



ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, METHOD STATEMENT AND TREE PROTECTION PLAN

**Juhring and Hobbs Field
Saint Hill Manor
Saint Hill Road
East Grinstead
RH19 4JY**

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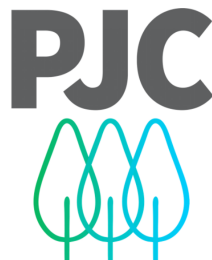
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PJC Consultancy has been instructed by Carnegie Architecture to provide an arboricultural impact assessment and arboricultural method statement to support a planning application for proposed infrastructure works to augment local and community events comprising of: hard paved car park with 131 spaces and toilet facilities adjacent to Saint Hill Road, hard paved access road servicing both Juhring and Hobbs fields, engineered grass surfaced provision of 587 spaces for temporary parking for specific events in Juhring field, re-contouring of Hobbs field with grassed surface and provision of permanent pads for the marquee together with washroom facilities and backup generator.

This report complies with the planning policies of Mid Sussex District Council and complies with the recommendations of British Standard BS5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

The initial tree survey was carried out on 2nd July 2024 and an additional tree survey was undertaken 9th October 2024. The tree constraints plan and tree survey schedule can be found at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively.

A tree preservation order Ref: TP/15/007 was shown to cover Land at High Wood and The Plantation directly north-west of the site and a check of 'MAGIC'¹ map showed that an unnamed area of woodland located at the centre of the site and High Wood located just beyond the north-west boundary to be ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW).

The site is not located within a Conservation Area.

The proposed layout has been overlaid with the tree constraints plan in order to identify the impacts to the trees to inform this impact assessment and this information has formed the basis of the tree retention plan at Appendix 3, the root protection area incursions plan at Appendix 4 and the tree protection plan at Appendix 5.

The proposed toilet block, generator and substation for Hobbs Field will be located outside the root protection areas of retained trees. The existing barn located within Juhring Field is to be demolished within the root protection area of G17. This must occur sensitively as described in the arboricultural method statement.

Two tree groups require access facilitation pruning to facilitate the new access road and due to poor structural and phycological conditions.

Four individual trees, two groups in their entirety, four partial groups and two sections of one hedgerow require removal to facilitate the proposals. Of the individual trees to be removed, two have



been assessed as category B and two have been assessed as category C. Of the two entire groups to be removed, one has been assessed as category B, and one has been assessed as category C. Of the four partial groups to be removed, two have been assessed as category B, and two have been assessed as category C. The two sections of hedgerow to be removed has been assessed as category C. The removals are required due to a combination of direct conflict with the new access road, HGV turning area and footpath. The Design and Access Statement Rev: A Draft, indicates that new tree, shrub and mixed wildflower and grasses will be incorporated within the design.

New permeable asphalt and resin bound gravel will be constructed within the root protection areas of T1, G4, T11 and T36, and no-dig Groundtrax Cellpave (ranging in specifications and finished surfaces) will be constructed within the root protection areas of G16, G17, G18, T21 and T53. This must be undertaken sensitively as described in the arboricultural method statement.

Provided the exclusion zones and methodologies described in the arboricultural method statement at section 3 and tree protection plan are followed, trees proposed for retention can be protected during the construction phase and successfully integrated into the site post development.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

1.1.1 PJC Consultancy has been instructed by Carnegie Architecture to provide an arboricultural impact assessment and arboricultural method statement to support a planning application for proposed infrastructure works to augment local and community events comprising of: hard paved car park with 131 spaces and toilet facilities adjacent to Saint Hill Road, hard paved access road servicing both Juhring and Hobbs fields, engineered grass surfaced provision of 587 spaces for temporary parking for specific events in Juhring field, re-contouring of Hobbs field with grassed surface and provision of permanent pads for the marquee together with washroom facilities and backup generator.

1.1.2 This report complies with the planning policies of Mid Sussex District Council and complies with the recommendations of British Standard BS5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations (the British Standard).

1.2 Objectives of report

1.2.1 This report has been undertaken with the following objectives:

- To identify the tree removals and pruning works that will be required as a result of the proposed development and to assess the impact of the tree works.
- To assess the potential impact the proposed construction works will have on retained trees and provide recommendations for mitigation measures to reduce the impact on the trees.
- To provide a 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.

1.3 Contents of report

1.3.1 This report includes:

- A tree constraints plan and tree survey schedule at Appendices 1 & 2 respectively.
- An arboricultural impact assessment at section 2, a tree retention plan at Appendix 3 and a root protection area incursions plan at Appendix 4.
- An arboricultural method statement at section 3 and a tree protection plan at Appendix 5.

1.4 Documents and information provided

1.4.1 The following documents were used to aid the preparation of this report:

- PJC Initial Arboricultural Report Ref: 6617/24-01.
- Acad Mapping LTD - Topographical Surveys. No. N25 sheet 1, No. M1049 sheet 1, No. M1042 sheet 1, No. M966-M958 sheet 1.
- Carnegie Architecture 1093_B_Pre-Application Document.
- Carnegie Architecture – Existing and Proposed Location Plan Drawing No. 001 Rev B.
- Carnegie Architecture – Proposed Hobbs Field Site Plan Drawing No. 005 Rev K.
- Enplan – Landscape GA Plan Juhring Field Ref: 1232-ENP-SI-00-DR-L-90103 Rev: P02
- Enplan – Juhring and Hobbs Field – Typical Paving Details Sheet 1 Ref: 1232-ENP-SI-00-DR-L-90400 Rev: P01.



- Design and Access Statement Rev: A Draft.

1.5 Limitations of report

- 1.5.1 The following arboricultural impact assessment and method statement have been prepared for the proposal stated in section 1.1 and using the plans and information listed in section 1.4. The report should not be relied upon if the stated proposal or proposed design changes unless the author confirms the changes do not have a bearing on the arboricultural impacts or recommended mitigation measures.



