



LIZARD

Landscape Design and Ecology

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND METHOD STATEMENT

LAND TO THE REAR OF FOLDERS LANE BURGESS HILL, WEST SUSSEX

Jones Homes (Southern) Ltd

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned to undertake a arboricultural survey and produce arboricultural documentation for the proposed development at the land off Folders Lane, Burgess Hill, West Sussex.
- 1.2 The Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement report provides assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the proposed design and where necessary recommends mitigation.
- 1.3 This document should be read in conjunction with the associated Tree Retention and Protection Plan (TRPP) drawings.

Existing Site Information

- 1.4 The survey area is located immediately south of Folders Lane, Burgess Hill within the Mid-Sussex district and covers c. 1.7 (ha). The site consists of a mosaic of distinct bramble scrub and tussocky grassland bordered on all sides by overgrown hedge/treeline. A public footpath provides access to the site, running from the northwest corner along the length of the western boundary, exiting at the southwest corner.

Existing Site Vegetation

- 1.5 All trees on site are located within and adjacent to the site boundary. 124no. native species trees form an irregular tree line along the entire site boundary with significant gaps to the north and south where the site borders residential properties. Oak (*Quercus robur*) dominates the boundary tree line in number, and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is also prominent. A dense understorey of mature shrubs and young trees (with no evidence of recent management) overlaps with this tree line and tracks the internal site perimeter. Species typical of native hedgerow dominate this shrubby understorey; most numerous are hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Other shrubs and trees noted include elder (*Sambucus nigra*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*).

Development Proposal

- 1.6 It is understood that the proposals include the construction of 40no. new residential properties with associated gardens, access, and car parking. Proposals are concentrated within the central grassland/scrub mosaic.

2.0 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts of Development Proposals on Existing Vegetation

- 2.1 The proposed development can have an adverse impact on the existing trees by removing them to facilitate the development, or in the future, by adversely affecting their potential for retention through disturbance in Root Protection Areas (RPAs) or through post development pressures to prune or remove.
- 2.2 The development proposals would involve the following site operations that could impact upon the existing trees:
- *Contractor movements; site access and operations;*
 - *Storage and compound;*
 - *Plant, vehicle, and material cleaning;*
 - *Installation of construction elements; groundwork / general site operations;*
 - *Construction in proximity to trees;*
 - *Installation of services and underground apparatus;*
 - *Future maintenance;*
 - *Removal of existing vegetation not for retention;*
 - *Removal of protective measures.*
- 2.3 Trees on site are limited to those within the boundary tree line / understorey and there are some trees located off-site in close proximity to the site edge, that have been surveyed. The proposals have been carefully designed in close liaison with the landscape, tree, and ecology consultants to ensure that the risk of any impacts is minimised, with proposals focussed on areas containing poor or no trees.

Tree Retention and Protection

- 2.4 Removal of trees is limited to young trees within the shrub understorey and the 2 no. young C grade trees that make up the southern portion of TG37. All other individually surveyed trees on site are suitable for retention with no recommendations for removal.
- 2.5 All trees on site are suitable for retention with regards to their condition, but 2 no. trees from TG37 will be removed to allow for a new footpath. 4 no. sections of shrub understorey will be removed from the western site boundary to allow for the public right of way and to allow for the proposed access route into the scheme, c. 47m², 18m², 142m² and 21m² north to south, respectively. The majority of the western boundary shrub understorey will otherwise be retained with minor reductions to allow for residential curtilages, attenuation basin formation and associated fencing installation. The shrub understorey along the east boundary will be reduced for development by approximately 1127m². All retained tree RPAs will be retained before construction where appropriate using a primary row line of Tree Protective Barriers. After understorey and tree removal, and before construction, the remaining trees will be protected using a secondary tree protective barriers. This measure will ensure complete protection of full RPAs and entire crowns of many of the trees. Those trees not fully protected are listed (section 2.9) and further measures have been recommended.
- 2.6 Two sequential Tree Protection Barrier (TPB) positions are defined for this site to reflect the change in arboricultural constraints between enabling works and full construction. The Initial position encloses the maximum practicable Root Protection Area and canopy extents to safeguard all retained trees during initial understorey clearance and facilitation pruning, in accordance with BS 5837:2012. Following completion of these works, if not already positioned here, fencing may be relocated to the Secondary position, which provides a reduced but compliant protection line allowing construction access while maintaining appropriate arboricultural supervision.
- 2.7 See primary and secondary Tree Protection barrier placement in *LLD3589-ARB-DWG-200 (series)*.

