STRATA HOMES

METHOD STATEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS BELOW EXISTING TREES

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The purpose of this document is to specify the working practices around the existing trees at Longcar Lane development site, Barnsley.

The Method Statement will cover methods for protecting the existing trees during the construction works and methods and working practices for the construction of car parking beneath their canopies.

All fencing shall comply with BS5837:2005 Trees in Relation to Construction, and be in accordance with all specification notes and annotation on FDA Landscape Ltd drawing no. R/831/1B, and the attached details.

1.0 POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CONSTRUCTION ON EXISTING TREES

1.1 Introduction

Trees achieve equilibrium with their surroundings and any construction work which affects this equilibrium can ultimately be detrimental to the safety, health and further growth of the tree. This is particularly the case with over-mature trees which can be very vulnerable to change.

1.2 Root Systems

The part of the tree most susceptible to damage is the root system which, because of its invisibility, is often ignored. The majority of the root system lies in the top 600 mm of the soil, extending outwards for distances in excess of the tree height. The extent of the root system is often very irregular and difficult to predict. The tree is fed by very fine roots (less than 0.5 mm diameter). Conditions in the soil need to be conducive to healthy growth in order that the roots can supply the tree with the necessary water and nutrients. Once the roots are damaged, water and nutrient uptake will be compromised until new roots regenerate. Vigorous, young trees will be capable of rapid regeneration, but mature or over-mature trees will respond more slowly, or not at all.

Factors which damage roots are as follows:

1.2.1 Compaction of the ground, especially in clay soils, can break roots and reduce the space between soil particles, restricting nutrient and water absorption.

1.2.2 Raising soil levels.

1.2.3 Covering root area with impervious surfaces.

1.2.4 A rise in the water table for a protracted period.

1.2.5 Excavation for utilities and drainage trenching.

1.2.6 Excavation for laying of new hard landscape areas and erection of new boundary fences/walls.

2.0 PROTECTIVE FENCING

2.1 All trees which are to be retained on site, and as indicated on FDA Landscape drawing no. R/831/1B, should be protected by stout fencing as described below, enclosing an area defined on the drawing. Such fencing should be erected before any materials or machinery are brought onto the site and before any demolition or development, including erection of site huts, is commenced. Once erected, fences should be regarded as sacrosanct, and should not be removed or altered without prior consultation with a specialist in arboriculture.

2.3 m high fencing shall be erected, comprising a vertical and horizontal framework of scaffolding, braced to resist impacts, supporting standard welded mesh or Heras panels in accordance with BS5837: 2005. (See SD/FE/26C attached).

Once the area around the trees has been protected by the fencing, any works on the remainder of the site can be carried out, provided such activities do not impinge on the protected areas. Notices reading 'Protected area - no operations within fenced area' shall be secured to the outer face of the protective fence.

2.2.1 The LPA shall be notified prior to, and on completion of, the erection of tree protection fencing, prior to commencement of works on site, to allow inspection and confirmation of its position and acceptability.

During the course of the works on site, the Consultant Landscape Architect shall inspect the fencing at regular intervals (to be agreed but not exceeding 4 weekly, and more frequently if operations on site or the general situation dictates) to ensure the integrity of the fencing is being maintained. In the event of any problems being encountered which interfere with the ability of the fencing to effectively protect the trees in accordance with this Method Statement, the LPA's Landscape Officer or other representative shall be consulted and agreement shall be reached as to alternative measures to be adopted on site, or remedial works undertaken as necessary. Works shall be postponed in the specific area where the problem has occurred until such agreement is obtained.

Contact details for the LPA's Landscape Officer or other representative are as follows:

LPA – Frank Robinson
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Planning Department
Kendray Street
BARNSLEY S70 2TN
Tel: 01226-770770

Landscape Architect (for developer)
Sue Farmer
FDA Landscape Ltd (details on document cover)

2.3 Scaffolding

In the event of scaffolding having to be erected within a protected area, fencing should be erected to provide just sufficient space for the scaffolding. The ground between this fencing and the building should be protected by boarding, eg scaffold boards. A single thickness of boarding, laid on the soil surface, will provide sufficient protection for pedestrian loads but more substantial boarding, sufficient to spread the load, should be used for heavier traffic. The ground beneath the boarding should be left undisturbed and should be protected with a porous geotextile fabric. If necessary, sand should be laid onto the fabric to level the ground. The boarding should be left in place until the building works are finished. (See Appendix 1)

3.0 WORKING PRACTICE OUTSIDE FENCED AREA

3.0.1 Oil, bitumen, cement or other material likely to be injurious to a tree should not be stacked or discharged within 10 m of a bole, and materials generally should not be stacked or discharged within 5 m of a bole.

3.0.2 Concrete mixing should not be carried out within 10 m of a tree.

3.0.3 No fires shall be allowed within 10 m of any retained tree canopy.

3.0.4 Trees to be conserved shall not be used as anchorage for equipment used for removing stumps, roots of other trees, or for any other purposes.

3.0.5 Notice boards, telephone cables, or other services should not be attached to any part of a tree.

3.0.6 Care should be exercised when using cranes or similar equipment near the spread of the canopy of a tree.

3.0.7 Trees to be felled that are adjacent to, or that lie within a continuous canopy of trees to be retained, should be removed with particular care. Where required, trees shall be dismantled in sections to avoid damage. Where feasible the stumps/roots shall be removed. Where this shall cause undue disturbance or damage to adjacent trees which are to be retained, the stumps shall be ground out to a minimum of 150 mm below the surrounding ground level.