2 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2.1 Tree survey

- 2.1.1 The initial tree survey was carried out on 2nd July 2024, and an additional tree survey was undertaken 9th October 2024 to survey additional sections of the site. Only trees in areas that may be affected by the proposals have been surveyed. The tree constraints plan and tree survey schedule can be found at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively.
- 2.1.2 The site is located to the north and west of Saint Hill Manor. The site comprises of two large, grass fields with a mixed woodland to the centre of the site and mixed trees/tree groups lining the boundaries. The surrounding land uses consists of East Grinstead Sports Club to the north and, Saint Hill Road and Saint Hill Manor to the east. Woodlands and mixed use fields are located to the south and west.
- 2.1.3 A check of 'MAGIC'² map showed that an unnamed area of woodland located at the centre of the site and High Wood located just beyond the north-west boundary to be ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW). Ancient woodland is any area that's been continuously wooded since at least 1600 AD. Natural England and Forestry Commission standing advice on any development near to ASNW states that you should have a buffer zone of at least 15m to avoid root damage. This 15m buffer is shown dashed magenta on the tree constraints plan at Appendix 1.

2.2 Statutory tree protection

- 2.2.1 Mid Sussex District Council's online mapping tool was used on 1st July 2024 to check whether there are any tree preservation orders (TPOs) within the site. A TPO Ref TP/15/007 was shown to cover Land at High Wood and The Plantation directly north-west of the site.
- 2.2.2 The online mapping tool can be updated at any time, therefore any persons proposing to undertake tree works should still check the status of the trees with the local planning authority prior to undertaking any tree works. Failure to adhere to the TPO legislation could lead to prosecution and if convicted a fine and criminal record. The crown of a tree and its roots are protected. The person carrying out the works, the person instructing the works and the Directors of that company are potentially liable. Failure to check whether tree/s are the subject of TPO/s could not be used as mitigation.
- 2.2.3 The site is not located within a Conservation Area.

2.3 The proposals

- 2.3.1 The proposed layout has been overlaid with the tree constraints plan in order to identify the impacts to the trees to inform this impact assessment and this information has formed the basis of the tree retention plan at Appendix 3, the root protection area incursions plan at Appendix 4 and the tree protection plan at Appendix 5.

2.4 Tree removals

- 2.4.1 Trees to be removed for the proposed development are shown with dashed outlines on the tree retention plan at Appendix 3 and are shaded to indicate their BS5837 tree category. A summary is listed at Table 1 below.

² The DEFRA MAGIC map website provides authoritative geographic information about the natural environment across government: www.magic.defra.gov.uk



Table 1: Tree removals summary

Tree number	Species	Category	Reason for tree removal
H6	Mixed cypress	C	Two sections of H6 require removal due to direct conflict with the new visibility splays and widening works to the existing site entrance and conflict with the permanent parking bays. The two sections to be removed can be seen highlighted on the tree retention plan.
G8	Leylandii	B	G8 requires removal due to direct conflict with the new visibility splays and widening works to the existing site entrance.
T9	Beech	B	T9 requires removal due to direct conflict with the new visibility splays and widening works to the existing site entrance.
T10	Norway maple	B	T10 requires removal due to direct conflict with the new visibility splays and widening works to the existing site entrance.
T14	Pedunculate oak	C	T14 requires removal due to direct conflict with a proposed new access road.
T15	Pedunculate oak	C	T15 requires removal due to direct conflict with a proposed new access road.
G16	Pedunculate oak	B	One individual tree from G16 require removal due to direct conflict with a proposed new access road. The individual tree to be removed can be seen highlighted on the tree retention plan.
G17	Goat willow	C	One individual tree from G17 require removal due to direct conflict with a proposed new access road. The individual tree to be removed can be seen highlighted on the tree retention plan.
G18	Pedunculate oak	B	Two individual trees from G18 require removal due to direct conflict with a proposed new access road. The two individual trees to be removed can be seen highlighted on the tree retention plan.
G23	Mixed	C	The northern section of G23 requires removal due to direct conflict with a proposed new HGV turning circle. The section to be removed can be seen highlighted on the tree retention plan.
G37	Mixed	C	G37 requires removal due to direct conflict with proposed new footpath.

2.4.1 Four individual trees, two groups in their entirety, four partial groups and two sections of one hedgerow require removal to facilitate the proposals. Of the individual trees to be removed, two have been assessed as category B and two have been assessed as category C. Of the two entire groups to be removed, one has been assessed as category B, and one has been assessed as category C. Of the four partial groups to be removed, two have been assessed as category B, and two have been assessed as category C. the two sections of hedgerow to be removed has been assessed as category C.

2.4.2 The Design and Access Statement Rev: A Draft, indicates that new tree, shrub and mixed wildflower and grasses will be incorporated within the site.

2.5 Access facilitation pruning

2.5.1 A summary of the proposed pruning required to enable the proposals is shown at Table 2 below.



Table 2: Summary of access facilitation pruning

Tree number	Species	Works required	Reason for works
G16	Pedunculate oak	Crown lift to 3m.	To provide adequate clearance for the installation of new no-dig parking bays.
G17	Willow	Pollard remaining tree to 5m.	To provide adequate space for the demolition of the existing barn and to provide clearance for the installation of new no-dig access road and parking bays. It is recommended that the crown of G17 is reduced irrespectively of the proposals on health and safety concerns due to Ganoderma applanatum brackets at base and stem and large deadwood and crown dieback.
T21	Pedunculate oak	Crown lift over access road to provide 4m clearance in height.	To provide adequate clearance for construction traffic.

2.5.2 Ash trees located on the north side of woodland W50 are in decline and displaying signs of Ash Dieback Disease and are within falling distance of the proposed works area. Where Ash Dieback Disease has been identified it has been noted on the tree constraints plan. It is recommended that where Ash Dieback Disease is present within ash trees located within falling distance of the proposed works area with folia dieback of more than 40%, should be felled. Remaining ash trees should be inspected on a cyclical basis.

