

LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW SMALL SITES SMALL BUILDERS PROGRAMME FLORENCE GARDENS, CHISWICK, W4 3JX

Preliminary BS5837:2012 Tree Survey Report

NOVEMBER 2019



FLORENCE GARDENS, CHISWICK, W4 3JX

Preliminary BS5837:2012 Tree Survey Report

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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Overview.....	1
1.2	Site Location and Setting.....	1
2	METHODOLOGY	2
2.1	Tree Survey Methodology.....	2
2.2	Individual Trees and General Data Capture	2
2.3	Groups of trees	2
2.4	Hedgerows	2
2.5	Categorisation.....	2
2.6	Root Protection Area.....	2
2.7	Survey Limitations.....	3
2.8	Statutory Tree Protection.....	3
3	TREE SURVEY RESULTS	4
3.1	Tree Assessment and Categorisation	4
3.2	Tree Species Diversity	4
3.3	Age Diversity	4
4	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	6
5	FURTHER WORK	7
6	REFERENCES	8
	FIGURE 1. TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN	9
	APPENDIX A. EXPLANATION OF TERMS.....	10
	APPENDIX B. TREE SCHEDULES	12
	APPENDIX C. PRELIMINARY ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT	13
	APPENDIX D. PHOTOGRAPHS.....	18

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Arcadis (UK) Limited (Arcadis) was commissioned by the London Borough of Hounslow to undertake a number of technical assessments to support the feasibility for potential development at Florence Gardens, Chiswick, hereafter referred to as “the Site”.

The Client is aiming to divest a number of small sites to enable prospective regeneration. The objective of the Small Sites Builders Programme is to provide robust and pragmatic advice such that unreasonable “abnormal” development costs are not included by developers.

The objective of this assessment is to present the potential constraints and future requirements with regards to trees and any future development.

1.2 Site Location and Setting

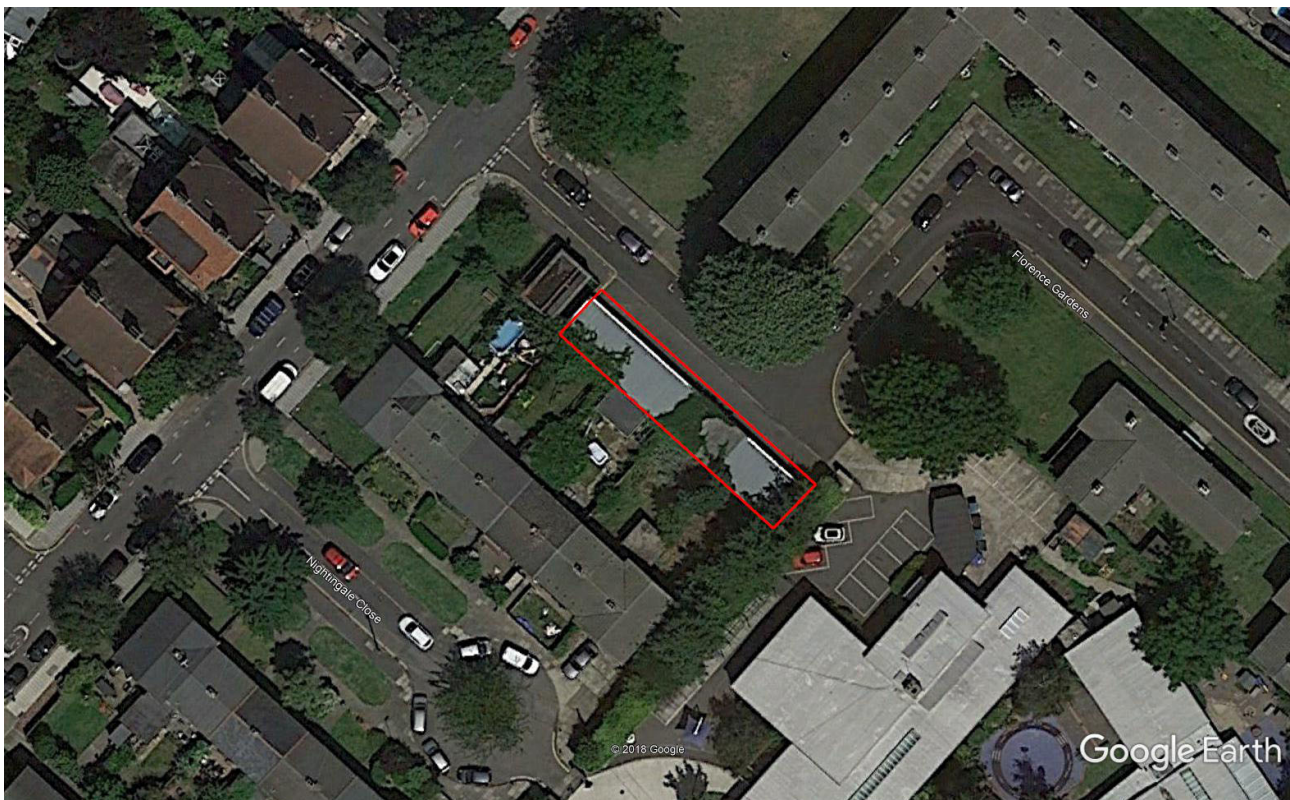
The Site is located at the junction of Florence Gardens and Grove Park Terrace, in the London Borough of Hounslow. The Site is centred at grid reference of TQ 20110 77656 and around the postcode of W4 3JX.