3.0.8 No disturbance to existing ground levels shall take place under the canopy of an existing tree, either by piling up material or cutting away soil.

3.0.9 Materials must not be stored beneath the canopy spread and plant must not be allowed to travel over the soil.

3.0.10 Where works are carried out beneath existing canopies appropriate measures should be taken (see 4.0).

4.0 EXCAVATION BENEATH EXISTING CANOPIES

4.1 Where encroachment beneath existing canopies is minor, all excavation shall be carried out by hand. When backfilling, roots greater than 50 mm diameter should be surrounded by sharp sand before placing hardcore or other material over them.

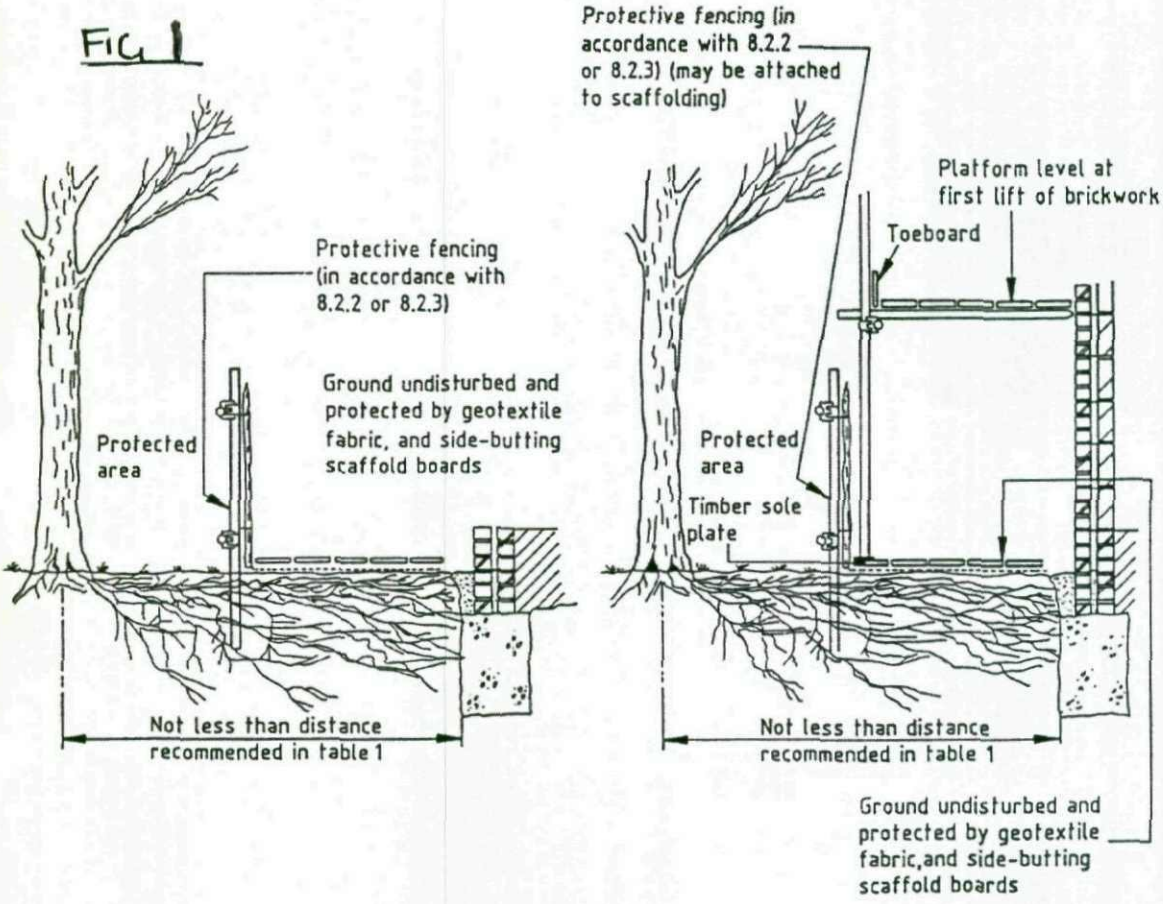
4.1.1 No vehicular traffic shall be allowed beneath tree canopies.

4.2 **Approval for Root Severance**

When tree roots are encountered during excavation, the developer's tree consultant or Landscape Architect shall be notified.

Should it become apparent that tree roots greater than 25 mm in diameter may obstruct development unless severed, the Contractor shall arrange a site meeting with the LPA's Landscape or Arboricultural Officer to discuss how to progress. (see contact details 2.2.1)

FIG 1


Protective fencing (in accordance with 8.2.2 or 8.2.3) (may be attached to scaffolding)
Platform level at first lift of brickwork
Toeboard
Protective fencing (in accordance with 8.2.2 or 8.2.3)
Ground undisturbed and protected by geotextile fabric, and side-butting scaffold boards
Protected area
Timber sole plate
Not less than distance recommended in table 1
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Ground undisturbed and protected by geotextile fabric,and side-butting scaffold boards