



ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

for
4 Ivydene Gardens, Cowplain

- prepared on behalf of Mr & Mrs Tobin –

- June 2012 -

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ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT (AMS)
& TREE PROTECTION PLAN (TPP)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION & CLIENTS BRIEF

- 1.1 My clients – Mr & Mrs Tobin are the owners of the property at 4 Ivydene Gardens and also own the strip of land at the entrance to the Close.
- 1.2 In February 2012 they made application to Havant Borough Council seeking approval to construct a detached garage on the strip of land and convert the integral garage to living accommodation. This application was refused listing two reasons for refusal, one of which related to trees and stated that – *‘Insufficient information has been provided in respect of the impact of the proposed garage on surrounding Protected Trees, specifically in terms of damage to their root systems due to construction.’*
- 1.3 I have been commissioned to consider the impact that development might have on the existing off site tree stock within the Copse abutting the site to the south side.
- 1.4 I am instructed to prepare a **Method Statement & Tree Protection Plan** - based on the planning layout as prepared at 1:100 scale by their Architects – **BJC Planning Solutions**.
- 1.5 My work is to be compiled in accordance with the Recommendations contained within BS5837:2012.

2.0 DOCUMENT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

- 2.1 A base plan (1:100 scale) has been provided by my clients – as prepared by their Architects – **BJC Planning Solutions**.
- 2.2 A copy of the Planning Layout drawing as prepared at **1:100 scale - BJC Planning Solutions** has also been provided to me for the purposes of my work and I rely totally on the accuracy of these drawings.

3.0 TREE SURVEY & ROOT PROTECTION SCHEDULES & IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 A tree survey has been prepared in accordance with BS5837 recommendations (see explanatory tree survey notes [at appendix BH1](#))

Tree No.	Species	Ht m	Diam mm	Brch Sprd m	GC m	LMB m	LS	Condition Comments	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Rem Con yrs	Cat
1	Pedunculate Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	18	550	N4 E6 S4 W4	6	5 E	EM	Ivy smothering base, trunk and through crown-crownlifted to 6m and stubs left-small and large diameter deadwood present-stubs and dead branches-crown shape dictated by group pressures-the closest tree of a Copse of similar age/sized trees – previously suppressed heavily to the north side where once stood a mature Ash tree (recently removed) – sparse crown due to suppression and lack of light.	No works required at this time	>40	B1

3.2 From the data gathered I have prepared a Tree Root Protection Schedule in accordance with BS5837 recommendations

- (see Plan BJH01/02 [at appendix BH2](#))

Tree No.	Tree Species	Cat	Diam mm	BS5837:2012 Table D1 Radial Protect. Zone m	BS5837:2012 Table D1 Root Protect. Area m ²	Is An Offset Required To Cater For Existing Rooting Pattern Restrictions
1	Pedunculate Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	B1	550	6.6	137	NO – there are constraints all around this tree which cancel each other out – if anything this will have reduced the specified RPA.

3.3 There was once a large mature Ash tree almost abutting the alignment of the proposed new garage the stump of which remains in situ (see photographic record [at appendix BH4](#)). This was a TPO'd tree which I am given to understand was removed with Council approval and there is an acknowledged requirement to replace this tree with a new planting; but this is being held in abeyance until the matter of the planning for the new garage has been resolved, as this will dictate the most appropriate location for same.

3.4 This tree was dominant and suppressed the crown of the closest Oak tree in the Copse but also the competition for rooting space would have been relevant since it is directly in line and behind the Ash stump. Thus there would not have been an opportunity for the Oak to root to the full 6.6m distance in a northerly direction. It is also true to state that because of the nature of the Copse all of the Oaks within the central locations would have limited rooting ability and would be very much interdependent with reliance on a mutual support system.

3.5 My clients have advised me that this is a shrinkable clay soil (no soil analysis data available) which will dictate the foundation design for the new garage block which would need to be designed by a structural engineer to accommodate any future potential for subsidence or heave – particularly in view of the fairly recent removal of the mature Ash which could see some re-wetting and expansion of the soil. This need not hold up the planning process and could readily be incorporated as a Planning Condition requiring sight and approval of details prior to commencement of works on site.

4.0 PRE-DEVELOPMENT TREE WORK and WORKING WITHIN THE RPA

No	Species	Tree Works Recommended
1	Pedunculate Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	No works required at this time as there is no branch overhang of the new development due to suppression from the felled Ash tree

5.0 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT & TREE PROTECTION PLAN

5.1 Construction Phase –

Specific Actions:

- Full specification Tree Protection with back stays in accordance with BS5837 - Section 6.2.2 & Figure 2/3 are not applicable or necessary in this instance and would be totally impractical to construct given topography and existing ground protection features already in place such as the boundary fence.
- Lay ground protection in accordance with Section 6.2.3 of BS5837 over the triangular area between the rear building line of the new garage and the existing close boarded boundary fence line. This would consist of a porous geotextile membrane covering the total exposed ground having first removed the compost heap and either stump grind [**NOT grub out**] (to protect the roots of trees in the Copse) or leave in situ the stump of the felled Ash tree. See Tree Protection Plan BJH.03 [at appendix BH3](#). Then lay a 100mm layer of woodchips or washed sand over which would be laid ‘batted –up’ scaffold boards or hoarding. This will facilitate pedestrian access ONLY and allow scaffolding to be erected without adverse impact on the Oak.
- The most logical area for storage of materials; mixing area and office/toilet facilities (if needed on this small project) would be adjacent to the road frontage. This area should be covered in plastic sheeting to prevent ground contamination.
- The young staked tree would need to be transplanted to an alternative location possibly nearer the frontage of the site and clear of the garage and access arrangements and suitably boxed in with the use of hoarding attached to wooden corner posts to protect the trunk and lower branches during construction works.
- The existing brick planter would need to be removed.

