



# SJ Stephens Associates

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## **Arboricultural Method Statement**

- Tree Survey
- Tree Protection Plan
- Arboricultural Method Statement

### **For:-**

**A Garage Extension**

### **At:-**

Church Gardens  
Church Hill  
Harefield  
Middlesex  
UB9 6DU

### **On behalf of:-**

Patrick McHugh  
Church Gardens  
Church Hill  
Harefield  
Middlesex  
UB9 6DU

### **Prepared by:**

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Arb(RFS), MArborA, C Env. MICFor  
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**Survey Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024  
**Report Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
**Project no:** 2269

## CONTENTS

- 1 BACKGROUND
- 2 SURVEY DETAILS AND SCOPE
- 3 SURVEY LIMITATIONS
- 4 LEGAL PROTECTION OF TREES
- 5 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT
- 6 ARBORICULTURAL SITE SUPERVISION
- 7 REFERENCES

## Appendices

- A Tree Protection Plan: drawing no: 2269-01
- B Tree Schedule
- C BS 5837:2012 - Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction, Table 1
- D Tree Protection Fencing Detail
- E Site photos
- F Proposed Site Plan

## 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Planning Permission (ref: 50761/APP/2023/2677) has been granted for the erection of a single storey extension to the rear of the existing garage at Church Gardens, subject to number of planning conditions. This Arboricultural Method Statement is intended to satisfy planning conditions number 4, relating to tree protection.
- 1.2 Tree details are shown in the Tree Schedule in Appendix B and on the Tree Protection Plan in Appendix A. This plan also includes tree protection measures, which are specified in the Arboricultural Method Statement in section 5 below. Arboricultural supervision required during construction is detailed in section 6.
- 1.3 The tree survey was undertaken, and this report has been prepared by Simon Stephens MA Oxon, Dip Arb (RFS), MArborA, C Env, MICFor a Registered Consultant with the Arboricultural Association, with over 20 years relevant experience.
- 1.4 This survey and report have been prepared in accordance with recommendations provided in BS 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations.
- 1.5 Documentation supplied:
  - Homeplans, Proposed Site Plans: drawing no 1600/60 revA
  - Hillingdon Council Decision Notice, dated 27-02-2024

## 2 SURVEY DETAILS AND SCOPE

- 2.1 The site survey included trees and shrubs, within influencing distance of the proposed building, with a stem diameter over 75mm at 1.5m height, as shown located on the Tree Protection Plan, included as Appendix A.
- 2.2 Tree inspection took place from ground level with the use of binoculars, sounding hammer and metal probe using the Visual Tree Assessment method (Mattheck & Breloer 1994). The presence and condition of bark and stem wounds, cavities, decay, fungal fruiting bodies and any structural defects that could increase the risk of structural failure were noted.
- 2.3 Tree diameters were measured using a girth tape and tree heights were measured using a hypsometer. Where use of a tape was restricted by site factors, diameters were estimated, with the diameter recorded in the tree schedule as eg "est 300".
- 2.4 At the time of the survey, the weather was overcast, but with no restrictions to visibility. Broadleaf trees were not in leaf. In places, dense undergrowth restricted access/dense ivy restricted visibility of tree stems.
- 2.5 Tree details are shown on the Tree Protection Plan included as Appendix A. Tree locations have been taken from the topographical survey provided. Where not included on the topographical survey, they have been determined by measuring distances from features shown on the plan, using a laser measuring device. The following information was recorded for each tree, and is shown in the Tree Schedule included as Appendix B:
  - **Number:** an identity number for each tree, prefixed with a "T", which cross references locations shown on the plan with the schedule in Appendix B. Where a number of trees are located close together and are similar in character and management requirements, they have been treated as a Group under a single number, prefixed with a "G".
  - **Species:** common name.
  - **Tree height:** approximate height in metres.
  - **Stem diameter:** diameter in millimetres, taken at 1.5m above ground. Where there are a number of stems, stem diameters are recorded in the condition column.
  - **Branch spread:** approximate spread in metres to N,S,E and W of the trunk. The approximate branch spread is drawn on the plan.
  - **Canopy clearance:** approximate height of the canopy above ground. Where a significant, low lateral branch is present, its height and direction of growth is included in the Condition column.
  - **Age class:** Young, Semi-mature, Early mature, Mature, Over-mature, Veteran.
  - **Condition:** features that affect the safe useful life expectancy and amenity of the tree, including the presence of decay or any physical defect.
  - **Management Recommendations:** recommendations to ensure the health and safety of the tree, within the future development.
  - **Estimated Remaining Contribution:** <10 years, 5-15 years, 10-20 years, 15-30 years, 20-40 years, >40 years.

