Arboricultural Method Statement

Demolition of a barn and building of another
Brook Barn
Whitewell Road
Whitewell
Whitchurch
SY13 3AN

Commissioned by:	**Surveyed and reported on by:**	**Report Date:**
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1.0 Aims and requirements

1.1 This arboricultural method statement (AMS) is prepared to ensure retained trees are adequately protected before and throughout the construction phase of the development and are carried out to the required standard.

1.2 Planning permission is sought from Wrexham County Borough Council for the demolition of an existing barn and building of a new one. The Council has requested that a tree report is produced to support the planning application but after surveying the trees and seeing that none will be harmed by what is proposed, I see it as more beneficial to both the owner and the Council to produce this Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) which would most likely be conditioned with planning approval.

1.3 This arboricultural method statement brings all matters relating to the construction and trees together and is produced to guide contractors on how to carry out work close to trees and show the local planning authority that the large and important retained trees will not be harmed by what is proposed.

1.4 Construction activities close to trees have the potential to seriously damage or kill them. This AMS is produced to ensure that if followed, trees on site will not be significantly harmed by the work carried out on them.

1.5 This AMS aims to guide developers and contractors in the best way possible to protect the trees that are scheduled to be retained due to their arboricultural, landscape or ecological value. Retaining trees within a development is a purposeful act to provide high amenity to owners, break up the hard lines of buildings and add value to the properties. Retained trees are an important benefit to the development and should be treated so.

1.6 A designated person, usually the site foreman, is to be made responsible for the seeing through of this method statement. They should understand it and be happy with all aspects of its requirements. Additionally, the designated person should be able to explain to anyone working on site the need to protect retained trees and how this can be achieved. If staff or contractors act in a way that is damaging to trees then the designated person needs to be able to stop the activity and take the required disciplinary measures.

1.7 Should the correct sequence and manner of operations not be followed, it may result in damage to trees which could be held as a breach of planning consent opening up the possibility of legal consequences.

1.8 Experience has shown that the lack of timely installation of correctly designed and placed protective fencing that has been suitably secured and its retention throughout the construction phase is the primary reason for damage to retained trees. This can lead to the stoppage of work, enforcement notices, fines and expensive remediation programmes.

1.9 Although correctly placed, constructed, secured and maintained fencing prevents the majority of common problems, it does not cover every eventuality. Diligent care of the trees and thought of them is required by all those working on site.

1.10 If at any time, there appears to be a problem with trees or damage is likely to happen to then, then the work should not be carried out until the opinion of an arboriculturist is sought.

2.0 Some basic useful facts

2.1 Appendix E is a schedule of all trees found on site at the time of the tree survey. It may be useful to refer to should the category, dimensions or condition of trees is required.

2.2 Given the strong nature of wood and the impressive structure of trees it would be easy to think that they are tough organisms that can suffer much abuse. However, despite strong trunks and branches trees can easily be severely harmed. While damage to above ground parts of the tree is easy to envisage, more often than not, trees are usually damaged below ground. Here digging

through fairly fragile roots, compacting the soil in which they exist, or poisoning is easy to do and often no immediate sign of the damage can be easily detected.

2.3 Tree roots do not mirror the above ground part of the tree. In an area where good soil conditions exist, they are unlikely to be found much deeper than 1m below the ground and will often spread to twice the radius of the crown or more. Most roots are very thin.

2.4 In areas that make rooting difficult such as within the urban environment where compacted soil, foundations, paved areas and services limit natural rooting patterns then trees will adapt to best utilise whatever resources they can obtain. This may involve rooting to much deeper depths, solely in one direction or a complicated and unlikely path to reach resources.

2.5 Within the planning process trees are categorised to reflect the quality they possess in the landscape. Appendix B, taken from BS5837:2012, shows how this categorisation is attained although sometimes arboriculturists will upgrade or downgrade trees for site specific reasons. In short, the higher the category the more important it is to ensure the tree is not damaged by construction work.

2.6 A design tool called the root protection area (RPA)[1] is used by arboriculturists to show where, if all other roots outside it were to be removed, the tree could survive with no significant harm to it and enable it to continue its growth. It is calculated as an area of 12x the diameter of the trunk at 1.5m from the ground or its mathematical equivalent for multi-stemmed trees[2].

