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Arboricultural Impact Assessment

- Tree Survey
- Tree Protection Plan
- Arboricultural Method Statement

For:-

Extension of Bungalow

At:-

**Whittonditch House
Whittonditch
Ramsbury
SN8 2PZ**

On behalf of:-

**Lasseter Downie Planning
The Gallery
24 Swan Street
Kingsclere
RG20 5PJ**

Prepared by:

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**Survey Date: 21st August 2026
Report Date: 2nd September 2026
Project no: 2654**

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1** This Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been instructed by Lasseter Downie to specify tree protection measures and assess the arboricultural impact of the proposed construction of an extension to a bungalow in the grounds of Whittonditch House.
- 1.2** Trees were surveyed, with findings shown in the Tree Schedule in Appendix B and plotted on the Tree Protection Plan in Appendix A. This also shows tree protection measures, which are specified in the Arboricultural Method Statement in section 5 below. The arboricultural impact is assessed in section 6, which assumes that these measures are followed.
- 1.3** The tree survey was undertaken, and this report has been prepared, by Simon Stephens MA Oxon, Dip Arb (RFS), MArborA, C Env, MICFor a Registered Consultant with the Arboricultural Association, with over 20 years relevant experience.
- 1.4** This survey and report have been prepared in accordance with the recommendations of BS 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations.
- 1.5** Documentation supplied:
 - Adam Architecture, Proposed Site Plan: drawing no 65776-PL03
 - Adam Architecture, Proposed Roof Plan: drawing no 65776-PL08

2 SURVEY DETAILS AND SCOPE

- 2.1 The site survey included trees and shrubs, within and immediately adjacent to the red line boundary, with a stem diameter over 75mm at 1.5m height, as shown located on the Tree Protection Plan, included as Appendix A.
- 2.2 Tree inspection took place from ground level with the use of binoculars, sounding hammer and metal probe using the Visual Tree Assessment method (Mattheck & Breloer 1994). The presence and condition of bark and stem wounds, cavities, decay, fungal fruiting bodies and any structural defects that could increase the risk of structural failure were noted.
- 2.3 Tree diameters were measured using a girthing tape and tree heights were measured using a hypsometer. Where use of a tape was restricted by site factors, diameters were estimated, with the diameter recorded in the tree schedule as eg "est 300".
- 2.4 At the time of the survey, the weather was fine with no restrictions to visibility. Broadleaf trees were in leaf. There were no limitations to access around the trees.
- 2.5 Tree details are shown on the Tree Protection Plan included as Appendix A. Tree locations have been taken from the topographical survey provided. Where not included on the topographical survey, they have been determined by measuring distances from features shown on the plan, using a laser measuring device. The following information was recorded for each tree, and is shown in the Tree Schedule included as Appendix B:
 - **Number:** an identity number for each tree, prefixed with a "T", which cross references locations shown on the plan with the schedule in Appendix B. Where a number of trees are located close together and are similar in character and management requirements, they have been treated as a Group under a single number, prefixed with a "G".
 - **Species:** common name.
 - **Tree height:** approximate height in metres.
 - **Stem diameter:** diameter in millimetres, taken at 1.5m above ground. Where there are a number of stems, stem diameters are recorded in the condition column.
 - **Branch spread:** approximate spread in metres to N,S,E and W of the trunk. The approximate branch spread is drawn on the plan.
 - **Canopy clearance:** approximate height of the canopy above ground. Where a significant, low lateral branch is present, its height and direction of growth is included in the Condition column.
 - **Age class:** Young, Semi-mature, Early mature, Mature, Over-mature, Veteran.
 - **Condition:** features that affect the safe useful life expectancy and amenity of the tree, including the presence of decay or any physical defect.
 - **Management Recommendations:** recommendations to ensure the health and safety of the tree, within the future development.
 - **Estimated Remaining Contribution:** <10 years, 5-15 years, 10-20 years, 15-30 years, 20-40 years, >40 years.

