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ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT – BS 5837:2012

SITE: WILLOWBED HALL, CHICKERELL DT3 4AJ

CLIENT: CHICKERELL TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 25 JUNE 2025

REPORT REF: AS-39-25

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Contents

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Local Planning Authority Tree Officer:
Dorset Council 01258 484248

Terms of reference

Graham Cox Arboricultural Consultant has been instructed by Chickerell Town Council to provide an arboricultural method statement in connection with a planning application for a proposed new access drive, at Willowbed Hall, Chickerell.

British Standard 5837:2012 "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations" has been used in appraising the likely impact of the proposed development and in preparing this arboricultural method statement.

Report limitations

This report is based on tree condition and arboricultural findings made at the time of the site visit. All investigations were from ground level, no internal investigations were carried out and no samples were taken.

This report is for the sole use of the client and should not be used for any other purposes or by any other parties.

1.0 SCOPE OF THE REPORT

This document provides an arboricultural method statement in connection with a revised design for the access layout. It's informed by the arboricultural survey (appendix 1) and arboricultural impact assessment already carried out.

It is specifically designed to be used as supporting information for a planning application, by providing a methodology for safeguarding those trees to be retained.

This report should not be read as a "tree safety" inspection, although any arboricultural management issues needing attention have been notified to the owners.

A proposed site plan drawing (04 Revision C) by Western Design Architects was provided to aid the preparation of this report. This drawing was used as a base to overlay the tree protection fence detail.

2.0 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Following discussions with the architects Western Design Architects, the design of the entrance to the east of the building has been altered to create a greater rooting area, which will allow for the retention of Horse Chestnut T3.

The following measures will ensure all trees identified for retention are safeguarded during construction work, and will secure their long-term health and vigour.

2.1 Preparatory tree works

Before any other work is carried out in connection with the build, and before the erection of the tree protection fencing, it will be necessary to complete the following tree works:

Horse Chestnut T2 and Hazel T4 – fell.

Willows T5 & T6 – re-cut to previous pollard points (at the distal part of the pollard "knuckle").

The work should be carried out by a suitably qualified contractor, and it should be in accordance with BS3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.

2.2 Stump removal

The proposed construction requires the removal of Horse Chestnut T2 and Hazel T4, and the stumps will need to be removed to facilitate replanting in that area.

Stump removal should be carried out using a toothed stump grinder. Do not use an excavator with bucket, as "grubbing out" has the potential to damage grafted roots of neighbouring trees.

2.3 Tree protection fencing

Following removal of T2 and T4, but before commencing any development work on site – including demolition, soil stripping, delivery of materials and machinery - a line of fencing must be installed in the positions shown on the Tree Protection Plan (see appendix 2).

The fencing shall be at least 2m high and comprise welded-mesh panels, mounted on rubber/concrete feet, and secured by struts to the rear in order to withstand accidental impact from machinery and to ensure that the protective area is maintained. The drawing below illustrates the fence detail.

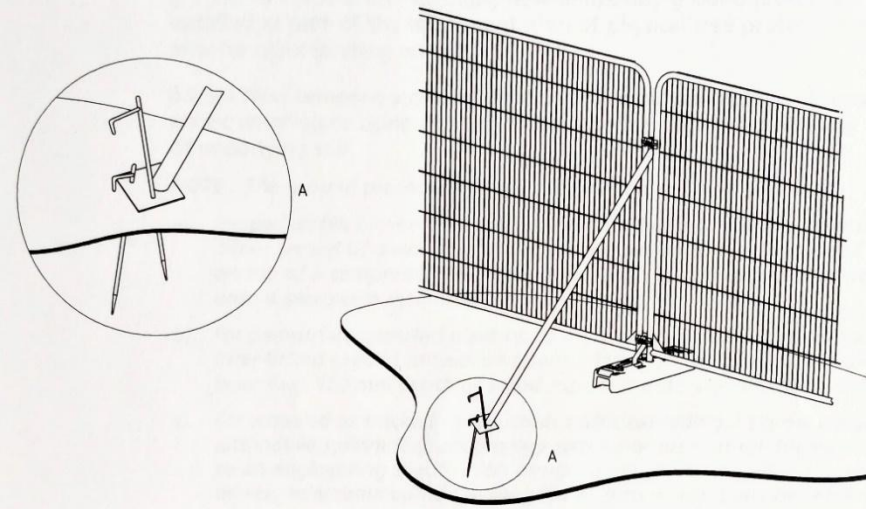

Fig.1 Illustration of required tree protection fencing (ref: BS5837:2012 sec 6.2)

It is essential the area inside the tree protection fencing is kept completely undisturbed – including for the storage of materials, vehicle parking, or as a work area. Soil levels must be kept as existing. A "keep out" notice (see Appendix 4) shall be attached to the fencing in a prominent position on every other panel.