- **Category grading:** tree classification taken from BS 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction (see Appendix C for details), as follows:
  - Category U: Unsuitable for retention, trees with less than 10 years life expectancy, normally recommended for removal. (Red)
  - Category A: high quality trees, able to make a substantial contribution for at least 40 years, normally retained unless there is an over-riding reason for removal and appropriate mitigation. (Green)
  - Category B: moderate quality trees, able to make a significant contribution for at least 20 years, normally retained. (Blue)
  - Category B/C: an intermediate category between categories B and C (not specifically described in BS5837). Trees, which should be retained wherever possible, providing retention does not unreasonably constrain the layout. (Blue)
  - Category C: low quality, in adequate condition to remain for at least 10 years, or young trees <150mm stem diameter. Trees which can be removed to allow the desired layout or new planting. (Grey)

For category A, B and C trees, a subcategory has been allocated, providing information on the reasons for selection of a specific category, as follows:

- Subcategory 1: mainly arboricultural values.
- Subcategory 2: mainly landscape values.
- Subcategory 3: mainly cultural values, including conservation.
- Trees have been classified irrespective of the possible proximity to future construction. The BS 5837 category is colour coded, as indicated above, on the plan included as Appendix A.
- **Protection Distance:** the protection distance in metres required to provide the Root Protection Area recommended in BS 5837, assuming a circular area centred on the tree.
- **Root Protection Area (RPA):** the area in  $m^2$ , as recommended in BS 5837, to provide sufficient rooting area to ensure tree survival and which, in most situations, should be fenced off to prevent root damage from construction activities.

### 3 SURVEY LIMITATIONS

- 3.1 No internal decay devices, or other invasive tools to assess tree condition, were used.
- 3.2 No soil excavation or root inspection was carried out.
- 3.3 This survey has not considered the effect that trees or vegetation may have on the structural integrity of future building through subsidence or heave.
- 3.4 The tree survey has been undertaken for planning purposes. Although any obvious structural defects have been noted, a Tree Hazard Assessment has not been carried out. Mature trees

close to highly populated areas or public highways should normally be checked for safety annually by a suitably qualified person.

## 4 LEGAL PROTECTION OF TREES

- 4.1 The Hillingdon Council website was viewed on 11-04-2024, showing that the site does not contain any Tree Preservation Orders, however it does fall within a Conservation Area. Six weeks notification must therefore be given to the Local Planning Authority of any intended tree works, to allow them the option of placing a Tree Preservation Order.
- 4.2 However, once planning conditions have been released, provided the documentation clearly shows any trees to be removed or pruned, this overrides protection provided by the Conservation Area, provided the work is necessary to implement the approved development.
- 4.3 No tree work that is not clearly shown on the approved site plan and/or supporting documentation must be undertaken without the approval of the Local Planning Authority

## 5 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

### 5.1 Site Overview

- 5.1.1 Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the existing garage. The proposed site plan is included as Appendix F and is also shown, along with tree details, on the Tree Protection Plan attached as Appendix A.
- 5.1.2 There is a line of trees growing at the edge of woodland approximately 0.9m above the site level, just above a collapsing brick retaining wall adjacent to the site. As can be seen in the photos in Appendix E, these are low quality trees including squirrel damaged multi-stem sycamore, dying elder and thorn which are engulfed in holly. There are no trees close to the site which are of sufficient quality to justify being a constraint to development.
- 5.1.3 The garage extension will require removal of the existing grass bank and construction of retaining walls, as shown on the Tree Protection Plan.

### 5.2 Tree Work

- 5.2.1 The only tree to be removed is an elder (T8) growing out of the existing retaining wall, as detailed in the tree schedule attached in Appendix B.
- 5.2.2 All tree work must be undertaken to the standards set out in BS 3998:2010 Tree work – Recommendations.

### 5.3 Root Protection Areas

- 5.3.1 Root Protection Areas are shown for all trees in the tree schedule included as Appendix B. They are also shown for all retained trees, as circular areas centred on the trunk, on the Tree Protection Plan included as Appendix A. Where there are physical obstructions to root growth the Root Protection Area should be shown as an equivalent area that is more likely to reflect actual root growth. The Root Protection Area shows the area around a tree in which all construction activity must normally be excluded, unless appropriate protection measures are implemented.
- 5.3.2 For tree numbers T1, T2 and T4, where the collapsing retaining wall within the Root Protection Areas will have inhibited some root growth, the Root Protection Area has been offset by 25% away from the wall, to more closely reflect the likely actual root spread

### 5.4 Tree Protection Fencing

- 5.4.1 Tree Protection Fencing must be erected where shown on the Tree Protection Plan, included as Appendix A. This will provide full protection of the Root Protection Areas of all retained trees, other than for areas cross hatched red on the Tree Protection Plan, where there will be excavation at the edge of Root Protection Areas, but where hand excavation must be used, as described in section 5.5, to minimise potential root damage.
- 5.4.2 Tree works can be completed before Tree Protection Fencing is erected.
- 5.4.3 Tree Protection Fencing must be from weldmesh panels, at least 2m high, securely fixed, with wire or scaffold clamps, to a rigid framework. This framework must be constructed from scaffold tubes with vertical tubes, at a maximum interval of 3m and driven into the ground at least 0.6m. The structure must be well braced to resist impacts, constructed as per Figure 2 of BS5837:2012, which is reproduced in Appendix D. Alternatively, weldmesh panels can be supported on blocks, providing the blocks are pinned to the ground with road pins, or similar, and the panels are braced, as per Figure 3 of BS5837:2012, which is also reproduced in Appendix D.
- 5.4.4 Tree Protection Fencing must be maintained and retained for the duration of the works, or until such time as agreed in writing with the arboricultural consultant or the Local Planning Authority.

