

Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of off-site and high-quality trees denoted by red hatching. BS5837:2012 states:

'The default position should be that structures are located outside the RPAs of trees to be retained. However, where there is an overriding justification for construction within the RPA, technical solutions might be available that prevent damage to the tree(s). If operations within the RPA are proposed, the project arboriculturist should:

a) *demonstrate that the tree(s) can remain viable and that the area lost to encroachment can be compensated for elsewhere, contiguous with its RPA;*

b) *propose a series of mitigation measures to improve the soil environment that is used by the tree for growth.'*

BS5837:2012 Categorisation

Trees are categorised in line with Table 1 of the British Standard 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations', according to their health, condition, quality, value and potential.

Category 'U':	Trees unlikely to survive 10 years; unsuitable for retention
Category 'A':	Trees of high quality and value and of long-term potential
Category 'B':	Trees of moderate quality and value and of medium-term potential
Category 'C':	Trees of low quality and value and of short-term potential

The default position should be to 'design-out' any impacts to Category 'A' and 'B' trees.

Category 'C' trees will not normally be retained where they impose a significant constraint on development, but their retention would otherwise be beneficial.

Category 'U' trees are not suitable for retention, irrespective of potential re-development.

Root Protection Areas (RPAs)

The RPA is a formulaic design tool included within BS5837:2012. It is based on the diameter of the trunk(s) at 1.5m above ground level and is the suggested minimum soil volume required to sustain the tree.

The model provides a starting point for the assessment of likely root spread and morphology, and allows an assessment of likely impacts to be made in a consistent manner. Where significant rooting barriers are observed or suspected, the shape of the RPA may be modified to reflect likely root distribution, but the total area (m²) is not amended.

BS5837:2012 recommends that the RPAs of retained trees should be protected from disturbance throughout development.

MDJ Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd
Drawing Legend

	Category 'A' tree
	Category 'B' tree
	Category 'C' tree
	Category 'U' tree
	Root Protection Areas (RPAs) [Cat 'A' and 'B' RPAs highlighted red]
	Shadow Patterns

Drawing History

Rev	Date	Comments

ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANCY LIMITED

Copyright: MDJ Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd 2025

Ownership of this drawing and its intellectual property is retained by MDJ Arboricultural Consultancy Limited and should not be reproduced, copied, or distributed, in whole or in part, without prior written consent.

Site:	1 Stane Street Close, Pulborough, RH20 1BD
Client:	Ms H Haylock
Title:	Tree Constraints Plan (TCP)
Date:	August 2025
Dwg No:	MDJAC-BS25171-TCP-01
Scale:	1:200@ A2

