BSi5837 Arboricultural Method Statement

CLIENT:	Nicholson
SITE:	11 Constable Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7FQ
OUR REF:	v478P/CJO/1808
DATE OF REPORT:	18 August 2026

Prepared by Christopher Overbeke MSc Arb, BA (Hons), ANC (Dist.), M, Arb A
Checked by Christian Sheldon ND (Arb), QCF L4 Dip (Arboriculture)



28 Shelford Road, Cambridge, CB2 9NA
Tel: 01223 842253 Email: info@omc-associates.co.uk

CONTENTS

Summary

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Brief
- 1.2 Scope and background
- 1.3 Documents
- 1.4 Root Protection Area (RPA)

2.0 Phasing of Inspection/Monitoring

3.0 Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

- 3.1 Ground protection
- 3.2 Protective Fencing
- 3.3 Working with cement/concrete mixing/bunded area
- 3.4 Treatment of roots / root pruning
- 3.5 Foundations
- 3.6 New Patio
- 3.7 New utilities
- 3.8 Additional precautions outside the tree exclusion zone
- 3.9 Facilitation Pruning
- 3.10 Removal of hardstanding from RPA
- 3.11 Welfare/Materials storage

4.0 Sequence of events

4.1 Phases of tree protection
4.2 Arboricultural involvement

Appendix A Tree protection plan
Appendix B Tree survey plan and tree impacts plan
Appendix C A default specification for protective fencing (Heras);
Appendix D Signage for protective fencing
Appendix E Arboricultural Monitoring
Appendix F Tree details

SUMMARY

Successful avoidance of any damage can be achieved through appropriate tree protection, correct implementation and close liaison with the Council's tree officer and the appointed arboriculturist.

These details and procedures are provided in the arboricultural method statement outlined below and illustrated in the Tree Protection Plans at Appendix A.

To ensure the correct installation of the tree protection and its continued effectiveness throughout the construction process, the following principals must apply:

- No building work or other activity associated with development can take place until the approved protection measures are in place and secure, and a site meeting involving the contractor and arboricultural consultant has taken place.
- Details of key site personnel will be submitted to the Council's arboricultural officer prior to the commencement of site works.
- All key site personnel will fully familiarise themselves and understand this method statement and tree protection plan.
- A copy of this method statement must be kept on site at all times. A large(not less than A3 size) copy of the TPP must be placed on the site office noticeboard.

- All relevant aspects of this method statement must be incorporated into the construction method statement to avoid any conflicts.

SUMMARY

The tree protection strategy is based on the creation of a construction exclusion zone and protecting roots during excavation for foundations, removal of hardstanding and laying of new drainage as well as zoning off an area to the front from cement mixing.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BRIEF

OMC Associates are instructed to provide an arboricultural method statement for 11 Constable Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7FQ to assist with planning application reference DC/23/1081/HH to extend the property to the side.

Recommendations are consistent with the most recently revised version of the British Standard on this subject, "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations", BS 5837 (2012).

1.2 SCOPE AND BACKGROUND

This report incorporates an arboricultural method statement providing the details necessary to ensure retained trees on site are not damaged during construction and is supplemented by a Tree Protection Plan that illustrates the protection measures required.

1.3 DOCUMENTS

Plans are based on the drawings by Michael Sale Architectural Surveyors Ltd.

2.0 PHASING OF INSPECTION/MONITORING

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 3 provides all the details relating to tree protection specific to this development. Critical to its implementation is a clear understanding of when and how the protection is implemented, what action must be taken when there is a breach of the approved protection and how to implement any changesin the approved protection necessitated by unanticipated events/changesin design.

2.2 SITE ARBORICULTURALIST

An appropriately experienced and professional arboriculturist must be appointed at the outset whose role will be to ensure full compliance of the approved tree protection measures through regular monitoring and maintenance of a progress sheet that shall be signed off by the arboriculturist and site manager (or equivalent) on completion of the development and submitted to the LPA.

2.3 STAGE 1 - PRE-COM M ENCEM ENT M EETING

This will involve the arboriculturist, the site manager and other relevant site personnel and optionally the local authority arboricultural officer. He/she must be given sufficient advance warning of the meeting. This meeting could be viewed as a form of induction and will ensure:

1. a full understanding exists of what and where the tree protection comprises - if necessary, the site can be marked out to indicate the positioning of protection.
2. if and when arboricultural supervision is required.
3. exchange of all relevant contact details and distribution of an arboricultural site monitoring record.
4. that all parties are happy with what is agreed and that it is deemed practical. Any tweaks/changes made at this stage that vary to the approved details must be agreed by the LPA Tree Officer and a means of ensuring this is appropriately recorded with the LPA determined.

There is no reason why the tree protection cannot be installed prior to this meeting so long as the opportunity remains for adjusting or improving it according to advice from the site arboriculturist.

2.4 STAGE 2 - MONITORING

The arboriculturist will monitor the development through regular, informal site visits or in accordance with an agreed schedule. The inspection record will be completed and signed off after each visit.

