



Method Statement: Tree Protection During Fence Post Installation

Project Summary: This method statement outlines the approach to protecting trees during fence post installation works, in accordance with:

- BS 5837:2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations
- BS 3998:2010 – Tree work – Recommendations

Trees Identified Near Works:

- A mature oak tree is located to the south-east of the site, approximately 13 m from the nearest fence post hole.
- Five newly planted pleached hedges (possible hornbeam) are located on the western side of the site, approximately 1 m from the nearest post holes.
- A small mature tree is located to the north-west of the site, approximately 1 m from the nearest post hole.

1. Pre-Commencement Measures

1.1 Tree Identification and RPA Calculation:

- Mature Oak: Although 13 m from works, its Root Protection Area (RPA) likely extends 8–10 m. Fence works are outside the RPA. Monitoring only.
- Newly Planted Pleached Hedges: Assume minimum RPA of 1.5 m radius.
- Small Mature Tree: Estimated RPA radius 2–3 m.

1.2 Tree Protection Barriers:

- Erect tree protection fencing around RPAs of all trees within 3 m of works before any excavation.
- Use fencing compliant with BS 5837 (e.g., 2.3 m high Heras panels, braced).
- Install ground protection boards if access is needed within 1.5 m of any tree.

2. Fence Post Installation Procedures

2.1 General:

- All excavation within RPAs must be done manually using hand tools.
- No mechanical plant permitted within RPAs.

- Roots >25 mm diameter will be retained. Smaller roots to be cut cleanly.

2.2 Excavation Process:

- Post holes within or adjacent to RPAs to be hand dug.
- Work paused if roots encountered; trench adjusted or alternative post method considered.

2.3 Alternatives Where Roots Obstruct:

- Shift fence line or reduce number of posts where needed.
- Use cantilevered fencing or above-ground supports.
- Consider driven metal spikes between roots as a non-invasive option.

3. Supervision & Monitoring

- A qualified arborist will inspect trees and RPAs prior to work.
- Arborist available during excavation within RPAs.
- Daily briefings to operatives on tree protection methods.

4. Mitigation & Remedial Measures

- Clean cut for any accidentally severed roots.
- Keep exposed roots moist and backfill promptly.
- Report and assess any visible damage with the arborist.

5. Post-Work Measures

- Keep protection fencing in place until all works are complete.
- Arborist to conduct final inspection of affected trees.
- Water and monitor pleached hedges throughout the growing season to support establishment.

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