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Arboricultural Method Statement

Police Training Centre, Royal Victoria Country Park,

Netley Abbey, Southampton. SO31 4TS

**Erection of 3.0-metre-high steel mesh security fence to site boundaries, with
vehicular entrance gates,
and widening of access drive from Hamble Lane.**

HCC Arb Reference: P-EBC-NetleyPoliceTrainingFENCE-SS23671-AMS-1.1

IMPORTANT

This document is required for the protection and safe retention of trees.

All contractors and site staff must read and understand the entirety of this document
before commencing construction activity.

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE METHOD STATEMENT MAY CONSTITUTE A BREACH OF
PLANNING CONDITION AND COULD RESULT IN ENFORCEMENT ACTION.**

Document Control Table:

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1.0	Draft	Initial findings	DH	18/02/25
1.1	Final	Updated plans	DH	26/02/25

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
RPA	Root Protection Area
CEZ	Construction Exclusion Zone
BS5837:2012	British Standard for trees in relation to design, demolition and construction
BS3998:2010	British Standard: tree work recommendations
AIA	Arboricultural Impact Assessment
AMS	Arboricultural Method Statement
TPP	Tree Protection Plan
LPA	Local Planning Authority

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1 Scope of works

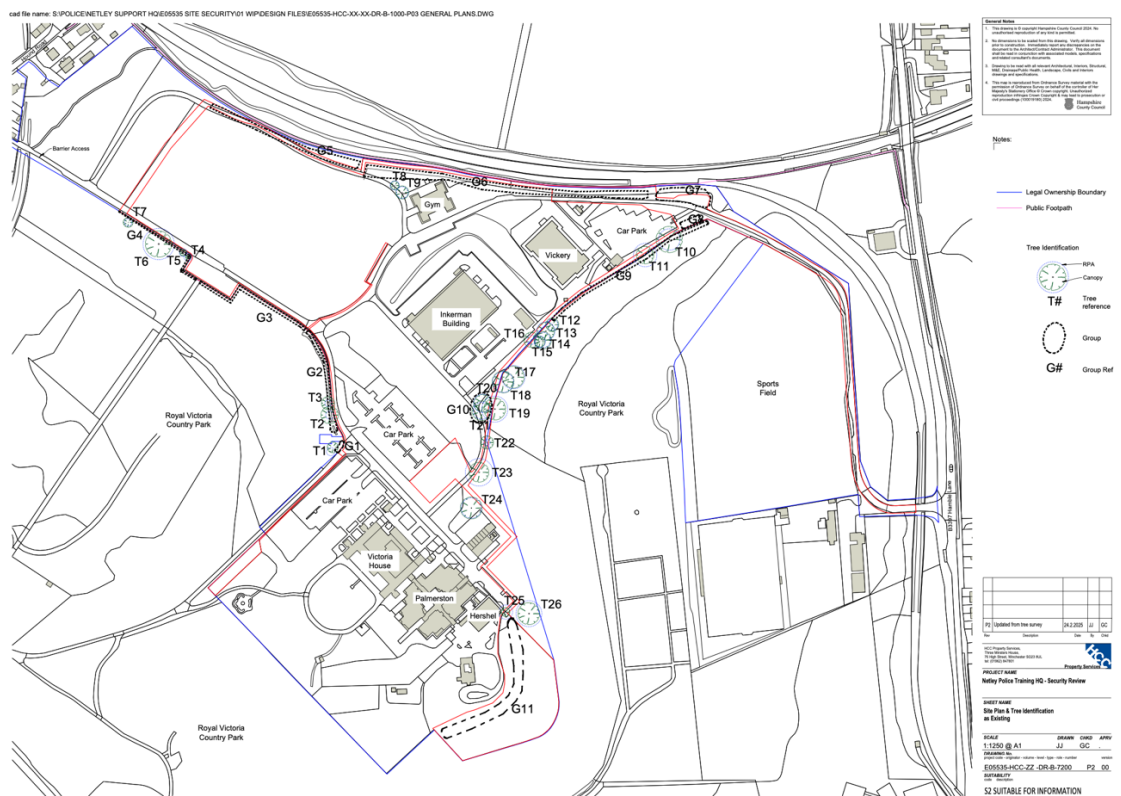
The following elements relevant to trees are needed to deliver the installation of the new security fence.

1. Access route for contractor to have sufficient clearances.
2. Contractor parking and compound to be identified and set up.
3. Access to handle, store and transport the fencing materials around the site.
4. Installation of the new fencing.

2 Caveats and Limitations

This Arboricultural Method Statement describes working methods to be adopted for construction operations (temporary and/or permanent) with the specific aim of retaining trees safely and without damage.

