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ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

For Protection of Trees

at

Knowle Hill

Eastleigh

Hampshire



January 2026

SJA ams 25561-02

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1. Statement of purpose

1.1. The purpose of this method statement is to detail what actions need to be taken to ensure the construction of 49 residential dwellings and associated infrastructure and landscaping at Land west of Allbrook Way, Eastleigh does not cause any unacceptable damage to the trees to be retained within this site and in the adjacent properties.

1.2. This method statement has been drawn up to comply with Condition no. 3 of the planning permission (RM/24/98388) granted by Eastleigh Borough Council, which states:

“Notwithstanding the information submitted to date, no development related works shall take place on site until a final Arboricultural Method Statement, to include full details of supervision activities and reporting methods, is submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, The approved document shall be adhered to in full accordance with the approved plans and may only be modified subject to written agreement from the Local Planning Authority. .”

1.3. This method statement has been drawn up to comply with the recommendations of British Standard BS 5837:2012, *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.

1.4. Details of the trees can be found in the tree survey schedule at **Appendix 1**. Their locations are shown on the tree protection plan (SJA TPP 25561-041b) at **Appendix 2**.

1.5. This statement is designed to reflect the principles of the proposed layout as far as these relate to the protection of trees to be retained and should **not** be read as a definitive engineering or construction method statement for this development.¹

1.6. The key words and phrases used in this statement are defined in **Table 1** below.

¹ Reference should be made to the architect or structural engineer over any matters of construction detail, specification, engineering performance standards or regulatory requirements, relating to structures, surfaces or underground services to be constructed. As arboricultural consultants, Simon Jones Associates Ltd. can accept no liability for any matters relating to the structural integrity or engineering performance of structures, surfaces or underground services described, proposed or eventually constructed. The responsibility for satisfying any Health & Safety requirements relating to any operations described in this method statement remains with those commissioning or undertaking the operations concerned.

Arboricultural consultant	Arboricultural expert instructed by the developer to oversee the retention and protection of trees adjacent to the development site.
Arboricultural monitoring	Regular inspections of retained trees by the arboricultural consultant, to monitor their health and condition; and to inspect the effectiveness of the tree protection measures implemented.
Arboricultural supervision	Pre-arranged attendance on site of appointed arboricultural consultant for the duration of specific construction activities that could otherwise result in unacceptable damage to retained trees. Whilst on site the consultant will control, supervise and where appropriate assist in the undertaking of these activities.
Construction Exclusion Zone ('CEZ')	Area based on the root protection area (RPA), normally surrounded with protective fencing, from which access is prohibited during development works.
Ground boarding	Temporary ground covering, designed to prevent compaction of soil in which significant roots of retained trees are growing.
Protective fencing	Temporary fencing, erected for the duration of demolition and construction activities; designed to prevent access and disturbance to the trunks and root protection areas of trees.
Pruning	The removal of living or dead parts of a tree, especially branches, to reduce size, to maintain shape, health, safety, or to regulate growth.
Root Protection Area ('RPA')	The minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability, and where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority.
Tree Protection Plan ('TPP')	Drawing based upon the finalised proposals; showing trees for retention and illustrating the tree and landscape protection measures.

Table 1: Key words & phrases

2. Summary of arboricultural measures

2.1. The tree protection fencing will be accurately set out in accordance with the approved plans. Once the layout is confirmed, the fence will be installed to the required specification as set out on the tree protection plan at **Appendix 2**. Following installation, an arboricultural consultant will attend the site to inspect the fence and if the specification or location of these items does not comply with the approved plans, the arboricultural consultant will inform the developer and fencing contractor, and adjustments will be made. Once compliance is achieved, the arboricultural consultant will 'sign off' the tree protection measures to the contractor and copy this (in writing) to the client. The council's tree officer will then be invited if required to inspect the completed installation prior to commencement of any further works.

2.2. A copy of this method statement shall be supplied to all site personnel who have control over works of any nature within the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of trees to be retained, or within the footprints of their canopies. The contractor will provide adequate instruction on its implementation for all relevant staff. This instruction will be in the form of a 'toolbox' talk from the arboricultural consultant, detailing the required tree protection methodologies.

2.3. The arboricultural consultant shall directly supervise all significant works that have to be undertaken within RPAs. These include:

- Preliminary thrust boring of drainage
- Excavation within RPAs for site preparation, soil re-profiling, SUDs storage crates and drainage run installation;
- construction of above soil surfacing including PROW links and raised earthworks banking.

2.4. The project or site manager will give the arboricultural consultant at least 48 hours written notice of the date of intended construction of any proposed buildings or structures, underground service runs, or areas of hard surfacing that are within the RPAs of any of the trees, so that he/she can attend.

2.5. Other minor Works within the RPA's will be forwarded to the arboricultural consultant to assess and confirm if additional arboricultural supervision is required.