Disturbance to Root Protection Areas

- 2.8 Provision of site access through the western site boundary between TG67(ii) and TG69(i) and the continued construction of this access road, development and associated site clearance and construction, that runs alongside the internal perimeter of the site will result in a number of RPA incursions - T01, T02, TG05, T06, SH07, T08, T10, T13, T14, T15, T17, T18, T20, T21, T23, T26, T28, SH49, T57, TG67(ii), TG69(i), SH70 and TG69(i). In the absence of mitigation, compaction or excavation of the soil around these trees may cause damage to the roots and reduce rooting area.
- 2.9 A no-dig method shall be used where construction of the road on site falls within the RPA of any tree. This method will avoid potential damage to any tree roots that may cause a decline in the health of the associated tree.

Construction in Proximity to Existing Trees

- 2.10 New structures on the site might result in pressures on the existing trees. This would include:
- *ongoing need to prune the canopy back to prevent damage to the building and facilitate maintenance of the building façade and glazing;*
 - *altered hydrology and soil conditions including soil saturation, resulting from proposed surfacing and use of water for the residential buildings;*
 - *shading of the canopy of existing trees.*
- 2.11 Proposals include replacing much of the central grassland and bramble scrub with hard surfacing, which will alter the hydrology of the site. Changes in hydrology will be compensated for with the incorporation of a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) to avoid major impacts.

2.12 Construction access and storage will be required to the different areas of the site. In the absence of mitigation, vehicular access might compact soils, harming tree roots on the site. The proposed tree protective barriers and ground protection measures will avoid this potential risk.

2.13 Inappropriate storage of liquids such as fuel, paint or cleaning chemicals might result in spillages with a significant impact upon trees and woodland. All such liquids will be stored at least 10.0 m from any pond, spring or woodland and outside of RPAs. Bunded containers with spill kits will be used to minimise the risk of spillage.

Tree Pruning, Canopy Reduction or Lifting

2.14 A number of trees throughout the boundary vegetation will require crown raising to accommodate the tree protective barriers and the proposed development. Contractors should take particular care when working within and around the canopies of retained trees. Recommendations for tree surgery works are listed below:

Table No. 01

Tree No	Species	Category	Recommended works
T01	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	C	Raise the Eastern aspect of crown to 5.5m above proposed roadway and 2.5m where above the Public Right of Way.
T02	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	C	Raise the Eastern aspect of crown to 2.5m where above the proposed Public Right of Way.
TG05 (ii)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	B	Raise the Eastern aspect of crown to 2.5m where above the proposed pedestrian access.
T06	<i>Quercus robur</i>	A	Minimal surgery to raise the Eastern edge of crown to 2.5m where above the proposed pedestrian access.
T08	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	C	Raise the Eastern aspect of crown to 5.5m where above proposed roadway.
TL12 (I - v)	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	B	Raise the Western aspect of crown to 5.5m where above proposed roadway.
T13	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	C	Raise the Western aspect of crown to 5.5m where above proposed roadway.

