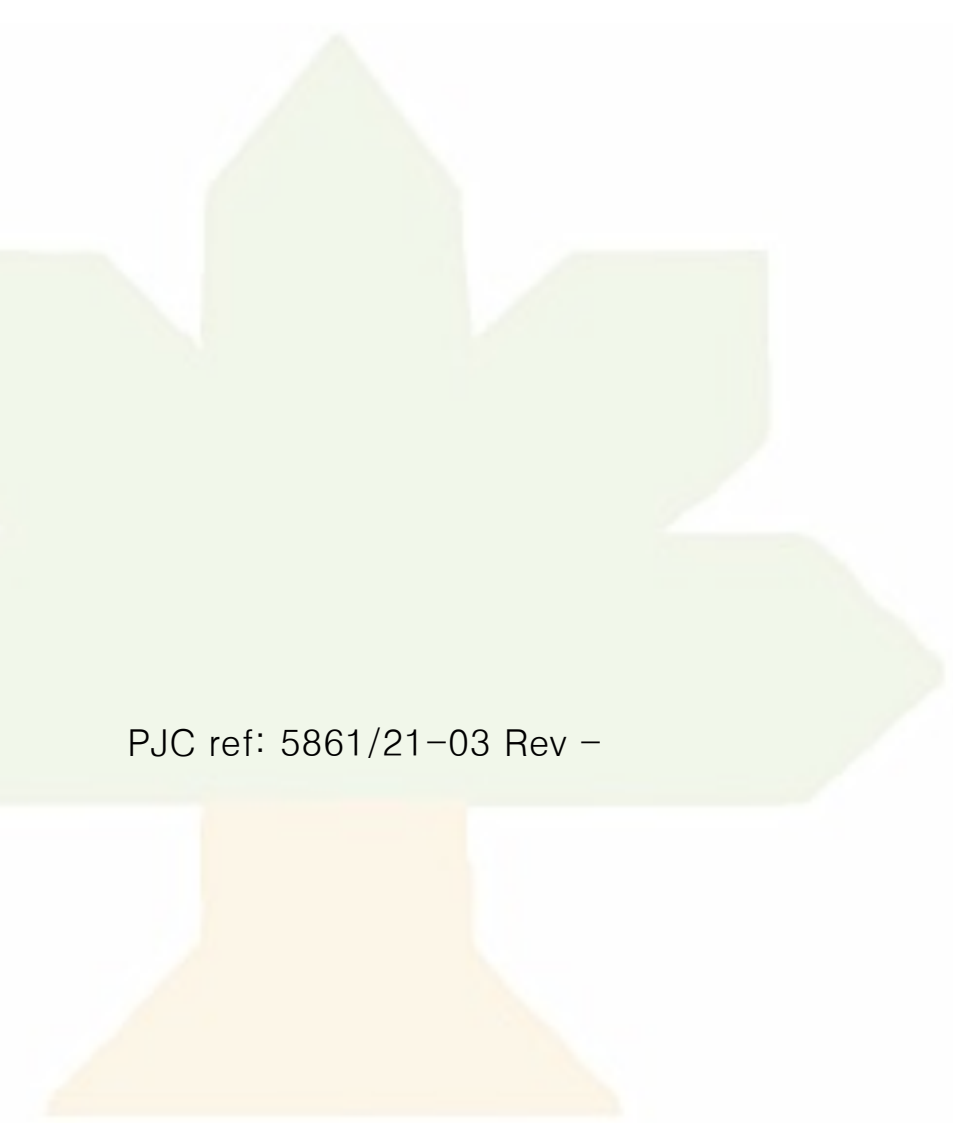


Arboricultural Method Statement

Townhouse Farm
Church Lane
Ardingly
West Sussex
RH17 6UR

7th September 2022

A large, stylized graphic of a tree with a light green canopy and a light orange trunk, positioned on the left side of the page.

PJC ref: 5861/21-03 Rev –

This report has been prepared by
PJC Consultancy Ltd
on behalf of
the Balcombe Estate

Prepared by	Nick Betts HND For M.Arbor.A Nick has attained an HND in forestry management and is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association. He has worked in the arboricultural and forestry industries for over 20 years. He started his career as a forestry worker before qualifying as a tree surgeon, working in both the private and commercial sectors. He has been a practising consultant since 2004. He is a LANTRA accredited professional tree inspector.
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This method statement is written in conjunction with arboricultural survey ref. PJC/5861/21-01 and arboricultural impact assessment ref. PJC/5861/21-02.

1.2 **Instruction:** PJC Consultancy has been instructed by the Balcombe Estate to provide an arboricultural method statement in accordance with BS5837: 2012 '*Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*', for proposed construction works at Townhouse Farm, Church Lane, Ardingly.

1.3 **Objective of this report:** In order to safeguard retained trees on site during development works it is necessary to implement a tree protection strategy. The objective of the following arboricultural method statement is to provide protection methodology for retained trees throughout the demolition and construction period, including the above ground and below ground parts of the trees as well as their rooting medium. This report is concerned with the protection of all retained trees at the site including trees around the curtilage with the potential to be impacted by the construction works.