- **Category grading:** tree classification taken from BS 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction (see Appendix C for details), as follows:
 - Category U: Unsuitable for retention, trees with less than 10 years life expectancy, normally recommended for removal (Red)
 - Category A: high quality trees, able to make a substantial contribution for at least 40 years, normally retained unless there is an over-riding reason for removal and appropriate mitigation. (Green)
 - Category B: moderate quality trees, able to make a significant contribution for at least 20 years, normally retained. (Blue)
 - Category B/C: an intermediate category between categories B and C (not specifically described in BS5837). Trees, which should be retained wherever possible, providing retention does not unreasonably constrain the layout. (Blue)
 - Category C: low quality, in adequate condition to remain for at least 10 years, or young trees <150mm stem diameter. Trees which can be removed to allow the desired layout or new planting. (Grey)

For category A, B and C trees, a subcategory has been allocated, providing information on the reasons for selection of a specific category, as follows:

- Subcategory 1: mainly arboricultural values.
 - Subcategory 2: mainly landscape values.
 - Subcategory 3: mainly cultural values, including conservation.
- Trees have been classified irrespective of the possible proximity to future construction. The BS 5837 category is colour coded, as indicated above, on the plan included as Appendix A.
- **Protection Distance:** the protection distance in metres required to provide the Root Protection Area recommended in BS 5837, assuming a circular area centred on the tree.
- **Root Protection Area (RPA):** the area in m², as recommended in BS 5837, to provide sufficient rooting area to ensure tree survival and which, in most situations, should be fenced off to prevent root damage from construction activities.

3 SURVEY LIMITATIONS

- 3.1 No internal decay devices, or other invasive tools to assess tree condition, were used.
- 3.2 No soil excavation or root inspection was carried out.
- 3.3 This survey has not considered the effect that trees or vegetation may have on the structural integrity of future building through subsidence or heave.

- 3.4** The tree survey has been undertaken for planning purposes. Although any obvious structural defects have been noted, a Tree Hazard Assessment has not been carried out. Mature trees close to highly populated areas or public highways should normally be checked for safety annually, by a suitably qualified person.

4 LEGAL PROTECTION OF TREES

- 4.1** The Wiltshire Council website was viewed on 02-09-2026, showing that the site does not contain any Tree Preservation Orders, nor does it fall within a Conservation Area. The presence of Planning Conditions currently attached to the site, was not checked.

5 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

5.1 Site Overview

- 5.1.1** The proposal is for the extension to a bungalow in the grounds of Whittonditch House. The proposed site plan is included as Appendix F and details have been added to the survey drawing, along with tree details, to create the Tree Protection Plan attached as Appendix A.
- 5.1.2** There are some fine mature trees in the garden of Whittonditch House – in particular the beech T4, the copper beech, T7, and the ash, T11. Other trees and shrubs closer to the bungalow are of little landscape or environmental significance.

5.2 Tree Work

- 5.2.1** Details of proposed tree works are included in the Tree Schedule included as Appendix B.
- 5.2.2** Seven trees and two shrub/hedge groups are proposed for removal, as detailed in section 6.1 below.
- 5.2.3** All tree work must be undertaken to the standards set out in BS 3998:2010 Tree work – Recommendations.

5.3 Root Protection Areas

- 5.3.1** Root Protection Areas are shown for all trees in the tree schedule included as Appendix B. They are also shown for all retained trees, as circular areas centred on the trunk, on the Tree Protection Plan included as Appendix A. Where there are physical obstructions to root growth the Root Protection Area should be shown as an equivalent area that is more likely to reflect actual root growth. The Root Protection Area shows the area around a tree in which all

construction activity must normally be excluded, unless appropriate protection measures are implemented.

5.4 Tree Protection Fencing

- 5.4.1 Tree Protection Fencing must be erected where shown on the Tree Protection Plan, included as Appendix A. This will provide full protection of the Root Protection Areas of all retained trees within the site, other than for the area shaded cyan on the Tree Protection Plan, indicating a Ground Protection Area, where roots must be protected, as described in section 5.5 below.
- 5.4.2 Tree works can be completed before Tree Protection Fencing is erected, however no contractors plant or vehicles must be allowed to track within the Root Protection Areas unless ground protection panels are laid.
- 5.4.3 Tree Protection Fencing must be from weldmesh panels, at least 2m high, securely fixed, with wire or scaffold clamps, to a rigid framework. This framework must be constructed from scaffold tubes with vertical tubes, at a maximum interval of 3m and driven into the ground at least 0.6m. The structure must be well braced to resist impacts, constructed as per Figure 2 of BS5837:2012, which is reproduced in Appendix D. Alternatively, weldmesh panels can be supported on blocks, providing the blocks are pinned to the ground with road pins, or similar, and the panels are braced, as per Figure 3 of BS5837:2012, which is also reproduced in Appendix D.
- 5.4.4 After erection of Tree Protection Fencing and installation of ground protection, 2 days notice must be given to the Local Planning Authority before demolition or construction, including any ground work, starts on site.
- 5.4.5 Tree Protection Fencing must be maintained and retained for the duration of the works, or until such time as agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.
- 5.4.6 Weatherproof notices must be fixed to the Tree Protection Fencing, and maintained, stating:-

