

HAVANT &
SOUTH DOWNS
COLLEGE

ARBORICULTURAL
IMPACT
ASSESSMENT &
METHOD
STATEMENT

for

PFP HOMES
&
HAVANTY AND
SOUTH DOWNS
COLLEGE



Ecology
Archaeology
Arboriculture
Landscape Architecture

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Arboricultural Impact Assessment	4
2.7.	Evaluation of impact of proposed tree losses	4
2.8.	Trees and groups to be pruned	6
2.9.	Protection for retained trees	6
2.10.	Demolition & Groundworks	7
2.11.	Construction within RPAs	8
2.12.	Services	8
2.13.	Levels and Landscaping	8
2.14.	Boundaries	8
3.	Arboricultural Method Statement	9
3.1.	Phasing of operations for tree protection	9
3.2.	Restrictions within tree protection areas	9
3.3.	Avoiding damage to stems and branches	10
3.4.	Site storage, parking, welfare facilities	10
3.5.	Tree protection fencing	10
3.6.	Tree surgery and removal	13
3.7.	Sensitive excavation within RPAs	14
3.8.	Planting	15
3.9.	Soft landscaping within RPA	15
3.10.	Installation of boundary fencing within protected areas	15
3.11.	Hard surface removal	16
3.12.	Installation of underground services within RPAs	17

1. Introduction

- 1.1. ACD Environmental have been instructed in to prepare the following Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement by Places for People Homes and Havant and South Downs College. Reference should be made to the latest revision of the corresponding Tree Protection Plan (PRI22116-03F).
- 1.2. This report was revised (rev F) on 22nd January 2025 to reflect an updated layout and associated drawing references throughout. This update sees an increase in tree retention along the eastern boundary of the site.
- 1.3. This Method Statement is to be made available to all operatives on site during the construction process, so that they understand the scope and importance of the measures set out for tree protection. Implementation of the protection methods and other details within this report are integral to ensuring protection for the retained trees.
- 1.4. For details of trees to be retained, and locations and types of special protection methods, reference should be made to the latest revision of Tree Protection Plan (ref: PRI22116-03F), which should be displayed prominently on site for all staff to see.
- 1.5. To ensure accuracy and avoid future costly adjustments, the Tree Protection Fence must be set out by a surveyor/engineer with all node points being marked clearly on site for the fencing contractor to work to. The AutoCAD version of the Tree Protection Plan is available on request.
- 1.6. This report is based on the recommendations given in BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'.
- 1.7. As per the online mapping service provided on the LPA's website, none of the trees within the development boundary are subject to TPOs, nor is the development boundary within a conservation area.
- 1.8. The controlling authority is Havant Borough Council who can be contacted at:
Address: Havant Borough Council, Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant, PO9 2AX
Phone: 02392446015
- 1.9. Any questions relating to the content of this report should be directed in the first instance to: ACD Environmental, Unit 7, Godalming Business Centre, Woolsack Way, Godalming, GU7 1XW, 01483 425714, quoting the site address and report reference number.
- 1.10. The following abbreviations have been used throughout this document:
 - Root Protection Area – RPA
 - Construction Exclusion Zone- CEZ
 - Tree Protection Plan – TPP
 - Tree Protection Fencing – TPF

2. Arboricultural Impact Assessment

- 2.1. The site is currently the land South of Havant and South Down College which is predominantly carparking bound on all sides by trees and vegetation planted atop of a raised bund. The proposed development is the construction of 102 residential units with associated parking, and a new access road and roundabout joining College Road and Apollo Drive.
- 2.2. This impact assessment is intended to evaluate the direct and indirect impacts on the trees on the site in relation to the proposed development. Any potential tree impacts are identified as per BS5837:2012 section 5.4, and details are given of proposed mitigation.
- 2.3. Any potentially damaging activities proposed in the vicinity of retained trees are identified, such that mitigation to significantly reduce or avoid this impact can be detailed in the Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan as recommended in BS5837:2012 section 5.4.2.
- 2.4. The development proposals are in accordance with BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'. Adequate protection can be provided to ensure all retained trees are protected throughout the development.
- 2.5. The tree survey schedule for the site is at Appendix 2 of the Tree Report for the site ACD reference PRI22116tsC.
- 2.6. This assessment is based upon the supplied Block Plan layout drawing by HGP Architects, drawing reference No.: 20.001.101 – rev P18.
- 2.7. **Evaluation of impact of proposed tree losses**

Table 1: Trees to be removed as a direct consequence of development

BS Category	Number of individual trees	Tree Groups
U	1	0
A	0	0
B	2	0
C	3	1

- 2.7.1. Those trees which are to be removed are shown with a red dashed canopy outline, on the Tree Protection Plan ACD reference PRI22116-03F.
- 2.7.2. G5, T6, T8, T27, T33, T34 and T41 are to be removed as a result of the development proposals.
- 2.7.3. With the exception of T8 and T27, all the trees proposed for removal are 'C' or 'U' category and as such it is judged that they are not of a quality that should present any constraint to development of the site.

