



ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Hobby Close Field, Wecock Farm

-prepared on behalf of Portsmouth City Council –

The Granary, White Chimney Row, Westbourne PO10 8RS



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1.0 INTRODUCTION & CLIENTS BRIEF

1.1 My client on this project is **Portsmouth City Council**.

1.2 They seek to revamp the existing Open Space facilities by:-

- Land raising & drainage works to create a new **Football Pitch**.
- Construct a new **Play Area** and **Skate Park** (removing the old Skate Park).

1.3 There is an on site Woodland that wraps around three sides of the site and which will need to be protected during the construction process.

1.4 I have been commissioned to prepare a report to satisfy the arboricultural aspects of this project to meet planning requirements.

1.5 My work is to be compiled in accordance with the recommendations contained within BS5837:2012.

2.0 DOCUMENT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

I have been provided with a copy of the Planning Layout drawing as prepared by **Portsmouth City Council – Landscape Architects :-**

- **Site Survey Context Plan – HCF/S/5000 – 1:350 @ A1 – Nov 19**
- **Open Space Improvements - Concept Landscape Proposals - 1:200 & A1 – Feb 20**
- **Proposed Site Access for Construction Works – Drwg 1650-LA-5000 Rev A**

- These plans have all been provided to me for the purposes of my work and I rely totally on their accuracy in terms of tree location and setting out protective fencing.

3.0 TREE SURVEY & ROOT PROTECTION SCHEDULES & IMPACT ASSESSMENT

3.1 I visited the site on **23rd^h March 2020** and carried out a tree survey exercise in accordance with BS5837:2012 recommendations on those trees which are closest to the areas of proposed redevelopment (see explanatory tree survey notes [at appendix BH1](#)).

Trees	Species	Ht m	Diam mm	Brch Sprd m	GC m	LS	Comments	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Rem Con yrs	Cat
Woodland 1	Primary Trees: Pedunculate Oaks (<i>Quercus</i>) Secondary Trees: Common Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i>) Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i>) Hazel (<i>Corylus</i>) Yew (<i>Taxus</i>)	20 to 24	350 to 600	N – E – S – W-	0	EM to M	A 'Horseshoe' shaped woodland that wraps around the site on three sides-there are issues with Ivy smothering some trees-crown shapes dictated by group pressures with merged and underdeveloped crowns throughout	No works considered essential at the time of survey	>40	A2

3.2 A Tree Root Protection Schedule has been prepared in accordance with BS5837:2012 recommendations (see Plans BJH 01 & 02 at [appendix BH2](#))

Trees	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
Woodland 1	Pedunculate Oaks (<i>Quercus</i>) Common Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i>) Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i>) Hazel (<i>Corylus</i>) Yew (<i>Taxus</i>)	A2	350 600	4.2 7.2	55 163	NO – fairly free rooting to all directions and only constrained by the sheer numbers of trees competing for rooting space within the Woodland block.

4.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT & TREE PROTECTION MEASURES RECOMMENDED

4.1 The finalised planning layout drawing has been provided to me and an assessment made as to the viability of retaining trees as part of this layout in order that they meet the RPA requirements of BS5837 - the data is presented here in tabular format:-

Key: **NO-RSAM** = Remove for sound arboricultural management reasons **NO-RTFD** = Remove to facilitate development **UF** = under footprint of proposed development
YES = Yes can be retained and fully protected **YES (1)** = Yes can be retained subject to mitigation measures being applied

Trees	Species		Cat	Stem Diam mm	BS5837:2012 Radial Protection Area m	BS5837:2012 Table D1 Root Protect. Area m ²	Distance from Site Features (see key above)	Can Trees Be Retained
Woodland 1	Pedunculate Oaks (<i>Quercus</i>) Common Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i>) Hazel (<i>Corylus</i>) Yew (<i>Taxus</i>)		A2	350 600	4.2 7.2	55 163	- Some poor quality Ash saplings will be removed from the area in the southeast corner – including three trees embedded in the fencing - There will be a requirement to remove several smaller and poorer quality spindly Oak and Ash to provide vehicular access for construction traffic	YES (1)

4.2 **Location 1** – [see *Tree Protection Plan*] There are existing (consolidated earth) desire line paths in the southeast corner of the site that will be upgraded using ‘No Dig’ principles and employing porous surfacing materials. In addition to this the existing dilapidated iron post and chain link fencing will be removed as this serves no purpose and is aesthetically ugly and in places it undermines the stability of Ash saplings that have grown up through it (which will now need to be removed for health and safety reasons).

