Elite Ecology

Passionate about Ecology

Peggs Close,

Earl Shilton

Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Method Statement, and Tree Protection Plan

June 2025

01782 308418

www.eliteecology.co.uk
admin@eliteecology.co.uk

Part of Harmil Environmental Ltd.
Company Reg Number: 11310919
Company VAT Number: 320559225

The New Barn, Suites 2/3, Shellow Lane,
Gawsworth, Cheshire, CW12 2FQ

Document Control			
Document Properties			
Organisation	Elite Ecology		
Prepared For	Mr. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council		
Author	Mr. David Whitehead		
Approved (1st Checker)	Mr. Marek Fraczek		
Approved (2nd Checker)	Mr. Richard Millington		
Title	Peggs Close, Earl Shilton Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Method Statement, and Tree Protection Plan		
Version History			
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes
03/06/2025	V1	First Draft	Initial Draft
04/06/2025	V1	Final Report	Proofread

0. Executive Summary

0.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. Elite Ecology were commissioned to undertake an arboricultural impact assessment at Peggs Close, Earl Shilton, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE9 7BP (Central OS Grid Reference: SP 46890 97594). This survey effort involved both a desktop study and field survey being undertaken.

0.2 The Arboricultural Impact Assessment has determined that one of the subject trees (**T8**) will require removal to facilitate the proposed development. Several other trees have been identified as requiring works within their respective Root Protection Areas (RPAs). However, these trees can be retained and appropriately protected throughout the construction process. All recorded trees, with the exception of **T8**, are considered suitable for retention with adequate mitigation. The assessment has identified potential impacts on retained trees and outlined the necessary works to accommodate the proposal. Trees affected by the development are detailed in the affected tree schedule in **Section 2.3.4** and are also referenced in the amended tree data table included as **Appendix D.**

0.3 The impacts identified were:

- Potential for damage to root systems from accidental intrusion into the RPA.
- Potential for damage to root systems from soil compaction, excavation, hard-surface removal, and new surface installation.
- Minor loss of canopy cover and amenity value via tree loss.

0.4 An Arboricultural Method Statement has been produced specifically for the site and should be implemented in order to prevent any unnecessary damage occurring to trees where works are required within the RPA.

0.5 Two tree protection drawings showing necessary tree protection measures have been produced and are provided within **Appendices A** and **B**. The tree constraints and Protection Drawings should be used in conjunction with this report and its associated recommendations and methodologies.

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Report Rationale

This report has been prepared at the request of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. Elite Ecology were commissioned to undertake an arboricultural impact assessment at Peggs Close, Earl Shilton, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE9 7BP (Central OS Grid Reference: SP 46890 97594). This survey effort involved both a desktop study and field survey being undertaken.

Elite Ecology is a multi-disciplinary ecological and arboricultural consultancy practice which operates nationwide for its clients on a multitude of ecological and arboricultural projects since 2015. The author of this document, **Mr. David Whitehead**, is a time served climbing arborist and arboriculturist with over twenty years of experience within the arboricultural industry, and is currently qualified to RQF Level 4, Foundation Certificate - Arboriculture and Tree Management, holds the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspectors qualification. David is also a QTRA trained and registered user. The overseer of this document, **Mr. Richard Millington**, ACIEEM, MRSB, MArborA, is a Company Director, and is currently qualified to RQF level 6 with a BSc (Hons) in Ecology and Conservation Management.

1.2 Purpose

1.2.1 This report was carried out in accordance with BS5837 (2012) "*Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction".* The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of the impact that the development proposals will incur on the trees and local amenity, and the potential impacts of the trees upon the proposals.

1.2.2 The report provides professional advice and recommendations in order to ease any conflicts and to help devise a suitable proposal that considers the tree population at the site.

1.2.3 This report is intended to be a counterpart to the BS5837 Tree Survey Report that was produced in May 2025. It is intended that they be submitted to the planning authority together.

1.2.4 The report also provides critical information relating to the protection and preservation of subject trees that are to be retained at the site.

1.3 Site Description

1.3.1 The site is located within a residential area and comprises approximately six blocks of flats, the majority of which are currently vacant or disused. Situated to the north of the site is a car parking area providing vehicular access and circulation space.

The site benefits from a diverse and well-established tree population, containing multiple significant specimens that offer considerable amenity value within the local streetscape and wider landscape. Tree species include ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), birch (*Betula spp*.), field maple (*Acer campestre*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hornbeam *(Carpinus betulus*), lime (*Tilia spp*.), maple (*Acer spp*.), oak (*Quercus spp*.), and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

Trees across the site vary in size and maturity but are predominantly semi-mature to early-mature, presenting with well-structured forms, balanced crown architecture, and an overall good physiological and structural condition. The majority have been categorised as Category B1, with a number of notable specimens falling within Category A1, reflecting their individual quality and collective contribution to the site's character and the local visual amenity.

Figure 1: Aerial View of the site taken from Google Maps.

Figure 2: Photograph of the existing site area.

2. Arboricultural Impact Assessment

2.1 Proposal Overview

2.1.1 The Peggs Close redevelopment site is situated near the centre of the town of Earl Shilton.

The proposal is to construct a total of twenty-one properties consisting of ten No. 2B4P houses, five No.3B5P houses, and six No. 1B2P flats.

This project will provide a replacement for the existing three storey accommodation, spread over three blocks. These currently consist of a mixture of one and two bed flats along with a ground floor community centre. The development will modernise facilities, improve energy efficiency, and utilise the land more effectively.

2.2 Documents and References

2.2.1 Elite Ecology has liaised with the client – Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, and project architects – Pelham Architects, throughout the production of this report in order to attain an adequate understanding of the proposal so as to be able to assess the impacts and provide suitable guidance and recommendations for the protection of any subject trees affected.