T14	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	C	Raise the Western aspect of crown to 5.5m where above proposed roadway.
T15	<i>Quercus robur</i>	C	Raise the Western aspect of crown to 5.5m where above proposed roadway.
T16	<i>Quercus robur</i>	C	Raise the Western aspect of crown to 5.5m where above proposed roadway.
T17	<i>Quercus robur</i>	C	Raise the Western aspect of crown to 5.5m where above proposed roadway.
T18	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	C	Raise the Western aspect of crown to 5.5m where above proposed roadway.
TG24	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ; <i>Prunus spinosa</i> ; <i>Prunus sp.</i> ; <i>Sambucus nigra</i> ; <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> ; <i>Corylus avellana</i>	C	Tree group to be reduced to just behind secondary tree protection fencing line and remaining canopies to be lifted to 5.5m where above proposed roadway, and 3.5m where above plant access for construction. Where required, a clearance of 2m from building line for construction of proposed dwellings.
T28	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	C	Reduce the Western aspect of crown to provide minimum clearance of 2m for construction of proposed dwelling. Raise the Western aspect of crown to 2.5m where above footways and proposed fencing.
TG29 (i, ii)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	A	Raise the Western aspect of crown to 3.0m where above footways and proposed fencing.
SH49	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ; <i>Prunus spinosa</i> ; <i>Carpinus betulus</i> ; <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ; <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> ; <i>Quercus robur</i> ; <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	C	To be minimally reduced, as shown in TRPP, only to allow for access and construction.
TG68	<i>Quercus robur</i> ; <i>Prunus spinosa</i> ; <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	C	Tree group to be reduced to just behind secondary tree protection fencing line and remaining canopies to be lifted to 5.5m where

			above proposed roadway and 3.5m where above plant access for construction.
SH70	<i>Quercus robur</i> ; <i>Prunus spinosa</i> ; <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ; <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> ; <i>Prunus ssp.</i>	C	To be minimally reduced, to the northern extent, to allow for access and construction.

- 2.15 Where the crown of these trees overreaches the retained shrubs below, the crown must be lifted to 2.5m. T16 was recorded at c. 10.5m in height and the remaining trees to receive surgery works were recorded at c. 15m and taller. As such, the recommended surgery works all represent a reduction in crowns of less than 30% per individual tree. The above trees, owing to their species and maturity are unlikely to suffer adverse consequences as a result of the recommended surgery works.

Risk Management of Dead Wood / Dead branches

- 2.16 The detailed tree survey included 11no. trees with major deadwood that should be removed, and/or the health of the trees monitored:

Tree No	Species	Category	Recommended works
T01	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	C	Significant limb has fractured at 6.0m resulting in hanging major deadwood.
T20	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	B	Tree to be monitored for ongoing health.
T21	<i>Quercus robur</i>	C	Multiple failures and deadwood to remove throughout crown.
T59	<i>Quercus robur</i>	A	Remove deadwood within the existing canopy.
T60	<i>Quercus robur</i>	A	Remove ivy and deadwood within the existing canopy.
T66	<i>Quercus robur</i>	B	Remove damaged and dead wood from the canopy.
TG69 (i, ii, iii, iv)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	B/C	Remove damaged and dead wood from the canopy.
T71	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	B	Remove dead wood from the canopy.

- 2.17 No opportunities for standing deadwood were identified.

Removal of Trees and Vegetation

- 2.18 Vegetation clearance on site is limited to shrub understorey (including some young trees) and 2 no. trees from TG37. All tree work shall be carried out in accordance with *BS 3998:2010* and particular care should be taken to avoid damage to retained trees where shrubs are removed around them.

Tree Loss Mitigation Measures

- 2.19 Trees lost through the proposals would be compensated for through replacement planting, at a ratio of 1:1. New trees would be suited to the location and would be of good form and potential.

3.0 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Protection and Retention of Existing Trees and Habitats