- 2.7.4. T27 is a mature Hybrid Black Poplar (*Populus X canadensis*) specimen located along the site boundary with College Road which is proposed for removal. The proposed access link to college would cause surfacing incursions within the RPA beyond the 20% as recommended in BS5837:2012 and is considered to be of an extent where the retention of this tree is not realistically feasible.
- 2.7.5. T8 is a 'B' category Callery Pear specimen. It has been categorised as 'B' category due to its well-formed, ornamental structure not often seen in a tree of this species however it is located along a proposed boundary fence line and therefore its retention is not feasible. It is further noted that this tree offers amenity value in its current context within an openly accessible public garden area of the existing college grounds and would not retain such amenity value or appreciation within a private garden.
- 2.7.6. G5 is a boundary group consisting of many low-quality specimens. The level of reduction that would be required of this would not be appropriate, and it is considered more prudent to remove this group entirely and replace with higher quality planting as part of the wider landscape scheme.
- 2.7.7. T41 is a 'C' category Ash tree located within the southern boundary group. Given the need to allow adequate working room from the proposed development, the stem of this tree would be located outside of the required Tree Protection Fencing alignment and therefore is shown for removal.
- 2.7.8. T34 is a 'U' category Ash located within the boundary vegetation which is a standing dead specimen and therefore could be removed as good arboricultural practice regardless of any development of the site.
- 2.7.9. In terms of the effects of the tree loss required to implement the design, G5 is of such a makeup and quality that it is considered that any impact or loss of amenity felt locally by the removal of this group would only be short term and readily mitigated by a more robust planting scheme offering higher aesthetical value as part of the new development scheme.
- 2.7.10. In relation to the conception and design of development proposals, BS5837:2012 section 5.1.1 states: The constraints imposed by trees, both above and below ground should inform the site layout design, although it is recognised that the competing needs of development mean that trees are only one factor requiring consideration. Certain trees are of such importance and sensitivity as to be major constraints on development or to justify its substantial modification. However, care should be taken to avoid misplaced tree retention; attempts to retain too many or unsuitable trees on a site can result in excessive pressure on the trees during demolition or construction work, or post-completion demands for their removal.
- 2.7.11. It is therefore deemed acceptable to remove the listed trees and, as part of the detailed landscape design for the scheme, include suitable and sustainable replacements as and where appropriate.

- 2.7.12. Replacement trees will be proposed through landscape design and will more than mitigate for their removal by providing robust long term tree cover in keeping with the proposal and surrounding properties.

2.8. Trees and groups to be pruned

At this time the following tree surgery works are proposed:

Tree/Group number	Species	Operation
G23	Multiple	Western Boundary: Cut back sections as shown on TPP to facilitate development proposals (0.5m from proposed surfacing). Grind out any remaining stumps below ground level.
		Southern Boundary: Cut back overhanging upper canopies and reduce/remove group back to allow 0.5m working room clearance from the existing kerb-line and 1.5m from proposed built form as shown on TPP. Grind out any remaining stumps below ground level.
		Eastern Boundary: Remove section up to 0.5m from proposed boundary surfacing and fencing to facilitate proposed gardens, leaving a retained corridor of green infrastructure as shown on the TPP. Grind out any remaining stumps below ground level.
T35	Silver Birch	Cut back Eastern canopy to 0.5m from existing kerb line as shown on TPP.
T36 – T40	Ash/Cherry/Field Maple (x6 specimens)	Cut back Northern canopies in line with surrounding boundary pruning to allowing working room for development. (Trees to be maintained in-line with surrounding boundary vegetation moving forwards)

- 2.8.1. Should any further works become necessary, they should comply with BS3998:2010 Tree Work or more recently accepted arboricultural good practice and be approved by the LPA and project arboriculturist prior to any commencement.

