

An Arboricultural Method Statement on Trees at

34 St Margarets Street
Bradford-on-Avon
BA15 1DW

December 2023

Prepared for Mr Dan Wright

Prepared by Mark Sharples BSc, Tech Cert (Arbor.A.), Dip Arb (RFS), MArborA.

Contents

		Page
1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS	4
3	TREE PROTECTION PLAN	4, 5
4	ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	5
5	ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT	5 - 7
6	OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	7
7	REFERENCES	7

Appendices

1	Tree Schedule and Explanatory Notes	8, 9
2	British Standard Cascade Chart	10
3	Tree Protective Fencing Specification	11
3	Fence Signage	12, 13

Figure

Tree Protection Plan	34SMS/TPP2

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief: I am instructed by Mr Dan Wright, the property owner, to inspect the trees with the potential to be affected by development at 34 St Margarets Street, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1DW and to provide an arboricultural report.

1.2 Qualifications and Experience: I have based this report on my site observations and the provided information, and I have come to conclusions in the light of my qualifications and my 25 years experience in the arboricultural industry. I have the following qualifications in arboriculture, City and Guild's Tree Surgery, Technicians Certificate in Arboriculture (Arboricultural Association) and Professional Diploma in Arboriculture (Royal Forestry Society).

1.3 Documents and Information Provided: Ms Ritu Ale, the Site Architect, provided me with copies of the following documents.

- A proposed site plan.
- Site elevations.
- I had previously been provided with a site topographic survey.

1.4 Relevant Background Information: During the site visit Mr Wright advised me that he intended to apply to demolish the existing garage and construct a new slightly larger garage. There are apple trees in close proximity to the garage so a tree survey and Arboricultural Method Statement is required.

1.5 Scope of this Report: This report is only concerned with a tree assessment based on the criteria in the British Standard 5837 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction 2012. It includes a preliminary assessment based on a site visit and the documents provided, listed in 1.3 above. Trees and shrubs are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly, conclusions and recommendations are only valid for a period of one year. These periods of validity may be reduced in the case of any change in conditions in proximity to the trees or built structures.

1.6 Limitations of Use and Copyright: All rights in this report are reserved. No part of it may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, or stored in any retrieval system of any nature, without the written permission of Sharples Tree Services. Its content and format are for the exclusive use of the addressee in dealing with this site. It may not be sold, lent, hired out or divulged to any third party not directly involved in this site without our written consent.

2 SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS

2.1 **Site Visit:** My assistant, Katie Sharples, and I carried out an accompanied site visit on 5th December 2023 in the presence of Mr Wright. All my observations are from ground level without detailed investigations, I visually inspected the significant trees using binoculars to examine the aerial parts, a nylon faced sounding hammer and a thin metal probe to test external tissue resistance. I measured all dimensions unless otherwise indicated. The weather at the time of the inspection was overcast with good visibility.

2.2 **Brief Site Description:** St Margarets Street is a busy residential and access road near the centre of Bradford-on-Avon. Number 34 consists of a 4 storey semi-detached townhouse set to the front of a long plot. The house is of Bath stone construction with an interlocking slate tile roof. The garage is at the bottom of the garden and is rendered with a corrugated metal roof, it accessed from Frome Road. There is a shingle parking area in front of the garage. The principal garden areas are to the rear of the house and are mainly enclosed by walls. The general nature of the locality is medium density residential and the property is typical of others in the vicinity. The garden areas and adjacent properties contain a variety of maturing trees and shrubs.

2.3 **Tree Identification and Observations:** I visually inspected the trees with the potential to be affected and recorded the information on the Tree Schedule included as Appendix 1. The trees are categorised according to the cascade chart, Table 1 in the British Standard 5837 included as Appendix 2.

2.4 **Location of the Trees**: I have illustrated the locations of the trees with the potential to be affected on the Tree Protection Plan, drawing number 34SMS/TPP2. The plan is for illustrative purposes only and it should not be used for directly scaling measurements. All the relevant information is contained within this report and the provided documents.

3 TREE PROTECTION PLAN

3.1 **Drawing:** The included Tree Protection Plan, 34SMS/TPP2, illustrates the above and below ground constraints that the trees pose to the development.

3.2 **Root Protection Area (RPA):** These are calculated in accordance with the criteria in annex C and D of the British Standard 5837 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction 2012*. The table calculates the radius of a circular area of soil to be protected prior to the commencement of any works in order to ensure the trees long term survival, adjustments have been made to this according to the soil topography and pre-existing soil conditions. They are only plotted for the trees to be retained.

