

ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

1. All tree surgery works, once approved by the LPA, will be carried out prior to any other site works. Once completed, the proposed protective fencing will be erected along the lines indicated above. All of this will be carried out prior to commencement of any development works on the site. Outline details of the proposed programme are given in the Design and Construction and Tree Care flow chart attached (Appendix 2 of the AIA).
2. All tree work will be agreed with the LPA and will be carried out in line with BS 3998:2010 (Recommendations for Tree Works). Any alterations to the proposed schedule of works will be agreed with the LPA prior to commencement of works.
3. An assessment to BS 5837:2012 has been undertaken to the trees and groups of trees. The trees to be retained have been given a root protection area (RPA).
4. The RPA has been used to allow a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) to be designated; this is the area to be protected during development by the use of barriers, ground protection measures, and specialised construction techniques or other agreed measures to ensure the protection of the trees and roots of the trees from the construction processes.
5. The following methods have been designated as appropriate measures for tree protection on this site in connection to the construction and are set out in a sequence to which they should be undertaken.

Sequenced Methods of Tree Protection

Pre-Construction Meeting

An onsite meeting will be held if conditioned/deemed necessary by the local authority with all relevant parties such as the contactors, the appointed arboricultural supervisor, and a representative from the local planning authority. The purpose of this meeting is to agree and record the location of site features and site information such as

- Current tree condition
- Agree tree works
- Locations of site access
- Location of site storage (if required)
- The location of tree protection barriers/fencing and ground protection

Tree Protection Barriers

Tree protection barriers should be erected to protect the construction exclusion zone of the retained trees.

Barriers should be fit for purpose and be appropriate to the proximity of work taking place around the retained trees and groups of trees. It is suggested that braced Heras fencing, as shown in illustration below, would be an appropriate solution for tree protection at this site, as it would provide the necessary temporary protection, as opposed to the default tree protection fencing detailed in also recommended in BS 5837:2012.

Once the agreed barriers are in position they should not be moved and should be considered as a permanent structure on the site until construction of the extension is completed.

All personnel on the site should be informed of the barriers role in protecting the trees and their importance. This should be enforced during usage of the site.

Where an area of existing hard standing such as an area of concrete or tarmac is in place and over a proportion of or all of the root protection area of a tree or trees to be retained on the site, this hard-standing area may form existing tree/ground protection and may circumvent the requirement to fully fence off the trees root protection area.

General Principles of Tree Protection

Copy of this Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan should always be retained on site for ease of reference.

No fires should be lit next to or adjacent to the tree protection barriers.

A designated storage area should be created, and the position agreed upon (away from the trees). All materials for construction should be stored in this compound. Care must be taken to avoid any leakages or spillages of toxic materials into the soil. The gradient of the site has been taken into consideration when agreeing the location of the storage area to stop any run off entering the tree protection area.

If existing hard standing such as a patio or road construction is in place and within the RPA of the retained tree or trees, then this should remain in situ and act a tree protection during construction of the building. This hard standing should only be removed (if required) once all major construction work at the site has finished.

Dismantling of Existing Building/Excavation for underground Construction

All dismantling procedures should first conform to the current Health and Safety Regulations.

Where possible and not in breach of the current Health and Safety Regulations the exterior wall nearest the tree/trees should remain intact as dismantled last, as this will act as existing protection to the tree/trees.

Care should be taken that in the use of heavy dismantling equipment such as a 360 excavator that the hydraulic arm does not pass over the site fencing and that any part of the machine does not come in to contact with the adjacent tree/trees.

When undertaken dismantling operations/excavation below ground level within the root protection area (RPA) of the trees extreme care not to cause additional disturbance to the ground other than necessary should be undertaken.

If roots above 25mm in diameter within the RPA of the tree are uncovered, then the following procedure should be followed;

Excavate carefully around the root/roots uncovered, avoid de-barking, breaking, splitting, splintering, or shattering the roots. Once uncovered the roots which will have to be removed to accommodate the construction or further dismantling should be cut back to a point 100mm beyond the nearest edge of the construction, they must be pruned back cleanly with sharp,

clean pruning saws or bypass loppers making level, smooth right angle cuts with no ragged edges. Exposed roots to be retained must be kept moist by covering with wetted hessian to prevent desiccation, and re-interred as soon as possible.

Hand Dig Method of Excavation within the Root Protection Area of the Trees for Installation of Pipe Work (If Required)

Where installation of pipe work for water, electricity, gas or drainage purposes needs to be undertaken within the root protection zone of the tree or trees the following hand dig method or excavation should be undertaken.

Where possible the route and locations of such pipes/features should be kept at the furthest possible point from the location of the tree to minimise damage to the trees roots, ideally this should be out of the RPA. Where this cannot be achieved and encroachment into the RPA is allowed by the local planning authority the following sequence of steps for hand digging and installation of the pipes should be adopted.

Hand Dig Specification

Where excavations have to take place within root protection areas of trees the first operation shall be to move tree protection fencing back (if required) to a line 150mm inside the nearest edge of the proposed excavation, where it shall be immediately re-erected in full accordance with BS 5837 2012 and specification of the AMS.

Hand dig excavations inside the root protection area shall then be carried out by hand very carefully, avoid de-barking, breaking, splitting, splintering or shattering the roots.