2.9. Protection for retained trees

- 2.9.1. BS5837:2012 section 6.2.1. states: 'All trees that are being retained on site should be protected by barriers and/or ground protection (see 5.5) before any materials or machinery are brought onto the site, and before any demolition, development or stripping of soil commences.
- 2.9.2. Where all activity can be excluded from the RPA, vertical barriers should be erected to create a construction exclusion zone. A specification for protective fencing is given on the Tree Protection Plan. This consists of interlocking weld-mesh panels (e.g. heras) well braced by attachment to scaffold pole uprights driven firmly into the ground. Should any alternative method of barrier construction be proposed the design should be approved by the local planning authority.

- 2.9.3. An off-set of the TPF has been allowed for working room for construction of proposed buildings and surfaces, this results in an incursion into the RPAs of T40. Due to the existing hard surfacing within the projected RPA and the assumed hindrance of root growth due to this existing development, it is considered unlikely that the small amount of RPA exposure outside of the protective fencing alignment will have any significant impact on this tree. However, in accordance with BS5837:2012 (section 5.3.1.a), it can be seen that the area lost to encroachment can be compensated for by additional rooting medium available to the South of this tree.
- 2.9.4. BS5837:2012 figure 2 recommends a default specification for protective barrier. This is a weld mesh panel design, mounted upon a well braced scaffold framework to resist impact.
- 2.9.5. A suitable specification for Tree Protection Fencing has been shown in the Method Statement below on the latest revision of the corresponding Tree Protection Plan consisting of a weld-mesh fence braced by scaffold uprights secured firmly into the ground. This is perfectly adequate for this site where there are to be areas of high intensity development.
- 2.9.6. All tree protection fence should be erected before any works start on site whatsoever and clearly labelled as tree protection fencing by signage (see Method Statement below for example).
- 2.9.7. Given the existing hard surfacing onsite, if driven scaffold bracing is not feasible to implement in lieu of surface removal, then an above ground bracing system as per BS5837:2012 'figure 3' (see Method Statement below for example) can be used as a temporary measure.
- 2.10. **Demolition & Groundworks**
- 2.10.1. To ensure damage does not occur to trees highlighted for retention by demolition or surface removal equipment, tree protection fencing must be erected prior to ANY plant machinery entering site whatsoever.
- 2.10.2. Where existing surfacing is to be removed from within the RPA of tree located on the boundary, care should be taken not to sever any significant roots over 25mm diameter. Should such severance need to occur, advice should first be sought from the project arboriculturist as to the feasibility of retaining affected trees prior to any root pruning.

2.11. Construction within RPAs

- 2.11.1. It is confirmed that there is no building construction footprint shown within the retained RPA of remaining trees.

2.12. Services

- 2.12.1. It is fundamental to tree protection that infrastructure design is sensitively approached, as trenching close to trees may damage roots and affect tree health and stability. Details of new services have not been provided at the time of writing. The Tree Protection Plan, showing the constraints posed by retained trees will be passed to the infrastructure engineers to inform their design, ensuring that all services avoid areas of potential conflict. As per BS5837:2012 Figure 1, once further details become available as part of the detailed/technical design for the site, the TPP and AMS will be revised to incorporate these details for services for inclusion in the Tender documentation.
- 2.12.2. There are multiple existing services that pass through the development boundary of this site including a mains gas pipe. All tree felling and stump/root removal above these existing service routes should be conducted sensitively so as not to cause damage to the underlying pipes and cables. Where required, permission may need to be sought from the proprietor of services prior to any works such as tree felling, or stump grinding being conducted over or directly adjacent to high pressure gas mains.

2.13. Levels and Landscaping

- 2.13.1. Full details of any changes in ground levels on site remain to be finalised. Any alterations to levels close to trees may damage roots and affect tree health and stability. Unless no-dig methodology is proposed for installation of surfaces within RPAs the original levels in these areas must be noted, retained, and integrated into the engineering design of the site. Landscaping operations within the RPAs of retained trees must be carried out in a sensitive manner and be subject to a detailed method statement and arboricultural supervision.

2.14. Boundaries

- 2.14.1. All plot boundaries will need to be designed, positioned and installed to avoid damage to retained trees. When within RPAs, this will include hand excavation of individual post holes rather than trenching, and the lining of any post holes with a non-porous membrane to stop leachates from the concrete casing ongoing damage to tree roots.

