

LIZARD

Landscape Design and Ecology

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND METHOD STATEMENT

BROOKVIEW NURSERY, EASTERGATE LANE,
WALBERTON, WEST SUSSEX BN18 0BA

Mr P. Sowden

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned to undertake a dendrological survey and produce arboricultural documentation for the proposed development at Brookview Nursery, Eastergate Lane, Walberton, West Sussex BN18 0BA.
- 1.2 The Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement report provides assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the proposed design and where necessary recommends mitigation.
- 1.3 The Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement report for the development at Brookview Nursery has been prepared by Greg Oakley, Project Arboricultural Consultant and Alex Rosenfeld Assistant Ecologist at Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology, Worthing.
- 1.4 This written Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement should be read in conjunction with the associated tree survey documentation, including LLD2442-ARB-DWG-001 - Tree Constraints Plan, LLD2442-ARB-SCH-001 - Existing Tree Schedule and LLD2442-ARB-DWG-002 - Tree Retention and Protection Plan.

Existing Site Information

- 1.5 The proposed development is adjacent to Eastergate Lane, BN18 0BA, to the east of Fontwell village. The surrounding area is predominantly rural in the form of pasture fields used for grazing. To the north of the site there are several domestic dwellings and a farm with several commercial buildings. To the east there are several paddocks and beyond this a commercial green house. To the south are agricultural fields used for cattle grazing connected on a farm. To the west adjacent to the site is Japonica Nursery and two neighboring farms.

Existing Site Vegetation

- 1.6 The entrance to the site is bordered by mixed species native trees and mixed species native hedgerows. Along the western perimeter there several young, semi mature and mature trees, 7 significant in total. This tree line is made up of Quercus robur, Acer campestre and Populus x canadensis. There are also several smaller mixed native trees under the canopy of this tree line.

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- 1.7 Along the southern perimeter there are two semi mature *Q. robur* and a large *P. x canadensis*. There are several smaller mixed native tree groups along the southern edge of the site and an area of tall ruderal in front of this. Along the eastern side of the site there is a line of mixed native and naturalized tree groups, of early mature and semi mature age. This group is made up of *Prunus* sp, *Carpinus betulus*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Abies* sp and *Fagus sylvatica*. At the northern end of the eastern boundary there is a hedgerow of mixed native and ornamental species.
- 1.8 Many of these trees have grown to a significant size, are providing important screening from the neighboring commercial site, and have become a significant presence in the landscape. The smaller mixed native and naturized tree groups provide pleasing aesthetics and wildlife interest.
- ¿ Category A i.e. trees of high quality; 3 trees.
 - ¿ Category B i.e. trees of moderate quality; 5 trees.
 - ¿ Category C i.e. trees of low quality; 2 trees, 6 tree groups and 2 ornamental hedgerows.

Development Proposal

- 1.9 Proposals include the redevelopment of the site with commercial units and associated Landscaping.



2.0 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts of Development Proposals on Existing Vegetation

- 2.1 The proposed development can have an adverse impact on the existing trees by removing them to facilitate the development, or in the future, by adversely affecting their potential for retention through disturbance in Root Protection Areas (RPAs) or through post development pressures to prune or remove.
- 2.2 The development proposals would involve the following site operations that could impact upon the existing trees:
- ¿ Contractor movements; site access and operations;
 - ¿ Storage and compound;
 - ¿ Plant, vehicle and material cleaning;
 - ¿ Installation of construction elements; ground work / general site operations;
 - ¿ Construction in proximity to trees;
 - ¿ Demolition/ removal of existing structures;
 - ¿ Installation of services and underground apparatus;
 - ¿ Future maintenance;
 - ¿ Removal of existing vegetation not for retention;
 - ¿ Removal of protective measures.
- 2.3 The proposals include the removal of small areas of tall ruderal grassland and a number of low value trees. All moderate and high value trees are to be retained.
- 2.4 Damaging activity may be caused during construction by demolition of existing surfaces and structure, the installation of foundations and construction of units. In addition, installation of parking areas and general site operations could have an adverse effect on trees. These activities could cause vibrations and compaction which would damage the root systems of trees or cause damage to the trees themselves, such as vehicle strikes and dust smothering. Other potentially damaging activities might include the installation of services, and changes in ground level. It is considered possible to avoid or mitigate the above impacts to a point where they are non-significant.

