DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

BS:5837 ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY & METHOD STATEMENT

WERG GARDENS
WERG
MILDENHALL
WILTSHIRE
SN8 2LY

CLIENT: MR. M. LAWSON

NOVEMBER 2023
Ref: SCD 06233 / 2023

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTION

This Arboricultural report has been prepared by Sarah Duckworth, Arboricultural Consultant.

Consent was recently granted for a new 3-bedroom, detached eco-house at Werg Gardens under planning application ref: PL/2022/09014.

As a condition of consent the applicant is required to provide the following information regarding trees:

> *A scheme for the protection of the retained trees as shown on the approved plans (the tree protection plan) and the appropriate working methods (the arboricultural method statement) in accordance with British Standard BS 5837: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations (or in an equivalent British Standard if replaced) have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.*
>
> *The scheme for the protection of the retained trees shall be carried out as approved.*

This report provides an Arboricultural Survey and Method Statement in accordance with BS:5837 (2012) 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' details the steps which will be taken to ensure significant trees can be successfully protected and retained during and on completion of the proposed building works.

1.2 SCOPE

The British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' is designed to assist those concerned with trees and planning to form balanced judgments. This report does not therefore seek to put arguments for or against development but provides a means of protecting the trees which may be affected during development.

The report is for the sole use of the client and its reproduction or use by anyone else is forbidden unless written consent is given by the author.

1.3 DOCUMENTS

The position of trees within the tree plan have been taken from a topographical survey provided by the client. The position of the trees is considered to be a fair representation of their locations in relation to the site and the proposed build area.

The Tree Protection Plan which accompanies this report is illustrative and should only be used for dealing with tree issues only. The precise location of all tree protection measurements should be confirmed with a pre-commencement site meeting before any demolition or construction activity takes place.

1.4 CAVEATS

The report is valid for a period of two years from the date of issue being 3rd November 2023 and will expire on 3rd November 2025.

The report refers to the condition of tree(s) and an assessment of the site on the day the evaluation was undertaken. The trees were assessed from ground level only and not climbed. My assessment of third-party trees was limited where direct access was not available to the adjoining properties.

The report is not a Tree Risk Management Report or a Hazard Analysis Report and its use as such is invalid.

DISCLAIMER: This is an independently produced Arboricultural Report. I have no connection with any of the parties involved in this site or application that could influence or bias the opinions expressed in this report.

2. ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT (AMS)

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This Arboricultural Method Statement specifies the detailed methodology that will be employed to prevent damage to the trees growing on land at Werg Gardens during building works to construct a new detached dwelling on the site.

The correct and timely installation of tree protection measures such as tree protection fencing is critical to ensure the long-term retention of a healthy tree stock on or adjacent to the development.

This method statement will be read, approved and agreed to by all key personnel prior to the commencement of works within the site.

WARNING: FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT ONCE APPROVED CAN CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO TREES AND MAY INVALIDATE YOUR PLANNING CONSENT.

2.2 STATUTORY TREE PROTECTION

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

I have confirmed on the Wiltshire Council Tree Preservation Order plan that at the time of this report – 02/11/2023 trees on site are not subject of any Tree Preservation Orders.

The protected status of trees can change therefore you are advised to carry out current checks before carrying out works to trees on site.

CONSERVATION AREAS

Werg Gardens is situated within the 'MILDENHALL' conservation area.

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 all trees in a Conservation Area with a trunk diameter of 75mm or more (measured at 1.5m above natural ground level) are protected (subject to some exemptions). It is an offence to prune, fell or otherwise damage a tree without first giving notice to the Council.

You are required to give the Borough Council six – weeks' notice of works to trees within a Conservation Area (a Section 211 Notification). The Local Authority cannot refuse the works, but it will use the six-week notification to consider whether the work is sufficiently harmful to amenity that it is expedient to serve a tree preservation order on the tree(s) in order to prevent or modify the works.

The protected status of trees can change; therefore, you are advised to re-confirm the status on the Council's online Tree Preservation Order Map immediately prior to carrying out tree works.