The Site measures approximately 0.03ha in area and is currently dominated by a brick build garage block building and an area of associated hardstanding (which was recorded to support very occasional instances of ephemeral / short perennial vegetation). In addition, an amenity hedge and a number of offsite trees are present adjacent to the southern and northern boundaries of the Site respectively.

The area surrounding the Site is residential in nature and is characterised by terraced housing, along with Grove Park Primary School.

An aerial screen shot illustrating the Site boundary is presented in Image 1. Photographs of the Site and trees can be found in Appendix D - Photographs.

Image 1 Site Location Plan



2 Methodology

2.1 Tree Survey Methodology

An Arboricultural Survey was undertaken by Martin Dilworth FdSc MArborA (Senior Arboriculturist) on 14 November 2019 in accordance with BS 5837:2012.

Observations were conducted from ground level, utilising the “Visual Tree Assessment” (VTA) system as outlined in The Body Language of Trees, A Handbook for Failure Analysis Research for Amenity Trees No.4 (Department of the Environment, 1994) with the aid of binoculars.

The Site and its immediate surroundings were surveyed, this area is referred to as the study area.

2.2 Individual Trees and General Data Capture

For reference, individual trees are identified with the letter T and associated number on the Tree Schedules and a Tree Constraints Plan. The stem diameter of the trees on Site was recorded using a rounded down diameter tape at 1.5m above ground level. Measurements were taken in millimetres. The height of the subject trees was estimated to the nearest metre using a digital clinometer.

Maximum crown spread of the subject tree was measured from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches taken at four compass points (N-E-S-W) using a ground tape. Crown spread measurements were taken in metres.

Tree age was estimated from visual indicators (such as tree size and appearance of bark) which was taken as a provisional guide. Age estimates often need to be modified based on further information such as historical records and local knowledge.

If direct access to the tree was not possible, estimations from appropriate vantage points were taken, any limitations or estimations are presented within the survey limitations section and noted in the associated schedules.

2.3 Groups of trees

Groups of trees were identified with the letter G and number on the associated schedules and plans. Crown spread was assessed by measuring the largest crown spread on each compass point (N-E-S-W). Groups have been plotted by hand using land based features as reference points and/ or using aerial imagery to accurately plot the position of the group. Stem diameter of groups of trees was set as an average stem diameter of the trees within these individual groups and a maximum height of the tallest tree within the group.

2.4 Hedgerows

Hedgerows were identified with the letter H and number on the associated schedules and plans. A 30m section of hedgerow was surveyed for each hedgerow, recoding the number of species, average stem diameter, and the maximum height. Any individual trees present within the hedgerow were recorded as individual trees.

2.5 Categorisation

In compliance with Table 1 of BS 5837: 2012 the trees surveyed have been categorised according to their arboricultural quality and value. A glossary of survey terms can be found in Appendix A - Explanation of Terms.

2.6 Root Protection Area

The Root Protection Areas (RPA) of the trees were calculated in accordance with Section 4.6.1 in BS: 5837:2012. This is calculated from the measurement of the stem diameter at 1.5m above ground level or at ground level if the tree is multi-stemmed. These are recorded in Table B2 in Appendix B and as a pink-shaded circle on the initial Tree Constraints Plan (TCP) and form the initial Construction Exclusion Zone

(CEZ) to protect the trees within and adjoining the Site. The shape and size of RPAs can be amended in accordance with Section 4.6.3 in BS: 5837:2012.

Within Section 5.3.1 in BS: 5837:2012 it is stated the default position is that proposed development should not be within the RPA of retained trees, however, where there is an overriding need for construction and associated activity with the RPA of trees arboricultural mitigation should take place to protect the trees.

