Arboricultural method statement

12 Rousden Street, Camden, London

Alex Needs **BA(Hons) MICFor MArborA RCArborA**

28th March 2020 20037-AMS-AN

barrell
TREE CONSULTANCY

Site location and report purpose

Site location

This aerial image is provided courtesy of Google. The yellow line indicates the approximate site boundary and is illustrative only.

Report purpose

This arboricultural method statement describes how trees will be protected and managed during the development of the site. Its purpose is to explain how and when the protection measures should be installed, and how they will be maintained for the duration of the development activity.

This document and plan have not been prepared in response to a planning condition. The London Borough of Camden planning consent (ref. 2017/6338/P, dated 8th January 2018) requires no further consideration of trees or submission of further arboricultural documents. This document is for the design and construction teams and should not be submitted to the Council.

The consented development is for the erection of single storey rear extension including formation of a rear facing roof terrace with access door at first floor level and relocation of first floor rear window at 12 Rousden Street, Camden, London.

This report includes:

- A **Tree protection plan** illustrating relevant tree details, the location of the consented development, and the proposed tree protection measures.
- An **Arboricultural method statement** (section 1 of the report) describing how retained trees will be protected and managed during the development activity.

- **Appendices** (**Appendix 1** –Background administrative information and data collection; **Appendix 2** – Tree schedule and explanatory notes; and, **Appendix 3** – QR Codes for SGNs).
- A companion document to supplement the main report titled ***Manual for managing trees on development sites*** **(Version 2.1)**, which provides explanations of how retained trees will be managed on site in the form of Site Guidance Notes (SGNs) covering the relevant issues.

1: Arboricultural method statement

1.1 Site Guidance Notes (SGNs)

This arboricultural method statement identifies which trees on this site will be protected and managed, and by what means. This site-specific summary is supplemented by more detailed explanations and descriptions of specific operations set out in the accompanying *Manual for managing trees on development sites*. That document is a compilation of 12 individual SGNs addressing the following tree protection and management issues that regularly arise in the construction phase of development:

- SGN 1 *Monitoring tree protection* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn01?stage=Stage)
- SGN 2 *Fencing protected trees* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn02?stage=Stage)
- SGN 3 *Ground protection* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn03?stage=Stage)
- SGN 4 *Pollution control* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn04?stage=Stage)
- SGN 5 *Site cranes & piling rigs* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn05?stage=Stage)
- SGN 6 *Height restrictions* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn06?stage=Stage)
- SGN 7 *Excavating in RPAs* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn07?stage=Stage)
- SGN 8 *Removing surfacing and structures in RPAs* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn08?stage=Stage)
- SGN 9 *Installing/upgrading surfacing in RPAs* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn09?stage=Stage)
- SGN 10 *Installing structures in RPAs* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn10?stage=Stage)
- SGN 11 *Installing services in RPAs* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn11?stage=Stage)
- SGN 12 *Landscaping in RPAs* (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/resources/technical-guidance/sgn12?stage=Stage)

NOTE: Each individual SGN can be downloaded by using the links above and the QR Code links in Appendix 3.

1.2 Identification of areas to be protected

The tree protection plan shows the areas where protective measures are necessary. Where appropriate, precautionary areas are shown by a yellow fill and ground protection is shown by a blue fill.

1.3 Arboricultural supervision

An arboricultural consultant will be appointed to advise on the tree management for the site and to attend:

- regular supervision visits to oversee the agreed tree protection,
- further supervision visits, as necessary, to oversee any unexpected works that could affect trees.

1: Arboricultural method statement

The detail of how the arboricultural supervision will be carried out is explained in SGN 1 *Site monitoring* in the accompanying Manual.

