

Leafy Lane Playing Field, Corsham

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

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Arboricultural Impact Assessment
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ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared by Tetra Tech RPS on behalf of Surfacing Standards Ltd. in respect of the proposed development at Leafy Lane Playing Fields, Corsham SN13 0JT.
- 1.2 A tree survey of the application area was carried out by RPS in April 2025 in accordance with the requirements of BS5837:2012. The details recorded during the survey can be seen in the Tree Schedule at Appendix B and displayed spatially on the Tree Constraints Plan at Appendix C.
- 1.3 This report has also been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' (BS5837:2012).¹
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to:
- Provide an assessment of the quality of the surveyed trees with reference to the categories and sub-categories listed within Table 1 - BS5837:2012.
 - Assess and quantify the arboricultural impact of the proposed development within the survey area, based on the proposed development layout.
 - Provide additional arboricultural information and advice in relation to the protection of trees throughout the development of the site.
 - Provide a Tree Protection Plan to detail the proposed protective measures to be taken in respect of the trees to be retained during development of the site and to identify the trees that are to be removed.
- 1.5 The Tree Protection Plan included in Appendix D identifies the following:
- Trees to be retained
 - Trees to be removed
 - Alignment and design of protective fencing
 - Root Protection Area (RPA) of trees
- 1.6 The Tree Protection Plan shall be made available to all relevant site operatives prior to and throughout the construction process, so they understand the scope and importance of the tree protection measures.
- 1.7 To minimise the potential for harm to occur to retained trees, all works shall be carried out in accordance with the Tree Protection measures and construction techniques detailed within this report. In particular, the establishment of a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) by erection of Tree Protection Fencing, will minimise the potential for harm to occur to retained trees.

¹ British Standards Institute. British Standard (BS5837) Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations. 2012.

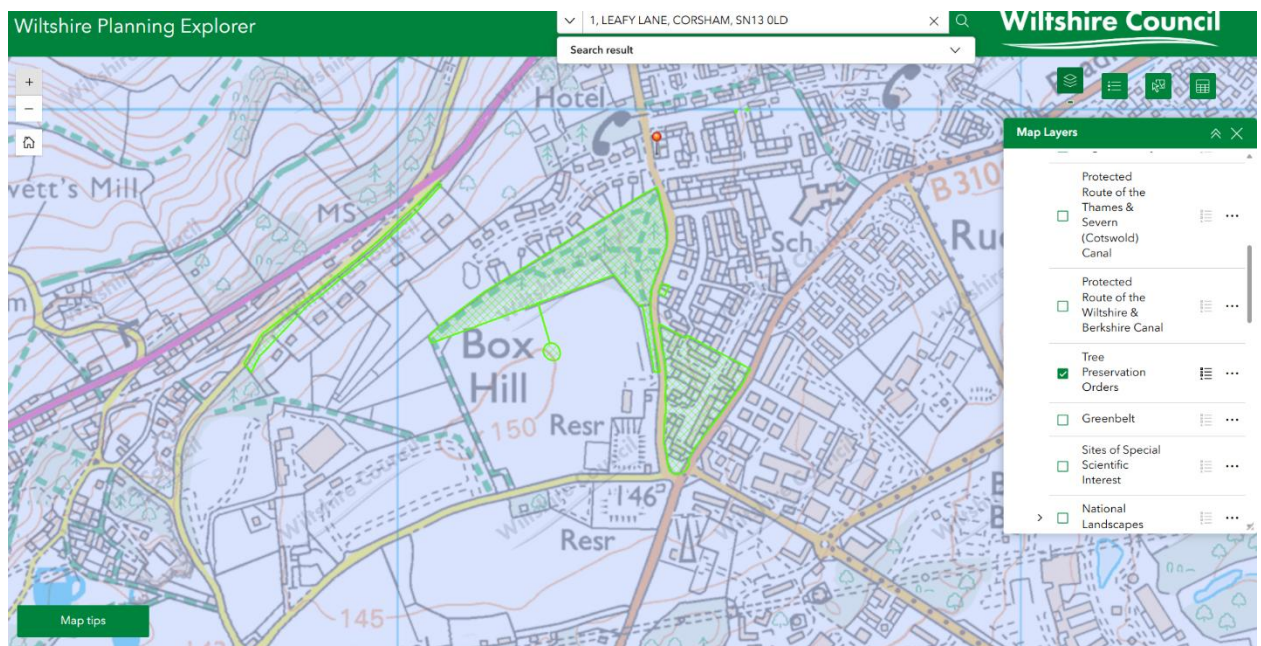
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2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The survey site is located at Leafy Lane Playing Fields, Corsham SN13 0JT.
- 2.2 The land is roughly centred on OS grid reference ST 84289 69486. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) governing this site is Wiltshire Council.
- 2.3 The site comprised an existing playing field with associated car parking, amenity grassland, boundary vegetation and an existing sports pitch facility. Leafy Lane abutted the sites eastern boundaries and Boxfields Road ran along the southern boundary. Surrounding the wider environment of the site was residential dwellings to the east and open green fields to the south and west. Leafy Lane Woods – Natural Burial Ground was situated to the north of the site.

Tree Preservation Orders & Conservation Areas

- 2.4 A desktop investigation using Wiltshire Council's² interactive online map confirmed that there is a Tree Preservation Order associated with the site (reference: N/TPO171), as shown in the screenshot below. These have been shown and cross referenced with the tree survey data on the Tree Constraints Plan at Appendix C, denoted with a cyan hatch.



- 2.5 The site is not situated within a Conservation Area.
- 2.6 Trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order are protected under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Trees Regulation 2012). The local authority must be consulted, and permission sought for any works that may affect them.

² https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/88c3030c2e864645aaec7dc3e0ac4cb6/page/Page#data_s=id%3AdataSource_3-190bc4031b8-layer-28-11%3A1882980&widget_22=search_status:%7B%22text%22%3A%221%2C%20LEAFY%20LANE%2C%20CORSHAM%2C%20SN13%200LD%22%2C%22status%22%3A%22%7B%5C%22configId%5C%22%3A%5C%22config_0%5C%22%2C%5C%22magicKey%5C%22%3A%5C%22MTAwMTIxMDE4NTAyOjpEUUE6OkVO%5C%22%7D%22%7D

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- 2.7 A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is an order made by a LPA to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity. An Order requires written consent from the LPA for any of the following actions to be carried out to a protected tree:
- cutting down
 - topping
 - lopping
 - uprooting
 - wilful damage
 - wilful destruction
- 2.8 If consent is given, it can be subject to conditions which have to be followed. Cutting roots is also a prohibited activity and requires the authority's consent.
- 2.9 If a tree is not covered by a TPO but is situated within a Conservation Area, similar restrictions apply. Any works required to a tree situated within a Conservation Area must be notified to the LPA, using a 'section 211 notice', 6 weeks before carrying out the work, unless an exception applies.

Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees

- 2.10 A desktop investigation using the Magic Map Application³ confirmed that there are no Ancient Woodland designations on or adjacent to the site.
- 2.11 A desktop investigation using the Ancient Tree Inventory⁴ confirmed that there are no veteran trees on or adjacent to the site.
- 2.12 In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (February 2025) section 193(c): *development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists*⁵
- 2.13 Forestry England and Natural England⁶ published standing advice for ancient woodlands and ancient and veteran trees in the context of developments, which is a material consideration for LPA. This guidance advises on the minimum RPA calculations which must be used, with minimum distances identified as:
- Fifteen metres between any development and ancient woodland.
 - Fifteen times the diameter of its stem or 5m from the edge of its canopy, whichever is greater, around any ancient or veteran tree.
- 2.14 The use of semi-natural habitats for buffer zones as a means of protection is encouraged to contribute to the wider ecological network and enhance the green infrastructure area. Further guidance is provided on the compensation measures which may be applied should adverse impacts arise.

³ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

⁴ <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions>

3 NATIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) February 2025⁷

- 3.1 In relation to this report, there are three paragraphs of the NPPF which should be considered. Paragraph 136 states: “Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards), that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible.”
- 3.2 Paragraph 187 (B & D) states: “Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
 - d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs;”
- 3.3 And most importantly, paragraph 193 (A, C & D) states: “When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:
- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
 - c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
 - d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.”

