ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

The Grange, Westergate Street, Woodgate

- prepared on behalf of ***Mr & Mrs C Blows*** *–*

10 Southleigh Grove, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 0SH [redacted]

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1.0 INTRODUCTION & CLIENTS BRIEF

1.1 I am instructed on this project by **Mr & Mrs C Blows** who are the owners of the land/property at **The Grange, Westergate Street, Woodgate.**

1.2 The owner seeks permission to demolish the existing sundry outbuildings and construct a new two storey dwelling with a detached garage and access and parking arrangements.

1.3 There are both on and off site trees which will need to be catered for and protected during this process.

1.4 I have been commissioned to prepare a report to satisfy the arboricultural aspects of this project to meet planning requirements.

1.5 My work is to be compiled in accordance with the recommendations contained within BS5837:2012.

2.0 DOCUMENT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

I have been provided with a copy of the Planning Layout drawing as prepared by **Smith Simmons & Partners Architects** :-

- **Planning Layout Drawing – SS – 1825/DP101 – Rev 01. - 1:500 @ A3 – August 2025**

This drawing has been provided to me for the purposes of my work and I rely totally on its accuracy in terms of tree locations applying crown spreads and setting out protective fencing and tree protection measures.

3.0 TREE SURVEY & ROOT PROTECTION SCHEDULES & IMPACT ASSESSMENT

3.1 I visited the site on **5th August 2025** and carried out a full site tree survey exercise in accordance with BS5837:2012 recommendations (see also the explanatory tree survey notes **at appendix BH1**).

Tree No.	Species	Ht m	Diam mm	Brch Sprd m	GC m	LS	Comments	Rem Con yrs	Cat
1	Silver Birch *Betula pendula*	7	180 120 100	N 4.5 E 4.5 S 4.5 W4.5	0.5	SM	Multi stemmed at ground level – low branching habit.	30-40	B1
2	Golden Monterey Cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa 'Lutea'*	14	700 #	N 8 E 8 S 6 W5	3	M	Unable to access basal area as tree is off site -	10-20	C1
3	Goat Willow *Salix caprea*	10	250 190	N 6 E 6 S 2.5 W3.5	3	EM	One main trunk (200mm) has been removed along with several of the lower limbs leaving an unbalanced crown – poor quality tree overall.	10-20	C1
4	Contorted Willow *Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa'*	9	180 x5 #	N 4 E 6 S 4 W4	2	EM	Unable to access basal area as tree is off site -multi stemmed at ground level – small diameter dead wood throughout crown – previously heavily topped out.	20-30	B1
5	Purple Plum *Prunus cerasifera 'Nigra'*	3.5	130 80	N 0 E 3 S 3 W1.5	0.5	EM	Ivy smothering the base and trunk of this tree – bifurcated at ground level – leans heavily to the south side – poor quality tree overall.	10-20	C1
Group 1	Eastern Balsam Poplar *Populus balsamifera*	Av 10	Av 75 #	N 1 E 1 S 1 W1	1.5	Y	Unable to access basal area as trees are off site – linear screen planting of closely planted young trees.	>40	B2
6	Purple Beech *Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'*	11	600 #	N 7 E 9 S 7 W7	2	M	Unable to access basal area as tree is off site – trunk is hard up against the boundary wall – low branching habit	>40	A1
Group 2	Hazels *x3 of* Hawthorn *x1 of*	Av 8	Av 150 x3 250 #	N 3 E 3 S 4 W3	0	EM	Unable to access basal area as trees are off site – Ivy smothering bases and trunks – multi stemmed at ground level – low branching habit.	30-40	B2

Group 3	Pedunculate Oak *x2 of* *Quercus robur*	Av 12	400 #	N 6 E 5 S 7 W6	3	Y	Unable to access basal area as trees are off site – crown shapes dictated by group pressures – merged crowns.	>40	A2

3.2 A Tree Root Protection Schedule has been prepared in accordance with BS5837:2012 recommendations (see Plans BJH 01 & 02 at **appendix BH2**)