3.3 **Canopy Spread:** This is measured at the 4 cardinal compass points and plotted accordingly.

4 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 **Tree Removal:** It will be necessary to remove Trees 3 and 4 to facilitate this development. Tree 3 has grown to be in contact with the garage roof, it will begin to cause structural damage as it increases in diameter. Tree 4 has been pruned on a number of occasions and is of limited longevity. It is proposed to plant two new pleached Hornbeam to complete the existing line and maintain privacy. In addition to this it is proposed to plant a standard tree of similar mature dimensions to the removed trees. These replacement trees are to mitigate the loss of the removed trees.

4.2 **Retained Trees:** It is proposed to retain Trees 1 and 2. They are growing a raised bed at the base of some steps next to the garage, the presence of the garage foundations and steps should preclude any root growth. The RPAs have been plotted to reflect this. There is a section of RPA which will be affected by the construction of the larger garage, this amounts to 3% of the total RPA. There is the possibility of damage to the rooting area, canopy and trunk of the trees during demolition and construction work. Tree 2 will require crown raising to a height of 2 metres from the existing roof to prevent damage. It is also proposed to reduce both Trees 1 and 2 by around 2 metres, back to their previous pruning points. The arboricultural method statement is designed to minimise any construction damage.

4.3 **Neighbouring Trees:** There are no neighbouring trees close enough to be affected by the proposals.

5 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

5.1 **Tree Protection Plan:** The included Tree Protection Plan, 34SMS/TPP2 is designed to minimise the effects of the development and ensure that the trees to be retained will have an adequate volume of soil for future survival and growth.

5.2 **Tree Protection Measures**: To be carried out in order listed:-

5.2.1 **Tree Surgery:** Under no circumstances shall construction personnel undertake any tree pruning operations. Tree 2 will need to be crown raised to 2m above the current garage height. Trees 1 and 2 will be pruned by approximately 2 metres, back to their previous pruning points. I advise that any work is carried out by a suitably qualified and insured contractor from the local authority list. The contractor should carry out all tree works to BS 3998 *Recommendations for tree work* (2010).

5.2.2 Fencing Specification and Location: Tree Protection is to be erected prior to any site clearance, demolition or construction works. The restricted nature of the raised bed that the trees are growing in means that the recommended fencing specification in the British Standard 5837 will result in root damage during installation. It is proposed to fix plywood boarding to the raised beds, well braced to resist impacts. The fencing also extends into the garden, where the fencing specified in the British Standard 5837 can be used, detailed in Appendix 3. The location of the fencing is illustrated on the Tree Protection Plan, 34SMS/TPP2. The fencing will be signed and regarded as sacrosanct and will not be removed or altered without approval by the project Arboriculturalist, fence signage is included as Appendix 4.

5.2.3 Restrictions Within RPA's: Inside the protection area of the fencing the following shall apply:-

- No mechanical excavation.
- No excavation by any other means without arboricultural site supervision.
- No lowering of levels for any purpose.
- No storage of plant or materials.
- No storage or handling of any chemical including cement washings.
- No vehicular access.
- No fire lighting.

5.2.4 Additional Precautions: In addition to the above, further precautions are necessary adjacent to trees:-

- A 10m separation distance shall be observed between the trees and substances injurious to tree health, including fuels, oil, bitumen, cement (including cement washings), builders sand, concrete mixing and other chemicals.
- No fire shall be lit such that flames come within 5m of tree foliage.

5.2.5 Ground Protection: In order to minimise damage to the roots and soil structure surrounding Trees 1 and 2 and to enable construction, it is proposed to use proprietary ground protection boards laid on a compressible layer such as wood chip. There should be no pedestrian across the RPA's except on these boards. The protection boards are to remain surrounding the buildings for the duration of the works. The areas requiring ground protection boards are marked on the Tree Protection Plan, 34SMS/TPP2.

5.2.6 Demolition: The garage scheduled for removal borders the RPA's of the retained trees, the Tree Protective Fencing and ground protection boards have been located so that there is space to allow demolition works to be carried out. The surface of the parking area to the west of the garage is outside the RPA's, any machinery required may be operated from here and removed materials can be stored on it.

5.2.7 Material Storage: All construction materials will be stored on the driveway area in front of the garage, outside the RPA of the retained trees.

5.2.8 **Fence Removal:** Tree Protective Fencing will only be removed upon completion of all building construction works.