- 2.5 A number of the proposed units are to be built within the RPA's of retained trees along the western boundary. T02, a field maple (*Acer campestre*), T05 a poplar sp. (*Populus x canadensis*). T06, T08, T09 and T10, all poplar sp., and T07, a pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) will have their RPA's encroached on due to the erection of commercial units along the western perimeter. It is proposed to retain these trees. Much of the RPA encroachment proposed is within areas already laid to hard or bare ground, and existing buildings. As such, whilst the proposed encroachments are large, their impacts are only moderate and would be further reduced through protection and mitigation measures.
- 2.6 Along the eastern boundary line, a proposed building will be built within the RPA of TG15, which is to be partially removed.

Tree Retention and Protection

- 2.7 The existing trees and hedges are of low and moderate with a small number of high value trees. The majority of the onsite trees will be protected but there may be some inclusions as detailed below.
- 2.8 Tree locations are indicative to best knowledge, a topographical drawing was not used to map the trees within either the Tree Constraints Plan or Tree Retention Protection Plan (Refer to LLD2448-ARB-DWG-001/002). It should therefore be considered that the development may encroach the RPA of T 02, TG03, TG04, T05, T06, T08-T10 and TG03 and TG04 and that the exact locations of the units and parking areas should be determined on-site between the contractors and agricultural consultant.

Disturbance to Root Protection Areas

- 2.9 All RPAs are to be protected as far as is feasible through the majority of the construction phase and only partial access will be required within the root zones of any trees or hedgerows. Due to the lack of a topographical drawing the exact locations of the new units and landscaping are impossible to ascertain precisely at this time. Therefore, when onsite contractors should confirm the exact locations. If these locations avoid the RPA then no further mitigation will be required. However, if access is required over the RPA's then this will impact upon the health of the tree and mitigation will be required.

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- 2.10 In order to protect these root areas, it is imperative that no more than 20% of the remaining soft ground root protection area is impacted by the development. The 20% allows for a precautionary :No Dig~ construction method could be undertaken which will help ensure that the RPA's of these trees are not negatively impacted. Given the size and vigor of the trees, and the fact that new hard surfacing and buildings will replace existing, these works are not considered to have a negative impact providing this mitigation is followed.
- 2.11 Due to the lack of a topographical drawing of the site it is impossible to ascertain exactly as to whether the new units and landscaping will encroach upon T05 T06, T07, T08, T09 and T10. Therefore, where possible the trees will be retained and mitigation measures such as the ones in section 3.0 Arboricultural Method Statement will be implemented. Where the buildings fall within the RPA's of T05 T06, T07, T08, T09 and T10, then to ensure no damage is done installing specialist construction in the form of a pile and beam construction would be undertaken. Where hard surfacing is proposed within RPAs, this shall be of appropriate :no-dig~ construction built up from existing unmade ground levels.

Construction in Proximity to Existing Trees

- 2.12 There will be a minor loss of areas of existing trees and tree groups in addition to small areas of tall ruderal vegetation. However, these will be minor and non-significant in magnitude and will not significantly affect factors such as hydrology. The retained trees along the western boundary may only have minor impacts upon them during construction therefore any impacts on health would be small and the trees would be able to recover due to their size and vigor. Again, due to the lack of impact upon the mature, high category trees, the visual amenity of the site will not be affected. Where low category trees are to be removed it is proposed to plant native species in their place which will reduce the visual effect of the works.
- 2.13 The proposed unit's proximity to the trees may put pressure on the RPAs. There should be sufficient space between the retained trees and proposed units to allow growth to continue without any impact on the development however as no topographical drawing was available, this is not possible to ascertain for certain. Despite a number of trees falling within the footprint of the construction zone, only minor pruning is required within the proposals, with limited future pruning required in the future. This will most likely come in the form of removing deadwood and

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overhanging limbs from a number of the western boundary trees, due to the condition and structure of the trees, no major impacts are predicted. Management of the trees will fall under the remit of the site owner and is unlikely to exceed the current requirements for pruning.