Read this report with the Tree location plan – clipped below for reference:



Only trees impacted by the scheme with diameters greater than 75mm and woodland groups with stems of 150mm or greater were surveyed and therefore considered within this report.

Any changes to the design of the scheme, which may have an impact on trees or their protection, must be brought to the attention of the project arboriculturalist for assessment; as amendments may be required.

The project arboriculturalist must approve final detailed designs and must approve all protection measures before construction activity. Failure to do so may result in adverse impact to retained trees and delays in construction completion, and, where trees are legally protected, may result in prosecution.

NOTE: There are no trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order on site. The site enjoys a Grade II listing as a historic park or garden associated with the former Royal Victoria Military Hospital. A number of mature and notable trees stand on the perimeter of the site, on the proposed alignment of the new security fence.

Some trees on site will need to be crown-lifted to allow clearance for construction activity/movement and to avoid impact damage. The landowner's consent must be obtained to enter third-party land and to prune third-party trees.

3 Timings of works

Trees are more likely to resist damage if works in or near the RPA are carried out during the winter season when the tree is dormant (for deciduous trees) or, when trees have maximum energy reserves at the end of summer, prior to leaf-fall.

Clay soil will be much more prone to compaction when wet than when dry: additional ground protection measures may be necessary after heavy or prolonged periods of rainfall on sites where the clay soil is present and less free draining.

Tree surgery works for access, facilitation or safety reasons shall be done in advance of site occupancy by the main contractor wherever possible. This reduces the risk of harm to trees.

Tree surgery operations are to be completed prior to the erection of the new fencing as the arborists will need unrestricted access to the trees.

4 Requirements prior to start of works.

- 4.1 Prior to the start of works, locations for e.g.: contractor working areas, compounds, site welfare units, parking and other contractor facilities must be identified and positioned outside of the RPAs and crown spreads of retained trees (including any not shown on the tree location plan).

- 4.2 Tree surgery works necessary for clearance and access must be carried out prior to site occupancy by the main contractor.

Tree works required

- 4.3 All tree works required are stated within Appendix 2 Tree Works Schedule. This includes works to (HCC) third-party trees.
- 4.4 All tree surgery works are to be carried out before the site is occupied by contractors and before any construction activity starts. This is to prevent both damage to retained trees and the risk of injury to site contractors.
- 4.5 All tree works must be carried out in alignment with current ecological reports which may e.g., specify timing in the year for tree works specific to the site and relevant legal considerations.
- 4.6 A suitably qualified, accredited and insured tree surgery contractor must be employed for all tree works. They must also comply with any licenses or permissions that may exist for the work to take place e.g.: highway/local authority licenses or planning consent.
- 4.7 All tree works must comply with BS3998:2010.
- 4.8 The works required are to deliver the elements as itemised here:
- I. Access route for the tree surgery contractor to establish sufficient installation clearances. This requires the sensitive pruning and crown lifting to 3m+ of trees on the alignment route for the new fence.
 - II. Contractor parking and compound(s) to be set up. These must be located in such a way as to utilise existing hard stands and roadways and must not encroach into the soft estate where tree RPA's exist.
 - III. Access to enable the new fencing materials to be manually installed on site. This could be achieved by use of e.g.: a tractor and trailer moving around the site on the adjacent areas of hard standing and roads, whilst delivering materials along the route of the fence alignment.

5 Tree protection specification

- 5.1 Physical tree protection; usually achieved via tree protective fencing/barriers, will only be deployed in this case where e.g., "static" compounds are required and located close-to but beyond the RPA's of retained trees.
- 5.2 All protection methods must be approved fit for purpose and in the correct position in relation to the requirements of the site, and proximity to tree RPA's. This will in all cases be

informed by the project arboriculturalist. Any required changes to the protections must be approved by the project arboriculturalist and mitigate if required (a non-material amendment to planning may be required if the protection alters to that supplied in support of planning consent).

- 5.3 In places, the RPA of retained trees extends beneath the immediately adjacent access roads, driveways and hard standing areas etc. Where the RPA is suitably protected by these existing hard surfaces, it is permissible to operate plant and machinery etc. within that part of the RPA only. Where the RPA does not have such a protective surface covering and occupies ground which is clearly vegetated/green space; then no access or unnecessary disturbance is permitted.