2.2.2 The following documents have been used to inform this report:

- BS5837 Tree Survey Report – **Elite Ecology**
- Tree Constraints Drawing – **Elite Ecology** – **EEARB0135**
- Architectural Drawings – **Pelham Architects** – **2724/SK300**

2.3 Potential Impacts Identified

2.3.1 Potential Impacts Identified are:

- Potential for damage to root systems from accidental intrusion into the RPA.
- Potential for damage to root systems from soil compaction, excavation, hard-surface removal, and new surface installation.
- Minor loss of canopy cover and amenity value via tree loss.

2.3.2 **Potential Impacts and Arboricultural Considerations:**

- **Accidental Intrusion into Root Protection Areas (RPAs):**
  Unsupervised access and unplanned ground disturbance within the RPAs pose a significant risk to retained trees, with the potential to cause direct root damage that may adversely affect tree health, structural stability, and long-term viability. To mitigate this, strict adherence to protective fencing and construction exclusion zones is essential throughout both the demolition and development phases. The subject trees are considered particularly vulnerable during these stages of activity.

- **Soil Compaction and Excavation Works:**
  Construction activities involving excavation, site grading, or the use of heavy machinery can result in localised soil compaction. This reduces soil porosity and limits the availability of oxygen and water to tree roots, thereby impeding root function and increasing physiological stress. Several of the surveyed trees have been identified as being susceptible to root damage from both landscaping works and the formation of new foundations or landscaped areas.

- **Canopy Loss Arising from Tree Removal:**
  In instances where minor canopy loss is unavoidable due to the removal of a tree to facilitate the proposed works, compensatory planting and landscaping measures should be implemented to ensure the continuity of tree cover and amenity value across the site. At present, one tree has been identified for removal. This loss should be mitigated by appropriate species replacement and integrated into the overall site landscape strategy.

2.3.3 Schedule of Trees Affected by the Proposal:

The level of impact shown in the table below is based on criteria encompassing the overall magnitude, significance, prominence, and quality of the subject tree. Furthermore, the evaluation encompasses the perceived impact of any associated works on physiological health, structural stability, as well as potential loss of landscape, amenity, and aesthetic value.

TREE ID	AFFECTED AREA	LEVEL OF IMPACT	IMPACT DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION
T8: Common lime (*Tilia* × *europaea*)	-	CAT B1 – Moderate –Tree loss	Tree Removed	**Replacement planting at 3:1 ratio**
T3: Whitebeam (*Sorbus subg. Aria*)	Eastern aspect of RPA	CAT B1 – Minor - Minimal conflict	Minor works for soft landscaping within periphery RPA	**Protective fencing/ exclusion**
T4: Whitebeam (*Sorbus subg. Aria*)	South-eastern aspect of RPA	CAT B1 – Minor - Minimal conflict	Minor works for soft landscaping within periphery RPA	**Protective fencing/ exclusion**
T5: Silva maple (*Acer saccharinum*)	Eastern aspect of RPA	CAT A1 – Moderate – Conflict with periphery RPA (eastern aspect)	Excavation for foundations required within periphery RPA	**Method statement and suitable foundation design (pile and beam)**
T6: Common lime (*Tilia* × *europaea*)	RPA	CAT B1 – Minor – Changes to existing hard-surfacing	Soft landscaping and changes to existing hard-surfacing required within RPA	**Method statement**
T7: Common hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)	RPA	CAT B1 – Minor – Changes to existing hard-surfacing	Soft landscaping and changes to existing hard-surfacing required within RPA	**Method statement**
T9: Common hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)	RPA	CAT A1 – Moderate – Soft landscaping and changes to hard-surfacing within RPA	Soft landscaping and changes to existing hard-surfacing required within RPA	**Method statement**
T10: Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)	Southern aspect of RPA	CAT A1 – Moderate – Changes to hard-surfaces and excavation for foundations within RPA	Changes to hard-surfaces and excavation for foundations within RPA	**Method statement**

G2: Mixed species group	Southern aspect of RPA	Cat B2 – Minor – Minor works required at periphery of RPA's	Landscaping and excavation required within periphery RPA's (southern aspect)	**Method statement**
G1: Silver birch (*Betula pendula*)	RPA	CAT A2 – Moderate - Works required at periphery of RPA	Landscaping and excavation required within periphery RPA's	**Method statement**

2.4 Excavations/Works Within the RPA

2.4.1 T3 and T4: Whitebeam (*Sorbus subg. Aria*) - CAT B1

Minor works are proposed within the eastern and south-eastern portions of the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of the respective subject trees. These works primarily involve soft landscaping and minor re-profiling to facilitate the creation of amenity garden spaces. Provided that all activities are undertaken in accordance with an appropriate, arboriculturally-sensitive methodology—as outlined in the accompanying method statement—these operations can be implemented without causing significant harm to the health, stability, or long-term viability of the affected trees.

2.4.2 T5: Silva Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) – CAT A1

The eastern portion of the Root Protection Area (RPA) of **T5** is expected to be affected during both the demolition and construction phases of the proposed development. While the presence of existing built structures and hard surfacing within this area is likely to have previously constrained root development—thereby reducing the likelihood of significant root mass being present—precautionary measures should still be adopted. Appropriate mitigation, including adherence to the methodology outlined in the accompanying Arboricultural Method Statement and the use of a suitably sensitive foundation design, will be essential to minimise the risk of adverse impacts on any roots that may be encountered.

2.4.3 T6: Common Lime (*Tilia × europaea*) and T7: Common Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) – CAT B1

Both subject trees, **T6** and **T7**, are anticipated to experience changes to the surrounding surface environment that currently overlies their respective Root Protection Areas (RPAs). At present, both trees are located within a limited area of unsurfaced ground. Provided that this unsurfaced buffer is retained in its current condition, and that any alterations to adjacent hard surfacing are implemented in accordance with an appropriate arboricultural methodology, no adverse impact on the physiological or structural condition of the trees is expected.