Tree No.	Tree Species	Cat	Diam mm	BS5837:2012 Table D1 Radial Protect. Zone m	BS5837:2012 Table D1 Root Protect. Area m^2
1	Silver Birch *Betula pendula*	B1	180 120 100	2.9	26
2	Golden Monterey Cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa 'Lutea'*	C1	700 #	8.4	222
3	Goat Willow *Salix caprea*	C1	250 190	3.8	45
4	Contorted Willow *Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa'*	B1	180 x5 #	4.8	73
5	Purple Plum *Prunus cerasifera 'Nigra'*	C1	130 80	1.8	11
Group 1	Eastern Balsam Poplar *Populus balsamifera*	B2	Av 75 #	0.9	3
6	Purple Beech *Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'*	A1	600 #	7.2	163
Group 2	Hazels *x3 of*	B2	Av 150 x3	3.1	31
	Hawthorn *x1 of*		250 #	3.0	28
Group 3	Pedunculate Oak *x2 of* *Quercus robur*	A2	400 #	4.8	72

4.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT & TREE PROTECTION MEASURES RECOMMENDED

4.1 The finalised planning layout drawing has been provided to me and an assessment made as to the viability of retaining trees as part of this layout in order that they meet the RPZ requirements of BS5837 - the data is presented here in tabular format:-

Tree No	Species	Cat	Stem Diam mm	BS5837:2012 Radial Protection Zone m	BS5837:2012 Table D1 Root Protect. Area m^2	Distance from Site Features (see key above)	Can Tree Be Retained
1	Silver Birch *Betula pendula*	B1	180 120 100	2.9	26	0.8m to existing garage 2.6m to new garage	YES (1)
2	Gold Mont Cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa Lutea*	C1	700 #	8.4	222	9.8m to existing garage 6.4m to new garage	YES (1)
3	Goat Willow *Salix caprea*	C1	250 190	3.8	45	2.4m to existing garage Under footprint of new garage	NO-RTFD
4	Contorted Willow *Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa'*	B1	180 x5 #	4.8	73	11.5m to existing garage 7.6m to new garage 9.2m to new dwelling	YES
5	Purple Plum *Prunus cerasifera 'Nigra'*	C1	130 80	1.8	11	1.3m to new dwelling	NO-RTFD
Group 1	East Balsam Poplar *Populus balsamifera*	B2	Av 75 #	0.9	3	6.4m to new dwelling	YES
6	Purple Beech *Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'*	A1	600 #	7.2	163	11.3m to new dwelling	YES
Group 2	Hazels *x3 of* Hawthorn *x1 of*	B2	Av 150 x3 250 #	3.1 3.0	31 28	14m+ to new dwelling 12.6m to new dwelling	YES
Group 3	Pedunculate Oak *x2 of Quercus robur*	A2	400 #	4.8	72	15m + to new dwelling	YES

4.2 SUMMARY

	YES Can be retained and fully protected in accordance with BS5837 recommendations - see **Tree Protection Plan BJH.03/04** at appendix BH3	YES (1) Can be retained and protected in accordance with BS5837 recommendations (see **Tree Protection Plan BJH.03/04** at appendix BH3) - subject to adherence to the methodology prescribed in this report – see Section 6 for full details.	NO-RTFD Recommended for removal in order to facilitate development proposals	NO-RSAM Recommended for removal on sound arboricultural management grounds [health and safety grounds] regardless of any redevelopment proposals
A	**6 Beech** **Grp 3 Oaks**	-	-	-
B	**4 Willow** **Grp 1 Poplars & Grp 2 Hazels;**	**1 Birch**	-	-
C	-	**2 Cypress**	**3 Willow & 5 Plum**	-
U	-	-	-	-

4.3 Trees **3 Willow & 5 Plum** are both low C graded trees of limited value and they cannot be retained with the layout proposed.

4.4 The RPZ's for trees **1 Birch & 2 Cypress** have an RPZ overlap of the proposed layout and will therefore require mitigation measures applied in order to comply with BS5837:2012 recommendations **(see methodology at Section 6.5 of this report).**

4.5 Trees **4 Willow & 6 Beech** along with **Groups 1, 2 & 3** are all clear of development proposals and can be fully protected in accordance with Section 6.2 of BS5837:2012 and protective fencing erected at the full specified distances.

5.0 RECOMMENDED TREE WORKS

No	Species	Tree Works Recommended
1	Silver Birch *Betula pendula*	• No tree works required at this time
2	Gold Mont Cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa Lutea*	• Not under the clients control
3	Goat Willow *Salix caprea*	• Fell to ground level in a safe and controlled manner. • Grub out the stump and primary root runs.
4	Contorted Willow *Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa'*	• Not under the clients control
5	Purple Plum *Prunus cerasifera 'Nigra'*	• Fell to ground level in a safe and controlled manner. • Grub out the stump and primary root runs.
Group 1	East Balsam Poplar *Populus balsamifera*	• Not under the clients control – but trim back any branch overhang of the boundary as necessary.
6	Purple Beech *Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'*	• Not under the clients control – but trim back any branch overhang of the boundary as necessary.
Group 2	Hazels *x3 of* Hawthorn *x1 of*	• Not under the clients control – but trim back any branch overhang of the boundary as necessary.
Group 3	Pedunculate Oak *x2 of* *Quercus robur*	• Not under the clients control – but trim back any branch overhang of the boundary as necessary.