Any discrepancies to the approved, implemented protection shall be highlighted and the site arboriculturist recommended course of action implemented immediately, if necessary, stopping all development until resolved. A re-inspection will be organised to ensure satisfactory resolution.

The site manager will contact the arboriculturist immediately if damage to trees or root zones occurs.

2.5 STAGE 3 - SUPERVISION

The arboricultural method statement (AMS) may specify sensitive works within Root Protection Areas that require arboricultural supervision. These will be clearly shown in the AMS. The site manager will contact the site arboriculturist when this is ready to be carried out.

2.6 STAGE 4 - COM PLETION

On completion of all works on site, the site arboriculturist will be called to site to carry out a final inspection of the trees and the integrity of the RPAs. A Record of Completion will be signed by the

site arboriculturist and the site manager and submitted to the LPA for discharge or complete discharge of outstanding conditions.

This will not be completed where damage to trees or RPAs is noted at this final inspection until remedial measures as agreed between the site arboriculturist and the LPA Arboricultural Officer are fully implemented.

3.0 TREE PROTECTION SPECIFICS

3.1 GROUND PROTECTION

Protection of the ground within RPAs is essential to ensure the potentially harmful effects of construction activity on ground conditions (compaction and the absorption of potentially toxic materials) are avoided. Creation of a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) using protective fencing is the optimum means of protecting Root Protection Areas but where access within RPAs is required, protection of the ground is essential. (See Appendix D for an illustrated example).

In this instance, the existing paviour blocks will partially act as ground protection and will be left in place. It should be noted, however, that block paving is porous so that no cement/concrete mixing (see Section 3.3) will take place within the area hatched in yellow on the TPP.

Additionally ground protection will be laid in the intervening space between the retained paving to the rear of the extension and the edge of the CEZ.

This will be retained in place until all constructions works are complete and only removed to accommodate landscaping works.

Temporary ground protection must comply with British Standard Recommendations, asbelow:

(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; or 18mm 2400x1200mm plyboard.

(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 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 of 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.

In this instance the ground protection around the extension will comply with (a) above.

3.2 INSTALLATION OF PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

An RPA is defined in BSI 5837 (2012) as "the area surrounding a tree that contains sufficient rooting volume to ensure the survival of the tree".

All damage types to the RPA can be avoided through the establishment of Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZ) with the use of protective fencing. The use of a CEZ prevents or limits RPA incursion by segregating all trees vulnerable to construction activity.

The positioning of tree protection fencing is illustrated in the Tree Protection Plan at Appendix A. It serves to protect the integrity of the RPAs of T2 & T3 to the back where the ground is soft.

The barriers used to secure the CEZ must be installed prior to commencement of any construction activity. Once erected and secured the exclusion zone must not under any circumstances be altered or removed without advice from the arboriculturist and/or approval of the local planning authority.

BS5837:2012 recommends weld mesh (Heras)-type panels secured firmly to a scaffold framework (scaffold clamps are recommended) and braced with diagonal stabilizer struts all secured to the ground with metal pins, see Appendix B. There will be a need to place part of it on the flagged terrace and the majority of it on the lawn and this section will need to be inserted firmly into the ground.

NOTE: In the event the fencing becomes damaged it must be repaired or replaced as soon as is reasonably practicable to preserve itsefficacy.

Tree protection posters as shown at Appendix C should be secured to the fencing to serve as explanation for itspresence.

Only once the protective fencing is in place and secured, (as well as any other protection measures detailed below) may construction commence. The fencing will remain in place and secured until such time that all construction iscomplete, and materials/equipment have been removed from the site.

3.3 WORKING WITH CEMENT/CONCRETE MIXING/BUNDED AREA

Concrete or cementitious (mortar, cement, slurry) washout wastewater is caustic with a PH over 12 and is, therefore, highly toxic to trees and other vegetation. It is important not to mix concrete or dispense of concrete in the vicinity of trees in order to avoid the risk of it leaching into the soil. This willbe avoided within 5 metresof the magenta RPA line of any tree.

The use of a bund for the purpose of cement/concrete mixing to contain spillages and runoff is recommended. A proprietary mixing tray would suffice where only small quantities are required.

Where concrete footings and other structures cast from concrete below ground level near to root systems of retained vegetation are required, the incorporation of protection (e.g., sheathing with an impermeable membrane such as heavy-grade polythene sheeting) is required to prevent it coming into contact with roots.

Additionally, regardless of the presence of trees, the integrity of the ground must be protected for future planting.

The area hatched in yellow on the block paving to the front will be excluded from any cement/concrete mixing due to the porousnature of block paving.

3.4 TREATMENT OFROOTS/ROOT PRUNING

The excavation for the new extension foundations will take place almost entirely within the RPAs of T1 and T2, as indicated with a bright green line and the short line of new drainage will be laid within theRPAofT1.

Refertosection3.5fordetailsbutallgroundworkswillcomplywiththefollowingprinciples:

- Norootsofgreaterthan25mm mustbecutwithoutconsultation.
- Where roots can be carefully moved to one side, this should be carried out rather than being severed.
- If cutting of root(s) of less than 25mm diameter is deemed necessary they must be cleanly pruned, preferably back to a side branch, using sharp bi-pass secateurs or loppers. Once pruned, the cut root(s) must be immediately covered with damp, clean, hessian sacking (in summer months)

which must be kept damp so long as the roots remain exposed, or dry hessian sacking in winter to prevent desiccation and protect from rapid temperature changes.