2.5.3 All works are to be carried out in accordance with BS3998: 2010 Tree works – Recommendations.

2.5.4 Based on the information currently available, it is anticipated that the crowns of all remaining retained trees will be located a sufficient distance from proposed construction activities and expected construction access routes so as not to require pruning.

2.5.5 Any additional requirements for pruning that cannot be predicted at this stage in the design process (e.g. for contractor compound or movement of large or specialist plant machinery) shall be discussed at the pre-commencement meeting with the project arboriculturist and agreed with the local authority arboricultural officer. No works may be carried out on protected trees without prior permission from the local authority.

2.6 Building footings in proximity to trees

2.6.1 The existing barn located within Jurhing Field is to be demolished within the root protection area of G17. This must occur sensitively as described in the arboricultural method statement.

2.6.2 The proposed toilet block, generator and substation for Hobbs Field will be located outside the root protection areas of retained trees, therefore use of specialist foundations for root protection is not deemed necessary.

2.7 Hard standing in proximity to trees

2.7.1 New permeable asphalt for the widening of the existing entrance and proposed permanent parking bays will encroach the root protection areas of T1 and T11 in the areas hatched purple on the root protection area incursions plan. The proposed specification for the new permeable asphalt can be seen in figure 1, but the final detailed specification (including



levels) shall be provided by an engineer and must be signed off by the project arboriculturist before implementation to ensure the roots and rooting medium are adequately protected.

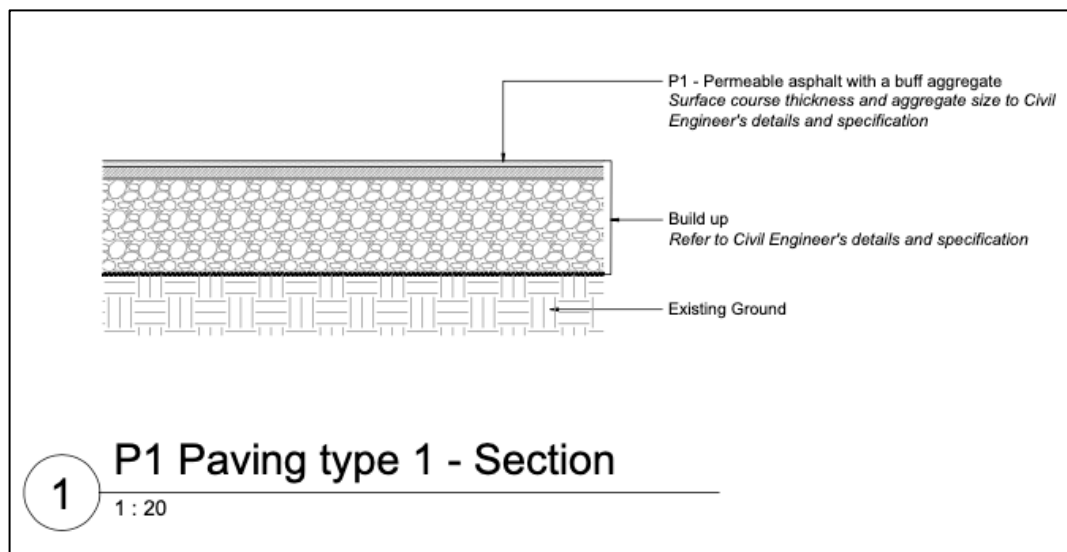


Figure 1: Proposed specification for new permeable asphalt within the root protection areas of T1 and T11.

- 2.7.2 New resin bound gravel footpaths to match the existing footpaths will be constructed within the root protection areas of G4 and T36 in the areas hatched light blue on the root protection area incursions plan, the proposed specification for the new resin bound gravel can be seen in figure 2. The final detailed specification (including levels) shall be provided by an engineer and must be signed off by the project arboriculturist before implementation to ensure the roots and rooting medium are adequately protected.

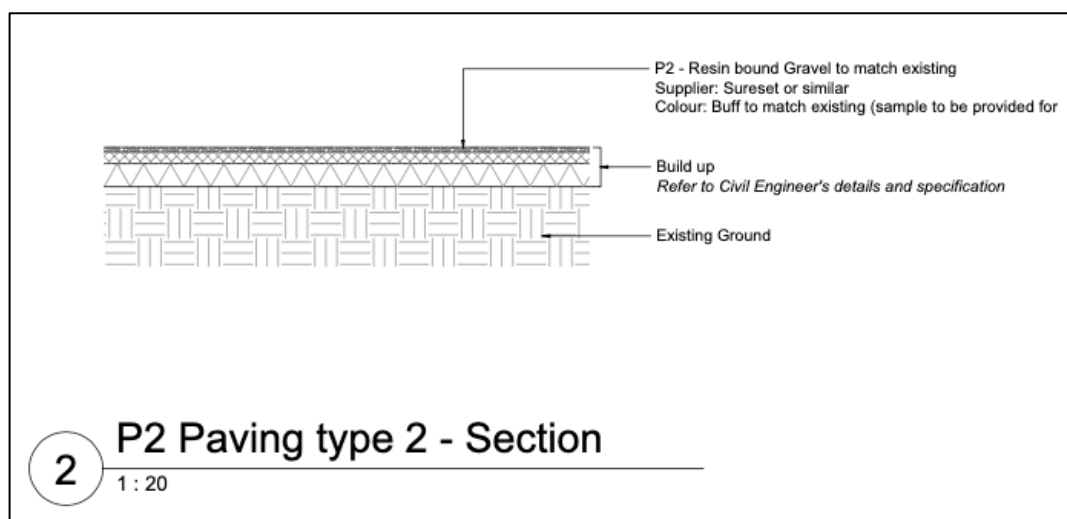


Figure 2: Proposed specification for new resin bound gravel within the root protection areas of G4 and T36.

