

## Arboricultural Method Statement

Land north of East Street

Rusper

West Sussex

Date: November 2024

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## 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 This arboricultural method statement ('AMS') details the actions to be taken in order to prevent unacceptable damage being caused to the retained trees on this and the adjacent site during the proposed development at Land north of East Street, Ruper, West Sussex.
- 1.2 This AMS complies with the recommendations of British Standard BS 5837: 2012, *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* ('BS 5837'). It is designed to reflect the principles of the tree protection required for the proposed development, and should not be read as a definitive engineering or construction statement for this site. If required, matters relating to the construction detail or engineering performance of any protective measures specified should be referred to a qualified architect or structural engineer, for further information and specification which may be necessary for their practical implementation in a manner that satisfactorily ensures their protective intention or function.
- 1.3 The AMS should be read in conjunction with, and is to be considered an essential part of, the tree protection plan ('TPP') which is attached to it at **Appendix 2**.

## 2. Pre-start requirements, liaison & communication

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- 2.1 Before any works of any description take place on the site, the applicant, landowner or promoter of the proposed development ('the developer') shall appoint a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant to act as the supervising arboriculturist for the project, in order to ensure that the specified tree protection measures are carried out during the entire construction process. Confirmation of this appointment, and details of the supervising arboriculturist appointed, shall be provided to the Local Planning Authority ('LPA') before any works commence.
- 2.2 Before any works commence on site, the developer shall convene a pre-start meeting. This should be attended by the developer or project manager, the site manager, the groundwork contractor, the supervising arboriculturist and the LPA tree officer. The meeting will be led by the supervising arboriculturist, who will ensure that the sequence and methods of tree protection specified in this statement are fully explained and understood by all parties. Reporting procedures and the frequency of monitoring visits (as detailed in **Section 7** of this AMS) will be discussed and agreed, and relevant contact details exchanged. Any modifications to this statement arising from this meeting will be recorded and the revisions circulated to all parties.
- 2.3 The developer shall inform the supervising arboriculturist if at any time during the construction process, the site manager is replaced. In this event, the supervising arboriculturist will, within 5 days, arrange a meeting with the new site manager to review all remaining or outstanding aspects of this method statement.

2.4 A copy of this method statement, together with the TPP, shall be given to all personnel who have control over works of any nature within the root protection areas (RPAs) of the trees which are to be retained. The developer will ensure that adequate instruction is given for the implementation of the protection measures outlined within this statement.

### 3. Tree removals

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- 3.1 Trees nos. 12, 14 & 46, and Group G2 shall be felled to ground level; stumps of the trees can be left in situ.
- 3.2 Hedge H1 requires partial removal (only) for the proposed pedestrian access point from East Street.
- 3.3 No pruning of the retained trees is required to permit construction of the proposed development.
- 3.4 Tree felling will be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998: 2010, *Tree work - Recommendations*.

### 4. Protective fencing

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- 4.1 No vehicles of any kind shall enter the site, nor any works commence, until the root protection areas of the retained trees, as shown on the TPP, have been protected by the erection of protective fencing to the specification found in BS 5837, Section 6.2. The location of the fencing is denoted by the continuous bold purple lines on the TPP.
- 4.2 The TPP show two specification types for protective fencing:
- 4.3 **Spec. #1** - the fencing shall be at least 2.1m in height and comprise standard 'Heras' welded mesh fence panels mounted on a vertical and horizontal scaffolding framework. The panels shall be fixed to each other with at least two clamps and secured with anti-lift devices to concrete or rubber bases that are pinned to the ground to a depth of 450mm by short lengths of scaffolding tube.
- 4.4 Scaffold uprights shall be at a maximum of 3m centres and supported on the side closest to the retained trees by struts braced to the ground at an angle of 45 degrees. Care should be exercised when locating the vertical poles to avoid underground services and, in the case of the bracing poles, also to avoid contact with structural roots. The Heras panels shall be secured to the cross members between the uprights with heavy duty cable ties. Notices stating "Tree Protection Zone – Keep Out" will be attached with cable ties to every other panel.