2.4.4 T9: Common Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)

T9 is currently situated within a limited area of undisturbed grassland, with portions of its Root Protection Area (RPA) partially overlain by existing footpaths. Provided that the current soil environment within the grassed area is preserved and any modifications to surrounding hard surfacing are carried out using a suitable non-invasive methodology, no significant impact on the health or structural integrity of the tree is anticipated as a result of the proposed development.

2.4.5 **T10: Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)**

T10 is expected to be affected by proposed foundation works and new hard surfacing within the south-eastern and south-western extents of its Root Protection Area (RPA). However, provided that an appropriate arboriculturally-sensitive methodology is followed and a suitable foundation design is adopted—minimising potential root disturbance—the tree is not anticipated to experience any detrimental impact as a result of the proposed works.

2.4.6 **G2: Mixed Species Group – CAT B2**

Group **G2** will be affected by proposed landscaping works associated with the creation of amenity garden areas. Additionally, peripheral sections of the Root Protection Areas (RPAs), particularly to the north-eastern aspect of the group, may be subject to minor disturbance from excavation works related to foundation construction. These impacts are anticipated to be minimal, and, provided that all works are carried out in accordance with a sensitive and appropriate arboricultural methodology, no significant adverse effects on the health or stability of the subject trees are expected.

2.4.7 **G1: Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)**

G1 comprises a small group of four silver birch trees located in close proximity to the existing buildings proposed for demolition. The Root Protection Area (RPA) of this group is currently dissected by a masonry boundary wall, and the proposed development is expected to involve demolition activities, soft landscaping, and localised excavation within the RPA. While the anticipated impacts are limited to the peripheral edges of the RPA, the implementation of a carefully controlled and arboriculturally-sensitive methodology will be essential to ensure that no significant adverse effects occur to the trees within this group.

2.5 Tree Removals, Retention, and Access Facilitation Pruning

2.5.1 **The current proposal necessitates the removal of T8 to facilitate the development**. However, the proposed layout includes extensive new tree and shrub planting as part of the soft landscaping scheme, which is considered sufficient to offset the impact of these removals and maintain the site's overall amenity and green infrastructure value.

2.5.2 All other subject trees recorded on the site can be retained and protected as part of the proposed development. Protective measures as advised, should be implemented in accordance with BS 5837:2012 and arboricultural best practices to ensure their preservation during construction activities.

2.5.3 Access to the site will be provided through the existing access points, with no requirement for additional access arrangements. Furthermore, no pruning or other interventions are necessary for trees on or around the site to facilitate access.

2.5.4 The BS 5837 tree schedule and data table has been amended to show all trees that are to be removed/retained and is included within the appendices section of this report.

2.6 Other Considerations

2.6.1 Amenity value and Area Character

The current proposal does not involve the removal of any significant subject trees or tree groups of trees at the site. As such, the existing tree population, which contributes significantly to the site's amenity, ecological value, and overall landscape character, is anticipated to remain unaffected by the proposed development.

2.6.2 Post Development Pressure

There is considered to be negligible potential for post-development pressure in relation to future tree pruning or removal at this site. The proposed layout allows for adequate separation between retained trees and built structures, thereby minimising the likelihood of conflicts arising that would necessitate unsympathetic arboricultural intervention. None of the trees recorded on site are currently subject to statutory protection, such as Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) or Conservation Area status. As such, no formal consent is required for any proposed tree works or removals.

2.6.3 Exasperation of Climatic Conditions – Soils

Any subject trees to be retained at the site can be expected to further develop and obtain a large and mature stature in the future. Trees are responsible for considerable water uptake from the soil environment adjacent to the proposed structures. Seasonal climatic changes in temperature directly affect soil volume, and the water uptake of trees can significantly exasperate this effect. The proximity of mature trees to any proposed foundation should be a primary consideration and should be assessed by an engineer.

2.6.4 The Effects of Tree Removals on Neighbouring Trees

Tree growth and structural development are naturally optimised in response to environmental conditions, including prevailing wind exposure. The stability of individual trees is influenced by factors such as root development and timber density, which are in turn shaped by their proximity to neighbouring trees. The removal of trees that currently provide wind shelter can result in retained trees being left in exposed positions to which they are not structurally adapted, potentially increasing the risk of windthrow or failure. As no significant tree removals are proposed as part of the current development, no additional exposure-related impacts are anticipated.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Tree Works

3.1.1 **It is recommended that T8 be removed to facilitate the proposed development.** All tree works should be undertaken in accordance with the guidance set out in *BS3998:2010 – Tree Work – Recommendations* and carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced arboricultural contractor.

3.1.2 Consideration should be given to nesting birds and wildlife. The official bird nesting season is March to August, inclusive. However, if the tree works are to be carried out within the bird nesting season, then an inspection of the trees should be carried out by the arborist to ensure that there is no nesting activity. It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to disturb nesting birds. If nesting birds are found to be present, then the works should cease until an inspection by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist has been undertaken, the chicks have successfully fledged the nest, or the works carried out at a later date outside of the nesting season

3.2 Tree Protection Before, During, and After the Development

3.2.1 **Following full approval from the Local Planning Authority and the completion of all proposed tree works, the tree protection measures outlined below should be implemented to safeguard the retained trees both within and surrounding the site.** At present, all trees on site (with the exception of **T8**) are to be retained. These trees are detailed in the amended tree schedule provided in **Appendix D**, where they are clearly highlighted in green.

3.2.2 **It is recommended that all retained trees be safeguarded by robust tree protection fencing, positioned in accordance with the specifications illustrated on the Tree Protection Plan.** Protective measures and fencing locations have been specifically tailored to suit both the demolition and construction phases of the project and are illustrated on two separate drawings provided for each respective stage.

