

Arboricultural Method Statement

for

Rebuild of failed retaining wall

Site Address:
43-66, Runnymede Court, West End
Southampton, SO30 3DP

Ref: KTML42124-AMS

Kiss
Tree
Management
Limited



Sarah Kiss *F.Arbor.A, MICFor, VETCert.*



Purpose

This arboricultural method statement (AMS) describes the practices and methods that must be used to avoid damage to retained trees throughout the process of rebuilding a retaining wall at 43-66 Runnymede Court West End Southampton SO30 3DP.

The wall is the southeastern boundary of the car park. It is supporting an earth bank on which many shrubs and trees are growing. Removal of these is necessary to facilitate the rebuild.

Roots support trees and transport water and nutrients from the soil to where they are needed. Roots can also be a conduit of decay and disease if they are damaged. Roots are easily damaged by construction activity, severance or contamination, and the results may be invisible and take time to show.

The trees on site are protected by a tree preservation order (TPO) administered by Eastleigh Borough Council. No works must be carried out that will impact tree until written consent is obtained from EBC.

Please note: the scope of this project has been scaled back to avoid damage to the protected horse chestnut growing to the NE end of the set of garages. It is not possible to avoid all trees, but this is one of the more notable ones and it's careful retention is considered.

The replacement is necessary as the weight of the bank is too great for the current wall and it is being pushed over. Temporary supports have been installed but these are not a permanent solution.

Replanting will be necessary to replace the lost vegetation: a lower level of shrubbery and small trees is recommended as a longer-term solution. Much of the present vegetation is self-set and not the most appropriate species for the location and space available.

Species present

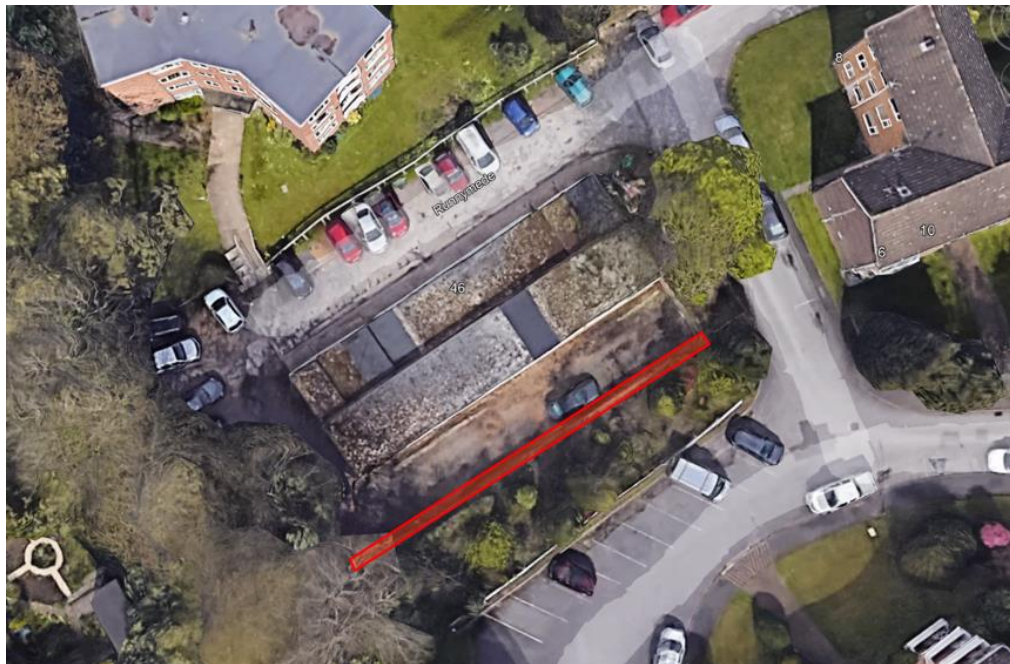
Mixed native, naturalized and non-native. Include sycamore, willow, privet, young cherry and oak, Portuguese laurel and other shrubs and grasses.

Tree preservation order

All the vegetation here is covered by TPO 60-H – area TPO. The date of the TPO is not known so some of the vegetation may not be covered.

Location

The wall is the southeastern and eastern boundary to the set of garages associated with the block of flats that are the applicant address to the north northwest. The wall is highlighted red below:



Extent of works

Removal of all trees on the bank to the south of the damaged wall. This will mean a deep excavation and all vegetation on the bank for the long section of wall will need to be removed. See drawing 20 of project 2024.442 titled 'Proposed Ret. Wall Construction Site Plan Structural Scheme Details' Aug '24.

Most of the vegetation is of relatively low individual quality. It may be possible to transplant the young oaks and cherry, retain them and replant after the wall is rebuilt.

The excavation may impact larger trees (sycamore) to the western end of the wall. There is a bank of laurel here that will need to be removed or coppiced.

It is recommended that this end is excavated under arboricultural supervision to determine if the works are causing too much damage to roots to retain the sycamore in the longer term. If multiple larger roots are severed, then the sycamore will need to be felled as well, though the intention will be to retain it if this can be done safely.

T1 is a protected horse chestnut growing at the east -northeast end of the double row of garages. It is of good condition and fair form. Its retention is highly desirable and has been considered a priority at design process.

The short wall supports the soil volume for T1. It is anticipated that only fine roots belonging to T1 will be found behind the long section of the wall and these can be pruned with little detriment to T1. See *image 1 below*.