Local Planning Policy⁸

- 3.4 Wiltshire Core Strategy (January 2015), Core Policy 57 Ensuring high quality design and place shaping states: *A high standard of design is required in all new developments, including extensions, alterations, and changes of use of existing buildings. Development is expected to create a strong sense of place through drawing on the local context and being complementary to the locality. Applications for new development must be accompanied by appropriate information to demonstrate how the proposal will make a positive contribution to the character of Wiltshire through:*
- i. *enhancing local distinctiveness by responding to the value of the natural and historic environment, relating positively to its landscape setting and the existing pattern of*

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁸ <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-core-strategy>

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development and responding to local topography by ensuring that important views into, within and out of the site are to be retained and enhanced...

- ii. ...the retention and enhancement of existing important landscaping and natural features, (e.g. trees, hedges, banks and watercourses), in order to take opportunities to enhance biodiversity, create wildlife and recreational corridors, effectively integrate the development into its setting and to justify and mitigate against any losses that may occur through the development...*

4 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The tree survey was completed and the report written by Elva Preston of RPS and authorised by David Cox, a professional member of the Arboricultural Association and Chartered Landscape Architect of RPS Group.
- 4.2 The tree survey was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in BS 5837:2012 “Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations”. The survey does not constitute a full arboricultural condition assessment involving the detailed inspection of trees in relation to their structural condition, decay, and any other physical and pathogenic defects.
- 4.3 During the survey, all information was digitally captured on site, using a tablet running Axciscap 4.07 software. This is a program specifically designed for arboricultural surveying, which allows trees to be located directly onto a digital copy of a site's topographical survey.
- 4.4 The tree survey involved a visual inspection from the ground of individual specimens and where deemed appropriate, trees have been assessed as groups of trees, woodland and hedgerows. Characteristics such as their amenity value, condition and dimensions have been recorded. A full breakdown of tree characteristics recorded during the survey can be seen in Appendix A.
- 4.5 Each arboricultural feature is marked on the Tree Constraints Plan at Appendix C with an identification number (T1, G1, H1, W1 etc), which can be seen at and cross referenced with the Tree Schedule at Appendix B. The Tree Schedule shows a breakdown of the raw data collected during the site visit.
- 4.6 The locations of the trees are based upon a topographic survey reference: 2368.dwg.
- 4.7 Measurements for tree height, minimum crown clearance and crown spread were rounded to the nearest 0.5m. Stem diameter measurements were recorded to the nearest 10 mm using a diameter tape where access to the stem was possible.
- 4.8 Trees retention categories were assigned by the following criteria and have been differentiated on the Tree Plans using the following colours:
- Category A:** Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years.
- Category B:** Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years.
- 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.
- Category U:** Trees 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. However, it may be possible to retain some trees assigned to retention Category U, where public access to them is limited, as they may exhibit conservation value providing unique wildlife habitat.
- 4.9 Categories A, B and C have further sub-categories with regards to the reasons for tree retention:
- 1) Mainly arboricultural qualities.
 - 2) Mainly landscape qualities.
 - 3) Mainly cultural values, including conservation.

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Root Protection Area

- 4.10 The protection of the roots and soil structure within the RPA should be treated as a priority. To avoid damage to the roots or rooting environment of retained trees, the RPA has been calculated in accordance with section 4.6 of BS5837:2012. They have been displayed on the Tree Plans with a magenta circle and may be modified in shape where deemed necessary by obvious root barriers observed on site (although the total area remains the same).
- 4.11 This methodology is recommended as the minimum area around a tree that contains sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain viable tree vigour and structure. Where groups of trees, woodlands and hedgerows have been assessed, the RPA has been shown based on the average sized tree stem in each arboricultural feature, and so may fall short/exceed the RPA required for some of the individual specimens within the feature.

Ancient, Veteran and Notable Trees

- 4.12 A specific methodology for identifying and documenting Ancient, Veteran, or Notable trees in the field is not provided by BS5837:2012. While the term 'Veteran' is defined in paragraph 3.12 of BS5837:2012, the term 'Ancient' or 'Notable' is not given. There are currently several published approaches associated with defining and classifying Ancient, Veteran, or Notable trees. However, due to the intricacy and subjectivity of this subject, different definitions and methodologies exist.
- 4.13 For this assessment, when surveying potential Veteran trees, the two key features used to identify them are a large Girth & a declining Condition that raises their ecological value. These two attributes must both be present before it is classed as Veteran.

Girth

- 4.14 When considering a tree for veteran status we first look at the girth of the tree, as a large girth is the most obvious and measurable indicator of a tree being advanced in age.
- 4.15 Where possible, the girth of a tree is also compared to the "Ancient Tree Size Criteria Table" (Lonsdale, ATF 2013, fig 1.3) below:

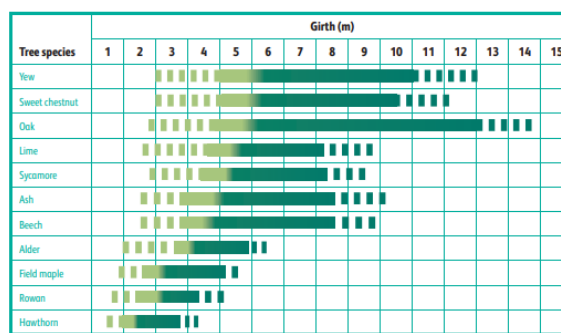


Fig 1.3: Chart of girth in relation to age and developmental classification of trees*

- 4.16 If the girth of a tree is considered large enough that the tree may be notable, then the condition of the tree will be assessed to confirm whether the tree will be classed as a Veteran.

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Condition

- 4.17 The main determining factor in whether or not a tree can be classed as a Veteran or not, is its physical condition. In ‘Ancient and Other Veteran Trees: further guidance on management’ David Lonsdale states that:
- 4.18 ‘In order to qualify as a veteran, the tree should show crown retrenchment and signs of decay in the trunk, branches or roots, such as exposed dead wood or fungal fruit bodies.’ (Lonsdale, ATF 2013).
- 4.19 This makes the two most significant indicators of Veteran status:
- **Retrenchment:** The progressive deterioration of the outer crown of a tree through dieback and limb loss that reduces the overall height/ spread of the tree and increasing stability.
 - **Decay:** When wood rots and decomposes; usually caused by a parasitic fungus or bacteria.
- 4.20 Both of these features create good habitat, for things such as invertebrates or birds, raising its ecological value and giving a clear indicator of Veteran status.
- 4.21 A tree may still be considered for veteran status even if it does not possess one or both features, if it still has a number of alternative features that would also be considered veteran features, such as, but not limited to:
- A large quantity of deadwood in the crown
 - Hollows/ Cracks without signs of decay
 - Bark Loss
 - Saprophytic Fungi
 - Habitat spaces (such as woodpecker holes)
 - Storm Damage
- 4.22 To summarise, our approach to Veteran Tree identification can be summed up as a two-step process:
- 4.23 Identify potential Veteran trees by their size.
- 4.24 Note if they have retrenchment & decay **or** enough other significant features to make them ecologically important.
- 4.25 If a tree meets both criteria, then it will be assigned Veteran Status, if not its features will still be noted, and its size may be mentioned as “Locally Notable”.
- 4.26 While “Locally Notable” trees are not given the extra RPA buffer zone that a Veteran Tree is given, it will still normally be given Category A status and should be retained wherever possible.

Limitations

- 4.27 The findings of this survey are not valid following adverse or unpredictable weather conditions or for any failure due to ‘force majeure’ or unpredictable events.
- 4.28 Trees are dynamic structures which are constantly growing and changing. Whilst reasonable effort has been made to identify defects which may compromise the trees longevity, no guarantee can be given as to the safety or otherwise of any individual tree or arboricultural feature. Due to the unpredictable laws and forces of nature, no tree can ever be deemed as safe. Natural failure of intact trees does occur, and changing climatic conditions can cause damage to even apparently healthy trees.