- 2.7.3 Within the root protection areas of T1, G4, T11 and T36 the proposed areas of new asphalt and resin bound gravel should be built up above the existing ground level, however, minor soil stripping may be required to enable the levels to tie in with the existing site access and existing footpaths. The surface vegetation (e.g. grass sward) shall be carefully removed using hand tools but the underlying soil must be fully retained and protected where feasible.



If any of the underlying soil requires removal to achieve the desired levels, this shall occur under the supervision of the project arboriculturist.

- 2.7.4 The proposed new access road will encroach the root protection areas of G16, G17, G18 and T21 as well as the 15m ancient woodland buffer adjacent to T21 in the areas hatched pink on the root protection area incursions plan. Within the ancient woodland buffer, the new hardstanding will replace an existing unmade farm track. Use of an engineered, no-dig surface in this area should reduce the continued compaction of soils within the ancient woodland buffer. The proposed specification for the new access road is to be no-dig Groundtrax Cellpave HD with no fines gravel fill suitable for HGVs. The proposed specification can be seen in figure 3, but the final detailed specification (including levels) shall be provided by an engineer and must be signed off by the project arboriculturist before implementation to ensure the roots and rooting medium are adequately protected.

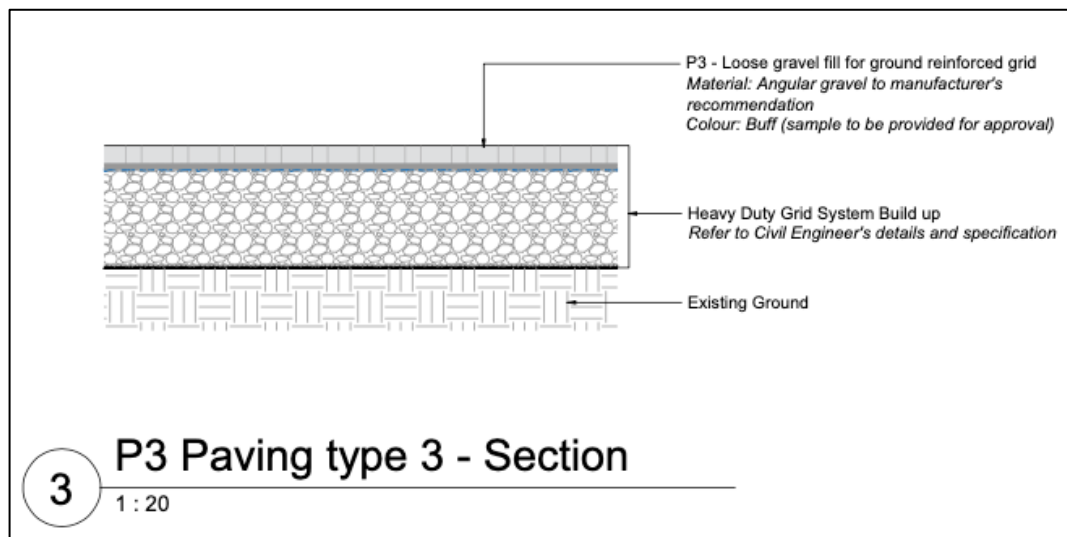


Figure 3: Proposed specification for new Groundtrax Cellpave HD with gravel fill within the root protection areas of G16, G17, G18 and T21.

- 2.7.5 New proposed all-weather parking bays will encroach the root protection areas of G16, G17, and T53 in the areas hatched orange on the root protection area incursions plan. The proposed specification for the new all-weather parking bays is to be no-dig Groundtrax Cellpave with grass planting finish. The proposed specification can be seen in figure 4, but the final detailed specification (including levels) shall be provided by an engineer but must be signed off by the project arboriculturist before implementation to ensure the roots and rooting medium are adequately protected.

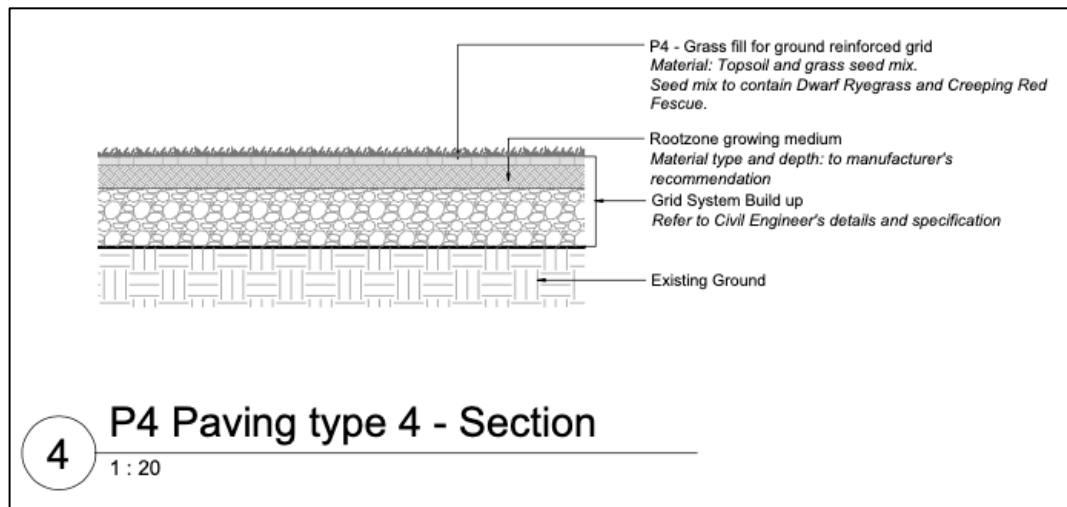


Figure 4: Proposed specification for new Groundtrax Cellpave with grass planting within the root protection areas of G16, G17 and T53.