6.0 METHOD STATEMENT

Generic Measures

6.1 Erect the protective fencing and lay any ground protection as specified and shown on the **Tree Protection Plan BJH03/04** **at appendix BH3** prior to any work being started on site. Barriers are to be 'Fit For Purpose' to exclude construction activity and must be maintained to ensure that they remain rigid and complete and in the original setting out positions. These checks will need to be incorporated into a schedule of site monitoring visits to be agreed with the clients subject to phased development operations and subsequently copies of these site visit reports will need to be copied in to the Council.

6.2 A copy of the Tree Protection Plan is to be pinned up in the offices/mess hut on site for all site staff to see. The area within the fenced off exclusion zone is to be regarded as **sacrosanct** and the fencing shall not be taken down or relocated at any time without the prior written approval of the monitoring arboriculturist or local authority tree officer, unless this has already been agreed as part of the planning application consent process and is detailed in writing and shown on a plan.

The following prohibitions shall apply within the area enclosed by the Tree Protection Fencing [**Construction Exclusion Zone**]:-

- **No** mechanical digging or scraping once the initial ground cover vegetation has been cleared and the site fenced off.
- **No** storage of plant, equipment or materials
- **No** vehicular or plant access
- **No** fire lighting
- **No** handling, discharge or spillage of any chemical substance, including cement washings
- **No** action likely to cause localised water-logging
- **No** change in ground levels

6.3 All site works storage areas and compounds/welfare units/toilet blocks and any mixing areas are to be located outside of and well clear of retained trees and positioned over impervious surfaces or over special catchment areas such that any leakage will be captured and cannot leak into the soil causing contamination.

6.4 The details of the proposed utility service links have not been made available to me at this time but it should be possible to link in to existing or lay new services without impinging on the RPA's of retained trees. In the unlikely event that some incursion is necessary then a separate Mini-Method Statement can be provided to satisfy a Planning Condition.

Site Specific Measures

6.5 **1 Birch & 2 Willow**

- Carefully demolish the existing garage and small outbuilding by hand onto its own footprint – machinery may be used but it must work from outside tree RPZ's unless appropriate ground protection measures to BS5837 Section 6.2.3.3 have been laid.
- Carefully break out the concrete garage base with hydraulic drill or equivalent and remove all arisings.
- From this point forward no machinery access will be allowed within tree RPZ's and 'Hand Digging' of a slit trench will take place under Arboricultural Expert supervision.
- The Arb Expert will remove any roots of 25mm diameter or less using clean sharp bypass secateurs.
- In the event that roots over 25mm in diameter are exposed the monitoring Arboricultural Expert will need to make a decision as to whether or not their removal would harm the health and vitality of the tree and provide guidance as to whether the roots can be severed or must remain in situ and be worked around.
- Once the trench has been excavated and any roots removed ground protection will need to be laid as shown on the Tree Protection Plan (**at appendix BH3)** this will then allow room for the contractors to construct the new garage without impacting any further roots.

7.0 SITE MONITORING & SUPERVISION

BS5837 recommends that wherever trees on or adjacent to a site have been identified on the Tree Protection Plan as requiring special protection measures, there should be an auditable system of arboricultural site monitoring. This should extend to direct arboricultural monitoring whenever demolition/construction and development activity is to take place within or adjacent to any RPA.

7.1 A Pre-commencement site meeting is to take place between the development teams arboricultural consultant and the site manager and client representative where the protective fencing will be inspected to verify that it is 'Fit For Purpose' as shown on the **Tree Protection Plan.**

7.2 Lines of communication will be established with the Site Manager and a contact sheet prepared so that in the event that an incident occurs involving the retained trees that requires urgent advice and guidance from the project Arboricultural Expert this can be easily organised.