ANCIENT WOODLAND

Werg Gardens is not designated Ancient Woodland or within and Ancient Woodland Buffer Zone.

2.3 SOIL

The soil on site was assessed by an appraisal on the British Geological Drift Survey Map only. According to the 1:50 000 scale map records, the bedrock geology for Werg Gardens is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation consisting primarily of chalk.

The soil at Werg Gardens is therefore expected to be free draining, resistant to compaction and with no significant capacity to shrink and swell with changing moisture levels.

Regardless, foundation depths should be calculated in accordance with NHBC Chapter 4.2 only following a detailed on-site soil analysis, taking into account the presence of any clay and future growth of the adjacent trees.

2.4 SITE SUPERVISION AND MONITORING.

A site visit will be held once the Tree Protection Fencing is installed as shown on the Tree Protection Plan. The Local Authority Tree Officer will be given a minimum of five days' notice of the time and date of the meeting so that they may attend should they wish to do so.

The purpose of the pre-commencement meeting will be for the appointed Arboricultural Consultant to confirm the location and construction of the Tree Protection Measures and ensure a common understanding of the requirements for Tree Protection within the site. If the Local Planning Authority is unable to attend, photographic evidence of the tree protection fencing will be emailed to the appointed planning officer once it has been erected.

A copy of the Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan will be available on site for reference.

2.5 ON SITE TREE SUPERVISOR

In addition to the appointed Arboriculturist, there will be a designated on-site 'tree supervisor', a member of the build team who is responsible for ensuring no works are undertaken on site except in complete accordance with the approved Arboricultural Method Statement when the Arboricultural Consultant is not present.

The on-site tree supervisor will:

- Be present on site most of the time.
- Be aware of the arboricultural responsibilities relating to the protected / retained trees on site.
- Have the authority to stop any work that will, or have the potential to, cause harm to any tree.
- Be responsible for ensuring that all site personnel are aware of their responsibilities towards trees on site and the consequences of the failure to observe those responsibilities.
- Make immediate contact with the Council and/or the retained arboriculturalist in the event of any related tree problems occurring whether actual or potential.
- To ensure a commitment from all parties to the healthy retention of the trees. These details will be passed to any contractors working on site, so that the practical aspects of the above precautions are included in their method statements, and financial provision made for these.
- The appointed on-site Tree Supervisor will notify the Local Authority Tree Officer 5 days prior to the tree protection measures being removed on completion of development.

2.6 TREE WORKS

The following tree work will be undertaken prior to the commencement of any building works on site:

Ref:	Species	Works	Cat.
T002	Ash (Fraxinus excelsion)	Fell and remove stump	U

Figure 1. Schedule for tree works

2.7 TREE WORKS BEST PRACTICE

All tree works shall be undertaken in accordance with BS:3998 2010 'Tree Work Recommendations'.

No vehicles will be driven beyond the existing driveway onto unprotected ground during the course of the tree work operations.

Chippings arising from the work will not be piled around the bases of trees on or off the site. Wood and any other arisings from the tree work will not be burnt on site.

2.8 PROTECTED SPECIES

In accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act - 1981, Conservation - Natural Habitats -Regulations 1994 and Countryside Rights of Way Act - 2000, the site owner will consider the timing and type of tree work operations to avoid causing disturbance to any nesting or breeding birds or bat roosts that may be present within trees.

It is an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places.

Non-urgent major tree work involving tree removal or reduction and hedge cutting operations should not be undertaken during the bird nesting or breeding season, which is considered to be from 1 March to 31 July. However, depending on seasonal temperatures, some birds continue breeding into August and September.

All wild birds, their young, their eggs and active nests are protected under law. It is an offence to damage a nest intentionally while it is in use or being built and hedge cutting is highly likely to damage nests or cause them to be deserted.

2.9 TREE PROTECTION FENCING

Following the initial tree works, no further works in relation to the build will be undertaken, including construction, excavation or demolition, prior to the Tree Protection Fencing being installed in the 'Phase 1' position as identified in the Tree Protection Plan.

