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Arboricultural Report

The Court House Aldbourne

June 2026



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Guy Watson is the principal consulting Arboriculturist for Certhia Consulting Limited. He is a Chartered Forester (Arboriculture), a Chartered Environmentalist, holds the Professional Diploma in Arboriculture (as awarded by the Royal Forestry Society) and is a Fellow of the Arboricultural Association.

2.0 Brief

2.1 Certhia Consulting Limited has been instructed by Mr. C. Hayes to assess the tree cover affecting the proposed construction of a service barn on land to the north of The Court House, Aldbourne. This report builds upon the data from a tree survey undertaken according to BS5837:2012, 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'. The purpose of the survey is to assess existing trees in relation to potential construction in order to:

1. Record their principal attributes (species, height, crown spread, stem diameter, etc.).
2. Determine their quality and value in order to
3. Identify their retention priorities, and to
4. Determine root protection areas as detailed in the British Standard.

The survey indicates which trees will become material planning considerations and facilitates the mapping of the constraints which will be imposed by those trees identified for retention.

3.0 Documents and Information Provided

3.1 Certhia Consulting Limited has been issued with a topographical survey showing the existing site features and a scheme for the replacement buildings.

4.0 Limitations

4.1 All rights of this report are reserved. No part of it may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without our express permission. This report is intended for the sole use of the addressee and in relation to this site only. It may not be sold, lent, hired out or divulged to any third party unless directly involved in the site without the express consent of Certhia Consulting Limited.

5.0 Site Visit

5.1 Site visits were undertaken on 2 April and 6 May 2026 to collect survey information.



6.0 Survey Methodology

6.1 This report was produced following a ground level survey only. No soil samples were taken, and this report does not consider any potential influence the trees may have on adjacent structures. Internal investigations to determine decay extent are limited to basic sounding and probing only. No invasive diagnostic tools were employed.

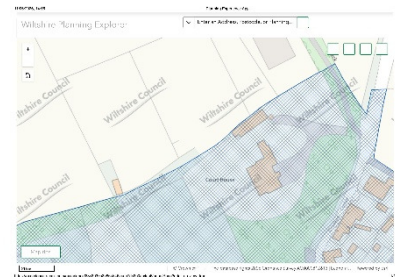
6.2 All dimensions are measured as far as reasonably practicable. All Survey methodology follows that prescribed in the British Standard, where applicable.

7.0 Site Description and Tree Location

7.1 The site comprises a detached historic house with modest ancillary outbuildings (of their time) in a large garden in the village of Aldbourne.

7.2 The gardens extend predominantly to the south with a paddock and tennis court to the north. The two distinct areas are separated by topography and planting. An historic tree belt runs along this boundary to the west behind the Vicarage and on between agricultural fields further west. One mature Beech, *Fagus sylvatica*, [T1] remains of this feature within boundary of The Court House and is the principal tree constraint relating to this project.

7.3 The Court House is within the Conservation Area of Aldbourne. The paddock is to the north, outside the Conservation Area. The Beech straddles the boundary of the Conservation Area.



8.0 Constraints Mapping

8.1 Retained trees will result in constraints being placed on the land. The most important is the Root Protection Area (RPA). This is detailed in the tree survey schedule as both an area and radial dimension for all trees, whether they are intended to be retained or not (*see* Appendix 1).

8.2 Root protection area

8.2.1 The ground area, calculated in m², which should be protected during construction, to safeguard sufficient roots and resources for the sustained health and viability of any trees retained.

8.2.2 This area is found by multiplying the stem diameter of the tree concerned by a factor of twelve (or following the formulaic methodology for multi-stem trees within the British Standard) and is based on a circle, or rhomboid, with the tree at its centre. It is possible for a competent arboriculturist to offset that area where previous land use, development, or simply rooting conditions are likely to preclude root development.



8.2.3 Protection for tree roots will be based upon the root protection area for retained trees. This will be provided by suitable fencing prior to the start of work on site. It may include the use of temporary ground protection and/or special engineering solutions where construction is proposed near to retained trees. This is known as the Construction Exclusion Zone. No works or activities likely to affect the retained trees should be carried out in this zone without further arboricultural advice. This includes services, drainage, soakaways and hard landscaping, drives and parking areas.

