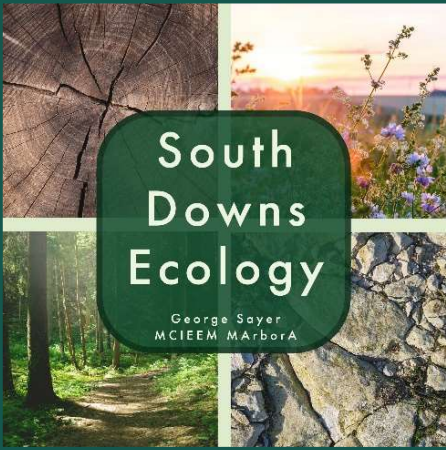


Arboricultural Impact
Assessment and
Method Statement

Cowplain School



South
Downs
Ecology

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MCIEEM Arborist

Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement

New Theatre at Cowplain School

Version 1 – 31st July 2025

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A tree survey and tree protection package have been commissioned for the proposals for a new theatre building at Cowplain School.
- 1.2 A detailed tree survey was carried out on 1st April 2025 by George Sayer (*BScHons PgDip MArborA; LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection 2019*); from which a schedule and constraints plan of existing trees on and surrounding the site was produced in accordance with *BS 5837:2012 – 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations'*. From this information an arboricultural impact assessment was undertaken and a plan of tree protection devised to ensure the long-term retention of the trees on-site.

Proposals

- 1.3 The proposals are for the erection of a school theatre building and changing rooms to serve adjacent sports facilities, with associated landscaping, planting, and ancillary works.
- 1.4 An area of modified grassland and bramble scrub is proposed to be planted with trees.

Site Description

- 1.5 The site consists of a carpark with access road and footpaths, and an area of modified grassland forming part of the play / amenity area of the school, with 2no. large trees present. A clump of aspen line the northern boundary and a coniferous hedgerow lies just off-site to the north. An area of modified grassland and bramble scrub is also included, to be planted with trees.

Surrounding Landscape

- 1.6 The site is bound by Hart Plain Avenue, and several residential and commercial properties to the north, residential estates to the east and south. Hart Plain Junior school lies to the west, with a new care facility also being constructed on a field to the immediate west of the site.
- 1.7 The site lies in the centre of the Waterloooville-Cowplain built-up area. The immediate surroundings are largely residential; however Park Wood lies 250.0 m south, and an area of woodland known as the Queen's Inclosure, with the Hermitage Stream are noted beginning 375.0 m east, just east of the A3. Waterloooville Golf Club is 1.3km east.

Existing Site Vegetation

- 1.8 The site contains a small number of low value self-seeded aspen on the northern boundary, as well as a coniferous hedge and several off-site garden trees of low-moderate value. At the highway access are several small moderate-value oaks and a large moderate-value pine.
- 1.9 Within the body of the site are a pair of large trees, one of which is a willow and the other appeared to be an aspen. Both were large and of reasonable form, with pruning evident and maintaining the trees in appropriate form and scale. Several knotholes and woodpecker holes were noted.

2.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Removal of Trees

- 2.1 Of the existing trees, only the two moderate-value trees (T06-T07) would be removed. The removal would be unavoidable to enable the proposals, and whilst these are large trees for the species, their removal would have no significant impact on site amenity, ecological value or screening. The trees do not contain significant ecological features and are largely visible only within the school grounds.

Disturbance to Roots and Rooting Environment

- 2.2 The proposals do not encroach into any retained tree RPA.

Construction in Proximity to Trees and Hedges

- 2.3 The construction works would bring the built form closer to TG01 – T05, but doesn't significantly alter the relationship between the trees and buildings with a large landscaped buffer between. These trees offer limited potential in any case being scrubby and self-seeded along the fence.
- 2.4 In the absence of mitigation, vehicular trafficking over unmade ground would compact the root environment and potentially cause root death. To protect trees from vehicular collision and damage to RPAs outside of the operation zones, Tree Protection Barriers will be installed surrounding RPAs.

Further Protection Measures

- 2.5 New surface water drainage is required, and has been designed to avoid all RPAs. There is ample room in the site for such drainage.
- 2.6 Any other new services required will be routed outside of RPAs and using existing runs where possible.

