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Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Client: Mr Peter, La Brooy

Location: Oak River, Horsham Road, Rudgwick, RH12 3HZ

Date of inspection: 9th June 2024

Inspector: Max Ferretti ND Arb, TechArborA

Our reference: AIA/OR/06/25

1.1 **Instructions received:** I am instructed by Mr Peter, La Brooy to inspect the significant trees in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees In relation to design, demolition and construction.

1.2 **Terms of reference:** To carry out a tree survey where all significant trees are plotted on to a plan and the data from which collected is provided in a schedule. Where appropriate, to make preliminary management recommendations.

1.3 **Documents supplied:** I was provided the following plans:



1.4 **Limitations of Use and Copyright:** The content and format of this report are for the exclusive use of the Client or their agents. It may not be sold, lent, hired out or divulged to any third party not directly involved in the subject matter.

2.0 Scope and Method of Tree Survey:

2.1 The survey was carried out on 9th June 2025, by Max Ferretti, t/a Absolute Arboriculture.

2.2 All significant trees that are on the property as well as nearby trees were subject to the survey.

2.3 The survey is based on a ground level tree assessment and examination of external features only – described as the 'Visual Tree Assessment' method expounded by Mattheck and Breloer (The Body Language of Trees, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No.4, 1994).

2.4 In general, trees with a stem diameter less than 75mm at 1.5m above ground level have been excluded unless they have merit that warrants inclusion. In general, woody shrub species are not included. Tree stem diameters were measured in millimetres as near as possible to 1.5m above ground level. Root protection areas are calculated in accordance with BS5837.

2.5 The height of each tree was measured using a clinometer and crown radii were measured using a laser measure. Dimensions are given in metres.

2.6 Dimensions of trees within groups are given as an averaged figure unless otherwise stated. Dimensions of off-site trees are estimated unless full access is available.

3.0 Existing Trees

3.1 The details of 7 trees and 4 groups were recorded.

3.2 The tree schedule shown as appendix 1 on the Arboricultural assessment of trees provides the dimensions of those specimens included in the survey together with an assessment of their condition and life expectancy with specific comments regarding their condition where appropriate. In addition, each tree has been categorised according to its retention value following criteria provided in Table 1 of BS5837.

5.0 Tree Constraints

5.1 The data collected during the tree survey provides the basis for identifying the above ground or below ground constraints that maybe imposed on the site by those trees worthy of retention.

5.2 Below ground constraints are indicated by the root protection area [RPA] for each tree which is calculated in accordance with guidance provided within BS5837. The RPA is the minimum recommended area in square metres that ideally should be left undisturbed around each tree to be retained to ensure that damage to its roots or rooting environment is avoided.

5.3 In the case of open grown trees with an even, radial root distribution it would be normal for the boundaries of the RPA to be equidistant from the trunk of the tree. The actual disposition of tree roots can however be greatly affected by a range of site-specific factors such as existing building foundations and poor growing conditions under public highways. BS537 advises that these factors are to be assessed by the arboriculturist and appropriate adjustments to the siting of the RPA made, if it is not reduced in area.

5.4 The RPA for each retained tree is detailed in the schedule of trees and shown on the tree survey plan. Where offsetting is considered appropriate it is specifically noted.

6.0 Proposed Development

6.1 To replace three existing sheds with one timber oak garage and one timber garden room.

7.0 Impact of Proposed Development

7.1 The development will require the removal of G4 (category C).

7.2 Canopies of trees T3, G5, T6 and T8 require raising to the east to allow for construction. Selected branches from G5 and T6 will need cutting back from the east for the same reasons.

7.3 There is incursion from the proposal to the north of T8 that falls within RPA. To avoid ground compaction and root damage, adequate protection with a 'no dig' method will be required. A no dig approach and methods to prevent soil compaction and root damage must be used along with preventative measures of construction close to stems of trees.

7.4 The current driveway entrance falls within RPA of T1, T2 and T3. Provided that the current surface remains and that the movement of any heavy construction vehicles is limited and controlled in this area, there should be no adverse effect on the rooting environments of these trees.

7.7 It is understood that current electricity supply will remain in place for the new proposal and that a new water supply will be routed to the garden room. This will be routed outside of any RPA's but the supply source falls just withing the RPA of T3. Whilst the incursion is minimal, care must be taken to protect underlying soils and to prevent damage to tree roots. No underground services are to be permitted within RPA's unless adequately mitigated against.

7.9 Provided that the tree protection measures detailed in the accompanying Arboricultural Method Statement and shown on Tree Protection plan are implemented and strictly maintained, all retained trees should be safeguarded from the effects of construction activity.

ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Oak River, Horsham Road, Rudgwick, RH12 3HZ

Important note: It is essential that this method statement, the tree protection plan and any other documents that relate to tree protection matters are passed to the project manager prior to the commencement of any works on site. All personnel involved in this project should be made aware of the content of these documents and the importance of implementing and maintaining a robust policy towards the protection of retained trees. Failure to adhere to approved tree protection measures is likely to result in a breach of planning conditions.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Arboricultural Method Statement [AMS] and the accompanying Tree Protection Plan [TPP] are prepared following the principles set out within British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations' [BS5837] and current best practice.

1.2.1 This document should be read in conjunction with our Tree Constraints Plan, reference, Oak River – TPP – Rev A Sept 2025.

2.0 Arboricultural Supervision

2.1 The successful integration of any development within or adjacent to existing trees relies on those trees being properly protected throughout all periods of the development process, from site clearance or demolition through to post development landscaping and completion. To ensure that this is achieved, BS5837 advocates the retention of an appropriately qualified Arboriculturist to oversee all matters relating to trees for the duration of the construction period.

2.2 As part of this process the Arboriculturist shall attend a Pre-Commencement site meeting with the Project Manager and the Site Manager prior to ANY works on site, including demolition or site clearance. At this meeting, the programme of works will be reviewed and an outline schedule of visits by the Arboriculturist will be determined and agreed.

2.3 Site visits by the Arboriculturist should coincide with tree-related key stages of the development and in particular:
- Any preliminary arboricultural works or site clearance.
- The installation of tree protection measures.
- Any works within RPA's (root protection areas) such as the removal of hard surfaces or installation of underground services or new hard surfaces.
- Any change in site or project manager personnel.

2.4 The schedule may be subject to later review and may be influenced by unforeseen events or where there has been a failure in the maintenance of approved tree protection measures. The LPA shall be informed by phone, email or in writing of any changes, variations, or amendments.

2.5 Particular attention must be given to any works of any nature that have to be undertaken within construction exclusion zones. These must be carried out under the direct supervision of the Arboriculturist.

2.6 The Arboriculturist should be available to attend any site meetings at the request of the LPA.

2.7 In addition, the Arboriculturist should be available if any unexpected conflicts with trees arise.

2.8 The Arboriculturist should keep a written log of the results of all site Inspections and note any changes to the schedule of site visits. Any contraventions of tree protection measures or other incident that may prejudice the well-being of retained trees, shall be brought to the attention of the site manager in the form of a written report. Copies of the inspection log and any contravention reports will always be available for inspection by the Local Planning Authority.

3.0 Facilitation Tree Works

3.1 Prior to the commencement of any site clearance or construction works, the following trees will require pruning to allow room for any scaffolding and safe construction.

3.2 T3 Oak must be crown lifted to a height of 6 meters to the south and over the proposal position.
Group G4 must have the southern and westerly trees in the group removed.
Group G5, must be cut back from east by 2 metres and have crowns raised by 5 metres.
T6, Blackthorn, must also have its crown raised to east by 5 meters.
T8, Oak, must have its crown raised to northeast, over the proposal area.

3.3 The above works must be carried out prior to construction to facilitate works and are indicated on the accompanying TPP.

3.4 No other tree works shall be undertaken without further consultation with the local planning authority.

4.0 Tree Protection Barriers

4.1 Tree protection barriers shall be installed prior to the commencement of any site clearance or construction works.

4.2 Vertical tree protection barriers shall be erected in the positions indicated on the Tree Protection Plan [TPP. Barriers shall be formed from a system of 'heras' style weldmesh panels securely fixed to scaffold poles and stabilized on either rubber or concreate feet and secured by ground pins driven firmly into the ground and braced as illustrated on the TPP. These barriers demarcate the 'Construction Exclusion Zone', the areas adjacent to trees that shall be safeguarded from all forms of construction activity.

4.3 Any current boundary fence should remain in place throughout construction.

4.4 No protection fencing must be move without the supervision of the project arboriculturalist.

5.0 Site Access and Storage of Materials

5.1 There is ample scope for the temporary storage of materials on the site and outside of the RPA's to the east and away from trees. No materials shall be stored within the construction exclusion zones or RPA indicated on the TPP.

5.2 Great care shall be taken to ensure that the booms of excavators and all machinery used in the delivery or movement of materials do not damage the crowns or stems of retained trees. All activities close to trees shall be carefully planned and controlled.

5.3 Particular care shall be taken to prevent the spillage of toxic chemicals such as cement and oils in any part of the site so that any future planting is not compromised by substances that may prejudice their establishment. All such substances shall be stored (and mixed where necessary) on robust plastic sheeting. Contaminated water from the washing of tools and equipment shall not be permitted to leach into the soils in or adjacent to the RPA or any area designated for future planting.

