



**CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION BLOCK:
NYTON HOUSE**

TREE PROTECTION: CONSTRUCTION METHOD STATEMENTS

PREPARED FOR NYTON HOUSE LIMITED .

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1.1 THE PROJECT

The project consist of the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of a new residential accommodation block . The building is located close to existing trees which are to be protected and conserved, see associated tree protection drawings.

1.2 THE TREES

Trees have finite energy reserves, developed each year throughout the growing season, which are utilised for biological processes such as growth and defence against pests or diseases throughout the following year. Any development in proximity to trees has the potential to cause harm to those trees unless control measures are identified and acted upon; as such it is essential to consider the relationship between the proposed development and the retained trees to identify what precautions are necessary, proportionate and appropriate.

Development has the potential to impact upon the above ground and below ground parts of trees. Whilst some damage that can occur, such as physical damage to the trees stems and branches from machinery movements, is clearly visible. The impact from other aspects of work common on development sites which can have a significant effect upon the continued health of trees are not always immediately evident.

Damage that is not immediately evident but which can cause long term harm to retained trees includes things such as damage to the soil structure by compaction causing root damage, and levels changes altering the water table and affecting moisture availability.

To minimise the potential for harm to occur to retained trees all works must be carried out with regard to the Tree Protection measures detailed within this report.

In general it can be seen that, by adopting appropriate methods of working, precautionary and protective measures, significant harm to retained trees can be avoided.

In particular the establishment of a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) by erection of Tree Protection Fencing will minimise the potential for harm to occur to retained trees. This must always be the very first action undertaken at the beginning of a job.

The retention and protection of the significant vegetation will assist in assimilating the proposed development into the wider landscape and offer longer term tree cover. Where works within the RPA are unavoidable works must be undertaken by hand and the soil levels should be carefully reduced by hand to avoid damage to the bark of larger roots directly beneath and adjacent to the excavation. Where these become exposed they should be further protected from drying out. Where root pruning is unavoidable it should be made at a suitable place within the root system, avoiding damage to surrounding tissue in accordance with BS 3998:2010. Final pruning cuts shall be

made at right angles to the axis of the root and the final cut wound should be smooth and as small as possible, free from ragged torn ends.

All tree works will be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 Tree Work - Recommendations and latest arboricultural best practice. All tree work shall be carried out by suitably qualified, competent and insured arboricultural contractors.

All green and woody waste generated by the tree works shall be removed from site and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Prior to the commencement of any tree works an appropriate risk assessment will be produced by the contractor (and made available) to describe the measures required to fulfil the statutory safety obligations. It will aim to identify and prioritise the necessary control measures and precautions

1.3 TIMING OF THE WORKS AND PROTECTED SPECIES

All tree works will be completed at a time appropriate to the required works and construction operations.

All works will be timed to have regard to the phenological cycles of protected species that are associated with trees; notably birds and bats.

Nesting birds are protected by law and any removal / tree works will not be carried out during the bird nesting season (generally accepted as March-August inclusive). Should any vegetation be identified for removal during this period, then an ecological inspection would be required to check that no nesting birds are present. Should checks reveal nesting birds the vegetation must remain until September or until an ecologist has certified that the fledglings have left the nest. A visual inspection for bats will also be carried on mature / ivy clad trees prior to commencing any operations.

Prior to the commencement of any site works the protective fencing is to be erected in accordance with the locations set out on the Tree Protection Plans

Once the protective fencing is in place it must remain in situ throughout the course of the development until the completion of all site works.

Copies of the Tree Protection Plans shall be placed in the site office for reference by all site staff.

Signs detailing the purpose of the protective fencing shall be attached to the fencing at 10m intervals.. Signs must be replaced as necessary should they be removed or become illegible.

Following erection of the protective fencing and prior to commencement of the development it is recommended that an inspection of the site, by either the Council's Tree Officer or the Arboricultural Consultant is arranged to confirm fencing has been installed in accordance with the Tree Protection Plans and any relevant conditions that may be attached to a grant of planning consent for the development.

1.4 CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE

The Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) as defined by the protective fence line shall be regarded as sacrosanct, and the protective fencing shall not be moved or taken down at any time. Within the Construction Exclusion Zone there must be No mechanical digging or scraping, No alteration to existing ground levels including soil stripping, No earthworks, No handling or discharge of any chemical substance, concrete washings or of any fuels.

Furthermore vehicular or pedestrian access and the storage of any materials is prohibited within the Construction Exclusion Zone.

Additionally no materials that may contaminate the soil such as concrete mixings, diesel oil and vehicle washings shall be discharged within 10m of the stem of any tree and no fires shall be lit within 10m of the maximum extent of a trees crown.

1.5 SITE COMPOUNDS AND MATERIALS STORES

To prevent harm occurring to trees the provision for materials storage, site offices, deliveries and other related activities will be situated on an existing area of hardstanding outside the temporary tree protection area.

2.1 DEMOLITION OF EXISTING TIMBER BUILDINGS: METHOD STATEMENT

There are two existing timber buildings which are to be demolished. Both are understood to have been constructed on Concrete slabs which were simply poured onto the existing soil surface. The demolition method will therefore need to include the following:

- a) Ensure that the tree protection fence has been installed prior to the start of this operation to define the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ).
- b) Remove timber structure off site and do not burn on site.
- c) Puncture slab at 300 mm centres to enable lifting and removal of small pieces .
- d) Use excavator bucket teeth to lift the broken sections of slab only for removal. Do not dig under the slab as there may be roots present which could be damaged.
- e) Cover over surface with terram or similar non woven membrane and minimum 100 mm soil after removal of concrete slab , to retain soil moisture.

2.2 CONSTRUCTION OF NO DIG PATH OVER TREE ROOTS: METHOD STATEMENT

This is a no dig construction method therefore no digging is permitted.

- a) Ensure that the tree protection fence has been installed during all building operations and that no damage has been caused to the soil within the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ).
- b) Construction of the no dig path is permitted within the root protection area only once all construction operations are complete and no machines are present on the site. At that point the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) fence may be removed to enable this path to be constructed.
- c) Lay terram or similar non woven membrane over the soil surface.
- d) Install 100 mm depth treated softwood edging board using 450 mm long stakes.
- e) Place maximum 100 mm depth of 10 mm single sized stone over the surface.
- f) spread topsoil to 1-3 batter to external edges of board .
- g) No compaction is required.

Prepared by David Hares

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