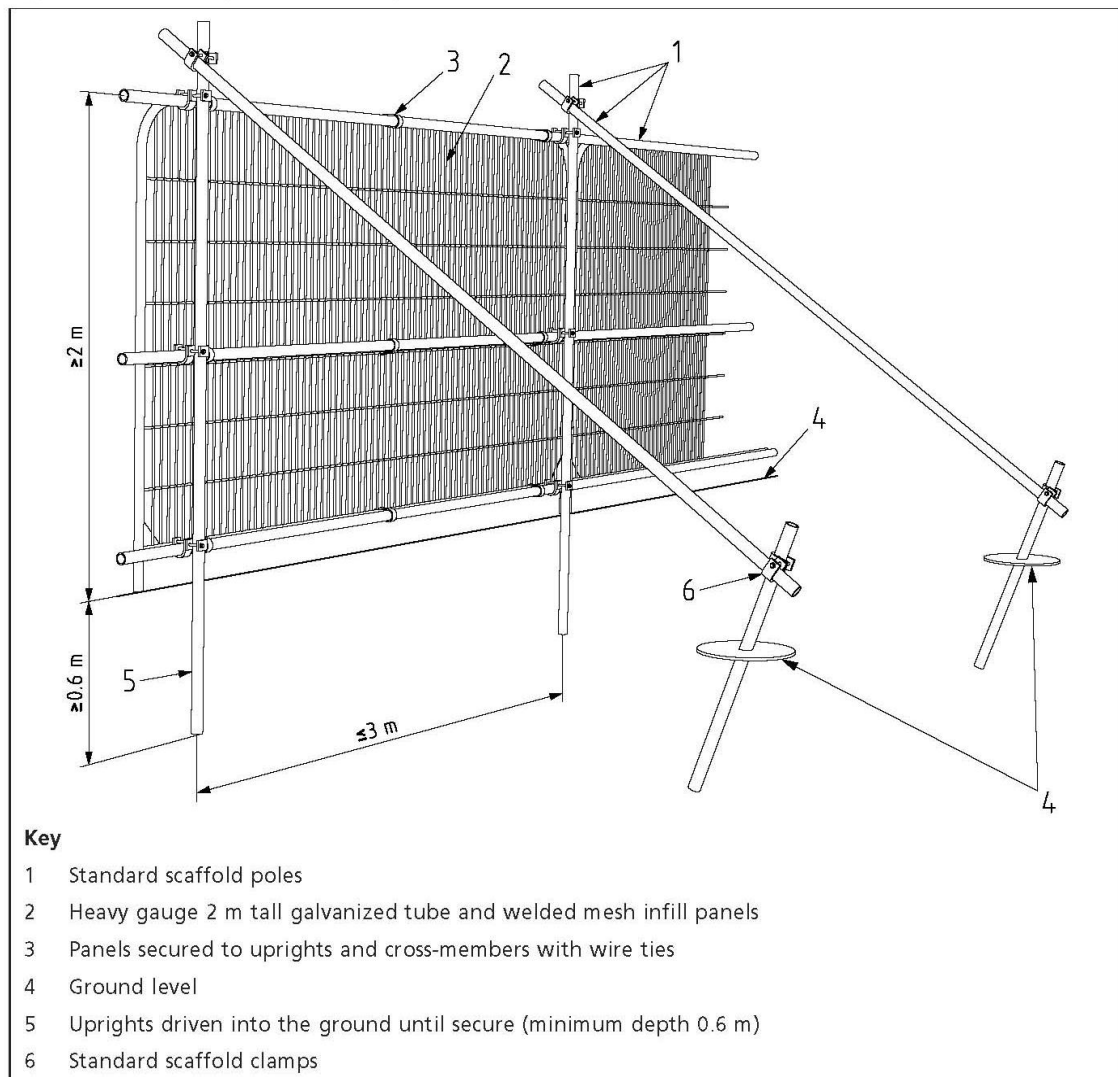
- 3.1 The Contractor shall exercise due care when performing operations beneath the canopy of existing mature trees and vegetation designated for protection and avoid at all times damage to the roots, trunk, and branches.
- 3.2 The Contractor shall train all members of the construction workforce operating within the proximity of valued habitats and make such persons aware that there shall not be, without having sought prior notification, the following operations undertaken within the protected areas:
- *Dumping of spoil or rubbish, excavation or disturbance of topsoil, parking of vehicles or plant, storing of materials or placing of temporary accommodation within an area which is the larger of the branch spread of the tree or an area with a radius of half the tree's height, measured from the trunk, and within the specified Root Protection Areas;*
 - *Severance of roots exceeding 25 mm in diameter. If unintentionally severed; notice shall be given and specialist arboricultural advice sought;*
 - *Changes to the level of the ground within the specified Root Protection Areas;*
 - *Vegetation clearance to site boundaries during the bird nesting season (nesting season: March-September inclusive). Any clearance must be undertaken outside nesting season or alternatively under a watching brief from a suitability qualified ecologist.*

Tree Protection Barriers

- 3.3 The Contractor shall exercise due care when performing operations beneath the canopy of existing mature trees and vegetation and within the specified Root Protection Areas designated for protection and avoid at all times damage to the roots, trunk and branches of existing trees proposed to be retained.
- 3.4 All trees to be retained on site shall be protected with barriers erected around the area of mature vegetation in accordance with *BS 5837; 2012; 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations'*. The barrier shall be installed, protected, and maintained during the main works by the Contractor who shall be responsible for protecting any area beneath the canopy of the existing trees and within the specified Root Protection Areas.

