proposed development on nearby trees, and to demonstrate that trees have been carefully considered throughout the development process.

The report includes an arboricultural method statement that describes how work will be undertaken to provide adequate protection of retained trees.

3. Associated Documents and Drawings

This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents and drawings:

1. 1100/PC01
2. British Standards Institute- BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations

4. Site Description

The Site is a detached residential dwelling in the rural village of Winwick in Cambridgeshire. The proposal is a 1.5 storey side extension, replacing an existing building of identical footprint.

The site falls under the jurisdiction of Huntingdonshire District Council and a search on their website shows there are no Tree Preservation Orders on or close to the site and it was not within a Conservation Area.

5. Vegetation Description

The Site has mature trees present, notably, adjacent to western boundary. Some tree protection measures and working methodology (in accordance with BS 5837:2012) will ensure they are not detrimentally affected during construction.

6. Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Table 1: Summary of Impacts	
Tree removal	None
Facilitation pruning	T9, T10 and T11 where applicable.
Demolition within RPA	None
New surfacing within RPA	None
New structures withing RPA	None

Building construction in relation to tree roots: No tree removal is required to facilitate the development. Any tree protection barriers should only be moved as far as is required to allow the following and at no point should plant/machinery be allowed to enter the RPA. All works within and close to the RPA's of retained trees will be carried out by hand using hand handheld portable specialist equipment. An airspade will be used to investigate, by hand, the proposed foundation locations within the RPA to a depth of at least 500mm. The purpose of this is to ensure that there are no significant tree roots in that location. If roots above 25mm in diameter are discovered, these should be covered with damp hessian to protect them from damage and desiccation then work should be halted and advise from an Arboriculturalist should be sought. Once it has been determined that no significant detriment will be affected to any tree, any roots present can be severed using a sharp saw. The area should then be backfilled with no fines aggregates.

Building construction in relation to tree crowns: T9, T10 and T11 have low branches that

overhang the site and are close to the existing roof of the Pavillion. The low branches are also potentially vulnerable to damage during construction. To reduce the risk of accidental damage, the lateral branches on the vulnerable side of the crowns will be crown lifted by 1-2m by tip reducing low, hanging branches. The health and appearance of the trees will not be affected.

Tree root and canopy protection: The RPA of the retained trees should be protected with fencing and ground protection during the development phase to ensure heavy machinery is not operated, or materials stored within the rooting area. This can be detrimental to the trees, causing soil compaction and root die back.

Special surfacing: No special surfacing is proposed.

Materials delivery, storage and handling: Materials should not be handled or stored within the RPAs of retained trees; the load exerted can result in soil compaction and leachate from spills can be toxic to trees.

Surface drains, soakaways and services: It is important that services, surface drains and soakaways avoid the RPAs of retained trees as roots can be damaged during trench excavations. The details of the routing of underground services that may affect the trees on site have not been supplied at this time. Should the routing of services cause conflict with the specified RPAs, arboricultural advice should be sought. All service runs, utilities and similar infrastructure should take note of trees and allow for working methods that will minimise damage to trees by referring to documents such as NJUG Volume 4- Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity to trees. (National Joint Utilities Group 2007).

Shading: The shading effects of trees should be taken into consideration when locating fenestration. Where structures are located too close to trees and to the north of them, the shade cast by the trees may prompt requests to fell or prune in the future and is therefore not encouraged by local planning authorities.

Levels: It is paramount that no further changes in ground levels are affected within proximity to trees without consultation with an arboricultural consultant. Under no circumstances should there be any unplanned works undertaken within the protection zones around retained trees

Briefing: The above measures should be communicated to all site staff prior to commencement of works via start of shift briefings or similar.

7. Arboricultural Method Statement

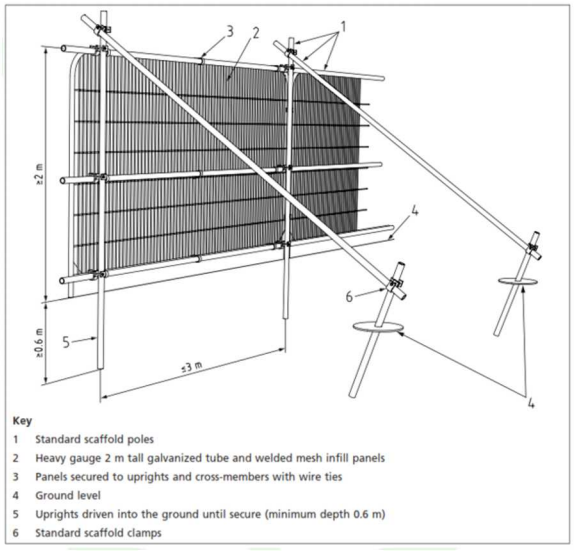
Implementation and phasing of the proposed development: Prior to any building work commencing on site, a meeting will be held with the tree consultant and site manager present. During the meeting details regarding the location of ground protection will be discussed and a time to reconvene in order to assess the ground protection will be agreed.