2.7 Survey Limitations

For the purposes of BS 5837: 2012, only trees with a stem diameter greater than 75mm, (measured at 1.5m above ground level), have been included within the survey. However, it should be noted that a number of individual trees and shrubs with a stem diameter of less than 75mm were present within the study area.

Some areas of the study area were off-Site within neighbouring properties, preventing a full assessment and an accurate measurement of some trees. Where tree survey data has been estimated (based on assessments from the nearest safe vantage points). These trees are denoted by a # in the associated Schedules.

Only trees within the study area as defined above were assessed. The RPAs are based on a given tree stem diameter taken at 1.5m above ground level with each RPA (see Appendix B - Tree Schedules) being calculated from the above ground portions of the tree. It should be recognised that the RPA may not entirely encompass all of the tree's rooting material.

Trees are living organisms and as such their health and condition are naturally subject to change over time. Unforeseen future circumstances such as neglect, wilful damage or severe/extreme weather conditions may affect the future health and condition of the trees included in this report.

2.8 Statutory Tree Protection

A review of London Borough of Hounslow online database on the 15th November 2019 has established the Site is not located within a Conservation Area, nor are there any trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) within the study area

3 Tree Survey Results

3.1 Tree Assessment and Categorisation

A total of three arboricultural items were recorded within the study area as follows:

- One individual off-Site tree (T1).
- One off-Site hedgerow (H2)
- One off-Site group of trees (G3)

Full details of the survey data are presented within the Tree Schedules in Appendix B and Figure 1 Tree Constraints Plan.

Each arboricultural item was assigned to one of four categories, as listed below:

- Category A individual trees: No arboricultural items were identified as Category A (trees of high quality) as part of this survey;
- Category B individual trees: One individual tree was identified as Category B (trees of moderate quality) as part of this survey;
- Category C individual trees: One hedgerow and one group of trees were identified as Category C (trees of low quality) as part of this survey;
- Category U individual trees: No arboricultural items were identified as Category U (trees of poor quality unsuitable for retention) as part of this survey due to poor structural and physiological condition.

3.2 Tree Species Diversity

Four tree species were recorded during the survey. A summary of the species surveyed can be found within the Tree Schedule in Appendix B and also provided in Table 1. The numbers below include species of individual trees.

Table 1 Tree Species Recorded

Tree Species	Number of Individual Stems	Percentage
Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	1	25%
Common lime (<i>Tilia x europaea</i>)	1	25%
False acacia (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>)	1	25%
Privet (<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>)	1	25%
Totals	4	100%

3.3 Age Diversity

Analysis of the data identified that the trees within the study area were within the semi-mature age classifications set by BS 5837: 2012 with an estimated useful life expectancy of 10 to over 20 years, as illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2 Age Diversity

Age Class	Number of Individual Stems	Percentage
Young	0	%
Semi-mature	2	66.67%
Early-mature	0	0%
Mature	1	33.33%
Over-mature	0	0%
Totals	3	100%

4 Discussion and Conclusions

A total of three arboricultural items were recorded within the study area as follows:

- One individual off-Site tree (T1)
- One off-Site hedgerow (H2)
- One off-Site group of trees (G3).

No individual trees were graded Category A (trees of high quality). One individual tree was graded as Category B (trees of moderate quality). One hedgerow and one group of trees were graded as Category C (trees of low quality).

There is currently no proposed design layout and therefore it is not possible to say whether the off-Site trees would need to be removed and if there is space for any new trees to be re-provisioned on the Site. This can be determined once designs are developed.

While unlikely to prevent development, tree protection for the off-Site trees to be retained and tree re-provisioning for any trees lost due to development are a material consideration for planning determination. If trees cannot be replaced on-Site due to development, off-Site options for tree re-provisioning to ensure no net loss should be considered. Individual Local Planning Authorities may ask for re-provisioning in excess of 1 to 1 for trees of Category B grade.

The main development considerations for the trees are:

- Over-hanging crowns of off-Site trees; and
- The Root Protection Area (RPA) of trees adjacent to the Site.

Should any future proposed development require this tree to be removed or RPA incursions within the RPA of this tree an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) will be required by the LPA in support of a planning application.

A bespoke Arboricultural Method Statement may be required post planning and when the construction details are known to protect the retained trees within and adjoining the Site.

All new tree planting should be in accordance with British Standard 8545: Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape – Recommendations, 2014 and all tree works must be carried out by a qualified contractor in accordance with BS3998:2010: Tree Work – Recommendations.

