

Arboricultural Method Statement

Land north of Girder Bridge

Gay Street Lane

North Heath RH20 2HW

Client: Manorwood

Date: May 2025

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1. Introduction

- 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 land during the proposed scheme at Land north of Girder Bridge, Gay Street Lane, North Heath RH20 2HW.
- 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

- 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, the site manager, the groundwork contractor, the supervising arboriculturist and, if so required by the LPA, 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. Any modifications to this statement arising from this meeting will be recorded and the revisions circulated to all parties.
- 2.3 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 and pruning

- 3.1 Tree nos. 24, 29 shall be felled to ground level; the stumps shall be excavated (grubbed out).
- 3.2 Trees nos. 15, 16, 40, 41 are required to be crown lifted, to provide 4.5m clearance above track level, to allow access for the static caravans.
- 3.3 Hedge nos. 1-3 are to be cut back on west side, with hedge trimmers, to in line with edge of track, for general maintenance/access.
- 3.4 Due to the slight increase in traffic, over the access road only, is it recommended that the deadwood is removed from trees nos. 4-7, 9, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26-28, 33, 38, 42, 46, 47-51.
- 3.5 Tree felling and pruning will be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998: 2010, *Tree work - Recommendations*.

4. Improvements to the existing access track

- 4.1 Prior to the installation of the proposed static units, in the isolated areas along the entire length of the existing access track where minor improvements are required (minor potholes/ruts etc.), imported angular stone, will be laid.
- 4.2 **The proposals do not require the widening or extension of the existing track.**

5. Protective fencing

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.

- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 If the protective fencing is accidentally damaged or knocked over, the damaged sections shall be immediately marked with high visibility tape or with mesh fencing. The damaged sections shall be replaced or repaired to the original specification within 48 hours. All events of this nature must be recorded and reported to the supervising arboriculturist.
- 5.8 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.

6. Landscaping

- 6.1 Prior to the commencement of any landscaping works within the protected area behind the protective fencing 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

- 7.1 Due to the nature of the proposals and how the trees have informed the proposed layout, no supervision is required.
- 7.2 Following the pre-start meeting and erection of the protective fencing, no further site visits are proposed.
- 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

May 2025

APPENDIX 1 – Tree Schedule

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 Tuesday the 29th April 2025. Weather conditions at the time were clear, dry and bright. Deciduous trees were 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	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
1	English Oak	11m	200mm 580mm	6m	4.5m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Broad lower trunk/bole; cavity at base of trunk on NW side due to soil erosion; bi-furcates at 1.5m; small, 'squat' establishing Oak tree.	C
2	English Oak	16m	600mm est	N4m E6m S7m W2m	5m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Bi-furcates at 2.5m; multiple naturally braced unions between 1-4m.	C
3	English Oak	9m	400mm est	3m	2m	2m	Semi-mature	Below average	Below average	Low	10-20	Multiple crown lifting pruning wounds and snapped out branches between 2-5m; epicormic on trunk 0-5m; snapped structural branch to W resulting in partial missing crown.	C
4	English Oak	21m	900mm est 900mm est	8m	9m	8m	Mature	Average	Average	High	40+	Large wound - historic scaffold branch failure at approx. 6m to E; major deadwood in crown, including stub at 9m; ivy and brambles surrounding base of tree.	A
5	English Oak	19m	800mm est	N2m E7m S8m W7m	7m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	High	40+	Crown suppressed to N by adjacent tree; major deadwood in crown.	A
6	English Oak	15m	770mm	N5m E11.5m S7m W7m	N9m E2m S6m W7m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Historically crown lifted; multi-stemmed from crown break; 'goblet' shaped crown structure; major deadwood in crown.	B
7	English Oak	17m	650mm est	6m	9m	7m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Straight trunk, upright form; historically crown lifted; major deadwood in crown.	B
8	English Oak	16m	700mm est	8m	4.5m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Historically crown lifted, multiple pruning wounds between 0-6m; suppressed specimen.	B
9	English Oak	18m	780mm	9m	2.5m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	High	40+	Dominant tree in row; form and structure typical of species and age; major deadwood in crown.	A
10	English Oak	7m	350mm est	N2m E7m S2m W0m	4.5m	4.5m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Suppressed crown as overtopped by adjacent specimens; trunk leans E.	C
11	English Oak	16m	750mm est	7m	5m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Habitat holes on trunk at approx. 5m to E; drawn up specimen.	B
12	English Oak	14m	300mm est	4m	5m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Drawn up/suppressed 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
13	English Oak	18m	400mm est 600mm est	N4m E8.3m S3m W6m	1.5m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Dominant tree in row; form and structure typical of species and age.	B
14	English Oak	19m	500mm est	5m	10m	10m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Drawn up specimen.	B
15	English Oak	17m	800mm est	8.5m	3m	6m	Mature	Average	Below average	Moderate	20-40	Bi-furcates at 2m; suppressed as over-topped by adjacent specimens.	B
16	English Oak	16m	850mm est	10m	4m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Brambles surrounding base of trunk; dominant tree in row; crown one sided with preference to E.	B
17	English Oak	14m	800mm est	N10m E8m S5m W8m	N7m E4.5m S5m W8m	4m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Bi-furcates at 4m; major deadwood in crown.	B
18	English Oak	10m	800mm est	N7m E5m S5m W3m	4.5m	3m	Mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Bi-furcates at 2m; major deadwood in crown; on opposite side (W side) of ditch to track.	C
19	English Oak	15m	700mm est	7m	7m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Multi-stemmed from crown break; 'goblet' shaped crown; on opposite side (W side) of ditch to track.	B
20	English Oak	16m	750mm est	5m	7m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Bi-furcates at base; major deadwood in crown; located on opposite side (W side) of ditch to track.	B
21	English Oak	17m	700mm est	6m	10m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Straight trunk, drawn up specimen; bi-furcates at 7.5m; major deadwood in crown; located on opposite side (W side) of ditch to track.	B
22	English Oak	17m	440mm	6m	1.5m	3m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Bi-furcates at 4m; major deadwood in crown; mutually suppressed; located on opposite side (W side) of ditch to track.	B
23	English Oak	17m	500mm est 200mm est	6m	1.5m	3m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Bi-furcates at 0.5m; major deadwood in crown; mutually suppressed; located on opposite side (W side) of ditch to track.	B
24	Unknown	10m	450mm est	Dead						Hazardous	n/a	Dead tree.	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
25	English Oak	16m	490mm	N5m E7.5m S5m W2m	6m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Trunk leans slightly NE; epicormic growth on trunk between 0-5m; mutually suppressed; major deadwood in crown.	B
26	English Oak	19m	250mm est 650mm est	5m	8m	8m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Drawn up specimen; mutually suppressed; major deadwood in crown.	B
27	English Oak	17m	700mm est	N1m E6m S8m W5m	8m	7m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Mutually suppressed; dead large diameter (150mm) trunk at base to E; major deadwood in crown.	B
28	English Oak	8m	400mm est	3m	3m	2.5m	Semi-mature	Below average	Average	Low	10-20	top of crown 'stags headed', dead; major deadwood in crown.	C
29	Wild Cherry	12m	400mm est	Dead					Hazardous	n/a		Dead tree.	U
30	English Oak	19m	700mm est	5m	10m	7m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Drawn up specimen.	B
31	English Oak	19m	650mm est	5m	7m	7m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Drawn up specimen.	B
32	English Oak	7m	2 stems @ 200mm est	N4m E5m S4m W1m	4m	4m	Semi-mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Bi-furcates at base; poor crown conformation.	C
33	English Oak	13m	600mm est	N4m E8m S4m W0m	3m	4m	Mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Mutually suppressed specimen; trunk and branches lean E; major deadwood in crown.	C
34	Number not used.												
35	English Oak	18m	700mm est	6m	7m	7m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Dominant tree in row; in with clump/group of x3 trees.	B
36	English Oak	12m	900mm est	N2m E8m S5m W5m	5.5m	5m	Mature	Average	Below average	Moderate	20-40	Wound on main trunk at 2m to N; missing top, 'apical' leading stem; veteran features.	B