TREE PROTECTION AREA KEEP OUT

**TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY PLANNING CONDITIONS
CONTRAVENTION MAY LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION
THE FOLLOWING MUST BE OBSERVED BY ALL PERSONS:**

- The Protection Fence must not be moved
- No person or machine must enter the area
- No materials or spoil must be deposited
- No excavation must be permitted

**ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE WITH THE WRITTEN
PERMISSION OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY**

5.5 Ground Protection Area

- 5.5.1 The Ground Protection Area, which is hatched cyan on the Tree Protection Plan, contains hard surfacing which is protecting any underlying roots and which must stay in place during the construction period unless further protection measures are implemented.
- 5.5.2 The Ground Protection Area, which is shaded cyan on the Tree Protection Plan, contain soft areas where ground protection must be laid to protect any underlying roots. Maxitrack mats, as supplied by the Marwood Group, (www.marwoodgroup.co.uk) or Euro Mat or Pro Mat panels, from Ground Guards (www.ground-guards.co.uk), or a similar approved recycled product, must be used, laid on a compressible layer of sand or woodchips, laid onto a geotextile, with adjacent panels held together with connectors.
- 5.5.3 As indicated on the photo in Appendix Eii), Tree Protection Fencing must be erected alongside the existing path and the area between the fence and the house must be protected by ground protection panels.

5.6 General measures

- 5.6.1 No construction activity whatsoever, including routing of underground services, storage of materials or on-site parking, must be allowed within Root Protection Areas, other than that specifically described above.
- 5.6.2 No mixing or storage of cement, concrete, oil, fuel, bitumen or other chemicals must be permitted within 10m of the trunk of any retained trees, nor in any position where the slope of the ground could lead to contamination of the Root Protection Area.
- 5.6.3 Fires must not be lit in a position where their flames could extend to within 10m of foliage, branches or trunk.
- 5.6.4 Landscape works carried out within Root Protection Areas must be undertaken with great care so as not to damage shallow roots. Rotovators or other heavy mechanical cultivation must not be used within the Root Protection Areas.
- 5.6.5 If any tree shown for retention is removed, uprooted or destroyed, another tree must be planted in the same location, at a size and species to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.
- 5.6.6 A copy of this report and the Tree Protection Plan must be kept on site and must be fully understood by the Site Agent.

5.7 Bat roosts

- 5.7.1 The current legislation makes it a criminal offence to disturb, damage or destroy any bat roost or hibernation area. Contractors must be reminded of their responsibilities and should contact the relevant authorities if any signs of bats are found.

5.8 Birds

- 5.8.1 The current legislation makes it a criminal offence to disturb nesting birds. The nesting season is generally assumed to be from 1st March to 31st July, however this can vary depending on species and location. During these months a careful inspection must be made before work commences and works must be postponed if active nests are found.

6 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The following trees / tree groups, categorized as per BS 5837 (see Appendix C for details), are proposed for removal:
- Category U – unsuitable for retention: 2 trees – T8 and T16.
 - Category C – low quality: 5 trees – T2, T6, T13, T15 and T17 2 groups – part of G7 and G18.
 - Category B/C – between categories B and C:
 - T14 – a 4m multi-stem holly.
- 6.2 No trees of any significance are proposed for removal and the new extensions have been kept outside the Root Protection Areas of adjacent high quality trees.
- 6.3 Protection measures have been specified to protect the Root Protection Areas of all retained trees.
- 6.4 Provided the recommendations in this report are followed, there will be no arboricultural impact on retained trees. The only impact will be the removal of low quality vegetation close to the bungalow.

7 REFERENCES

- *BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.*
- *BS3998:2010 Tree Work. Recommendations.*
- *Common sense risk management of trees (FCMS024). Published by the National Tree Safety Group (www.ntsgroup.org.uk)*



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JOB TITLE
WHITTONDITCH HOUSE