5 Further Work

Should any future proposed development require the off-Site tree removal or RPA incursion within RPA's of the retained tree an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) will be required by the LPA in support of a planning application.

The AIA should include a tree schedule, although one is provided within this report, a review of any proposed development should be undertaken to ensure that there are no additional trees within the zone of influence of the development. For example, parking requirements often extend the zone of influence.

The AIA should state the mitigation for retention of off-Site trees due to the design and access requirements and any proposed tree facilitation pruning works. This should also be accompanied by an assessment of the likely impacts due to construction activity on the off-Site trees to be retained. Indicative arboricultural mitigation measures should be provided which would include recommendations for tree re-provisioning. The AIA should be accompanied by an updated Tree Constraints Plan and a Tree Impact and Protection Plan based on the proposed design.

The AIA should also include a Tree Replacement Strategy which should take into consideration the landscape character, local treescape and biodiversity features of the immediate and adjoining areas. The species, number, size, type of stock, location and planting aids for the compensating planting should be chosen for landscape, wildlife and arboriculture values. To ensure that appropriate and sustainable planting is achieved advice should be sought from an ecologist and arboriculturist. Furthermore, liaison with the LPA Tree Officer will be necessary during the planning process to agree an approved tree compensation and or landscape scheme plan.

All new tree planting should be in accordance with British Standard 8545: Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape – Recommendations, 2014 and all tree works must be carried out by a qualified contractor in accordance with BS3998:2010: Tree Work – Recommendations.

This document encloses a Preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) (Appendix C) outlining tree protection measures. However following planning determination and when full construction measures are known a bespoke AMS may be required to ensure protection of the trees to be retained on and adjoining the Site.

6 References

British Standards Institution (2010) BS 3998:2010, Tree Work Recommendations.

British Standards Institution (2012) BS 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

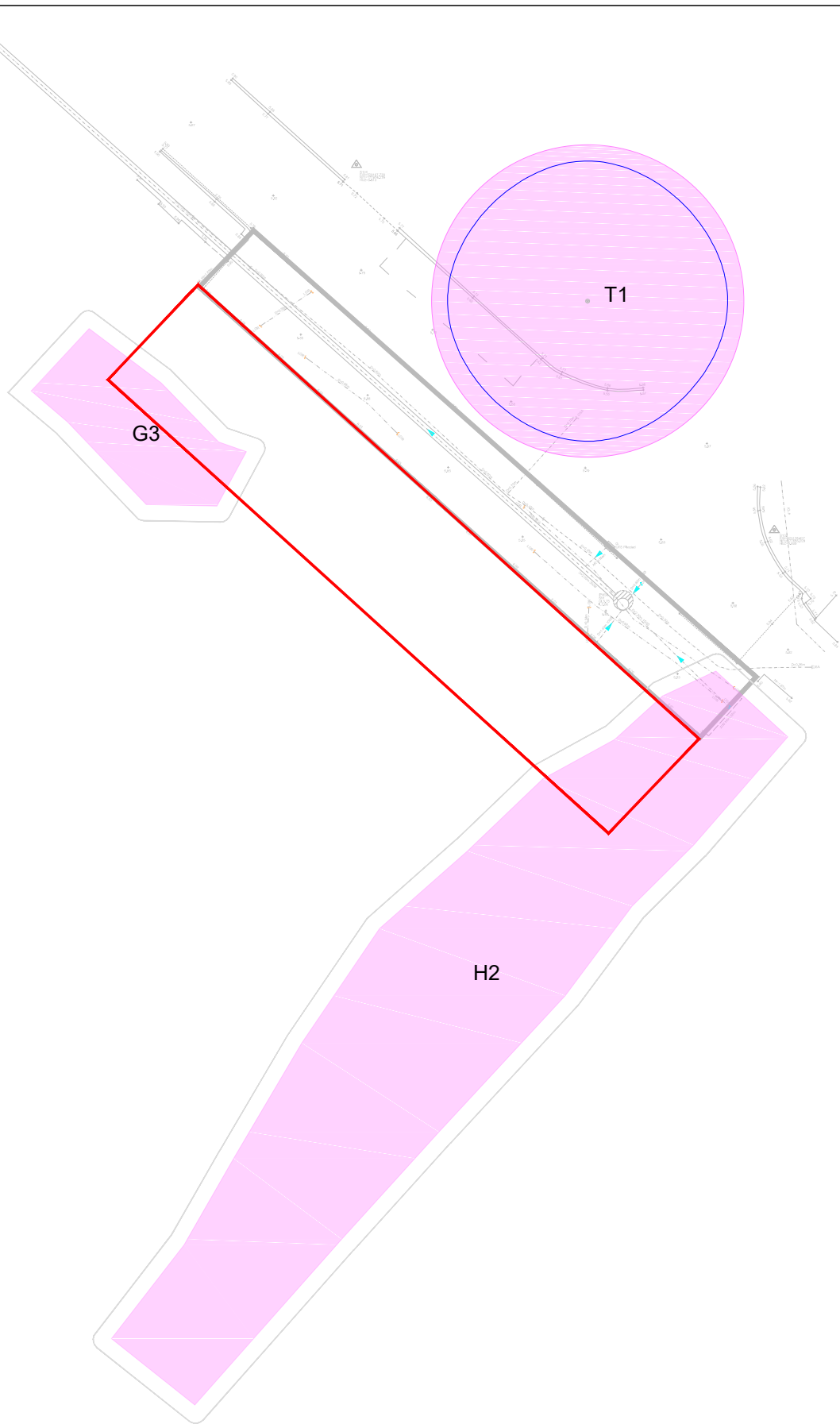
British Standards Institution (2014) BS 8545: Trees: From nursery to Independence in the Landscape – Recommendations.