7.3 The details of the PCSM works will be photographed by the Arboricultural Expert and the following reporting procedure will be adopted. This is an example of the format for the **Site Monitoring Schedule** that would be prepared. :-

Schedule Of Site Monitoring & Supervision for – The Grange, Westergate Street, Woodgate

- In accordance with the Arboricultural Method Statement Report – 1427.bjh.Aug 25 & Tree Protection Plan - BJH 03/04

Date of Inspection	Item	In Attendance	Notes/Observations From Inspection	Details Of Any Follow Up Action Required
tba	**Pre-Commencement Meeting**	Project Arb Consultant & Site Construction Manager	• A joint site inspection was conducted and agreement reached that the protection measures are in place and that everyone understands their responsibilities…….	•
tba	**'Hand Digging' of Slit Trench**	Project Arb Consultant & Site Construction Manager	•	•

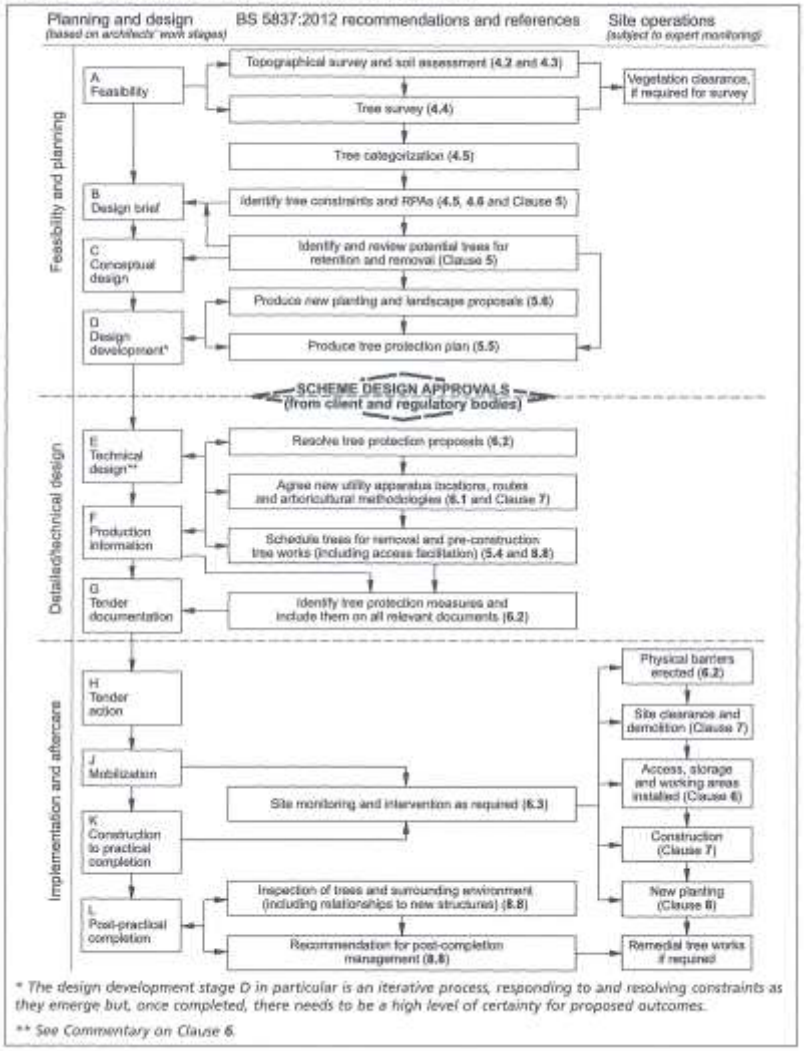
8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- This development will require the removal of two small trees (**3 Willow & 6 Plum**) both of which are of low C grading and limited value in the landscape. Both can readily be compensated for by new planting within the newly landscaped garden to the new dwelling.
- Mitigation measures have been specified at Section 6.5 of this report so that the impact on the roots of trees **1 Birch & 2 Willow** can be kept to minimal and acceptable levels within the framework recommendations of BS5837:2012.
- The remaining trees and groups that were surveyed can all be adequately protected in accordance with BS5837:2012 recommendations.
- Overall, provided that the above methodology is strictly adhered to in the carefully considered and phased and supervised manner prescribed then I would not foresee any detrimental impact taking place that might undermine the ongoing health and stability or visual amenity value of those trees shown for retention both on and off this site.

BH 1

Figure 1 - Flow Diagram
& Tree Survey Notes

Figure 1 The design and construction process and tree care



TREE SURVEY NOTES

These Tree Survey Notes have been prepared in accordance with the recommendations of **British Standard 5837:2012** and they define the criteria for pre –development tree surveys.