5.4.5 Weatherproof notices must be fixed to the Tree Protection Fencing, and maintained, stating:-

**TREE PROTECTION AREA  
KEEP OUT**

TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY PLANNING CONDITIONS  
AND CONSERVATION AREA STATUS

CONTRAVICTION MAY LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION  
THE FOLLOWING MUST BE OBSERVED BY ALL PERSONS:

- The Protection Fence must not be moved
- No person or machine must enter the area
- No materials or spoil must be deposited
- No excavation must be permitted

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

## 5.5 Hand Dig Area

5.5.1 Although it is likely that the remains of the 0.9m retaining wall will have prevented root growth into the site, as a precautionary measure a Hand Dig trench, shown cross-hatched red on the Tree Protection Plan, must be dug to formation level /a depth of 0.9m by hand, neatly severing any roots found, using secateurs or a hand saw, before foundations for the retaining wall are installed. Any further excavation required, either to a greater depth or further from the trees, can be carried out with an excavator, since it is unlikely that significant live roots will be found.

5.5.2 Heavy-duty polythene must be used to line the side of the trench adjacent to the trees, before concrete is poured, to avoid the toxic affects of cement on tree roots.

## 5.6 Services

5.6.1 All services will be connected from the existing garage.

## 5.7 General measures

5.7.1 No construction activity whatsoever, including routing of underground services, storage of materials or on-site parking, must be allowed within Root Protection Areas, other than that specifically described above.

5.7.2 Fires must not be lit in a position where their flames could extend to within 10m of foliage, branches or trunk.

5.7.3 If any tree shown for retention is removed, uprooted or destroyed, another tree must be planted in the same location, at a size and species to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

5.7.4 A copy of this report and the Tree Protection Plan must be kept on site and must be fully understood by the Site Agent.

## 5.8 Bat roosts

5.8.1 The current legislation makes it a criminal offence to disturb, damage or destroy any bat roost or hibernation area. However, the tree recommended for felling is not considered suitable for bats to use either for hibernation or temporary roost sites. The lack of cavities, cracks, loose bark or slab ivy makes it unlikely that bats will use the tree. Contractors must be reminded of their responsibilities and should contact the relevant authorities if any signs of bats are found.

## 5.9 Birds

5.9.1 The current legislation makes it a criminal offence to disturb nesting birds. The nesting season is generally assumed to be from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> July, however this can vary depending on species and location. During these months a careful inspection must be made before work commences and works must be postponed if active nests are found.

# 6 ARBORICULTURAL SUPERVISION

6.1 A qualified Arboricultural Consultant must be retained during the period of construction to carry out the following:

- to liaise with the contractor, prior to construction or demolition starting on site, to ensure this Arboricultural Method Statement is fully understood and can be complied with in full. If any revisions are required, a revised Arboricultural Method Statement must be approved by the Local Planning Authority, prior to construction or demolition starting on site.
- as necessary, to advise on any issues at the request of the local planning authority, the developer, architect or contractor.

The details of any site visit must be recorded using a site visit proforma, with copies circulated to the contractor, developer and the local authority Tree Officer within 3 working days of the visit.

## 7 REFERENCES

- *BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.*
- *BS3998:2010 Tree Work. Recommendations.*

BS 5837: TREE CATEGORY GUIDE

Category U: Unsuitable for retention, trees with less than 10 years life expectancy.

Category A: high quality trees, able to make a substantial contribution for at least 40 years, normally retained unless there is an over-riding reason for removal and appropriate mitigation.

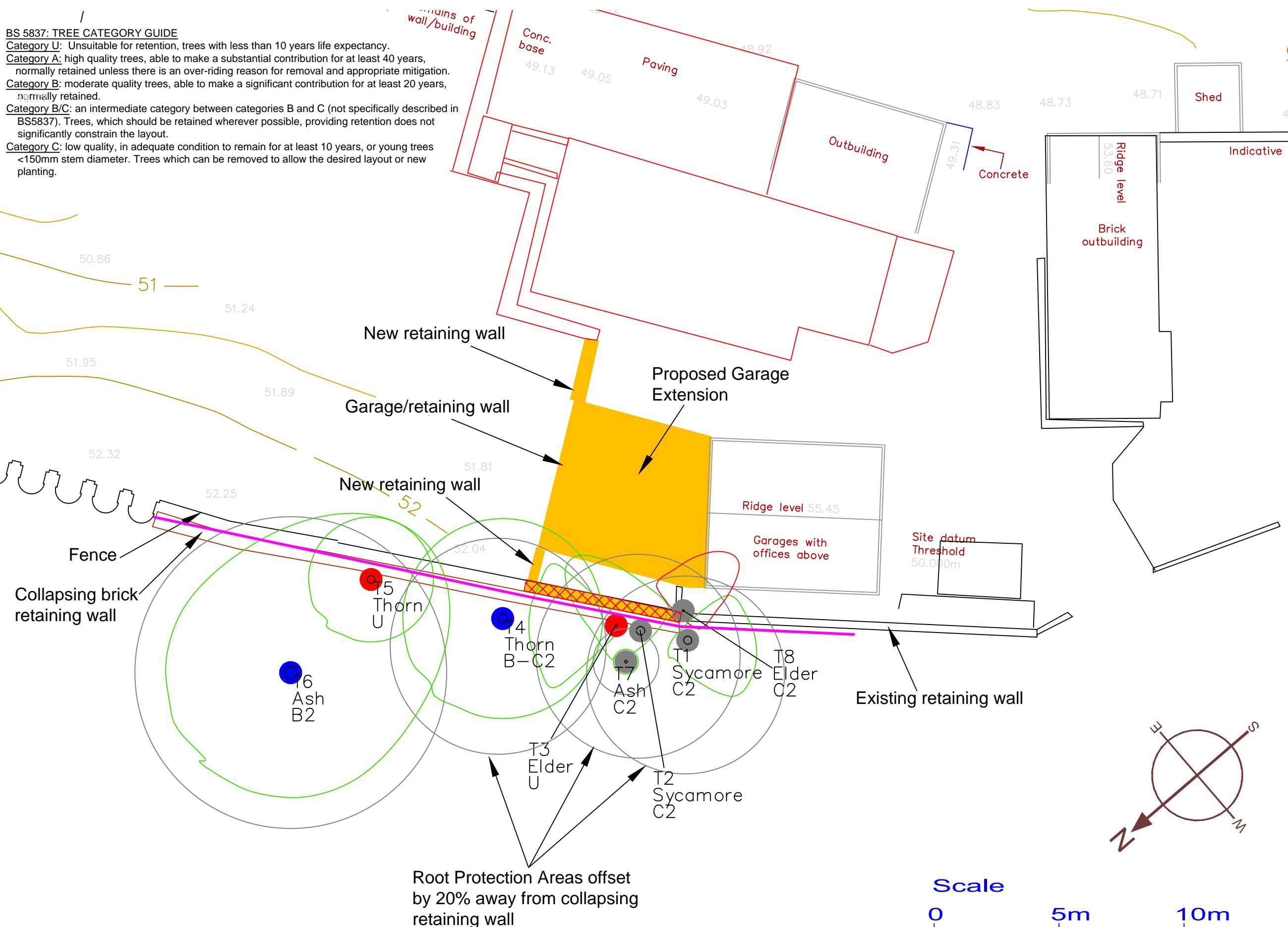
Category B: moderate quality trees, able to make a significant contribution for at least 20 years, normally retained.