Mattheck, C. and Broeler, H. DETR (1994) The Body Language of Trees: A Handbook for Failure Analysis Research for Amenity Trees No.4.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Statutory Instruments (2012) No. 605, The Town and Country (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012.

London Borough of Hounslow Trees Protection Order

https://maps.hounslow.gov.uk/map/Aurora.svc/run?script=%5cAurora%5cFind_your_nearest_TPO.AuroraScript%24&nocache=2109679317&resize=always [Accessed November 2019]



01	19 NOV 19	For Information	PN	MD	MG
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Check	Approv

50mm on Original

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- Canopy extent of A Category tree/group
- Canopy extent of B Category tree/group
- Canopy extent of C Category tree/group
- Canopy extent of U Category tree/group
- BS 5837 Root Protection Area (RPA)

NOTES:
Same as ecology plans.

Client

London Borough of Hounslow

Client

London Borough of Hounslow
Hounslow House
7 Bath Road
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Phone
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Site

Florence Gardens
Chiswick W4 3JX

Suitability Description:
Issued for information

Designed	NA	Date	NA	Signed
Drawn	PN	Date	19 NOV 19	Signed
Checked	MD	Date	19 NOV 19	Signed
Approved	MG	Date	19 NOV 19	Signed
Scale:	1:300	Datum:	AOD	
Original Size:	A3	Grid:	OS	
Suitability Code:	Sx	Project Number:	10030793	

PROJECT:

Hounslow Small Sites

TITLE:

FIGURE 1
ARBORICULTURAL ASSESSMENT
TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN
FLORENCE GARDENS - SITE 21

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Revision:
01

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APPENDIX A. Explanation of Terms

Age Class

Young – Trees in the first fifth of full life expectancy

Semi-mature – Trees in the second fifth of full life expectancy

Early-mature – Trees in the third fifth of full life expectancy

Mature – Trees in the fourth fifth of full life expectancy

Over Mature – Trees having reached full life expectancy and trees in natural decline

Veteran – Trees of interest biologically, culturally and aesthetically because of their age

Stem Diameter

The diameter of the stem measured in millimetres (mm) at a height of 1.5m above ground level

Crown Spread

Average measured in metres using a ground tape where possible

Physiological Condition

Good – Healthy tree with no signs of ill health and signs of good extension growth for species

Fair – Trees with signs of disease, minor defects and decreased life expectancy due to physical damage

Poor – Trees with significant disease, significantly reduced life expectancy and/or under major physiological stress

Dead – Dead tree or trees with over 70% crown dieback

Structural Condition

Good – Trees with no significant defects

Fair – Trees with remedial defects which require minor tree surgery works

Poor – Trees with remedial defects which require significant tree surgery works or felling

Dead – Trees which require felling

BS 5837 Retention Category

Each tree, group of trees or hedge is assigned to a retention category where:

Table A1 Categorisation of trees

Category	Description
A	Trees of high quality and value, retention is highly desirable
B	Trees of moderate quality and value where retention is desirable
C	Trees of low quality and value, or young trees with a stem diameter <150mm. Category C trees may be retained, replaced or in the case of younger trees, relocated
U	Trees of poor quality and value, unsuitable for retention or trees which should be removed