3. Arboricultural Method Statement

TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LATEST REVISION OF THE APPENDED TREE PROTECTION PLAN REFERENCE: PRI22116-03F

3.1. Phasing of operations for tree protection

3.1.1. Implementation of tree protection measures on the site must be carried out in the following order

- 1) Tree removals and tree surgery
- 2) Line of tree protection fence to be set out to node points by surveyor
- 3) Accurate erection of tree protection fence and ground protection
- 4) Site accessible to construction/demolition traffic
- 5) Demolition/site clearance
- 6) Construction
- 7) Removal of tree protection fencing
- 8) Remedial tree surgery (if required)

3.1.2. The above phasing must not be changed without approval from the project arboriculturist and agreement with the Council.

3.2. Restrictions within tree protection areas

3.2.1. Inside the exclusion area of the fencing, the following shall apply:

- No mechanical excavation whatsoever
- No excavation by any other means without arboricultural site supervision
- No hand digging without a written method statement having first been approved by the project arboriculturist.
- No lowering of levels for any purpose (except removal of grass sward using hand tools)
- No storage of plant or materials
- No storage or handling of any chemical including cement washings
- No vehicular access
- No fire lighting

3.2.2. In addition to the above, further precautions are necessary adjacent to trees:

- No substances injurious to tree health, including fuels, oil, bitumen, cement (including cement washings), builders sand, concrete mixing and other chemicals shall be stored or used within or directly adjacent to the protection area of retained trees
- No fire shall be lit such that flames come within 5m of tree foliage.

3.3. Avoiding damage to stems and branches

- 3.3.1. Care shall be taken when planning site operations in proximity of retained trees to ensure that wide or tall loads, or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights, can operate without coming into contact with retained trees. Such contact can result in serious injury to them and might make their safe retention impossible.
- 3.3.2. Consequently, any transit or traverse of plant in proximity of trees shall be conducted under the supervision of a banksman, to ensure that adequate clearance from trees is at all times maintained. In some circumstances, it may be impossible to achieve this without pruning works known as 'access facilitation pruning'.
- 3.3.3. Access facilitation pruning shall be kept to the barest minimum necessary to facilitate development and shall be carried out in strict accordance with the guidance below (Tree Surgery). Under no circumstances shall construction personnel undertake any tree pruning operations.

3.4. Site storage, parking, welfare facilities

- 3.4.1. The site will require provision for; site storage, contractor parking, welfare facilities, temporary services/drainage, material drop of points, etc.
- 3.4.2. No details of these provisions are available at the time of writing of this report.
- 3.4.3. None of the above provisions will be sited within RPAs of retained trees without the input or the project arboriculturist and the consent of the Local Authority.

3.5. Tree protection fencing

- 3.5.1. The Tree Protection Plan (see the latest revision of: PRI22116-03F) shows the alignment of Tree Protection Fencing (TPF), which is to be installed prior to any of the following taking place:
 - Demolition
 - Plant and material delivery
 - Soil stripping
 - Utility installation
 - Construction works
 - Landscaping
- 3.5.2. Stages for installation of TPF:
 - 1) Hand clearance of any vegetation to allow clear working access.
 - 2) Setting out of fencing points
 - 3) Fencing erected
 - 4) Site accessible to demolition/construction traffic

- 3.5.3. To ensure accuracy and avoid future costly adjustments, the Tree Protection Fence must be set out by a surveyor with all node points being marked clearly on site for the fencing contractor to work to.
- 3.5.4. Once erected, all TPF will be regarded as sacrosanct, and will not be removed or altered without prior recommendation by the project arboriculturist and approval of the local planning authority.
- 3.5.5. The typical TPF construction is suitable for areas of high intensity development, and shall comprise of interlocking weld-mesh panels, well braced to resist impacts by attachment to a scaffold framework that is set firmly into the ground. A detailed specification can be found on the TPP.
- 3.5.6. Should any alternative method of barrier construction be proposed, consultation with the project arboriculturist will be obtained to clarify the efficacy of the revised design prior to informing the local planning authority and obtaining their consent.
- 3.5.7. Once the exclusion zone has been protected by barriers and/or ground protection, construction work can commence.
- 3.5.8. All weather notices should be erected on the barriers (for example see figure below).