Replacement Planting

- 2.7 Two moderate-value trees require removal. The trees are proposed to be replaced with 58no. new native trees, spread around the school site. This is detailed within the 'BNG Assessment' which accompanies the application. In addition, native scrub planting will be undertaken around the building. The new trees and scrub would screen the buildings far more effectively than the original trees, and over time will result in a significant ecological, amenity and Arboricultural gain on the site.

Summary of Impacts

- 2.8 Overall, the proposals require removal of 2no. moderate-value trees. The proposals present a very risk of harm to several low-value trees; these risks can be avoided through basic protection measures to small discrete areas. Significant new tree planting is proposed, and over time will result in a significant ecological, amenity and Arboricultural gain on the site. The proposals are therefore supportable.

3.0 Arboricultural Method Statement

Site Movements, Storage and Compound

- 3.1 No vehicular or pedestrian movements shall be permitted during construction over unmade ground within RPAs. The site storage, waste and compound areas must be located either within existing hard surfaces or outside of tree RPAs. Fuel and chemicals shall be stored in appropriate containers to prevent spillage into unmade ground. All site movements, storage and compound shall seek to protect trees during construction in accordance with BS 5837:2012 – *Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations*.

Tree Protective Fencing

- 3.2 The RPAs of trees to be retained shall be protected through the installation of tree protective fencing to the outside of the root protection area. The installed protective barriers shall be 2.0 metres minimum height 'Heras' Welded Wire Mesh Fencing secured to a scaffolding framework, set into the existing ground, and positioned to the outside edge of the existing Tree Root Protection Area. Where existing ground conditions do not allow for the above method, the Welded Wire Mesh Fencing Panels may be mounted on concrete or rubber feet, supported on the inner side with stabilizer struts fixed on a block tray or secured with ground pins; and positioned as specified. The fencing should be strained, and fixed to fences, walls, knee rails where possible to provide a complete protected area (*refer to Figure 2 and Figure 3 below; © British Standards Institute 2012*). All tree protection to be in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 - *Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations* set out as specified within figures 2 and 3 below.
- 3.3 In locations where no construction is being undertaken, but there is a risk of inappropriate storage or vehicle parking, exclusion zones shall be created through the use of barrier tape, traffic bollards or low level traffic barriers. Such measures shall be pinned down to prevent easy removal.
- 3.4 Signs shall be affixed to the barriers stating '*Tree Protection Zone – No Access*' in addition to day-glo tapes to the top of the fencing, in accordance with BS 5837:2012 – '*Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations*'. Within the protected area, no construction activities shall be permitted, to include:
- *Lighting of fires*
 - *Storage of chemicals or building materials*
 - *Dumping of spoil or rubbish*
 - *Driving of vehicles*
 - *Alteration of soil levels.*