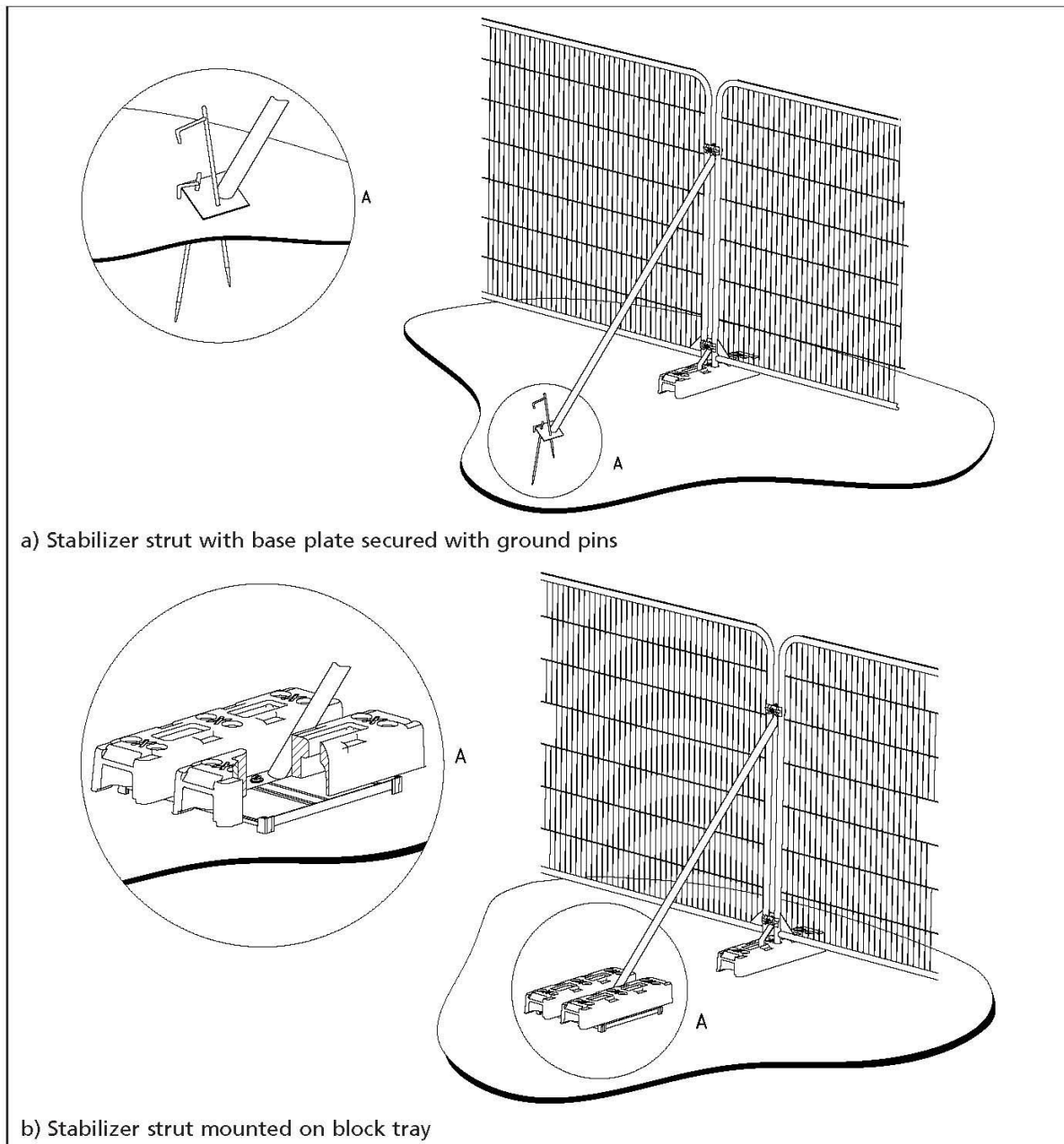
- 3.5 The installed protective barrier shall be 2.0 metres minimum height 'Heras' Welded Wire Mesh Fencing secured to a scaffolding framework, set into the existing ground, and positioned to the outside edge of the existing Tree Root Protection Area. Where existing ground conditions do not allow for the above method, the Welded Wire Mesh Fencing Panels may be mounted on concrete or rubber feet, supported on the inner side with stabilizer struts fixed on a block tray or secured with ground pins; and positioned as specified. The barrier should be strained, and fixed to fences, walls, knee rails where possible to provide a complete protected area (*refer to Figure 2 and Figure 3 below; © British Standards Institute 2012*). All tree protection to be in accordance with *BS 5837: 2012; 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations'* set out as specified within drawings listed in section 1.4.
- 3.6 Tree Protection Barriers are to be erected in two phases, Primary and Secondary. Primary and Secondary shall function to protect the RPAs and canopies of trees and shrubs to be retained on site where shown in the TRPP. Tree Protection Barrier positions shall default to the Primary and Secondary positions in site clearance and construction phases respectively. Where primary fencing isn't indicated, secondary positions shall be maintained for both phases.

