

LAND OFF
STATION ROAD
HAYLING ISLAND

ARBORICULTURAL
IMPACT
ASSESSMENT
&
METHOD
STATEMENT

ACD

Ecology

Archaeology

Arboriculture

Landscape Architecture

Prepared by
ACD Arboriculture



for



BARRATT
HOMES

Written by:	M Welby
Checked by:	A Bigg
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. ACD was initially instructed, to carry out a tree survey, and present constraints details in accordance with BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*. This was to identify the quality and value of existing trees on site, allowing decisions to be made as to the retention or removal of trees during development. Subsequently, the subject layout has been produced and is in line with recommendations of the British Standard. Adequate protection can be provided to ensure all retained trees are protected throughout development.
 - 1.2. A number of residential dwellings are proposed on this field site. The proposed layout can be seen on the appended Tree Protection Plan.
 - 1.3. All trees are to be retained. Two sections of the hedging on Furniss Lane will be removed to facilitate construction of the vehicular access points for the proposed commercial parking area.
 - 1.4. The relationship between the building and retained trees is sustainable and is not likely to result in any pressure to prune requests from future occupants.
 - 1.5. The arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan include details of all tree protection measures required.
 - 1.6. The fencing must be erected after tree removals and surgery but before any demolition or construction contractor enter the site, and before any soil stripping takes place.
 - 1.7. There will be no changes in levels, service routing, machine activity, storage of materials or site hut positioning within areas to be protected, and the protective fencing shall remain in position for the duration of the construction process.
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2. Introduction

- 2.1. Barratt Homes instructed ACD Arboriculture in July 2015 to prepare the following impact assessment.
- 2.2. Following the recommendations of the British Standard¹, this report includes the necessary information to support a planning application. It demonstrates that the impact, both direct and indirect, of the proposed development within the site, has been assessed and where appropriate, mitigation and tree protection proposed.
- 2.3. The implementation of the protection methods recommended within this report are critical for ensuring the retained trees are successfully protected through the construction process and must be implemented prior to any work on site.
- 2.4. This assessment is based upon the supplied layout drawing, ref: ST-10-03 Rev J.
- 2.5. This assessment considers the impact of the development on the constraints posed by the retained trees (both beneath ground: the root protection area (RPA), and above ground: the canopy).
- 2.6. Direct impact from development comes in six main forms: 1) Surface installation within RPAs, 2) Root loss from excavation for foundations, drainage and other utilities within RPAs, 3) Soil stripping, removal and level changes within RPAs, 4) Excessive access facilitation pruning to retained trees, 5) Soil compaction from storage and vehicle movements within RPAs, 6) Soil contamination.
- 2.7. Indirect impact can come from changes to the site hydrology, future pressure to prune or fell, failure of trees exposed by removal of neighbouring trees, and other environmental changes which can take several years to manifest.
- 2.8. The RPA for each tree represents a minimum area in m² that should be left undisturbed around each retained tree. This is initially represented by a circle but is often adjusted to account for constraints to root growth within the site (primarily highways and buildings). It is therefore important to ensure the protection of trees both above and below ground. Recommendations are provided in the British Standard as to the protection of existing trees before, during and after development. This is achieved by ensuring the tree protection plan and arboricultural method statement are implemented before any commencement on site.

¹ BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction- Recommendations*, London: British Standards Institute

3. Arboricultural Impact Assessment

3.1.1. A number of residential dwellings are proposed on this field site. The proposed layout can be seen on the appended Tree Protection Plan.

3.1.2. All trees are on the site boundary, most separated from site by a boundary ditch. All are to be retained. Two sections of the hedging on Furniss Lane will be removed to facilitate construction of the vehicular access points for the proposed commercial parking area.

3.1.3. The relationship between the building and retained trees is sustainable and is not likely to result in any pressure to prune requests from future occupants.

3.1.4. The proposed fencing will adequately protect the retained trees during construction.

4. Arboricultural Method Statement

TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE APPENDED TREE PROTECTION PLAN REF: BDWS20001-03B

4.1. Construction exclusions zone

4.1.1. Barriers and/or ground protection must be used to protect all retained trees before any machinery or materials are brought onto the site, and before any demolition, development or stripping of soil commences.

4.1.2. Where all activity can be excluded from the RPA, vertical barriers must be erected to create the construction exclusion zone (CEZ). The default position of which is shown on the appended Tree Protection Plan.

4.1.3. Where, due to site constraints, construction activity cannot be fully or permanently excluded from all, or part of a tree's RPA, appropriate ground protection can be installed.

4.1.4. It is the responsibility of everyone engaged in the construction process to respect the tree protection measures and observe the necessary precautions within and adjacent to them.

4.1.5. Inside the exclusion zone, 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.
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- No vehicular access.
 - No fire lighting.