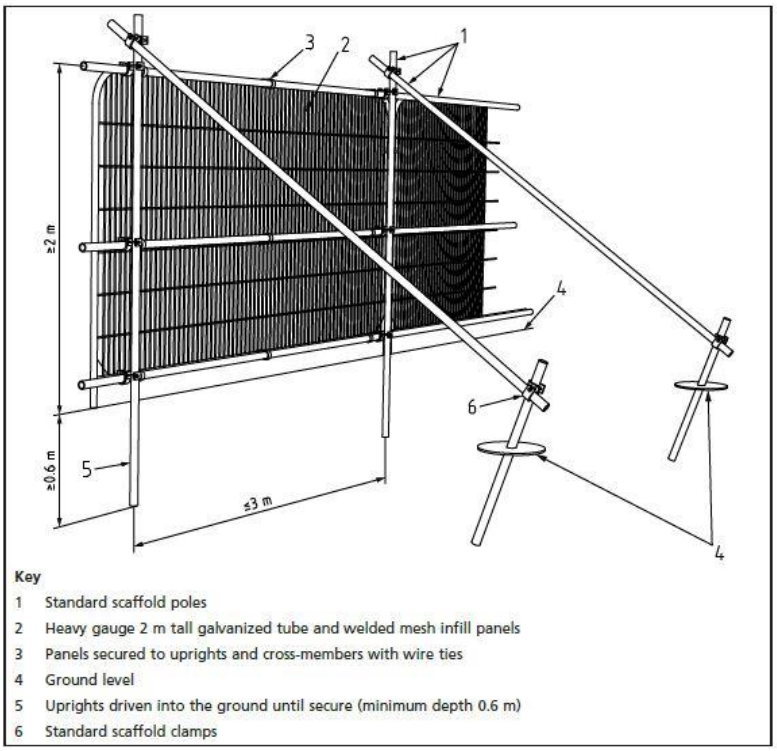
3.2.3 **Where works within a Root Protection Area (RPA) are required, this will be clearly indicated on the Tree Protection Plan**. All such works must be undertaken in strict accordance with the procedures set out in the accompanying Arboricultural Method Statement. Where specified or conditioned by the local planning authority, arboricultural supervision should be implemented to ensure compliance and minimise the risk of damage to retained trees.

3.2.4 Protection fencing and RPA's have been displayed and recommended locations for tree protection fencing indicated on the tree protection drawing as a red dashed line. Drawing Reference: **EEARB0135.1 and EEARB0135.2**.

3.2.5 Protective fencing should be of a suitably robust construction. It is recommended that a **HERAS** type fencing is used and should be of the following approximate dimensions.

- Height: 2m.
- Width: 3.5m.

Figures 3 and 4: Examples of suitable protective fencing construction to be used at the site, and appropriate signage.



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

3.3 Prohibited Activities Within or Close to the RPA of Retained Trees

3.3.1 Regardless of circumstances, it is recommended that the following activities will be prohibited within an RPA:

a) No fires should be lit on the site within 10m of the nearest section of tree canopy for any retained tree. This is prevalent for all trees located on site and adjacent to the proposal site.
b) No equipment, signage, or fencing shall be attached to or be supported by any retained tree on or adjacent to the application site.
c) There will be no temporary access into the root protection areas (RPA's) unless approved by the project Arboriculturist and written approval (if required) from the local planning authority (LPA) has been obtained.
d) No mixing of cement or dispensing of fuels or chemicals is to occur within 10m of the tree stem for any retained tree. This is prevalent for all trees located on site and adjacent to the proposal site.
e) No soakaways are to be routed within the RPA of any retained tree that is on or adjacent to the site.
f) No topsoil, excavation, or re-profiling works are to be undertaken within the RPA of any retained tree that is on or adjacent to the application site without a suitable assessment and methodology.
g) No storage of materials is to occur within the RPA of any retained tree on or adjacent to the site. This includes, but is not limited to, topsoil and building materials.
h) No variations to any approved tree protection schemes shall be carried out without obtaining the prior written approval of the local planning authority and project arboriculturist.

3.4 Arboricultural Supervision and Site Monitoring

3.4.1 It is recommended that the works are monitored and supervised by a project arboriculturist. At a minimum this should consist of three site inspection visits. Firstly, to ensure that tree protection measures and recommendations have been implemented at the site prior to any works commencing. Secondly, an inspection during the mid-stage of the project to ensure that tree protection measures have been maintained and are situated as recommended and no breach has occurred. Finally, an inspection at the end of the project to confirm that the measures are no longer required and may be dismantled.

3.4.2 For works identified close to or within a root protection area. Then arboricultural supervision should be employed to supervise the works and ensure that the methodology presented within the method statement is followed.

3.4.3 The following arboricultural inspection, monitoring, and supervision schedule is recommended as a minimal standard, and has been prepared for the project. The schedule shall only be implemented if approved and/or conditioned by the local authority and agreed with the client.

Arboricultural Inspection, Monitoring and Supervision Schedule		
Timing	**Description**	**Purpose**
Prior to any project works commencing.	Site inspection of recommended tree protection measures	To ensure tree protection measures are installed and are suitable for purpose
Approximate mid-stage of project (to be agreed with client)	Site inspection of recommended tree protection measures	To ensure tree protection measures are maintained, suitable for purpose, and no breaches have occurred
At the end of the project	Site inspection	To confirm that the tree protection measures are no longer required and can be dismantled
Where Agreed	Supervision of works within an RPA	To ensure correct methodology such as root pruning is implemented

3.4.4. Following each intervention a written statement shall be produced and provided to the local authority confirming that all relevant works and protection measures have been implemented, inspected, and/ or supervised. Any breaches of the protection measures or damages caused to trees shall be reported to the local authority.

4. Arboricultural Method Statement

4.1 The Use of Arboricultural Method Statement

4.1.1 The following methodology and guidance has been prepared specifically for the proposed development at Peggs Close, Earl Shilton, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE9 7BP (Central OS Grid Reference: SP 46890 97594). It is not intended to be used for any other works on or around the site or for any other proposal that differs from that outlined in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, please see **Section 2.1 – Proposal Overview**.