The Tree Protection Fencing will consist of a vertical and horizontal scaffold framework braced well to resist impact. The vertical tubes will be spaced at a maximum distance of 3m and driven securely into the ground. Onto this framework welded mesh – 'Heras' style fencing panels or similar will be securely fixed. (See Appendix H).

Once the existing building has been demolished, fencing will be erected along the rear boundary to protect the Box hedging which makes up G004.

The fencing will be located at all times to protect the retained trees and their rooting areas and will remain vertical, rigid and complete during development.

At no time will Tree Protection Fencing be removed or relocated contrary to the recommendations in this report, without professional arboricultural advice and without the prior consent of the Local Authority Tree Officer.

2.10 CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE

The area behind the tree protection fencing and temporary ground protection is designated the Construction Exclusion Zone and is to be isolated from all activity during work on the site.

THERE WILL BE NO STORAGE, PARKING, VEHICLE MOVEMENT OR PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY, TEMPORARY OR OTHERWISE, WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE AT ANY TIME DURING THE COURSE OF THE BUILD.

2.11 DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS

The existing building on site is to be removed. This structure is within the rooting areas of G004 (Box hedge). It can be broken up and removed by hand or using an extendable bucket from an excavator working from within the site and outside the rooting areas of all trees. The building will be dropped into its own footprint then pulled back into the site, away from the adjacent hedge group.

No excavation will be made any deeper than that of the existing structure's base. Roots exposed during the course of this works will be immediately covered with a light topsoil or damp hessian to prevent desiccation.

Once the debris has been removed, the footprint area of the shed will be excluded from the build site with an extension of the Tree Protection Fencing as shown in the Tree Protection Plan.

2.12 SERVICES

Water, gas and electricity to the new property will be connected via trenching down the centre of the access drive located along the southern edge to avoid the root protection area of T001. The trench can be excavated using a tracked mini-digger working from protected ground.

Soakaways, where required will be located 5m from the rear elevations of the properties within the garden area and outside of the rooting areas of all retained trees.

If at any point this route is found not to be viable then a revised plan will be drawn up in consultation with the Arboricultural Consultant and submitted to Wiltshire Council for approval.

2.13 LOW-DIG DRIVEWAY CONSTRUCTION

The driveway area currently consists of compacted hardcore. Any ruts in the ground will be levelled with a coarse pH neutral sand or clean angular stone.

Timber or aluminium edging boards will be installed to provide an upstand of approximately 200mm between the ground level and finished driveway surface in order to contain the gravel as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

A Geotextile Fabric will be laid across the site, overlapping adjacent rolls by a minimum of 150mm. It may be necessary to lightly pin the Geotextile in place until the overlying layers are installed.

A Cell web system 150mm deep will then be opened out and pinned in place between the edging boards. Pin spacing will vary according to the site conditions but will generally be required at 1m – 2m centres on flat surfaces, mainly placed around the perimeter of the area and where adjacent sections of the cellular confinement system abut each other, with less in the middle of the area.

The open cells will be filled with clean, open graded aggregate with particles between 5 and 45mm, (no fines Type 1 Roadstone of a non-marine source) working toward the tree from the furthest point away and using the filled cells as a platform.

Once the Geo-textile grid has been installed and filled with aggregate as per the manufacturer's recommendation it will be used as root protection and access to the build area during the construction process. The final aesthetic porous bound gravel can be applied on completion of the garage build.

Where necessary, following completion of the development, topsoil can be used to grade the edge of the surfacing to meet the adjacent ground level.

Posts should be sunk to mark the edge of the driveway and prevent vehicles from leaving the driveway when maneuvering.

2.14 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Roots can be killed by pollution of the rooting area by chemicals and leaching. Loose, granular or liquid materials, including cement mix and fuel will be stored on an impermeable membrane and well away from the Tree Root Protection Areas.

Particular care will be taken in the planning of deliveries if they require wide or tall loads and plants with booms, rigs or counterweights which can cause serious and permanent damage to trees making their safe retention impossible.

There will be no open fires on site during the building works.

