



An Arboricultural Method Statement on Trees at

Burbage Primary School
Blackman's Lane
Burbage
Marlborough
SN8 3TP

9th April 2026

Prepared for Burbage Primary School

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Contents

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

Appendices

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

Figure

Tree Protection Plan	BP/TPP
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Brief:** I am instructed by Mrs Alison Williams, the Operation Manager, to inspect the trees with the potential to be affected by development at Burbage Primary School, Blackman's Lane, Burbage, Marlborough SN8 3TP 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 my conclusions in the light of my qualifications and my 27 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:** Mrs Williams provided me with copies of the following documents.
- A proposed floor plan
- 1.4 Relevant Background Information:** Following the submission of a planning application, PL/2026/00775, Wiltshire Council required a site specific arboricultural method statement showing the trees to be retained, removed and protected.
- 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.
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2 SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS

- 2.1 Site Visit:** My assistant, Katie Sharples, and I carried out an unaccompanied site visit on 9th April 2026. All 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:** Blackman's Lane is a quiet residential street in Burbage, with the school located at the end. There is a parking and turning area off Blackman's Lane. The asphalt playgrounds are located to the south of the site and the grass playing fields are to the north. School buildings are located between the two and consist of a single storey modern brick building with two mobile classrooms to the east. There is an asphalt footpath running to the front of the school, there is then a 1.2 metre timber fence separating an area in front of the mobile classrooms. The surveyed trees are all in this area, it has a combination of astroturf, asphalt and grass surfacing. The general nature of the locality is medium density residential and there are public footpaths bordering the majority of the school boundaries. The school grounds and adjacent properties contain a variety of maturing and mature trees and shrubs.
- 2.3 Tree Identification and Observations:** I visually inspected only 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 Constraints Plan, drawing number BP/TPP. 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, BP/TPP, 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 can be made to this according to the soil topography and pre-existing soil conditions.
- 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 is proposed to remove Tree 0712, an early mature Lime, with significant remaining growth potential. The proposed extension will be less than a metre from the tree, the tree will cause ongoing problems with shade and leaf fall. It is proposed to remove this tree and mitigate its loss by planting a replacement elsewhere on the school grounds.
- 4.2 Retained Trees:** The other surveyed trees are further from the proposals, their RPA's are not crossed by the proposals. It will be straightforward to prevent any damage to the canopies or rooting areas with protective fencing.
- 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, BP/TPP 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 or root pruning operations. Any works to the retained trees that are necessary to complete the building works or for tree management reasons are specified in the Table below. 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).

Tree No	Work Description
0712	Remove

- 5.2.2 Extensions:** The proposals include two single storey pod extensions to the west of the mobile classroom. This is outside of the RPA's of Trees 0708 to 0711. Fencing will be erected prior to the onset of any work on site effectively preventing access to these trees.
- 5.2.3 Fencing Specification and Location:** Tree Protective Fencing is to be erected prior to any site clearance, demolition or construction works in accordance with the specification in British Standard 5837, included as Appendix 3. The location of the fencing is illustrated on the Tree Protection Plan, BP/TPP. 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. The fence locations indicated are on existing hard

surfacing so the standard specification will be inappropriate, in these areas fencing as specified in Appendix 3, diagram 2 should be used.

5.2.4 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.

5.2.5 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.

5.2.6 Fence Removal: Tree Protective Fencing 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 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 Mitigation Planting: To mitigate for the loss of Tree 0712, a standard sized Lime will be planted elsewhere on the school grounds.

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

6 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Trees Subject to Statutory Controls: According to Wiltshire Council online mapping services the school is not located in a conservation area and there are no tree preservation orders on the site. 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

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For Sharples Tree Services**

APPENDIX 1

Tree Schedule

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Dia @ 1.5m (mm)	Crown Spread (m)				Height of Crown Clearance (m)	Maturity	Structural Condition	Estimated Remaining Contribution	BS 5837 Category Grading	RPA Radius
				N	E	S	W						
0708	Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	15	470	5	5	5	5	4 E	Medium Mature		20-40	B1	5.6
0709	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	10	340	3	4	2	4	2.5 E	Early Mature	Divides at 1.5m, measured below.	10-20	B/C2	4.1
0710	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	10	260	0	4	3	4	2.5 E	Early Mature	One-sided due to Tree 0709	10-20	C2	3.1
0711	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	10	270	2	4	4	4	2 E	Early Mature	Roots lifting tarmac	10-20	B/C2	3.2
0712	Common Lime <i>Tilia x europaea</i>	12	320	4	4	4	4	3	Early Mature		20-40	B1	3.8