Once installed, the barrier should not be removed or altered without prior agreement of the project arboriculturalist and the local planning authority.

2.4 Establishment of the work area

The existing hard-standing should be used as a work area, and an area for storage of materials. Where concrete mixing is due to be carried out, care should be taken to avoid any spillage or wash-off, as this is toxic to plant growth (for example, by using a contained, waterproof area designed for this purpose).

2.5 Construction practicalities

2.5.1 Construction adjacent to Willows T5 and T6

It's intended to retain these two Willow pollards despite their poor structural condition, in view of their ecological value. The natural vigour of the species, and their past management as pollards, will enable this.

The tree protection plan shows an area marked for "supervised construction". In this area, any excavation should be in accordance with paragraphs 7.2.2 – 7.2.4 of BS 5837:2012 (see appendix 3 for detailed specification). *This work must be supervised by the project arboriculturalist.*

2.5.2 Soakaways and new services

If any new services are required, these should be routed outside the RPA of retained trees, unless agreed by the project arboriculturalist. Where trenching within the RPA is unavoidable it should be carried out in accordance with BS5837: 2012 section 7.7, and be under arboricultural supervision.

2.5.3 New planting – general approach

New planting has been indicated on the revised proposed layout. It should be carried out in accordance with BS8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations. Unless otherwise specified, new trees should be "standard" size (8-10cm girth at 1m, 2.5-3m height, and with a clear stem of 1.75-2m).

Although the detailed landscape design for the site is generally outside the remit of this report, I've suggested replanting in the area of trees T2 & T4 with a *Ginkgo biloba*, as its size and upright form lends itself to the situation.

3.0 SUPERVISION & MONITORING

The following measures will ensure all trees identified for retention are safeguarded during construction work, and will secure their long-term health and vigour.

3.1 Pre-commencement sign-off of tree protection details

Before construction commences, the project arboriculturalist will visit the site and confirm by email to Dorset Council the following tree protection measures have been implemented:

- Preparatory tree works
- Tree removal
- Tree protection fencing

Any clarification of the agreed AMS, or amendments to it, will be confirmed by the arboricultural consultant by email to the Dorset Council planning officer.

3.2 Signing off "supervised construction"

The project arboriculturalist will confirm that excavation in the vicinity of Willows T5 & T6 has been carried out in accordance with the details set out in this document.

4.0 SUMMARY

- The trees on site have a value in terms of their contribution to the character of the area.
- Without appropriate protection there is a possibility retained trees could be harmed during the proposed development.
- This arboricultural method statement sets out proportionate means for protecting the trees during construction, and ensuring their long-term retention.

Graham Cox MSc BSc(Hons) CBiol MRSB
Arboricultural Consultant

25 June 2025

Appendix 1 Tree survey schedule (separate sheet)

Appendix 2 Tree protection plan (separate sheet)

Appendix 3 Specification for treatment of roots during excavation (extract from BS 5837:2012)

7.2.2 Roots, whilst exposed, should immediately be wrapped or covered to prevent desiccation and to protect them from rapid temperature changes. Any wrapping should be removed prior to backfilling, which should take place as soon as possible.

7.2.3 Roots smaller than 25 mm diameter may be pruned back, making a clean cut with a suitable sharp tool (e.g. bypass secateurs or handsaw), except where they occur in clumps. Roots occurring in clumps or of 25 mm diameter and over should be severed only following consultation with an arboriculturist, as such roots might be essential to the tree's health and stability.

7.2.4 Prior to backfilling, retained roots should be surrounded with topsoil or uncompacted sharp sand (builders' sand should not be used because of its high salt content, which is toxic to tree roots), or other loose inert granular fill, before soil or other suitable material is replaced. This material should be free of contaminants and other foreign objects potentially injurious to tree roots.

Appendix 4 Notice for tree protection fencing

KEEP OUT

ROOT PROTECTION AREA

NO ACCESS, STORAGE, OR CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS WITHIN THE FENCED-OFF AREA