Felling and pruning

2.6. The six trees to be removed (nos. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 81) and sections of groups of trees (G2 & G7) at the proposed entrance shall be felled and disposed of.

2.7. Of the retained trees, 13 shall be pruned to the specification as detailed on the TPP at **Appendix 2**.

Protective fencing

2.8. Construction exclusion zones (CEZs) shall be established via the installation of protective fencing of the specification set out at Section 3 below, and located as shown by **bold blue lines** on the tree protection plan (TPP) at **Appendix 2**.

2.9. No activity will take place within the Construction Exclusion Zones ("CEZs") behind the fencing: no equipment or materials will be stored, and no vehicles, plant or personnel shall enter these areas. Ground levels will not be changed within them, and existing vegetation and topsoil will be left undisturbed, other than the works outlined in this report.

Ground protection

2.10. To avoid soil compaction and the resulting impairment of tree root function, the ground between the protective fencing adjacent to the trees nos. 80 to 83 of various species, and the footprint of the adjacent proposed buildings or garage structures shall be covered by appropriate ground protection, in accordance with the recommendations at Section 6.2.3 of BS 5837:2012. The places where this is to be done are **bold diagonal pink hatch** on the TPP.

Manual excavation

2.11. All excavation works, within RPAs including directional drilling / thrust boring, shall be conducted under direct on-site arboricultural supervision. Any roots encountered shall be cut cleanly by said consultant and then covered to prevent desiccation. These areas are shown by **yellow cross hatching** on the TPP.

Above soil surfacing

2.12. Where new hard surfacing within RPAs is to be installed above the existing soil level, as denoted by **orange honeycomb hatching** on the TPP, they will be constructed to a 'No Dig' detail as approved under Condition 14 (Prow Links), this is in line with British standards, and no excavation will occur. The replacement footbridge

adjacent to tree no. 66 will be installed at the same time as the new surface and utilise existing post holes wherever possible to minimise the need for excavation. If any excavation is required this will be undertaken to the specification as outlined on the TPP at **Appendix 2**. Machinery will not be used unless it is situated on ground protection to prevent soil compaction.

Phasing and supervision

2.13. All of the protection measures set out above will either be checked by an arboricultural consultant upon installation of the fencing or supervised directly during the works (Manual excavation, above soil surfacing) where identified on the tree protection plan. These proposed sequence of works (relevant to tree protection) are set in in **Table 2** below.

Order	Works	Arb. supervision required:
1	Installation of tree protection fencing and ground protection.	Yes
2	Site meeting - upon completion of protective fencing installation.	No
3	Ground preparation, including supervised excavation and soil reprofiling of site levels within the RPAs of trees nos. 76, 78 & 79.	Yes
4	Installation of underground services (pipes and SUDs crates) within the RPAs of trees nos. 56, 57, 58, 64 & G7.	Yes
5	Excavation for parking bays and pavements within the RPAs of trees nos. 9, 34 and 35.	Yes
6	Installation of footpaths and other hard surfaces within RPAs of trees nos. 3, 40, 53, 64, 66, 104, 105 and G7 and replacement foot bridge within the RPA of tree no. 66.	Yes
7	Clearance of machinery/materials from site, reinstatement and landscaping.	No
8	Removal of tree protection fencing and ground protection	No
9	Clearance of machinery/materials from site, reinstatement and landscaping	No

Table 2: Sequence of works (relevant to tree protection)

3. Protective fencing

3.1. No site clearance, ground preparation, or construction shall commence on site, and no demolition or construction vehicles or plant will enter the site until the RPAs of the trees to be retained have been safeguarded by the erection of protective fencing to the specification recommended in BS 5837:2012, Section 6.2.2, as shown in Figure 2 of that document (see **Figure 1** below).