8.3 Other Constraints

8.3.1 The above-ground area occupied by the crown of the tree, plus allowances for working space and, if appropriate, for future growth, will also impose constraints on site planning. The extent of this constraint is determined by considering the existing and future crown spread of the tree(s), bearing in mind that this may be modified by arboriculturally acceptable pruning. Further matters relating to the above-ground portions of the tree include shading, seasonal debris and perceived safety issues. Site planning must take into account these concerns, and adequate separation given to the buildings to prevent future problems arising. Design strategies such as orientation and room layout will help alleviate these issues.

8.4 Tree Constraints Plan

8.4.1 Trees on site have been graded according to Table 1 of the British Standard, and are described as follows:

8.4.2 Category U

In accordance with the advice of BS5837:2012, those 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.

8.4.3 Category C

In general, C grade trees are those of low quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter under 150mm. These are further categorised as “unremarkable trees of limited merit” or “trees present in groups or woodlands.... trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits” and with no cultural value.

8.4.4 Category B

Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years. Further categorised as “trees of impaired condition, significant but remediable defects.... unsuitable for retention beyond 40 years or lacking the special quality” of Category A trees; and/or “trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups ... such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals.”



8.4.5 Category A

Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years. “Particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual, essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal features” and “trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance” and with significant cultural values.

8.4.6 Clause 5.1.1 of the British Standard states: “The constraints imposed by trees, both above and below ground ... should inform the site layout design, although it is recognised that the competing needs of development mean that trees are only one factor requiring consideration. Certain trees are of such importance and sensitivity as to be major constraints on development or to justify its substantial modification. However, care should be taken to avoid misplaced tree retention; attempts to retain too many or unsuitable trees on a site can result in excessive pressure on the trees during demolition or construction work, or post-completion demands for their removal.”

9.0 Discussion

9.1 It is proposed to construct a service barn and associated courtyard within the paddock area to the north of the residential property.

9.2 The barn has been subject to several design proposals to minimise its effect on the landscape and mature trees, and the setting of the adjacent Conservation area. The barn has been repositioned and reorientated to ensure that there is no impact to the Beech and any other adjacent trees.

9.3 The barn will be constructed outside the RPA of the Beech and the other trees within the curtilage of The Vicarage.

9.4 In order to minimise excavation and impact, the barn and its associated service area has been positioned to ensure that levels work with the predicted rooting area of the Beech. This will prevent any excavation in the RPA for foundations of retaining structures; and ensure that any build up to level the courtyard can be managed with a cellular confinement system to maintain gaseous and moisture diffusion.

9.5 The level has been set at existing ground level on the northern edge of the RPA.

9.6 The existing, albeit original temporary access track is to be re-used to access the facility. This has been in place for nearly two years, installed September 2024 to service the previous works at The Court House. The new yard will extend south of this track by less than 3.5m.

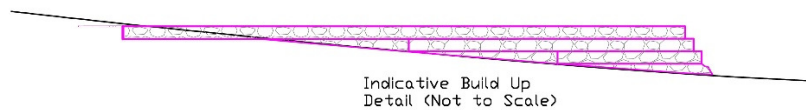


9.7 British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' allows for new surfacing to be installed within the RPA of existing trees provided it does not exceed more than 20% of previously uncovered surface; and that it can be installed as a "no-dig" system. The total area to be used to create the courtyard for the service area is 124m² or 17.5% of the RPA.

9.8 Currently 5.5% of the RPA is already occupied by the existing access track, which has been installed with a cellular confinement system. If this existing track is discounted from the "uncovered area" the new courtyard will occupy an extra 85m² or 12.8% of the RPA. Irrespective of which formula is used, the area of courtyard that will cover the RPA is within the guidelines of the British Standard.

9.9 The barn and courtyard have been set to allow the courtyard to be constructed following "no-dig" principles in the RPA. The existing track will be retained and may be used during the barn construction phase, and will form the northern limit of the "construction exclusion zone".

9.10 It is likely that the existing track within the new courtyard area will need to be lifted as it sits on the northern limit of the RPA. This will facilitate the installation of new surfacing at finished level with multiple layers of cell web providing the sub base to the to the south. All these layers will be filled - as per manufacturers' recommendations - with clean angular stone allowing for the necessary gaseous and moisture transmission to maintain root function under the final, porous surface.