Generic Actions:

- It is suggested that clear and concise points of contact and lines of communication are established prior to commencement of the works on site including:- Arboricultural Consultant; Local Authority Tree Officer; Local Authority Planning Officer; Site Manager and Foreman
- The Site Manager should establish his own list of contact details at the Pre-Start site meeting and hang this up in the site office along with the Tree Protection Plan for all to refer to.
- Care must be taken when planning site operations to ensure that wide or tall loads, or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights can operate without coming into contact with retained trees.

- **ALL** machine operators should undergo an induction session prior to being allowed to work on site, where the Method Statement is explained to them and a copy pinned up in the site office for their reference.
- In addition a copy of the Tree Protection Plan will be provided and should be pinned up in the site hut and the trees which are to be retained and protected will be pointed out to the operator and they will also be shown which trees these are on site before they start work. In this way it is hoped that unnecessary damage, by root disturbance and collision of machinery booms and operating arms with tree crowns can be avoided.

6.0 MONITORING & SITE SUPERVISION

- It is recommended in BS5837:2012 that either an arboriculturist is retained to advise on all tree related aspects of site monitoring and supervision and it is the local authority's responsibility to make this a condition of planning approval with the said Condition ideally requiring a set schedule of operations and timings prior to undertaking works on site.
- In this instance with such a small project with minimal potential for impact on trees it is probably only necessary for the Consultant Arboriculturist or Council Tree Officer to conduct a pre-start meeting to verify the position and effectiveness of the ground protection measures and preparatory works.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

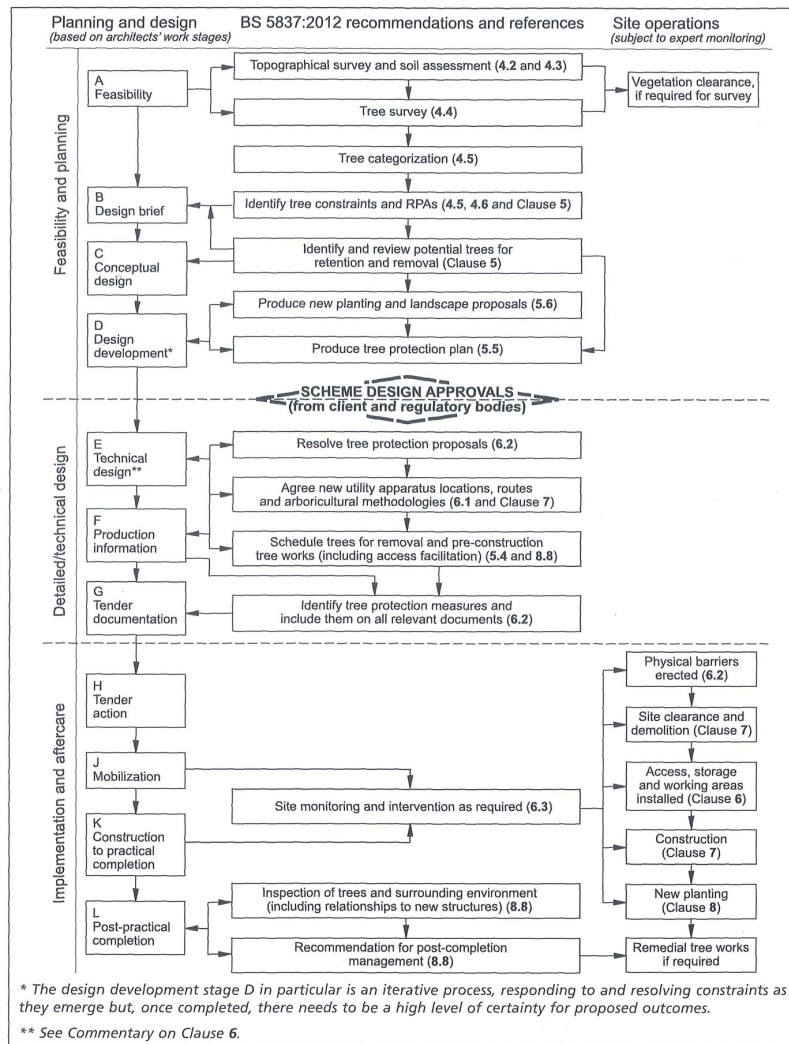
- No tree removal is required to facilitate development, neither will there be a requirement for any tree pruning works to facilitate works.
- Provided that the methodology prescribed in this AMS & TPP report is strictly adhered to I would expect the retained tree(s) to survive the development unscathed and to continue to grow on safely and healthily in the future.
- This is therefore in my opinion a fully supportable scheme in arboricultural terms.