- Prior to backfilling, any hessian wrapping should be removed and retained roots should be surrounded with sharp sand (builders' sand should not be used because of its high salt content which is toxic to roots) or other granular fill, before soil is replaced.
- If new concrete is to be used, an impermeable membrane must be placed along the exposed face to prevent contact with and scorching of roots, and to ensure leachates do not contaminate the immediate rooting area in the future.

3.5 FOUNDATIONS

The foundations will be a standard strip foundation in view of the relatively low level of RPA incursion affecting T15.

The methodology outlined in 6.3 (and 6.8) will be carefully adhered to throughout the ground works and laying of the concrete.

As indicated with a bold bright green line on the TPP, the trench for the footing will be hand dug or air spaded to 600mm to fully expose the root architecture of encountered roots.

All roots less than 25mm diameter will be cleanly cut and protected as per details in 6.3.

Where roots greater than 25mm are exposed, the site arboriculturist will be consulted to determine whether it/these can be cut to accommodate the footing.

If not, an alternative design will be determined to allow for the retention of the root(s). This may involve piling using the smallest possible bore pile and ensuring the pile is sleeved or utilising screw piles.

The positions of the piles will be informed by the locations of the retained roots so that these are fully avoided.

Alternatively the roots may be sleeved to allow for full girth expansion of the roots and the concrete cast around the sleeve so that the roots are effectively retained within tunnels, subject to Building Controlapproval.

3.6 NEW PATIO

If it is determined to extend the patio to the rear within the RPA If G1 and T2 the following methodology will implemented:

- Lay 300g/m2 porous geotextile separation layer.
- Lay 75mm depth of sharp sand supported by timber edging boards or timber baulks supported by pegs.
- Gently compact
- Lay flags stones and tamp down
- Point with a porous jointing compound only to ensure porosity.

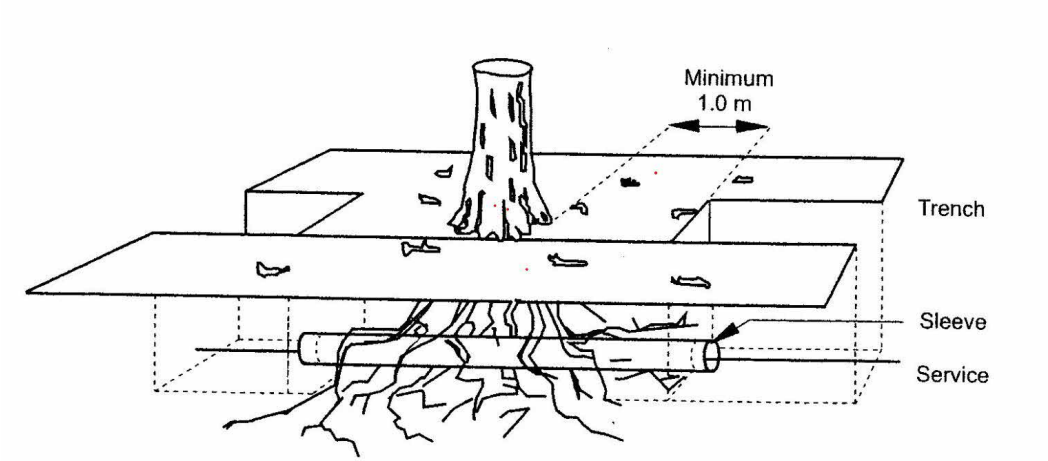
All work within the RPA will take place on mobile ground protection.

3.7 NEW UTILITIES

New drainage to the mains services run within RPAs. This is highlighted in mauve on the tree protection plan and the installation of the services.

A manually dug trench may be adopted scrupulously following the principles in Section 3.34.

1) A maximum 0.3m wide trench will be dug.
2) All rootsof greater diameter than 25mm will be retained.
3) Services will be carefully threaded through the roots. See figure 2 below.
4) Rootswill be protected whilst exposed asdetailed in Section 3.4.
5) The excavated ground will be refilled with treated top soil that complies with BS3882: 2007 Specification for Topsoil with a 15%content of an inert, fines aggregate so that all voids are filled.
6) The ground will be laid in layers and adequately hydrated before the next layer is laid.
7) All work will take place on ground protection.
8) Arboricultural guidance must be at hand at all times.



Threading pipework through roots

3.8 ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS OUTSIDE THE TREE EXCLUSION ZONE

- Materials that will contaminate the ground such as diesel oil and concrete mixings will not be discharged within the RPA or within 10m of any of the tree stems.
- Notice boards, telephone cables or other services will ot be attached to any part of the tree.
- No fires that have the potential for flames to extend to within 5m of any point of the tree are to be lit.

3.9 FACILITATION PRUNING

Overhang from G2 will need to be pruned back to 1.5m beyond the boundary line. Permission from the owner will be required.