- 2.7.6 A proposed new footpath will encroach the root protection area of T53 in the area hatched dark blue on the root protection area incursions plan. The proposed specification for the new footpath is to be no-dig Groundtrax Cellpave with no fines gravel fill suitable for pedestrians. The proposed specification can be seen in figure 5, but the final detailed specification (including levels) shall be provided by an engineer but must be signed off by the project arboriculturist before implementation to ensure the roots and rooting medium are adequately protected.

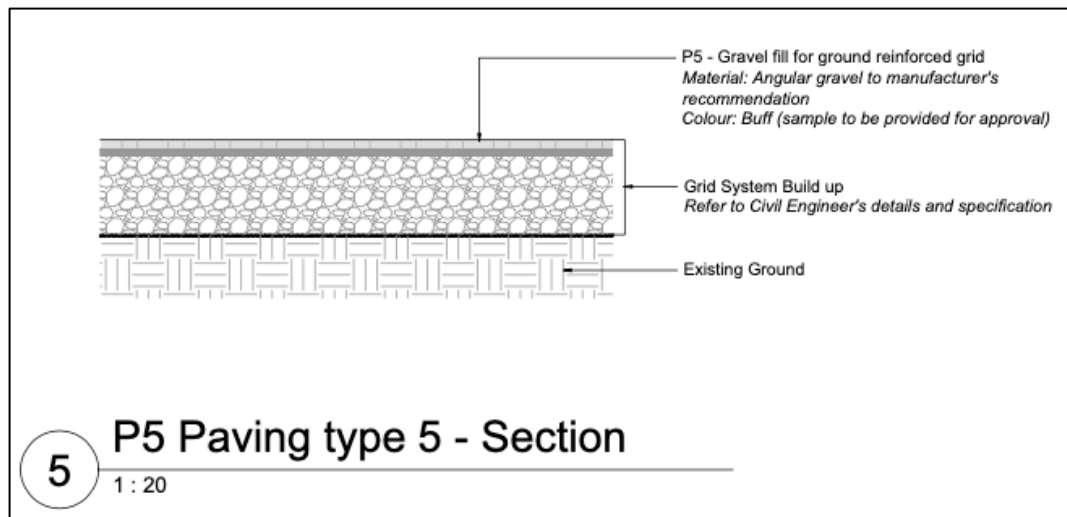


Figure 5: Proposed specification for new Groundtrax Cellpave with gravel fill suitable for pedestrians within the root protection area of T53.

- 2.7.7 The above generic designs for the hardstanding to be constructed within the root protection areas of G16, G17, G18, T21 and T53, should result in the following three outcomes:
1. The hardstanding should be constructed without the need to sever or prune shallow roots (most tree roots are usually found near to the surface).
 2. Compaction of the underlying soil should be avoided both during the construction period and post development.



3. The hardstanding should not significantly inhibit moisture ingress and gaseous diffusion into or out of the soil.

2.7.8 The final detailed specification (including levels) for the new hardstanding to be constructed within the root protection areas of G16, G17, G18, T21 and T53, have provided by an engineer but must be signed off by the project arboriculturist before implementation to ensure the roots and rooting medium are adequately protected. To achieve the three outcomes described above, the design for hardstanding within root protection areas of G16, G17, G18, T21 and T53, must adhere to the following basic specification (see also Appendix 6):

- Within the root protection areas, the hardstanding shall be constructed directly onto the existing ground level without soil stripping. The surface vegetation (e.g. grass sward) shall be carefully removed using hand tools but the underlying soil must be fully retained and protected. If necessary, a layer of sharp sand (or other inert granular fill) may be used to fill divots to create a level surface onto which the hard standing can be constructed.
- The hardstanding must be constructed onto a three-dimensional cellular confinement system (such as Groundtrax Cellpave or equivalent product signed off by the project arboriculturist) filled with no-fines angular stone. This will provide a permeable base for the surface that will spread loads to reduce compaction of the soil beneath (compacting the rooting medium will have a significant detrimental impact on root function and the health of surrounding trees).
- Groundtrax Cellpave is available in a range of depths, depending on the soil conditions and the load it is designed to support. Further guidance should be sought from the geocell manufacturer when specifying the detailed surface design. In some cases, it may be necessary to lay additional sub-base beneath the cellular confinement system, however this must also be permeable and laid onto the existing ground level.
- The cellular confinement system shall be installed directly onto a geotextile membrane. A second membrane shall be installed above the cellular confinement system as well. These membranes will prevent soil, construction debris and other materials migrating through the cellular confinement system, which would otherwise impact on the porosity of the completed surface. The membranes should also help filter pollutants from vehicles leeching into the rooting medium.
- The wearing course for the new surfaces are proposed to be permeable (loose gravel and grass panting) to allow for continued moisture ingress and gaseous diffusion with the rooting medium.
- Although a three-dimensional cellular confinement system should not in itself require edge supports, however edge restraints are proposed for the wearing course. Standard kerb stones set in concrete haunches that are usually dug into the ground will not be suitable for use within root protection areas due to the likely damage to shallow tree roots. As an alternative, one of the following edging types are proposed to be used:
 1. Treated timber, peg and board edging.
 2. Standard concrete/conservation kerbs on concrete-filled geocells (this method is only suitable if the concrete-filled geocells are installed above the existing ground level).
 3. Small concrete/conservation kerbs set in concrete (above existing ground level) and potentially also pegged into place.



2.8 Services

- 2.8.1 Details of the routing of services for the proposed development are not currently available. All underground services should be located outside the root protection areas of retained trees and above ground services should be located outside the anticipated mature crown spreads. Sympathetic methodology to enable the installation of services within root protection areas (in certain instances) is available, however there will always be a potential arboricultural impact, and arboricultural advice must be sought regarding the suitability of these methods before they are relied upon. If it is achievable, root protection areas should always be completely avoided.
- 2.8.2 Once details of the routing of new services become available, prior to commencement, these shall be reviewed by the project arboriculturist. The arboriculturist shall then confirm 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 NJUG4 'Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utilities in proximity to trees' and BS5837: 2012.