In addition, each tree, group of trees or hedge is assigned to a retention sub-category where categorisation is for:

Table A2 Reasons for Categorisation

Sub-category	Reason for Categorisation
1	Mainly arboricultural qualities
2	Mainly landscape qualities
3	Mainly cultural values, including conservation

APPENDIX B. Tree Schedules

Client: London Borough of Hounslow
Survey date: 14th November 2019

Project: Site 21 Florence Gardens
Surveyor: Martin Dilworth FdSc MArborA (Senior Arboriculturist)

Table B1 Tree Schedule

Tree reference number	Species	Height (m)	Stem diameter (mm)	Branch spread (m)				Height of crown clearance (m)	Radius of nominal circle (m)	RPA (m²)	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Comments	Estimated remaining contribution (years)	Category grading
				N	E	S	W									
T1	Common lime (<i>Tilia x euopaea</i>)	15	#650	7	7	7	7	2	7.8	191.1	Mature	Good	Good		20+	B1
H2	Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	4	#100	2	2	2	2	0	1.2	4.5	Semi-mature	Good	Good		10+	C2
G3	False acacia (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>) x 1 Privet (<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>) x 1	3	#100	2	2	2	2	0	1.2	4.5	Semi-mature	Good	Good	Private trees, unable to fully inspect	10+	C2

#estimated

Table B2 Key to Categories

Tree Reference Number	Category
=T/GXX	Category A
T/GXX	Category B
T/GXX	Category C
T/GXX	Category U

APPENDIX C. Preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement

Overview

This Preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement provides generic best practice measures to be adopted in order to protect retained trees during the development process. It has been prepared in order to inform the planning and the construction/ development process.

Protective Fencing

The purpose of this fencing is to provide protection to the RPA of retained trees/groups and to protect trees and hedgerows prior to their translocation. The type of fencing used shall be appropriate to the level of adjacent construction activity and shall be agreed with the Local Authority tree officer. Weather-proof notices shall be attached to any protective fencing located adjacent to retained trees displaying the words "Construction Exclusion Zone" and listing restrictions which apply. All personnel must be made aware of these restrictions.

It is anticipated that three specifications for fencing would be employed during construction.

Low-use areas

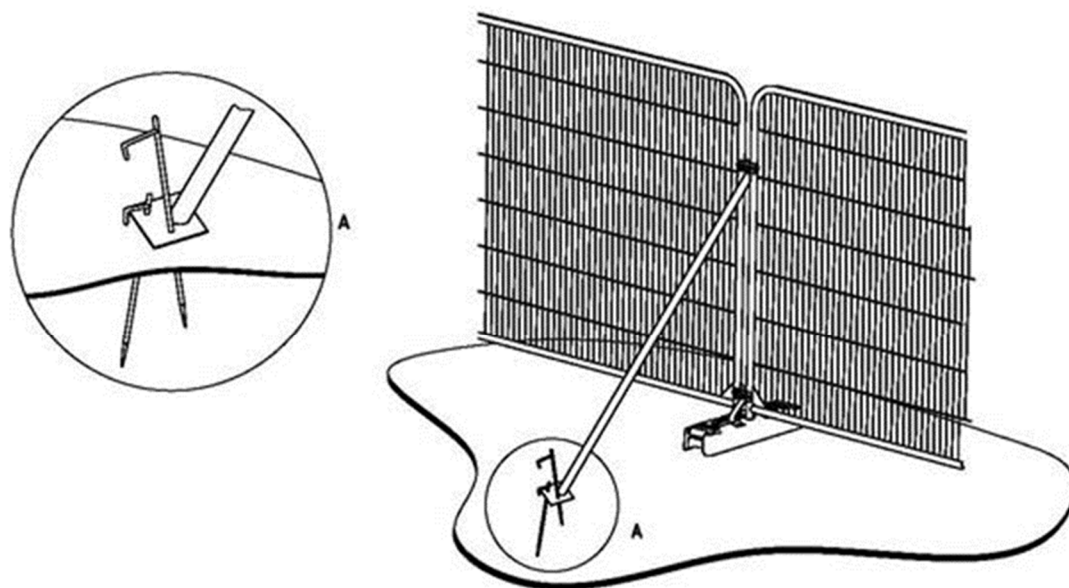
The system illustrated in Figure C1 is adequate to define areas of protected vegetation and exclude traffic, and comprises Cleft Chestnut Pale Fence in accordance with *BS 1722 Part 4: Specification for cleft chestnut pale fences (British Standards Institution, 1991)* supported by 150mm wooden stakes. Assembled with galvanized 14-gauge (2 mm) wire, four strands per row, peeled and pointed one end. Approximate spacing of pales 75 mm.