4.1.6. 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.

4.2. Tree protection barriers

4.2.1. The construction exclusion zone will be protected as per the appended tree protection plan that shows the default alignment of the tree protection barriers, to be installed prior to any of the following taking place:

- Archaeology
- Demolition
- Plant and material delivery
- Soil stripping
- Utility installation
- Construction works
- Landscaping

4.2.2. Stages for installation of barriers:

- 1) Hand clearance of any vegetation to allow clear working access.
- 2) Setting out of node points
- 3) Barriers erected
- 4) Site meeting with project arboriculturist to 'sign-off' tree protection fencing.
- 5) Site accessible to demolition/construction traffic

4.2.3. Once erected, all barriers 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.

4.2.4. The default barrier 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.

4.2.5. The images below are alternative barrier designs that have been successfully used on site and that ACD are happy to support if a variation from the default style is required. If such a variation is necessary, the approval of the project arboriculturist will be obtained prior to any implementation on site.

4.2.6. Once barriers and/or ground protection have protected the exclusion zone, construction work can commence.

4.2.7. All weather notices should be erected on the barriers (for example see figure below).



Tree protection sign (download from www.acdarb.co.uk)



Weld-mesh panels on scaffold uprights



Weld-mesh panels on wooden posts



Chain-link on angle-iron uprights

4.3. Ground protection

4.3.1. If required, ground protection is to be installed as follows. It must be capable of supporting the expected loads and avoiding rutting, compaction and damage to the soil: as advised in section 6.2.3 of the British Standard.

4.3.2. Stages for ground protection installation:

- 1) No plant machinery to be used in the area of ground protection for whatever reason
- 2) Discuss procedure with project arboriculturist
- 3) Dismantle primary TPF and re-erect in secondary location as shown on TPP (if required) OR erect fencing to protect any newly exposed CEZ not to be covered by ground protection.
- 4) Any shrubs, saplings or trees to be removed, are to be cut, or ground out to just below ground level rather than grubbed or winched out, which can damage roots of retained trees.
- 5) Lay woven geotextile over existing ground surface by hand
- 6) Cover the area with compressible layer, woodchip for example, using hand tools only
- 7) Cover compressible layer with side butting scaffold boards or plywood boards
- 8) Confirm surface is acceptable for use with project arboriculturist
- 9) Area ready for construction access

4.3.3. Any scaffolding required within the area will be erected with the uprights placed on spreader boards.

4.3.4. The boarding will be left in place until the construction works are finished.

4.3.5. A single thickness of boarding laid on the soil surface will provide sufficient protection for pedestrian loads. However, for wheeled or tracked construction traffic movements within the RPA, ground protection will involve the use of temporary cellular confinement systems, reinforced concrete slabs or track-board systems details of which are to be specified by the project engineer and approved for use by the project arboriculturist and local authority before construction commences.

4.3.6. Track-boards can be sourced from Trakmats Europe Ltd, 0845 6435388, www.trakmatseurope.com, or groundguards.com

4.3.7. There is to be no-excavation within ground protection area whatsoever. This includes installation of services and associated utilities.



Scaffold board pedestrian ground protection



Vehicular ground protection trackway

4.4. Site storage, parking, welfare facilities, etc.

4.4.1. The site will require provision for; site storage, contractor parking, welfare facilities, temporary services/drainage, material drop off points, etc.

4.4.2. It is acceptable to place site cabins and walkways within the CEZ provided they are installed sensitively:

- Cabins must be placed on sleepers (or similar) to spread the load, avoiding point loading and associated soil compaction.
- The delivery of cabins should ensure that any unloading via 'hi-ab' crane can be carried out without impact on the crowns of retained trees.
- Walkways, if required, should be installed as per the ground protection specification.
- Any utilities for site compounds must be run above ground. For example, WC foul pipes/drainage and temporary electrical connections.

4.4.3. It is imperative that if cabins and walkways are installed, that fencing is erected to limit access to the protected areas. If amendments are made, the project arboriculturist should sign off the proposals prior to their implementation.

4.4.4. Contractor parking and storage areas should be sited outside the CEZ.

4.5. Tree surgery

4.5.1. If any surgery work is proposed, details will be submitted to, and approved by, the council, before being carried out.

4.5.2. All work will be carried out in accordance with BS3998² industry best practice and in line with any works already agreed with the council.

4.5.3. The tree surgeon shall ideally be chosen from The Arboricultural Association's Approved Contractor list. All work shall be undertaken at the appropriate time and with the consent and approval of the site agent.

4.5.4. The statutory protection^{3 4} 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.

4.5.5. 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.

² BS3998:2010- *Recommendations for Tree Work*. London: British Standards Institute

³ *Wildlife and Countryside Act*. (1981) London: HMSO.