The work must be carried out prior to commencement.

This will be carried out in compliance with BS 3998 (2010) and only by Arboricultural Association approved tree contractors(www.trees.org.uk).

3.10 REMOVAL OFHARDSTANDING FROM RPA

When preparing the ground for the foundations, the existing block paving will need to be removed (magenta hatching on the TPP).

Thefollowingmethodologywill beadopted alongtheedgeof thehardstandingareato beremoved:

- Hard surfaces will be broken out to the subbase material below and dismantled manually. Hand operated hydraulic equipment may be used.
- Ease out broken surface/concrete (and substrate where this is unavoidable) and any other object such as kerb/kerb haunching, etc carefully without tearing larger roots (> 25mm) that may have grown under or around them. If this has occurred, carefully prise the root away and cleanly cut the root first with sharp secateurs.
- Refer to Section 3.4 for general guidance of root pruning and root exposure.
- Existing ground levelsshould be retained within the RPAs.
- All plant and vehicles engaged in demolition works should either operate outside the RPA or run on the ground protection. Where such ground protection is required, it should be installed prior to commencement of operations.
- Where trees stand adjacent to material to be removed, the demolition should be undertaken inwards within the footprint of the construction site (often referred to as "top down, pull back").
- Debriswillbe loaded and removed via ground protection.

3.11 SITE SET-UP

Parking for contract vehicles: Thiswill be located to the front away from any RPA.

Welfare - locationsfor site huts, temporary toiletsetc: Where required, this will be located to the front away from any RPA.

Storage of materials: Thiswill be located beyond any CEZ.

4.0 SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

4.1 PHASES OF TREE PROTECTION

All key site personnel must fully familiarise themselves and understand this method statement and tree protection plan. A copy of the method statement must be kept at all times on site. A large (not less than A3 size) copy of the TPP must be placed on the site office noticeboard. The general sequence of events should be as follows:

Stage 1: Pre-commencement site meeting involving the site manager/foreman and arboriculturist. The local authority arboricultural officer must also be notified of this meeting in good time to allow the opportunity for he/she to attend. Mark out positions for protection and discuss all tree protection issues.

Stage 2: Erect protective fencing and mark up zone to the front where no cement/concrete mixing will take

Stage 3: Carry out all works ensuring compliance with details in Section 3.4.

Stage 4: On completion of all construction works, remove protective fencing/ground protection and remove former drive and reinstate soft ground as per the methodology.

4.2 ARBORICULTURAL INVOVEMENT

The arboriculturist will monitor the development through periodic site visits or in accordance with an agreed schedule. Regularity will be determined by the impact of the scheme on trees, the complexity of protection and the significance of trees. The inspection record will be completed and signed off after each visit.

Any discrepancies to the approved, implemented protection shall be highlighted and the site arboriculturist recommended course of action implemented immediately, if necessary, stopping all development until resolved. A re-inspection will be organised to ensure satisfactory resolution.

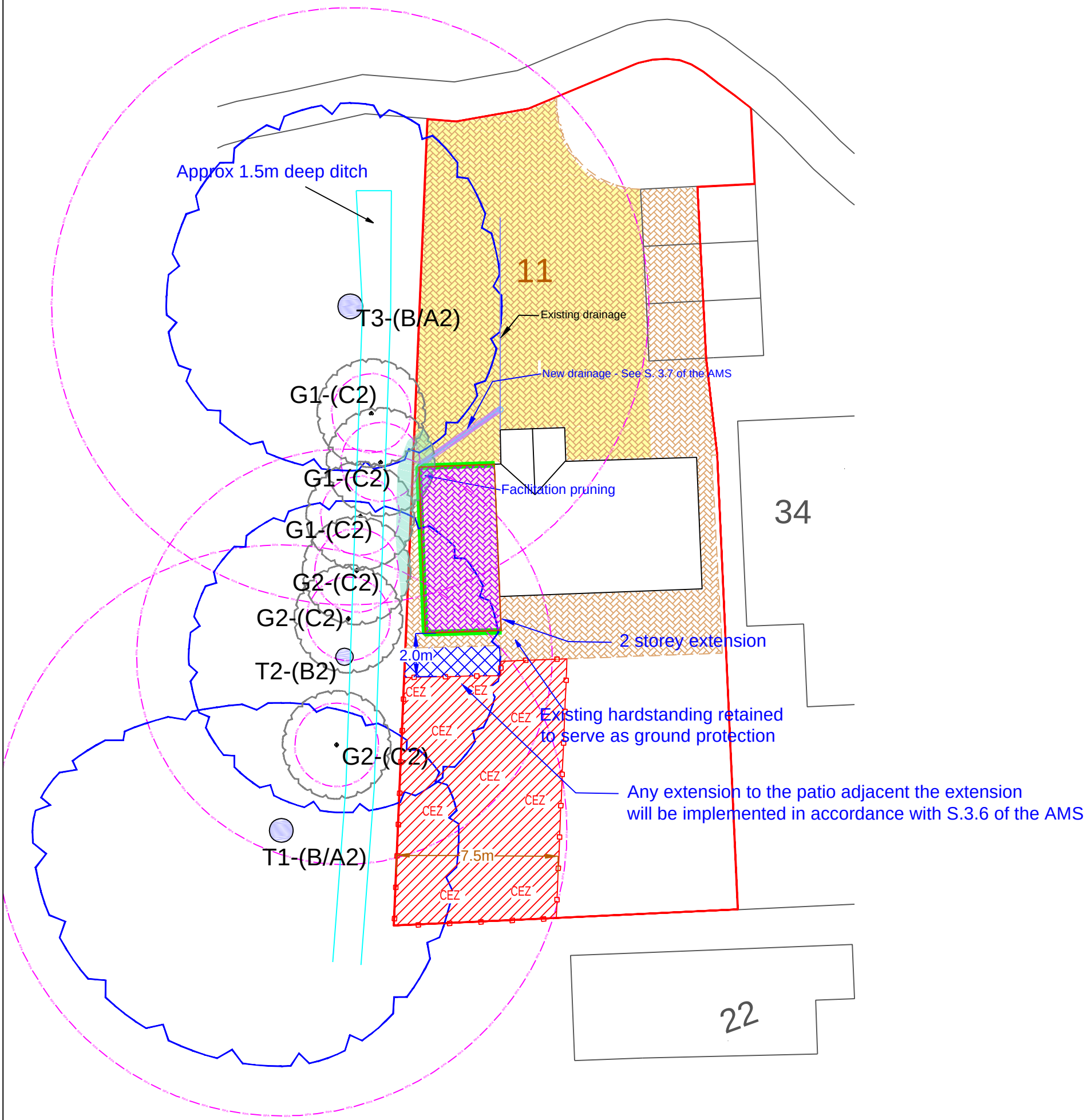
The site manager will contact the arboriculturist immediately if damage to trees or root zones occurs.