1.4 Table 1: Summary of the site operations requiring arboricultural input

For this site, arboricultural input will be needed for the following operations:

Brief operation summary	Trees affected	Location of detailed explanations
Regular arboricultural supervision: Provision will be made to carry out and record agreed arboricultural supervision, as described in SGN 1.	T1, T2	SGN 1 *Monitoring tree protection*
Ground protection: Agreed tree protection measures (paving slabs) will be retained and checked, as described in SGN 3. Will be completed before any significant site works begin.	T1, T2	Tree protection plan, SGN 3 *Ground protection*
Pollution control near retained trees: Any pollution control measures identified during risk assessment will be installed as described in SGN 4. Will be completed before any potential pollutants arrive on site.	T1, T2	SGN 4 *Pollution control*
Operation of site cranes and piling rigs (only if necessary)**:** Provision will be made to prevent site cranes and piling rigs damaging trees, as described in SGN 5.	T1, T2	SGN 5 *Site cranes & piling rigs*
Excavating in RPAs: These operations will be carried out as described in SGN 7.	T1, T2	SGN 7 *Excavating in RPAs*
Removing surfacing and structures in RPAs: These operations will be carried out as described in SGN 8.	T1, T2	SGN 8 *Removing surfacing and structures in RPAs*
Installing/upgrading surfacing in RPAs: These operations will be carried out as described in the SGN 9.	T1, T2	SGN 9 *Installing/upgrading surfacing in RPAs*
Installing structures in RPAs: These operations will be carried out with care, as described in SGN 10.	T1, T2	SGN 10 *Installing structures in RPAs*
Installing services in RPAs (only if necessary)**:** These operations will be carried out with care, as described in SGN 11.	T1, T2	SGN 11 *Installing services in RPAs*
Landscaping in RPAs: These operations will be carried out with care, as described in SGN 12.	T1, T2	SGN 12 *Landscaping in RPAs*
Removing ground protection: Protection can only be removed when there is no risk of damage to retained trees.	All trees	SGN 1 *Monitoring tree protection*

The operations summarised in this table, and supplemented by the more detailed explanations set out in the SGNs and the rest of this document, form the arboricultural method statement for this site. The Site Manager will ensure that its details and any agreed amendments are known and understood by all site personnel. Copies of the agreed documents will be available on site. All personnel who could have an impact on trees will be briefed on the specific tree protection

requirements as part of the site induction procedures. This requirement will be written into the site management documentation.

More specifically, I clarify that following discussion with the consulting structural engineers, it was agreed that the following investigations and construction methodology would be followed:

Building foundations: It is proposed that a traditional strip foundation will be employed. However, this may not be possible due to the presence of tree roots. Therefore, a trial trench will be excavated using hand tools only and in accordance with SGN 7 *Excavating in RPAs.* The trench will run the entire length of the foundation and to the required foundation depth (approximately 1m). Any roots discovered over 25mm diameter will be carefully photographed and wrapped in hessian to prevent desiccation. Photographs will be forwarded to the arboricultural consultant and if deemed important to the health or stability of the tree, an alternate foundation design will be employed. An alternative foundation may involve simply bridging the roots but may also require an entirely different methodology such as micro-piling or a cantilevered slab. Any alternative solution will be in accordance with those detailed in SGN 10 *Installing structures in RPAs* and subject to the approval of the arboricultural consultant.

Retaining wall: It is proposed that the existing wall will be demolished, and an offset foot foundation will be constructed below the existing footings. However, this may not be possible due to the presence of tree roots. Therefore, a trial trench will be excavated using hand tools only and in accordance with SGN 7 *Excavating in RPAs.* The trench will run the entire length of the wall and to the required new footing depth. Any roots discovered over 25mm diameter will be carefully photographed and wrapped in hessian to prevent desiccation. Photographs will be forwarded to the arboricultural consultant and if deemed important to the health or stability of the tree, an alternate foundation design will be employed. An alternative foundation may involve simply bridging the roots but may also require an entirely different methodology such as using preformed steel or concrete lintels installed as a solid base for the wall construction, raised slightly above ground level and sitting on micro-piles (see photograph SGN10-18 within the Manual). Any alternative solution will be in accordance with those detailed in SGN 10 *Installing structures in RPAs* and subject to the approval of the arboricultural consultant.