APPENDIX 1

Tree Schedule Explanatory Notes

- **Measurements:** 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 BP/TCP.
- **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

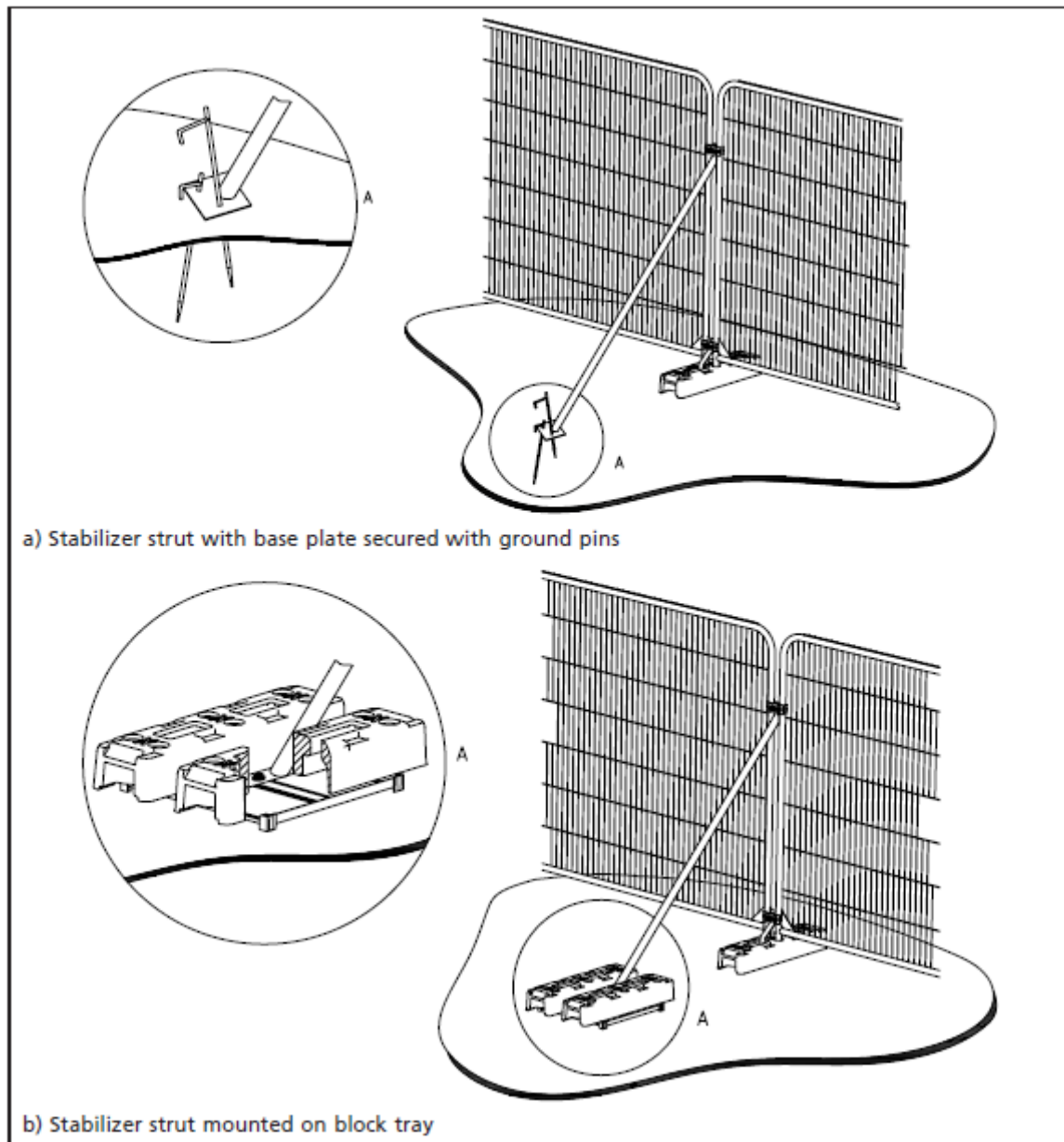
British Standard Cascade Chart

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 <i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.</i>			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 4

Fence Signage



PROTECTIVE FENCING

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

APPENDIX 4

Fence Signage