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- 4.29 Trees were not climbed or inspected below ground level and inaccessible trees will have best estimates made about the location, physical dimensions and characteristics. If trees have been recorded beyond the extent of the site, all dimensions have been estimated (unless stated otherwise) and the assessment of these trees has occurred from land within the Client's ownership and publicly accessible land only (unless formal access has been arranged to these additional areas).
- 4.30 The desktop study confirming statutory and non-statutory constraints uses publicly accessible third-party information, meaning the results of this exercise are only as accurate as the information available at the time of the assessment.
- 4.31 Provisional Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) may be made whenever a LPA deems it appropriate, with only those persons interested in the land served with a copy of the Order. A further search for the presence of TPOs should be carried out prior to commencement of any tree works or removals specified within this report.
- 4.32 Where possible, the location of the arboricultural features identified at the site have been plotted using a topographical survey, which has been supplied by the client. If no topographical survey data has been provided, arboricultural feature locations have been plotted using GPS, aerial photography and/or OS maps, which have a reduced accuracy.

5 APPRAISAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of Tree Survey

- 5.1 During the survey 10 trees were surveyed as individuals. The survey also recorded 7 Groups and 3 Hedges. For details on all the information recorded during the site visit, please refer to the Tree Schedule in Appendix B.
- 5.2 The distribution of species recorded across the site has been shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Species distribution across the site

Species Breakdown of Individually Surveyed Trees						
Species	A	B	C	U	Total	Species Distribution
Acer campestre (Field Maple)	0	5	0	0	5	50.0%
Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	0	0	2	0	2	20.0%
Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	0	1	0	0	1	10.0%
Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	0	1	0	0	1	10.0%
Acer platanoides (Norway Maple)	0	0	1	0	1	10.0%
Total	0	7	3	0	10	100.0%
Category Distribution Percentage	0.0%	70.0%	30.0%	0.0%	1	

- 5.3 The BS5837:2012 quality of the Trees, Groups, Woodlands & Hedges recorded during the survey is broken down in Table 2 below.

Table 2: BS5 837:2012 quality of Trees, Groups, Woodlands, Hedges and Scrub across the site

BS5837 Category Breakdown of Surveyed Items					
Type	A	B	C	U	Total
Trees	0	7	3	0	10
Groups	2	1	4	0	7
Woodlands	0	0	0	0	0
Hedges	0	0	3	0	3
Grand Total	2	8	10	0	20
Distribution Percentage	10.0%	40.0%	50.0%	0.0%	100%

- 5.4 The two category A groups of trees were the most prominent arboricultural features on the site. G6 was situated along the sites southern boundary and comprised a linear feature of native broadleaves. The trees were in good overall physiological and structural condition and have the potential to provide the site with high arboricultural and landscape quality over the long term.
- 5.5 G7 was a group of sycamore, beech and Norway maple all of which were mature in age. The sycamore to the northwest of the group had a large stem diameter of 1200mm. This group provides high arboricultural and landscape quality to the site, and given the size of some of its constituent trees, would be considered locally notable.
- 5.6 The remaining arboricultural features across the site were moderate and low-quality features confined to the site boundaries. They were mostly semi to early mature in age, predominantly linear

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features of low arboricultural quality with outgrown individual trees of moderate arboricultural quality along their length.

Planning considerations

- 5.7 Trees can offer many benefits, including the provision of visual amenity, softening or complementing the effect of the built environment, adding maturity to new developments and by making places more comfortable in tangible ways e.g. contributing screening and shade, reducing wind speed and turbulence, intercepting snow and rainfall, and reducing glare.
- 5.8 New tree planting opportunities should be considered as part of any potential redevelopment; this will help to broaden the age diversity of the tree cover within the area. Sufficient space should be provided for species with significant stature to grow out into maturity.
- 5.9 Under the UK planning system, local authorities have a statutory duty to consider the protection and planting of trees when granting planning permission for proposed development. The potential effect of development on trees, whether statutorily protected (e.g. by a tree preservation order or by their inclusion within a conservation area) or not, is still a material consideration that is considered when dealing with planning applications.

Design and Site Layout Considerations

- 5.10 During any future site planning exercises, the current and future growth potential of the trees should be considered.
- 5.11 The Root Protection Area (RPA) should become an exclusion zone during construction works and for any development. It should be fenced-off and protected in accordance with BS5837:2012. The canopy is likewise susceptible to damage during construction work and requires similar protection.
- 5.12 No activities that result in excavations, changes in level or soil compaction should take place within the RPA of any retained trees, especially older mature trees. This would include the storage of materials, any construction work, trafficking by vehicles or even excessive trafficking by pedestrians.
- 5.13 If some form of construction must take place within the RPA, then certain measures need to be adopted to avoid disturbance or damage to the roots and to maintain moisture infiltration and gaseous diffusion into the soil. It is recommended that these are detailed by a separate document called an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS).

Tree Risk Management

- 5.14 It is recommended that a programme of periodic arboricultural assessments be undertaken to regularly assess the full health and safety of all trees both in full leaf and bare stemmed. The assessments should prioritise areas with high footfall and/or presence of a constant target and accord with arboricultural advice, taking account of relevant factors (where known) that affect safety such as the age class, condition, size and species of the trees.

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Introduction

- 6.1 Trees have finite energy reserves, developed each year throughout the growing season, which are utilised for biological processes such as growth and defence against pests or diseases throughout the following year.
- 6.2 Any development in proximity to trees has the potential to cause harm to those trees unless control measures are identified and acted upon; as such it is essential to consider the relationship between the proposed development and the retained trees to identify what precautions are necessary, proportionate and appropriate.
- 6.3 Development has the potential to impact upon the above ground and below ground parts of trees. Whilst some damage that can occur, such as physical damage to the trees stems and branches from machinery movements, is clearly visible, the impact from other aspects of work common on development sites, which can have a significant effect upon the continued health of trees, are not always immediately evident.
- 6.4 Damage that is not immediately evident, but which can cause long term harm to retained trees, includes things such as damage to the soil structure by compaction causing root damage and levels changes altering the water table and affecting moisture availability.
- 6.5 In general, by adopting appropriate methods of working, precautionary and protective measures, significant harm to retained trees can be avoided. The establishment of a CEZ by erection of Tree Protection Fencing will minimise the potential for harm to occur to retained trees.
- 6.6 The retention and protection of significant trees and vegetation will assist in assimilating the proposed development into the wider landscape and offer long term tree cover.
- 6.7 Furthermore, redevelopment of the site may offer an excellent opportunity to actively manage any retained vegetation and accordingly we recommend restorative tree works be undertaken as appropriate. This will further improve the amenity value and landscape setting of the site and increase the useful life of any retained trees.

Brief Description of Proposed Development

- 6.8 This document supports the proposed development, consisting of an upgrade to the existing sports pitch in the southeastern corner of the site.

Reference Documents

- 6.9 To assess the impacts of the proposed development on the arboricultural features at the site, the proposed site plan was overlaid onto the TCP to create a Tree Protection Plan (TPP). As well as identifying trees required to be retained and removed to facilitate the proposed development, the TPP assessed potential conflicts between the arboricultural constraints (such as the RPA and tree crowns) and the proposed site plan. Mitigation measures to negate these conflicts (such as ground protection, tree protection fencing and pruning requirements) and to protect the trees during the construction process have been included on the TPP, which can be found at Appendix D of this report.
- 6.10 The following documents have been referenced to create these plans:

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- Topographical survey – 2368.dwg. January 2025.
- Proposed site plan – ISSUE 5413-RPS-XX-EX SSL.dwg. November 2025.

Proposed Tree Removal

- 6.11 To facilitate the proposed development, there is no tree removal required.

Tree Pruning Works

- 6.12 No tree pruning works are required to facilitate the proposed development.

Proposed Works Within Root Protection Areas

- 6.13 As the protection of soil and roots within the RPA must be treated as a priority, the primary position for any construction activities should be situated outside of these protected areas.
- 6.14 However, in instances where justification can be given to work within an RPA, technical solutions may be available to minimise the potential damage to tree roots and soil volume. If work is proposed within any RPAs of trees to be retained, a compensatory RPA offset must be demonstrated which borders the existing RPA and mitigation measure can be implemented to prevent damage to roots and improve the soil environment available to the tree.
- 6.15 No works within the RPAs of retained trees is foreseen to facilitate the proposed development.

