

Arboricultural Filenote

Project:	Stourhead Garden Pathway Improvements	Date:	3/2/2026
Client:	National Trust	Author:	Ben Rose
Subject:	Amendments to Arboricultural Impact Assessment		

1 Background information

The National Trust have submitted a planning application for footpath improvement works including associated engineering and landscaping works at Stourhead in Wiltshire (Planning ref. PL/2025/07553).

A consultation response was provided by Shane Verrion dated 17th December 2025. I also had a phone conversation with Shane Verrion on 22nd January 2026. During this conversation Shane Requested an Arboricultural Method Statement for Phase 1 of works and updates to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

During our phone conversation Shane acknowledged that part of the problem was that he visited site with A3 versions of the Tree Protection Plans submitted which meant that he was unable to read the notes on the plans that detail what changes to the surfacing are happening in different parts of the pathway network.

Shane specifically requested that an Arboricultural Method Statement for the Phase 1 works be submitted as part of the planning application. Also, due to time pressures, he requested that changes to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment be listed so that he could easily understand how the report has changed.

2 Changes to the submission

An Arboricultural Method Statement for Phase 1 works has been produced dated 3rd February 2026. This lists detailed proposals for tree protection and arboricultural supervision during the Phase 1 works.

Two targeted Tree Protection Plans for Phase 1 works are provided as Appendix 2 of the Phase 1 Arboricultural Method Statement that accompanies this report (drawing numbers TPP-Ph1-1 & TPP-Ph1-2).

An agenda for arboricultural supervision during Phase 1 of the project is provided as Section 8 of the Arboricultural Method Statement.

2 Changes to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Changes to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment include the following:

1. Reference to the accompanying Arboricultural Method Statement for Phase 1 works have been included.
2. Paragraph 5.1.2 – Reference to supervision of works near veteran trees added
3. Paragraph 5.4.2 – Text changed from ‘may’ to ‘will’ in the last sentence. Where the board or metal edging cannot be cut to avoid the root flare or the root there **will** need to be a break in the edging.

4. Paragraph 5.4.2 – Text changed to: The installation of edging will be covered during the initial toolbox talk by the project arboriculturist and **effective ways of overcoming such constraints** will be agreed with the contractor.
5. Paragraph 5.6.3 – Text amended to clarify that ground protection will be required when turning is required on soft ground: if any vehicle needs to turn **on soft ground** it will be necessary for thick plywood boards, plastic ground guards or metal sheeting to be put down so that the vehicle can turn on top of them.
6. Section 5.8 – Stipulation that all ground works within veteran tree buffer zones must be carried out under arboricultural supervision.
7. Paragraph 5.6.3 – An agenda for arboricultural supervision will form part of the Arboricultural Method Statement for each phase of works.
8. In order to rationalise BNG calculations the hedge schedule and Tree Protection Plans have been amended to recognise the non-native features that we had listed as hedges as ‘shrub borders’. The updated Tree Protection Plans are TPP-1A & TPP-2A.

All of these changes are included in the accompanying document with the filename **AIA TPP - Stourhead Path Improvements - 3.2.26**.

3 Summary

1. The Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been updated and submitted as part of the planning application (dated 3.2.26).
2. An Arboricultural Method Statement for Phase 1 of the project has been produced and submitted as part of the planning application (dated 3.2.26).
3. Two targeted Tree Protection Plans for Phase 1 works are provided as Appendix 2 of the Phase 1 Arboricultural Method Statement that accompanies this report (drawing numbers TPP-Ph1-1 & TPP-Ph1-2).