2.7 Sometimes, due to the reasons for asymmetrical rooting as described in para. 2.3, an RPA may be drawn differently to show the required area in a position where the tree can gain a good rooting potential.

2.8 RPAs are primarily set aside for the tree. They require uncompacted and healthy soil to allow air, water and nutrients to be gained by the tree. Therefore, on a construction site the RPAs are fenced off to prevent any damage to the soil or roots within it.

3.0 Avoiding damage

3.1 Soil can be easily compacted, just a few passes of a vehicle can compact pore space within a soil to begin to have a substantially negative impact on a tree. Repeated walking on the same section of soil can also have a significant impact over time. This is an important reason to fence off RPAs.

[1] BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction: recommendations, section 4.6
[2] BS5837:2012 section 4.6.1 a) & b)

3.2 As already mentioned, the designated person, usually the site foreman is responsible for the retained trees on site. They should work with those planning the work on site to ensure it is carried out carefully and logically when considering the protection of retained trees. Any operations which could damage trees should be carried out in a way that will not damage them with steps put in place to ensure this. If damage is likely and no other way is envisaged, an arboriculturist should be consulted before the operation takes place.

3.3 Breaches of planning control in relation to trees can often be very difficult, or impossible, to put right. This can result in large fines, implementation of emergency tree preservation orders, stop work notices, expensive remediation and in the case of trees covered by preservation orders criminal convictions and fines.

3.4 It is therefore imperative to correctly fence off RPAs and no attempt should be made to use them as building stores, parking or storage areas, shortcuts or refuse piles.

3.5 Should the need to enter an RPA occur, then this should be done by the responsible person, or under someone their supervision.

3.6 No trenching should occur within the RPA unless this is done using trenchless techniques. Set off and retrieval pits should be outside of any RPA.

3.7 No fire is to be lit within 10 metres of the crown of any tree. No plastics, chemical containers or items suspected of being noxious should be burnt to ensure trees are not damaged by fumes.

4.0 Sequence of events

4.1 The order of events should be:

1. Pre commencement discussions with arboriculturist
2. Tree work
3. Setting out tree protection
4. Demolition
5. Construction
6. Removal of protective fencing

4.2 The sequence of events has been drawn up to ensure trees remain protected throughout the build. Should the developer need to alter the sequence, then plans will need to be drawn up with the arboriculturist to ensure trees remain protected.

5.0 Method statement

5.1 Pre-commencement discussion with arboriculturist

1. Before any activity takes place on site, a meeting will occur between the site foreman and or person responsible for day-to-day tree protection. This will take place ideally as a site meeting but could occur as a conference call.

2. The main points of the discussion will be a run through of the method statement including:

3. The legal requirements driving the protection of the trees including the presence of statutory protection, importance of maintaining protective fencing and ensuring RPAs are not compacted or poisoned.

4. Areas for parking, storage of plant fuel and equipment as well as a mixing area.

5. Method of working to ensure trees are protected including mixing areas and any special engineering that may be specified.

6. Possible unexpected occurrences which may require actions to ensure the safety of trees. i.e. spill kits for mixing areas to quickly neutralise harmful spills.

7. Contact details for an arboriculturist should their advice be needed.

8. Any other questions or required points.

5.2 Tree work

1. No tree requires removal or any work on it to allow the development to take place.

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5.3 Setting out tree protection

1. Protective fencing is to be used to protect areas where access is temporarily forbidden to ensure soil and roots are not damaged during the construction phase of the development. Experience shows that poor attention to the timely and correct installation of protective fencing is the main reason for damage to

trees proposed for retention which can lead to the highly undesirable problems as set out in para 3.3.

2. Before any plant, machinery, site buildings or materials arrive on site, the protective fencing should be installed.

3. The protective fencing should comply with or be comparable with the specifications as set out in BS5837:2012[3]. The use of onsite features such as an existing building or natural features can help to reduce the need for fencing but the character of the barrier will need to be the same. It should not be moveable or easily breached without the use of tools.

4. The positioning of protective fencing is shown in appendix B the tree protection plan. With this, minimum distances of the protective fencing are shown in purple.

5. Every second fencing panel needs to warn of the need to maintain protective fencing around trees. Every second panel needs to have the note found in appendix E placed upon it. It will need to be laminated to ensure it does not become damaged by the weather.