5.2.9 **Ground Protection Board Removal:** Ground protection boards will only be removed upon completion of all building construction works.

5.3 **Cranes:** If the use of cranes is necessary they shall be sited in front of the garage so as that no part of the boom, jib or load will swing over the tree protective fencing.

5.4 **Services:** There will be no installation of services either above or below ground in the RPA's.

5.5 **Future Considerations:** The remaining trees should be inspected on a regular basis by a qualified Arboriculturalist.

5.6 **Replacement Planting:** It is proposed to plant two pleached Hornbeam to continue the existing screen and a standard Sorbus tree as mitigation for the loss of Trees 3 and 4.

6 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 **Trees Subject to Statutory Controls**: These trees are located in a conservation area, it will be necessary to consult the local authority before any pruning works other than certain exemptions can be carried out. Any tree work submitted to the Council as part of an application for planning is considered to be notification of work (conservation area). The tree works specified are necessary to enable construction and should be acceptable to the local authority. However, tree owners should appreciate that they may take an alternative point of view and have the option to refuse consent.

7 REFERENCES

British Standard 5837 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations 2012

Tree Roots in the Built Environment by John Roberts, Nick Jackson & Mark Smith

Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment by D Lonsdale 1999

Diagnosis of Ill-Health in Trees by R G Strouts & T G Winter 1994

British Standard 3998 – Recommendations for tree work 2010

APPENDIX 1

Tree Schedule

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Dia @ 1.5m	Crown Spread				Height of Crown Clearance	Maturity	Structural Condition	Estimated Remaining Contribution	BS 5837 Category Grading	RPA Radius
				N	E	S	W						
1	Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*	8	ms	2	3	1	2	2 S	Medium Mature	Divides at 0.5m into 2, 330 & 280. Ivy. Historically pruned at 4m. Pruned at 7m.	10-20	C3	5.2
2	Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*	8	300	2	1	3	3	4 W	Medium Mature	Historically pruned at 4m. Pruned at 7m.	10-20	C3	3.6
3	Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*	8	240	3	1	1	4	4 W	Medium Mature	In contact with garage roof, damaging gutter. Historically pruned at 4m. Pruned at 7m.	10-20	C3	2.9
4	Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*	8	ms	4	3	1	4	4 W	Medium Mature	Divides at ground level into 3, 280, 140 & 130. Historically pruned at 4m. Pruned at 7m.	10-20	C3	4.1

APPENDIX 1

Tree Schedule Explanatory Notes

- **Measurements/estimates:** All dimensions are measured unless otherwise indicated. Measurements are taken with a tape or digital clinometer.

- **Tree Number:** All surveyed trees are numbered and their locations are mapped on the Tree Protection Plan included as 34SMS/TPP2.

- **Species:** The species identification is based on visual observations and the common English name of what the tree appeared to be is listed first, with the botanical name in italics.

- **Height:** Height is measured with a digital clinometer and rounded to the nearest metre.

- **Dia @ 1.5m:** Diameter at 1.5m above ground level and is recorded in millimetres. Diameter is measured with a diameter tape. 'ms' indicates trees or shrubs with multiple stems at 1.5m, the number of stems and their corresponding diameters are recorded in the observations.

- **Crown Spread:** Crown spread is measured in metres and is a maximum radial measurement in the four cardinal points.

- **Crown Clearance**: The height in metres of crown clearance above adjacent ground level.

- **Maturity:**
  - Semi-mature = less than one third life expectancy
  - Early-mature = one third to two thirds life expectancy
  - Medium-mature = last one third of life expectancy
  - Over-mature = older than the average life expectancy for the species

- **Estimated Remaining Contribution:** The estimated number of years left that a tree can safely contribute to the amenity of the site.

- **BS5837 Category Grading:** The trees are categorised according to the cascade chart, Table 1 in the British Standard 5837 included as Appendix 2.

- **RPA Radius:** The radius in metres of the Root Protection Area as calculated by the table in Annex D of The British Standard 5837 2012.