4.5 **Spec #2** - the protective fencing shall be at least 2.1m in height and comprise standard 'Heras' welded mesh fence panels mounted on rubber or concrete feet. The panels shall be fixed to each other with at least two anti-tamper clamps, installed so that they can only be removed from inside the fence.

4.6 The fencing shall be supported on the side closest to the retained trees by stabiliser struts braced to the ground at an angle of 45 degrees, and attached to a base plate secured to the ground with ground pins. Where the fencing is to be erected on retained hard surfacing or it is otherwise unfeasible to use ground pins, e.g. due to the presence of underground services, the stabiliser struts should be mounted on a block tray. Notices stating "*Tree Protection Zone - Keep Out*" will be attached with cable ties to every other panel.

4.7 No activity of any kind shall be undertaken behind the protective fencing; there shall be no topsoil stripping, no storage of materials, no access for vehicles or personnel, and no excavation or changes in soil level of any kind.

4.8 Areas for storing or mixing of fuels, oils or cement shall be agreed at the pre-start meeting. None of these areas shall be within the area behind the protective fencing, and where possible shall not be within 10m of any retained tree.

4.9 No fixtures of any nature shall be attached to the retained trees, and no fires shall be lit in any position where heat could affect their foliage or branches.

4.10 When the installation of the protective fencing is complete, the supervising arboriculturist shall be informed so that they may come and inspect it. If it complies with this statement, the supervising arboriculturist will record the fact and notify the client and LPA.

4.11 The protective fencing will not be moved, dismantled or relocated without the prior approval of the supervising arboriculturist. When the construction period is complete the fencing may then be removed, but only after first informing the supervising arboriculturist of this intention.

## 5. Underground services

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5.1 As per the submitted drainage report, the proposed site storm water solution has been designed to avoid the RPAs of trees shown retained.

5.2 At the detailed design stage and subject to planning consent, proposed underground services will be either located outside the RPAs of trees shown retained.

## 6. Landscaping

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6.1 On completion of construction works, but prior to the commencement of any landscaping works within the protected area behind the protective fencing the developer shall arrange a meeting with the site manager, the supervising arboriculturist and the landscape contractor. The details of this part of the method statement shall be discussed in relation to the proposed landscape operations and a clear sequence of operations established.

6.2 Within the RPAs the following principles will be maintained:

- Existing ground levels shall not be substantially altered.
- No plant or vehicles shall enter the RPA.
- No fuels or chemicals shall be stored within any of these areas.
- Any excavation required for fence posts, log retaining walls or any other landscape structures shall be undertaken by hand, under direct arboricultural supervision. If roots are encountered then the position of the excavation shall be moved to a new location. If this is not possible then any roots with a diameter less than 25mm may be cut cleanly by hand. Any exposed roots shall be re-covered within 24hrs of excavation.
- No structure shall be fastened in any way to the trunks of the retained trees.
- No drainage or irrigation pipes shall be installed within the RPAs of the retained trees.
- Any unwanted vegetation shall be removed by hand.

## 7. Supervision & monitoring

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7.1 At the start of the construction process the supervising arboriculturist shall visit the site on the occasions specified to inspect the tree protection as installed. If these measures comply with the specifications detailed in this method statement, statements of compliance shall be sent to the developer and copied to the LPA.

7.2 The supervising arboriculturist shall then visit the site on a regular basis, as agreed at the pre-start meeting, to ensure that the tree protection measures are kept in place and functioning as designed. Regular contact will be maintained with the site manager to determine any forthcoming operations that may make an impact on these tree protection measures and if arboricultural supervision is required. A record of all monitoring visits will be kept, and copies sent to the developer and the LPA following each visit.