(continued)



Figure 1: Tree protection sign (download from) <http://www.acdenviromental.co.uk>

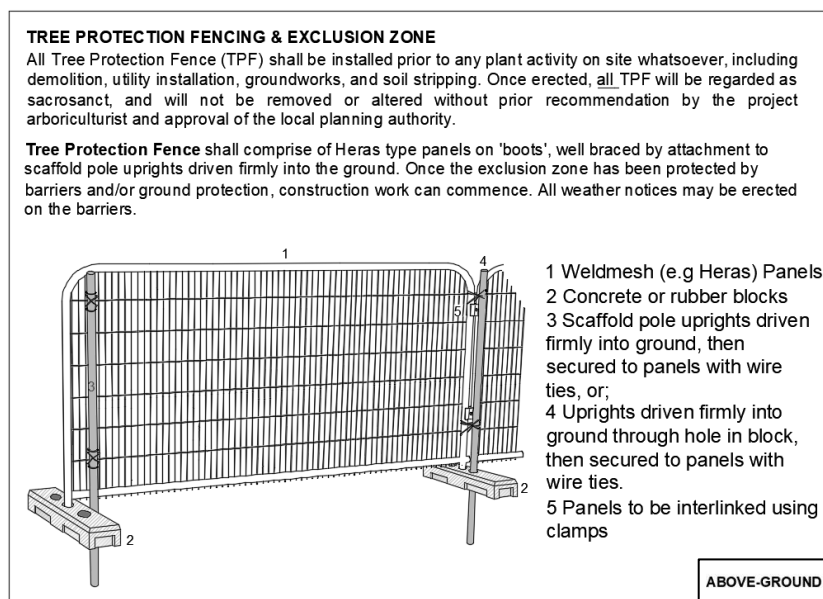


Figure 3: Above ground stabilisation method for TPF where bracing cannot be secured into the ground (such as hard surfacing)

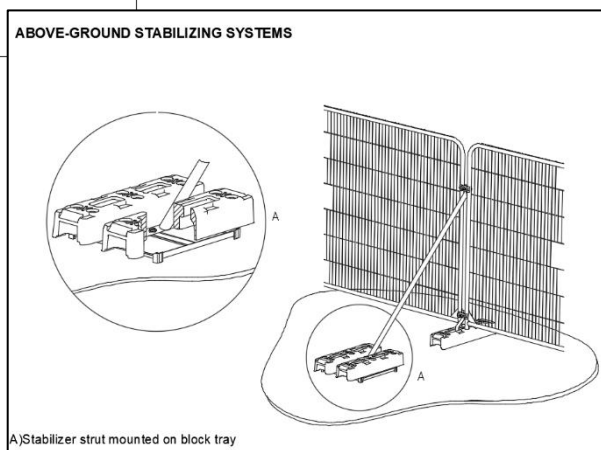


Figure 2: Adequate Tree Protection Fencing specification

3.6. Tree surgery and removal

3.6.1. The following surgery works are to be carried out:

Tree number	Species	Operation
G5	Multiple	Remove to ground level and grind out remaining stumps to just below ground level (care to be taken when within the RPA of T27)
T6	Cherry	Remove to ground level and grind out remaining stump.
T8	Pear	Remove to ground level and grind out remaining stump.
G23	Multiple	Western Boundary: Cut back sections as shown on TPP to facilitate development proposals (0.5m from proposed surfacing). Grind out any remaining stumps below ground level.
		Southern Boundary: Cut back overhanging upper canopies and reduce/remove group back to allow 0.5m working room clearance from the existing kerb-line and 1.5m from proposed built form as shown on TPP. Grind out any remaining stumps below ground level.
		Eastern Boundary: Remove section up to 0.5m from proposed surfacing and boundary fencing to facilitate proposed gardens, leaving a retained corridor of green infrastructure as shown on the TPP. Grind out any remaining stumps below ground level.
T27	Hybrid Black Poplar	Remove to ground level and grind out remaining stump.
T33	Field Maple	Remove to ground level and grind out remaining stump.
T34	Ash	Remove to ground level and grind out remaining stump.
T35	Silver Birch	Cut back Eastern canopy to 0.5m from existing kerb line as shown on TPP.
T36	Cherry	Cut back Northern canopy to 0.5 from existing kerb line with surrounding boundary vegetation as shown on TPP allowing trees to be maintained in-line with boundary vegetation moving forwards.
T37	Ash	Cut back Northern canopy to 0.5 from existing kerb line with surrounding boundary vegetation as shown on TPP allowing trees to be maintained in-line with boundary vegetation moving forwards.
T38	Field Maple	Cut back Northern canopy to 0.5 from existing kerb line with surrounding boundary vegetation as shown on TPP allowing trees to be maintained in-line with boundary vegetation moving forwards.
T39	Field Maple	Cut back Northern canopy to 0.5 from existing kerb line with surrounding boundary vegetation as shown on TPP allowing trees to be maintained in-line with boundary vegetation moving forwards.
T40	Cherry	Cut back Northern canopy to 0.5 from existing kerb line with surrounding boundary vegetation as shown on TPP allowing trees to be maintained in-line with boundary vegetation moving forwards.
T41	Ash	Remove to ground level and grind out remaining stump.