2.15 LANDSCAPING

The following rules will be followed during all future landscaping works in order to prevent harm to the trees:

- Tree roots can be damaged by severance, compaction, pollution and desiccation. In view of this, there should be no excavation or changes in ground levels within the identified rooting areas of retained trees following completion of the development.

- Bulbs where proposed will be planted in random locations manually using dibbers and bulb planters relocating positions where necessary to avoid tree roots.

- On completion of the build, new fence panels should include holes or gaps at ground level a minimum of 100x100mm to allow small mammals such as hedgehogs to traverse and forage within the property.

- Where new fencing is proposed, post holes within the rooting areas of trees will be dug using a post hole digger to keep hole size to a minimum. Where substantial roots over 30mm are encountered, the location of the hole will be moved in order to avoid them. Post holes will be fully lined in order to prevent concrete coming into direct contact with tree roots.

2.16 UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

In the event of unforeseen circumstances whereby it is not possible to work in accordance with the Arboricultural Method Statement then advice should be sought immediately from a qualified Arboriculturist.

THERE SHALL BE NO DEVIATION FROM THIS METHOD STATEMENT WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH A QUALIFIED ARBORICULTURIST AND / OR THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY.

APPENDICES

A. Survey Data
B. Key
C. Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment
D. Tree Data
E. Tree Plans
F. Phasing of works
G. Contacts
H. Tree Protection Fencing Structure
I. Qualifications

APPENDIX A - SURVEY DATA

- The trees were surveyed on Monday 30th October 2023 from ground level only.
- The weather conditions were clear. Visibility was good.
- Heights were estimated as part of a group. Soil samples were not taken.
- The tree survey identified 2 trees and 2 tree groups growing on or adjacent to the site which were relevant to this planning application.
- The trees on site were assessed for their quality and benefits within the context of the proposed development and categorised in accordance with the recommendations in the BS: 5837:2012 – 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction'.

APPENDIX B - KEY

Ref: T001 = Tree 1 G001 = Group 1

Species: Common name (Botanical name)

Height: Measured with a clinometer (m) where possible or estimated when part of a group

Stem: Stem diameter taken at 1.5m with girth tape or rule and recorded in millimeters

Branch spread: Paced measurements at compass points or with a laser measure.

Crown clearance: Existing height above ground level of canopy and / or first significant branch direction of growth in metres e.g., 2.4 (N) where relevant.

Epics: Lower canopy created by epicormic growth.

Age Class: Newly planted - 3 years following planting.

Young - Tree well established but with juvenile crown form

Young Mature - Tree in first third of usual life expectancy for species

Mature - Tree in second third of usual life expectancy for species

Over Mature - Tree in final third of usual life expectancy for species / exhibiting signs of crown retrenchment & senescence.

Veteran - Older than usual for species or with historical/ cultural / ecological value

General Observations: Made with reference to physiological condition (health, vigour) and structural condition, noting evidence of decay, structural weakness and physical defect and preliminary management recommendations.

Estimated Remaining Contribution: Estimated in years - less than 10, 10-20, 20-40, 40+

BS: 5837:2012 category rating: In accordance with the guidelines of the British Standard.

- Category 'A' tree (Green)
- Category 'B' tree (Blue)
- Category 'C' tree (Grey)
- Category 'U' tree – Fell (Red)

RPA Area BS:5837 (2012) Root Protection Area calculation in square metres

RPA Radius BS:5837 (2012) Root Protection Area calculation circle radius in metres. [1]

[1] The root protection area radius is for information only and may not be appropriate in every case. BS:5837 advises that *'the RPA for each tree should initially be plotted as a circle centered on the base of the stem. Where pre-existing site conditions or other factors indicate that rooting may have occurred asymmetrically, a polygon of equivalent area should be produced. Modifications to the shape of the RPA should reflect a soundly based arboricultural assessment of likely root distributions.'*

APPENDIX C - BS:5837 (2012) TABLE 1: CASCADE CHART FOR TREE QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Category & Definition	Criteria (including sub-categories where appropriate)		
• 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 (e.g., where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning. Trees that are dead or 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.		
	Mainly Arboricultural Qualities	Mainly Landscape Qualities	Mainly cultural values including conservation
• Trees considered suitable for retention			
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)
Category B Trees of Moderate Quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remedial 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 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 contribution to the wider locality.	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value.
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.