- 7.3 Any alterations or variations in drawings for the site that are in, or within, the RPAs of the retained trees shall be referred in the first instance to the supervising arboriculturist for advice. If these changes make any kind of impact on the retained trees the supervising arboriculturist shall suggest changes that will either avoid damage to the retained trees or offer solutions to minimize the impact. If required, the supervising arboriculturist will liaise with the LPA's tree officer to agree a way forward, since any alterations to the approved details may require the LPA's prior written agreement. Following these consultations, the supervising arboriculturist shall issue revisions to the TPP and/or this AMS that reflect the changes.
- 7.4 Where any operations carried out by the developer deviate substantially from this AMS, work must cease immediately and the LPA be informed in writing. A meeting will be convened between the developer, the supervising arboriculturist, the LPA tree officer and the site manager to determine the best method to mitigate any damage that may have occurred. Work shall not be recommenced until appropriate action has been agreed to the LPA's satisfaction.

David Archer Associates

February 2025

## APPENDIX 1 – Tree Schedule

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## Notes for the Tree Schedule

This schedule is based on a tree survey carried out in accordance with the recommendations of British Standard, BS 5837 (2012) "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations" ('BS 5837') by Greg Sweeney on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024. Weather conditions at the time were overcast but dry. Deciduous trees were fully in leaf.

The information contained in this schedule reflects the condition of the trees at the time of the survey, based on visual inspection from the ground only; they were not climbed, and no internal investigations were undertaken. A BS 5837 survey for planning or development purposes is not a detailed tree hazard or risk survey. As such, no guarantee is given as to the structural integrity or safety of any trees included.

As trees are dynamic organisms and subject to continual growth and change, no dimensions expressed in this schedule may be relied upon for development planning purposes for more than 24 months from the date of survey. Estimated dimensions are marked 'est'.

1. **No.:** Expressed in sequential order starting from number 1 – woodlands, groups & hedges are prefixed as W, G, & H respectively.
2. **Species:** The common name as given in "Collins Tree Guide", Johnson & More (2004).
3. **Height:** Estimated with the aid of a 'Disto' laser rangefinder and expressed in metres, to the nearest metre.
4. **Trunk Diameter:** Measured at 1.5m above ground level and expressed in millimetres to the nearest 10mm; where multiple stems are present they are measured individually, and an aggregated equivalent single trunk diameter is calculated in accordance with BS 5837, in order to derive the tree's root protection area ('RPA').
5. **Radial Crown Spread:** Distance in metres from the centre of the trunk to the outermost edge of the crown at each cardinal point of the compass, rounded up to the nearest half metre; or in the case of uniform or symmetrical crowns, the average distance from the centre of the trunk to the outermost edge of the crown.
6. **Crown Clearance:** Mean height, in metres, from adjacent ground level to the lowest point of the live crown.
7. **Height to First Branch:** Height, in metres, of the first significant branch (>100mm diameter), or to crown break from ground level.
8. **Life Stage:** Young, Semi-mature, Mature, Over-mature, Veteran/Ancient.
9. **Physiology:** The tree's health and vigour in comparison to a typical specimen of the same species and age: Good, Average, Below average, Poor, Dead.
10. **Structure:** The tree's structural condition based on assessment of any visible roots, and of its trunk, main branches and crown, noting the presence of any obvious defects or decay: Good, Average, Below average, Poor, Hazardous.
11. **Landscape Value:** An assessment of the tree's visual importance in the local landscape in its present context: High, Moderate, Low, Nil.
12. **Estimated Years:** Estimate of the tree's likely remaining contribution expressed in years: <10, 10-20, 20-40, 40+.
13. **Comments:** Notes relating to the tree's health and condition, structure and form, estimated life expectancy and importance within the local landscape; including notes of any restrictions to access for inspection, presence of potential habitat features (natural or artificial), or other significant observations.
14. **Category:** - A rating given to trees based on Table 1 in BS 5837, summarised below:

Category 'U' - Trees in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.

Category 'A' - Trees of high quality and value; in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (normally a minimum of 40 years).

Category 'B' - Trees of moderate quality and value; those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (normally a minimum of 20 years).

Category 'C' - Trees of low quality and value; currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (normally a minimum of 10 years), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.

Sub-categories (where appropriate); 1 – Mainly arboricultural qualities: 2 – Mainly landscape qualities: 3 – Mainly cultural values, including conservation.