4.3 **Location 2** – [see *Tree Protection Plan*] In the northwest corner of the site there is an existing dropped kerb access point into the woodland from the new road (Powell Drive) that provides access to the Linden Homes Development. This then links to a dirt track and internal desire line path running throughout the length of the woodland block. There will be a need to provide one site construction vehicle access point in order to be able to construct both the new Football Pitch and the Play Area/Skate Park and associated soft and hard Landscaping at the southern end of the site. Having carefully studied this we have decided on the least invasive route that has minimal impact on tree content and a temporary ‘No Dig’ Porous surfaced access track will be laid to facilitate this. There will be a need to remove one small Oak tree and a leaning Ash tree as well as some spindly sapling Ash to facilitate turning radii for vehicles accessing the site.

4.4 In summary the paths shown at Location 1 will be permanent fixtures but the access track at Location 2 will be temporary and will be removed on effective completion of the construction works. These are all shown on the attached plans [at appendix BH3](#).

5.0 RECOMMENDED TREE WORKS

Location	Tree Species	Tree Works Recommended
1	Ash (saplings) General removal of all sapling trees including the three trees that are embedded in the wire fencing.	• Fell to ground level in a controlled manner • Grub out the stumps and root runs



Three damaged Ash



sundry Ash saplings

Location	Tree Species	Tree Works Recommended
2	Ash x 1 Oak x 1 Ash saplings along the route of access track	- Fell to ground level in a controlled manner - The remaining trees that have low branches overhanging the new track will need to be crown lifted to a height of 5m to 6m.



Sundry sapling Ash

Oak



leaning Ash

6.0 METHOD STATEMENT

Generic

- 6.1 All of the recommended tree works should be undertaken by an approved and experienced tree contractor prior to any construction contractors commencing works on site.
- 6.2 Erect the protective fencing as specified and shown on the **Tree Protection Plan BJH03/04 at appendix BH3**. Barriers are to be 'Fit For Purpose' to exclude construction activity and must be maintained to ensure that they remain rigid and complete and in the original setting out positions. These checks will need to be incorporated into a schedule of site monitoring visits to be agreed with the clients subject to phased development operations and subsequently copies of these site visit reports will need to be copied to the Council
- 6.3 A copy of the Tree Protection Plan is to be pinned up in the offices/mess hut on site for all site staff to see. The area within the fenced off exclusion zone is to be regarded as **sacrosanct** and the fencing shall not be taken down or relocated at any time without the prior written approval of the monitoring arboriculturist or local authority tree officer, unless this has already been agreed as part of the planning application consent process and is detailed in writing and shown on a plan.

The following prohibitions shall apply within the area enclosed by the Tree Protection Fencing [**Construction Exclusion Zone**] :-

- **No** mechanical digging or scraping once the initial ground cover vegetation has been cleared and the site fenced off.
 - **No** storage of plant, equipment or materials
 - **No** vehicular or plant access
 - **No** fire lighting
 - **No** handling, discharge or spillage of any chemical substance, including cement washings
 - **No** action likely to cause localised water-logging
 - **No** change in ground levels
- 6.4 All site works storage areas and compounds/welfare units/toilet blocks and any mixing areas are to be located outside of and well clear of retained tree RPA's.
- 6.5 All Utility Service connections are to be located outside of tree RPA's.