9.11 All service runs, drainage and soakaways with any associated trenches to install will be provided outside the RPA of any retained tree.

9.12 In order to prevent any incursion into the RPA, tree protection will be required to demarcate the construction area and prevent any compaction of the soil structure. This is detailed in Appendix 2.



10.0 Conclusion

10.1 The barn will be constructed outside the RPA of any retained tree.

10.2 The new courtyard has been designed to ensure that no excavation will be required within the RPA of any retained tree. The new courtyard occupies less than the 20% allowable under the British Standard. It can and will be constructed following “no-dig” principles and incorporate a cellular confinement system.

10.3 Tree protection measures will be employed to prevent the spread of construction related activities into the RPA of any retained trees.

11.0 Other Considerations

11.1 Statutory Controls

11.1.1 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 1990 birds’ nests are protected and should not be disturbed. Bats and their roosts, whether occupied or not, are also protected. It is an offence to carry out any works that may harm nesting birds or cause them to desert their nests; or disturb bats or their roosts.

11.1.2 It is outside the scope of this report to consider these issues in any detail, and you are advised to carry out necessary investigations prior to carrying out any works.



Appendix 1

Tree Survey Data



The Court House, Aldbourne: Tree Schedule

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Crown (m)	Crown Clearance (m)	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Remaining Contribution	Structural Condition	Quality Assessment	RPR (m)	RPA (m ²)
T1	Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	22	1,380	N8.5 E9 S8.5 W6.5	7	Mature	Normal	20+	Potential minor emerging <i>K. deusta</i> in buttress seam E. Historic major stem removal at 2.0m SW with non-functional <i>P. gibbosa</i> . Previous reduction of upper crown. Vitality normal.	B (1)	15.0m	706.9m ²
T2	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	16	540	N1 E5.5 S9 W1	8	Mature	Reduced	20+	Off site. Suppressed under adjacent Beech.	C (2)	6.5m	131.9m ²
T3	Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	26	900	N9 E8.5 S8 W8	7	Mature	Normal	20+	Off site. Major component of shelterbelt.	B (2)	10.8m	366.4m ²

Age Class		Physiological Condition	
Young	Recently planted	Normal	Normally expected growth in all areas
Semi Mature	Strongly growing full apical dominance	Reduced	Slightly reduced leaf colour size and density
Early Mature	In transition between age classes	Poor	Sparse leaf density, small or pale
Mature	Apical dominance lost crown at general proportions	Dead	Dead
Over Mature	In natural decline		



Appendix 2

Tree Protection and Method Statement



1.0 Tree Protection Sequence

1.1 The following sequence of events will be followed before construction to secure tree protection and survival.

1.2 Prior to any demolition, ground works or development:

- Tree protection and ground protection will be installed prior to any construction activity.

1.3 During construction:

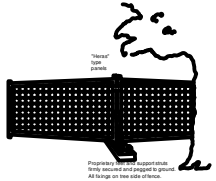
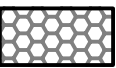
- Retention of all tree protection throughout the duration of works.
- All provisions of the approved Method Statement will be adhered to at all times.
- New courtyard area to be installed following the provisions of paragraph 3.0 below.

1.4 Post construction:

- Removal of remaining tree protection.



DATE	REVISION

-  Category B tree
-  Category C tree
-  Root Protection Areas
-  Protective Fences as detail below
- 
Protective fence to be erected within 10m of tree trunk. All trees to be protected.
-  Existing Trackway

Construction to follow the provisions of the associated Method Statement at all times