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physi-ology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
1	Ash	9m	230mm est	4m	5.5m	5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Off-site tree; slightly sparsely foliated.	C
2	English Oak	14m	750mm est	6m	7m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Off-site tree; ivy on trunk; major deadwood in crown.	B
3	Holly	6.5m	180mm est	3m	3m	2.5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Off-site tree; small suppressed specimen.	C
4-6	Field Maple	#T4 7m #T5 7m #T6 9m	250mm est	4m	5m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Multi-stemmed from base; establishing tree.	C
7	Holly	7m	150mm est	3m	4m	4m	Semi-mature	Dead	Hazardous	Nil	Dead	Dead tree, ivy covered.	U
8	Ash	7.5m	150mm est	2m	4m	3m	Semi-mature	Below average	Average	Low	10-20	Small suppressed specimen; slightly sparsely foliated.	C
9	Ash	9m	200mm est	2.5m	6m	5m	Semi-mature	Below average	Average	Low	10-20	Slightly sparsely foliated.	C
10	Wild Cherry	7.5m	320mm	N7.3m E5m S2m W2m	3m	4m	Semi-mature	Below average	Average	Low	10-20	Small suppressed specimen; trunk and branches lean heavily to NE.	C
11	Ash	14m	300mm est	N7m E3m S0m W3m	5m	5m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Drawn up specimen.	C
12	Ash	15m	300mm est 350mm est	N8m E4m S3m W3m	6m	5m	Semi-mature	Poor	Hazardous	Low	<10	Bi-furcates at base; co-dominant stem to S - very sparsely foliated; approx. 0-25% of foliage belonging to this stem remains; co-dominant stem to N heavily leaning, elongated; in significant, immediate & irreversible overall decline.	U
13	English Oak	12m	350mm est	N6m E2.5m S1.5m W3m	4m	5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	10-20	Drawn up specimen.	C

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
14	Ash	12m	350mm ivy	N6m E2m S1m W3m	4m	5m	Semi-mature	Poor	Average	Low	<10	Drawn up specimen; crown dieback, very sparsely foliated; approx. 26-50% of the crown remains; in significant, immediate & irreversible overall decline.	U
15	Ash	16m	560mm	N4m E5m S7m W3m	8m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	10-20	Drawn up specimen.	C
16	Ash	16m	450mm	5m	7m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Drawn up specimen.	C
17	Field Maple	12m	480mm	N7m E2m S2m W5m	4m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Crown off-set from trunk with preference to N.	C
18	Field Maple	15m	480mm	N7m E2m S2m W5m	4m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Tree of moderate visual importance; crown off-set from trunk with preference to N.	B
19	Field Maple	5m	150mm est	N0m E2m S4m W2m	4m	3m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Small suppressed specimen; crown off-set from trunk with preference to S; undersides of branches to S damaged as conflicting with highway access.	C
20	Field Maple	6.5m	2 stems @ 150mm est	N0m E3m S4m W3m	5m	3m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Small suppressed specimen; crown off-set from trunk with preference to S; undersides of branches to S damaged as conflicting with highway access.	C
21	Ash	16m	650mm	N10m E4m S5m W5m	N4m E6m S9m W7m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	10-20	Crown off-set from trunk with preference to N; extended/elongated branches in lower third of crown to N.	C
22	English Oak	13m	570mm ivy	N0m E5m S7.5m W5m	6m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Crown off-set from trunk with preference to S; crown suppressed to N by adjacent trees.	B
23	Field Maple	10m	250mm est	N5m E3m S1m W1m	5m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Small suppressed specimen; crown off-set from trunk with preference to N.	C

