
**BEECH HOUSE, HIGH STREET, URCHFONT,
DEVIZES WILTSHIRE, SN10**

**ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT
FOR
REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING RETAINING WALL**

**Prepared by:
WHLandscape**

**On behalf of:
Mr & Mrs Botham**

Project Reference: 26.2145

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ARB-2013-01: TREE PROTECTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The instructions provided in this Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) and Tree Protection Plan (TPP) must be followed during the development process. This is to ensure the protection and conservation of trees/hedges to be retained through and beyond the process of the demolition of an approximate 5m section of collapsing/bowing wall and construct a replacement section of wall at Beech House, High Street, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 4QN. The instructions in this document are necessary to guide the development process in order to comply with tree protection methodology, good working practice and to support the planning application to be submitted to comply with conservation area regulations.

1.2 The AMS is intended to enable the protection of those trees/hedges to be retained at the site through the work process. Any deviation from the instructions in this document must be discussed with WH Landscape Consultancy Ltd before they are undertaken, to ensure that they are not in breach of planning consent. The instructions in this document are made in accordance with British Standard (BS) 5837:2012 *Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations*.

1.3 Arboricultural supervision may be required at certain points of the development process in order to ensure trees are being adequately protected. The Project Manager/Architect/Contract Administrator will arrange supervision by the Arboriculturist as necessary during the work.

1.4 This document must be made available to all contractors and operatives prior to the commencement of construction activity. This will ensure that they fully understand the measures set out for the protection of trees/hedges to be retained on site.

1.5 This AMS gives site-specific instructions on the methodology to be followed during the process to demolished and rebuild the failing section of wall and specifically the protection of a directly adjacent tree and hedgerow potentially affected by construction activity. The phasing of construction activity as shown in section 3.1 must be followed in the order as it is presented to ensure the adequate protection of adjacent arboricultural features to be retained.

1.6 A survey schedule of the trees/hedges relating to the development on which the specifications of their protection are based can be found at Table 2.

1.7 A TPP illustrating the key features of those trees at the site and the requirements for their protection through the development process can be found in Illustrative Material at plan ARB-2145-01 based on the drawing of the project to be submitted for planning approval, drawing no. 2177 PL-100.

1.8 A copy of the AMS and TPP must be retained on site at all times. All site operatives must be made aware of the role of AMS and its importance.

1.9 The Arboricultural supervisor for the project and point of contact to advise on this AMS is:

Name	Company	Role	Contact Details
Seb Macleod	WHLandscape	Arboriculturist	Tel: 01380 727539 Email: seb.m@whlandscape.co.uk

2. TREES AND TREE PROTECTION

2.1 The majority of woody plant roots will be found within 600mm of soil surface levels as roots require access to oxygen, water and nutrients (most soils become anaerobic below this depth). The root systems of trees are critical to the maintenance of the trees physiological and structural condition. The severance of roots within the Root Protection Area (RPA) of a tree to be retained has the impact of reducing its physiological function. This will affect its ability to store energy, as well as the drawing of water and nutrients from the soil to the effect that severe dysfunction or premature death of the tree can result.

2.2 The removal of larger roots within the RPA can have the impact of reducing the structural integrity of the tree, leaving it exposed to failure during adverse weather conditions. The wounding resulting from the severance of roots can offer tree pathogens entry points for infection which can cause dysfunction, loss of structural integrity, or premature death.

2.3 Roots require access to oxygen and water in order to respire, as well as providing the tree with water and nutrients. Any root over 25mm diameter is considered as a critical part of the structural integrity and physiological function of the tree. Compaction of the soil will reduce this function to the effect that severe dysfunction or premature death of the tree can result. The leaching of chemicals or substances, such as cement, into or adjacent to the RPA of a tree to be retained can have detrimental impacts on the root system of the tree and can cause physiological dysfunction loss of structural integrity or premature death.

2.4 Tree crowns or hedges can pose constraints to required construction access during the development process. This can result in the striking of branches or stems, or the pruning of branches to facilitate access. The pruning or striking of tree branches has the impact of reducing the tree's ability to store energy and photosynthesise to obtain energy from the sun which is necessary to maintain its physiological system. This can lead to a loss of physiological function, exposure of the tree to pathogens and can lead to decline or premature death. The wounding resulting from the removal of branches, whether accidental or intentional, can offer tree pathogens entry points for infection which can cause dysfunction, loss of structural integrity or premature death.

2.5 A tree can be unbalanced by excessive pruning or damage on one side, which can leave it exposed to new stresses and lead to failure during adverse weather. Such damage, whether intentional or unintentional, must be avoided during the development process. Any required pruning work on

trees/hedges not prescribed in this AMS and that may arise during the development process must be agreed by the arboricultural contractor and planning authority.