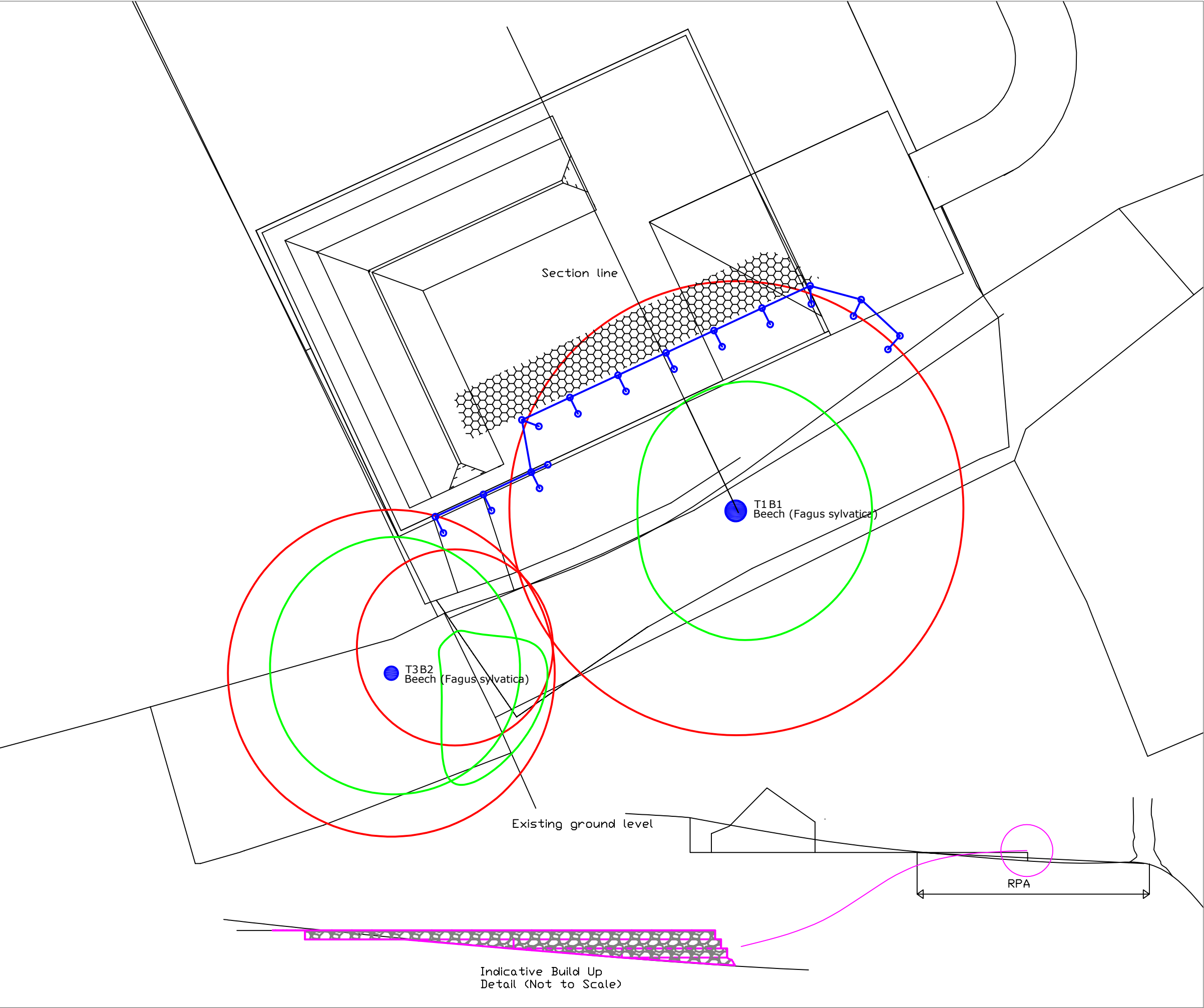
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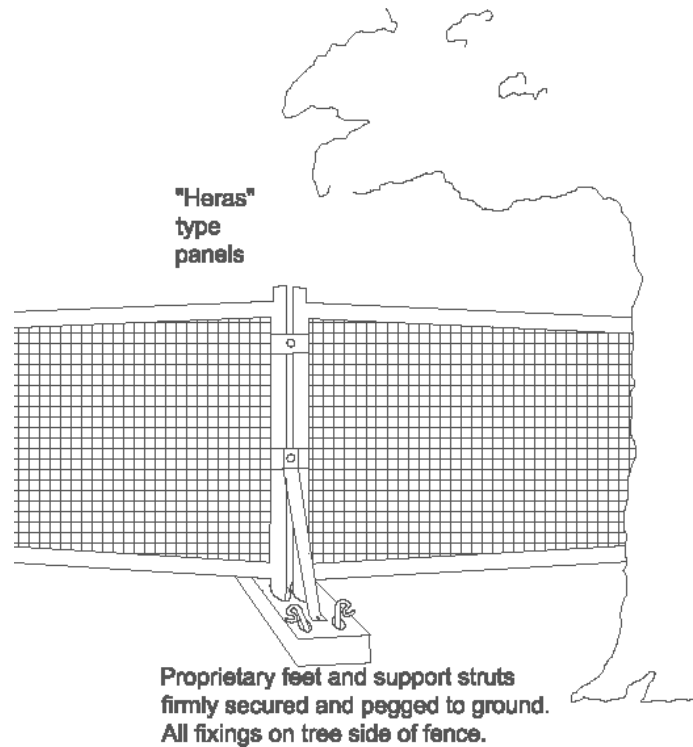
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Tree Protection