BJH 1

Figure 1 - Flow Diagram
& Tree Survey Notes

Figure 1 The design and construction process and tree care



TREE SURVEY NOTES

These Tree Survey Notes have been prepared in accordance with the recommendations of **British Standard 5837:2012** and they define the criteria for pre –development tree surveys.

- Each tree/group/hedge/shelterbelt/woodland has been allocated a unique number (**No.**), where specifically requested and appropriate fees are agreed small durable numbered metal tags can be applied to each tree/group surveyed.
- The tree species (**Species**) is provided in both English and Latin name formats.
- Height assessments (**Ht**) are estimated in metres. This will be adequate for the majority of cases, but where accurate heights become a critical issue it may be necessary to return to site, as a separately commissioned exercise, to collect accurate measurements with the aid of optical instruments.
- Trunk/stem diameters (**Diam**) are measured in millimetres at 1.5m above ground level – where the tree is inaccessible the diameter is estimated as indicated by suffix #
- Radial crown spread assessments (**Brch Sprd**) are estimated in metres from the centre of the trunk/group to each of the four primary points of the compass (**N**-north; **E**-east; **S**-south and **W**-west) in order to achieve a representation of the crown shape which will be shown on the accompanying tree survey plan. These provide a general guide as to the main bulk outline of a tree/groups crown but are not tape measured dimensions. These would only be undertaken as part of a separately commissioned exercise, where precise dimensions are critical to the project at hand.
- Both the canopy ground clearance (**GC**) and the height & compass direction of the lowest major branch (**LMB**) are estimated and shown in metres
- An assessment of a tree/groups 'life stage' (**LS**) is made in terms of its site specific maturity as part of the surrounding landscape, taking into account its overall shape and form in that setting, and is recorded thus :-
Y - Young tree/group; **SM** - Semi-Mature tree/group; **EM** - Early-Mature tree/group;
M – Mature tree/group; **OM** - Over – mature tree/group
- Data on the structural condition (**Condition Comments**) of the tree/group is provided to give its visual appearance and any significant health and safety issues.
- Details of any recommended tree works required at the time of survey is given under the heading – **Preliminary Management Recommendations**.
- An estimate of a tree/groups remaining contribution in years (**RC**) is made and is recorded thus :-
0-5; 5-10; 10-20; 20-30; 30-40 or **>40** years.
- The category grading (**Cat**) for each tree/group is assessed according to the criteria provided within **BS5837:2012**. The assessment is made of the tree/group in its current condition and within the environment encountered bearing in mind its suitability for retention as part of any future proposed

development; although the exact layout detail of any specific scheme will not be known at the time of surveying. The trees have been classified into one of four categories and colour coded as BS5837 recommends :- **U** (dark red); **A** (light green); **B** (mid-blue) and **C** (grey). Please note that suffixed numerical sub-categories are also applied for guidance only and do not carry any cumulative or increased value for the tree/group. This colour coding scheme will be applied to all drawings provided.

Table 1 – Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria			Colour on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention				
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 (i.e. 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.			Dark Red
Trees to be considered for retention				
	Criteria – Subcategories			
	1	2	3	
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
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in the 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
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 150mm	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



BJH 2

Tree Survey & Root Protection
Plan - BH01/02



BJH 3

Tree Protection Plan - BH03



BJH 4

Photographic Record



BJH 5

Qualifications & Experience



QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- My name is Bernie Harverson and I am a self employed independent arboricultural consultant in private practice. I take instructions primarily in the South of England but also on occasions work nationwide and abroad and have offices at : –
3 Foxcombe Cottages, South Harting, West Sussex GU31 5PL and also at Cedar Court, 5 College Street, Petersfield
- I hold the following arboricultural qualification - **Master of Arboriculture** (Royal Forestry Society – 1976)
- I have over **forty** years of practical and managerial experience in the arboricultural industry including periods in both the public and private sectors.
- My Local Government sector experience comprises one year as a tree surgeon with Brighton Parks and nine years spent in Arboricultural Officer posts with both Westminster City Council and Portsmouth City Council
- My past practical experience in the private sector includes two years at Tilhill Forest Nursery and over ten years for various companies as a Climbing Arborist/Tree Surgeon.
- Managerial work in the private sector includes two years as manager of Beechings tree surgery company and twelve years with CBA Trees as an Arboricultural Consultant.
- As an independent self employed Arboricultural Consultant I now provide a comprehensive range of services including :-
tree surveys, appraisals, assessments and inspections with particular reference to planning and development and tree safety audits with a service offered as a climber to undertake full climbing inspections to better understand the condition of a given tree before prescribing a management strategy.
- I also undertake litigation work appearing as an Expert Witness in Court Actions and at Planning Appeals, Hearings and Public Local Inquiries.

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