- Each tree/group/hedge/shelterbelt/woodland has been allocated a unique number (**No.**). where specifically requested and appropriate fees are agreed small durable numbered metal tags can be applied to each tree/group surveyed.
- The tree species (**Species)** is provided in both English and Latin name formats.
- Height assessments (**Ht**) are estimated in metres. This will be adequate for the majority of cases, but where accurate heights become a critical issue it may be necessary to return to site, as a separately commissioned exercise, to collect accurate measurements with the aid of optical instruments.
- Trunk/stem diameters (**Diam**) are measured in millimetres **at 1.5m above ground level** – where the tree is inaccessible the diameter is estimated as indicated by suffix #
- Radial crown spread assessments (**Brch Sprd**) are estimated in metres from the centre of the trunk/group to each of the four primary points of the compass (**N**-north**; E**-east**; S**-south and **W**-west**)** in order to achieve a representation of the crown shape which will be shown on the accompanying tree survey plan. These provide a general guide as to the main bulk outline of a tree/groups crown but **are not tape measured dimensions.** These would only be undertaken as part of a separately commissioned exercise, where precise dimensions are critical to the project at hand.
- Both the canopy ground clearance (**GC**) and the height & compass direction of the lowest major branch (**LMB**) are estimated and shown in metres
- An assessment of a tree/groups 'life stage' (**LS)** is made in terms of its site specific maturity as part of the surrounding landscape, taking into account its overall shape and form in that setting, and is recorded thus :-
  Y - Young tree/group; **SM - Semi**-Mature tree/group; **EM -** Early-Mature tree/group;
  M – Mature tree/group; **OM -** Over – mature tree/group
- Data on the structural condition (**Condition Comments)** of the tree/group is provided to give its visual appearance and any significant health and safety issues.
- Details of any recommended tree works required at the time of survey is given under the heading – **Preliminary Management Recommendations.**
- An estimate of a tree/groups remaining contribution in years (**RC)** is made and is recorded thus :- **0-5; 5-10; 10-20; 20-30; 30-40** or **>40** years**.**
- The category grading (**Cat)** for each tree/group is assessed according to the criteria provided within **BS5837:2012.** The assessment is made of the tree/group in its current condition and within the environment encountered bearing in mind its suitability for retention as part of any future proposed development; although the exact layout detail of any specific scheme will not be known at the time of surveying. The trees have been classified into one of four categories and colour coded as BS5837 recommends :- **U** (dark red); **A** (light green); **B** (mid-blue) and **C** (grey).Please note that suffixed numerical sub-categories are also applied for guidance only and do not carry any cumulative or increased value for the tree/group. This colour coding scheme will be applied to all drawings provided.

Table 1 – Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria			Colour on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention				
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years.	• Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (i.e. where, for whatever reason the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve.			**Dark Red**
Trees to be considered for retention				
	Criteria – Subcategories			
	1	**2**	**3**	
Category A **Trees of high quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual, or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and /or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	**Light Green**
Category B **Trees of moderate quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in the category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	**Mid Blue**
Category C **Trees of low quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value, and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	**Grey**