APPENDIX D - SURVEY DATA

Ref.	Species	Structure	Measurements	Spread	General Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Summary	Photo
T001	Common Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	Tree	Height (m): 11 Stem Diam(mm): 580 Crown Clearance (m): 3.5 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	N:4.5 E:4 S:4.5 W:3.5	Swept lower stem. Previously crown lifted. Lateral spread reduced to clear overhead power lines. Pests and Diseases: Ash Dieback Infection Level 1: 0% to 25%	B1	Radius: 7.0m. Area: 154 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Good	
T002	Common Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	Tree	Height (m): 10 Stem Diam(mm): 750 Crown Clearance (m): 2 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	N:2.5 E:2.5 S:2.5 W:3	Topped at 6m with dense regrowth from previous topping point. Deep cuts on trunk from historic ring barking operation which may have been an attempt to kill the tree by previous owners. Limited safe, useful life expectancy..	U	No RPA due to Retention Category of U.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Physical Defect Public Amenity Value: Low Inspection Limitations: Dense vegetation	
T003	Common Box (Buxus sempervirens)	Hedge	Height (m): 2 Stem Diam(mm): 50 Crown Clearance (m): 0 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 40+ Years	N:0.5 E:0.5 S:0.5 W:0.5	Gappy boundary hedge, suppressed in parts by climbing plants and brambles.	C2	Area: 69 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate	

Ref.	Species	Structure	Measurements	Spread	General Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Summary	Photo
T004	Common Box (Buxus sempervirens)	Hedge	Height (m): 5 Stem Diam(mm): 150 Crown Clearance (m): 0 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 40+ Years	N:1 E:3 S:2 W:1.5	Historic hedge. Asymmetrical crown. Suppressed form on west side due to lack of light.	C2	Area: 96 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate	

APPENDIX E - PLANS

Attached as separate pdf documents

- Tree Protection Plan ref: WERG GARDENS TPP 06233 2023

APPENDIX F – PHASING OF WORKS

STAGE 1 (PRE-COMMENCEMENT)

TREE WORKS

↓

INSTALLATION TREE PROTECTION FENCING

↓

SITE MEETING TO SIGN OFF TREE PROTECTION FENCING
(NOTIFY LOCAL AUTHORITY -MIN 5 DAYS)

↓

STAGE 2 (DEMOLITION)

DEMOLITION OF EXISTING STRUCTURES

↓

INSTALLATION TREE PROTECTION FENCING
TO THE REAR OF DEMOLISHED STRUCTURES

↓

STAGE £ (CONSTRUCTION)

LOW-DIG HARD STANDING SUB-BASE INSTALLED WITHIN THE RPA OF T001

↓

TREE PROTECTION MEASURES TO REMAIN RIGID AND INTACT
THROUGHOUT BUILD WORKS.

↓

STAGE 4 (POST DEVELOPMENT)

APPLICATION OF FINAL AESTHETIC SURFACE TO
NO-DIG HARD STANDING WITHIN THE RPA OF T001

↓

REMOVE TREE PROTECTION MEASURES
NOTIFY LOCAL AUTHORITY -MIN 5 DAYS)