7 TREE WORKS

Standard of Work

- 7.1 The tree work required to facilitate this development will adhere to the following standards.
- 7.2 All tree works shall be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 and latest arboricultural best practice.
- 7.3 All tree work shall be carried out by suitably qualified, competent and insured arboricultural contractors in accordance with Arboricultural Association Standard Conditions of Contract and Specifications for Tree Works (2008) Edition and BS 3998:2010 Tree Work.
- 7.4 All green and woody waste generated by the tree works shall be removed from site and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- 7.5 When a branch is removed at its point of attachment, injury of the wood and bark of the parent stem or branch above the cut shall be avoided. If a branch collar is visible, the final cut shall be just outside it and care shall be taken to avoid tearing retained wood and bark when the cut is made. Preliminary cuts shall be made, if necessary, so as to remove weight, before a final cut is made. Care shall be taken to prevent falling branches from harming other parts of the tree (including its roots), its surroundings, people or property. Heavy branches shall be removed in sections and, where necessary, shall be lowered with ropes.
- 7.6 Prior to the commencement of any tree works an appropriate risk assessment shall be produced to describe the measures required to fulfil the statutory safety obligations. It shall aim to identify and prioritise the necessary control measures and precautions.
- 7.7 Following the works, it is recommended that the trees are monitored on a regular basis to ensure their ongoing vitality and health. These inspections shall be completed by a suitably qualified and experienced person.

Timing of Works

- 7.8 Any tree works required shall be completed prior to any construction and enabling works on the site.
- 7.9 All works shall be timed to have regard to the phenological cycles of protected species that are associated with trees; notably birds and bats.
- 7.10 Nesting birds are protected by law and any removal / tree works should not be carried out during the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive). Should any vegetation be outlined for removal during this period, then an ecological inspection would be required to check that no nesting birds are present. Should checks reveal nesting birds the vegetation must remain until September or until an ecologist has certified that the fledglings have left the nest. A visual inspection for bats shall also be carried on mature / ivy clad trees prior to commencing operations.

8 OUTLINE TREE PROTECTION MEASURES

Construction Exclusion Zone

- 8.1 The protective fence line defines the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ), and the fencing shall not be moved or taken down at any time. Within the CEZ there must be no mechanical digging or scraping; no alteration to existing ground levels including soil stripping; no earthworks; and no handling or discharge of any chemical substance, concrete washings or of any fuels.
- 8.2 Furthermore, vehicular or pedestrian access and the storage of any materials is prohibited within the CEZ.
- 8.3 Additionally, no materials that may contaminate the soil such as concrete mixings, diesel oil and vehicle washings shall be discharged within 10m of the stem of any tree and no fires shall be lit within 10m of the maximum extent of a trees crown.

Tree Protection Fencing

- 8.4 Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Arboricultural Consultant and/or LPA Tree Officer, the fencing system to be utilised shall be in accordance with Appendix E and compliant with BS5837:2012.
- 8.5 The tree protection fence shall be erected as shown on the Tree Protection Plan (Appendix D) included with is report.
- 8.6 The fence line shown is the minimum required, and the length of the fence shall be extended or adjusted on site as agreed with the Arboricultural Consultant to ensure satisfactory protection of all retained trees and RPAs.
- 8.7 Where proposed (permanent) construction site-hoarding provides the same level of protection to the retained trees and RPAs as the proposed tree protection fence, subject to agreement with the Arboricultural Consultant, the hoarding may serve as the tree protection fence. Notwithstanding, depending on the form and alignment of the construction site- hoarding it may be necessary to provide additional tree protection fence to ensure adequate protection of retained trees and RPAs as shown on the Tree Protection Plan.
- 8.8 Once the protective barrier is in place it must remain in situ throughout the course of the development until the completion of development, other than to facilitate agreed tree removal; see below.
- 8.9 Where necessary, tree protection fencing may be temporarily re-aligned to facilitate tree removal. Fencing is to be re-instated immediately following removal in a manner that encompasses the remaining trees and their respective RPAs.
- 8.10 During tree removal, no wheeled or tracked machinery is to enter the area previously encompassed by tree protective fencing as shown in the Tree Protection Plan.
- 8.11 Copies of the Tree Protection Plan shall be placed in the site office for reference by all site staff.
- 8.12 Signs detailing the purpose of the protective barrier shall be attached to the barriers at 10m intervals. Such signs should be weatherproof and shall be substantially in the form of the examples provided in Appendix F. Signs must be replaced as necessary should they be removed or become illegible.
- 8.13 Following erection of the protective barriers and prior to commencement of the development it is recommended that an inspection of the site, by either the Council's Tree Officer or the Arboricultural

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Consultant, is arranged to confirm fencing has been installed in accordance with the Tree Protection Plan and that any relevant arboreal conditions attached to the planning consent have been met.

Reporting

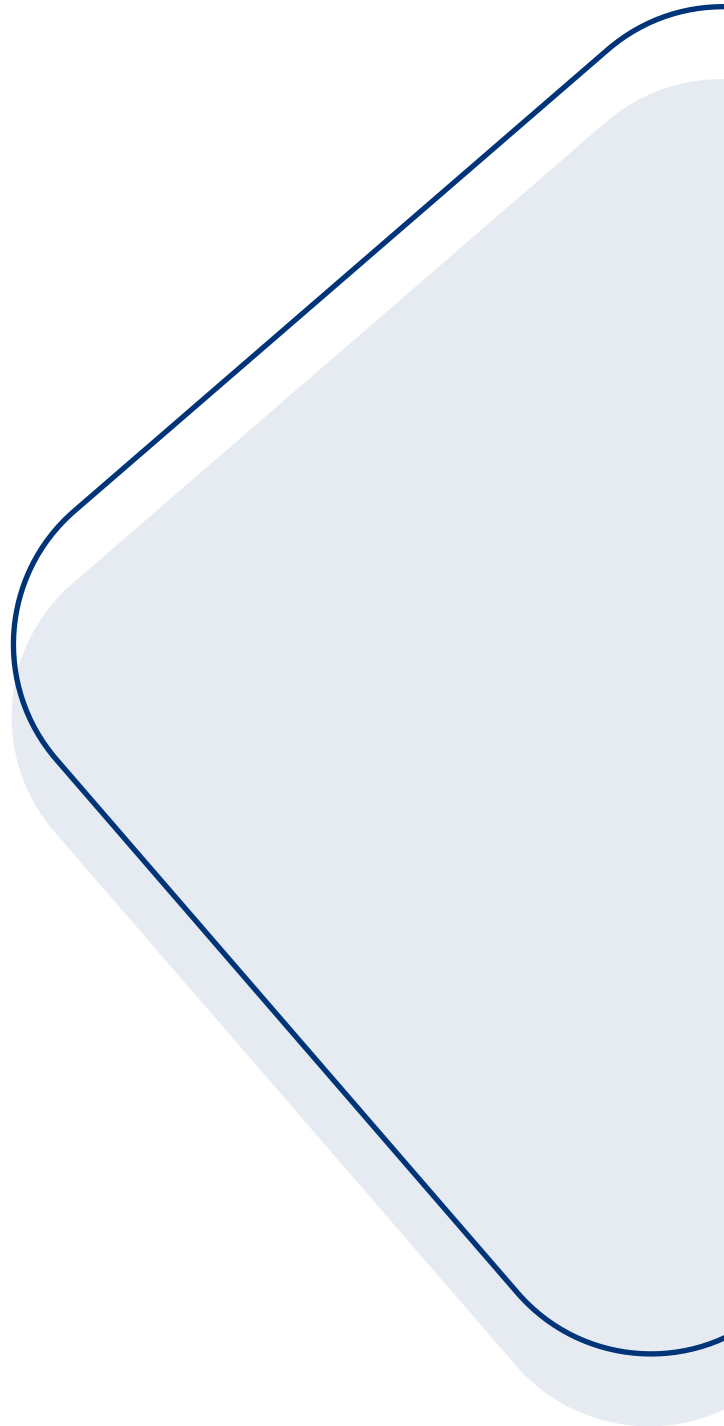
- 8.14 Should any arboricultural issues become apparent during the works the site manager should immediately contact the Arboricultural Consultant or the Council's Tree Officer for advice upon how to proceed.