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2.0 Tree Protection and the Construction Exclusion Zone

2.1 Tree protection shall be provided by fencing. No construction activity will take place within the protected areas. Fencing should be fit for purpose, i.e. strong, robust and securely erected and therefore not easily breached. Fences should be robust enough to withstand impact, permanently fixed into the ground so as not to be easily moved. Due to the space around this project protective fencing details that meet this requirement are as illustrated below:



2.2. All-weather (laminated) notices should be fixed to the fence where appropriate, stating:

“Protected Trees
Construction Exclusion Zone – Keep Out”



2.3 The location of the protective fencing surrounding the CEZ has been determined with reference to the British Standard and site-specific conditions.

2.4 Other issues must be considered whilst working alongside the CEZ.

It must be ensured that wide or tall loads, or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights can deliver or operate without coming into contact with retained trees above the fencing line of the CEZ. Such contact can result in serious damage to the trees and might make their safe retention impossible. Any transit or traverse of plant in close proximity to trees should be conducted under the supervision of a banksman to ensure that adequate clearance from trees is maintained at all times. In some circumstances, it may be impossible to maintain adequate clearance, thus necessitating access facilitation pruning.

No stockpiling of excavated material within the RPA will be permitted.

Material which will contaminate the soil, e.g. concrete mixings, diesel oil and vehicle washings, will **not** be discharged within 15 m. of the tree stem. It is essential that allowance should be made for the slope of the ground so that damaging materials such as concrete washings, mortar or diesel oil cannot run towards trees.



3.0 New courtyard area

- 3.1 The new courtyard within the RPA will be installed at the end of the construction of the barn and after the majority of machinery and contractors have left site. Protective fences will be removed, and final surfaces will be installed over the existing ground level.
- 3.2 The new drive will be constructed following “no-dig” principles. This means that no excavation can take place in the courtyard area whatsoever, with the exception of the loose topsoil or turf areas. Excavation will be limited to the removal of the first 50mm of soil surface to take away surface vegetation only. Excavation will be carried out by the smallest machine possible, standing on the existing trackway using a non-toothed grading bucket. Any machine used to remove the arisings will also remain on the existing track. No machinery will be allowed onto the current soil surface within the RPA.
- 3.3 The existing track may need to be removed in order to allow the final level to be achieved across the courtyard. This must occur after 3.2 above and must be completed from the western end, pulling the system back to the east. At all times, any equipment used to complete this must remain on the existing track or be positioned outside the RPA to the north.
- 3.4 The courtyard will utilise a cellular confinement system. These systems contain the stone base and spread any load evenly over the surface area of the soil. The area will be built in layers from the southern aspect, with lower layers being used to level the courtyard, until the final continuous surface layer is installed at finished level minus final surface. Each layer will be filled with clean angular stone as required by the manufacturer prior to the next upper layer being installed.
- 3.5 The new courtyard area will be laid as follows:
- Excavation by hand to grade if required (max. 50mm);
 - Installation of geotextile fabric separation layer;
 - Installation of cellular confinement system with clean angular stone (40-20mm) to detail. No fines will be in the fill material;
 - Stone will be laid from outside the RPA or from the already stoned areas;
 - No machinery will drive on non-stoned areas within the RPA.
- 3.6 Final surface must be a permeable surface: gravel, dry jointed block paving or similar would be appropriate.
- 3.7 Manufacturers’ details of a suitable system (others are available) are as follows.



Cellweb® TRP Installation Guide



Step 1: Prepare Surface



Step 2: Lay out Treetex™



Step 3: Lay out Cellweb® TRP

- Cellweb® TRP is a NO DIG tree root protection measure and it is recommended that no excavation be performed without prior approval and guidance from the Local Authority Arboricultural Officer.
- Soil compaction from vehicles, machinery and materials is to be strictly prohibited during construction within Root Protection Areas (RPAs).
- Approval must be obtained from the Local Authority that the design and the method of construction is acceptable.
- Further information is available from the following two documents;
 - British Standard BS5837: 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' (2012).
 - Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service: Practice note 12 – 'Through the Trees to Development' (APN12).