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier



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Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



- 3.7 Day-glow ribbons shall be maintained during the main works by the Main Contractor attached to the top of the barrier to ensure that the fencing is clearly visible during the works. The tree protection barrier shall display all-weather notices starting '*Construction Exclusion Zone – NO ACCESS*'.
- 3.8 All such barriers shall be maintained for the full contract period. All necessary excavations, earthworks and cultivation beneath the canopy spread of any existing tree; shrub or hedge shall be undertaken by hand. *No commencement of construction operations should occur prior to the inspection of the installed tree and ground protection by the Landscape / Arboricultural Consultant.* Repositioning of the protective barrier during the course of the contract as the contract works progress shall need prior consultation with the Landscape / Arboricultural Consultant.
- 3.9 Within the protected areas the following activities must not take place;
- *No vehicles are to be used in the fenced off areas;*
 - *No materials are to be stockpiled or stored;*
 - *No chemicals are to be stored;*
 - *No excavation or increase in the soil level shall occur;*
 - *No fires shall be lit on site.*

Ground Protection Measures

- 3.10 Where construction operations require activity within the exposed unmade ground of any existing tree Root Protection Area, a temporary ground protection measures should be implemented allowing for access, limited traffic and operations during the construction period.
- 3.11 A temporary '*Ground Protection Zone*' shall allow for the passage of construction vehicles to the site and should be implemented without intrusion or change of existing ground levels within the defined tree Root Protection Areas of existing trees. The ground protection measures should be implemented prior to the main construction works.
- 3.12 The temporary ground protection measures should remain in place for the duration of the construction period.

3.13 Ground protection must be fit for the purpose of supporting the level of traffic entering or using the site within RPAs without being distorted or causing compaction of underlying soil. The appropriate solutions include:

- *For pedestrian movements or the erection of scaffolding within the RPA – single layer of scaffold boards either on top of a driven scaffold frame, to form a suspended walkway, or on top of a compression-resistant layer, e.g. 100 mm depth of woodchip laid onto a geotextile;*
- *For pedestrian-operated plant (up to a gross weight of 2 t) – proprietary, inter-linked ground protection boards or panels laid on top of a compression-resistant layer, e.g. 150 mm depth of woodchip laid onto a geotextile membrane;*
- *For vehicular access (exceeding a gross weight of 2 t) – an alternative system subject to engineer's specification appropriate for expected loads, designed in consultation with the project Landscape/ Arboricultural Architect.*

3.14 The surface material should be contained with edging type requiring no excavation. Where proposed levels of any new access routes do not ascertain minimum required depth for installation of traditional kerbs, other solutions should be sought:

- *Timber edging boards and spikes would be considered appropriate for pathways;*
- *Timber sleepers should be used as a kerb edge restraint for vehicular areas and anchored with non-intrusive pinning (such as road pins) in order to maintain the existing levels within the specified Root Protection Areas.*

New Surfacing and Means of Access within Root Protection Areas

3.15 Where new surfacing and means of access within Root Protection Areas have been proposed, the construction method should be implemented to avoid intrusion into or change of existing ground levels within the tree Root Protection Areas of existing trees.