1.4 **Limitations of report:** This document is based on the plans and information made available to the author on the date of the report. Updates to the arboricultural method statement and Tree Protection Plan may be required following detailed design stage of development including the routing of services and formation of a construction management plan.

1.5 **Contents of report:** This report includes the following:

- Arboricultural Method Statement
- Tree Protection Plan

2 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

2.1 General requirements: The arboricultural method statement and Tree Protection Plan shall remain on site for the duration of demolition, construction and landscaping works and be available to site operatives at all times. All operatives at the site shall be briefed about tree related factors as part of their site induction.

2.2 Any variation from the methodology described in this method statement shall be discussed with the supervising arboriculturalist and agreed with the local authority arboricultural officer.

2.3 Phasing of works: To ensure trees are protected throughout the development, the proposed development shall occur in the following order:

Table 1: Phasing of works

Works Order	Operation	Notes
1	Installation of tree protection barriers.	The tree protection fencing shall be installed in the locations shown on the Tree Protection Plan and to the specification described in this method statement.
2	Demolition and construction phase.	The tree protection barriers shall be maintained and the construction exclusion zones observed throughout the construction phase.
3	Soft landscaping phase.	The tree protection barriers shall be dismantled when external construction and hard landscape operations have been completed and plant machinery or excess construction materials have been removed from site. Soft landscape operations shall occur sensitively as described in this method statement.

2.4 Tree protection barriers: The root protection areas of retained trees must be left free from disturbance, and protected from contamination or compaction during the proposed works.

2.5 Tree protection fencing shall be installed in the locations shown on the Tree Protection Plan. The specification for tree protection fencing shall be metal welded mesh panels (e.g. Heras panels), in concrete or rubber feet. The panels shall be supported by metal stabiliser struts mounted on either a base plate secured by ground pins, or in a block tray (refer to Appendix 2). Any variation from this specification for tree protection fencing shall be discussed with the project arboriculturalist and agreed in writing with the local authority arboricultural officer.

2.6 Signs shall be affixed to the fencing as shown in Appendix 3 to explain its purpose. The signs shall be affixed at a reasonable size and frequency to ensure they are easily visible to operatives at the site.

2.7 The tree protection barriers shall be installed prior to construction traffic entering the site. They shall remain in place for the duration of construction and hard landscaping works unless otherwise agreed with the project arboriculturalist.

2.8 The areas protected by tree protection fencing (highlighted yellow on the Tree Protection Plan) or temporary ground protection shall be referred to as the construction exclusion zones. The following restrictions shall apply within the construction exclusion zones:

- No vehicular access shall be permitted.
- Regular pedestrian access shall be restricted unless on suitable ground protection measures agreed with the project arboriculturalist.
- No storage of construction materials shall occur.
- No storage of building spoil or construction debris (including short-term temporary storage) shall occur.
- No harmful chemicals shall be stored or handled.
- No fires shall be permitted.
- No mechanical excavation including regrading of levels shall occur.
- There shall be no change in ground level unless undertaken under the supervision of the project arboriculturalist.
- No construction activities including installation of new permanent hard standing shall be undertaken unless otherwise specified in this method statement.

2.9 Storage and handling of harmful chemicals: Provision must be taken to prevent the storage and handling of harmful chemicals within the root protection areas of retained trees. Harmful chemicals include fuels, oils, bitumen, builder's sand (which has a high salt content) and cement. Provision shall also be made to prevent the storage and handling of harmful chemicals in areas proposed for further planting if the existing soil is intended to be retained.

2.10 Cement mixing shall always occur outside the construction exclusion zones. If cement mixing is to occur close to the construction exclusion zones, or there is the potential for cement washings to leech into a root protection area, adequate, bunded ground protection measures must be used. This could comprise impermeable plastic sheeting under wooden boards (to prevent tears) surrounded by a raised lip.

2.11 All other chemicals that are harmful to trees must be stowed in suitable containers and stored away from the construction exclusion zones unless adequate, bunded ground protection measures are implemented to prevent spillages leeching into root protection areas.

2.12 Contractor facilities: A suitable location for site cabins, contractor parking and site facilities for operatives shall be agreed with the project arboriculturalist during the pre-commencement meeting if not already specified in a construction management plan. These facilities must be located outside the root protection areas of all retained trees unless on adequate ground protection measures that have been agreed with the project arboriculturalist (potentially including existing hard standing). Provision must be taken to prevent exhaust fumes or hot air from generators or kitchen facilities from damaging foliage within the crowns of retained trees.

2.13 Services: When details of the routing of services become available, prior to commencement of construction works, they shall be reviewed by the project arboriculturalist. The arboriculturalist shall then confirm to the local authority arboricultural officer either that no works will be carried out within root protection areas, or provide details of the methodology required to ensure the works are carried out in accordance with NJUG10 '*Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utilities in proximity to trees*' and BS5837: 2012.