Category B/C: an intermediate category between categories B and C (not specifically described in BS5837). Trees, which should be retained wherever possible, providing retention does not significantly constrain the layout.

Category C: low quality, in adequate condition to remain for at least 10 years, or young trees <150mm stem diameter. Trees which can be removed to allow the desired layout or new planting.

APPENDIX A

Key	
●	Category U
●	Category A
●	Category B
●	Category C
○	Crown spread: retained trees
○	Trees For Removal
○	Root Protection Area
—	Tree Protection Fence
■	Hand Dig Area



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JOB TITLE  
CHURCH GARDENS  
- GARAGE EXTENSION

DRAWING TITLE  
TREE PROTECTION PLAN

DRAWING NUMBER  
2269-01

REVISIONS

SCALE  
1:150 at A3

DATE  
APR 24

DRAWN BY  
sjss

Tree/ Group No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem Diam. at 1.5m (mm)	Branch Spread (m)				Canopy Cleara- nce (m)	Age Class	Observations	Management Recommendations	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	BS 5837 Category Grading	Protect -ion Distnce (m)	Root Protect. Area (m2)
				N	S	E	W								
T1	Sycamore	6.5	330	1	2.5	0.5	3	1.5	Semi mature	3 stems from 0.2m - avg 190mm. Previously cut to 1.7m but allowed to grow out. Poor form. Squirrel damage.		10-20	C2	4.0	49
T2	Sycamore	5	340	1.5	1.5	4	0.5	1.5	Semi mature	3 stems from base - 150, 210 and 220mm. Wounds where stems have broken out. Previously cut to 1.6m then to 2.2m. Ivy. Poor form.		10-20	C2	4.1	52
T3	Elder	2.5	100	3.5	0	3.5	0	1.3	Mature	Collapsed, but still alive.		<10	U	1.2	5
T4	Thorn	6.5	360	4	4	4	4	2.5	Mature	3 stems from 0.2m - 120, 220 and 260mm - all engulfed in ivy.	Remove section of ivy from base	15-30	B-C2	4.3	59
T5	Thorn	5	310	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.2	Mature	5 stems from base - avg 140mm. Completely engulfed in ivy - little live foliage remaining.		<10	U	3.7	43
T6	Ash	17.5	520	5	7.5	5	5	4	Early mature	Slight lean to south. Reasonable vigour at present, but susceptible to disease.		15-30	B2	6.2	122
T7	Ash	6.5	110	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5	Semi mature	Bark damage. Drawn up.		15-30	C2	1.3	5
T8	Elder	2.5	70	0	3	1.5	1	0.2	Early mature	Growing out of retaining wall.	Remove	5-15	C2	0.8	2