- 2.14 Access will be required within the RPA's of hedgerows and tree groups during the installation of parking areas along the eastern boundary. No trees or hedgerows along this boundary are to be removed, however access may be required during operations.
- 2.15 In the absence of mitigation, the proposals might negatively impact upon the retained trees by affecting their rooting area and smothering of vegetation by dust. These will be mitigated for by the careful control/storage of materials and attaching debris mesh to the protective fencing. Dust shall be mitigated by damping down any dust produced during construction along with washing down any smothered vegetation if required.
- 2.16 Tree protection barriers are proposed around T05, T06, T08-T10 and T14 during the construction phase to ensure the rooting environment and roots within their RPA's remain unharmed. In the long term, trees will be retained within their current rooting area allowing sufficient room to remain and continue growth.
- 2.17 Demolition of structures and surfaces would be required within RPAs. In the absence of mitigation improper demolition might result in damage to roots, stems and crowns. To avoid this impact, demolition shall be carried out with due care in a 'top-down, pull-back' manner with materials being pulled away from trees onto hard surfaces. Any foundations requiring removal shall be manually excavated under arboricultural supervision. Where possible, below-ground structures shall be left in-situ to minimise disturbance.

Tree Pruning, Canopy Reduction or Lifting

- 2.17 Potential tree pruning may have to occur to ensure no branches will fall onto any of the new buildings. Hedge pruning will be required along the eastern boundary to reduce hedges growing into parking areas. Trees and hedges to be affected include:

T05 - Poplar sp. (*Populus x canadensis*) - Category A

T06 - Poplar sp. (*Populus x canadensis*) - Category A

TG15 - Mixed Species Native Tree Group - Category C

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TG16 - Mixed Species Native Tree Group - Category C

H17 - Mixed Species Ornamental Hedgerow - Category C

Removal of Trees and Vegetation

- 2.18 A number of low and moderate value trees have been scheduled for removal in order for the proposals to go ahead as planned. All high category trees are to be retained. As much space as possible has been incorporated into the proposals to reduce the potential of placing stress on any trees in the future.
- 2.19 The construction of the southwestern Block A on the current block and location plan shows the unit to be close to T05 and T06. There is also possible infringement on the RPA of T08-T10 from the western Block B. However, none of these trees will need to be removed.

Trees scheduled to be removed includes:

T02 - Field maple (*Acer campestre*) - Category C

TG03 - Mixed Species Native Tree Group - Category C

TG04 - Mixed Species Native Tree Group - Category C

Tree Loss Mitigation Measures

- 2.20 New native trees will be incorporated to boundary line hedgerows which are included within the scheme.
- 2.21 There is sufficient scope for planting to the boundary of the site area so that mitigation planting would be able to satisfactorily compensate for the proposed loss of trees on the site, which in addition to the measures to protect existing trees would result in an increase the arboricultural value of the site above the existing baseline. The proposals are therefore supportable in arboricultural terms.



3.0 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Protection and Retention of Existing Trees and Habitats

- 3.1 The Contractor shall exercise due care when performing operations beneath the canopy of existing mature trees and vegetation designated for protection and avoid at all times damage to the roots, trunk and branches.
- 3.2 The Contractor shall train all members of the construction workforce operating within the proximity of valued habitats and make such persons aware that there shall not be, without having sought prior notification, the following operations undertaken within the protected areas:
- ⌘ Dumping of spoil or rubbish, excavation or disturbance of topsoil, parking of vehicles or plant, storing of materials or placing of temporary accommodation within an area which is the larger of the branch spread of the tree or an area with a radius of half the tree's height, measured from the trunk, and within the specified Root Protection Areas;
 - ⌘ Severance of roots exceeding 25 mm in diameter. If unintentionally severed; notice shall be given and specialist arboricultural advice sought;
 - ⌘ Changes to the level of the ground within the specified Root Protection Areas;
 - ⌘ Vegetation clearance to site boundaries during the bird nesting season (nesting season: March-September inclusive). Any clearance must be undertaken outside nesting season or alternatively under a watching brief from a suitability qualified ecologist.

Tree Protection Barriers

- 3.3 The Contractor shall exercise due care when performing operations beneath the canopy of existing mature trees and vegetation and within the specified Root Protection Areas designated for protection and avoid at all times damage to the roots, trunk and branches of existing trees proposed to be retained.
- 3.4 All trees to be retained on site shall be protected with barriers erected around the area of mature vegetation in accordance with BS 5837; 2012; 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations'. The barrier shall be installed, protected and maintained during the main works by the Contractor who shall be responsible for protecting any area beneath the canopy of the existing trees and within the specified Root Protection Areas.

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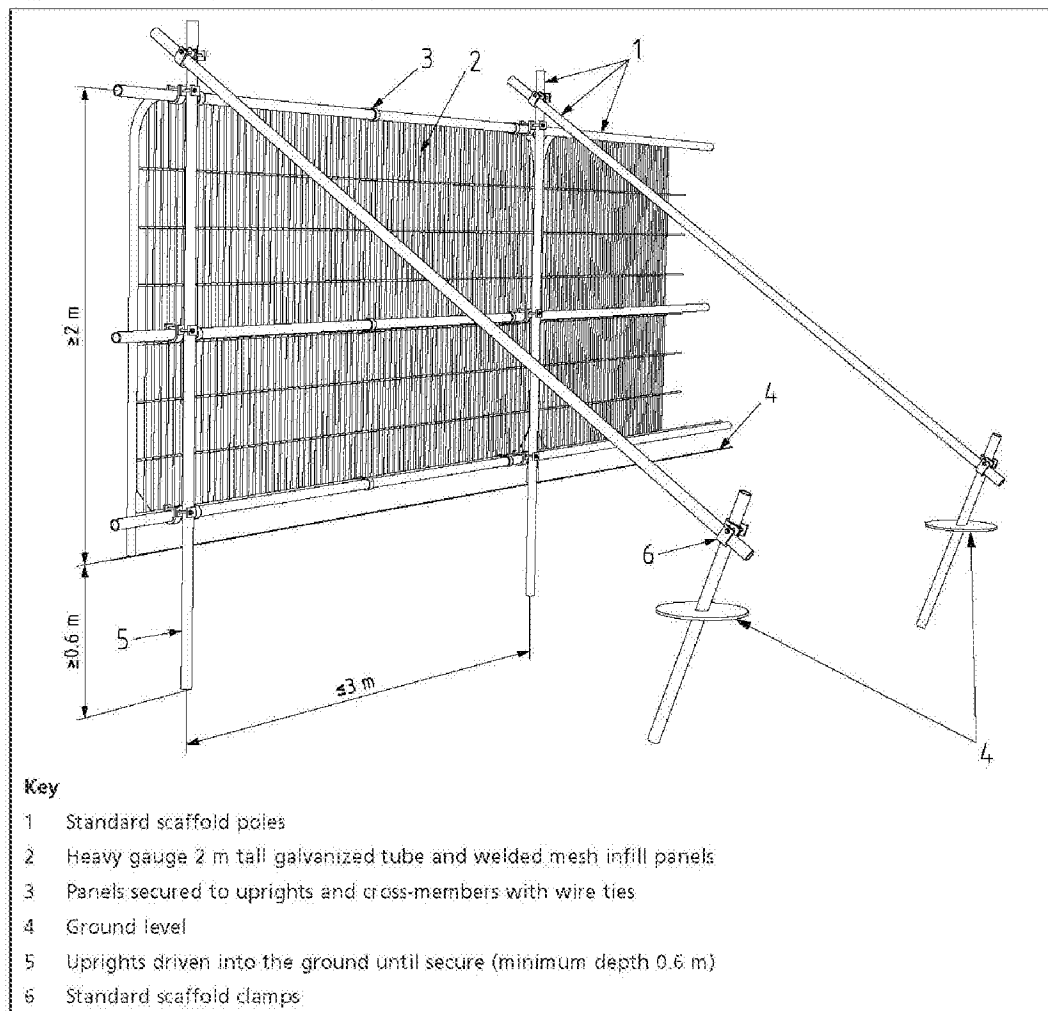