3.16 A 'No Dig' Construction should allow for the paving of specified areas within or adjacent to tree Root Protection Areas to be constructed without disturbance to root systems.

3.17 Ground levels should not be raised or lowered within the existing tree Root Protection Areas. A permeable surface treatment should be laid over the existing ground allowing water to permeate, and allow for nutrient access and gaseous exchange.

- 3.18 The construction area / existing ground within the existing tree RPA is to be overlain with a geo-membrane and covered with a granular fill of no fines - open graded aggregate Type 3 incorporated within a 3-dimensional cellular confinement system. This should ensure a minimum supportive depth of 200mm for vehicular access / 100mm for pedestrian footpaths, above which a permeable surface treatment should be laid. The pH of the aggregate must be near neutral to avoid damage to pH-sensitive tree species.
- 3.19 Existing paving material overlying the RPA of existing trees should be left undisturbed during the construction period in order to protect the Root Protection Area of the tree to be retained. The existing paving/ hard standing can then be reused as a base for the proposed surfacing, subject to Engineer's specification.
- 3.20 All retaining kerb restraints / edge supports are to be secured above ground and no general excavation within existing tree RPAs should be permitted.
- 3.21 Where stepped or ramped access have been proposed within the RPAs of existing trees, this should be constructed with limited disturbance to the existing ground. A raised frame supported upon posts concreted in the ground is recommended. The holes for footing to posts should be dug out using handheld tools. The sides of the holes should be lined with an impermeable membrane to prevent the caustic and toxic effects of wet cement in the concrete from damaging tree roots.

Services in Proximity to Existing Trees

- 3.22 The location and direction of new services should be designed to allow for services to be routed away from the RPAs of existing trees. Existing service runs should always be used wherever possible.
- 3.23 Where the proposed routing of services impinges upon the tree RPA of any existing tree to be retained; the routing should be undertaken as a minimum standard in accordance with *NJUG Volume 4, issue 2: 'Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees'*.
- 3.24 A 'Manual Excavation Method' to be followed to carefully hand dug and route the apparatus most directly to and from the exterior of the RPA radius.

- 3.25 Services are to be routed together wherever possible to create the minimum impact upon the roots of the existing trees to be retained. Trench excavation across the tree Root Protection Area radius beside an existing tree should be avoided, whereby tree roots would become severed. Where services are to cross the edge of an existing RPA, they should be routed via a hand dug ducting sleeve, avoiding damage to roots.

Contractor Movements; Site Access and Operations;

Storage and Compound Areas

- 3.26 The Contractor Site Compound shall be located outside of any prescribed tree Root Protection Area and shall be permitted for the storage and securement of materials only within a temporary compound.
- 3.27 The compound area shall be located so as to not incur damage or injury to the root systems or canopy of any existing trees or vegetation within or adjacent to the site, in accordance with *BS 5837:2012 – ‘Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations’*. All site operations associated with the usage of the compound area shall be undertaken with due care and attention so as to negate damage of the surrounding environment.
- 3.28 All site operations and construction procedures for the duration of the construction period shall seek to protect the existing site vegetation and root protection areas in accordance with *BS 5837:2012*.

Tree Surgery

- *Any significant defects found in the trees during the course of the scheduled work shall be reported to the Landscape Architect / Arboricultural Consultant.*
- *All scheduled and arising tree work shall be undertaken by an approved and qualified tree surgeon in accordance with BS 3998: 2010 ‘Tree Work: Recommendations’.*
- *Care should be taken to avoid damage to neighbouring trees to be retained.*
- *Branches in confined spaces shall be removed and taken down in sections.*
- *All arisings shall be transported and disposed of away from site to the Contractor’s tip.*