Once all works are complete, arrange post construction meeting to ensure no damage to trees and RPAs. (Organise remedial works as recommended by the arboriculturist where damage noted). Remove temporary protection.

OMC Associates

Appendix A Tree Protection Plan

North
(Indicative)



= RPA

Title
Tree Protection Plan

Client
Nicholson

Project
11 Constable Road, Haverhill, CB9 7FQ

Date
19 August 2026

Drawn by
CJO

Project ref.
v478_TPP

Scale
1:200 @ A3

Removal of structures within RPA
(refer to Section 3.10 of the Arboricultural Method Statement for description and specification)

Cement/concrete free mixing zone
(refer to Section 3.3 of the Arboricultural Method Statement for description and specification)

BS 5837 Tree Protection Fencing
(refer to Section 3.2 of the Arboricultural Method Statement for description and specification)

Treatment of roots
(refer to Section 3.4 of the Arboricultural Method Statement for description and specification)

Facilitation pruning
(refer to Section 3.9 of the Arboricultural Method Statement for description and specification)

BS 5837 Ground Protection
(refer to Section 3.1 of the Arboricultural Method Statement for description and specification)

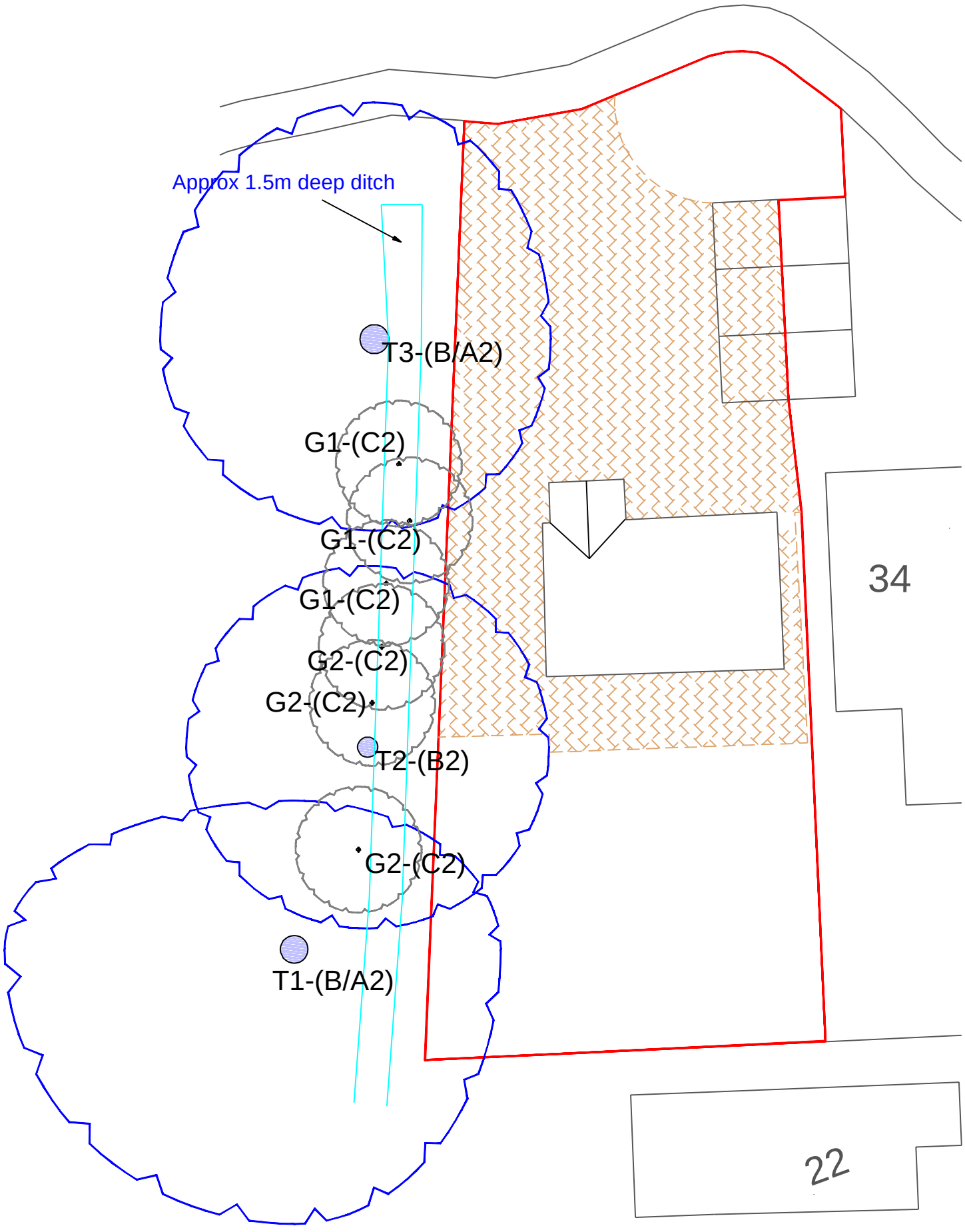
O M C
Arboriculture

28 Shelford Road, Cambridge CB2 9NA