2.9 Landscaping in proximity to trees

- 2.9.1 The Design and Access Statement Rev: A Draft, indicates that tree/shrub planting and turfing/wildflower will occur within the root protection areas of retained trees. In order to protect both tree roots and the condition of the rooting medium, these works must occur sensitively as described in the arboricultural method statement.



3 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 General requirements

- 3.1.1 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.
- 3.1.2 Any variation from the methodology described in this method statement shall be discussed with the supervising arboriculturist and agreed with the local authority arboricultural officer.

3.2 Phasing of works

- 3.2.1 To ensure trees are protected throughout the development, the proposed development shall occur in the following order:

Table 3: Phasing of works

Works Order	Operation	Notes
1	Initial tree works.	The tree works contractor shall undertake the tree removals and access facilitation pruning specified in the arboricultural impact assessment.
2	Installation of tree protection barriers.	Tree protection fencing, Groundtrax Cellpave and temporary ground protection shall be installed in the locations shown on the tree protection plan and to the specification described in this method statement.
3	Pre-commencement meeting.	The project arboriculturist shall attend a site meeting with the site manager. The local authority arboricultural officer shall be notified so they may also attend. The above pre-start arboricultural works shall be signed off by the project arboriculturist during the meeting. The meeting shall occur before any plant activity, ground works or demolition/construction activities begin.
4	Demolition phase.	The tree protection barriers shall be maintained, and the construction exclusion zones observed throughout the demolition phase. The existing barn located within Jurhing Field will be demolished sensitively adjacent to G17.
5	Construction phase.	The tree protection barriers shall be maintained, and the construction exclusion zones observed throughout the construction phase. New hardstanding shall be constructed sensitively within the root protection areas of T1, G4, T11, G16, G17, G18, T21, T36 and T53 as described in this method statement.
6	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.

3.3 Initial tree works

- 3.3.1 The tree removals and access facilitation pruning specified in the arboricultural impact assessment shall be carried out as the first stage of development. Any requirements for access facilitation pruning which have not been anticipated on the date of this report shall



be discussed at the pre-commencement meeting with the project arboriculturist and be communicated to the local authority arboricultural officer.

- 3.3.2 Tree stumps and vegetation located within the root protection areas of retained trees shall be cleared with controlled hand tools (e.g. stump grinder/brush cutter). Plant machinery shall not be used to scrape vegetation, 'grub out' stumps within root protection areas, or access the site until the tree protection barriers have been installed.
- 3.3.3 If bonfires are lit to dispose of arisings from the vegetation or tree clearance works, an assessment of wind direction and strength shall be made to ensure flames cannot extend within 5m of any part of a retained tree. No bonfires shall be lit within a root protection area.
- 3.3.4 Trees should be checked for protected species before works are undertaken. It is against the law to disturb bats or their roosts under the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations. Nesting birds are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act. If protected species are discovered, Natural England should be contacted for advice.
- 3.3.5 The tree works contractors should carry out all tree works to BS3998: 2010 Tree works – recommendations as modified by research that is more recent. They should also carry relevant, adequate and up to date insurance.
- 3.3.6 It is suggested that an Arboricultural Association approved contractor carry out all tree works. Approved contractors are expected to work to industry best standards. The Arboricultural Association website (www.trees.org.uk) contains contact details and information on engaging a suitable contractor.

3.4 Tree protection barriers

- 3.4.1 The root protection areas of retained trees must be left free from disturbance and protected from contamination or compaction during the proposed works. Protection shall comprise a combination of tree protection fencing, Groundtrax Cellpave and temporary ground protection.
- 3.4.2 The tree protection fencing, Groundtrax Cellpave and temporary ground protection shall be installed and signed off by the project arboriculturist before any plant activity, ground works or demolition/construction activities commence at the site. They shall be maintained in situ until the soft landscaping phase of development when all other construction activities in the vicinity have been completed, and excess construction materials and plant machinery have been removed from site. Any damage that occurs to the tree protection barriers during the construction period must be rectified immediately, prior to other construction activities recommencing in the vicinity.
- 3.4.3 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 7). Any variation from this specification for tree protection fencing shall be discussed with the project arboriculturist and agreed in writing with the local authority arboricultural officer.
- 3.4.4 Tree protection fencing situated Infront of the ancient woodland W50 shall be fitted with knitted high density polyethylene acoustic dust screening (or similar). This shall be installed to reduce adverse impact from noise and dust pollution to trees/woodland in W50 during construction activities.
- 3.4.5 Signs shall be affixed to the fencing as shown in Appendix 8 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.



- 3.4.6 The specification for ground protection in the areas hatched purple on the tree protection plan shall be interlocking proprietary ground protection boards (e.g. IsoTrack L Ground Protection Mat or equivalent product signed off by the project arboriculturist) on a compressible layer (150mm woodchip from the initial tree works or sharp sand), spread across a geotextile membrane. This specification is designed to support loads of up to 2 tons only. If larger loads need to be supported, a more robust ground protection specification shall be agreed with the project arboriculturist.
- 3.4.7 Ground protection in the area highlighted green on the tree protection plan shall form the base of the new access road and parking bays. The specification for ground protection in this area shall be a cellular confinement system (such as Groundtrax Cellpave or equivalent product signed off by the project arboriculturist) with a temporary surface such as a sacrificial geocell (the lower geocell is later to be used as the base for the permanent road hard and parking bays), plastic/metal road plates, pre-cast reinforced concrete slabs or a bespoke ground protection system made to an engineer's specification and signed off by the project arboriculturist.
- 3.4.8 The areas protected by tree protection fencing (highlighted yellow on the tree protection plan) or 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 unless on adequate temporary ground protection measures that have been agreed with the project arboriculturist.
 - Regular pedestrian access shall be restricted unless on suitable ground protection measures agreed with the project arboriculturist.
 - No storage of construction materials shall occur.
 - No storage of building spoil or construction debris (including short-term temporary stockpiling) 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 arboriculturist.
 - No construction activities including installation of new permanent hard standing shall be undertaken unless otherwise specified in this method statement.