- 3.5 The installed protective barrier shall be 2.0 metres minimum height 'Heras' Welded Wire Mesh Fencing secured to a scaffolding framework, set into the existing ground, and positioned to the outside edge of the existing Tree Root Protection Area. Where existing ground conditions do not allow for the above method, the Welded Wire Mesh Fencing Panels may be mounted on concrete or rubber feet, supported on the inner side with stabilizer struts fixed on a block tray or secured with ground pins; and positioned as specified. The barrier should be strained, and fixed to fences, walls, knee rails where possible to provide a complete protected area (refer to Figure 2 and Figure 3 below; Ø British Standards Institute 2012). All tree protection to be in accordance with BS 5837: 2012; 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations' set out as specified within drawings LLD2442-ARB-DWG-002 - Tree Retention and Protection Plan.

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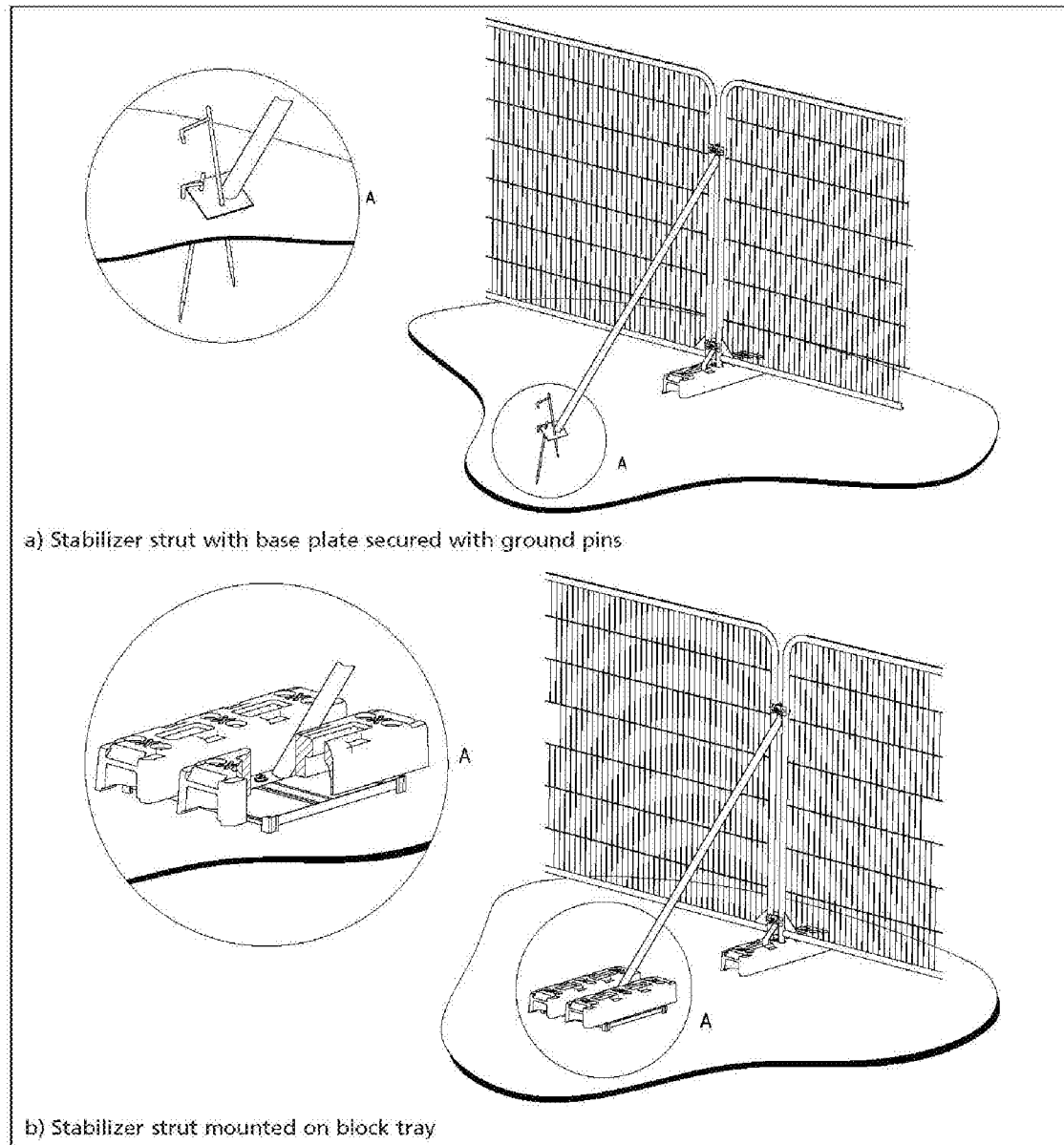
Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier



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Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



- 3.6 Day-glo ribbons shall be maintained during the main works by the Main Contractor attached to the top of the barrier to ensure that the fencing is clearly visible during the works. The tree protection barrier shall display all-weather notices starting :Construction Exclusion Zone - NO ACCESS`.
- 3.7 All such barriers shall be maintained for the full contract period. All necessary excavations, earthworks and cultivation beneath the canopy spread of any existing tree; shrub or hedge shall be undertaken by hand. No commencement of construction operations should occur prior to the inspection of the installed tree and ground protection by the Landscape / Arboricultural Consultant. Repositioning of the protective barrier during the course of the contract as the contract works progress shall need prior consultation with the Landscape / Arboricultural Consultant.
- 3.8 Within the protected areas the following activities must not take place;
- ¿ No vehicles are to be used in the fenced off areas;
 - ¿ No materials are to be stockpiled or stored;
 - ¿ No chemicals are to be stored;
 - ¿ No excavation or increase in the soil level shall occur;
 - ¿ No fires shall be lit on site.

Ground Protection Measures

- 3.9 Where construction operations require activity within the exposed unmade ground of any existing tree Root Protection Area, a temporary ground protection measures should be implemented allowing for access, limited traffic and operations during the construction period.
- 3.10 A temporary 'Ground Protection Zone' shall allow for the passage of construction vehicles to the site and should be implemented without intrusion or change of existing ground levels within the defined tree Root Protection Areas of existing trees. The ground protection measures should be implemented prior to the main construction works.
- 3.11 The temporary ground protection measures should remain in place for the duration of the construction period.

3.12 Ground protection must be fit for the purpose of supporting the level of traffic entering or using the site within RPAs without being distorted or causing compaction of underlying soil. The appropriate solutions include:

- ⌘ For pedestrian movements or the erection of scaffolding within the RPA – single layer of scaffold boards either on top of a driven scaffold frame, to form a suspended walkway, or on top of a compression-resistant layer, e.g. 100 mm depth of woodchip laid onto a geotextile;
- ⌘ For pedestrian-operated plant (up to a gross weight of 2 t) – proprietary, inter-linked ground protection boards or panels laid on top of a compression-resistant layer, e.g. 150 mm depth of woodchip laid onto a geotextile membrane;
- ⌘ For vehicular access (exceeding a gross weight of 2 t) – an alternative system subject to engineer's specification appropriate for expected loads, designed in consultation with the project Landscape/ Arboricultural Architect.