DRAWING TITLE
TREE PROTECTION PLAN

DRAWING NUMBER
2654-01

REVISIONS

SCALE	DATE	DRAWN BY
1:00 at A3	AUG 26	sjss

Tree/ Group No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem Diam. at 1.5m (mm)	Branch Spread (m)				Canopy Clearance (m)	Age Class	Observations	Management Recommendations	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	BS 5837 Category Grading	Protect ion Distnce (m)	Root Protect. Area (m2)
				N	S	E	W								
T1	Silver pear	4.5	290	2.5	3	2.5	3.5	1.6	Mature	Dense Canopy.		15-30	B2	1.1	4
T2	Crab apple	3.5	320	2.5	3	3.5	2	1.7	Mature	Dead sections at top of tree.	Remove to facilitate development	10-20	C2	3.8	45
T3	Silver pear	4	210	2	3.5	3.5	1.5	1.5	Mature	Leaning to east. Main stem hollowing.		15-30	B-C2	2.5	20
T4	Beech	18.5	780	9.5	10	11	11	1	Mature			>40	A2	9.4	277
T5	Cotinus	2.5	130	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	Mature	Low vigour.		5-15	C2	1.6	8
T6	Holly	2.1	25	1	1	1	1	0	Young	Could develop.	Remove to facilitate development	>40	C2	0.3	0
T7	Copper beech	20	1220	10	12	10.5	11	0.5	Mature	Fine, widespread tree. <i>Laetiporus</i> sp . fungal brackets at 5m in pruning wound at 5m to south. Good vigour.		>40	A2	14.6	673
G7	Hedge	1.6	25-50					0	Mature	Containing mostly Jasmine., Tightly clipped.	Remove southern end to facilitate development	10-20	C2	0.6	1
T8	Dead tree	1.8	100	1	1	1	1	0.5	Dead		Remove.	<10	U	1.2	5
T9	Amalanchier	2.5	120	1	4	2.5	2.5	1.6	Mature	Declining vigour.		5-15	C2		
T10	Holly	3.5	160	1	3	1	2	1.6	Semi mature	Multiple stems - 3 stems averaging 90mm. Semi mature. Asymmetric canopy.		15-30	B-C2	1.9	11
G11	Beech hedge	1.6	25-50					0	Semi mature	Tightly clipped head.		20-40	C2	0.6	1
T11	Ash	19	1120	9	12	9	8	2	Mature	Ash dieback disease, with approx 15% canopy dead. Remainder of foliage shows reasonable vigour. Attractive crown shape.		10-20	B2	13.4	567
G12	Thicket	4-7	100-350					0	Early mature	Dense evergreen thicket, including Portugal Laurel and Viburnum rhytidiphyllum. Surrounding dustbins and oil tank.		15-30	B-C2	4.2	55
T13	Apple	7	320	4	4	1.5	3.5	2.5	Mature	Main stem to east. Cut back heavily. Remainder showing poor vigour.	Remove to facilitate development	10-20	C2	3.8	45
T14	Holly	4	180	1.5	3	1	3	0	Early mature	Multiple stems - 5 stems averaging 80mm. Overgrown at present but could develop.	Remove to facilitate development	20-40	B-C2	2.2	15
T15	Sorbus	5	300	1.5	2	1	1.5	1.5	Mature	Engulfed in ivy.	Remove to facilitate development	10-20	C2	3.6	41
T16	Wild Service Tree	2.5	100	2	0.5	1	0	1.6	Semi mature	No top. Little live foliage.	Remove to facilitate development	<10	U	1.2	5
T17	Damson	4.5	180	5	1	1	0.5	0.3	Mature	Poor structure. Gaps in foliage. Recently pruned.	Remove to facilitate development	10-20	C2	2.2	15
G18	Thicket	2-4	75-125					0	Early mature	Thicket including a range of shrubs Including elder and bay.	Remove to facilitate development	10-20	C2	1.5	7
T19	Silver Maple	22	1060	13	12	14	13	1.7	Mature	Fine tree. Foliage thinning in parts.		>40	A2	12.7	506