4.1.2 The Arboricultural Method Statement should be read in conjunction with the tree protection drawing that has been produced for the site, referenced as: **EEARB0135.1 and EEARB0135.2**. The tree protection drawing has been provided in **Appendix A** of this report and also as a separate PDF file. This should be printed at the annotated scale shown.

4.2 Pre-commencement Meeting

4.2.1 It is advised that a pre-commencement site meeting is held with contractors who are responsible for operating machinery and vehicles on site. The meeting will firstly highlight the potential damages that can be caused when operating machinery within close proximity to the crowns, stems and root protection areas of retained trees, but thereafter emphasise the importance of careful manoeuvring of machinery and vehicles close to these protected areas. The use of “banksmen” as guides for machinery and vehicle drivers is also to be strongly recommended and implemented. The meeting will also highlight the importance of the root protection areas and the rules surrounding such along with the recommended protections measures.

4.2.2 The timing and phasing of works shall be as follows:

1. Prior to any work commencing all recommended and necessary tree works, having full approval from the local authority, shall be completed in accordance with all the guidance and recommendations that have been provided.

2. A site meeting shall be held to familiarise all parties with the relevant project information.

3. Prior to any development work commencing, all tree protection measures shall be installed at the site and approved by the project arboriculturist.

4. The development works shall begin, and the proposed works shall commence with supervision from the project arboriculturist where agreed.

5. The appointed contractor shall complete the works in accordance with the approved design specification.

6. The client and project architects shall confirm that the works are complete and that no further works including remedial works are required.

7. The project arboriculturist shall approve the removal of the tree protection measures.

4.3 Arboricultural Method Statement for the Setting Out and Installation of Tree Protection Fencing

4.3.1 **Introduction:** This method statement outlines the procedures for setting out and installing tree protection fencing (TPF) in accordance with best arboricultural practices and BS 5837:2012 - "Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction – Recommendations." The objective is to ensure the protection of retained trees from construction-related damage.

4.3.2 Prior to any project works commencing, all recommended tree protection measures for the site as stated in the recommendations section of this report, shall be installed in the designated areas as shown on the tree protection drawings. Where agreed with the client, and/or conditioned by the local authority, a site inspection shall be carried out by the appointed arboriculturist prior to any works commencing to ensure that the recommended tree protection measures have been implemented and are fit for purpose. Where agreed, further inspections shall be carried out to ensure the maintenance and function of the protection measures as per the arboricultural inspection, supervision and monitoring schedule provided.

4.3.3 **Scope of Works:** The works covered in this statement include:

- Marking out the position of the tree protection fencing.
- Installing the fencing as per the approved plans.
- Maintaining the fencing throughout the construction period.
- Removal of fencing upon completion of construction activities.

4.3.4 **Responsibilities**

- **Arboricultural Consultant:** Oversees and advises on tree protection measures.
- **Site Manager:** Ensures the fencing is installed and maintained as per this method statement.
- **Contractor:** Installs and maintains the fencing in accordance with the agreed specifications.

4.3.5 **Methodology** - **Pre-installation Works.**

- A review of the Tree Protection Plan (TPP) and site layout will be conducted to determine the correct fencing locations. **Dwg Ref: EEARB0135.1 and EEARB0135.2**
- Mark out the tree protection area on site using stakes or biodegradable paint.
- Ensure all fencing positions align with the Root Protection Areas (RPA) or canopy edges as defined in the TPP.

4.3.6 **Installation of Tree Protection Fencing**

- The fencing will be installed in accordance with BS 5837:2012 recommendations.
- The default specification is a **Heras-type fencing system** secured to driven scaffold poles at 3m intervals with stabilizing struts where necessary.
- Alternative fencing (e.g., welded mesh panels) may be used if agreed upon by the arboricultural consultant.
- Fixed signage reading **"Tree Protection Area – No Entry"** will be attached to the fencing at regular intervals.

4.3.7 **Maintenance of Tree Protection Fencing**

- The fencing will remain in place for the duration of the works and must not be moved or altered without prior approval.
- Regular inspections will be carried out to ensure the fencing remains intact and effective.
- Any damage to the fencing will be repaired immediately.

4.3.8 **Removal of Tree Protection Fencing**

- The fencing will only be removed upon completion of all construction activities and following consultation with the arboricultural consultant.
- A final inspection will be conducted to confirm that tree protection measures have been adhered to.

4.3.9 **Monitoring, Compliance, and Completion**

- Where agreed with the client or conditioned by the local authority, the arboricultural consultant will conduct periodic site visits to ensure compliance.
- A site log of inspections and any maintenance activities related to the tree protection fencing will be maintained and provided to the local authority upon request.
- The tree protection measures will only be removed when the works have been completed and approved by the client, project architect, and the project arboriculturist.

4.4 Arboricultural Method Statement for Works Within the Root Protection Area

4.4.1 **Introduction:** This Method Statement outlines the procedures and precautions required to carry out works within the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of retained trees in accordance with BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*, and current best practice. The operations include soft landscaping (tree and hedge planting, lawn installation, and garden creation), excavation within RPAs, removal of existing hard surfacing, and the installation of new hard surfacing. All works are to be carried out under arboricultural supervision where specified.

4.4.2 General Precautions and Supervision

- Prior to any works within RPAs, protective fencing as shown on the tree protection plan must be installed and maintained throughout the duration of the project.
- Any access into RPAs outside fenced zones must be agreed in advance and supervised by the project arboriculturist.
- Machinery access within RPAs must be avoided unless specifically allowed via temporary ground protection measures (e.g. interlinked ground protection boards over a compressible layer or cellular confinement systems).

