

Arboricultural Addendum

On behalf of:

Highgrove Portfolio Investments Ltd

Proposal:

Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 8 new dwellings (use class c3), with associated parking and landscaping.

Development Site:

125 Highgrove Street, Reading, RG1 5EJ

Site •

125 Highgrove Street, Reading, RG1 5EJ.

Report for •

Highgrove Portfolio Investments Ltd

Document revisions •

No.	Details	By	Date
VJS/BDL	Planning Submission	Jordan Bratby	Jan 2021

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ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

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.

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.

Excavation within root protection areas of trees T3, T8 and T10: The site levels located within the areas highlighted pink on the Tree Protection Plan will be lowered within the root protection areas of three retained trees. *Preliminary root investigations have been undertaken to determine the viability of these options, which revealed only small fibrous roots. Despite the positive results of the root investigation, a precautionary approach to excavation shall be implemented.*

Within the areas highlighted pink on the Tree Protection Plan, the excavation shall be undertaken methodically. Excavators will be required to remove the hard standing and due to the scale of the level changes, however these shall be operated from outside the root protection areas unless on retained portions of the hard standing (until the ground has been lowered to a depth of 1000mm without revealing significant roots) and shall be fitted with a grading bucket (without teeth).

Within the root protection areas, the soil shall be removed methodically in shallow increments. It is recommended that the areas located immediately adjacent to the site boundary are excavated first as this should confirm the absence of roots in the remainder of the excavation.

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 from tree pathogens. If roots are revealed with a diameter greater than 25mm, the project arboriculturalist shall be consulted before pruning. If roots are revealed with a diameter greater than 50mm, the local authority arboricultural officer shall be consulted before pruning.

Arboricultural supervision: Arboricultural supervision will be required for the following stages of development:

- Prior to commencement of works, the project arboriculturalist shall review and where necessary provide input into the construction management plan. Where necessary, this arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan shall be updated to accommodate the construction management plan.
- Prior to commencement of works, the project arboriculturalist shall review the routing of new services and to provide guidance on best practice for installation where necessary.
- A pre-commencement meeting shall be held between the contractors and the project arboriculturalist. The local authority tree officer shall be given reasonable notice of the pre-commencement meeting so they may also attend if it is deemed necessary. The purpose of the pre-commencement meeting shall be:

1. To clarify the tree protection methodology.
 2. To clearly identify the pre-commencement tree works.
 3. To discuss the phasing of works.
 4. To agree locations for contractor facilities.
- To sign off that the pre-commencement tree works have been completed in full and as specified.
 - To sign off that the tree protection barriers are maintained in the correct locations and to the agreed specification.
 - To ensure the prescribed methodology is followed for excavating in the pink hatched areas on the Tree Protection Plan and to supervise pruning of any roots over 25mm diameter (if any).

In addition to the above, a system and programme of onsite monitoring by the appointed arboricultural consultant should be agreed with the Local Authority Arboricultural Officer, if it is deemed necessary. The form and frequency of site monitoring shall be agreed at the pre-commencement meeting.

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.

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.

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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