6.0 Site Clearance and Demolition

6.1 All demolition must take place from outside of any RPA's and where this is not possible, ground protection boards must be implemented. The positions of which are highlighted in the TPP. The positions of any current foundations should be used to stockpile debris where possible.

6.2 Any machinery used during the demolition must work backwards from the RPA and work with extreme care, so no debris fall into the RPA. The roof and walls of the building shall be 'folded' inwards, within the footprint of the structure.

6.3 No materials shall be stockpiled on any area within the RPA.

6.4 Under no circumstances shall any machinery or vehicles operate or traverse across exposed soils within RPAs.

7.0 Excavations for Foundations

7.1 Excavations are to be carried out with great care to minimise disturbance to underlying soils. Excavations shall not extend into the soil or root zone of trees.

7.2 Any excavators used in these works shall be fitted with a grading bucket without 'teeth'. The bucket must be used so that the cutting edge is horizontal to minimise disturbance of the underlying soil.

7.3 In the event that tree roots are exposed during these works they shall be cut back cleanly using handsaw or secateurs. Great care shall be taken to avoid ripping or tearing roots back to towards the tree stem.

8.0 Installation of New Underground Services

8.1 The installation of new underground services can present a particular risk of damage to trees. Even relatively shallow excavations, if carried out without appropriate care, can cause considerable damage to roots.

8.2 In the event that changes to the routing of new services is required, the arboriculturist shall be consulted to ensure that trees remain unaffected.

9. Tree Protection Barriers and Ground Protection

Note: The style of tree protection barrier here is recommended in BS5837:2012
'Heras' weldmesh panels securely attached to scaffold poles driven firmly into ground and braced with supporting scaffold poles. Where fencing is in or near RPA's, base supports are to be used to prevent damaging any roots underneath.

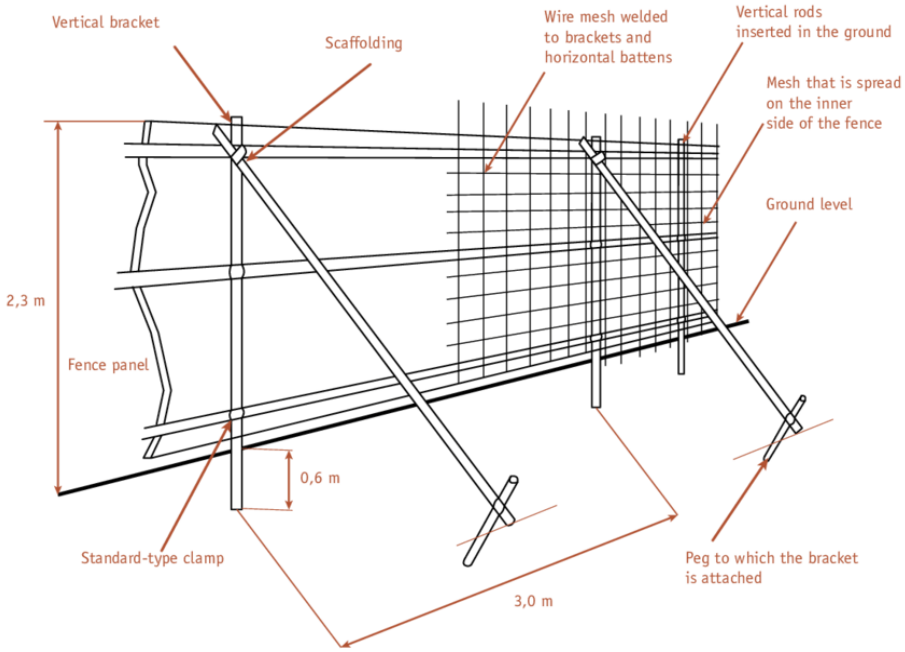
10. Working area / Access

Ground boards such as 'EuroMat' or 'TuffTrak' (dependent upon loading), held together fixed with connection plates. Where access is for pedestrian or light machinery use only, scaffold boards or 18mm ply sheets may be used, these may need to be bolted together to add strength and to prevent movement. Existing ground for pedestrian access hollows should be filled with topsoil or woodchip. For vehicular / heavy machinery use or if prolonged

access is required a 100- 150 mm bed of wood or bark chip should be laid underground boards Geotextile
membrane such as Terram 1000 as a separating layer.



11. Example of protection fencing



12. Example of protective fencing signs

Signs such as these must be firmly secured onto each fence panel.





This report has been prepared by Max Ferretti ND Arb, TechArborA

Signed:

Mferretti

Max Ferretti ND Arb, TechArborA
T/A Absolute Arboriculture

Date: September 2025