2.14 Soft landscaping within root protection areas: Soft landscaping within the root protection areas of retained trees shall occur as the final phase of development, when all other construction activities in the vicinity have been completed and it is safe to dismantle the tree protection barriers. The detailed specification for soft landscaping is to be confirmed but will potentially include turfing and tree/shrub planting within root protection areas.

2.15 All planting stock, top soil and other soft landscaping materials shall be stockpiled outside the root protection areas of retained trees. When the tree protection barriers have been dismantled, the extents of the root protection areas shall be made clear to operatives at the site by other means (e.g. ground marker paint or similar). The standard restrictions to works within the construction exclusion zones will still apply during the soft landscaping phase of development.

2.16 Where new turf is to be laid within the root protection areas of retained trees, topsoil will likely need to be imported. The existing soil may be lightly tilled by hand but use of rotavators or plant machinery will be prohibited. A maximum increase of 150mm of topsoil should be introduced to a root protection area to avoid suffocating existing root growth. Care must be taken to prevent soil being piled against tree buttresses or buttress roots.

2.17 When soil or other materials are transported across a root protection area, scaffold board pathways must be used to prevent compaction of the rooting medium. It should be noted that even pedestrian traffic can compact the soil, particularly in wet conditions.

2.18 All planting pits within root protection areas shall be individually hand excavated (no trench planting). Care must be taken to avoid severing or damaging roots with a diameter greater than 25mm.

2.19 If significant root growth is disturbed during construction activities that are not within the scope of this report, the work shall cease until the project arboriculturalist has been consulted. Roots greater than 25mm in diameter or dense/matted fibrous roots shall be considered significant root growth. It should be remembered that whilst root protection areas are part of industry best practice, tree root growth is influenced by a number of factors and may not conform to expected ideals.

2.20 If at anytime during the construction process, damage is inadvertently caused to a tree, the project arboriculturalist shall be notified to assess the likely implications and to prescribe potential remedial measures to be implemented. Damage can be in the form of chemical or fuel spillage, mechanical damage to either the above ground parts of the tree or the roots, fire or any other unforeseen circumstance.

2.21 The supervising arboriculturalist shall be appointed by the contractor. It will be necessary for the arboriculturalist to report to the local planning authority on the outcome of the site visits as well as any unforeseen tree related issues.

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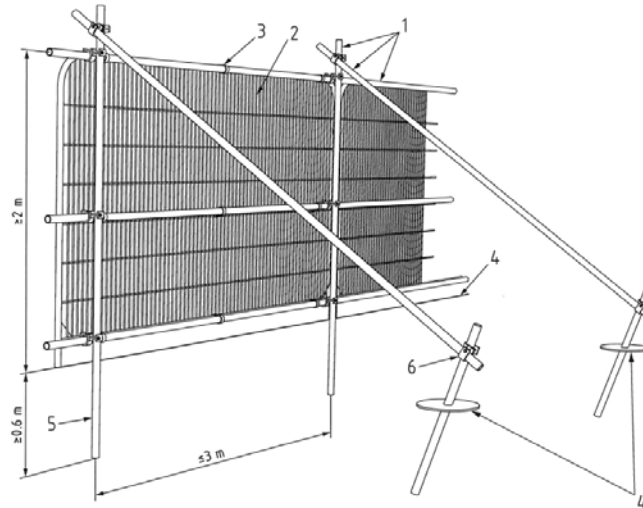
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APPENDIX 1

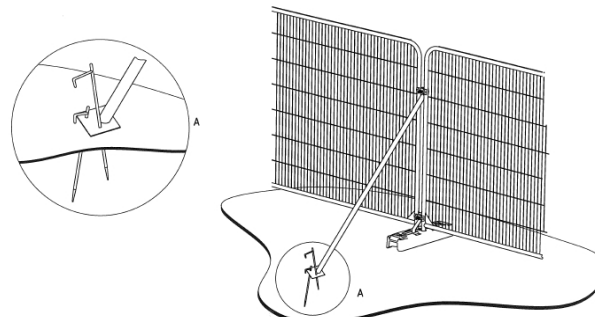
Tree Protection Plan

APPENDIX 2

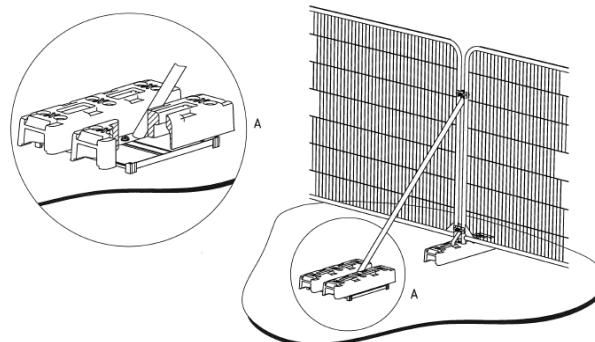
Tree Protection Fencing Specification



- Key**
- 1 Standard scaffold poles
 - 2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized 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



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray

APPENDIX 3

Example Protective Fencing Sign