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9 SUMMARY

- 9.1 This Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared by Tetra Tech RPS on behalf of Surfacing Standards Ltd. in respect of the proposed development at Leafy Lane Playing Fields, Corsham SN13 0JT.
- 9.2 A desktop investigation using Wilshire Council's interactive online map confirmed that there is a Tree Preservation Order associated with the site (reference: N/TPO171).
- 9.3 During the survey 10 trees were surveyed as individuals. The survey also recorded 7 Groups and 3 Hedges.
- 9.4 The two category A groups of trees were the most prominent arboricultural features on the site. G6 was situated along the sites southern boundary and comprised a linear feature of native broadleaves. G7 was a group of sycamore, beech and Norway maple all of which were mature in age. The sycamore to the northwest of the group had a large stem diameter of 1200mm. Both groups provide high arboricultural and landscape quality to the site.
- 9.5 The remaining arboricultural features across the site were moderate and low-quality features confined to the site boundaries. They were mostly semi to early mature in age, predominantly linear features of low arboricultural quality with outgrown individual trees of moderate arboricultural quality along their length.
- 9.6 This document supports the proposed development, consisting of an upgrade to the existing sports pitch in the southeastern corner of the site.
- 9.7 To facilitate the proposed development, there is no tree removal required. There is also no pruning works required or any of the existing arboricultural features and none of the proposed development will incur within the RPAs of any of the retained trees.

Appendices



APPENDICES

Appendix A

Tree Characteristics Recorded During Survey

Tree Ref No:	Sequential reference number of trees or groups of trees. Avenues, woodlands and hedgerows were also recorded on the tree constraints plan. # - denotes inaccessible trees (best estimates are made about the location, physical dimensions and characteristics.)		
Species	Species listed by common name, with scientific names (italic lettering).		
Height (m)	Estimated height of canopy to nearest metre.		
Branch Spread	branch spread, taken as a minimum at the four cardinal points, to derive an accurate representation of the crown		
Stem diameter @ 1.5 m (m)	Estimated diameter of trunk at 1.5 m above ground level in metres unless otherwise indicated, multi-stemmed trees being measured in accordance with Annex C: BS5837:2012		
Existing height above ground level	To inform on ground clearance, crown/stem ratio and shading the estimated height of the first significant branch and direction of growth and canopy above ground level.		
Stem No.	Number of stems (if necessary) of individual tree.		
Life Stage	Expressed as:-	Y (Young) SM (Semi-mature) EM (Early mature) M (Mature)	OM (Over-mature) V (Veteran) D (Dead)
Physical Condition	Apparent condition expressed as the following categories, based upon a brief visual inspection from the ground only:-		Good Fair Poor Dead
Comments / Management Recommendations	General observations, particularly of structural and/or physiological condition (e.g. the presence of any decay and physical defect), and/or preliminary management recommendations and potential for wildlife habitats (not exhaustive).		
Estimated remaining contribution (years)	Estimated remaining contribution, in years (<10, 10+,20+,40+)		

APPENDICES

Tree Quality Assessment Value: Category	Criteria grading with regards to Table 1: BS 5837:2012, expressed as:-	A (Trees/Vegetation of high quality and value) B (Vegetation of moderate quality and value) C (Trees/Vegetation of low quality and value) 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)
	* Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which might be desirable to preserve.	
Tree Quality Assessment Value: <u>Sub - Category</u>	Criteria grading with regards to Table 1: BS 5837:2012, expressed as:-	1 (Trees with mainly <i>arboricultural</i> value) 2 (Trees with mainly <i>landscape</i> value) 3 (Trees with mainly <i>cultural / conservation</i> value)

APPENDICES

Appendix B

Tree Survey Schedule

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

Site: Leafy Lane Playing Fields, Corsham

Project Schedule Ref: 5413-RPS-XX-EX-SH-AR-9101

Drawing Reference: 5413-RPS-XX-EX-DR-AR-9102

Survey date: 11/04/2025

Surveyor: E. Preston

Status: For Information

Revision: P01

Notes: -

Ref. no	Species	Height (m)	Canopy Spread (m)				Crown Area (m²)	Stem dia. (mm)	Stem no. at 1.5m	Height of crown clearance (m)	FSB Height (Direction)	Age class	Condition	General Observations Management Recommendations	Estimated remaining contribution (yrs)	Tree Quality Category (BS5837)	RPA Radius (m)
			N	E	S	W											
T1	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	10	4	4	4	4	24	360	1	2	2 (E)	SM	Fair	Dense ivy cover on stem obscured inspection, twin stemmed from c.2m, union obscured, good form and vigour.	20+	B1	4.3
#T2	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	12	5	4	3	4	49	550	1	2	2 (N)	M	Fair	Estimated values due to access, situated offsite behind boundary fence, measurements estimated, dense ivy cover on stem obscured inspection, dense epicormic growth throughout the crown to retain vigour and live growth.	20+	B1	6.6
T3	Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	5	3	3	3	3	28	120	6	0	0 (W)	M	Fair	Situated behind boundary fence, measurement estimated, dense ivy cover on stem obscured inspection, good vigour, characteristic for species.	10+	C1	3.5
T4	Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	7	80	6	1.5	1.5 (S)	SM	Good	Small landscape planting, good vigour but value limited by small proportions.	10+	C1	2.4
T5	Acer platanoides (Norway Maple)	13	4	4	4	4	50	430	1	2	2 (N)	EM	Fair	Part of linear group, good vigour but large bark and stem wound to south compromises the structural integrity, consider felling and replacing.	10+	C1	5.2
T6	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20	280	1	0	0 (N)	SM	Good	Outgrown from boundary hedgerow, good form and vigour.	20+	B1	3.4
T7	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20	290	1	0	0 (N)	SM	Good	Not plotted on original survey, outgrown from boundary hedgerow, good form and vigour.	20+	B1	3.5
T8	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20	270 190	2	0	0 (N)	SM	Good	Not plotted on original survey, outgrown from boundary hedgerow, good form and vigour, ivy cover on stem.	20+	B1	4.0
T9	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	6	3	3	3	3	28	510	1	1	1 (N)	EM	Good	Not plotted on original survey, outgrown from boundary hedgerow, good form and vigour, dense ivy on stem obscured inspection.	20+	B1	6.1
T10	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	6	3	3	3	3	28	250 270 180	3	1	1 (N)	EM	Good	Not plotted on original survey, outgrown from boundary hedgerow, good form and vigour, dense ivy on stem obscured inspection, flail damage to eastern crown.	20+	B1	4.9

Note: This survey is based on a brief visual inspection from the ground.
It is not intended as a full arboricultural inspection.
- indicates estimated values. * - indicates off site tree.

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

Site: Leafy Lane Playing Fields, Corsham

Surveyor: E. Preston

Project Schedule Ref: 5413-RPS-XX-EX-SH-AR-9101

Status: For Information

Drawing Reference: 5413-RPS-XX-EX-DR-AR-9102

Revision: P01

Survey date: 11/04/2025

Notes: -

Ref. no	Species	Height (m)	Canopy Spread (m)				Crown Area (m ²)	Stem dia. (mm)	Stem no. at 1.5m	Height of crown clearance (m)	FSB Height (Direction)	Age class	Condition	General Observations Management Recommendations	Estimated remaining contribution (yrs)	Tree Quality Category (BS5837)	RPA Radius (m)
			N	E	S	W											
G1	Corylus avellana (Hazel), Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore), Viburnum sp., Acer campestre (Field Maple), Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)	8	See	plans	for	extents	-	100 (avg.)	-	0	0 (N)	SM	Good	Dense screening planting, tall drawn forms, multi stemmed from base, good vigour, northern crown pruned back from current access, good vigour but small proportions limit value.	10+	C2	2.1
G2	Ulmus procera (English Elm)	8	See	plans	for	extents	-	150 (avg.)	-	1	1 (N)	EM	Fair/Poor	Line of elms against parking spaces, several to the east are standing dead specimens, dense ivy cover on stems, multi stemmed from base, limited future potential.	10+	C2	3.6
G3	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash), Ulmus procera (English Elm), Betula utilis (Himalayan birch)	12	See	plans	for	extents	-	250 (avg.)	-	1	1 (W)	EM	Fair	Group straddles the on and offsite boundary, small semi mature elm and birch specimens are on site adjacent to the car park and mature ash specimens with signs of ash dieback and in severe decline are situated offsite, all trees low in quality either due to small replaceable size or declining condition, dense ivy cover on stems.	10+	C2	3.0
G4	Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	4	See	plans	for	extents	-	100 90 80 (avg.)	-	1.5	1.5 (E)	SM	Good	Small landscape planting, small proportions limit value at present as readily replaceable.	10+	C2	1.9
G5	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash), Ulmus procera (English Elm), Salix caprea (Goat Willow), Corylus avellana (Hazel), Ilex aquifolium (Holly)	9	See	plans	for	extents	-	350 (avg.)	-	0	0 (E)	EM	Good	Estimated values due to access, off site tree, measurements estimated, situated offsite behind boundary fence, dense ivy cover obscured inspection, provides screening value, multi stemmed forms, good vigour, collective landscape boundary feature.	20+	B2	5.9

Note: This survey is based on a brief visual inspection from the ground.
It is not intended as a full arboricultural inspection.
- indicates estimated values. * - indicates off site tree.

