

190690

20 Chalgrove Way, Reading

Arboricultural Method Statement

Pursuant to Condition 7: Appeal Decision APP/E0345/W/18/3211966

To be displayed prominently on site and brought to the attention of employees, contractors and sub-contractors

This document is to be used in conjunction with the following documents:

- A17001AL(02) B
- Tree Survey

Note:

After approval from the Local Planning Authority, this Arboricultural Method Statement becomes an official document. Consequently, the methodologies prescribed within it must be conducted as stated and carried out to their fullest extent as described. A copy must be retained by the Site Supervisor for reference and made available at all times for employees, staff and sub-contractors.

The purpose of this method statement is to safeguard retained trees and their below and above ground structures. The recommendations made in this report aim to guide the construction process in areas near to or within the root protection areas of retained trees. The second purpose of this method statement is to minimise the impact of construction activity on the tree population retained on site. Any form of damage or root loss should be avoided where possible.

This Arboricultural Method Statement has been constructed in accordance with **BS 5837:2012 "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations."**

Summary

There are three trees to be retained at the site all of which are confined to the site boundaries. All construction activity must be excluded from the root protection areas. Agreed tree works and tree protective measures must be in situ prior to the commencement of the development process. Full details regarding the extent of each tree root protection area can be found in the **Tree Survey**.

Access to and from the site will be gained via existing accesses utilising existing crossovers.

Construction and Tree Protection

Any tree works are to be conducted by a fully qualified and insured arboricultural contractor conforming to BS 3998: 2010 "Tree Work – Recommendations." The contractor should prepare and fill out all necessary Risk Assessments appropriate for the task/tasks and adhere to current health and safety standards. A list of Arboricultural Association approved contractors can be found on their website www.trees.org.uk. At no point shall the tree be pruned or cut in any way by construction contractors.

The locations and individual identification numbers for each tree included within the survey conducted at the site can be found in the Tree Survey. A copy of the tree retention plan should be provided to the occupiers.

Tree protective measures must be installed prior to commencement of development. Tree protection barriers are to be erected in the locations specified in the **Tree Protection Plan**. The protection barriers will conform to the guidance set in **BS 5837:2012 "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations"**

The barrier fences will consist of weld mesh type panels affixed to a braced vertical and horizontal scaffold framework as per BS 5837 Recommendations. The locations of the tree protection barriers should be assessed in light of potential underground services. No assessment of potential underground services in the proximity of the prescribed tree protective fencing has been included at this stage. In the instance that underground services are located in the locations where the default tree protective fencing has been prescribed, an alternative tree protective barrier specification may be required. A supplementary layer of netting should be attached to the outside of the tree protective barriers to inhibit spoil or other material passing through the weld mesh panels and into the protected rooting zones of the trees. Appropriate signage will be used on the tree protection fencing to advise contractors.

Tree Protection Barriers

In certain circumstances, it may be appropriate to incorporate site boundary fences, hoarding or temporary site offices. This is shown on the tree protection plan and is proposed along the northern and eastern boundary of the site.

The setting out of the root protection barriers and ground protection is to be conducted by the contractor in consultation with the Arboricultural Consultant. Its position is to be demarked using biodegradable marker paint according to the dimensions represented in the survey. Erection of the barriers will take place prior to any works other than any prescribed tree works occurring.

Once erected the tree protection barriers are to be treated as sacrosanct and under no circumstances moved without consulting an Arboricultural Consultant and the notification of the Local Planning Authority.

The tree protection fencing will form a construction exclusion zone and no works will take place (apart from any prescribed tree works) within the confines of the protective fence. No signs, service cables or other items will be attached to any part of any tree being retained at the site.

Construction process

Fires on the site will be avoided unless absolutely necessary. Where fires are unavoidable, they should be positioned where heat cannot conduct onto nearby trees and affect their foliage, rooting environment or structures. All fires should be attended at all times until they are reduced to the point where they are safe to leave.

A 10m separation between any tree retained at the site during the mixing of cement. This 10m separation shall also be maintained between storage areas containing cement or other potentially harmful substances such as fuels, tar, oil, builders sand and cement washings. This distance should also be respected where site compounds are located within the proximity of retained trees.

Care should be taken when planning site operations in close proximity to trees. This includes the passage of machinery and the lifting of objects and materials.

At no point may any part of a retained tree be cut or pruned by staff, contractors or sub-contractors.

All drainage features and their ancillary equipment will be kept outside of the root protection areas. Extra care must be taken when mechanically excavating within close proximity to the construction exclusion zones. A banksman will monitor excavations and take reasonable precautions to ensure that mechanical damage does not occur to trees or the protective barriers.

In the unlikely event that tree protective measures are damaged during the construction/demolition process, the site foreman and appointed arboricultural consultant should be informed immediately. Damaged sections or component parts of the tree protective measures should be replaced/repared immediately before proceeding with further works. All utilities and underground services should be orientated outside of construction exclusion zones and away from tree root protection areas. Where installation within root protection areas is unavoidable, it must be conducted in accordance with the guidelines prescribed in **NJUG Volume 4 Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees**.

A contractor's guide to the excavation of services around trees can be found at the following address: <https://njug.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/V4-Trees-Issue-2-16-11-2007.pdf>

In principle, all trenches in close proximity to and within root protection zones will need to be excavated by hand or by using soil displacement technology. Hand digging shall be executed with a high level of care ensuring that tree roots are neither severed or damaged. Tree roots with a diameter greater than 25mm should be worked around and protected once they have been exposed. Trenches should be backfilled carefully using a 50/50 mix of topsoil and sharp sand. No supplementary compacting of the fill should take place after backfilling. The fill should be allowed to settle naturally. Any disparity between original soil heights and trench fill should be made up with supplementary trench fill.

All materials including cement should be stored outside of root protection areas and only brought in piecemeal as needed during the construction process.

Dismantling Fencing

Protective fencing will be removed upon completion of all ground works and prior to any final landscaping in a conscientious manner taking care not to damage any of the retained trees. No machinery is to be used in the dismantling of the barriers and at no point may any form of machinery enter the root protection area of the retained trees.

Landscaping and New planting

New tree planting should be carried out in strict accordance with **BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape-Recommendations**. Appropriate support measure should be

employed for all new trees at the site. This should also conform to the specification contained within **BS 8545:2014**. All new tree planting should be subject to a minimum of a two-year aftercare plan in order to ensure successful establishment of new trees.

Communication details, monitoring & compliance

Relevant parties will be informed as to any amendments to the design or proceedings throughout the duration of the project.