3.5 Storage and handling of harmful chemicals

- 3.5.1 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.
- 3.5.2 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.
- 3.5.3 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.



3.6 Contractor facilities

- 3.6.1 A suitable location for site cabins, contractor parking and site facilities for operatives shall be agreed with the project arboriculturist during the pre-commencement meeting if not already specified in a construction management plan that has been signed off by the project arboriculturist. These facilities must be located outside the root protection areas of all retained trees unless on adequate ground protection measures that have been signed off with the project arboriculturist (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.
- 3.6.2 Care must be taken when unloading from flatbed lorries close to trees avoid damage to retained trees. As such, a designated banksman must always be utilised to ensure the trees are not contacted when plant machinery is used to access site or unloading a vehicle with a hi-ab arm.

3.7 Demolition of existing barn adjacent to G17

- 3.7.1 Demolition of the above ground parts of the barn adjacent to G17 must occur carefully to avoid accidental contact with the tree. Where possible the barn shall be dismantled by hand, however if plant machinery is used, a banksman must always be present. The machine must be of a reasonable size so it can be controlled safely in proximity to the tree and must always be operated from outside the construction exclusion zones.
- 3.7.2 Within the root protection area of G17 the existing foundations shall be broken up using controlled hand tools (e.g. pneumatic breaker) and removed from the root protection area by hand. Debris must not be stockpiled within the root protection area. If due to the scale of the works it is deemed impractical or unsafe to remove the foundation using hand tools only, plant machinery may be used under the supervision of the project arboriculturist to ensure no over dig into the root protection area occurs. It must also be operated from outside the root protection area at all times and be fitted with a grading bucket (without teeth). Extreme care must be taken to ensure no excavation of the underlying soil or damage to tree roots occurs. Debris from the demolition works must also be stockpiled outside the construction exclusion zones.

3.8 Constructing new hard standing within root protection areas of T1, G4, T11 and T36

- 3.8.1 New permeable asphalt for the site entrance extension and permanent parking bays and resin bound gravel for new footpaths will be constructed within the root protection areas of T1, G4, T11 and T36 in the areas hatched purple and light blue on the root protection area incursions plan. These areas may require minor soil stripping to ensure the levels tie in with the existing site entrance and footpaths. The soil stripping shall occur carefully using controlled hand tools such as a spade or turf cutter under the supervision of the project arboriculturist. Minor roots revealed shall be cleanly pruned using secateurs to leave the smallest feasible wound. Small clean pruning wounds require less energy from the tree to heal and reduce the chance of infection by tree pathogens. Roots over 25mm diameter must not be pruned unless approved by the supervising arboriculturist.

3.9 Constructing new hard standing within root protection areas of G16, G17, G18, T21 and T53

- 3.9.1 Within the root protection areas of G16, G17, G18, T21 and T53, the new Groundtrax Cellpave surfaces shall be constructed to the basic specification described in the arboricultural impact assessment. The final detailed specification (including levels) shall be provided by



an engineer but must be signed off by the project arboriculturist before implementation to ensure compliance with arboricultural requirements.

- 3.9.2 Prior to construction of the surfaces within the root protection areas of G16, G17, G18, T21 and T53, the existing ground vegetation (e.g. grass sward or up to 50mm of leaf litter) shall be removed using controlled hand tools such as a spade or turf cutter. The underlying soil must be fully retained and protected. Plant machinery may not be used to scrape vegetation unless under the supervision of the project arboriculturist and tree stumps should be removed from root protection areas carefully using a stump grinder. If obvious surface tree roots are present or if the soil is known to be shallow, then use of plant machinery will not be appropriate.
- 3.9.3 The surfaces shall be installed by a process of 'rolling out' the cellular confinement system. This means that as one section of the cellular confinement system is installed, it will provide ground protection and create access for plant machinery to allow the next section to be installed (a tracked excavator and dumper truck are usually required to install a cellular confinement system). Vehicular access onto exposed ground within the root protection areas of retained trees shall be prohibited at all times unless adequate temporary ground protection measures are agreed with the project arboriculturist.
- 3.9.4 If access is required onto a cellular confinement system before the wearing course installed, a temporary surface (such as thick plywood or metal boards depending on the load needing support) shall be installed above a geotextile membrane to prevent soil and other building debris blocking the airspaces in the cellular confinement system, which could otherwise reduce the porosity of the completed surface.
- 3.9.5 When the cellular confinement system has been filled with clean angular stone, this should not be compacted to the point it compacts the underlying soil. Four passes with a smooth roller (max weight 1000kg without vibration) or several passes by a tracked excavator should be sufficient. Checks should be made before laying the wearing course to ensure the infill is fully consolidated.
- 3.9.6 The finished level of the no-dig surface will be higher than the surrounding un-surfaced ground. To mitigate this, clean-screened topsoil may be banked around the edge of the surface. It is recommended that no less than a gradient of 1:3 is created as increasing the ground level within a root protection area can disrupt root function. It is also necessary to avoid banking soil around the buttresses or buttress roots of retained trees.

3.10 Soft landscaping within root protection areas

- 3.10.1 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.
- 3.10.2 All planting stock, topsoil 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.
- 3.10.3 Where new turf or grass/wildflower seed 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 100mm of topsoil may 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.



3.10.4 When soil or other materials are transported across a root protection area in wet conditions, 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 in wet conditions.

3.10.5 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.