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

Site: Leafy Lane Playing Fields, Corsham

Surveyor: E. Preston

Project Schedule Ref: 5413-RPS-XX-EX-SH-AR-9101

Status: For Information

Drawing Reference: 5413-RPS-XX-EX-DR-AR-9102

Revision: P01

Survey date: 11/04/2025

Notes: -

Ref. no	Species	Height (m)	Canopy Spread (m)				Crown Area (m²)	Stem dia. (mm)	Stem no. at 1.5m	Height of crown clearance (m)	FSB Height (Direction)	Age class	Condition	General Observations Management Recommendations	Estimated remaining contribution (yrs)	Tree Quality Category (BS5837)	RPA Radius (m)
			N	E	S	W											
G6	Populus canescens (Grey Poplar),Acer platanoides (Norway Maple),Prunus avium (Wild Cherry),Betula pendula (Silver Birch),Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan),Alnus glutinosa (Common Alder),Tilia X europaea (Common Lime),Acer campestre (Field Maple)	15	See	plans	for	extents	-	470 (avg.)	-	1	1 (N)	EM	Good	Distinctive linear boundary feature, trees in good overall condition with long term contribution to the site, good species diversity, high value landscape feature, some branch stubs and pruning wounds when crown raised to the north, 31 trees.	40+	A2	5.6
G7	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore),Fagus sylvatica (Beech),Acer platanoides (Norway Maple)	14	See	plans	for	extents	-	1000 (avg.)	-	2	2 (W)	M	Good	Cohesive landscape feature with interlocking crowns, Northwest sycamore stem over 1200mm, this tree is large enough to be considered locally notable, but lacks any veteran features so not a veteran specimen, tall drawn forms, asymmetric crowns, good vigour, high quality landscape and arboricultural feature.	40+	A2	12.0
H1	Cornus sanguinea (Dogwood),Sambucus nigra (Elder),Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore),Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	2	See	plans	for	extents	-	100 (avg.)	-	0	0 (N)	SM	Fair	Maintained screening hedgerow, wide managed scrub section.	10+	C2	2.1
H2	Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn),Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn),Sambucus nigra (Elder),Acer campestre (Field Maple),Cornus sanguinea (Dogwood)	2	See	plans	for	extents	-	80 (avg.)	-	0	0 (N)	EM	Good	Maintained boundary hedgerow.	10+	C2	1.9

Note: This survey is based on a brief visual inspection from the ground.
It is not intended as a full arboricultural inspection.
- indicates estimated values. * - indicates off site tree.

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

Site: Leafy Lane Playing Fields, Corsham

Surveyor: E. Preston

Project Schedule Ref: 5413-RPS-XX-EX-SH-AR-9101

Status: For Information

Drawing Reference: 5413-RPS-XX-EX-DR-AR-9102

Revision: P01

Survey date: 11/04/2025

Notes: -

Ref. no	Species	Height (m)	Canopy Spread (m)				Crown Area (m ²)	Stem dia. (mm)	Stem no. at 1.5m	Height of crown clearance (m)	FSB Height (Direction)	Age class	Condition	General Observations Management Recommendations	Estimated remaining contribution (yrs)	Tree Quality Category (BS5837)	RPA Radius (m)
			N	E	S	W											
H3	Cornus sanguinea (Dogwood), Sambucus nigra (Elder), Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore), Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	2	See	plans	for	extents	-	100 (avg.)	-	0	0 (N)	SM	Fair	Maintained screening hedgerow, wide managed scrub section.	10+	C2	2.1

Note: This survey is based on a brief visual inspection from the ground.
It is not intended as a full arboricultural inspection.
- indicates estimated values. * - indicates off site tree.

APPENDICES

Appendix C

Tree Constraints Plan



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Notes

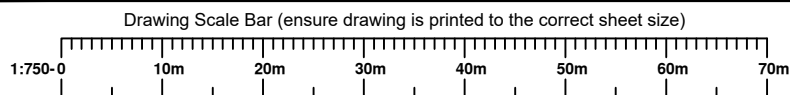
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Key

- Site boundary.
- Tree with numbered reference.
Canopy spread and coloured BS5837:2012 tree quality category as shown below.
= Tree details estimate (inaccessible tree)
* = Tree in off site location
- Tree group plotted with individual stem locations and numbered reference. Canopy extents coloured to match BS5837:2012 tree quality category as shown below.
- Tree or Vegetation group with numbered reference. Canopy extents coloured to match BS5837:2012 tree quality category as shown below and dashed line to show indicative stem line.
- Hedge with numbered reference.
Canopy extents and coloured BS5837:2012 tree quality category as shown below and dashed line to show hedge centerline.
- BS 5837:2012 Tree Quality Categories - Table 1**
- Category A - High quality
- Category B - Moderate quality
- Category C - Low quality
- Category U - Unsuitable for retention
- Direction of first significant branch
- Root protection area (RPA)
Calculated in accordance with Section 4.6 - BS5837:2012
- Tree protected by Tree Preservation Order No.N/TPO171 from Wiltshire Council.

NOTES:

- Refer to RPS Tree Survey Report & Schedule for further details.
- Survey based on a visual inspection from the ground and is not intended as a full arboricultural inspection.
- Plan produced in accordance with recommendations set out in BS 5837:2012 - 'Trees in Relation to design, demolition and construction'.
- Due to the legal protection afforded to breeding birds vegetation removal should not take place during the bird nesting period; generally, although not restricted to, March - August inclusive.
- Survey based upon topographic survey produced by the client reference 2368.

P01	First Issue		EP	DC
Rev	Description		By	Ckd Date

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Client **Surfacing Standards Ltd.**

Project **Leafy Lane Playing Fields, Corsham**

Title **Tree Constraints Plan**

Status	Scale	Date Created
For Planning	1:750 @A1	15.04.25
Task Team Manager	Information Author	Task Information Manager
TF	EP	DC

Document Number
5413-RPS-XX-EX-DR-9102

Project Code - Originator - Zone - Level - Type - Role - Drawing Number

RPS Project Number	Suitability	Revision
794-PLN-LAN-5413	S3	P01

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APPENDICES

Appendix D

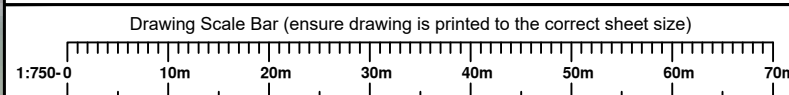
Tree Removal & Protection Plan



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Key

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 - Tree with numbered reference.
Canopy spread and coloured BS5837:2012 tree quality category as shown below.
= Tree details estimate (inaccessible tree)
* = Tree in off site location
 - Tree group plotted with individual stem locations and numbered reference. Canopy extents coloured to match BS5837:2012 tree quality category as shown below.
 - Tree or Vegetation group with numbered reference. Canopy extents coloured to match BS5837:2012 tree quality category as shown below and dashed line to show indicative stem line.
 - Hedge with numbered reference.
Canopy extents and coloured BS5837:2012 tree quality category as shown below and dashed line to show hedge centerline.
- BS 5837:2012 Tree Quality Categories - Table 1
- Category A - High quality
 - Category B - Moderate quality
 - Category C - Low quality
 - Category U - Unsuitable for retention
- Direction of first significant branch
 - Root protection area (RPA) Calculated in accordance with Section 4.6 - BS5837:2012
 - Tree protected by Tree Preservation Order No N/TPO171 from Wiltshire Council.
 - Temporary protective fencing in accordance with Section 6.2 - BS5837:2012. See inset details for example details.