Arisings; Disposal; Utilisation; and Retention

- 3.29 The disposal, utilization and retention of arisings must be in line with BS 3998: 2010 'Tree Work: Recommendations'. Retaining arisings on or near the site can have conservation benefits and allows the gradual recycling of the mineral nutrients and carbon that they contain. Effective financial gains can be achieved with efficient arisings management planning.
- 3.30 Before any work on a tree commences, it should be agreed what is to happen to the arisings (such as retained or removed from site). Any arisings remaining on the site should be stored safely in locations agreed with the client. The following should be taken into account when deciding what is eventually to be done with the arisings:
- *Site usage: access, space and safety;*
 - *Scope for utilisation (such as use of woodchip for fuel);*
 - *Wildlife and habitat, particularly where veteran trees are present and invertebrate colonisation is likely.*
 - *The disposal, utilization and retention of arisings must be in line with BS 3998: 2010 'Tree Work: Recommendations'. Retaining arisings on or near the site can have conservation benefits and allows the gradual recycling of the mineral nutrients and carbon that they contain.*
 - *Before any work on a tree commences, it should be agreed what is to happen to the arisings (such as retained or removed from site). Any arisings remaining on the site should be stored safely in locations agreed with the client.*
- 3.31 The following should be taken into account when deciding what is eventually to be done with the arisings:
- *Site usage: access, space and safety;*
 - *Scope for utilisation (such as use of woodchip for weed suppressant or mulch);*
 - *Wildlife and habitat, particularly where veteran trees are present and invertebrate colonisation is likely.*
 - *Amenity;*
 - *Pest and disease management/encouragement of beneficial organisms;*
 - *Potential for damage to the site and adjacent property.*

3.32 Arisings should not be disposed of by burning on site unless:

- *other options are impracticable; or the material is affected or likely to become affected by a disease or pest for which sanitation is a necessary form of control.*
- *NOTE: Attention is drawn to regulations made under: The Clean Air Act 1993 and The Plant Health Act 1967, The Weeds Act 1959, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in respect of prevention of the spread of plant and soil pests.*

Removal of Existing Vegetation

3.33 All existing trees to be designated for removal are to be removed in accordance with the *LLD3589-ARB-DWG-002 and LLD2765-ARB-DWG-003*. All tree work shall be carried out in accordance with *BS 3998:2010*. Care should be taken during the tree surgery process to avoid any damage to nearby trees.

Arisings from Existing Vegetation Removal

3.34 Before any vegetation removal commences, it should be agreed what is to happen to the arisings (such as retention; utilisation; disposal; or removed from site).

3.35 Retaining arisings on or near the site can have conservation benefits and allows the gradual recycling of the mineral nutrients and carbon that they contain. Effective financial gains can be achieved with efficient arisings management planning.

3.36 Arisings should not be disposed of by burning on site unless:

- *other options are impracticable; or the material is affected or likely to become affected by a disease or pest for which sanitation is a necessary form of control.*
- *NOTE 2 Attention is drawn to regulations made under: The Clean Air Act 1993 and The Plant Health Act 1967, The Weeds Act 1959, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in respect of prevention of the spread of plant and soil pests.*

Stump Removal and Retention

3.37 Stumps to be removed should be cut away so that the top of the stump shall be at least 450 mm below the final topsoil level in order that the site can be reinstated in accordance with the existing site levels. Where the depth is greater than 450 mm the areas shall be backfilled with topsoil to the required level.

- 3.38 Options for retention of and management of stumps, particularly those arising from dead trees should be considered as these subterranean deadwood habitats allowances are of great ecological benefit. These stumps should not be treated with any form of pesticide or chemical application as this can be detrimental to the remaining trees, and local ecology.
- 3.39 The height of stumps for retention should be determined by management objectives and or site-specific conditions. Stumps should be left in a safe condition and or location that does not pose a hazard.
- 3.40 The removal of shrub or scrub material within the Root Protection Area of any tree to be retained shall employ a Manual Removal method; the use of hand tools shall be used in order to maintain the ground surface of the Root Protection Area and reduce any damage to existing tree roots within the protected root zone. Adjacent trees shall not be utilised as anchors or levers to facilitate the removal of adjacent vegetation.
- 3.41 Vegetation clearance to site boundaries should take place outside the bird nesting season (*nesting season: March-September inclusive*) or alternatively under a watching brief from a suitability qualified ecologist.



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