

Technical Note

Bartons Road, Havant — Footway Widening: Arboricultural Note

Reference: MW.2407.SSE.TN

Client: Stonebond Properties (Guildford) Limited

Date: 27 March 2026

Revision: —

1. Introduction

This note has been prepared by Mark Welby DipArb(RFS), TechCert(ArborA), FARborA, of Mark Welby Consulting Arborists (M Welby Ltd), at the request of Emma Ward MRICS, Stonebond Properties (Guildford) Limited. It sets out the arboricultural assessment and recommended construction approach for two sections of proposed footway widening, which fall within the root protection areas of retained trees.

The note addresses the northern section, within the root protection areas (RPAs) of two silver maple trees assessed as trees 05 and 06, and the southern section, within the RPA of a horse chestnut assessed as tree 07. Both sections concern the widening of the existing highway footpath. The same construction principles are recommended for each location.

Tree numbers are taken from the arboricultural impact assessment and tree protection plan submitted with the application. For reference, please see the tree protection plan: MW.2407.SSE.TPP-A0.pdf.

2. Options Considered

Three construction approaches were assessed for each section of footway widening:

Option 1 — Traditional construction: Involves excavation within the RPAs, installation of a compacted crushed hardcore sub-base, and a conventional asphalt finish. This is the least preferable option due to the risk of soil compaction and structural root damage within the RPA.

Option 2 — No-dig overlay: Involves laying a cellular confinement system over the existing path surface and extending it laterally over the adjacent soft ground without excavation. This avoids root damage but may introduce level and buildability constraints depending on the existing surface geometry, specifically the potential for differential movement at the junction between the existing path and the widened section.

Option 3 — Sensitive excavation with no-dig construction (recommended): Involves excavating to approximately 100 mm depth within the widening zone only, under arboricultural supervision, followed by installation of a 75 mm cellular confinement system finished with a 25 mm bound surface course. This avoids the need for a compacted hardcore sub-base and minimises soil disturbance within the RPA.

3. Assessment and Recommendation

Option 3 is the recommended approach for both the northern section (trees 05 and 06 — silver maple) and the southern section (tree 07 — horse chestnut). The construction principles are equivalent in each location and the same methodology applies.

At a shallow excavation depth of approximately 100 mm, significant structural roots are unlikely to be encountered beneath either section of footway. Works will predominantly affect smaller fibrous roots, which are transitory in nature and readily regenerated by established trees of these species. Provided works are carried out under arboricultural supervision, with any exposed roots cleanly severed rather than torn, the impact on the long-term health and stability of trees 05, 06, and 07 is considered minor and tolerable.

The recommended Option 3 construction approach is considered appropriate and deliverable within this constraint whilst maintaining an acceptable level of arboricultural impact.

4. Conditions of Recommendation

The recommendation is made on the basis that the following conditions are observed:

- i. All works within or adjacent to the RPAs of trees 05, 06, and 07 shall be carried out under the supervision of a qualified arboriculturist.
- ii. Excavation shall be limited to approximately 100 mm depth within the widening zone. No mechanical excavation shall be undertaken within root protection areas.
- iii. Any roots exposed during excavation shall be cleanly severed with a sharp tool and shall not be torn, ripped, or subject to mechanical damage.
- iv. No compacted hardcore sub-base shall be installed within the RPAs. The cellular confinement system shall bear directly on the prepared excavation surface.
- v. No construction materials, plant, or spoil shall be stored or deposited within the RPAs of any retained tree.