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
24	Hawthorn	9m	250mm est	N4m E2m S1m W2m	4m	3m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	20-40	Suppressed crown as overtopped by adjacent specimens.	C
25	Hawthorn	9m	250mm est	N4m E2m S1m W2m	4m	3m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	20-40	Suppressed crown as overtopped by adjacent specimens.	C
34	English Oak	15m	660mm	N9m E7m S7m W3m	6m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Bi-furcates at 4.5m; major deadwood in crown including large diameter branch at 6m to SE.	B
35	English Oak	16m	750mm	N8.3m E5m S4m W8m	N4m E7m S8m W5m	4m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Trunk leans slightly NW; crown off-set from trunk with preference to N; major deadwood in crown.	B
36	English Oak	16m	750mm	N3m E5m S7m W5m	6m	4m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Crown off-set from trunk with preference to S.	B
37	Hawthorn	6.5m	200mm est	3m	4m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Ivy covered.	C
38	Hawthorn	6.5m	200mm est	3m	4m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Ivy covered.	C
39	Hawthorn	7m	150mm est	N4m E2m S1m W2m	4m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Suppressed crown as overtopped by adjacent specimens.	C
40	Wild Cherry	10m	250mm est	N6m E3m S3m W3m	4m	5m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Bi-furcates at 4m; drawn up specimen; crown off-set from trunk with preference to N.	C
41	Crab Apple	7m	200mm est	3.5m	5m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Small 'understorey' tree.	C
42	Field Maple	11m	360mm	4m	6m	5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Drawn up specimen.	C

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
43	English Oak	13m	820mm	N10m E5m S5m W6m	N4m E8m S6m W7m	4m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Scaffold branch at 4m to NW storm damaged, 2x split branches; crown off-set from trunk with preference to N; major deadwood in crown.	B
44	Hornbeam	9m	300mm est	N2m E4m S4m W3m	5m	5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Suppressed as over-topped by adjacent specimens.	C
45	Wild Cherry	11m	250mm est	4m	5m	5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Drawn up specimen; poor crown conformation.	C
46	Hornbeam	14m	500mm est	5m	6m	5m	Mature	Dead	Hazardous	Low	<10	Significant crown dieback; very sparsely foliated; in significant, immediate & irreversible overall decline.	U
47	Sycamore	5m	150mm est	3m	1m	1m	Young	Poor	Below average	Low	<10	Small self-seeded specimen; historically "topped" at 1m.	U
48	Sycamore	5m	150mm est	3m	1m	1m	Young	Poor	Below average	Low	<10	Small self-seeded specimen; historically "topped" at 1m.	U
49	English Oak	5.5m	150mm est	2m	1m	1m	Young	Average	Average	Low	20-40	Off-site tree; small establishing tree.	C
50	English Oak	7m	300mm est	4.7m	2m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	20-40	Off-site tree; small establishing tree.	C
51	Field Maple	8m	350mm est	5m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	20-40	Off-site tree; small establishing tree; mutually suppressed.	C
52	Field Maple	8.5m	350mm est	5m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	20-40	Off-site tree; small establishing tree; mutually suppressed.	C
53	English Oak	6.5m	250mm est	3m	4m	3m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Small suppressed specimen.	C
54	Crab Apple	5m	250mm est	3.5m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Mutually suppressed.	C
55	English Oak	9m	380mm	4.8m	2m	2m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Off-site tree; establishing tree; form and structure typical of species and age.	B
56	Ash	15m	400mm est 300mm est	N7m E6m S5m W5m	7m	4m	Mature	Poor	Below average	Low	<10	Off-site tree; ivy on trunk; significant crown dieback; very sparsely foliated; approx. 25-0% of the crown remains; in significant, immediate & irreversible overall decline.	U

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
G1	Blackthorn	3m	Avg 60mm est	2m	0.1m	0.1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Of only low-level screening value.	C
G2	Ash, Wild Cherry and Blackthorn	Min 3.5m Max 12m	Min 50mm est Max 300mm est	3m	0.5m	0.5m	Semi-mature	Below average	Below average	Low	10-20	Small self-seeded specimens; ash trunks growing out of historic pile of rubble; trees with poor crown conformation; sycamores heavily cut back "topped" in the past.	C
H1	Blackthorn, Field Maple, Goat Willow and Sycamore	2.5m	Avg 50mm est	1m	0.1m	0.1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Of only low-level screening value.	C
H2	Lawson Cypress	4m	Avg 200mm est	1.5m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Off-site trees; historically "topped" at 3m.	C
H3	Leyland Cypress	4.5m	Avg 200mm est	1.5m	1m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Off-site trees; of only low-level screening value.	C

## APPENDIX 2 – Tree Protection Plan

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