Site Specific Mitigation Measures**6.6 Location 1**

- Fell the Ash saplings within this zone - along with the three trees that are embedded in the wire fencing.
- Using a pedestrian flail clear all surface ground cover and brambles.
- Remove the old chain link fencing and iron posts.
- Erect the protective fencing.
- Lay down and pin out a porous Geotextile membrane across the zone.
- Use either Railway Sleepers or Treated Wooden Boarding to define the edges of the new path
- Infill with a proprietary expandable cellular confinement system and fill the voids with washed aggregate. This will be for pedestrian traffic only so a cell depth of 150mm would be sufficient here.

6.7 Location 2

- Fell the leaning Ash tree and crown lift any low overhanging branchwork.
- Fell the small Oak tree and any Ash saplings that are along the route of the access track.
- Using a pedestrian flail clear all surface ground cover and brambles.
- Erect the protective fencing.
- Lay down and pin out a porous Geotextile membrane across the zone. No edging material will be required here as this is only a temporary surface for site traffic to access the site.
- Infill with a proprietary expandable cellular confinement system and fill the voids with Type 1 aggregate.
- This will be a primary heavily laden vehicle access point so a cell depth of at least 250mm would be required [refer to Manufacturers recommendations relative to the size and weight of vehicle that will use this route].
- *ALL of this material is to be removed on effective completion of site works.*

7.0 SITE MONITORING & SUPERVISION

BS5837 recommends that wherever trees on or adjacent to a site have been identified on the Tree Protection Plan as requiring special protection measures, there should be an auditable system of arboricultural site monitoring. This should extend to direct arboricultural monitoring whenever demolition/construction and development activity is to take place within or adjacent to any RPA.

- 7.1 There would be a requirement for a site visit by the Arboricultural Expert once the Tree Works have been carried out and the Protective Fencing has been erected to check that it is of the desired quality and is 'Fit For Purpose' and also that it has been positioned correctly.
- 7.2 Lines of communication will need to be established with the Site Manager and a Contact Directory compiled and issued to all development team members so that in the event that an incident occurs involving the retained trees that requires urgent advice and guidance from the project Arboricultural Expert this can be easily organised.
- 7.3 The details of the works will be photographed by the Arb Expert and the following reporting procedure will be adopted. This is an example of the format for the **Site Monitoring Schedule** that would be prepared. :-

Schedule Of Site Monitoring & Supervision for – Hobby Close Field, Wecock Farm

- In accordance with the Arboricultural Method Statement Report - 1118.bjh.May20 & Tree Protection Plan - BJH 03/04

Date of Inspection	Item	In Attendance	Notes/Observations From Inspection	Details Of Any Follow Up Action Required
tba	Initial Site Meeting	Council Tree Officer to be invited & Project Arb Consultant	A 'walk through' inspection was undertaken and the principles and methodology for development works to be carried out whilst protecting trees was discussed and agreed.	
tba	Tree Works & Protective Fencing	Project Arb Consultant & Site Construction Manager	A joint site inspection was conducted and agreement reached.....	