3.11 Pre-commencement arboricultural consultancy input

3.11.1 Prior to the commencement of works, arboricultural input will be required for the following aspects of development:

1. The construction management plan.
2. The routing of utility services.
3. The routing of drainage services.
4. Final levels based on the detailed design.

3.11.2 If these aspects of the project have a material impact on the guidance in this method statement, the arboricultural method statement shall be updated and the revised information submitted to the local authority tree officer for approval.

3.12 Pre-commencement meeting

3.12.1 A pre-commencement meeting shall be held between the contractors and the project arboriculturist. The local authority arboricultural officer shall be given reasonable notice of the pre-commencement meeting so they may also attend. The purpose of the pre-commencement meeting shall be:

1. To clarify the tree protection methodology with the site manager.
2. To explain the implications of the tree preservation order.
3. To discuss the chronology and phasing of the project with the site manager.
4. To sign off that the pre-commencement tree works have been completed as specified in the arboricultural impact assessment, and to discuss any requirements for any further pruning which had not been anticipated prior to the meeting.
5. To sign off that the tree protection fencing and ground protection have been installed in the correct locations and to the agreed specification.
6. To agree with the local authority arboricultural officer the type and timings of arboricultural monitoring necessary.

3.12.2 Following this meeting, if the local authority arboricultural officer has not been able to attend, an email outlining the actions discussed will be sent to the tree officer for approval. If necessary, a revised tree protection plan and method statement will be issued for approval.

3.13 Arboricultural supervision

3.13.1 The project arboriculturist shall supervise:

- the demolition of the existing barn within the root protection area of G17 if plant machinery is used.
- if plant machinery is used to scrape vegetation within root protection areas.



- any soil stripping for new hardstanding within the root protection areas of T1, G4, T11 and T36.

3.14 Arboricultural monitoring

- 3.14.1 The site manager shall provide a monthly update to the project arboriculturist including photographic evidence that the tree protection barriers are intact and that the construction exclusion zones have been observed.
- 3.14.2 In addition to the above, a system and programme of onsite monitoring by the appointed arboricultural consultant shall be agreed with the Local Authority Arboricultural Officer. The form and frequency of site monitoring shall be agreed at the pre-commencement meeting.

3.15 Process if an unforeseen issue relating to trees arises

- 3.15.1 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 arboriculturist 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.
- 3.15.2 If at any time during the construction process, damage is inadvertently caused to a tree, the project arboriculturist 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.
- 3.15.3 The supervising arboriculturist shall be appointed by the contractor. It will be necessary for the arboriculturist to report to the local planning authority on the outcome of the site visits as well as any unforeseen tree related issues.



Appendix 1: Tree Constraints Plan



Appendix 2: Tree Survey Schedule



Appendix 3: Tree Retention Plan



Appendix 4: Root Protection Area Incursions Plan



Appendix 5: Tree Protection Plan

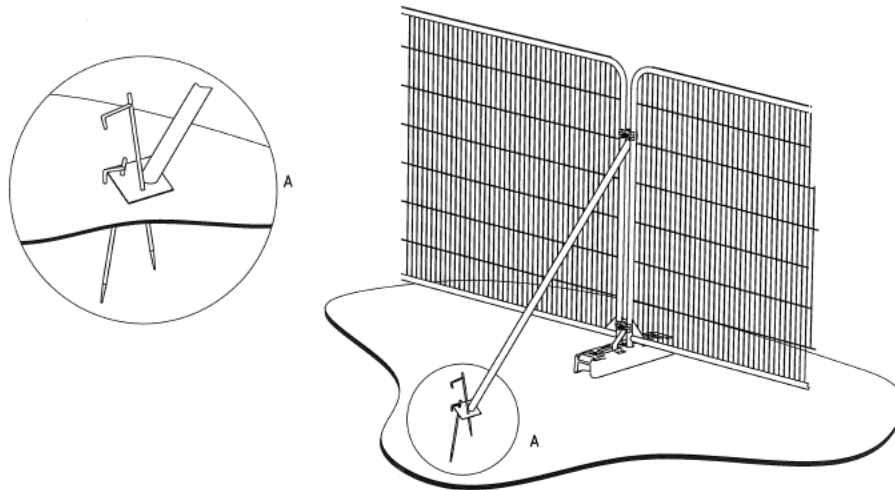


Appendix 6: Example No-dig Surface Specification

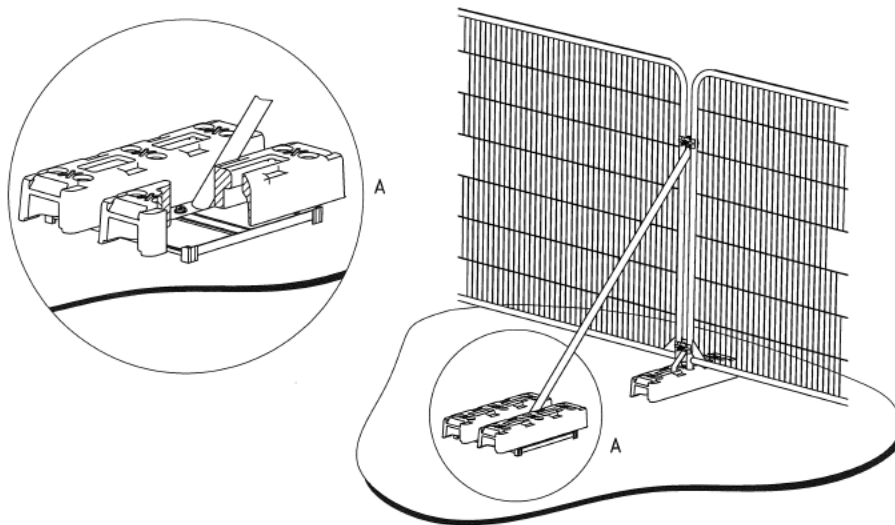




Appendix 7: Tree Protection Fencing Specification



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray



Appendix 8: Example Protective Fencing Sign





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