NOTES:

- Refer to RPS Tree Survey Report & Schedule for further details.
- Survey based on a visual inspection from the ground and is not intended as a full arboricultural inspection.
- Plan produced in accordance with recommendations set out in BS 5837:2012 - 'Trees in Relation to design, demolition and construction'.
- Due to the legal protection afforded to breeding birds vegetation removal should not take place during the bird nesting period, generally, although not restricted to, March - August inclusive.
- Survey based upon topographic survey produced by the client reference 2368.

Rev	Description	By	Ckd	Date
P01	First Issue	EP	DC	20.11.25

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Client **Surfacing Standards Ltd.**

Project **Leafy Lane Playing Fields, Corsham**

Title **Tree Protection Plan**

Status	Scale	Date Created
For Planning	1:750 @A1	20.11.25
Task Team Manager	Information Author	Task Information Manager
TF	EP	DC

Document Number
5413-RPS-XX-EX-DR-9103

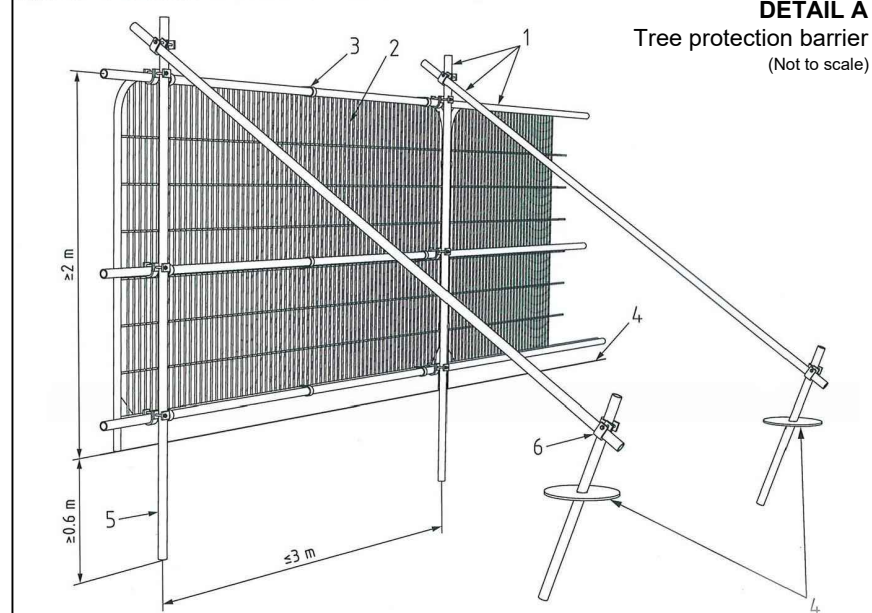
Project Code - Originator - Zone - Level - Type - Role - Drawing Number

RPS Project Number	Suitability	Revision
794-PLN-LAN-5413	S3	P01

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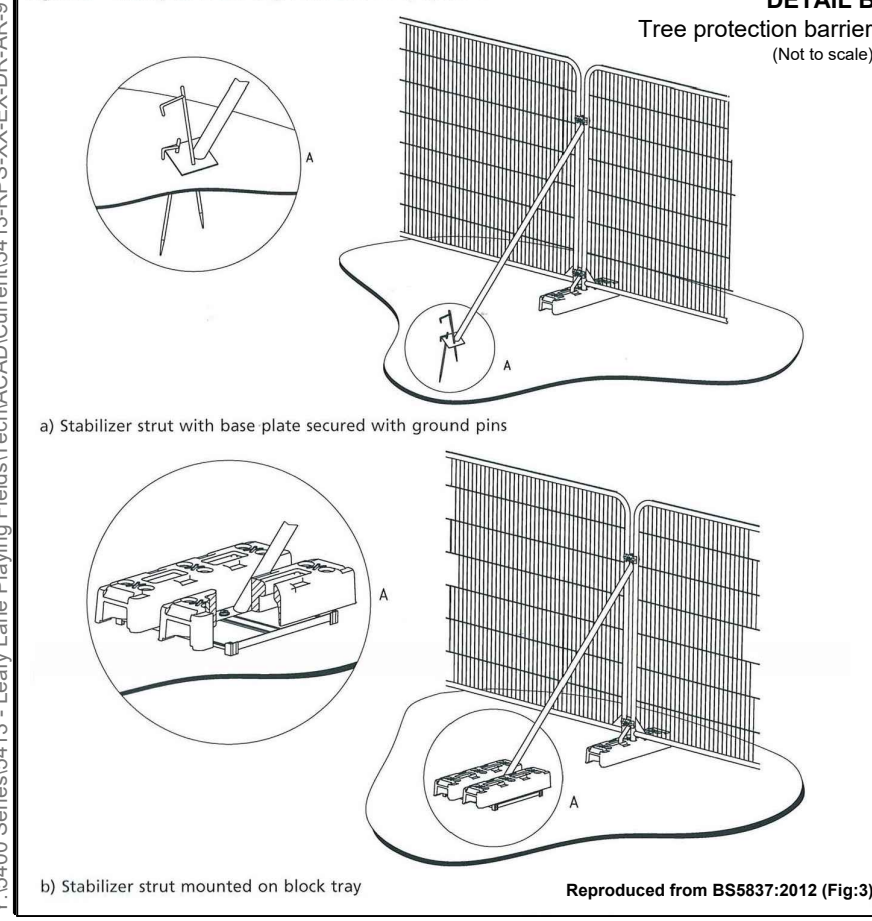


Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier



- Key
- 1 Standard scaffold poles
 - 2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
 - 3 Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties
 - 4 Ground level
 - 5 Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)
 - 6 Standard scaffold clamps
- Reproduced from BS5837:2012 (Fig.2)

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



Reproduced from BS5837:2012 (Fig.3)

APPENDICES

Appendix E

Example Tree Protection Barriers (BS5837:2012 Fig 2 & 3)

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier

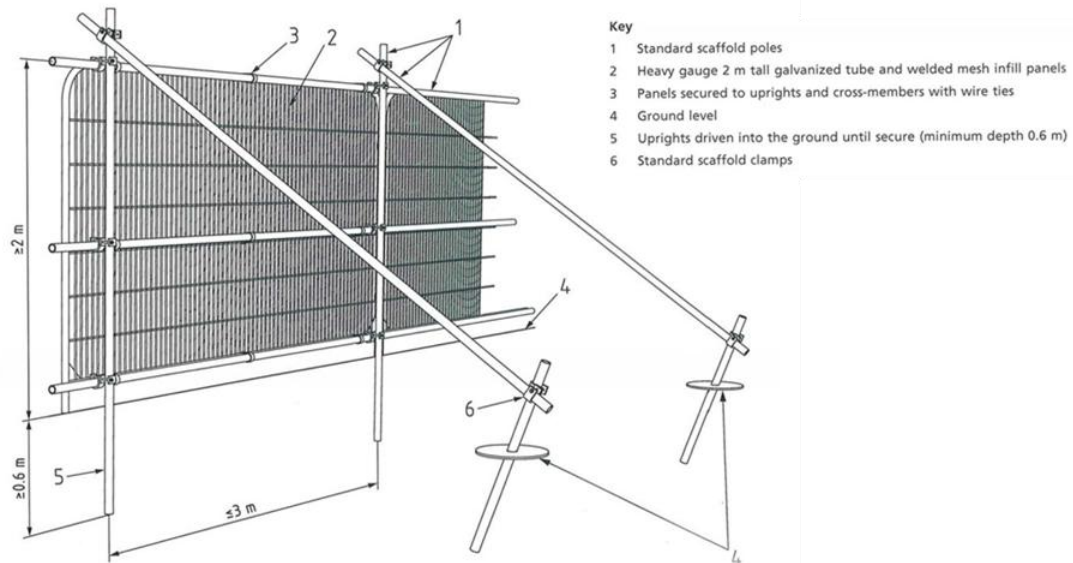
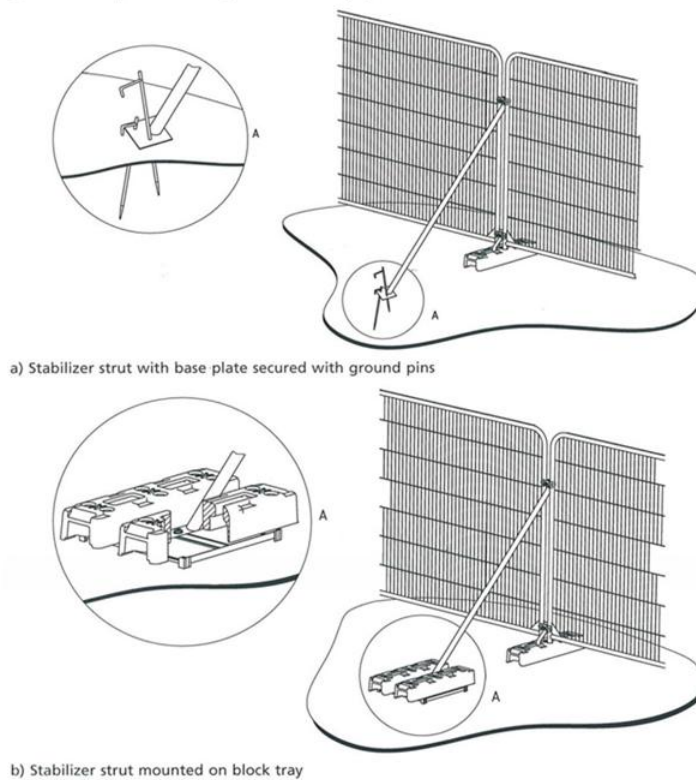


Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



Appendix F

Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) Sign



Appendix G

Arboricultural Glossary

Age-class - A general classification of the tree into either - young, semi-mature, early mature, mature, over-mature, or veteran.

Apical Bud/Shoot – The apical bud, also known as the leading shoot, is responsible for shoot extension and is dominant.

Apical Dominance – A singular, leading shoot remains dominant.

Arboreal - In connection with, or in relation to, trees.

Arboriculturist – Person who has, through relevant education, training and experience, gained recognised qualifications and expertise in the field of trees in relation to construction.

Arboricultural Implications Assessment (AIA) – Study, undertaken by an arboriculturist, to identify, evaluate and possibly mitigate the extent of direct and indirect impacts on existing trees that may arise as a result of the implementation of any site layout proposal.

Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) – Methodology for the implementation of any aspect of development that has the potential to result in the loss of or damage to a tree. Note The AMS is likely to include details of an on-site tree protection monitoring regime.

Asymmetric crown- Crowns that have a morphological bias in a particular direction. This can give the tree an aesthetically unfavourable appearance but can also subject the tree to uneven wind- loading forces and potentially result in failure.

Basal – Referring to the bottom part of a tree's stem.

Basifugal mortality – A natural process seen in trees in an advanced life stage whereby the trees extremities die back, and the inner crown expresses new growth, in order to conserve energy reserves.

Bifurcated - A growth characteristic, where two stems of similar size grow from the same point. Can create an inherent weakness.

Branch union/junction - The point at which a branch joins a larger stem. Can be a point of weakness, especially in certain species.

Brown Rot- Decay caused by certain species of fungus which results in the affected wood becoming brittle and liable to suddenly 'break out', especially if in key structural areas.

Buttress flares – Extensions of the basal stem of a tree that provide additional structural support. See reaction wood.

Bifurcated- A growth characteristic, where two or more stems of similar size grow from the same point. Can create an inherent weakness.

Cable braces – Cable braces used to support the crown of a tree, reduce impacts caused by wind- throw oscillation.

Canker – A clearly defined area of dead and sunken or malformed bark, caused by bacteria or fungi. Can have a bearing on structural integrity of infected limb(s) depending on size and location.

Central leader- See apical dominance.

APPENDICES

Chalara ash dieback- A disease affecting ash trees caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. Usually fatal, the disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in infected trees. It was first confirmed in Britain in 2012.

Chlorosis- yellowing of leaves which can be caused by a range of factors, often an indicator of nutrient deficiency.

Compaction - The compressing & hardening of soil around tree root systems, due to vehicular/pedestrian use etc. Loss of pore space between soil granules limits water movement and gaseous exchange and inhibits root growth.

Companion shelter- Shelter provided by neighbouring trees in groups to one another, factors such as wind throw are reduced due to supporting branches and interlocking root systems. Removing individual trees on the peripheries of such groups can expose neighbouring trees to environmental factors they have not previously been subjected to and can lead to individual failure.

Competent person – Person who has training and experience relevant to the matter being addressed and an understanding of the requirements of the particular task being approached

Note 1 A competent person understands the hazards and the methods to be implemented to eliminate or reduce the risks that can arise. For example, when on site, a competent person is able to recognise at all times whether it is safe to proceed.

Note 2 A competent person is able to advise on the best means by which the recommendations of this British Standard may be implemented.

Condition – Assessment based on a visual and professional view giving consideration to many factors such as tree health, structural integrity and suitability of its position.

Conservation dead- wooding- Removal of deadwood using 'coronet cuts' that mimic the way a branch would naturally break off, maximising deadwood habitat availability for invertebrates.

Coppice - The method of managing trees by cutting the stems at between 1.0 inch and 1.0 foot from the ground level on a regular cycle, the cut stumps of the trees or shrubs are allowed to re-grow many new stems.

Crown spread - Gives distances between extreme limits of the crown and the stem, usually along the four compass points. Helps to show crown symmetry.

Crown Reduction – The removal of branch ends to reduce the extreme limits of a tree's branch spread and height.

Crown Thin – The removal of selected branches within the crown to thin the internal branch structure.

D.B.H. - 'Diameter at Breast Height', an industry standard to gauge tree stem size and development. Within arboriculture, breast height is taken to be 1.5m above ground level.

Dieback - The reduction in crown vigour and extension growth progressing to death of distal parts; often associated with decline.

Epicormic growth - New growth from dormant buds that can often form tenuous attachments. Although some species readily form such shoots, it can be an indication of stress.

Form - A general assessment of the shape and position of the tree within its environment.

Hanger – Term used to describe a branch that has become detached and is being supported by other branches. Can be a hazard to persons and property below.

Hazard Beam – After the loss of a distal part, a limb concentrates growth upwards creating adverse end weights that can render the limb susceptible to failure.

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Included bark – Growth characteristic usually caused when two or more stems/branches growing in close proximity ‘fuse’ together entrapping the bark from when the parts were separate in the middle, creating a structural weakness.

Invertebrate tower – Pollarding of a (usually dead) tree to a safe height that leaves part of the main stem as a deadwood habitat for invertebrate species.

Occlusion/Occluded – Normally used to describe the overgrowth of a wound. Also, immovable foreign objects in contact with a tree part can become encased or ‘occluded’ by the tree as it grows incrementally.

Pathogen – An agent that causes disease, especially a living microorganism such as a bacterium or fungus.

Phototropic growth – Growth responding to a light stimulus i.e. the sun. This can influence the form of a tree, particularly where other factors e.g. buildings or other trees, affect the amount/ direction light is received.

Pollard – The removal and subsequent regular re-removal of the crown of a tree above animal browsing height. Can be an effective method of controlling the size of trees in urban areas. This is ideally begun in the trees early stages and maintained throughout its life.

Reaction wood – Essentially additional wood laid down by the tree to compensate for structural defects such as cavities.

Rhizosphere – The rhizosphere is the narrow region of soil that is directly influenced by root secretions and associated soil microorganisms. In particular, mycorrhizal fungi form a symbiotic relationship with trees and assist in the assimilation of phosphates essential to the tree’s health.

Ring barking/Girdling – the removal of bark around the entire circumference of a stem or branch, causing the death of all distal parts.

Root Protection Area (RPA) – Layout design tool indicating the area surrounding a tree that contains sufficient rooting volume to ensure the survival of the tree, shown in plan form in m².

Scaffold limbs – The main structural branches within the crown.

Tree Removal & Protection Plan – scale drawing prepared by an arboriculturist showing the finalised layout proposals, tree retention and tree and landscape protection measures detailed within the AMS, which can be shown graphically.

U.L.E – ‘Useful Life Expectancy’ is an estimate based on currently known factors of the possible remaining life of the tree as an asset. AKA ‘Estimated remaining contribution’.

Veteran tree – Tree that, by recognised criteria, shows features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of, but not exclusive to, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species concerned.

Vigour – A general classification, as to the present and future potential growth and development of a tree. A comment regarding the health status of the tree specific to its species.

White Rot – A type of decay caused by certain species of fungi which results in the affected wood becoming flexible with little compressive strength.