4.4.3 Soft Landscaping within RPAs

Tree and Hedge Planting

- All planting pits within RPAs shall be **manually excavated** using hand tools or an air-spade to avoid root damage.
- Pits shall be dug no deeper than the root-ball of the plant to avoid disturbing deeper root systems of retained trees.
- Where significant roots (>25mm diameter) are encountered, the pit location should be adjusted to avoid severance.
- Imported topsoil must conform to BS3882:2015 standards and be carefully placed to avoid smothering existing roots or altering natural soil levels.

Lawn and Amenity Garden Creation

- Preparation of lawn or planting beds must avoid deep cultivation. Use shallow topsoil application over existing ground, ensuring no more than 100mm depth over unaltered ground within RPAs.
- No rotary tillers or mechanical cultivators are to be used within RPAs.
- Soil ameliorants or compost must not be excessive or alkaline and must not alter existing soil pH or hydrology.

4.4.4 **Excavation Works Within RPAs**

- **All excavation within RPAs must be conducted using hand tools or an air-spade**. Mechanical excavation is strictly prohibited unless supervised and authorised.

- Where roots <25mm are encountered, they may be cleanly pruned using sharp, sterilised tools. Roots >25mm must only be cut with arboricultural approval and only where absolutely necessary.

- Excavation depth must be the minimum required for the proposed installation.

- Exposed roots should be covered immediately with damp hessian or soil to prevent desiccation and temperature stress.

- No concrete, cement washings, or fuel/oil shall be stored or discharged within RPAs.

4.4.5 **Removal of Existing Hard Surfaces within RPAs**

- Removal of existing surfacing (e.g. paving, tarmac, concrete) must be carried out **manually** or using light tools, with care taken not to damage underlying roots.
- Surfaces should be broken up in sections and lifted away rather than excavated.
- Any roots found beneath the surface must be preserved in situ wherever possible.
- If roots are exposed, they must be covered promptly with damp sacking or backfilled with sharp sand and topsoil.

4.4.6 **Installation of New Hard Surfaces within RPAs**

- Where hard surfacing (e.g. pathways, patios) is required within an RPA, a “no-dig” construction method must be used.

  A typical no-dig solution involves:

- Laying a geotextile membrane over the existing ground.
- Installing a cellular confinement system (e.g. CellWeb, Geoweb) infilled with clean, angular stone (4–20mm) to create a load-bearing base.
- Edging must be above ground or secured with pins; no kerbing requiring excavation is permitted.
- A permeable surface finish (e.g. porous asphalt, resin-bound gravel, or gravel with fines) should be applied to allow air and water infiltration.
- Surface construction must not alter existing soil levels or water movement within the RPA.

4.4.7 **Monitoring and Compliance**

- All works within RPAs must be monitored by the project arboriculturist where specified in planning conditions or as recommended in the Arboricultural Supervision Schedule.

- A record of all root encounters, pruning actions, and deviations from this method statement must be documented.

- Any unforeseen root issues must be reported immediately to the arboriculturist before works proceed.

5. References

Arboricultural Practice Note 12: (2007) *Through the Trees to Development*. Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service.

Bat Conservation Trust (2023). Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines. 4th Edition. Bat Conservation Trust: London

British Standard BS 3998: (2010) *Tree Work-Recommendations*.

British Standard BS 5837: (2012) *Trees in Relation to Construction.*

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (c.37). London: HMSO.

Health and Safety Executive (revised 2006) *Essentials of Health and Safety at Work.* HSE Books.

Helliwell, D.R. and Fordham, S.F. (1992) Tree Roots and Tree Growth.

Lonsdale, D. (1999) *Principles of tree hazard assessment and management*, Research for amenity trees No. 2. HMSO, London.

Mattheck, C. and Belier, H. (1994) *The body language of trees.* Research for amenity trees No. 4. HMSO, London.

Mynors C. (2002) *The Law of Trees Forests and Hedgerows.* Sweet and Maxwell

National Tree Safety Group (2011) *Common sense risk management of trees*. The Forestry Commission, Edinburgh.

Planning Practice Guidance – *Tree Preservation Order and trees in conservation areas* – 2014

Shigo, A. L. (1989) *A new tree biology*. Shigo and Trees Associates, Durham, New Hampshire.

Stouts R. G. and Winter T. G. (1994) *Diagnosis of ill-health in trees*, Research for amenity trees No. 2. HMSO, London.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Ammendment). SI 2017/1012.

Watson, G. and Green T. (2011) *Fungi on trees*. Arboricultural Association, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments) (c.69). London: HMSO.