3.13 The surface material should be contained with edging type requiring no excavation. Where proposed levels of any new access routes do not ascertain minimum required depth for installation of traditional kerbs, other solutions should be sought:

- ⌘ Timber edging boards and spikes would be considered appropriate for pathways;
- ⌘ Timber sleepers should be used as a kerb edge restraint for vehicular areas and anchored with non-intrusive pinning (such as road pins) in order to maintain the existing levels within the specified Root Protection Areas.

Manual Excavation

3.14 Where the development proposals necessitate the tying in and re-grading of existing and proposed levels for vehicular access or include the implementation of underground services such as services, cables, pipe work; a 'Manual Excavation Method' must be assumed using handheld tools to minimise the impact on existing trees. The excavation should be executed with due care and attention not to disturb exposed unmade ground and any existing tree roots present within it.

3.15 Roots over 25mm diameter or those occurring in clumps must not be severed without Arboricultural advice. Tree roots below such size should be cut cleanly using specialised hand tools only and to the minimum extent to allow provision. All exposed roots should be immediately wrapped in dry Hessian to avoid drying. On completion of the excavation and at the earliest opportunity the wrapping should be removed, and the

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roots surrounded and protected with a loose granular fill (clean washed sharp sand or topsoil free of contaminants or matter injurious to rooting systems) prior to backfilling the excavation to the desired levels.

- 3.1 Any demolition within RPAs shall be carried out with due care in a 'top-down, pull-back' manner with materials being pulled away from trees onto hard surfaces. Any foundations requiring removal shall be manually excavated under arboricultural supervision. Where possible, below-ground structures shall be left in-situ to minimise disturbance. Tree protection barriers shall be in place and adequately strained to ensure there is no risk of debris falling onto unprotected RPAs or tree stems.

New Structures in Proximity to Trees

- 3.16 The use of traditional strip footings can result in damage to roots and subsequent failure of trees and should therefore be avoided. For the purpose of retention of good quality trees, the application of specially engineered structures and solutions that would minimize impact on the existing trees are acceptable alternatives. A site-specific and specialist advice regarding foundation design should be sought from the Project Engineer.
- 3.17 In shrinkable soils, the foundation design should take account of the risk of indirect damage.
- 3.18 Root damage can be minimised by implementation of pile and beam construction techniques. The following aspects of the design should be accounted for:
- 3.19 Piles – optimal location determined through site investigation, to avoid damage to roots important for the stability of the tree, by means of hand tools or compressed air soil displacement (air lance), to a minimum depth of 600 mm. The smallest practical pile diameter should be used to minimize the risk of striking a major root. The smallest practical pile rig should be used to facilitate works within the canopy spread of existing trees. To protect the soil and adjacent roots from the potentially toxic effects of uncured concrete, the use of sleeved bored pile or screw pile should be accounted for;
- 3.20 Beams – laid at or above ground level and cantilevered as necessary to avoid tree roots identified by site investigation.





New Surfacing and Means of Access within Root Protection Areas

Where new surfacing and means of access within Root Protection Areas have been proposed, the construction method should be implemented to avoid intrusion into or change of existing ground levels within the tree Root Protection Areas of existing trees.

A :No Dig ~ Construction should allow for the paving of specified areas within or adjacent to tree Root Protection Areas to be constructed without disturbance to root systems.

Ground levels should not be raised or lowered within the existing tree Root Protection Areas. A permeable surface treatment should be laid over the existing ground allowing water to permeate, and allow for nutrient access and gaseous exchange.