Viewed from south to north – images courtesy of Google Earth Pro/Landsat/Copernicus



View from east-northeast illustrating soil level differences.

Photographs from site

The site was visited in July 2024 with the building consultancy undertaking the works. The photos were taken during this site visit.



Photo 1: Eastern end of car park where wall adjoins garages. The horse chestnut is in the centre top.



Photo 2: Eastern end of car park where wall turns to form southeastern boundary. Note temporary support.



Photo 3: centre section of long run

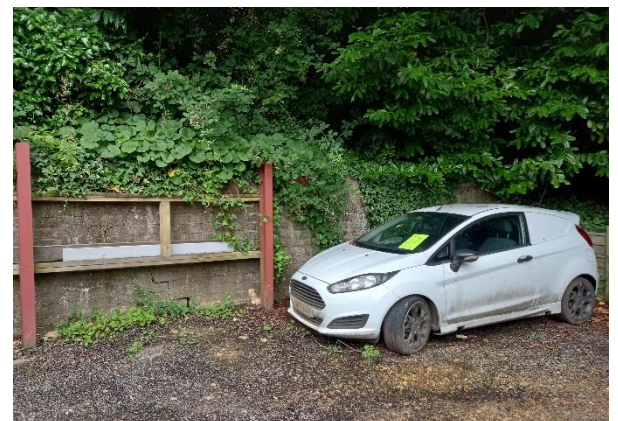


Photo 4: southwestern corner. Note cracks in wall.

Methodology for removal of existing wall

NO works are to be done to the eastern end (the short return wall) to safeguard T1's rooting area.

Take down will be from the hard standing side for obvious reasons. The building company will decide how best to do this depending on the stability and equipment on site.

Works at western end of wall to be done under arboricultural supervision to determine extent of damage and to advise on how to retain other trees.

Methodology for build of new wall

I am advised that a minimum 5m excavation needs to be done behind the long wall section cutting back into the bank to facilitate the rebuild. This has been queried but confirmed as necessary. See detail on drawing 20 of project 2024.442 titled 'Proposed Ret. Wall Construction Site Plan Structural Scheme Details' Aug '24.

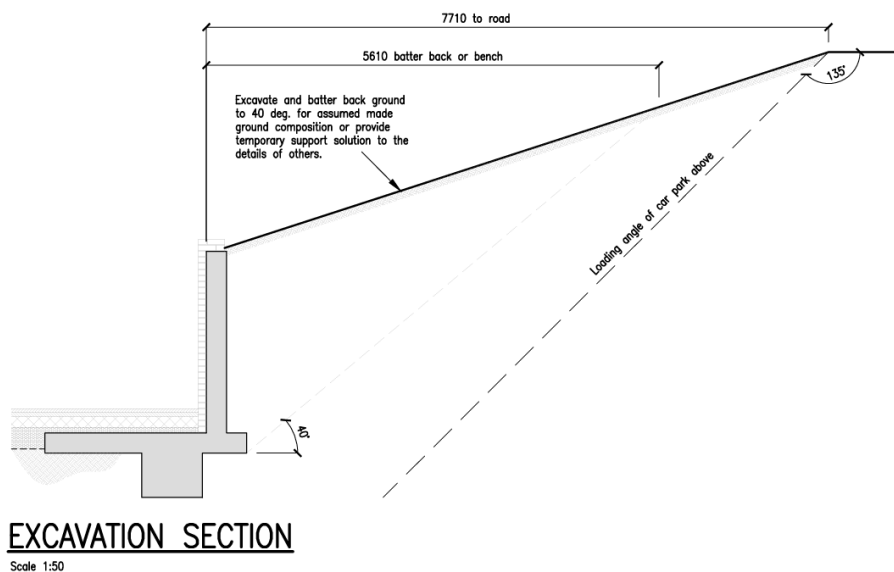
The replacement wall will have deeper, larger footings and be of stronger design and using a mass concrete trenched installation. See notes on drawing 2024.442.10A Engineers Drawing - Site Plan for detail of construction.

Mitigation planting

Two young oaks and a cherry can be lifted and stored temporarily for replanting post re-construction. If this is not successful, it is proposed that smaller trees of good biodiversity value are planted: suggested species include:

- 1 x cockspur thorn - *Crataegus crus-galli*
- 1 x crab apple – *Malus triloba* or similar spp.
- 1 x field maple - *Acer campestre*

Plus a mix of landscape shrubs e.g. *Hebe*, *Viburnum*, *Hydrangea*, *Weigela* etc.



The excavation will allow for mass concrete strip foundations to be installed as per drawing 10 of project 2024.442 titled 'Proposed Ret. Wall Construction Site Plan Structural Scheme Details' Aug '24.

Take down will be from the hard standing side for obvious reasons. The building company will decide how best to do this depending on the stability and equipment.

Chronology of works and operations

No	Activity	Arb input	Signed
1	Tree works to remove highlighted section from bank (subject to consent from EBC)	Tree surgery works	
2	Excavation to reduce load on long section of wall.	Observe western extent, determine safety of retained vegetation	
3	Demolition of existing wall and supports	None	
4	Rebuild of all with stronger footings and drainage features.	None	
5	Backfill to wall with suitable mix of angular stone and soil to support tree growth.	Check suitability of soil volumes and type.	
6	Mitigation planting	Species selection	