⁴ *Countryside and Rights of Way Act*. (2000) London: HMSO.

4.6. Soft landscaping

4.6.1. 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 with hand tools.

Turfing

4.6.2. Stages for turfing gardens and open spaces:

- 1) No plant/machinery to be used in the area for whatever reason.
- 2) Remove TPF to allow access to area.
- 3) Re-erect TPF to secondary location (if required and shown on plan).
- 4) Do not reduce any high spots or excavate in any way.
- 5) Existing poor quality turf may be removed with a turf stripper.
- 6) Use good quality top-soil to level any low-lying areas and hollows, and provide a fine tilth to lay turf on. This imported soil must not result in a level increase of more than 100mm in any area.
- 7) Import turves by hand in wheelbarrow.
- 8) Lay turves.

Planting

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

4.6.4. Stages for planting within tree protection areas:

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

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

4.7. Installation of underground services

4.7.1. Mechanical trenching for the installation of underground apparatus and drainage severs any roots present and can change the local soil hydrology in a way that adversely affects the health of the tree. For this reason, particular care should be taken in the routing and methods of installation of all underground apparatus. Wherever possible, apparatus should be routed outside RPAs. Where this is not possible, it is preferable to keep apparatus together in common ducts. Inspection chambers should be sited outside the RPA.

4.7.2. Where underground apparatus is to pass within the RPA, detailed plans showing the proposed routeing should be drawn up in conjunction with the project arboriculturist. In such cases, trenchless insertion methods should be used: Microtunnelling, Surface-launched directional drilling, Pipe ramming or Impact moling (see BS5837:2012 Table 3), with entry and retrieval pits being sited outside the RPA. Provided that roots can be retained and protected, excavation using hand-held tools might be acceptable for shallow service runs. If this is the case, the following methodology must be followed:

4.7.3. Stages for installing services by hand 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) Using an air-pick excavate the trench, keeping to minimum dimensions required.
- 5) Roots occurring in clumps of 25 mm diameter and over are encountered they will be retained, and kept damp by covering with hessian (re-wetted as required). If required, these should be severed only following consultation with an arboriculturist; as such roots might be essential to the tree's health and stability.
- 6) Feed in services.
- 7) Back fill trench with 200-300mm depth of excavated soil, or a mixture of excavated and imported top-soil to BS3882 (BSI, 2007), firming down with heels.
- 8) Repeat step 7 until trench is filled.
- 9) Re-erect tree protection fencing as per approved plan.

4.7.4. The method of excavation above, for trenching within RPAs, is using air excavation. 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 excavation services if required.

4.7.5. 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.

4.7.6. Reference can be made to NJUG Vol 4⁵ for guidance, but any approach must be approved by the project arboriculturist and brought to the attention of the local authority tree officer.

4.8. Installation of boundary fencing within protected areas

4.8.1. 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 postholes 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 just below ground level.
- 7) Trim polythene to ground level and fill with clean topsoil.

Mark Welby Tech Cert (ArborA), Dip Arb (RFS), FArborA
Director
30th July 2015



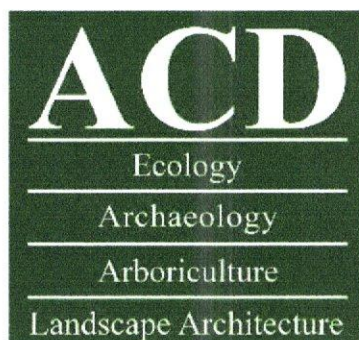
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⁵ National Joint Utilities Group. (2010). *Volume 4: NJUG Guidelines For The Planning, Installation And Maintenance Of Utility Apparatus In Proximity To Trees (Issue 2) – Operatives Handbook*. NJUG.

Appendix: Tree Protection Plan

BDWS20001-03B



ACD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS LTD
RODBOURNE RAIL BUSINESS CENTRE
GRANGE LANE
MALMESBURY
WILTSHIRE
SN16 0ES
TEL: 01666 825646
email: mail@acdlandscape.co.uk
CONTACT: JOHN CONSTABLE

ACD ECOLOGY LTD
RODBOURNE RAIL BUSINESS CENTRE
GRANGE LANE
MALMESBURY
WILTSHIRE
SN16 0ES
TEL: 01666 825646
email: mail@acdlandscape.co.uk
CONTACT: DANIEL WOOD

ACD ARBORICULTURE LTD
COURTYARD HOUSE
MILL LANE, GODALMING
SURREY, GU7 1EY
TEL: 01483 425714
email: m.welby@acdarb.co.uk
CONTACT: MARK WELBY

ACD (LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS) SOUTHAMPTON LTD
12 SOUTHGATE STREET
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE
SO23 9EF
TEL: 01962 855604
email: a.wells@acdlandscape.co.uk
CONTACT: ANNETTE WELLS

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