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

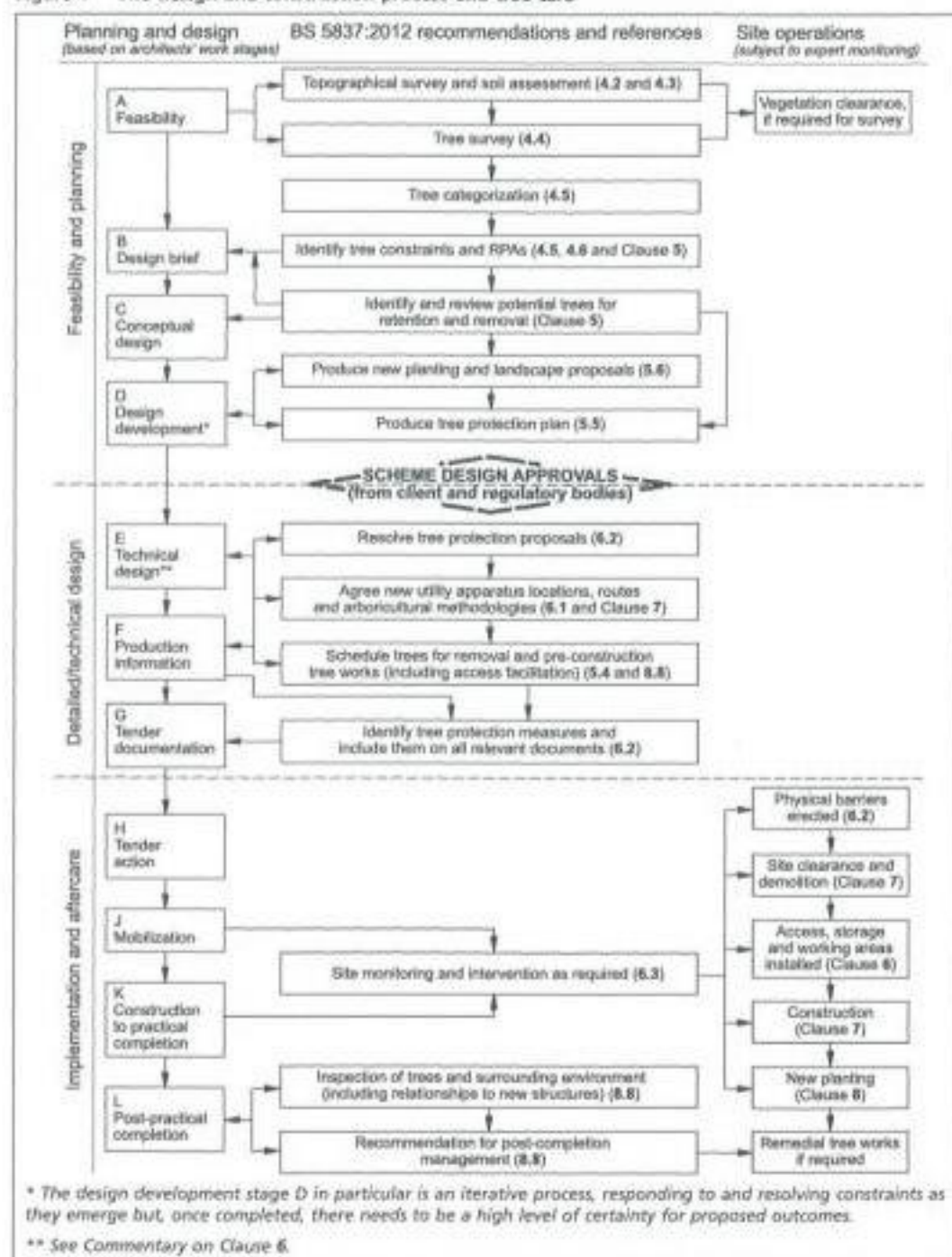
- There will be a requirement to remove a few small trees and saplings in order to facilitate the temporary access routes but none of these trees is of high quality and in the context of the Woodland setting their loss will not be detrimental.
- In mitigation new sapling trees will be planted along the route of the temporary tracks once site works have been completed.
- All remaining on site trees can be retained with the minimum of root and crown disturbance by applying the mitigation measures proposed in this report – which complies with BS5837 recommendations and ensures their safe and healthy retention without compromise.
- Provided that the above methodology is strictly adhered to and in the manner set out in this report then I would not foresee any detrimental impact taking place that might undermine the health and stability or visual amenity value of those trees shown for retention on this site.



BH 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 :- **■** (dark red); **■** (light green); **■** (mid-blue) and **■** (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 ■ 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 ■ 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 ■ 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 ■ 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



BH 2

Tree Survey Plan

BJH 01/02

NOTE: All dimensions to be checked on site prior to commencement of any work. DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING. Notify C.A. of any discrepancies before ordering materials.



WOODLAND 1

Key:

- = Trees of A (high) grading
- = Trees of B (moderate) grading
- = Trees of C (low) grading
- = Trees of U (fell) grading

 Bernie Harverson landscape architects The Granary - White Chimney Row - Westbourne PO10 8RS 07875 520881 bernieharverson@gmail.com	project:	Hobby Close Field Wecock Farm			
	client:	Portsmouth City Council			
	title:	Tree Location Plan			
	drwgs: BJH 01/02	scale: Not To Scale	job 1118	date: March 2020	drawn: bjh

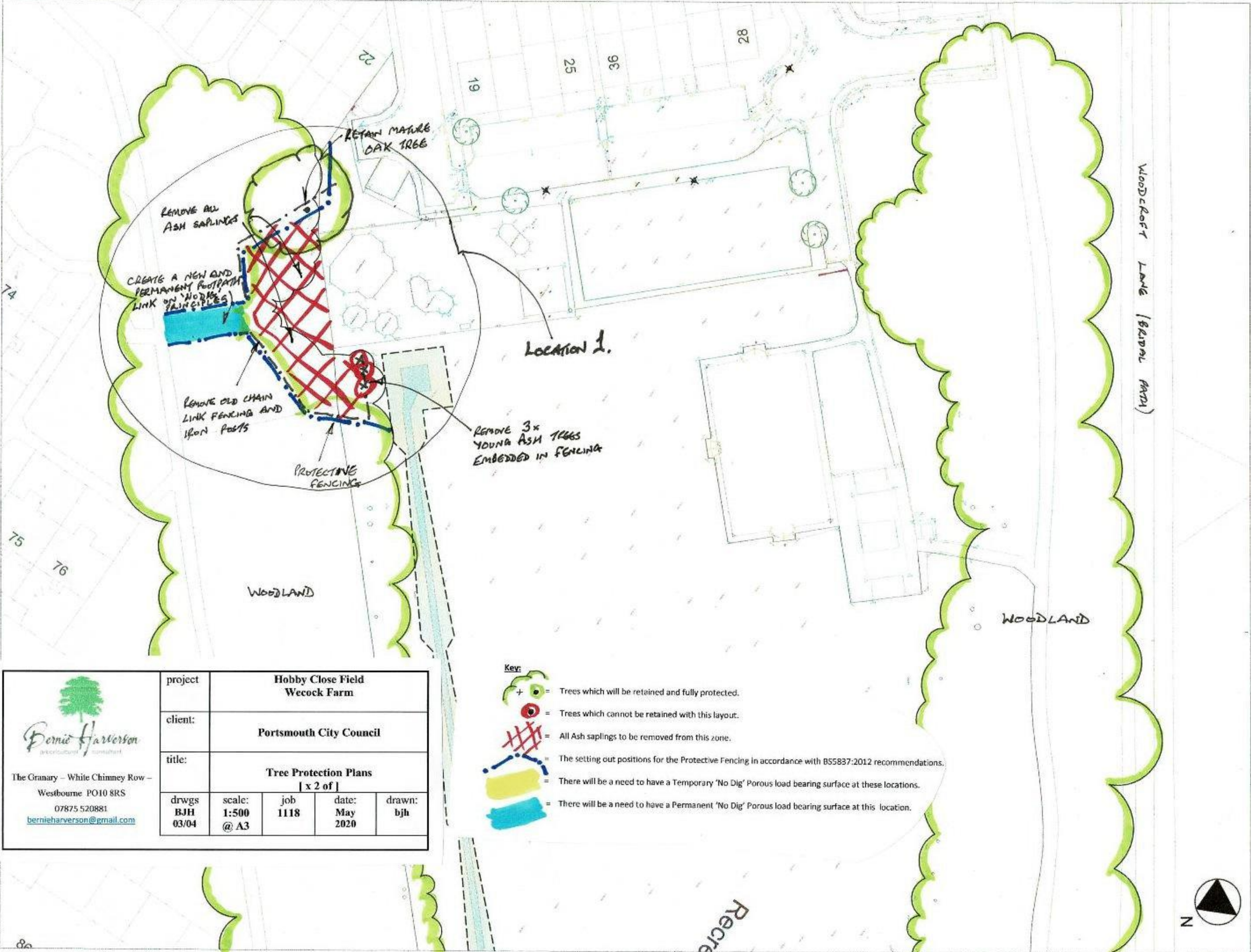
Date: NOV 2019 Scale: 1:350 @ A1 DEPARTMENTAL SECTION: JAMES HILL Director JACOBSON ARCHITECTS: Sean Whitham D.L.A. HILL Designated by: AKE Drawn by: AKE Checked by: VM Drawing No: HCF/ S/ 5000			
SURVEY	DESIGN	WORKING	
FEASIBILITY	TENDER	AS-BUILT	
INFORMATION	CONTRACT	A.L.	