6. Should the design need to be altered for site specific reasons, the approval of the project arboriculturist and local planning authority (LPA) will need to be specified in writing.

7. A check needs to be made that no RPAs will need to be entered during the building phase. Once fenced off the RPAs should remain this way.

8. Prior to any groundworks, levelling, excavation or demolition, photographs to show the fencing, how it has been made immovable and the distance from the tree should be taken. They should be sent to the project arboriculturist and to the LPA tree officer to show the fencing is in place and fit for purpose.

9. Protective fencing should remain in place and be unbreeched throughout the construction period.

10. Once all the tree protection is in place construction work can begin.

[3] BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction: recommendations Figures 2 & 3 – protective fencing. Reproduced in appendix D.

5.4 Demolition

1. The barn to be demolished is close to the important oak tree Ok1. Care of it during the demolition process will ensure it is not harmed by what occurs.

2. Given all accessible open ground around Ok1 will be protected by fencing, demolition traffic is free to move around the site on the existing hardcore.

3. A check needs to be made within the barn that no noxious chemicals, fuel, oils, liquid chemicals or agents are present. Any such material which may leak into the ground and harm the soil and roots should be removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner before demolition begins.

4. Demolition should occur from a westerly direction moving east so the digger driver can always be aware of the position of the tree and not touch it with the bucket. Demolished material to be either loaded into vehicles to the south or dragged away from the demolition site to the west.

5. Once close to the crown of the tree, a banksmans should guide demolition activity to prevent any vehicle striking branches or causing material to fall into protected RPAs.

6. The hardcore base of the barn should be left in place, as this area is likely to be used for parking and storage. It will protect any roots underneath it.

5.5 Construction

1. Deliveries of materials are to be unloaded and stored away from trees. Delivery areas should be placed in positions which are naturally easy to get to and will avoid the need for hi-abs to come into conflict with trees.

2. Builders' vehicles are to be parked in the parking area. Protective fencing is not to be moved to allow parking within protected areas.

3. A mixing area is to be designated for the mixing of all cement and preparation of all chemicals. Mixing of fuels and fuelling of all small engine machinery such as Stihl saws is to be carried out in the mixing area. It should have an impenetrable floor and a bund of at least 50mm to catch any spills. This will prevent the contamination of any tree by chemicals from the construction phase. A visquine barrier would be perfectly suitable for such a purpose.

4. Appendix A, the tree protection plan shows the location of the storage, mixing and parking areas.

5. Excavations to the north, near to the RPA of Sy4 will need to coincide with a rapid construction of the retaining wall. This will prevent a collapse of the excavated material damaging roots within the RPA. Once constructed, the rear of the retaining wall is to be filled with excavated soil to ensure no collapses occur.

6. Services for the building should enter from the south-west to avoid RPAs. Should services need to enter an RPA, then a site-specific method statement for that work will need to be produced but this does not appear to be necessary.

7. Should protective fencing be damaged it should be repaired immediately.

5.6 Removal of protective fencing

1. Protective fencing is to remain in place throughout the build. Once all construction work and hard landscaping has ceased as well as all plant, site buildings, skips building spoil and materials are removed, can protective fencing be dismantled and removed.

2. Care must be taken to not harm the soil within the RPA at this late stage. Vehicles collecting protective fencing are to remain on hard standing and strictly not enter RPAs. Pins driven into the ground to secure fencing should be drawn out cleanly without tearing into the soil and damaging roots

6 Conclusion

1. The diligent following of this method statement will ensure the trees that are to be retained on site will not be significantly damaged by the construction work.

2. Should anyone have any questions in relation to this method statement or any operation where concerns may be raised about trees, then they should firstly consult an arboriculturist.

3. Correctly following the method statement will ensure the health and longevity of retained trees. This will bring instant maturity to the site, providing a desirable place to live and work.