Tree protection barrier/ fencing specification:

- 5.3 Much of the fence alignment cannot be provided with “conventional” tree protective barriers owing to the nature of the works to install the perimeter security fence. As all fence installation works are to be conducted close-to and within existing areas of vegetation, it is essential that all ancillary construction/installation activity stays outside the RPA of retained trees. The materials storage, handling, contractors parking, welfare facilities etc. must all be located on the nearby and adjacent existing areas of hard standing, driveways and concrete aprons.
- 5.4 The area within the RPA is to be kept free of plant, machinery and stored materials. In the unlikely event that construction activity requires vehicular access inside retained tree RPA’s, the project arboriculturist shall supervise the installation of appropriate ground protection, which must be laid as per the manufacturer’s instructions. Once the requirement for ground protection has ceased, the ground protection may be lifted, and the site reinstated at the earliest opportunity.
- 5.7 Clear weatherproof signage shall be affixed to retained fencing and features adjacent to the working areas, ideally spaced at intervals no greater than 20m. Examples of appropriate signage are shown below:



The project arboriculturalist must approve any protective barriers/fencing deemed necessary prior to the start of works. Appendix 1 shows examples for protective measures where site compounds etc. are located near the RPA of retained trees and vegetation.

Temporary ground protection

- 5.8 This scheme does not appear to require physical protection in the form of ground protection, owing to the nature of the works and the manual construction techniques to be used. As noted previously, the project arboriculturalist shall supervise the installation of appropriate ground protection, which must be laid as per the manufacturer's instructions

6 Special precautions required to protect trees

- 6.1 Consideration needs to be given e.g., to the storage and mixing of any chemicals, fuels, paints etc. that may be injurious to trees/plants. Special consideration is required where tree RPAs are downhill from an area proposed to store or mix chemicals etc. Spillages could leach downhill through soil, impacting the tree's rooting environment. Alternate mixing areas must be sourced or mixing bunds shall be used with capacity to store at least 10% over that being mixed.
- 6.2 The lighting of any fires in proximity to trees is forbidden where smoke or heat damage may result. Method statements must be produced that remove risk of any chemical usage or fires planned on site, and which may impact trees.
- 6.3 Construction activities must not be carried out within the RPA unless otherwise authorised in this report and approved onsite. Should additional space for working areas be required, RPA's must not be entered without prior approval from the project arboriculturalist, and accompanied with a technical update stating how trees are to be protected.

Contingency plans

- 6.4 In the following circumstances, the recommended actions are:
- 6.5 Chemical Spillage near trees and retained vegetation: A COSHH data sheet should be available for all chemicals brought onto site. For any spillage that occurs where chemicals may run into root protection areas (above or below ground) A specific and appropriate spill-kit should be available to deal with all substances to be used on the site. The manufacturers guidelines must be followed when responding to spill incidents. The project arboriculturalist must then be informed to assess any further action that may be required.
- 6.6 Plant/vehicle collision with trees and retained vegetation: A suitably qualified arboriculturalist must be called to assess the damage, and their recommendations carried out following a collision. If the tree has been uprooted or thrown by the collision, the area must be made safe and the project arboriculturalist must then be informed to assess any further action that may be required.
- 6.7 Emergency access within RPAs. This is only allowed in exceptional circumstances and should be kept to a minimum in terms of footfall, vehicle, or plant movements. Remediation work may be required to de-compact the soil within the RPAs after the emergency has passed.

Quitting the site.

- 6.8 Once the fencing has been installed, the site must be vacated appropriately, and all material and plant removed in a manner that is not harmful to trees, vegetation, or the RPA's of retained trees.
- 6.9 Under the guidance of the project arboriculturist, any areas that show compaction or overrun into the RPA must be ameliorated with either an air spade or an application of seasoned hardwood mulch, depending on soil bulk density values.
- 6.10 Upon practical completion of the fence installation, the project arboriculturalist will walk the site with the principal contractor and the client, to ensure that no arboricultural harm has occurred, and to guide any mitigation works as may be found necessary.
- 6.11 Any mitigation tree works are to be agreed and discharged within 10 days of bringing them to the notice of the principal contractor and the client.

7 Chronology of tree protection

Ref	Action	Tick & date when completed
1	Tree surgery works and tree removals to take place as specified in the Tree Works Schedule	
2	Site meeting prior to start of the new security fencing works to approve the tree pruning specification and clearances and agree future arb supervision dates, as required by LPA.	
4	Start of removing any sections of existing hedge/fence that will hamper the installation of the new security fence. Then begin to install the new security fencing.	
5	Completion of the new security fencing installation.	
6	Once practical completion of the new security fence is reached, the contractor is to vacate the site ensuring that all materials etc. are removed from site in a professional manner.	
7	Final sweep/check of the fence alignment to ensure no damage to retained trees has occurred. This to be undertaken by the client, the principal contractor and the project arboriculturist. As necessary, arrange for tree surgery works to remediate any damage or broken branches etc. Site to be left in an arboriculturally acceptable state and signed off as such by the project arboriculturist.	