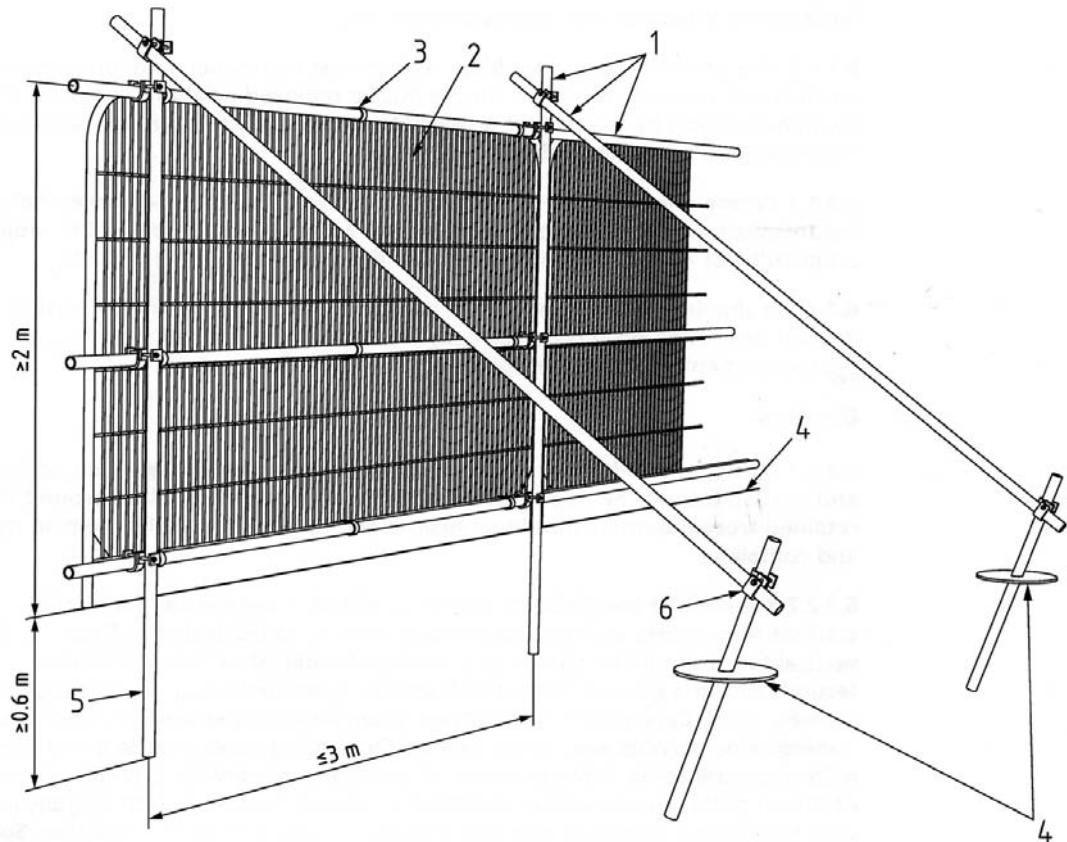
## BS 5837:2012, Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)	Identification on plan	
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)			
<b>Category U</b> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> <li>Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline</li> <li>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</li> </ul> <p><i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.</i></p>	See Table 2	
Category A	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation
<b>Trees to be considered for retention</b> <b>Trees of high quality</b> 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)
<b>Category B</b> <b>Trees of moderate quality</b> 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
<b>Category C</b> <b>Trees of low quality</b> 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

Figure 2

**Key**

- 1 Standard scaffold poles
- 2 Heavy gauge 2 m galvanised 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



**Examples of above-ground stabilising systems**

Figure 3a

Stabiliser strut with base plate secured with ground pins

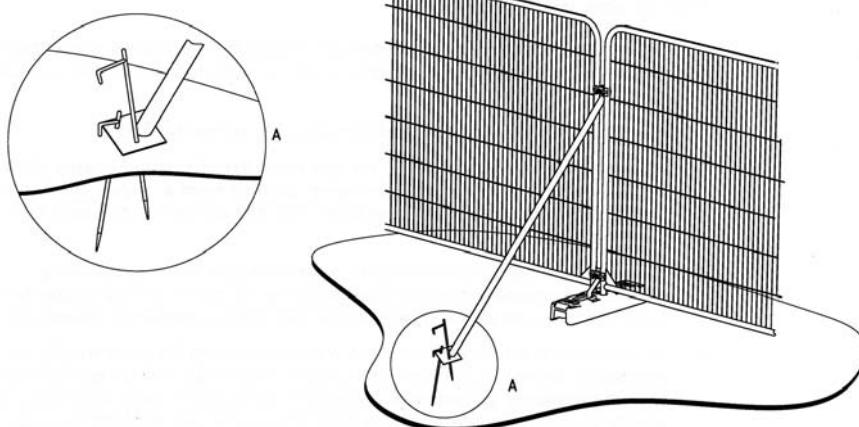
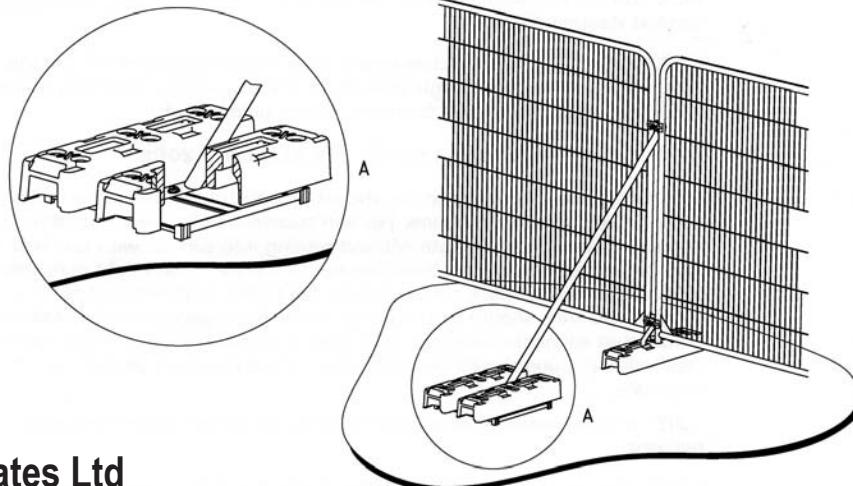