3.6.2. Those trees which are to be removed are shown with a red dashed canopy outline, on the Tree Protection Plan ACD reference PRI22116-03F.

3.6.3. If any further tree surgery works are required, a proposed specification will be submitted to, and approved by the Local Planning Authority before any works are carried out.

3.6.4. All work will be carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 Recommendations for Tree Work, industry best practice and in line with any works already agreed with the Council.

- 3.6.5. The tree surgery contractor is responsible for carrying out any relevant health and safety risk assessment, and insurance, prior to any work being carried out.
- 3.6.6. The statutory protection afforded by the Wildlife and Countryside Act and Countryside and Rights of Way Act will be adhered to. If further advice is required, particularly if bats are discovered during tree work, it will be obtained from Natural England or other competent persons and recommendations adhered to.
- 3.6.7. The stumps of any trees removed from within the Construction Exclusion Zone or the RPAs of retained trees will be either; cut flush to ground level and left in situ or ground out using a stump grinder. They will not be winched out.
- 3.6.8. All operations shall be carefully carried out to avoid damage to the trees being treated or neighbouring trees. No trees to be retained shall be used for anchorage or winching purposes.
- 3.6.9. Where required, relevant permission should be sought prior to carrying out works over or directly adjacent to high pressure gas mains.
- 3.7. **Sensitive excavation within RPAs**
 - 3.7.1. Stages of excavation within RPAs:
 - 1) Contact project arboriculturist to hold pre-start site meeting, 'toolbox' talk and supervise the operation.
 - 2) Remove TPF to allow access to area (if required).
 - 3) Identify sensitive area to be excavated.
 - 4) Excavate with no-tines bucket, or by hand, under close supervision.
 - 5) If roots are found, clear by hand around them.
 - 6) If roots found are greater than 25mm diameter, then cover with damp hessian and keep moist until backfilled.
 - 7) If excavation requires all roots to be severed, then proceed as below.
 - 8) Cleanly sever roots with bypass secateurs, loppers or pull cut saw at right angles to root. Avoid tearing or ripping the root.
 - 9) Backfill as soon as possible to cover cut root ends.
 - 10) If for whatever reason, the project arboriculturist feels that a tree's stability has been compromised during the operation, then the LPA shall be contacted, and the arboricultural officer (or appropriate landscape officer) notified. A decision can then be made as to the best way forward.

3.8. Planting

3.8.1. Should the soil be compacted or have a poor structure which may hinder the development of any new planting, soil decompaction techniques may be used upon consultation with the project arboriculturist.

3.8.2. Stages for planting within tree protection areas:

No plant machinery to be used in the area for whatever reason

- 1) Remove TPF to allow access to area.
- 2) Remove existing vegetation by hand, turf may be removed using a mechanical turf stripper.
- 3) Do not reduce any high spots or excavate in any way.
- 4) Import good quality top-soil by hand (with wheelbarrow) into area.
- 5) Level to a depth of no more than 100mm with hand tools
- 6) Dig individual planting pits for each plant by hand (including hedging which must not be trench planted)
- 7) Any mulch should also be imported and spread by hand.

3.8.3. No works will be carried out within any protected areas if the soil moisture is of a level likely to allow compaction to occur.

3.9. Soft landscaping within RPA

3.9.1. All landscaping and associated ground preparation within exclusion zones will be carried out sensitively to ensure root damage is mitigated as much as is practicable. At no time is any heavy plant to be used within any protected area. Removal of existing vegetation will be carried out by hand, turf may be removed using a mechanical turf stripper or by hand.

