

# LAND WEST OF NEW BARN LANE NORTH BERSTED (10 UNIT SCHEME)

## ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT & METHOD STATEMENT



for

LINDEN HOMES

|                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| <b>Ref:</b>        | LIN21936aia-ams<br>(10 Unit scheme) |

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. ACD Environmental was instructed in June 2018 to prepare the following Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement by Linden Homes.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. For details of trees to be retained, and locations and of protection methods, reference should be made to the latest revision of Tree Protection Plan (ref: LIN21936-04 (10 unit scheme)), which should be displayed prominently on site for all staff to see.
- 1.4. 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. The autocad version of the Tree Protection Plan is available on request.
- 1.5. This report is based on the recommendations given in BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'.
- 1.6. The controlling authority is Arun District Council who can be contacted at: Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF, Tel: 01903 737756.
- 1.7. Any questions relating to the content of this report should be directed in the first instance to: ACD Environmental, Courtyard House, Mill Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1EY, 01483 425 714/07796 832 490, quoting the site address and report reference number.
- 1.8. 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 comprises an open field currently used for sheep pasture bounded with post and wire fence, with a five bar gate at the south east corner. The proposed development is the building of residential housing with a new access in the south east corner.
- 2.2. This assessment is based upon the supplied layout drawing 'Site Plan Planning Layout' by Urban Pulse Design drawing number 18-1055-005.
- 2.3. 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.
- 2.4. 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.

### **2.5. Evaluation of impact of proposed tree losses**

No trees are proposed for removal as part of the 10 unit scheme.

### **2.6. Trees to be pruned**

No pruning works are required to implement the development, and tree surgery works are not anticipated. Should any become necessary it 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.

### **2.7. Protection for retained trees**

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. Where all activity can be excluded from the RPA, vertical barriers should be erected to create a construction exclusion zone. Where, due to site constraints, construction activity cannot be fully or permanently excluded in this manner from all or part of a tree's RPA, appropriate ground protection should be installed (see 6.2.3).' As such, protection for all retained trees is shown on the Tree Protection Plan according to this specification.

### **2.8. Demolition & Groundworks**

To ensure damage does not occur to trees highlighted for retention, tree protection fencing must be erected prior to ANY plant machinery entering site whatsoever. No special demolition procedures need be observed on this site, other than respecting the tree protection fencing.

## **2.9. New Hard Surfaces within RPAs**

It is confirmed there are no new surfaces proposed within the RPAs of retained trees.

## **2.10. Construction within RPAs**

It is confirmed there are no incursions into the RPAs of retained trees by proposed buildings.

## **2.11. Shade and future pressure to prune**

The site layout has been assessed in terms of shading and future pressure to prune. Given the orientation of the site, and the relationship between the proposed buildings and the retained trees, the juxtaposition is viable for long-term tree retention, and it is considered that shading by trees is unlikely to be a concern to future residents. As a result, it is considered unlikely that there would be any undue pressure to remove trees, or excessively prune from any future occupants.

### **3. Arboricultural Method Statement**

TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE APPENDED TREE PROTECTION  
PLAN REFERENCE: LIN21936-04 (10 unit scheme)

#### **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 access facilitation pruning
- 2) Accurate erection of tree protection measures
- 3) Site accessible to construction/demolition traffic
- 4) Demolition/site clearance
- 5) Construction
- 6) Removal of tree protection fencing
- 7) Remedial tree surgery

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. **Tree protection fencing**

- 3.4.1. The Tree Protection Plan (see the latest revision of: LIN21936-04 (10 unit scheme)) 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
- 3.4.2. 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.
- 3.4.3. 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.
- 3.4.4. 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.
- 3.4.5. 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.
- 3.4.6. Once the exclusion zone has been protected by barriers and/or ground protection, construction work can commence.
- 3.4.7. All weather notices should be erected on the barriers (for example see figure below).