3.2. The protective fencing will be located in the positions shown by the **continuous bold blue lines** on the TPP.

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier

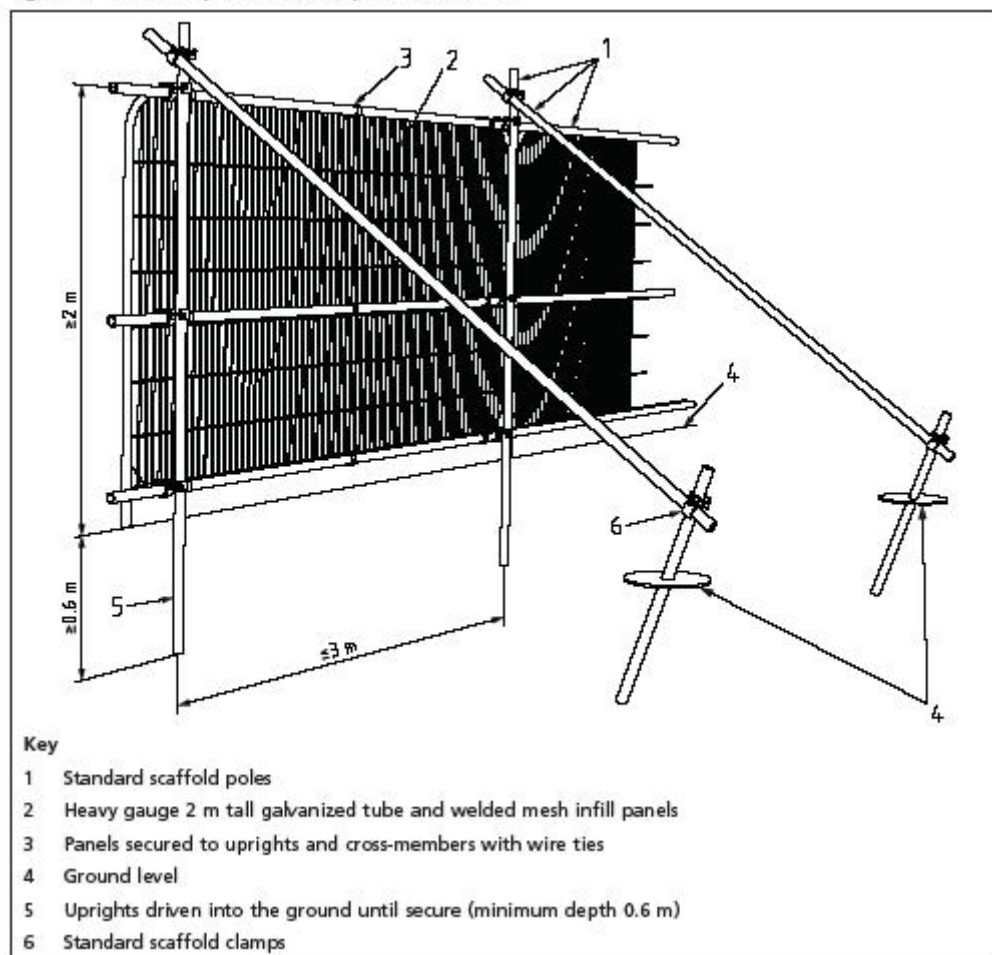


Figure 1 Protective fencing

(Based on Figure 2, BS 5837: 2012)

3.3. The protective fencing will not be moved or re-located without the prior approval of the arboricultural consultant. It will only be removed once all construction works are

completed: the arboricultural consultant will be informed in advance of when it is intended to remove the fencing.

4. Construction of hard surfaces and soil level increases

4.1. To prevent unacceptable root damage, proposed footpaths and other areas of hard standing located within the RPAs of tree nos. 40, 53, 64, 66, 104 and 105 shall be constructed to the specification given below, in accordance with the recommendations of Section 7.4 of British Standard BS 5837. An illustration of these principles can be found at **Figure 2** below.

4.2. The installation of these features, where achievable will be undertaken towards the end of the main development phase, and ideally during the landscaping phase. Where necessary, protective fencing may only be ‘temporarily’ removed, immediately prior to the installation of the proposed surfaces, to the specifications detailed below.

4.3. Within RPAs there shall be no lowering of existing soil levels and no digging will be undertaken: all parts of proposed hard surfaces shall be constructed above existing ground level. This is to ensure that roots are not severed, soil is not compacted, and oxygen can continue to reach roots beneath the engineered surface. No stripping of turf or topsoil shall be undertaken: herbaceous (non-woody) vegetation should be cut as close to ground level as possible and be raked off by hand; shrubs will be grubbed out using hand tools, and tree stumps will be ground out rather than dug or grubbed out.

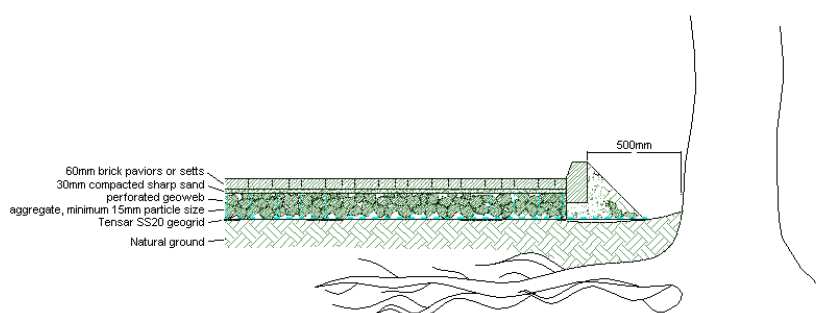


Figure 2 Illustration of a typical above-soil hard surface next to trees.