↓

TREE PLANTING / LANDSCAPING WORKS

APPENDIX G – CONTACTS

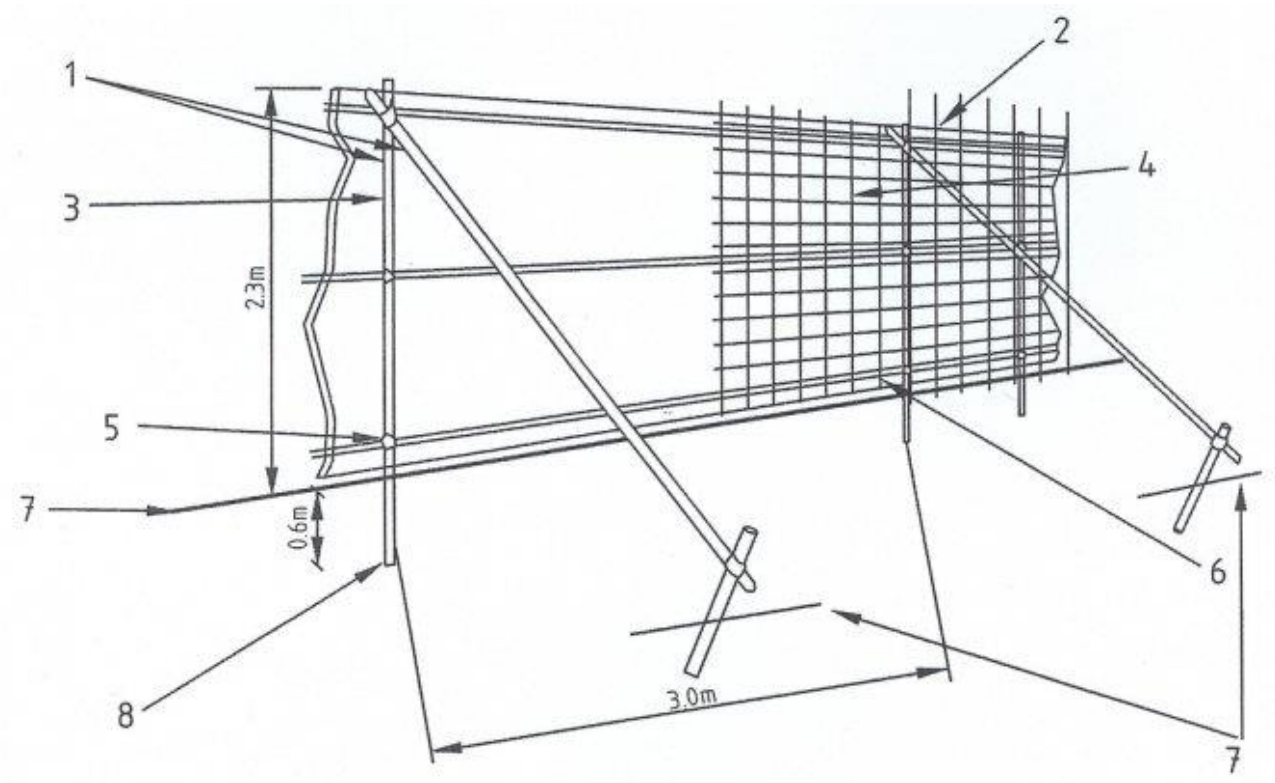
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APPENDIX H - TREE PROTECTION FENCING



1 Standard scaffold poles
2 Uprights to be driven into the ground
3 Panels secured to uprights with wire ties and, where necessary, standard scaffold clamps
4 Weldmesh wired to the uprights and horizontals
5 Standard clamps
6 Wire twisted and secured on inside face of fencing to avoid easy dismantling
7 Ground level
8 Approx. 0.6m driven into the ground

Figure 2. – Protective fencing for RPA

APPENDIX I - QUALIFICATIONS

This Arboricultural report has been prepared by Sarah Duckworth, Independent Arboricultural Consultant, trading as Duckworth's Arboriculture Limited.

I have over 19 years' experience working in the field of Arboriculture and for the past 16 years I have worked as a Local Authority Tree Officer both directly and independently providing contracted support. Since 2010 I have worked as a private consultant carrying out a range of Arboricultural Reports and Assessments for private clients.

I hold the Royal Forestry Society's Professional Diploma (Level 6) for which I received the Lockhart Garrett Award commendation.

I also hold the Arboricultural Association's Technicians Certificate (with Distinction) and am a LANTRA qualified Professional Tree Inspector.

I am a Professional Member of both the Arboricultural Association and the Consulting Arborist Society (CAS).