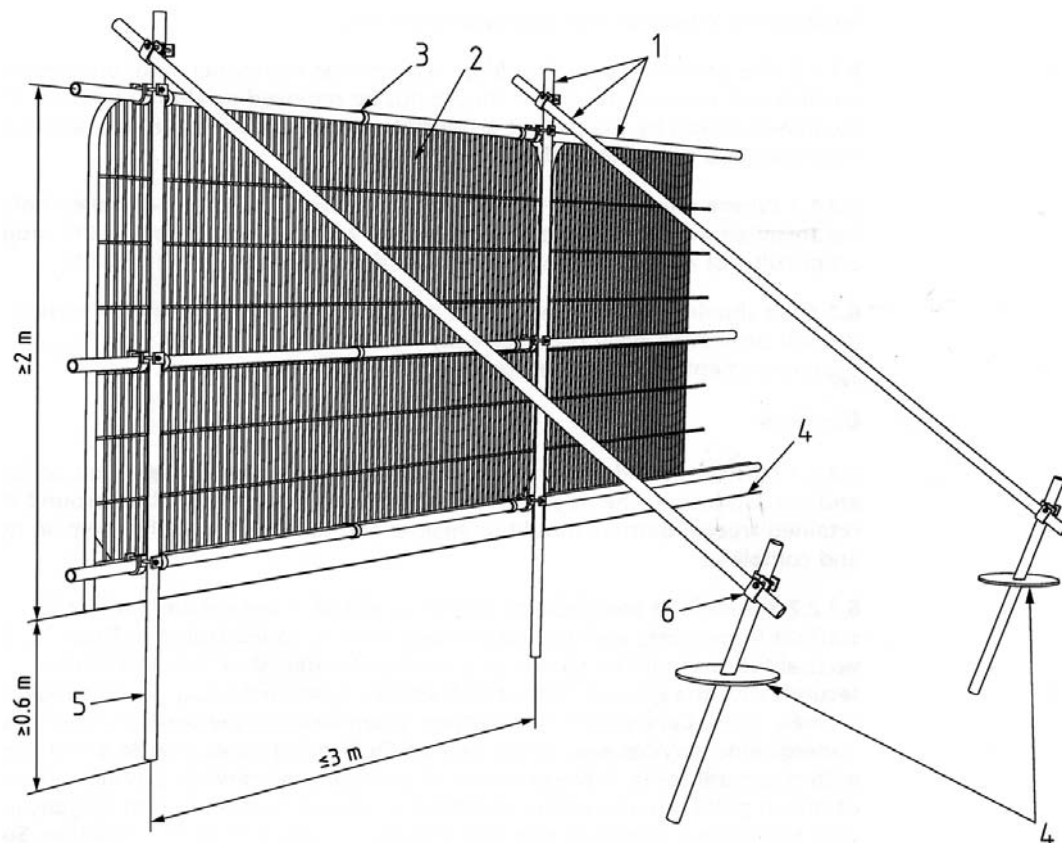
BS 5837:2012, Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

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

Figure 2

Key

- 1 Standard scaffold poles
- 2 Heavy gauge 2 m galvanised 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



Examples of above-ground stabilising systems

Figure 3a

Stabiliser strut with base plate secured with ground pins

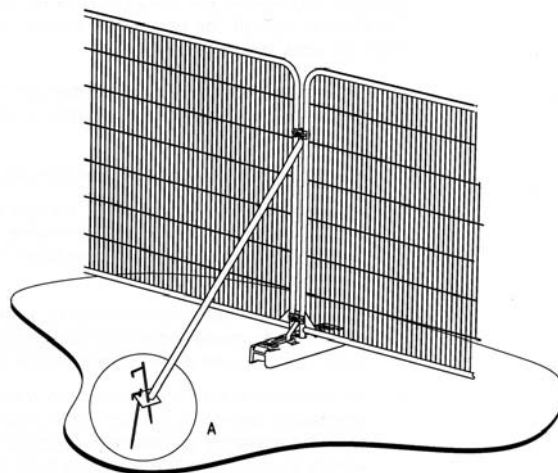
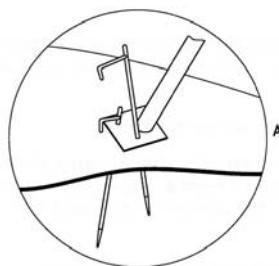
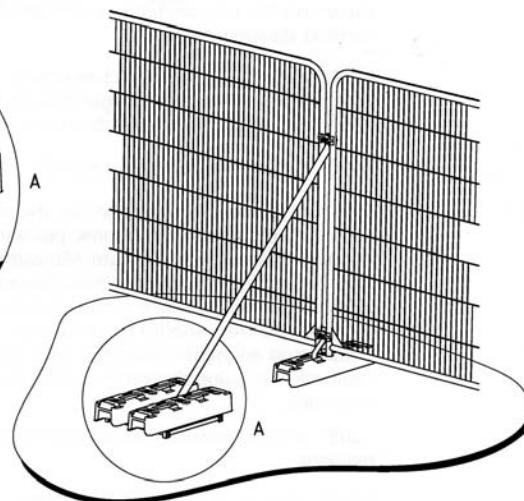
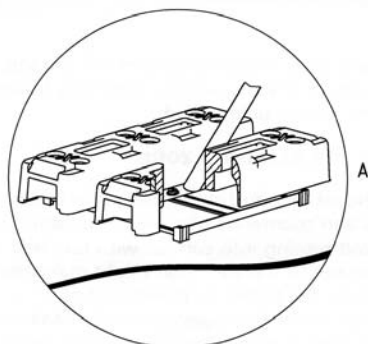


Figure 3b

Stabiliser strut mounted on block tray







Appendix Fi)