5. Reporting Methods

5.1. A comprehensive record of all supervised works will be maintained and made available upon request by the Local Planning Authority. To arrange access, the Site Manager should be contacted. Contact information will be made available upon request.

Appendix 1

Outline Arboricultural Methodologies

A1.1. Tree Protection Plan

A1.1.1. The TPP at Appendix 3 shows the general and specific provisions to be taken during construction of the proposed development, to ensure that no unacceptable damage is caused to the root systems, trunks or crowns of the trees identified for retention. These measures are indicated by coloured notations in areas where construction activities are to occur either within, or in proximity to, retained trees, as described in the relevant panels on the drawing.

A1.2. Ground preparation

A1.2.1. No ground preparation or excavation of any kind, including topsoil stripping or ground levelling, shall be undertaken until after the installation of the tree protection fencing (see below).

A1.3. Tree protection fencing

A1.3.1. Construction exclusion zones (CEZs) will be formed by erecting protective fencing around the RPAs of all on-site trees to the specification recommended in BS 5837, Section 6.2, prior to the commencement of construction. This will consist of a scaffold framework comprising a vertical and horizontal framework, well braced to resist impacts, with vertical tubes spaced at maximum intervals of 3.5m. Onto this, welded mesh panels should be securely fixed with wire or scaffold clamps, as shown in **Figure 2** of that document. "**TREE PROTECTION ZONE - KEEP OUT**" or similar notices will be attached with cable ties to every third panel.

A1.3.2. The RPAs of the off-site trees will also be enforced by the erection of protective fencing to the same specification, prior to the commencement of construction, thereby safeguarding them from incursions by plant or machinery, storage and mixing of materials, or other construction-related activities which could have a detrimental effect on their root systems.

A1.3.3. The recommended positions of the protective fencing are shown by **bold blue lines** on the TPP. The precise positioning of the fencing around the trees will be considered in conjunction with any other protective hoarding/fencing which may be required around the site boundary.

A1.3.4. Within the CEZs safeguarded by the protective fencing, there will be no changes in ground levels, **no soil stripping**, and no plant, equipment, or materials will be stored. Oil, bitumen, diesel, and cement will not be stored or discharged within 10m of any trees. Areas for the storage or mixing of such materials will be agreed in advance and be clearly marked. No notice boards, or power or telephone cables, will be attached to any of the trees. No fires will be lit within 10m of any part of any tree.

A1.4. Ground protection

A1.4.1. To allow space for construction and protection from soil compaction where proposed structures are in close proximity to RPAs of trees to be retained, the ground between the protective fencing and the footprints of the proposed structures will be covered by appropriate ground boarding, in accordance with the guidelines of Section 6.2.3.3 of BS 5837. The locations where these measures will be required are marked by **pink hatching** on the TPP.

A1.4.2. For purely pedestrian traffic, scaffold boards (or similar) will be used. Scaffold boards will comply with British Standard BS 2482: 2009 *Specification for timber scaffold boards* and be at least 225mm in width and 38mm thickness; they will be butted up and attached to each other with wooden battens or metal tie straps, and laid either on an above-ground scaffold framework, or secured to the ground with steel pins above a compressible material (a 75mm deep layer of woodchips may be appropriate) laid on top of a geotextile membrane of an appropriate specification.

A1.4.3. For wheeled or tracked traffic, ground boarding will be designed by a structural engineer, to take account of the type of soil and the likely loadings. Temporary aluminium roadway ('Trakway' or similar), interlocking plastic tread boards ('Ground-Guards' or similar), or reinforced concrete slabs may be appropriate. These will also be laid on top of a compressible material above a geotextile membrane.

A1.5. Manual excavation within RPAs

A1.5.1. The first 750mm depth of excavations required within the RPAs of the trees to be retained (as shown by **yellow cross hatching** on the TPP) will be excavated and reduced by lightweight plant using a 'toothless' grading bucket to incrementally reduced levels. Upon exposing any significant roots, excavation will then be undertaken by hand, using a compressed air soil pick if appropriate, or hand tools and under on-site arboricultural supervision, to safeguard against the possibility of unacceptable root damage being caused to these specimens. Any roots encountered will be cut back cleanly to the face of the dig nearest to the tree, using a sharp hand saw or secateurs, and their cut ends covered with hessian to prevent desiccation.

A1.6. Proposed hard surfaces within RPAs

A1.6.1. Unacceptable damage to the roots and rooting environments of the trees to be retained during the construction of proposed hard surfaces that encroach within RPAs will be avoided by building them above existing soil level, to avoid digging and thus severing of roots; and an appropriate ground covering will be used beneath the sub-base, to prevent or minimise compaction of the soil. This will be done in accordance with Section 7.4 of BS 5837. The locations where these measures will be required are marked by **orange honeycomb hatching** on the TPP.

APPENDIX 2

Tree Protection Plan