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Category
37	English Oak	7m	150mm est	N2m E4m S2m W0m	5.5m	4.5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Suppressed crown as overtopped by adjacent specimens.	C
38	English Oak	11m	370mm	N4m E8.5m S2m W0m	5.5m	6m	Mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Suppressed specimen; trunks leans heavily E ; major deadwood in crown.	C
39	Ash	10m	2 stems @ 450mm est	N6m E7m S2m W0m	6m	4m	Mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Cavity at base of trunk on NW side; bi-furcates at base; ivy covered.	C
40	Hornbeam	11m	2 stems @ 300mm est	5m	3m	3m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Multi-stemmed from base.	C
41	Hornbeam	11m	300mm est	5m	3m	3m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Multi-stemmed from base.	C
42	English Oak	20m	1000mm est	8m	10m	9m	Mature	Average	Average	High	40+	Tri-furcates at 2m; dominant tree in row; major deadwood in crown, including at approx. 8m to E.	A
43	English Oak	17m	510mm	5m	8m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Mutually suppressed, drawn up specimen.	B
44	English Oak	20m	700mm est	N5m E9m S5m W5m	7m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	High	40+	Ivy on trunk; form and structure typical of species and age; dominant tree in row.	A
45	English Oak	14m	500mm est	N4m E8m S5m W0m	5m	5m	Mature	Average	Below average	Low	10-20	Ivy on trunk; trunk and structural branches lean E ; suppressed crown as overtopped by adjacent specimens.	C
46	English Oak	20m	850mm est	8m	10m	7m	Mature	Below average	Average	Moderate	20-40	Slightly sparsely foliated; major deadwood in crown.	B
47	Hazel	5m	7 stems @ 50mm est	1.5m	0.1m	0.1m	Mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Former coppice.	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
48	English Oak	18m	1350mm	N6m E12m S8m W8m	7.5m	6m	Mature	Average	Average	High	40+	Form and structure typical of species and age; major deadwood in crown.	A
49	English Oak	15m	680mm est	N0m E12m S6m W0m	7m	6m	Mature	Average	Below average	Moderate	20-40	Ivy on trunk; trunk leans heavily SE; major deadwood in crown.	B
50	English Oak	20m	950mm est	8m	10m	10m	Mature	Average	Below average	High	40+	Bi-furcates at 5m; ivy on trunk; major deadwood in crown.	A
51	English Oak	18m	950mm ivy	9m	7m	7m	Mature	Average	Average	High	40+	Ivy on trunk; form and structure typical of species and age; major deadwood in crown.	A
52	Hazel	6m	7 stems @ 50mm est	1.5m	0.5m	0.1m	Mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Former coppice.	C
H1	Hawthorn and Elder	5m	Avg 100mm est	2.5m	1.5m	1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Crowns one sided, lateral branches lean E towards track.	C
H2	Hawthorn	5m	Avg 180mm est	2.5m	1.5m	1.5m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	One sided crown, lateral branches lean E towards access track.	C
H3	Privet	1.5m	Avg 30mm est	1m	0.1m	0.1m	Semi-mature	Average	Average	Low	10-20	Low level evergreen hedge.	C

APPENDIX 2 – Tree Protection Plan