Installation Method

1. Prepare the Surface

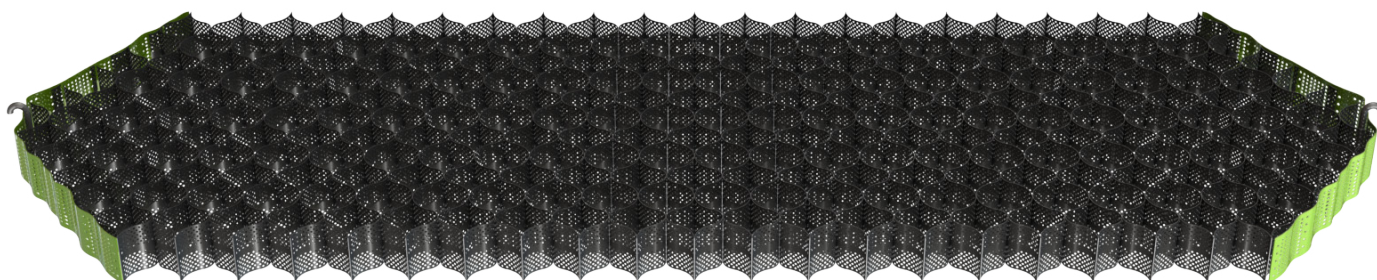
- Remove the surface vegetation using appropriate hand held tools or herbicide (see Note 1).
- Remove any surface rocks, debris and organic material.
- Create a level surface by filling any hollows with clean angular stone or sharp sand.
- Do not level off high spots or compact the soil through rolling.

2. Lay out the Treetex™ Non-Woven Geotextile

- Lay out the Treetex™ over the prepared area, overlaying the edges of the required area by 300mm.
- Overlap any joins by 300mm minimum or more, depending on soil structure (see Note 2).

3. Lay out the Cellweb® TRP Cellular Confinement System

- Lay out the collapsed Cellweb® TRP on-top of the Treetex™.
- Place one of the supplied J pins into the centre cell at the end of the panel and secure into the ground.