BH 3

Tree Protection Plan BJH 03/04

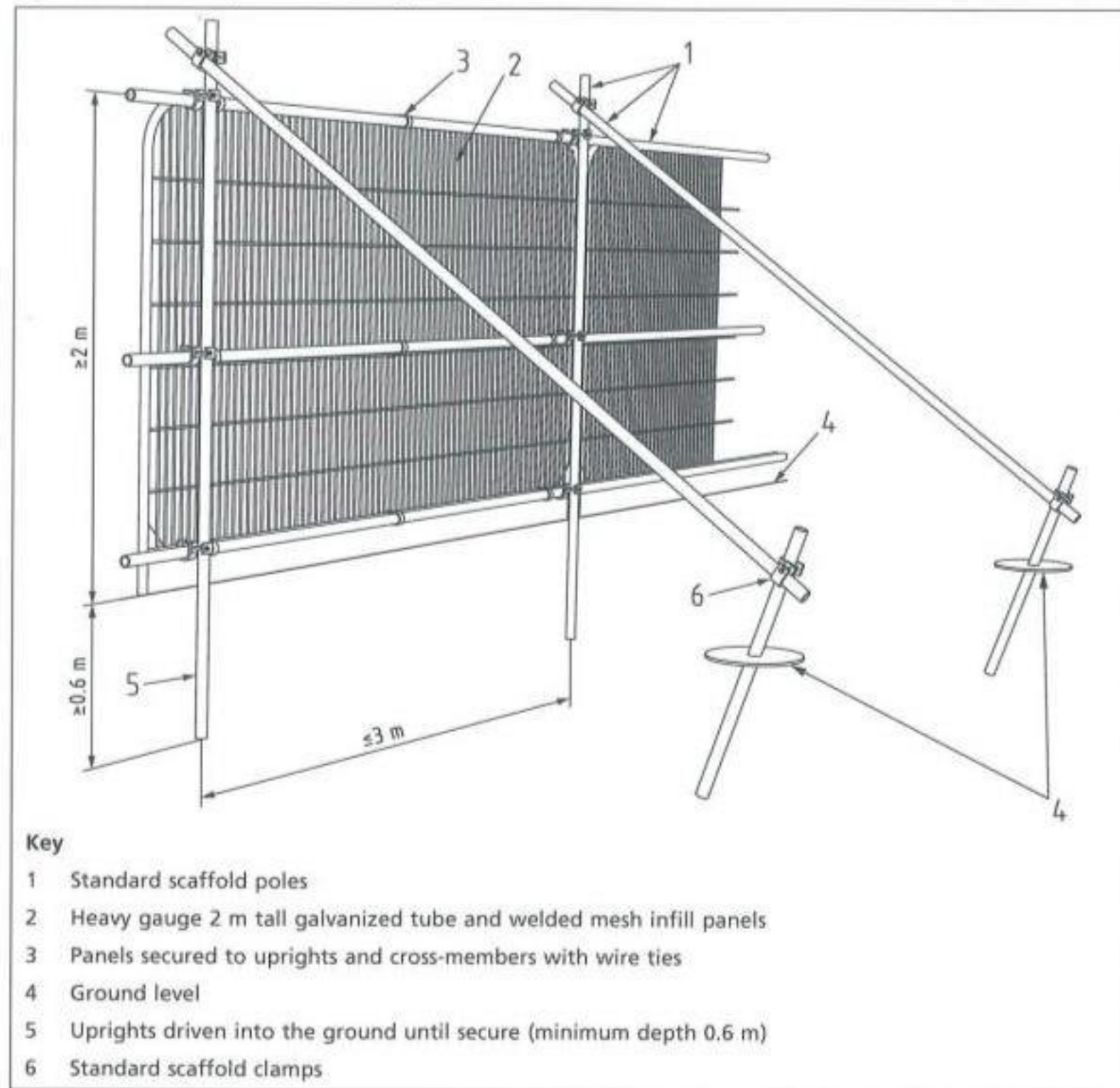
- + BS5837:2012 – Figure 2
- + Examples of 'No Dig' Porous paths
- + BS5837:2012 Section 6.2.3.3