2.6 The particulars of the phased process to be undertaken concerns an approximate 5m section of traditional brick wall on the highway facing (eastern) boundary of the residential property, Beech House, running from the far northern corner of the property boundary along the highway side in an approximate south-easterly direction. This section of the wall has a pronounced lean towards the public footpath immediately at its base on its north-eastern side and several of the upper courses of brick along this collapsing section have either fallen or been removed to address public safety concerns. The wall, which retains ground from the higher garden level to its west, has a well established, mature beech hedge (H1) running along its inside face with basal stems located approximately 0.6m from the edge of the wall. Further inside the raised garden area stands the stem of a mature false acacia (T1) located approximately 1.2m from the face of the wall. The incremental growth of roots from both the hedge and the acacia are considered to have caused the 5m section of wall to lean towards the footpath.

2.7 The remaining section of leaning wall is to be removed to a solid base at the approximate level of the footpath and the wall is to be reconstructed on its existing foundation, recycling the existing bricks removed during the reconstruction process. Some soil and roots from both the tree and hedge behind the inside face of the wall will be an obstruction to the replacement process and will have to be pruned back to allow the reconstruction of this section of wall in an upright position. Roots from the false acacia will be extending under the wall and public footpath and below a grassed verge between the public footpath and the highway to the north-east.

2.8 Due to the obstruction of the dense beech hedge directly behind the section of wall to be replaced and the raised ground within the garden on which it stands, all work will be undertaken from the tarmac public footpath to the north-east. Therefore, the normal requirement as recommended in the British Standard guidance (BS 5837:2012 – *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations*) to establish a fenced Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) to protect the sensitive areas, particularly RPAs, of tree or hedges to be retained would be unpracticable and would serve no function. Therefore, there will not be a requirement to establish a fenced CEZ during these works.

2.9 The RPA of the acacia (T1) within the grassed verge between the footpath and the highway is potentially threatened during the development process by compaction by the footfall of operatives

and contamination from spillage of lime mortar. As this is a public area it cannot be fenced off from construction activity during work. However, during work activity it is recommended that plyboard temporary ground protection is laid on the grass verge along the edge of the footpath to reduce the impact of footfall and avoid soil contamination via the spillage of lime mortar.

2.10 The remaining brickwork along the 5m stretch of wall to be replaced is to be removed carefully by hand not mechanically, i.e. with the aid of a mechanical excavator. The existing foundations of this section of retaining wall are proposed to be retained throughout the replacement process which limits the potential for root damage to be inflicted on the adjacent tree and hedge during the replacement process. Ground that will need to be removed behind the inside face of the wall must only be excavated by hand or ideally with the aid of a compressed air spade which minimalises inadvertent root damage during the process. The minimal amount of soil required to reconstruct the wall in an upright position is to be removed only.

2.11 Those exposed roots that are an obstruction to, or in conflict with, the reconstruction of the 5m section of wall following soil excavation behind the walls previous inside face are to be pruned back to clear the obstruction they pose with secateurs or a pruning saw. The minimal amount of root pruning to achieve the required works access is to be undertaken only. Exposed roots must not be allowed to desiccate (dry out) following soil removal and root pruning and throughout the remaining process to reconstruct the wall. A damp hessian cloth is to be placed over any exposed roots along the entire stretch of exposed ground. The cloth must be kept damp at all times until the wall is reinstated and the area behind its inside face backfilled in soil or pea gravel.

2.12 Low lateral branches on the outside face of the beech hedge may cause an obstruction to the process to reconstruct the wall. Those low lateral branches that may be in conflict with the aspect of the process can be cut back to clear the obstruction they pose with hand tools such as secateurs or a pruning saw. The minimal amount of pruning work required to clear the obstruction is to be undertaken. The regular maintenance or pruning of hedgerows in a conservation area does not require the submission of a 211 notice to the local planning authority for works to trees in a conservation area.

2.13 The grass verge between the public footpath and the highway is not a suitable area for the storage or stockpiling of materials, temporary on-site parking, or the mixing of materials during the works. Any mixing of materials such as lime mortar must be undertaken on hard standing areas only

and to a methodology that ensures vegetated ground within the RPA of the acacia of any other trees/hedges adjacent to the development area is not contaminated by leachate or spillages.

3. ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 PHASING OF EVENTS

1. A pre-commencement meeting and agreement of area mixing/storage of materials
2. Removal of remaining section of wall to be replaced
3. Removal of soil and root pruning
4. Reconstruction of the wall

3.2 METHODOLOGY

PHASE 1: Pre-commencement meeting and agreement of area mixing/storage of materials.

- Site operatives are to be provided with a copy of the AMS & TPP which they are to read. The arboricultural supervisor should be present at the pre-commencement site meeting. Operatives are to be made aware of the importance of protecting those trees/hedges on site and the potential for prosecution by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if the procedures in the AMS are not followed.
- An area suitable for the mixing and storage of any materials are to be identified and agreed pre-commencement of work.

PHASE 2: Removal of remaining section of wall to be replaced

- Prior to this phase commencing, and at the outset of each phase below, plyboard is to be laid on the grassed verge from the outside edge of the tarmac footpath in a 1m (or greater) strip along the length of the 5m section of wall to be replaced. The plyboard will need to be removed at the end of each working day and replaced at the start of each working day as not to pose a trip hazard outside working hours at the site.
- The remaining brickwork courses along the 5m stretch of wall to be replaced are to be removed carefully by hand and not mechanically, i.e. not with the aid of a mechanical excavator.
- Existing foundations for the wall are to be retained.