Tel: 01223 842253 / 020 8252 7919
Fax: 01223 846870 Mob: 07771 708474
Email: info@omc-associates.co.uk

OMC Associates

AppendixB Tree Survey Plan and Tree Impacts Plan

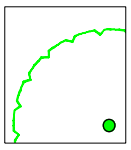
North
(Indicative)



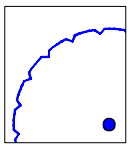
Title	Tree Survey Plan
Client	Nicholson
Project	11 Constable Road, Haverhill, CB9 7FQ
Date	2 August 2023
Drawn by	CJO
Project ref.	v325_TSP
Scale	1:200 @ A3

DO NOT SCALE - Use only figured dimensions
To be read in colour

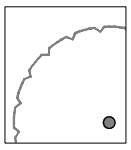
BS 5837:2012 TREE RETENTION CATEGORIES



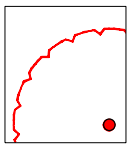
Category A
Trees of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)



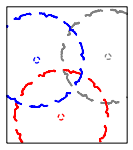
Category B
Trees of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested)



Category C
Trees of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.



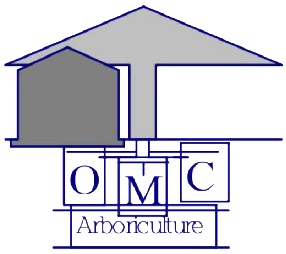
Category U
Trees in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.



Trees Proposed For Removal
(shown with dashed outline and red identification)

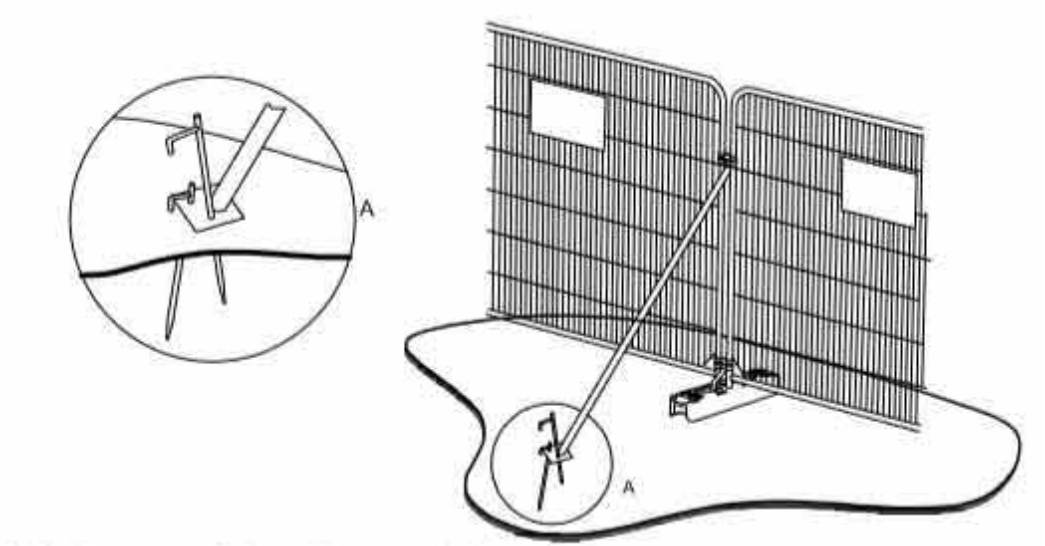
O M C
Arboriculture

28 Shelford Road, Cambridge CB2 9NA
Tel: 01223 842253 / 020 8252 7919
Fax: 01223 846870 Mob: 07771 708474
Email: info@omc-associates.co.uk