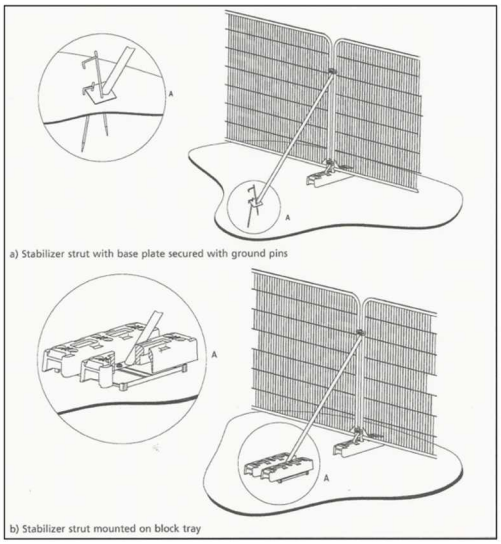
The schedule of events during the development phase will be as follows: Ground protection will be installed as indicated in plan 1100/PC01_A. During the development phase, the

arboricultural consultant will be notified and asked to supervise any excavating within the RPA of retained trees if appliable.

Tree protection barriers: All trees that are being retained on site should be protected by barriers and/or ground protection before any materials or machinery are brought onto the site, and before any demolition, development or stripping of soil commences. Where all activity can be from the RPA, vertical barriers should be erected to create a construction exclusion zone. Protective fencing should be installed as detailed below in accordance with the tree protection plan, in line with the measurements in the tree table also.

Where required, pre-development tree work may be undertaken before the installation of tree protection measures, with the agreement of the project arboriculturist or local planning authority if appropriate. It should be confirmed by the project arboriculturist that the barriers and ground protection have been correctly set out on site, prior to the commencement of any other operations. Barriers should be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place around the retained tree(s). Barriers should be maintained to ensure that they remain rigid and complete.





The signage shown below should be installed at regular intervals on the protective fencing.

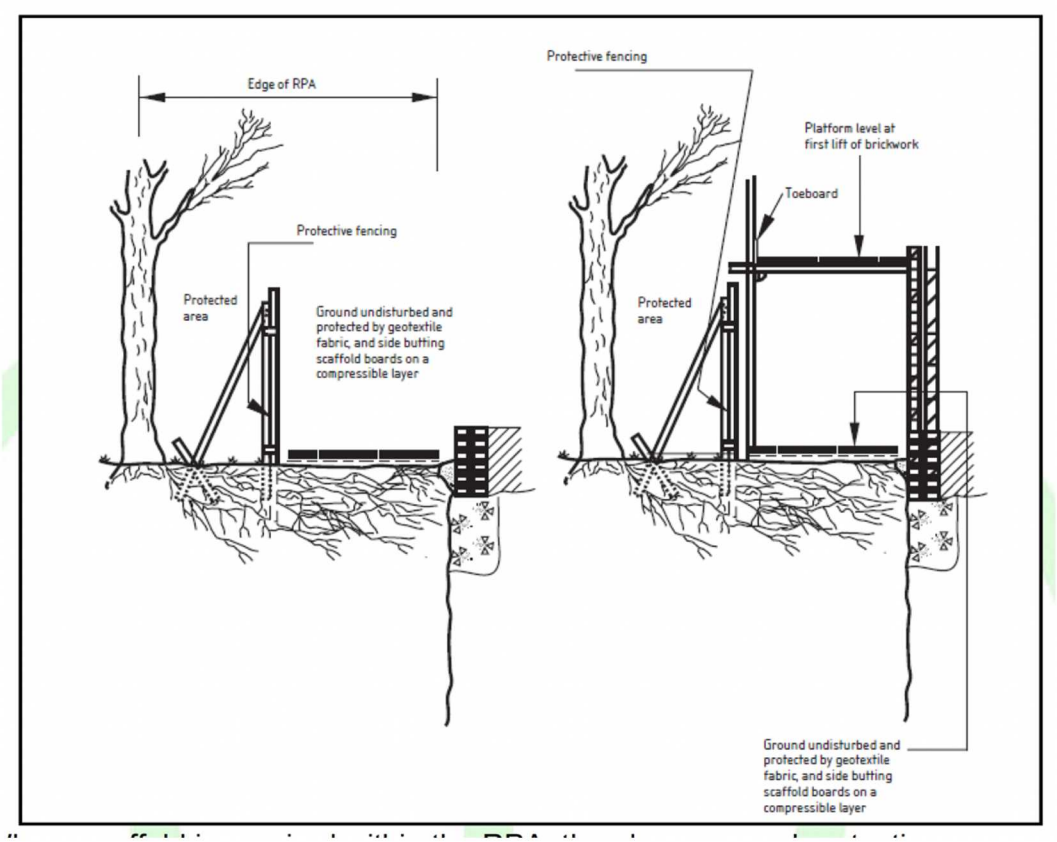




Ground protection:

Where, due to site constraints, construction activity cannot be fully or permanently excluded in this manner from all or part of a tree's RPA, appropriate ground protection should be installed. Areas of retained structural planting, or designated for new structural planting, should be similarly protected, based on the extent of the soft landscaping shown on the approved drawings. The protected area should be regarded as sacrosanct, and, once installed, barriers and ground protection should not be removed or altered without prior recommendation by the project arboriculturist and, where necessary, approval from the local planning authority.

Temporary ground protection to be installed in 1500mm buffer zones around the construction area and within the RPA's of T9 and T11 and should be capable of supporting pedestrian movement and scaffolding. Where scaffolding is proposed above the area requiring protection the footway can be suspended above ground level using the upright scaffold poles onto which horizontal supports can be attached and then boards used to form the footway surface on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 100 mm depth of woodchip or sharp said) to create a level surface, laid onto a geotextile membrane. The geotextile mat is to prevent contamination from materials dropped through the footway. The scaffold boards become the working surface for the duration of the construction phase. Refer to the diagram below.



Access for plant and machinery should avoid RPA's where possible. Areas where plant/machinery are required to enter into root protection areas (RPAs) should be protected with appropriate modular surfacing with the purpose of mitigating soil compaction and root damage.

Storage and handling of materials: No storage of building materials within the RPAs or buffer zones. This site has sufficient space for materials to be stored and handled as shown on the Tree Protection Plan 1100/PC01. NO storage of chemicals or fuels

Contractors parking: NO movement of construction traffic or parking of vehicles within the RPAs or buffer zones. There is sufficient space on the front driveway for parking.

Welfare facilities: Toilets and hand washing facilities shall be made available within the property.

Supervision: The project arborist will attend the site to inspect the ground protection and ensure that it has been laid out as prescribed in the method statement and meets the requirements of BS5837:12. Any excavations within the RPA of retained trees will be overseen by the project arborist. It is the responsibility of the site manager to inform the arboricultural consultant when inspections are required.

Tree works: No removal is required to facilitate the development. All pruning tree work shall be carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations by suitably qualified personnel.

Survey Key

Diameter (mm)- Stem diameter in millimetres measured at 1.5m above ground level. Where the stem is divided below 1.5m, measurement is taken as directed by BS:5837 Annex.

C.RPA- Root Protection Area- RPA circle radius is determined from Annex D of BS:5837. R-Radius

A – Area- Branch Spread (m)- Radial crown spread in metres, measured for each of the four cardinal points of the compass from the centre of the trunk. Low branches Height above ground in metres of the lowest branch and use of the 4 cardinal points of the compass.

Age class
(NP) Newly planted – a tree within 3 years after planting
(Y) Young – a tree within its first one third of life expectancy
(EM) Early Mature – a tree within its second third of life expectancy
(M) Mature – a tree in its final one third of life expectancy
(OM) Over Mature – a tree having reached its maximum life span and is declining in health and size due to old age
(V) Veteran – a tree in the second or mature stage of its life and has important wildlife and habitat features including; hollowing or associated decay fungi, holes, wounds and large dead branches.
(A) Ancient – a tree in the ancient or third and final stage of their life that is of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of its age, size and condition.

Appendix 1 – Tree Schedule Survey

Tree No.	Species	Height (mm)	Trunk Diameter (mm)	Crown Spread (mm)	Crown height above ground (mm)	General Observations	Root Protection area (mm)
1	Horse Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)	1800	1000	12000	13000		12000
2	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	1800	900	9000	9000	Off site tree.	10800
3	Shrub	3500	600	3000	2500		7200
4	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	6000	200	3000	4500	Ivy clad.	2400
5	Box (Buxus sempervirens)	6000	750	8000	3000		9000
6	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	16000	600	15000	8000		7200
7	Walnut (Juglans regia) and Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	16000	900	12000	6000	Entwined trunks.	10800
8	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)Y	16000	500	6000	6000		6000
9	Yew (Taxus baccata)	16000	800	8000	8000		9600
10	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	15000	300	8000	6000		3600
11	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	12000	500	8000	8000		6000
12	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	12000	400	7000	5000		4800
13	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	12000	400	8000	5000		4800
14	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	12000	400	7000	5000		4800
15	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	12000	400	10000	5000		4800
16	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	16000	900	10000	3000		10800
17	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	16000	900	10000	3000		10800
18	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	16000	500	10000	2000		6000
19	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	10000	900	10000	3000	Off site tree.	10800