Appendix A

Brook Barn, Whitwell Road, Whitewell,
Whitchurch SY13 3AN

Tree Protection Plan
Showing all trees, crown dimensions, tree categories, root protection areas (RPAs) and protective fencing

SCALE : 1 : 250 @ A3

DATE : 26/03/2025

N

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This plan is to be reproduced in colour
B+W copies will not contain all information

Plan reference:
PC25/754/TCP

Legend

Protective fencing

Minimum fence distance

Crown Spread

Root Protection Area

Category 'A' Category 'B' Category 'C' Category 'U'

0 20m

Existing trees

Sy4
B

d levels to be made
g following retaining
ion to new building

15m

G3
C

New Agricultural Store and
to be offset from existing he

Fence to hedge at edge of the site

Existing barn building

hardstanding

Ok1
B

nown in orange
gn with adjacent
areas

Parking area

Existing hardstanding

Fence to protect any soil not covered by hardstanding.

Storage area

Mixing area

G2
C

rch

Brook

Appendix B Tree Catagories

Table 1 of BS5837:2012

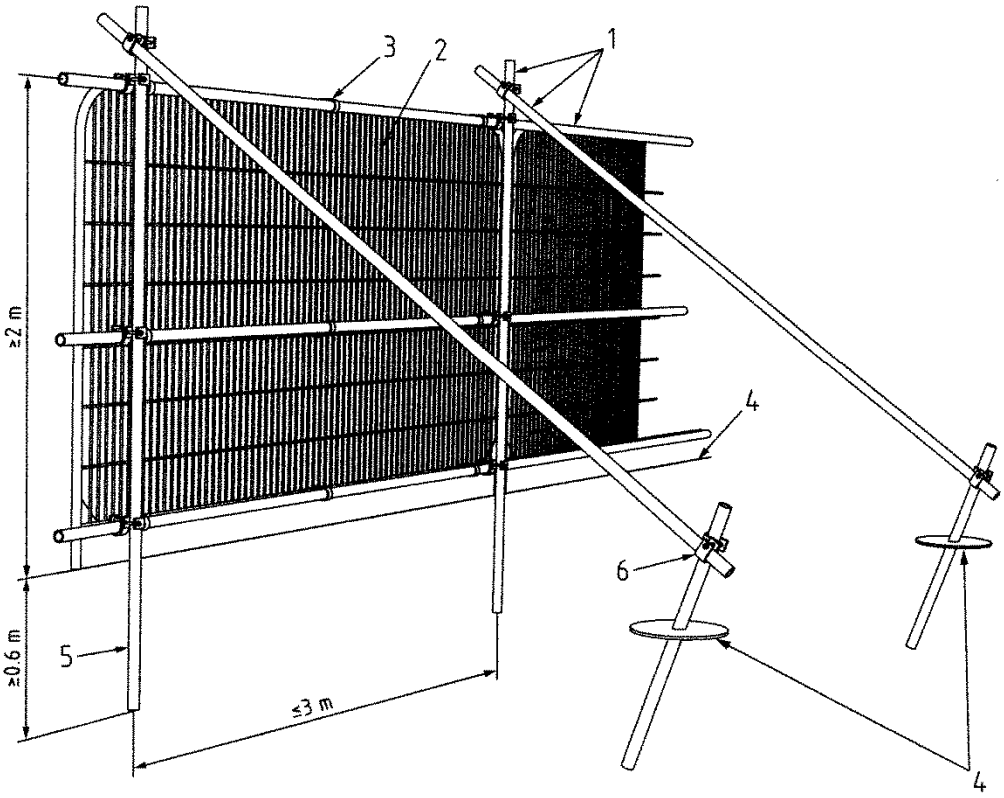
Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)				
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 (e.g. 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; see **4.5.7**.*			See Table 2
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	**2 Mainly landscape qualities**	**3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation**	
Trees to be considered for retention				
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)	See Table 2
Category B **Trees of moderate quality** with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in 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	See Table 2
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 150 mm	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	See Table 2