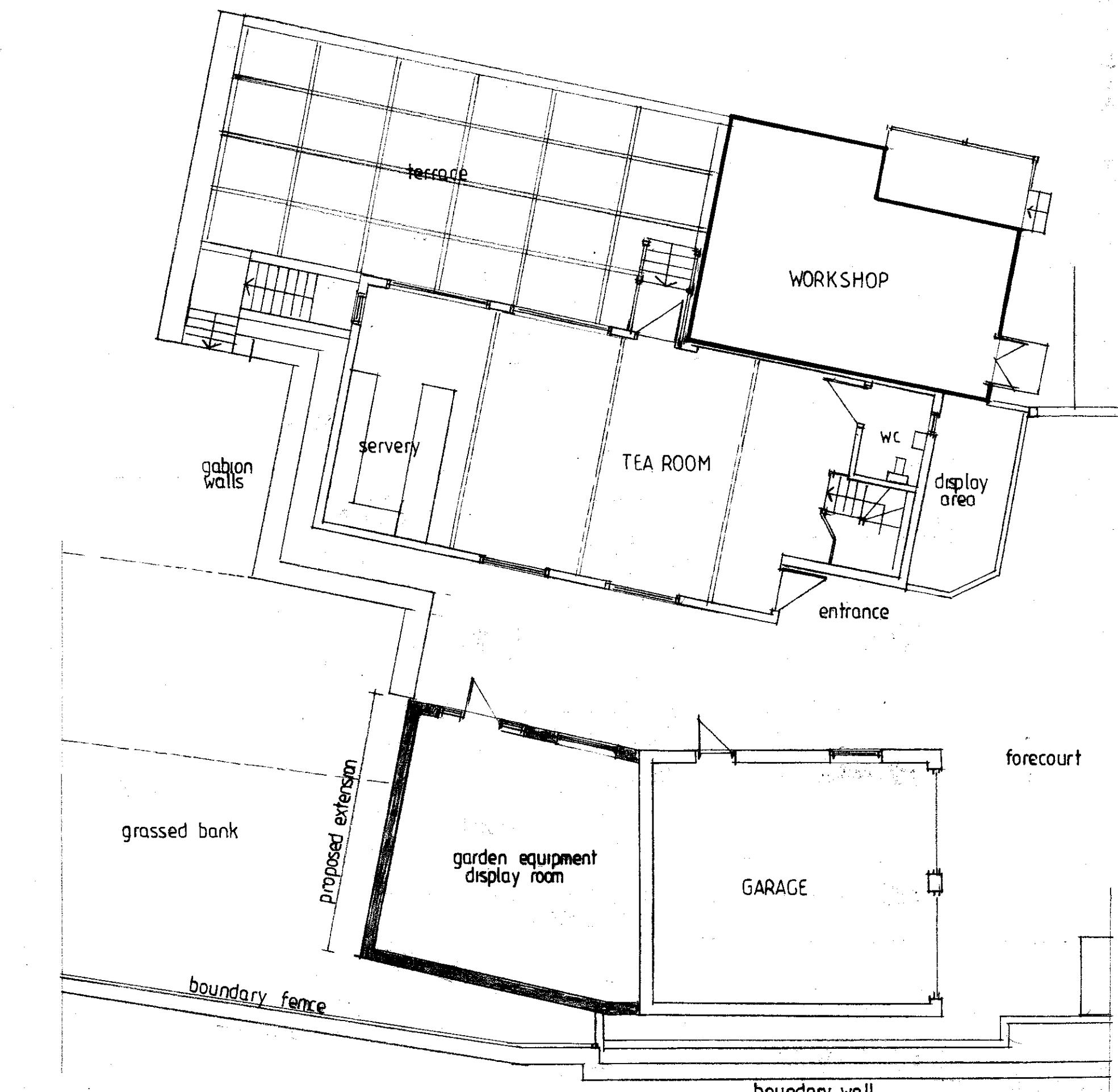
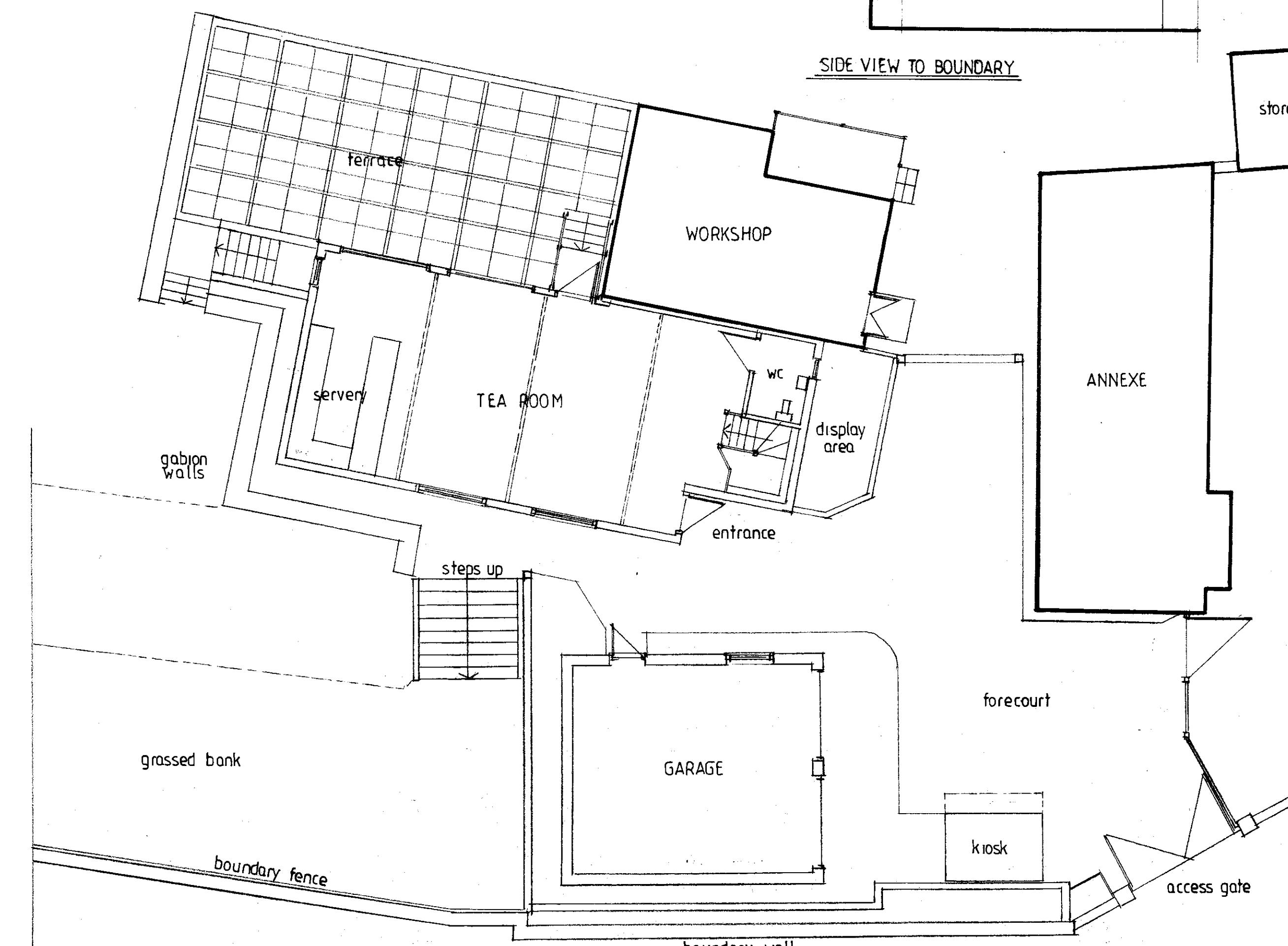
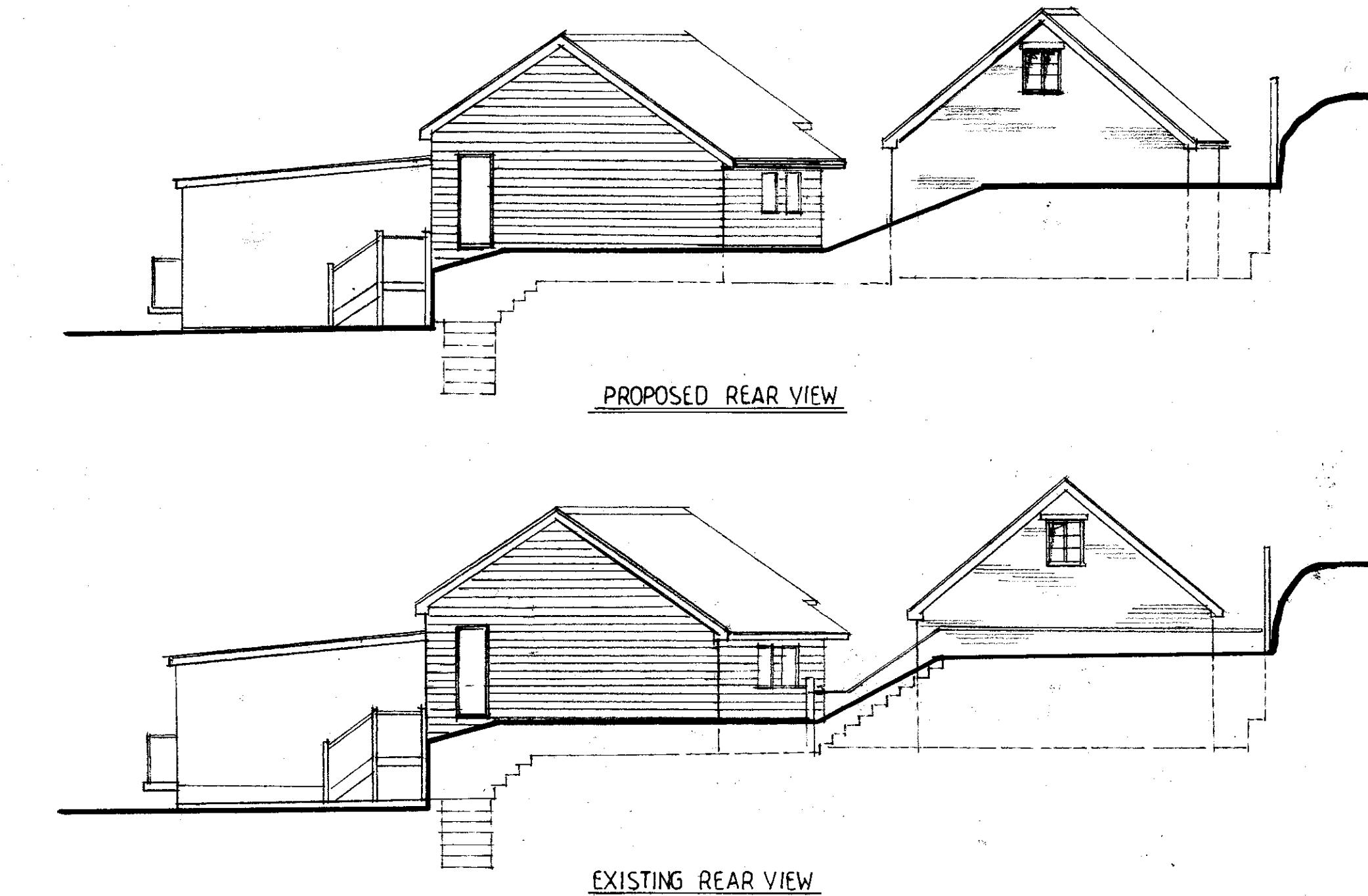
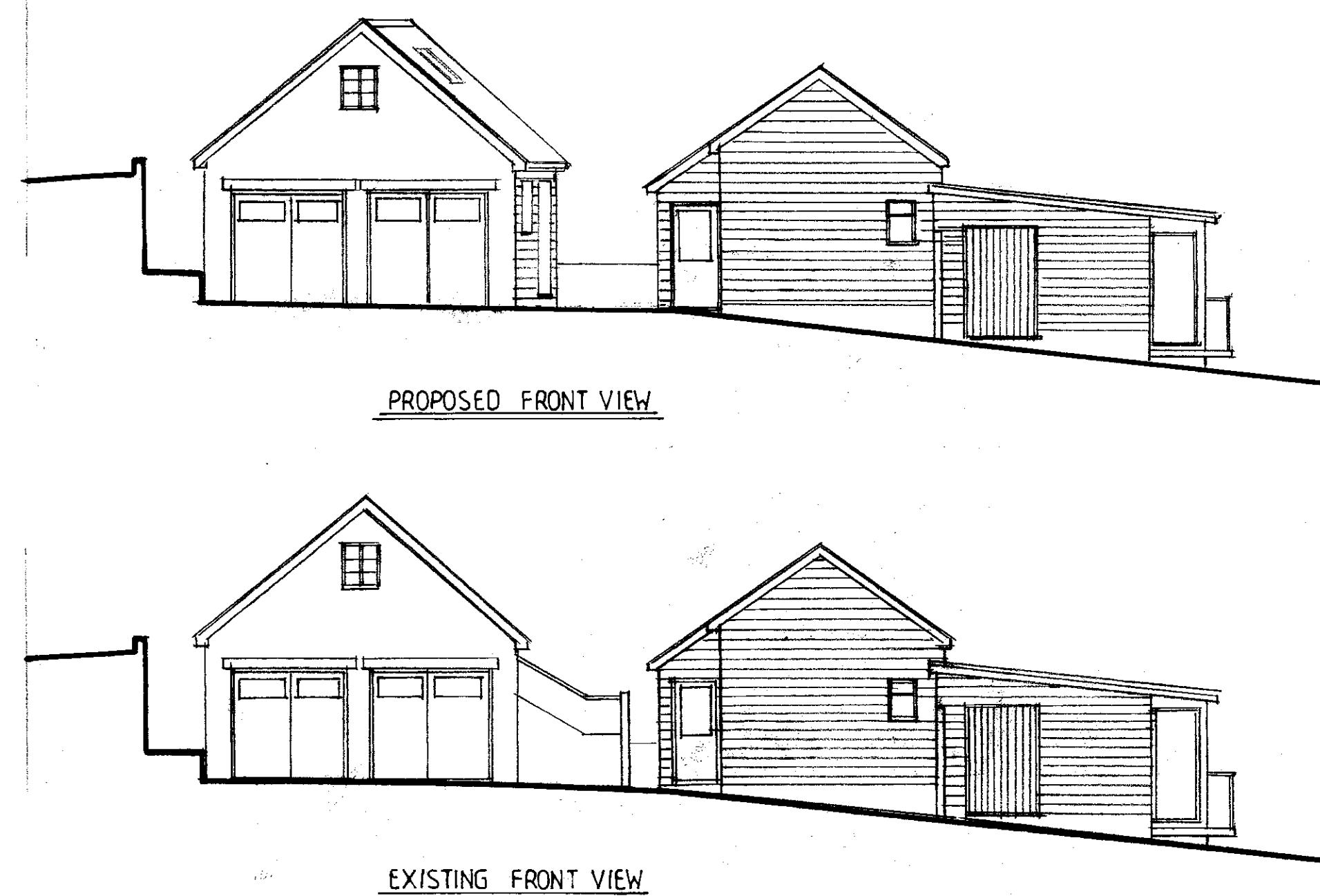
Figure 3b

Stabiliser strut mounted on block tray



## Appendix E





**homeplans**

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CLIENT: MR & MRS McHUGH

PROJECT: CHURCH GARDENS  
CHURCH HILL, HAREFIELD

TITLE: DESIGN PROPOSAL - TEA ROOM EXTENSION  
PLANS & ELEVATIONS

DRG NO:  
1600/50

DATE: AUG. 2023  
SCALE: 1:100 AT A1  
DRAWN: A