BH 2

Tree Survey & Root Protection Plans

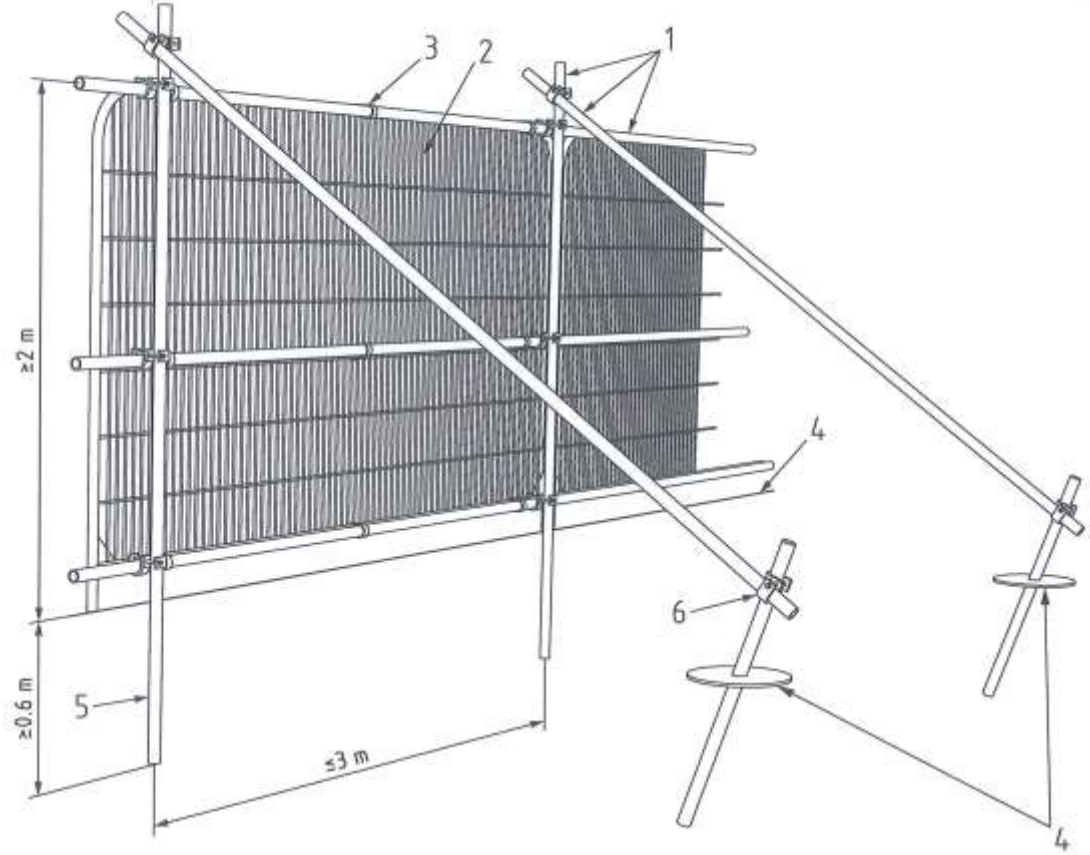
BJH 01/02

BH 3

Tree Protection Plan BJH 03/04

+ BS5837:2012 – Figure 2
+ BS5837:2012 Section 6.2.3.3

Figure 2 **Default specification for protective barrier**



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

BS5837:2012 – Section 6.2.3.3 - New temporary ground protection should be capable of supporting any traffic entering or using the site without being distorted or causing compaction of underlying soil.

Note The ground protection might comprise one of the following:

a) for pedestrian movements only, a single thickness of scaffold boards placed either on top of a driven scaffold frame, so as to form a suspended walkway, or on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 100mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane;

b) for pedestrian –operated plant up to a gross weight of 2t, proprietary, inter-linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 150mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane;

c) for wheeled or tracked construction traffic exceeding 2t gross weight, an alternative system (e.g. proprietary systems or pre-cast reinforced concrete slabs) to an engineering specification designed in conjunction with arboricultural advice, to accommodate the likely loading to which it will be subjected.

Bernie Harverson
arboricultural consultant

BH 4

Qualifications & Experience

Bernie Harverson
arboricultural consultant

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- My name is Bernie Harverson and I am a self employed independent arboricultural consultant in private practice. I take instructions primarily in the South of England but also on occasions work nationwide and abroad and have offices at : – ***10 Southleigh Grove, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 0SH***
- I hold the following arboricultural qualification – **National Diploma in Arboriculture** (***Royal Forestry Society – 1976***)
- I have **fifty-five (55)** years of practical and managerial experience in the arboricultural industry including periods in both the public and private sectors.
- My Local Government sector experience comprises one year as a tree surgeon with Brighton Parks and nine years spent in Arboricultural Officer posts with both Westminster City Council and Portsmouth City Council.
- My past practical experience in the private sector includes two years at Tilhill Forest Nursery and over ten years for various companies as a Climbing Arborist/Tree Surgeon.
- Managerial work in the private sector includes two years as manager of Beechings Tree Surgeons and twelve years with CBA Trees as Managing Director & Senior Arboricultural Consultant.
- As an independent self employed Arboricultural Consultant I now provide a comprehensive range of services including :-
  tree surveys, appraisals, assessments and inspections with particular reference to planning and development and tree safety audits with a service offered as a climber to undertake full climbing inspections to better understand the condition of a given tree before prescribing a management strategy.
- I also undertake litigation work appearing as an Expert Witness in Court Actions and at Planning Appeals, Hearings and Public Local Inquiries.

10 Southleigh Grove, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 0SH

[redacted]