Appendix C

Figure 2 of BS5837:2012

Figure 2 **Default specification for protective barrier**



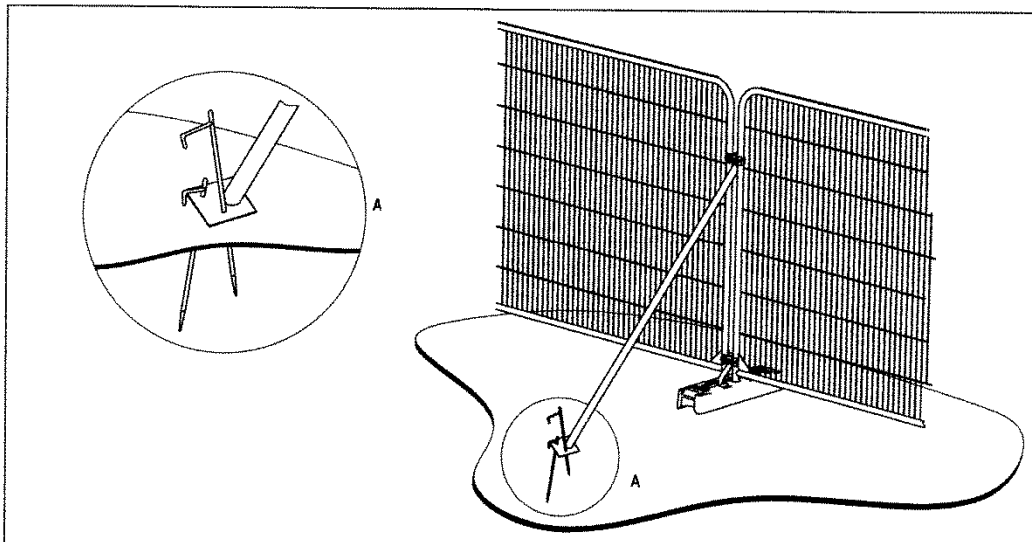
Key

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

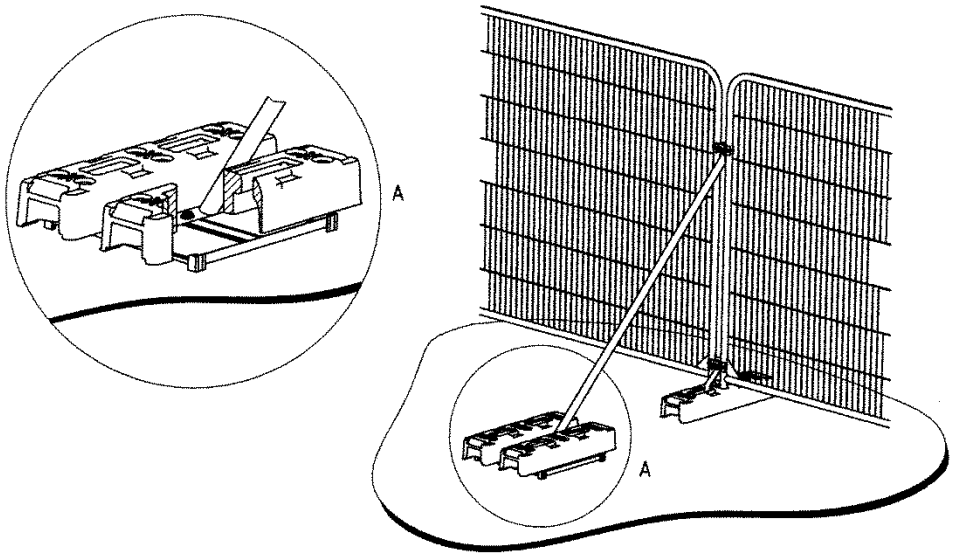
Appendix C (continued)

Figure 3 of BS5837:2012

Figure 3 **Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems**



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray



PROTECTIVE FENCING. THIS FENCING MUST BE MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED PLANS AND DRAWINGS FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT.



TREE PROTECTION AREA
KEEP OUT !

(TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)
TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY PLANNING CONDITIONS AND/OR ARE THE SUBJECTS OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER.
CONTRAVENTION OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER MAY LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

Appendix E

Tree Schedule

Tree number	Species	Height (m)	Diameter (mm)	N Crown spread (m)	E	S	W	N Crown Height (m)	E	S	W	Age bracket	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Years remaining	Quality assessment	RPA radius(m)	RPA Area (m2)	Notes
Ok1	Oak	21	925	8	0	8	8	3	3	3	3	mature	good	good	>40	B	11.1	387	0
G2	Group	15	300	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	mature	good	good	10 to 20	C	3.6	41	line of cypress
G3	Group	6	150	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	mature	good	good	10 to 20	C	1.8	10	overgorwn hedge, holly and hawathorn
Sy4	Sycamore	22	1025	11	12	13	12	4	4	4	4	mature	good	good	>40	B	12.3	475	0