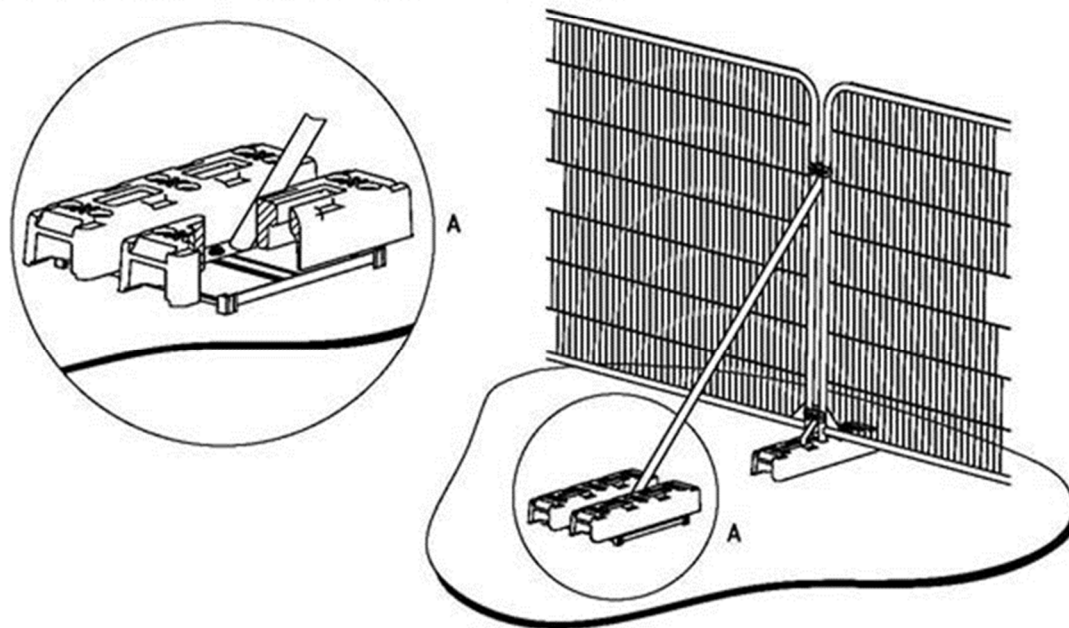
Figure C1 Tree Protection fencing example for low use areas

Medium-use areas

This system comprises anti-climb weldmesh panels connected by clamps and supported by rubber or concrete bases and bracing struts. The system is illustrated in Figure C2 and is based on *BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations (British Standards Institution, 2012)* (Ref 1) guidelines. This kind of system is robust enough to withstand occasional knocks by plant machinery.