9 Proposed method statement for installing the 358 welded mesh security fence.

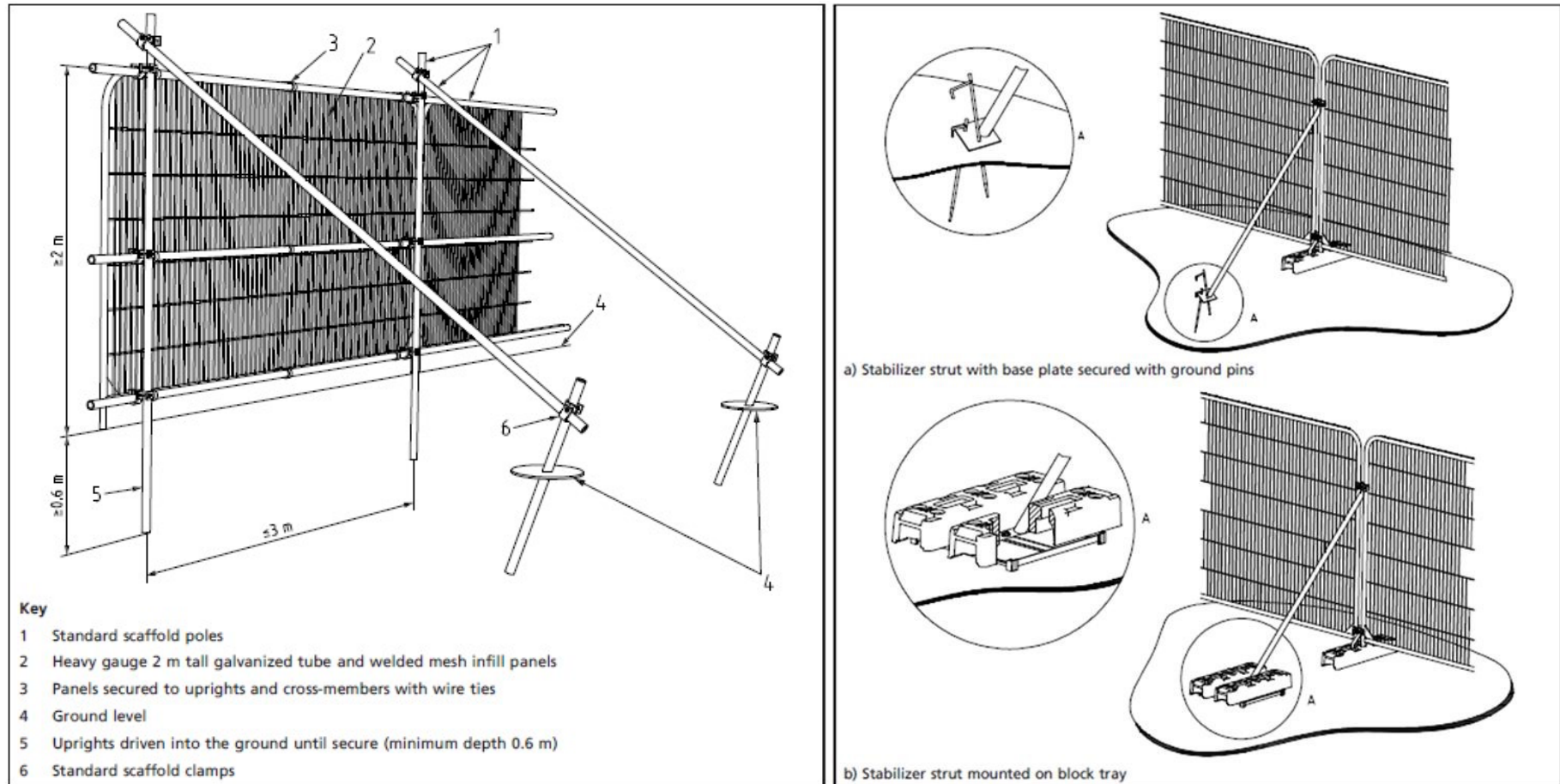
- 9.1 All plant and materials must be operated and stored on the existing adjacent hard standing, and not within the soft-estate RPA of retained trees.
- 9.2 All tools, equipment and materials must be manually walked/carried to the installation points via planned access routes> For heavier/bulky items such as 20kG bags of post mix, the use of manual wheelbarrows and suitable temporary “track way” is permissible. No vehicular traffic is allowed into the RPA of the retained trees.
- 9.3 Re-use existing post holes where possible, or otherwise locate post holes where they avoid tree roots larger than 25mm in diameter. This will require careful preparation in order to avoid having to adjust post centres and span widths.
- 9.4 Hand dig or hand-auger any new fence post holes.
- 9.5 The route for the new security fence should have been carefully pre-cleared by the tree surgery contractor. Observe the required overhead clearance for branches etc. If further pruning becomes necessary during the installation process, obtain the guidance of the project arboriculturist.
- 9.6 Line the sides of the holes with strong polythene, of at least 380 gauge (95 microns). If holes are less than 600mm deep, line the bottom of the hole with the same gauge polythene.
- 9.7 Prepare the concrete post mix as per the manufacturer's instructions, using a bunded tray where necessary to contain run-off, and a clean water source.
- 9.8 Carefully install the posts and fill with the post-mix avoiding any spills and ensuring no leakage occurs outside the polythene liner.
- 9.9 All fencing works must be in accordance with the most current British Standards.
All tree works must be in accordance with BS3998:2010, and all arboricultural operations on site must be in accordance with BS5837:2012, e.g.: There must be no storage or moving of materials or mixing of concrete etc near the retained trees.
- 9.1 Any tree pruning should ideally occur outside the bird nesting season, which is generally accepted to occur between September and the end of February. Ecological due diligence regarding nesting birds and other ecological factors must be addressed by relevant professionals in that field of expertise.
- 9.11 The project arboriculturist may be called upon as necessary in a supervisory capacity when the fence installation is ongoing.