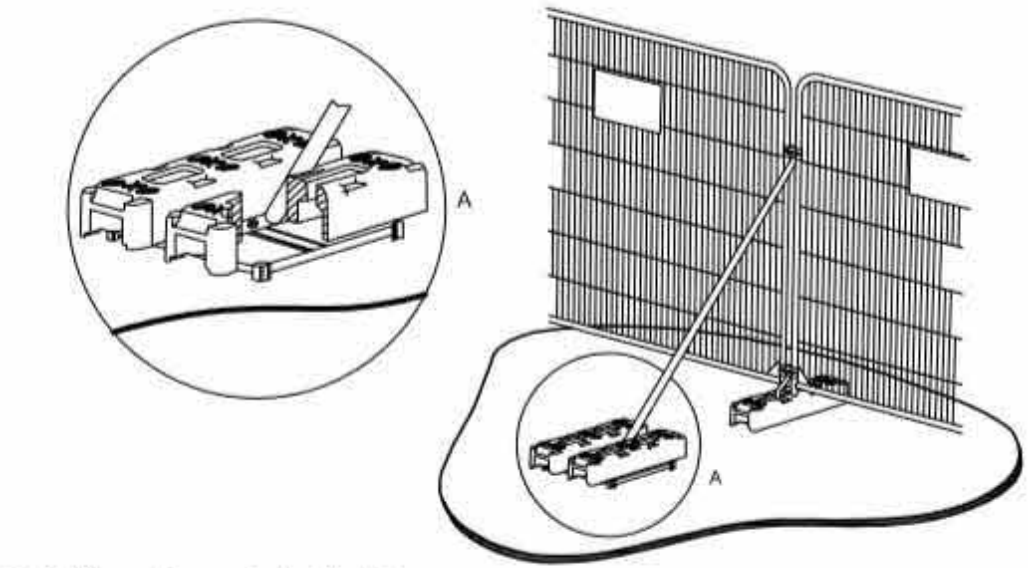


OMC Associates

Appendix C Default specification for tree protection fencing



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray



OMC Associates, 28 Shelford Road, Cambridge, CB2 9NA
T: 01223 842253 and 0208 252 7919
E: info@omc-associates.co.uk
W: www.omc-associates.co.uk



PROTECTIVE FENCING. THIS FENCING MUST BE MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED PLANS AND DRAWINGS FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT.

