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ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT.

**For the construction of a garden room at `Skylark`,
Salterns Lane,
Southampton,
Hampshire,
SO31 8DH.**

BS 5837:2012-Arboricultural method statement (AMS):
a method for any aspect of the development that has the potential to result
in loss or damage to a retained tree.

*Pertaining to Planning Permission Condition 5.
Ref: No. H/24/97/04*

***AC.MS.SBS
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CONSIDERATIONS OF THIS METHOD STATEMENT

BS 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction-Recommendations* indicating the possible constraints seek to provide a best practice guidance of the principles and means to protect trees which can be applied to achieve a satisfactory juxtaposition of trees with structures.

As such the recommendations cannot be considered as 'site specific' for all developments but must be considered as flexible guidelines which must be able to be adapted to a specific site or situation depending on the nature of the site, its trees, and the construction process required by other standards. It may also require adaptation due to the availability of further information (such as root investigation pits) often as an ongoing process as situations and environments change throughout a construction period.

- This on going assessment process will not only be to aid the development but also to be able to consider adjusted construction methods to maintain a realistic best practice method for tree protection.
- This development will adopt a 'hands on' approach to the tree protection with every site worker made aware of the tree protection requirements with this on going method statement being available for view to all site workers as part of their site induction.

A. ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT.

Arboricultural method statement (AMS): a method for any aspect of the development that has the potential to result in loss or damage to a retained tree. This will include the details of on site protection and the style and installation of tree protection barrier fencing.

A.1. Awareness:

- All personnel engaged on site with the development and its construction works shall be briefed at the outset of any works, so that they are clear as to the nature and extent of the tree protection measures required on the site.
- Personnel are to be made aware that the protection measures are required as a condition of a planning approval, assuming that such conditions have been made, and that the failure to comply with the approved Arboricultural Method Statement and stated protection could lead to the issuing of a site stop notice and possibly the revoking of a planning permission.
- Personnel are to be made aware with which the ease a tree can be damaged during a development, even if this damage or the effects from it are not apparent at the time of the development works.

A.2. General:

- Care must be taken not to damage retained trees with wide or tall loads, construction machinery and plant.
- Vehicles and plant shall not run on or park on a retained trees un-protected Root Protection Area (RPA) or Construction Exclusion Zone.
- Construction materials will not be stored within the RPA or Construction Exclusion Zones.
- Waste and demolition material will not be stored within or anywhere where contaminants from this can be spread or washed into a RPA or Construction Exclusion Zone.
- Soil contaminants e.g. concrete mixings, cements, fuels, and any washing's will not be emptied within 10meters of a tree stem (or outside a tree RPA if that is shown to be greater) or outside that distance where contaminants from this can be spread or washed into a RPA or Construction Exclusion Zone.
- The positioning of site toilets and wash facilities shall be outside the trees RPA and any waste or run off from these shall not be allowed to flow into a RPA or Construction Exclusion Zone.
- Fencing, signs, site level pegs or overhead services shall not be attached to the trees.
- Fires shall not be lit where they can damage any parts of the tree or spread within the ground to an RPA.

A.3. Recommended tools & protection for excavations by roots:

- Pruning secateurs, loppers, pruning saw.
- Roll of hessian cloth (for wrapping exposed roots or covering root filled soils).
- Clean sharp sand (covering and protecting roots and in-filling around roots).
- Water spray / hose, to keep roots / soils damp in dry weather.
- Small (garden) hand spade, forks & trowel for careful excavations around and under roots.

B. Tree Works.

Prior to any development works tree surgery works will be required to allow access to the site and for the installation of tree protection fencing barriers. These works will be carried out to BS 3998:2010. *Recommendations for tree work.*

B.1. Tree Schedule:

1. No tree removals are required

B2. Post- tree Works:

After construction completion the retained trees shall be inspected by a competent arborist. Any accidental damage found from the works will be noted and a schedule of remedial works drawn for the approval by the Local Authority and undertaken before the site is `signed ` off as finished.

C. Tree Protection:

Prior to any construction works tree protection barriers are to be installed around retained trees or to exclude access to areas which may require protection from compaction or contamination from construction works, (construction exclusion zones, C.E.Z.). These barriers are to be maintained in good order during the construction stages. The recommendations within *BS 5837 2012* are for the fencing to consist of:

1. A framework of 1.8m high `heras` style weld mesh fencing, braced where necessary. *see figure 3.*
2. The existing boundary fencing will provide suitable protection for the adjacent property tree, TA.
3. If a separate cement mixing area is set up or an area for the treatment of timbers with a preservative, or any other contaminants within the working site/ storage area, then this will have a non porous membrane base and will be bunded to prevent run off.
4. Any protection removed or damaged during works will be replaced in good order on completion of the particular works or immediately after damage is noted.
5. Where the ground protection is required as shown on the Tree Protection Plan within this document, protection such as Ground Guards or clean timber sheeting /scaffold boards over a geotextile membrane will be suitable.
6. Additional load bearing timber sleepers or pads will be used for heavier machinery operations.
7. Any Protection Barriers will remain in place until the construction works are complete and all construction equipment, materials, waste and spoil have been removed from site.