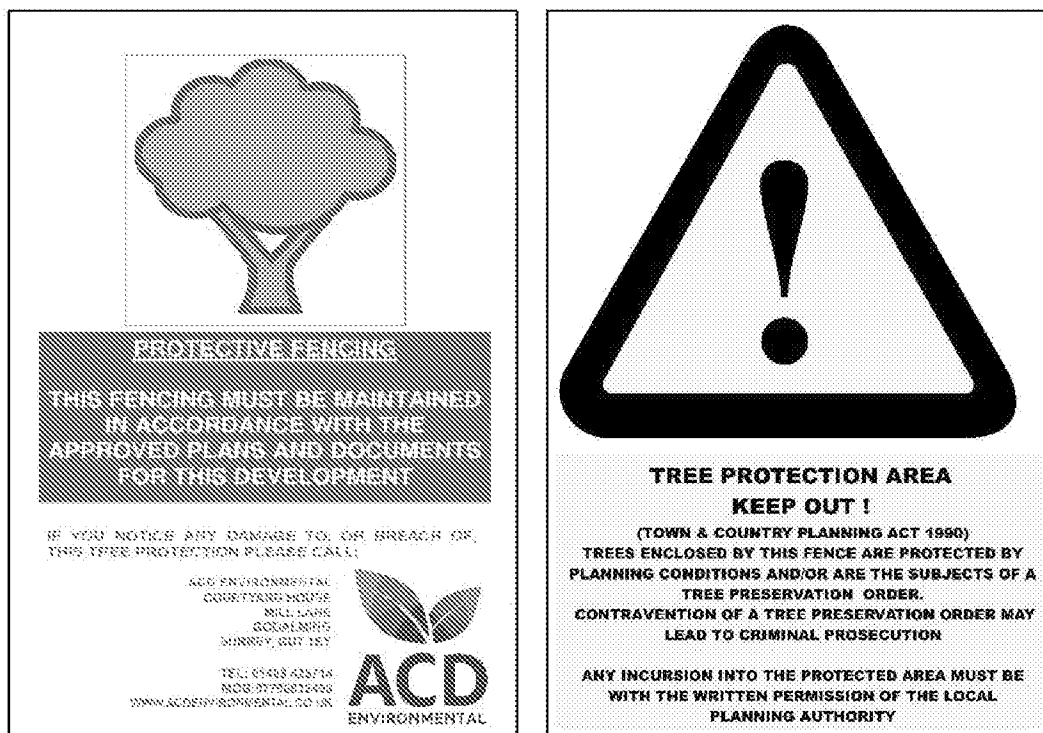


Figure 1: Tree Protection Sign (digital copies available for download at: [www.acdenvironmental.co.uk](http://www.acdenvironmental.co.uk))

### 3.5. Site storage, parking, welfare facilities

- 3.5.1. The site will require provision for; site storage, contractor parking, welfare facilities, temporary services/drainage, material drop of points, etc.
- 3.5.2. No details of these provisions are available at the time of writing of this report.
- 3.5.3. 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.

### **3.6. Tree surgery and removal**

- 3.6.1. If any surgery works are proposed, it will be submitted to, and approved by the council before being carried out.
- 3.6.2. 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.
- 3.6.3. 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.
- 3.6.4. 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.
- 3.6.5. 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.
- 3.6.6. 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.

### 3.7. Soft landscaping within RPAs

- 3.7.1. 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.

#### **Turfing**

- 3.7.2. Stages for turfing gardens and open spaces:

No plant machinery<sup>1</sup> to be used in the area for whatever reason

- 1) Remove TPF to allow access to area.
- 2) Do not reduce any high spots or excavate in any way.
- 3) Existing poor quality turf may be removed with a turf stripper.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Import turves by hand in wheelbarrow
- 6) Lay turves

#### **Planting**

- 3.7.3. 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.

- 3.7.4. 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.

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

Tom Grayshaw BA (Hons) Tech Cert (ArborA) Dip Arb L6 (ABC)

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<sup>1</sup> Including rotovators

Senior Arboriculturist  
25 June 2018

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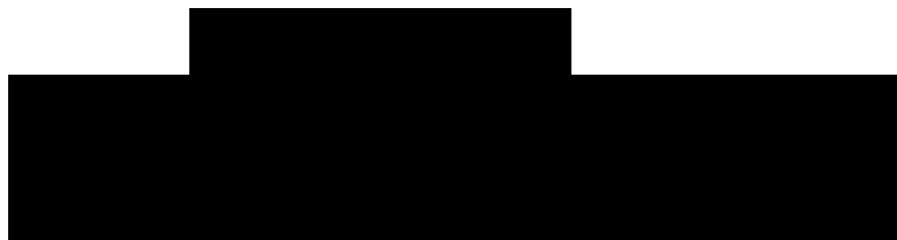
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