Ground protection and new hard landscaping: The existing patio slabs will be retained during construction to form ground protection within the tree RPAs and only removed when the new floor slab is installed. New hard landscaping will be installed in accordance with SGN 10 *Installing structures in RPAs* and *SGN 12 Landscaping in RPAs.*

Roots under 25mm diameter: If necessary, individual roots and clumps of less than 25mm width will be cut cleanly without consulting the supervising arboriculturist. Roots will be removed cleanly to a distance of 100–200mm behind the final face of the excavation

If unanticipated issues arise on site not referenced in the above explanations, further guidance on how to manage them can be found in the accompanying Manual.

Appendix 1: Background administrative information and data collection

A2.1 Table 2: Background administrative information

	Background administrative information
Report date & reference	28th March 2020, 20037-AMS-AN
Tree protection plan reference	BT1
Instructing client	Darren Isaacs & Simon Burberry
Instructions	Visit the site, assess the relevant trees, prepare a schedule of their details, describe the impact of the proposal on those trees and identify the tree protection issues in an arboricultural method statement with a tree protection plan, if appropriate.
Provided documents	Land survey, drawing number 443.00 Rev B, received by email on 17th February 2020 and layout, drawing number 443.052 Rev D, received by email on 17th February 2020.
Report author and credentials	Alex Needs has taken and passed the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection course (https://www.lantra.co.uk/awards/product/professional-tree-inspection), is a Chartered Forester (www.charteredforesters.org), and a Registered Consultant of the Arboricultural Association (www.trees.org.uk), and is fully qualified to undertake the assessments in this report (https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/who-we-are/).
Report limitations	• We have not checked if there is any statutory protection on the trees because this can delay the production of the report. If any tree works are proposed before a planning consent is given, then the possible existence of any statutory protection must be checked with the LPA. • This report does not consider ecological or archaeological issues, or any other matter beyond the assessment of the trees.

A2.2 Table 3: Data collection

	Data collection
Date of site visit	18th February 2020
People present during site visit	Alex Needs
Weather & visibility	Dull, still, and dry, with average visibility.
Limitations to observations	• The inspection of the trees for the purposes of assessing their condition and work requirements was made on the basis that they will be annually inspected in the future to identify any changes in condition and review the original recommendations. For these reasons, the tree assessment advice only remains valid for one year from the date that the trees were last inspected. • All observations were of a preliminary nature and did not involve any climbing or detailed investigation beyond what was visible from accessible points at ground level. • Observations of trees outside the site boundaries are confined to what was visible from within the site. • All dimensions were estimated unless otherwise indicated.
Tree location and numbering	Each tree was inspected and the numbering scheme is indicated on the tree protection plan. Where important trees were found on site that were not included on the provided plan, their approximate positions and canopy extents are indicated on the plan.
Recording of tree data	For each identified tree, the information collected was recorded on the tree schedule in Appendix 3 and the tree protection plan.

Appendix 1: Background administrative information and data collection

	Data collection
Compliance of data collection with BS 5837	The data collection is fully compliant with the advice in subsection 4.4.2 of BS 5837. When collecting this information, specific consideration was given to any low branches that may influence future use, age class, physiological condition, structural condition, and remaining contribution. Where appropriate, crown spreads were also noted where they differed from those shown on the provided land survey.
Calculation of RPAs	Following the recommendations in Table D1 of BS 5837, the diameter of each tree was rounded up to the next 2.5cm increment, with the radius of a nominal circle and the resultant RPA taken directly from that table. This information is listed for each tree in the tree schedule in Appendix 3.

Appendix 2: Tree schedule and explanatory notes

NOTE: Colour annotation is A & B trees with green background; C & U trees with blue background; trees to be removed in red text.