The construction area / existing ground within the existing tree RPA is to be overlain with a geo-membrane and covered with a granular fill of no fines - open graded aggregate Type 3 incorporated within a 3-dimensional cellular confinement system. This should ensure a minimum supportive depth of 200mm for vehicular access / 100mm for pedestrian footpaths, above which a permeable surface treatment should be laid. The pH of the aggregate must be near neutral to avoid damage to pH-sensitive tree species.

Existing paving material overlying the RPA of existing trees should be left undisturbed during the construction period in order to protect the Root Protection Area of the tree to be retained. The existing paving/ hard standing can then be reused as a base for the proposed surfacing, subject to Engineer's specification.

All retaining kerb restraints / edge supports are to be secured above ground and no general excavation within existing tree RPAs should be permitted.

Where stepped or ramped access have been proposed within the RPAs of existing trees, this should be constructed with limited disturbance to the existing ground. A raised frame supported upon posts concreted in the ground is recommended. The holes for footing to posts should be dug out using handheld tools. The sides of the holes should be lined with an impermeable membrane to prevent the caustic and toxic effects of wet cement in the concrete from damaging tree roots.

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Contractor Movements. Site access and operations. Storage and Compound Areas

The Contractor Site Compound shall be located outside of any prescribed tree Root Protection Area and shall be permitted for the storage and securement of materials only within a temporary compound.

The compound area shall be located so as to not incur damage or injury to the root systems or canopy of any existing trees or vegetation within or adjacent to the site, in accordance with BS 5837:2012 "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations". All site operations associated with the usage of the compound area shall be undertaken with due care and attention so as to negate damage of the surrounding environment.

All site operations and construction procedures for the duration of the construction period shall seek to protect the existing site vegetation and root protection areas in accordance with BS 5837:2012.

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Tree Surgery

Any significant defects found in the trees during the course of the scheduled work shall be reported to the Landscape Architect / Arboricultural Consultant. All scheduled and arising tree work shall be undertaken by an approved and qualified tree surgeon in accordance with BS 3998: 2010 'Tree Work: Recommendations'. Care should be taken to avoid damage to neighbouring trees to be retained. Branches in confined spaces shall be removed and taken down in sections. All arisings shall be transported and disposed of away from site to the Contractor's tip.

Removal of Existing Vegetation

All existing trees to be designated for removal are to be removed in accordance with the LLD2442-ARB-DWG-001 - Tree Retention and Protection Plan. All tree work and removal shall be carried out in accordance with BS 5837:2012. Trees designated for removal and felling shall be clearly marked on site with white paint. Prior to the removal and felling of trees, the required work and tree positions shall be agreed on site with the Landscape Architect / Arboricultural Consultant. Trees shall be felled prior to the erection of the Tree Protective Fencing. Care should be taken during the tree removal process to avoid any damage to any trees which are designated to be retained.

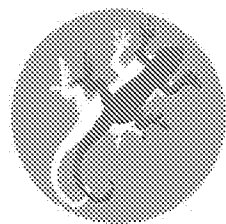
Stumps shall be removed and cut away so that the top of the stump shall be at least 450 mm below the final topsoil level in order that the site can be reinstated in accordance with the existing site levels. Stumps are to be treated with an approved herbicide to be agreed with the Landscape Architect. Where the depth is greater than 450 mm the areas shall be backfilled with topsoil to the required level.

The removal of shrub or scrub material within the Root Protection Area of any tree to be retained shall employ a Manual Removal method; the use of hand tools shall be used in order to maintain the ground surface of the Root Protection Area and reduce any damage to existing tree roots within the protected root zone. Adjacent trees shall not be utilised as anchors or levers to facilitate the removal of adjacent vegetation.

Vegetation clearance to site boundaries should take place outside the bird nesting season (nesting season: March-September inclusive) or alternatively under a watching brief from a suitability qualified ecologist.

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