6. Appendices

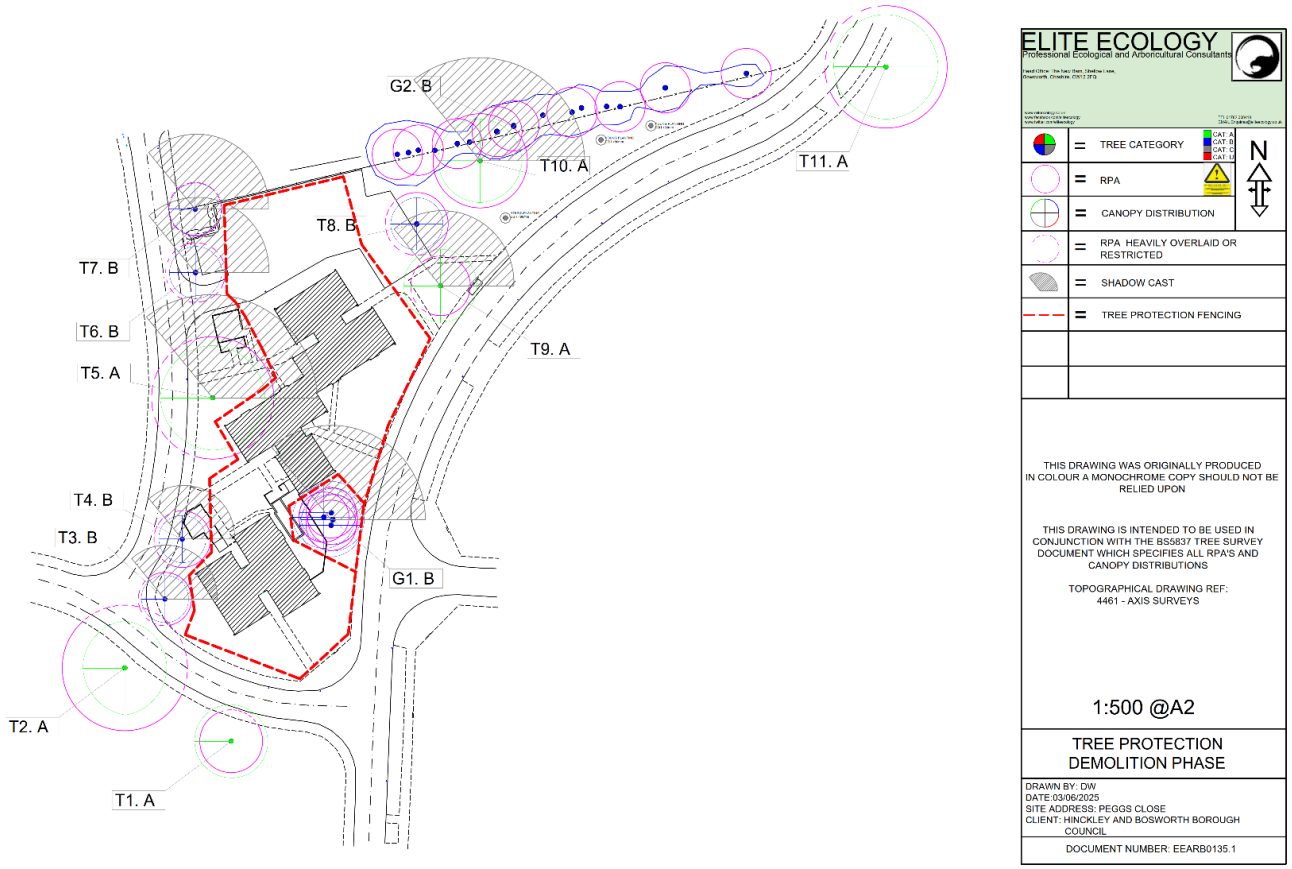
Appendix A: Tree Protection Drawing – Demolition Stage

Appendix B: Tree Protection Drawing – Development Stage

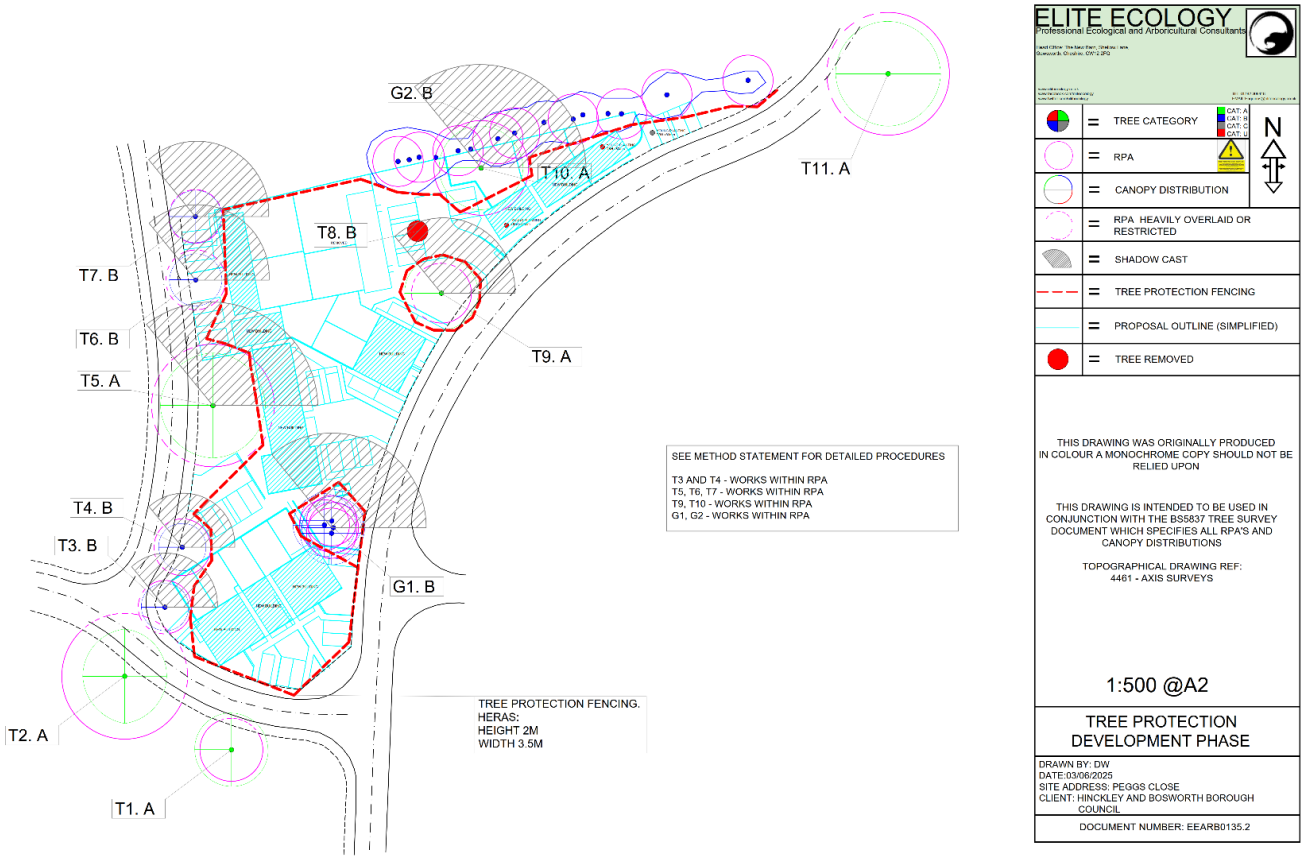
Appendix C: Project Design

Appendix D: Full Tree Schedule

Appendix A: Tree Protection Drawing – Demolition Phase



Appendix B: Tree Protection Drawing – Development Phase



Appendix C: Project Design

Appendix D: Full Tree Schedule

Trees affected by the development are highlighted in red for removals and green for retention.