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier

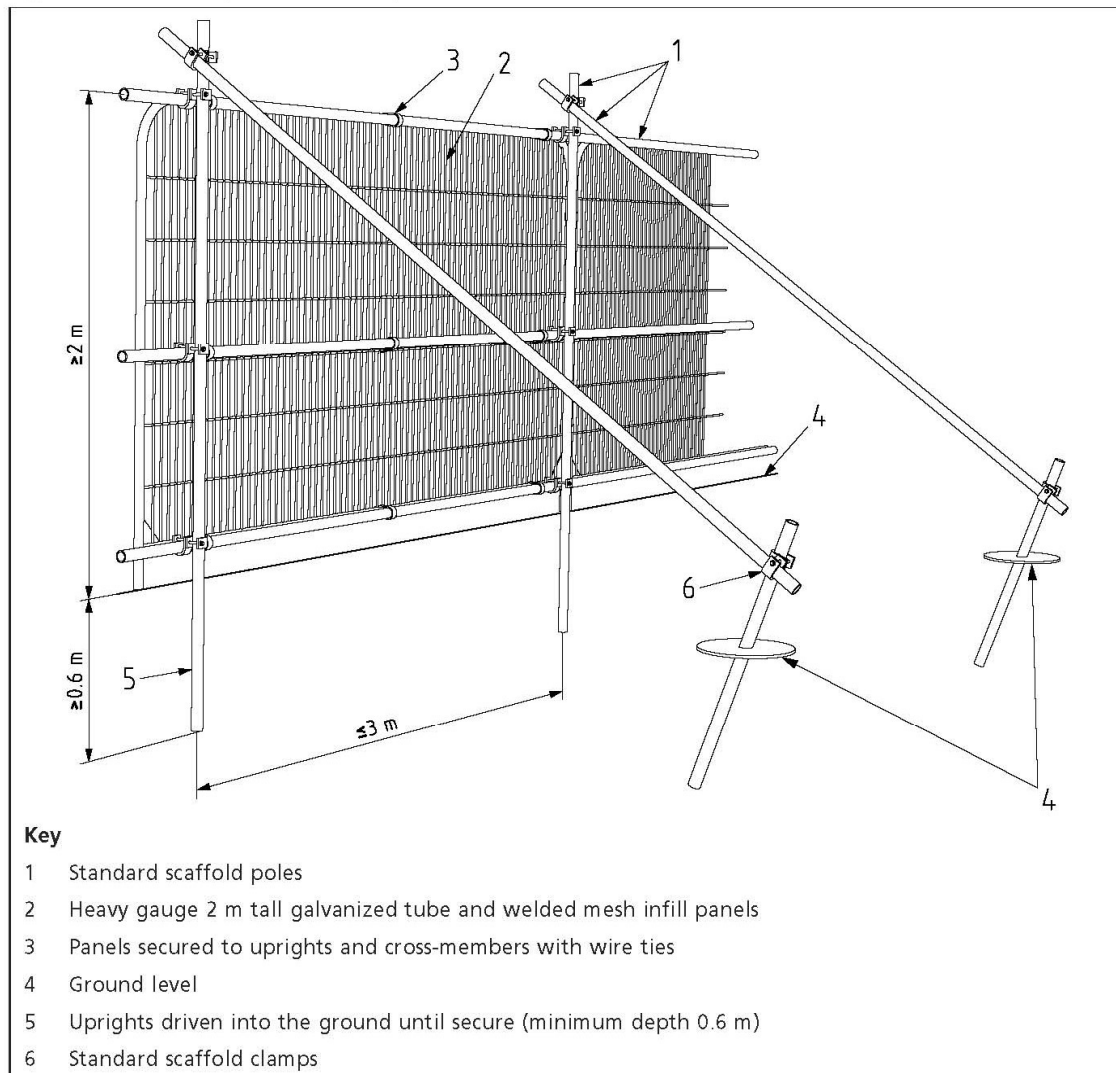
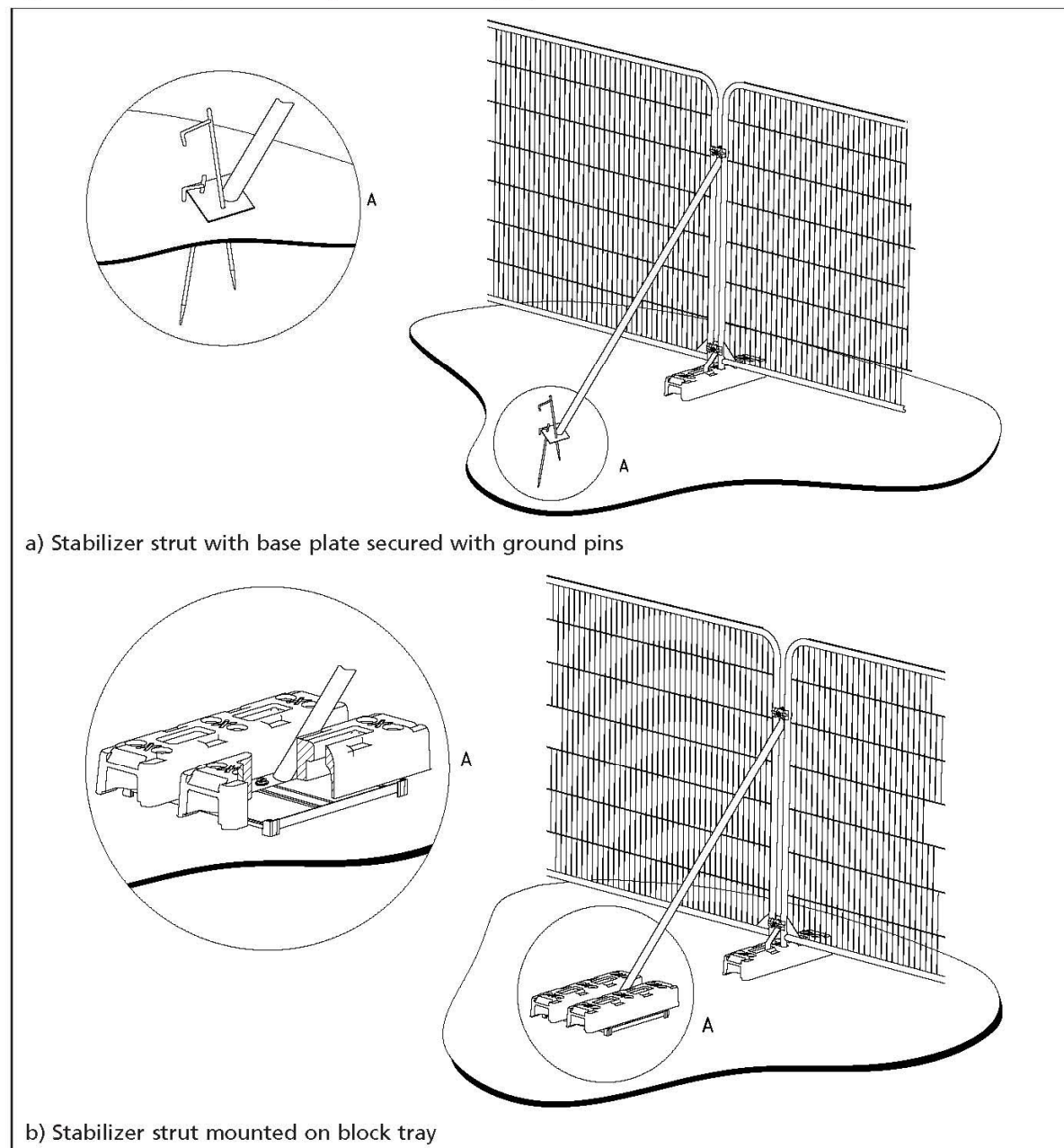


Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



- 3.5 Tree protective barriers shall be installed and maintained throughout the construction phase by the main contractor, who shall be responsible for ensuring the fencing remains in place and is properly maintained. The fencing shall be installed in accordance with the *Tree Retention and Protection Plan*. Adjustment or relocation of the fencing during the construction phase shall be undertaken only following prior agreement by the arboriculturalist.
- 3.6 Wherever possible, tree protective fencing shall surround the entirety of the tree RPA. Where this is not possible, ground protection measures shall be utilised within designated operation zones to prevent damage to roots or compaction of soil. The locations of tree protective fencing and ground protection measures are detailed within the *Tree Retention and Protection Plan*.

Vegetation Removal

- 3.7 All remaining tree surgery works (i.e. stump removal) shall be undertaken in accordance with BS3998:2010 – Tree Works: Recommendations. Stumps shall either be stumpground or carefully pulled up and away from trees, taking care to check for larger entangled tree roots and cutting the stump away from these. Log piles shall be created in the site from the arisings to create new habitat.

Installation of Services

- 3.8 Wherever possible, the proposals utilise existing service routes. Any new drainage shall be sited outside of the RPAs of any trees. The new drainage shall be sited so as to be as far as possible from any tree stems.
- 3.9 Where the proposed routing of other new services such as electrical wiring impinges upon the tree RPA of any existing tree to be retained; the routing should be undertaken as a minimum standard in accordance with NJUG Volume 4, issue 2: '*Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees*'. A 'Manual Excavation Method' to be followed to carefully hand dug and route the apparatus most directly to and from the exterior of the RPA radius. Services are to be sleeved to ensure protection of the services and surrounding roots.

Supervision of Works

- 3.10 The following approvals, checks and supervision would be required and should be documented in a report suitable for provision to the Local Authority as part of the construction process:
- Check of tree protection barrier locations and sturdiness
 - Final sign-off prior to removal of tree and ground protection measures.