APPENDIX 2

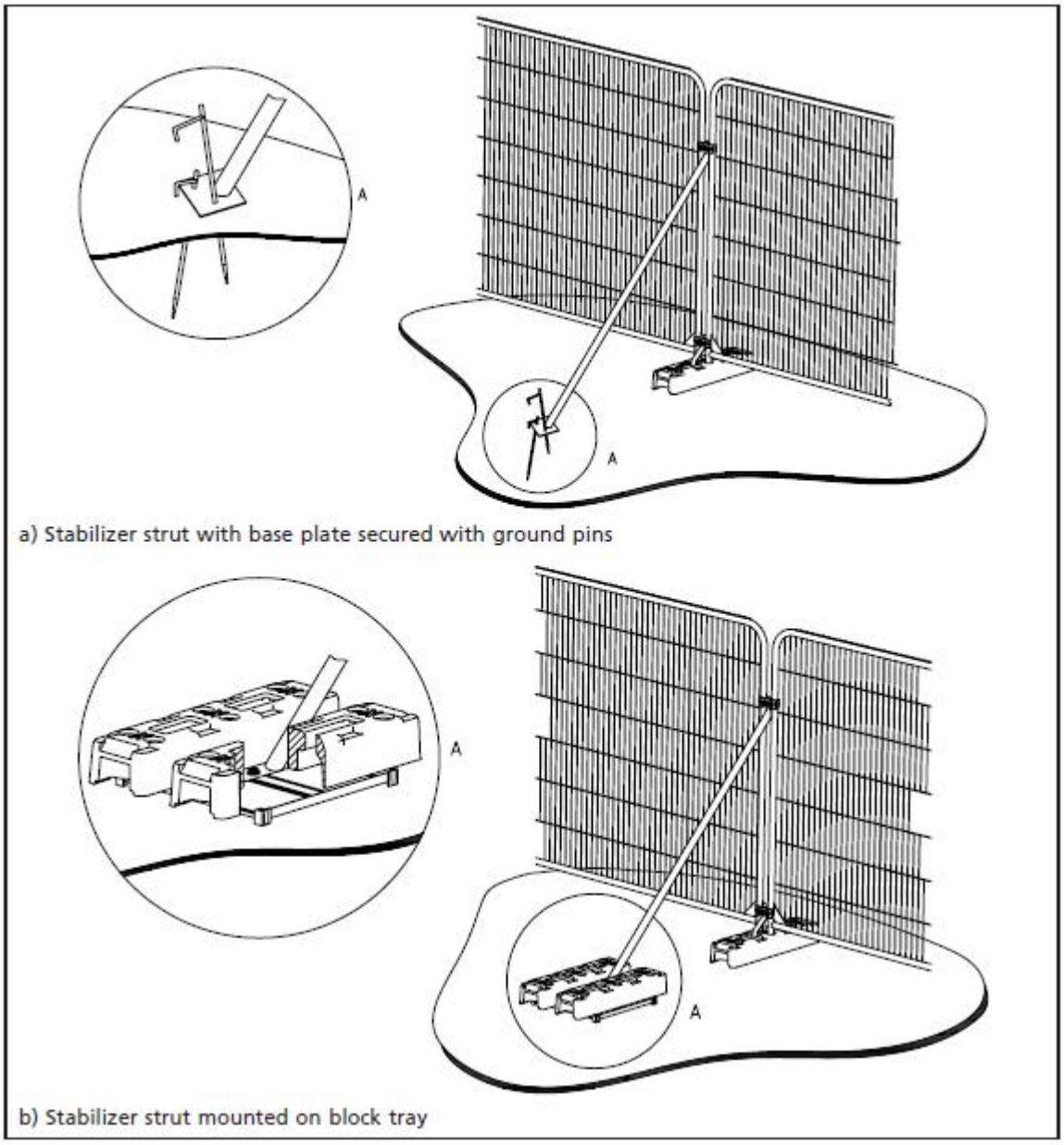
British Standard Cascade Chart

Table 1 **Cascade chart for tree quality assessment**

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)				
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 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; see 4.5.7.*			See Table 2
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	**2 Mainly landscape qualities**	**3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation**	
Trees to be considered 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)	See Table 2
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 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	See Table 2
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 150 mm	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	See Table 2