Should further impact to tree roots, stems or crowns be identified that are not documented within this report, a revised tree protection plan and arb method statement shall be created and implemented to ensure the continued protection of trees throughout development.

Alternatively, on-site arboricultural advice may be appropriate/adequate. This shall be decided and completed by a competent arboriculturalist, and any changes communicated in a timely manner to the Client/Principal Designer and the Local Planning Authority.

Appendix 1 – Specification examples for protective measures where site compounds etc. are located near the RPA of retained trees and vegetation.

Figure a) diagram showing specification for protective fencing.



Appendix 2 – Tree Works Schedule

Tree no.	Common name	Stem diam mm	Works required for proposal	Arboricultural supervision required	Owner
T1	English oak	320	Crown lift	No	HCC
G1	Ash/elm	200	Crown lift. Remove poor specimens.	No	PCC
T2	Turkey oak	320	Crown lift	No	PCC
T3	Turkey oak	320	Crown lift	No	PCC
G2	Holm oak etc	100	Crown lift. Remove poor specimens.	No	PCC
G3	Elder/Hawthorn etc	100	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	PCC
G4	Ash, field maple etc	250	Prune to clear fence line	No	HCC
T4	Lawson cypress	300	Prune to clear fence line	No	HCC
T5	Sycamore	300	Prune to clear fence line	No	HCC
T6	Poplar	1200	None	No	HCC
T7	Sycamore	280	Prune to clear fence line	No	HCC
G5	Ash, English oak, holm oak etc	<350	Prune to clear fence line. Remove poor specimens.	Yes	PCC
G6	Ash, English oak, holm oak etc	<350	Prune to clear fence line. Remove poor specimens.	Yes	PCC
G7	Aspen	<350	Coppice for management	Yes	PCC
T8	Crack willow	<350	Coppice for management	N/A	PCC
T9	Hybrid poplar	<450	Coppice for management	N/A	PCC
G8	Wild cherry etc	<300	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	PCC
T10	Turkey oak	822	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	PCC
G9	Hazel	<250	Prune/coppice to clear fence line	Yes	HCC
T11	English oak	<900	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	HCC
T12	Silver birch	435	None	Yes	PCC
T13	English oak	710	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	PCC
T14	English oak	<600	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	PCC
T15	English oak	<350	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	HCC
T16	Silver birch	435	None	Yes	HCC
T17	English oak	<900	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	HCC
T18	English oak	<800	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	HCC
T19	English oak	<1000	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	HCC
T20	Turkey oak	698	None	Yes	PCC
T21	Turkey oak	660	None	Yes	PCC
G10	Turkey oak etc	<300	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	PCC
T22	English oak	1065	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	PCC
T23	English oak	1062	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	PCC
T24	English oak	785	None	Yes	PCC
T25	Scots pine	544	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	PCC
T26	English oak	<1000	Prune to clear fence line	Yes	HCC
G11	Holly, birch etc	<100	Prune to clear fence line. Coppice shrubs. Remove poor specimens.	Yes	PCC