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins

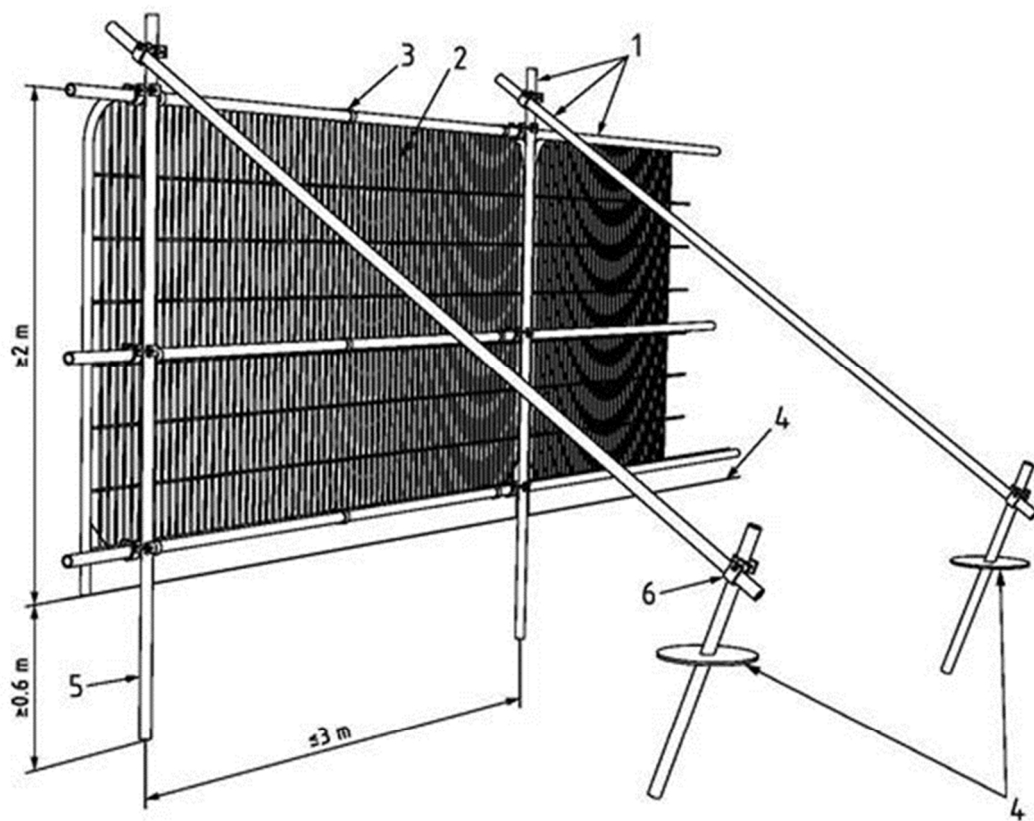


b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray

Figure C2 Tree Protection Fencing specification (extract from BS 5837)

High-use areas

This system involves driving scaffold poles into the ground, onto which are affixed horizontal scaffold poles and diagonal bracing struts. Anti-climb weldmesh panels are secured to this scaffold framework using standard scaffold clips or wire. The system is illustrated in diagram Figure. C3 and is based on *BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* (British Standards Institution, 2012) (Ref 1) guidelines. This kind of system provides the highest level of security.



Key

- 1 Standard scaffold poles
- 2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized 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

Figure C3 Tree Protection Fencing specification (extract from BS5837)

Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ)

The Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) is the area identified by an arboriculturist to be protected during development, including Site clearance and construction work, through the use of barriers and/or ground protection fit-for-purpose to ensure the successful long-term retention of a tree. The area within the construction exclusion zone is to be regarded as sacrosanct and the fencing shall not be taken down or relocated at any time.

All areas excluded by protective tree fencing shall be treated as CEZs, and the following restrictions shall apply:

- No construction activity whatsoever must occur within these areas.
- No tree works, without the written consent from the Local Authority.
- No alterations of ground levels or conditions.
- No chemicals or cement washings.
- No excavation.
- No temporary structures. *
- No storage of soil, rubble or other materials.
- No vehicles or machinery to be used or parked without appropriate ground protection measures as per BS5837 recommendations. This will require the use of a proprietary system of reinforced concrete slabs/steel road plates on a compressible layer, or side butting scaffold boards/ 18mm plywood sheets on a compressible layer. The type of ground protection used shall be appropriate for the likely loading applied.
- No fixtures (lighting, signs etc.) to be attached to trees.
- No fires within 10 metres of the canopies of any tree or hedgerow.

1

**Sales Cabins or Site huts, provided they are of the Jack Leg type, can be sited to act as ground protection for the duration of the construction.*

General Construction Activity

Since the canopies of retained trees may be in close proximity to areas of crane operation, the following restrictions will apply:

- All cranes will be sited outside the defined RPAs of retained trees / groups, and the appointed contractor will ensure all relevant personnel shall be made aware of the location of branches and the need to avoid causing damage to them.
- Prior to the implementation of lifting operations, a representative from the equipment supply company shall visit the Site and ensure all operations can be completed without causing damage to retained trees. A lifting plan will be prepared and submitted for approval prior to all lifting operations. The lifting plan will make provision for the potential for damage of retained trees.
- All lifting operations will be completed under the close direction of a qualified banksman, who will be briefed by the appointed contractor as to the need to avoid damage the stems and branches of retained trees.
- Should additional tree removal or pruning be required the Local Authority Tree Officer shall be contacted and the scope of works agreed in writing.
- All materials will be stored within designated areas and no materials shall be stored within any RPA.

Hazardous Materials




Any mixing of cement-based materials is to take place outside the RPAs of all trees. Provision shall be made to ensure that the mixing area is contained so that no water runoff enters the RPAs of any trees. All mixers and barrows shall be cleaned within this dedicated mixing area.

All other chemicals hazardous to tree health, including petrol and diesel, are to be stored in suitable containers as specified by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations (2002) (Ref 4), and kept away from the RPAs.

Example of Protective Fencing Signs



APPENDIX D. Photographs

Tree No.	Description	Photograph
T1	Common lime (<i>Tilia x europaea</i>)	
H2	Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	
G3	False acacia (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>) x 1 Privet (<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>) x 1	

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