Tree No.	Species	Tree Category (U/A/B/C)	Life Stage (Y/SM/EM/M/OM)	Condition (Good/Fair/Poor/Dead)	Number of Stems	Height (m)	Branch Spread (m)				Lowest Significant First Branch (m)	Stem at Breast Height (mm)	Remaining Contribution (years*)	Root Protection Area (m^2)	Root Protection Radius (m)	Observations
							N	E	S	W						
T1	Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)	A1	SM	Good	1	14	7	7	7	7	2.5N	500	40+	113	6	RETAINED
T2	English oak (*Quercus robur*)	A1	EM	Good	1	18	9	8	9	8	4E	1000	40+	452	12	

T3	Whitebeam (*Sorbus subg. Aria*)	B1	SM	Good	1	10	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	2S	425	20+	81	5.1	RETAINED Works within RPA required
T4	Whitebeam (*Sorbus subg. Aria*)	B1	SM	Good	1	10	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	2E	450	20+	92	5.4	RETAINED Works within RPA required
T5	Silva maple (*Acer saccharinum*)	A1	M	Good	1	20	10	10	10	10	5S	975	40+	430	11.7	RETAINED Works within RPA required
T6	Common lime (*Tilia × europaea*)	B1	SM	Good	1	14	5	5	5	5	3N	475	20+	102	5.7	RETAINED Works within RPA required
T7	Common hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)	B1	SM	Good	1	14	5	5	5	5	3N	425	20+	81	5.1	RETAINED Works within RPA required
T8	Common lime (*Tilia × europaea*)	B1	SM	Good	1	14	5	5	5	5	2E	500	20+	113	6	Tree removed to facilitate development
T9	Common hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)	A1	SM	Good	1	14	7	7	7	7	2N	475	40+	102	5.7	RETAINED Works within RPA required
T10	Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)	A1	EM	Good	2	20	8	8	8	8	2S	450 600	40+	255	9	RETAINED Works within RPA required

T11	Silva maple (*Acer saccharinum*)	A1	M	Good	1	20	10	10	10	10	3N	975	40+	430	11.7	RETAINED
G1	Silver birch (*Betula pendula*)	A2	EM	Good	4	18	AVG 6	AVG 6	AVG 6	AVG 6	2N	400 375 375 250	40+	72 64 64 28	4.8 4.5 4.5 3	RETAINED Works within RPA required
G2	Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) Common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) Field maple (*Acer campestre*)	B2	SM	Good	-	RANGE 4-18	AVG 5	AVG 5	AVG 5	AVG 5	3S	MIN 150 MAX 400	20+	-	MIN 1.8 MAX 4.8	RETAINED Works within RPA required

TOTALS	**Category Grading**		**Life Stages**		**Condition**		**NOTES:**
	A	**7**	**Y**	**0**	**GOOD**	**13**	
	B	**6**	**SM**	**8**	**FAIR**	**0**	
	C	**0**	**EM**	**3**	**POOR**	**0**	
	U	**0**	**M**	**2**	**DEAD**	**0**	
			OM	**0**			

7. Notice to Readers: Conditions of this Report

All reports are certified products and cannot be shown, copied, or distributed to third parties without the written permission of Elite Ecology. No liability is accepted for the contents of the report, other than to that of the client(s). If any part of this report is altered without the written permission of Elite Ecology, then the whole report becomes invalid.

Elite Ecology agrees to supply ecological and arboricultural consulting services and advice of a preliminary or thorough nature as advised or commissioned. Upon commissioning Elite Ecology to undertake the work, the client(s) grant access to the site upon the agreed date. If no site access is available upon this date, Elite Ecology holds the right to charge the client(s) for lost staffing time and additional travel costs.

Elite Ecology undertake all site surveys with reasonable skill, care, and diligence, within the terms of the contract that has been agreed with the client and abiding by the Elite Ecology Terms and Conditions. The actions of the surveyors on site, and during the production of the report, were undertaken in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct for the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

The latest good practice guidelines put in place by Natural England or the relevant statutory conservation bodies have been followed by the surveyors on site. If those methodologies fail to identify a protected species during the survey efforts, no responsibility can be attributed to Elite Ecology. If any of these guidelines are adapted between the date(s) of the surveys being undertaken and the submission of this report, then Elite Ecology takes no responsibility for this.

Should any equipment be damaged or lost on site at the fault of the client(s), then Elite Ecology withholds the right to charge 100% above the current market value for that exact product or the nearest similar product.

The survey results purport the current status of the site and its potential for protected species utilisation at the time of surveying. It should not be viewed as a complete list of the possible flora and fauna species that could be using the site at different times of the year.

Elite Ecology has been provided with full payment for this report and thus the product has been released to the client(s) for the purpose of their planning application. If any part of the report is lost or altered without the written permission of Elite Ecology, then the entire report becomes invalid. Due to the potential for continual change within the natural world, this report is valid for **1 year only** from the date of the last survey visit. If this report is submitted after the 1 year deadline, then a further updated inspection will be required to ascertain whether the site remains in the same condition as it was when initially inspected.

No reliance should be made on any such comments in relation to the structural integrity of the features located on the surveyed site. All information within the report is based solely on evidence that has been found on site during the service provided. No individual opinion or inference will be made other than that of the suitably qualified ecologist appointed to the project.