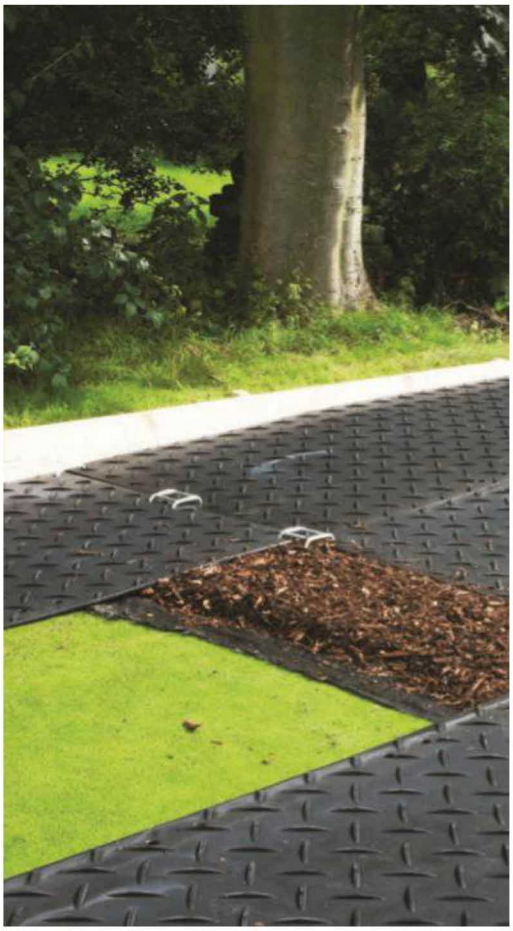
O M C
Arboriculture

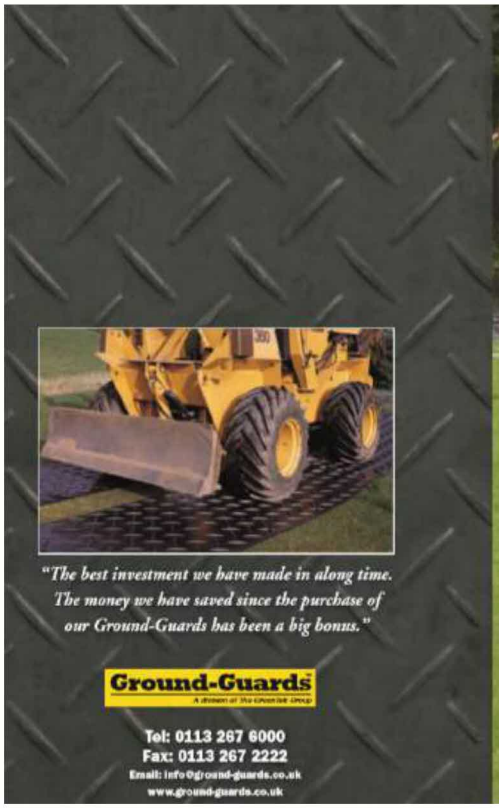
28 Shelford Road, Cambridge CB2 9NA Tel: 01223 842253 / 020 8252 7919 Fax: 01223 846870 Mob: 07771 708474 Email: info@omc-associates.co.uk

OMC Associates

Appendix D Signage for protective fencing









OMC Associates, 28 Shelford Road, Cambridge, CB2 9NA
T: 01223 842253 and 0208 252 7919
E: info@omc-associates.co.uk
W: www.omc-associates.co.uk

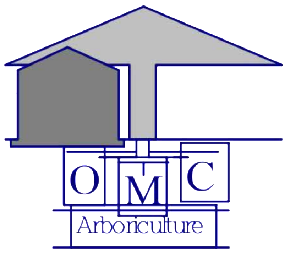
INSTALLATION OF GROUND PROTECTION











OMC Associates

Appendix E Arboricultural Monitoring

ARBORICULTURAL MONITORING SCHEDULE

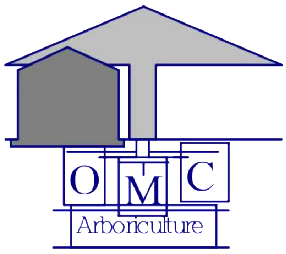
PURPOSE OF VISIT	TIMING	PERSONNEL PRESENT	REMOTE - PHOTO BASED	OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	COMPLETE Y/N
1. Appoint arboriculturist to oversee all arboricultural issues on site.	Pre-commencement				
2. On-site tree protection induction with construction team, arboriculturist & tree officer (if attending); *	Pre-commencement				
3. Erect CEZ as detailed in the AMS and mark zone for exclusion of cement mixing as shown in the TPP *	Pre-commencement				
4. Excavate for foundations in compliance with S. 3.4	Construction				
5. Final, completion inspection and identification of any remedial actions.	Completion of scheme				

**** Tree protection may be put in place and inspected at the same time as the site induction/meeting in some circumstances***

Project Contacts

Council Tree Officer:	planning@westsuffolk.org		
Site Manager:	TBA		
Arboriculturist:	Christopher Overbeke - OMC Associates	[redacted]	[redacted]
Project Agent:	Nicola Sale - Michael Sale Architectural Surveyors Ltd	[redacted]	[redacted]

Notes



OMC Associates

Appendix F Tree Details



Minor overhand up to 3m



Site of extension



Front of site – T1 in foreground



T2 & T3



Site of extension



T3



Rear garden

Ditch

ID	Species	Age Class	Dia. At 1.5m (mm)	Height (m)	Crown Height	1st branch	Crown Radius				SULE	Condition Physiological	Condition Structural	RPA Radius (m)	Quality Category (BS:5837)	Tree-Work	Site: 11 CONSTABLE ROAD, HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK, CB9 7FQ OMC Associates www: omc-associates.co.uk Comments
							N	S	E	W							
T1	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	M	1100	16.4	(2)	-	8.2	10.9	11.5	>40	8.2	G	G	13.2	B/A2	N	Large and highly prominent specimen; off-site on public ground; significant epicormic growth and dense somewhat asymmetric al form due to unsympathetic historic reduction that have compromised form somewhat and resulted in downgrading from A1/2 to B2; high amenity and biodiversity value; far side of ditch
T2	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	M	800	11.8	(5)	-	7.2	7.2	7.2	>40	7.2	G	F	9.6	B2	N	Mature, off-site tree on public ground; historically pollarded to 4.8m with substantial, dense, shapely crown developed from the pollard point; prominent; high amenity and biodiversity value; far side of ditch
T3	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	M	1150	17	3)	3.4 (SE)	7	7.6	8.5	>40	7	G	G	13.8	B/A2	N	Large and highly prominent specimen; off-site on public ground; significant epicormic growth and dense somewhat asymmetric form due to unsympathetic historic reduction that have compromised form and resulted in downgrading from A1/2 to B2; high amenity and biodiversity value; far side of ditch
G1	Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)	EM	152	3.5	(0.5)	-	2.5	2.5	2.5	>40	2.5	G	G	1.82	C2	N	Self-set shrubby trees; off-site; good health; screening value
G2	Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	EM	161	4	0	-	2.5	2.5	2.5	>40	2.5	G	P	1.93	C2	WA	Possibly self set but more likely planted; shrubby specimen; off-site; good health; screening value; biodiversity value