PHASE 3: Removal of soil and root pruning

- This process should be undertaken under arboricultural supervision.
- Soil behind the inside face of the existing wall is to be removed using hand tools or ideally be done with aid of a compressed air spade. Mechanical excavation must not be undertaken. The

minimum amount of soil required to be removed in order to facilitate the reconstruction of the wall is to be removed only.

- Any exposed roots that have to be cut back to facilitate the reconstruction of the new retaining wall are to be cleanly cut with a pruning saw or secateurs.
- Any exposed roots must not be allowed to desiccate (dry out) during the remaining process to reconstruct the wall. Dampened hessian cloth is to be placed over any exposed roots and the cloth must be kept damp at all times until the wall is reinstated and the area behind its inside face backfilled in soil or pea gravel.

PHASE 4: Reconstruction of the wall

- Prior to the reconstruction of the wall, any low branches from the beech hedge that will obstruct the process can be pruned to clear the obstruction using secateurs or a pruning saw. The minimal amount of pruning work in order to clear the obstruction is to be undertaken only.
- Exposed roots behind the inside face of the section of wall to be replaced must continue to be covered with a dampened hessian cloth which is to be kept damp at all times until the reconstruction of the wall is complete. It must only be removed immediately prior to the back filling of the void behind the inside face of the wall with soil or pea gravel.

The chronological order of these Phases of operation must be observed as detailed in this Arboricultural Method Statement. Any deviation from this can only be pursued with consent from the arboricultural supervisor and local planning authority.

4. REFERENCES

British Standards Institute, 2012. BS 5837:2012 – *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations*. Online: BSI.

TABLES

Table 1 Tree Survey Key and Schedule

Tree/Tag No: Individual trees will be denoted as T1, T2 etc. on plans or diagrams. Groups of trees too numerous to individually survey or groups comprising of mainly trees of a stem diameter less than 150mm will be denoted as G1, G2 or W1, W2, etc. Hedgerows will also be shown as groups denoted as H1, H2, etc. Tree stumps denoted by S. Individual trees located in a group or hedgerow can still be assessed individually.

Species: using common and scientific name.

Measurement Conventions:

1. Height, crown spread, and crown clearance is recorded to the nearest half metre (crown spread is rounded up) for measurements up to 10m and to the nearest whole metre if over 10m.
2. Stem diameter is recorded in millimetres rounded to the nearest 10mm.
3. Any estimated dimensions (e.g. for inaccessible trees or those located on adjacent land) are suffixed by "#".

Tree height measured using an electronic clinometer. Site conditions may render this technique impractical in which case an estimated height will be suffixed by "#".

Stem Diameter: normally measured at 1.5m from ground level or using techniques as stated in Annex C of BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*. If estimated denoted by #.

Ivy clad trees will be noted as without removing the ivy a stem diameter will have to be estimated from best measurement available.

Age Class: Y - a young tree in first third of life cycle.

EM - an early mature tree in second third of life cycle.

M - a mature tree in the last third of its life cycle.

OM - an over-mature tree in decline due to age.

Physiological Condition:

Good (G) - tree appears to be in a satisfactory physiological condition showing no signs of poor health.

Fair (F) - may be showing some minor signs of stress.

Poor (P) - slightly compromised showing significant signs of stress i.e. crown retrenchment.

V. Poor (VP) - significantly compromised e.g. advanced retrenchment.

D - dead.

Structural Condition: (Crown, stem and base of tree each given a value)

Good (G) - tree appears to be in a satisfactory structural condition with no significant defects found.

Fair (F) - some defects, but of low significance.

Poor (P) - slightly compromised e.g. poor branch unions found or evidence of decay.

V. Poor (VP) - profoundly compromised and imminent failure likely.

- cannot be assessed due to ivy/vegetation cover.

D/W - deadwood.

Estimated Remaining Contribution: Measured in years: <10 (under 10 years), >10 (over 10 years), >20, >40.

Retention Category: Denoted as U, A, B, C with sub-categories 1, 2, 3. as defined in Table 1 of BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.

Root Protection Area (RPA): Radius given in m. Area given in m².

Table 2 BS5837 Survey Schedule

Site: Beech House, Urchfont

Client: Mr & Mrs Botham

Date: 6th May 2026

Tree/Tag. No	Species	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Crown spread (m)				Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition: CROWN/STEM/BASE General Observations: Preliminary Management Recommendations	Estimated Remaining Contribution	Retention Category	RPA R (m)	RPA A (m²)
				N	E	S	W							
H1	Beech hedge <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	2.5	200 Avg.	-	-	-	-	M	G	G/G/G Stands 0.6m from section of wall to east to be replaced	>20	B3	2.4	18
T1	False acacia <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	9	700#	2.5	2.5	2	4	OM	F	F/F/G Ivy clad stem hindering stem measurement Aging specimen with limited foliage and occasional deadwood at crown extremities Stands 1.2m from section of wall to east to be replaced	>40	B1	8.4	222

ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL