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	client:	Portsmouth City Council				
	title:	Tree Protection Plans [x 2 of]				
	dwgs: BJH 03/04	scale: 1:500 @ A3	job 1118	date: May 2020	drawn: bjh	



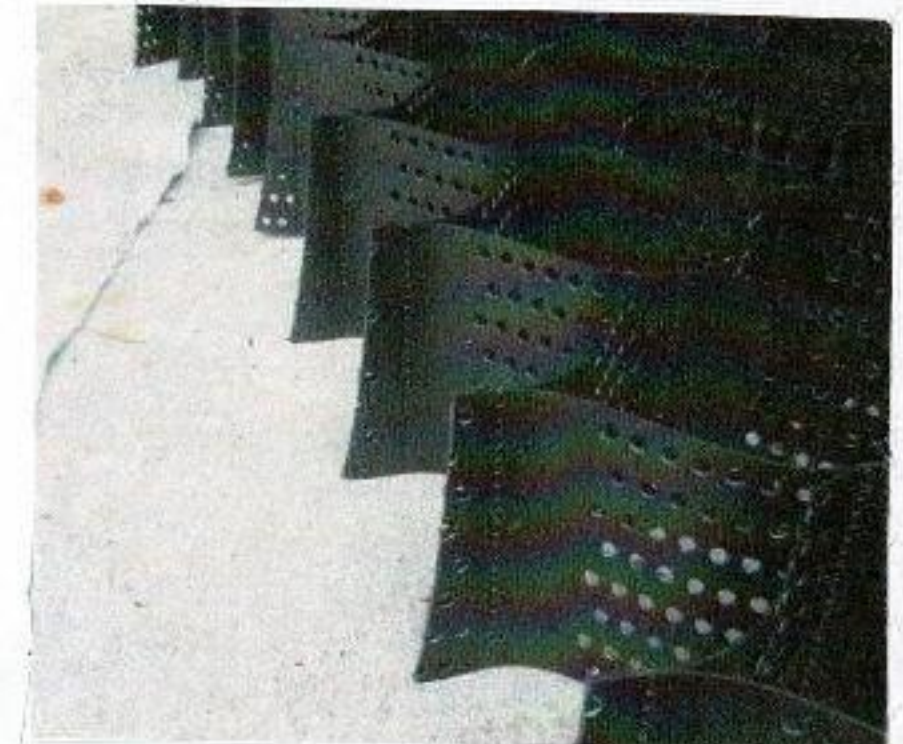
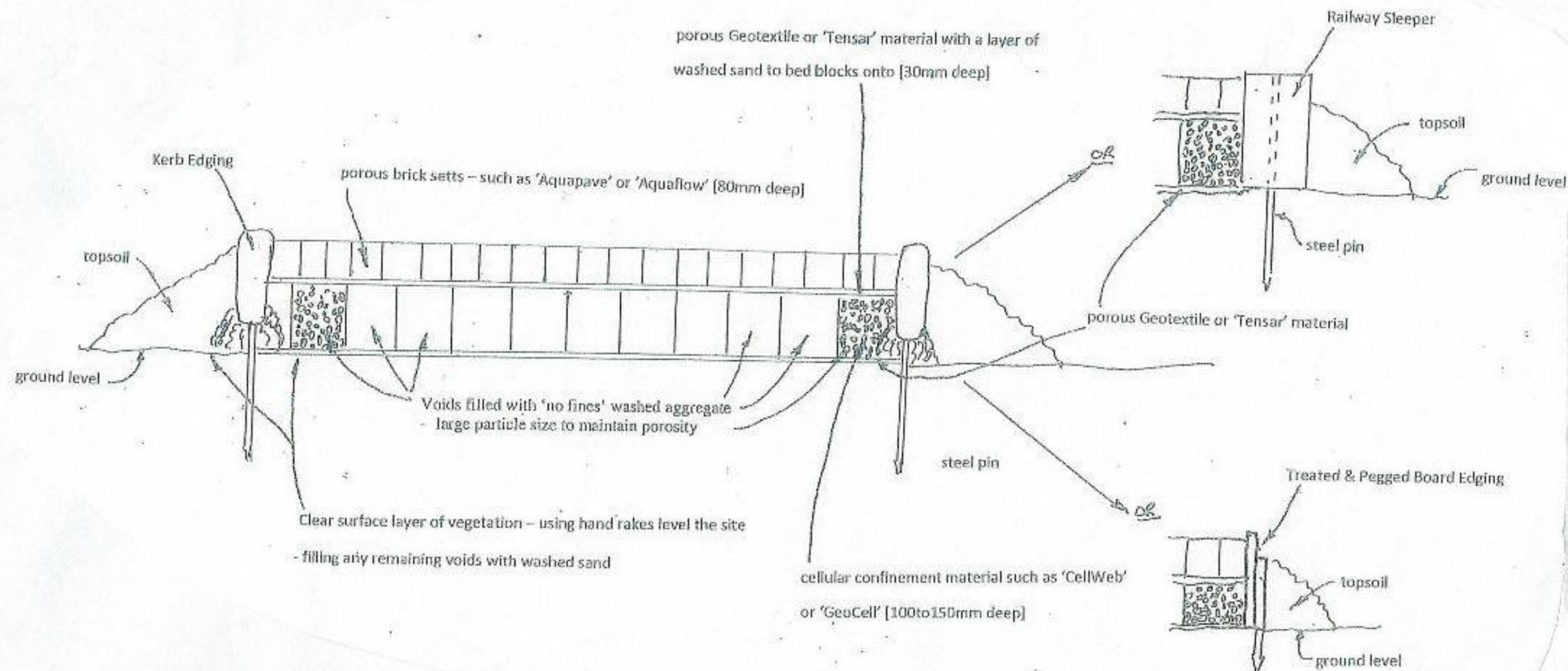
Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier



BS5837:2012 – Section 6.2.3.3 - New temporary ground protection should be capable of supporting any traffic entering or using the site without being distorted or causing compaction of underlying soil.

Note The ground protection might comprise one of the following:

- a) for pedestrian movements only, a single thickness of scaffold boards placed either on top of a driven scaffold frame, so as to form a suspended walkway, or on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 100mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane;*
- b) for pedestrian –operated plant up to a gross weight of 2t, proprietary, inter-linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 150mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane;*
- c) for wheeled or tracked construction traffic exceeding 2t gross weight, an alternative system (e.g. proprietary systems or pre-cast reinforced concrete slabs) to an engineering specification designed in conjunction with arboricultural advice, to accommodate the likely loading to which it will be subjected.*





BH 4

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 : –

The Granary, White Chimney Row, Westbourne PO10 8RS

- I hold the following arboricultural qualification – **National Diploma in Arboriculture (Royal Forestry Society – 1976)**
- I have **fifty (50)** 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 Surgeons and twelve years with CBA Trees as Managing Director & Senior 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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