APPENDIX 3

Protective Fencing Specification



APPENDIX 3
Fence Signage



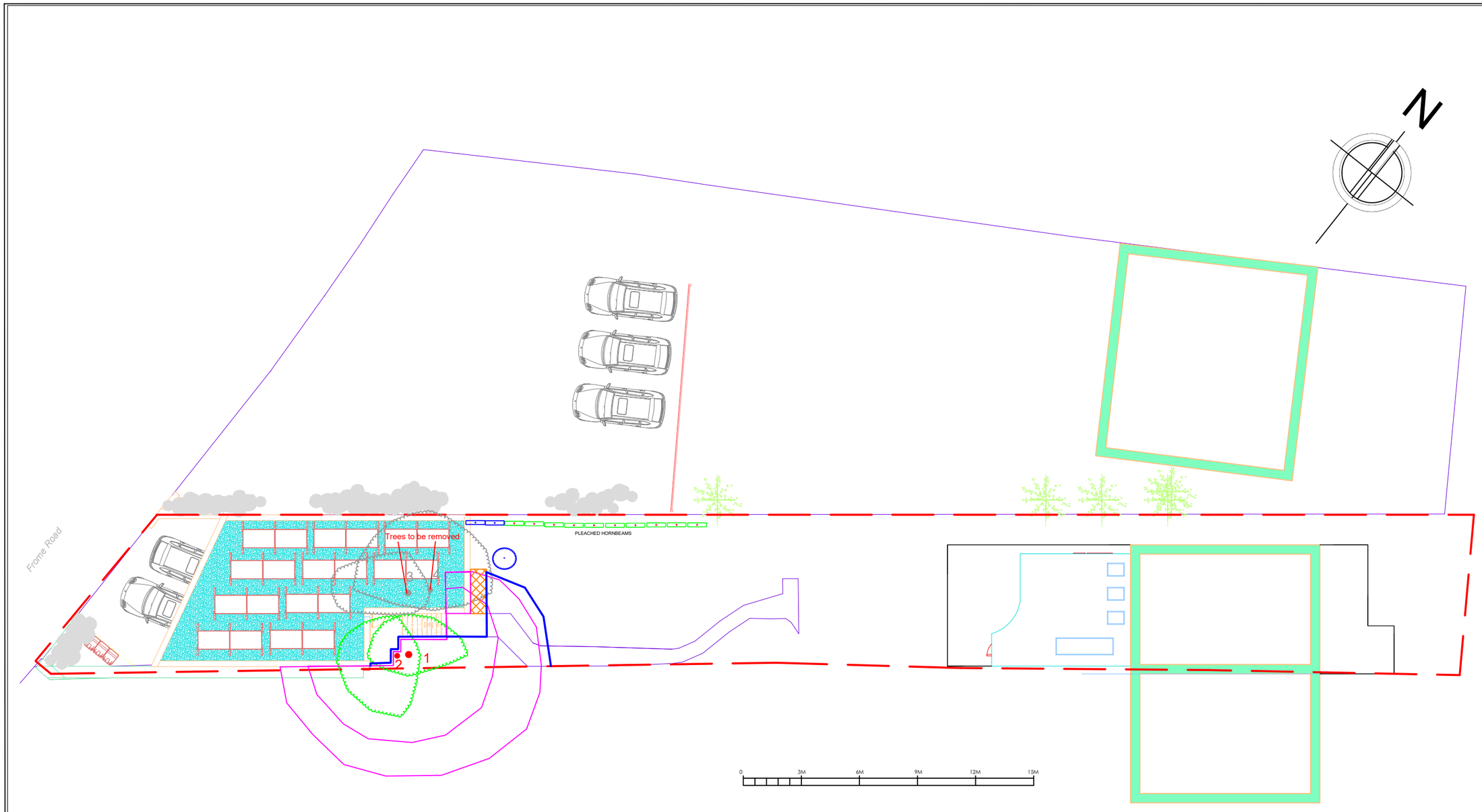
APPENDIX 3
Fence Signage



TREE PROTECTION AREA

KEEP OUT !

(TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)
TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY PLANNING CONDITIONS AND/OR ARE THE SUBJECTS OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER. CONTRAVENTION OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER MAY LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION. ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY .



LEGEND

Tree Location and Number

Retained Tree

Tree to be Removed

Modified Root Protection Area

Tree Protective Fence

Ground Protection Boards

Indicative Planting

SHARPLES TREE SERVICES

Arboricultural Consultants

Dicketts Road, Corsham
Wiltshire, SN13 9JS

mark@sharplestreeservices.co.uk
www.sharplestreeservices.co.uk

Project Title:
34 St Margarets Street,
Bradford-on-Avon, BA15 1DW

CAD Drawing Name:
34SMS/TPP2

Drawing Title :
Tree Protection Plan

Client:
Dan Wright

Date
Dec 2023

Drawn by:
MJS

Checked by:
KJS

Grid Orientation:

Site Level Datum

All dimensions are to be checked on site where applicable.This drawing must not be scaled, and only written dimensions should be respected.