Cellweb® TRP - Installation Guide

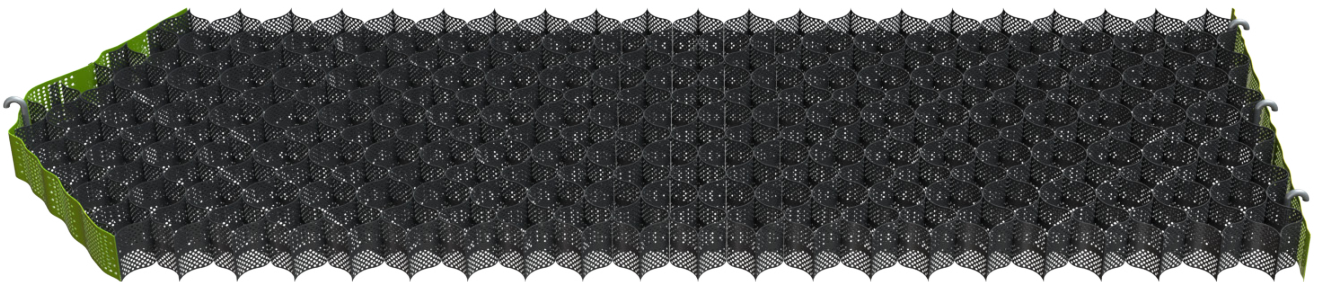


Step 3: Pinning Cellweb® TRP

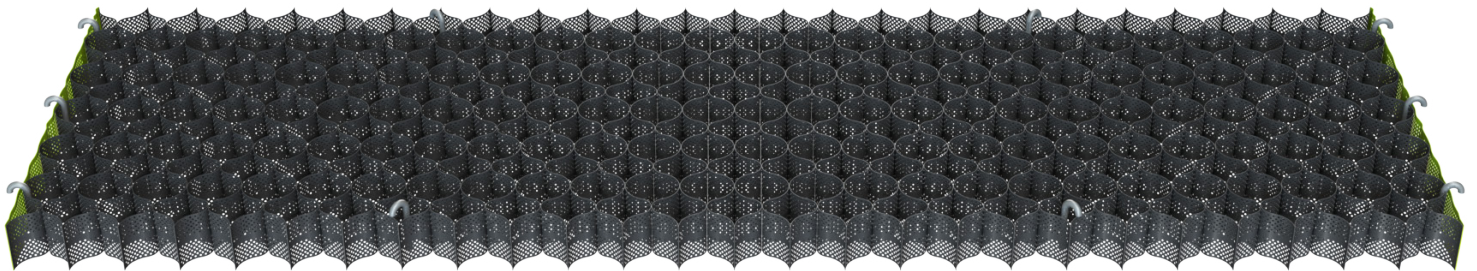


Step 3: Stapling Cellweb® TRP

- Pull out the Cellweb® TRP to its full 8.1m length and secure its length with another J pin.



- Now measure its width to 2.56m and secure in each of the corners with the J pins.
- Use 10 pins per panel to create a panel measuring 8.1m x 2.56m.



- This will produce a cell size of 259mm x 224mm which is the required cell aperture. Each cell must be fully extended and under tension.
- Staple adjacent panels together at each cell (see Note 3).
- If a curved path or shape is required, this should be cut when the Cellweb® TRP panel is pinned out to 8.1 x 2.56m, ensuring complete cells remain. Do not try to curve or bend the Cellweb® TRP panels into place.
- When cutting Cellweb® TRP, please bear in mind that you will lose two internal cells per cut. Across a 8.1m long panel, this equates to a loss of 0.224m x 2 along the length or 0.259m x 2 across the width.

Cellweb® TRP - Installation Guide



Step 4: Clean Angular Stone



Step 5: Edge Restraints



Step 6: Surface Options

4. Infill the Clean Angular Stone

- The infill material must be a clean angular stone, Type 4/20mm or Type 20/40mm (see Note 4).
- Do not use M.O.T type 1 or crushed stone with fines for tree root protection.
- Infill the Cellweb® TRP cells with the clean angular stone, working towards the tree and using the infilled panels as a platform.
- Minimum 25mm overfill of clean angular stone when used in conjunction with a hard surface.
- No compaction is required of the infill. Do not use a whacker plate or other means of compaction.
- Encourage settlement of the stone with the use of a light roller or with 2-3 passes of the construction plant used for installation.
- If the clean angular stone is being used as the final surface; regular maintenance will be required to ensure a minimum overfill of 50mm.

5. Edge restraints

- Excavations for kerbs and edgings should be avoided within the RPAs.
- Where edging is required for footpath and light structures, a peg and treated timber board edging is acceptable
- Other options include wooden sleepers, kerb edging constructed on-top of the Cellweb® TRP system, plastic and metal edging etc.

6. Surface options

- All surfaces in Root Protection Areas must be porous. Surfaces can include porous block paving, porous asphalt, loose gravel, grass and gravel retention systems (e.g Golpla), resin bound gravel, concrete and astro turf.

NOTES

- 1. Herbicide:** According to BS5837:2012 "The use of herbicides in the vicinity of existing trees should be appropriate for the type of vegetation to be killed, and all instructions, warnings and other relevant information from the manufacturers should be strictly observed and followed. Care should be taken to avoid any damaging effects upon existing plants and trees to be retained, species to be introduced, and existing sensitive habitats, particularly those associated with aquatic or drainage features."
- 2. Geotextile:** We recommend the installation of a Treetex™ under the Cellweb® TRP, or under the sub-base, if installed. The overlapping between adjacent rolls of Geotextile should be: CBR > 3%: 300mm minimum, CBR between 1% and 3%: 500mm minimum. CBR ≤ 1%: 750mm minimum.
- 3. Staples:** Number of staples per join: 200mm: 5 staples. 150mm: 4 staples. 100mm: 3 staples. 75mm: 3 staples.
- 4. Granular Fill:** Open graded sub-base, clean angular stone Type 4/20 or Type 20/40. Please refer to BS7533-13:2009 and to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), Volume 4 Geotechnics and Drainage, Section 1 Earthworks, HA44/91, Volume 7 – IAN 73/06 Design Guidance for road pavement foundations and Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works (MCHW), Volume 1 Specification for Highway Works for the construction and maintenance of the fill material.