Tree No	Species	Height (m)	Diameter (cm) @ 1.5m	Maturity	Low Branches	Category	Notes	Tree Works	RPA radius (m)	RPA area (m2)
T1	London plane	19	120	Mature	-	B	Off-site tree, historically pollarded at 15m, cavity at base with fungal fruiting body	-	14.4	651
T2	London plane	19	120	Mature	-	B	Off-site tree, unable to see base	-	14.4	651

Appendix 2: Tree schedule and explanatory notes

Explanatory Notes

- **Abbreviations:**
  T: Tree

- **Botanical tree names:**
  London plane : *Platanus* x *hispanica*

- **BS 5837 (2012) compliance:** All data has been collected based on the recommendations set out in subsection 4.4 of BS 5837.
- **Tree inspections and site limitations:** Each tree was subjected to a quick visual check level of inspection. Where there is restricted access to the base of a tree, its attributes are assessed from the nearest point of access. Climbing inspections are not carried out during this level of inspection and, if heavy ivy is present, tree condition is assessed from what can be seen from the ground. A separate note is recorded if further investigation may be required to clarify its status.
- **Crown spreads:** Crown spread dimensions are not listed in the tree schedule because they are illustrated on the land survey base to all the plans in this document. Where crown spreads of significant trees on site are found to deviate from those shown on the provided land survey, we have noted it in the text of the report and annotated it on our plans.
- **Dimensions:** All dimensions are estimated unless otherwise indicated with an asterix (*) after the figure.
- **Species:** Species identification is based on visual observations. Where there is some doubt over tree identity, sp is noted after the genus name to indicate that the species cannot be reliably identified at the time of the survey. Where there is more than one species in a group, only the most frequent are noted and not all the species present may be listed.
- **Height:** Height is estimated to provide a broad indication of the size of the tree.
- **Trunk diameter:** Trunk diameter is estimated or measured (with a diameter tape), at the discretion of the consultant, and recorded in 2.5cm increments as advised in BS 5837 Table D1. Estimates may be made where access is restricted, direct measurement is prevented because of ivy on the trunk, or the tree is assessed as low quality. The point of measurement and the adjustments for stem variations are as advised in Figure C1 of BS 5837.
- **Maturity:** In planning context, maturity provides a simplistic indication of a tree's ability to cope with change and its potential for further growth. For the purposes of this report, young indicates a potential to significantly increase in size and a high ability to cope with change, maturing indicates some potential to increase in size and a medium ability to cope with change, and mature indicates little potential to increase in size and limited ability to cope with change.
- **Low branches:** Any low branches that would not be feasible for removal during normal management and should be considered as a design constraint are noted here and explained in the notes.
- **Category:** Our assessment automatically considered tree physiological/structural condition (BS 5837, 4.4.2.5h), and so these are not listed separately in the schedule. Additionally, the category accounts for the remaining contribution (BS 5837, 4.4.2.5i) as greater than 40 years for A trees, greater than 20 years for B trees, at least 10 years for C trees and less than 10 years for U trees, so this is also not listed separately in the schedule. Category A, B and C trees are automatically listed as sub-category 1 unless otherwise stated.
- **Notes:** Only relevant features relating to physiological or structural condition and low branches that may help clarify the categorisation are recorded. If there are no notes, then the presumption should be that no relevant features were observed.
- **Future tree safety inspections:** Due to the time that may elapse between the original survey and the start of development, all trees should be re-inspected as part of the standard risk management process before any works start on site. Our assessment of the trees was carried out on the basis that a re-inspection would be carried out within a year of the assessment visit and our advice on tree condition must be reviewed annually from the date of that visit.

Appendix 3: QR Codes for SGNs (Scan with reader to download)

SGN 1 *Monitoring tree protection*	SGN 2 *Fencing protected trees*	SGN 3 *Ground protection*
SGN 4 *Pollution control*	SGN 5 *Site cranes & piling rigs*	SGN 6 *Height restrictions*
SGN 7 *Excavating in RPAs*	SGN 8 *Removing surfacing and structures in RPAs*	SGN 9 *Installing/upgrading surfacing in RPAs*
SGN 10 *Installing structures in RPAs*	SGN 11 *Installing services in RPAs*	SGN 12 *Landscaping in RPAs*

barrell
TREE CONSULTANCY

Field House Fordingbridge Business Park Fordingbridge Hampshire SP6 1BD
☎ 01425 651470 ✉ info@barrelltreecare.co.uk www.barrelltreecare.co.uk