3.10. Installation of boundary fencing within protected areas

3.10.1. Stages for installing wooden fence posts:

No plant machinery to be used in the area for whatever reason

- 1) Contact project arboriculturist to hold pre-start site meeting and 'toolbox' talk before starting work.
- 2) Remove TPF to allow access to area.
- 3) Dig post holes using hand tools, avoiding damage to the protective bark covering larger roots. Roots smaller than 25mm diameter may be pruned back using either secateurs or a hand saw, leaving a clean cut.
- 4) Damage or severance of roots above 25mm diameter must be avoided. If roots of this size are discovered, the hole should be relocated. If there are a large number of such roots it may be necessary to relocate the hole by half a fence panels length and adjust the fence panels accordingly.
- 5) Line hole with non porous lining, for example durable polythene bag.
- 6) Insert post and fill post hole with concrete to ground level.
- 7) Trim polythene to ground level

3.11. Hard surface removal

3.11.1. No hard surface removal within RPAs will occur without arboricultural supervision.

3.11.2. Stages for hard surface removal within tree protection areas:

No plant machinery to be sited on any exposed rooting area

- 1) Contact project arboriculturist to hold pre-start site meeting and 'toolbox' talk before starting work
- 2) Dismantle fencing as required to access area
- 3) Plant machinery to run only on existing hard surfaces with consent from arboriculturist
- 4) Plant may be used to carefully peel up existing tarmac and concrete
- 5) Other surfaces are to be removed by hand (paving etc.)
- 6) Where any sub base is not likely to contain roots, and only on approval from project arboriculturist, it may also be carefully removed.
- 7) Underlying ground levels to be retained. No excavation to occur
- 8) Any exposed roots¹ and surrounding newly exposed areas to be covered with up to 100mm of topsoil, from elsewhere on site, or imported top-soil (to BS3882:1984). Soil may be placed in area by plant but must be spread by hand.
- 9) Tree protection fencing to be erected in final position as shown on plan

3.11.3. If the area around the retained trees is to be left following the removal of the existing hard surface, before a new hard surface is laid or soft landscaping implemented, then the line of protective fencing MUST be correctly re-established immediately the hard surface removal work has been completed.

3.11.4. If, for whatever reason there is a delay before the area is left exposed prior to awaiting a new surface, then a temporary surface must be implemented or the area fenced off.

¹Should any roots over 25mm diameter, have grown above the final soil level and be a hindrance to any new surface installation, their removal will only be carried out under arboricultural supervision and with the approval of the LPA.

3.12. Installation of underground services within RPAs

3.12.1. If for whatever reason installation within RPAs is required, the project arboriculturist and local authority must be notified prior to any tree protection barrier removal and the following details adhered to.

3.12.2. Stages for installing services within tree protection areas:

No plant machinery to be used in the area for whatever reason

- 1) Contact project arboriculturist to hold pre-start site meeting and 'toolbox' talk before starting work.
 - 2) Remove just enough tree protection fencing to allow access to area and facilitate trenching.
 - 3) Remove any surface vegetation or existing hard surfaces using hand tools.
 - 4) Excavate the trench using hand tools only, keeping to minimum dimensions required.
 - 5) Roots below 25mm should preferably be retained, however if required can be cut cleanly using secateurs or hand saw.
 - 6) Roots over 25mm diameter will be retained and kept damp by covering with hessian (re-wetted as required).
 - 7) Feed in services.
 - 8) Back fill trench with 200-300mm depth of excavated soil, or a mixture of excavated and imported top-soil (to BS3882:2015), firming down with heels
 - 9) Repeat step 7 until trench is filled.
 - 10) Re-erect tree protection fencing as per approved plan.
- 3.12.3. An alternative to the method of excavation above, for trenching within RPA's, is by using an 'air-spade' or similar. This tool utilises compressed air to remove soil from around tree roots causing minimal damage and can be run off a typical site compressor. ACD can provide details of contractors supplying air-spade services if required.
- 3.12.4. Alternatively, trenchless technology such as thrust boring can be used in some instances and is particularly effective as it can pass directly under the tree, at a depth which is likely to avoid almost all impact on roots of the subject tree. As no access/thrust pits will be located within the RPAs of the subject trees, the need for arboricultural supervision is limited.
- 3.12.5. Reference can be made to National Joint Utilities Group publication Volume 4 (NJUG Vol4) for guidance, but any approach must be approved by the project arboriculturist.

Henry Pinn
Arboriculturist
23 March 2022

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