Figure 3: Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems

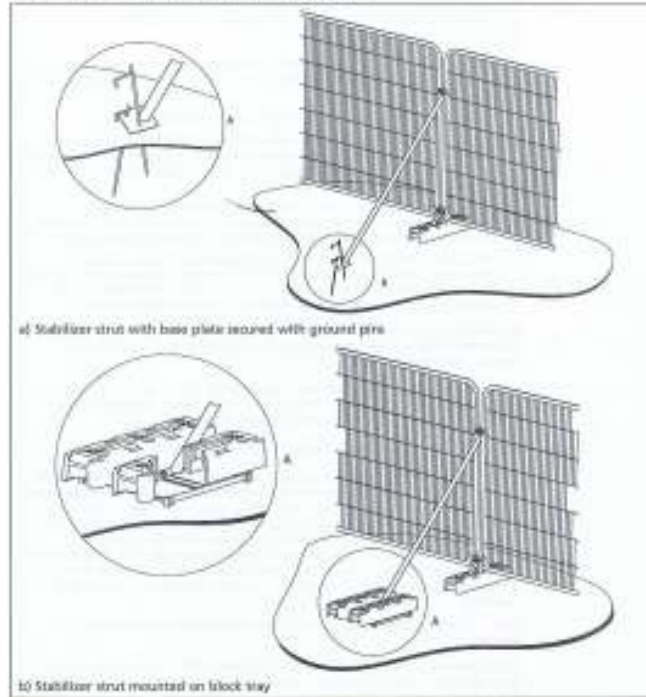


Figure 3.

D. Demolition:

1. The demolition of the existing shed will be undertaken after the tree protective fencing has been installed.
2. Any plant engaged in the demolition or excavation works would operate outside the canopy spread of the retained trees and any RPA, unless suitable ground protection has been installed, otherwise the shed will be demolished by hand.
3. Any elevation of the building within or adjacent to a RPA will be demolished inwards within the footprint of the existing building, ('top down, pull back').
4. Where possible foundations and underground structures that are or will become redundant within a RPA will be left in place below ground as unnecessary removal may cause damage to adjacent roots.
5. A banksman will be assisting these works at all time and will be informed to the protection of the trees.
6. Any demolition or existing 'rubble and soil' rubbish removal close to the trunks or any surface roots of the trees will be removed by hand to prevent mechanical damage to these parts of the tree.
7. Demolished material to be removed shall not be stored within a RPA, Construction Exclusion Zone or beyond (the protection side) of a Tree Protection Barrier.
8. Where an existing hard surface is scheduled for removal, where there is a likelihood of roots underneath hand-held tools and appropriate machinery will be used under arborist supervision to remove the surface, working backwards over the area and not working over the exposed ground and once removed ground protection as previously stated will be installed over the working area.

E. Root Protection Area: (RPA)

1. Any excavated ground to level the site within or towards an RPA will be kept as minimal as possible to retain the maximum of undisturbed soils with excavated soil edges kept as vertical as possible rather than increased soil grading or battering towards or within a RPA.
2. If any living roots are uncovered from retained trees during excavation works, any roots smaller than 25mm diameter may be pruned back, preferably to a side branch using sharp tools such as bypass loppers or hand saws.
3. If significant larger roots (above 25mm diameter) or large amount of smaller roots are found then a best practice of root retention and protection will be adopted at the recommendations of the arborist.
4. Where possible, roots to the edge of the excavations will be left in place and carefully re-directed back into the surrounding soil.
5. Roots larger than 25mm shall only be cut following consultation with the on site arborist as these may be essential to the trees health or stability, otherwise they are to be retained.
6. Any roots exposed shall be protected from any bark damage and prevented from drying (desiccation) and from rapid temperature change by wrapping them in clean, dry hessian sacking. The protected roots will then be re-covered as soon as possible by un-compacted, clean, local top soil.
7. This protection will be an ongoing process, revised and amended as the works progress and will also include changes and advice on the proposed foundation design to best accommodate any rooting system that may be uncovered.
8. The soil faces of foundations or retaining walls facing trees shall be sheathed with a polythene membrane to prevent any concrete contamination.

F. Underground Services:

1. If the garden house requires any underground services these shall be positioned away from the trees RPA and from the position of the existing patio feature.
2. If trenching is necessary for the services through a RPA, then it shall be hand dug and kept as narrow as possible and installed in accordance with NATIONAL JOINT UTILITIES GROUP (NJUG), *Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity to trees*.

G. Monitoring:

1. All site workers will be briefed/ inducted as to the importance of the tree protection within the site and will have access to an on site Arboricultural Method Statement. An arborist will be available to monitor, advise and liaise with the site developer to maintain the tree protection and a best practice approach during the construction within tree sensitive areas.
2. This method statement is based on the information provided and on site observations at this early stage of the proposed development, with the tree protection stated compiled and based on the works being carried out from within the site area indicated.

TREE PROTECTION PLAN (Not to scale)