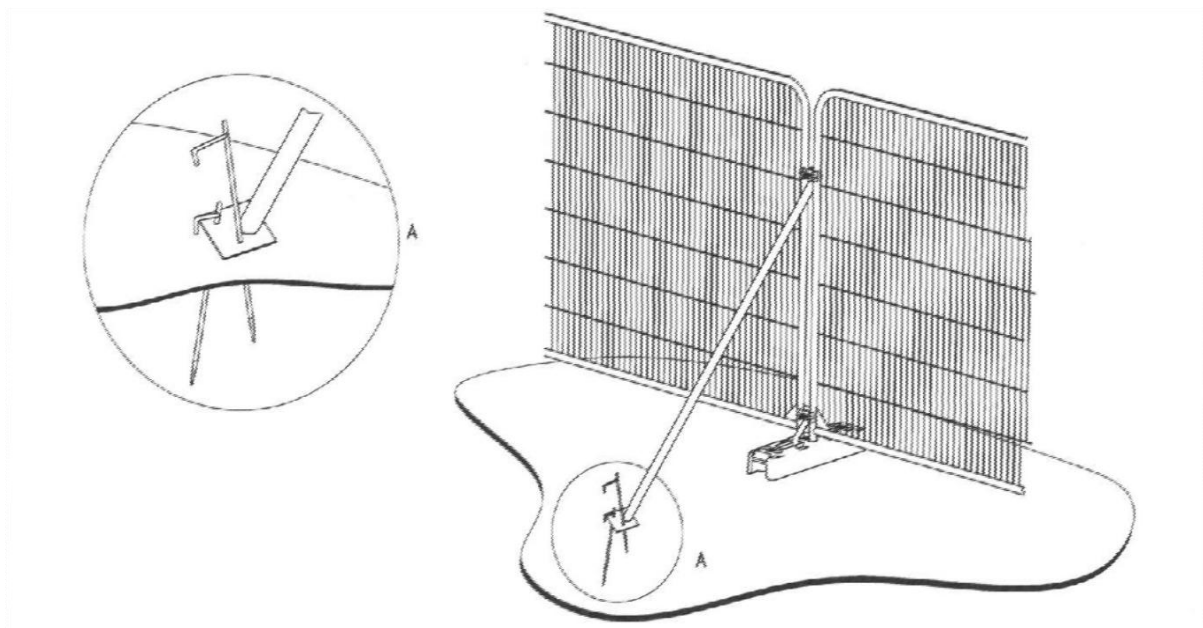
Alternatively, an Air Spade could be utilised to remove substrate. If it is proposed to sever any roots of 25mm in diameter or greater an explanation will need to be submitted to the local authority tree officer for approval with justification as to why an alternative method of installation (e.g. moling) cannot be undertaken. Where roots under 25mm in diameter are to be severed or where root severance has been agreed in writing by the local authority tree officer they will be cut back to a point 150mm beyond the nearest edge of the construction towards the tree, they must be pruned back cleanly with a sharp clean pruning saw or bypass loppers making level, smooth right angle cuts with no ragged edges. Where roots of 25mm in diameter or greater are encountered they will not be cut back or damaged unless approval has been granted by the local authority Tree Officer.

Landscape Re-instatement within the Root Protection Area

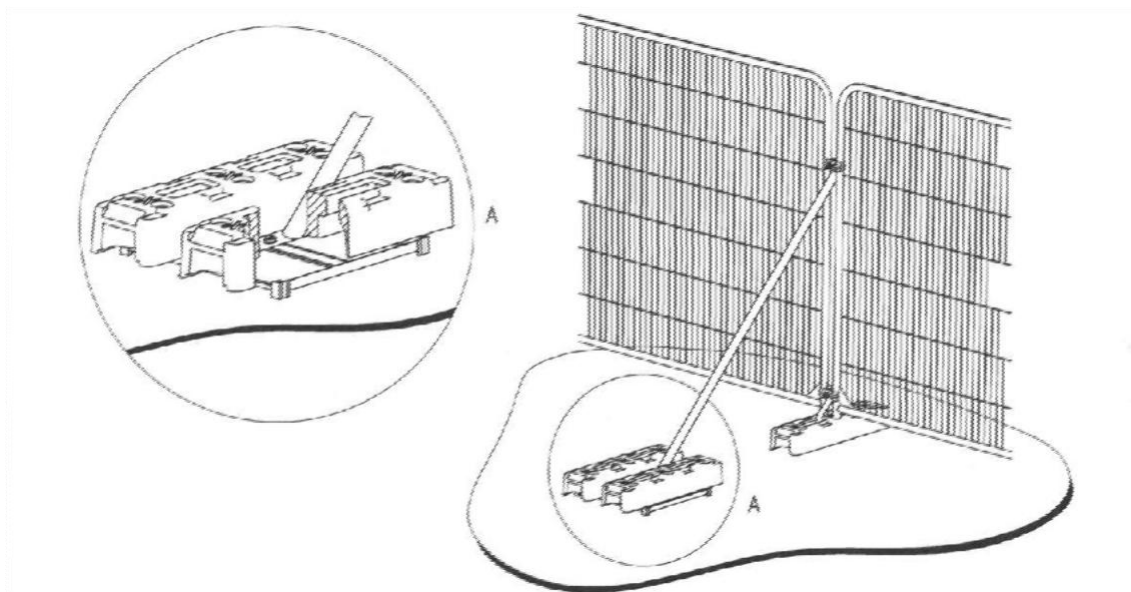
Where re-instatement of the ground, landscaping and, or planting including the applications of top soil or mulch needs to be undertaken within the root protection areas of the retained trees. Care should be taken to avoid damage to the trees root system.

Levelling, top dressing, and cultivation should be undertaken with manual handheld equipment only, with the use of rotavators, mini diggers, rollers and other mechanical equipment being prohibited within the root protection area of the trees.

BS 5837:2012 Figure 2: Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray

