



SOUTH WOKINGHAM PARCEL R10

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT & METHOD STATEMENT

for

millar homes
the place to be®

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Date:	10/02/2025
Revision:	B: 22/07/2025
Ref:	MILL24614aiaamsB

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. For the Arboricultural Method Statement see section 4.
- 1.2. This report has been revised as 'B' on the 22nd of July 2025 to reflect the updated layout. No further trees are to be removed aside from additional pruning to H173 to install the drainage scheme.
- 1.3. The site is currently an open field north of 'Waterloo Road'. The proposed development is a parcel of a multi-phased development, with associated road infrastructure.
- 1.4. This impact assessment is intended to evaluate the direct and indirect effects of the proposed design on the trees on site, and where necessary recommends mitigation.
- 1.5. The development proposals are in accordance with BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'. Adequate protection can be provided to ensure all retained trees are protected throughout development in the form of barriers and/or ground protection.
- 1.6. Given the number of trees on the site, the development proposals incorporate the majority of the better, more sustainable specimens.
- 1.7. All of the individual 'A' category trees are to be retained and protected throughout the development.
- 1.8. One tree which is a component of G190 (category B) is to be removed.
- 1.9. Where proposed new hard surfaces encroach into the RPA of trees highlighted for retention, sensitive excavations will be required.
- 1.10. Number of trees to be removed as a direct result of the current design (see section 4 for details):

BS Category	Number of individual trees	Tree Groups
U	~	~
A	~	~
B	1	~
C	~	~

- 1.11. The relationship between the buildings and retained trees is sustainable and does not result in any situations which may result in unreasonable pressure to prune requests from future occupants.
- 1.12. The Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) has been compiled in conjunction with the Tree Protection Plan (TPP) for the purpose of feasibility and planning, as per Figure 1 of BS5837:2012. These detail any mitigation which will be necessary to ensure the protection of retained trees throughout the development.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. ACD Environmental was instructed in July 2024 to prepare the following Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement by Miller Homes. Reference should be made to the appended Tree Protection Plan (MILL24614-03B).
- 2.2. This Method Statement is to be made available to all operatives on site during the construction process, so that they understand the scope and importance of the measures set out for tree protection. Implementation of the protection methods and other details within this report are integral to ensuring protection for the retained trees.
- 2.3. For details of trees to be retained, and locations and types of special protection methods, reference should be made to the latest revision of Tree Protection Plan (ref: MILL24614-03B), which should be displayed prominently on site for all staff to see.
- 2.4. To ensure accuracy and avoid future costly adjustments, the Tree Protection Fence must be set out by a surveyor/engineer with all node points being marked clearly on site for the fencing contractor to work to. The AutoCAD version of the Tree Protection Plan is available on request.
- 2.5. This report is based on the recommendations given in BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'.
- 2.6. The controlling authority is Wokingham Borough Council who can be contacted at:
Address: Wokingham Borough Council, Development Management, Wokingham Borough
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
- 2.7. According to a search on Wokingham Borough Councils online mapping service on 09/01/2024, Multiple trees are protected by the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) ref. 1340/2010. These trees are shown on the Tree Protection Plan.
- 2.8. Any questions relating to the content of this report should be directed in the first instance to: ACD Environmental, Unit 7, Godalming Business Centre, Woolsack Way, Godalming, GU7 1XW, 01483 425714, quoting the site address and report reference number.
- 2.9. The following abbreviations have been used throughout this document:
 - Root Protection Area – RPA.
 - Construction Exclusion Zone – CEZ.
 - Tree Protection Plan – TPP.
 - Tree Protection Fencing – TPF.

3. Arboricultural Impact Assessment

- 3.1. The site is currently an open field north of 'Waterloo Road'. The proposed residential development is a parcel of a multi-phased development, with associated road infrastructure.
- 3.2. This report has been revised as 'B' on the 22nd of July 2025 to reflect the updated layout. No further trees are to be removed aside from additional pruning to H173 to install the drainage scheme.
- 3.3. This impact assessment is intended to evaluate the direct and indirect impacts on the trees on the site in relation to the proposed development. Any potential tree impacts are identified as per BS5837:2012 section 5.4, and details are given of proposed mitigation.
- 3.4. Any potentially damaging activities proposed in the vicinity of retained trees are identified, such that mitigation to significantly reduce or avoid this impact can be detailed in the Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan as recommended in BS5837:2012 section 5.4.2.
- 3.5. The development proposals are in accordance with BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'. Adequate protection can be provided to ensure all retained trees are protected throughout the development.
- 3.6. The tree survey for the site is at Appendix 2 of the Tree Report for the site ACD reference MILL24614ts.
- 3.7. This assessment is based upon the supplied layout drawing from AAP Architecture ref. P1914.R10.01 rev AK
- 3.8. **Evaluation of impact of proposed tree losses**

Table 1: Trees to be removed as a direct consequence of development

BS Category	Number of individual trees	Tree Groups
U	~	~
A	~	~
B	1	~
C	~	~

- 3.8.1. Those trees which are to be removed as part of this application are shown with a red dashed canopy outline, with a red hatched fill within the canopy and a dashed emblem around the trunk on the Tree Protection Plan ACD reference MILL24614-03B.
- 3.8.2. Removals shown as part of other applications show a red canopy outline without a red hatching. Reference for the removals outside of this application should be made to CONS24461-03E.
- 3.8.3. One component of G190 is to be removed as a result of the development proposals. The singular tree within the group to be removed, is situated on the periphery of the group, which another group of larger adjoining trees just situated to the north. Tree could be deemed as a lower category if surveyed as an individual.

- 3.8.4. In relation to the conception and design of development proposals, BS5837:2012 section 5.1.1 states: The constraints imposed by trees, both above and below ground should inform the site layout design, although it is recognised that the competing needs of development mean that trees are only one factor requiring consideration. Certain trees are of such importance and sensitivity as to be major constraints on development or to justify its substantial modification. However, care should be taken to avoid misplaced tree retention; attempts to retain too many or unsuitable trees on a site can result in excessive pressure on the trees during demolition or construction work, or post-completion demands for their removal.
- 3.8.5. It is therefore deemed acceptable to remove the listed tree and, as part of the detailed landscape design for the scheme, include suitable and sustainable replacements as and where appropriate.
- 3.8.6. Replacement trees will be proposed through landscape design and will more than mitigate for their removal by providing robust long term tree cover in keeping with the proposal and surrounding properties.

3.9. Trees to be pruned

- 3.9.1. At this time the following tree surgery works are proposed.

Tree number	Species	Operation
H173	Various	Remove sections as shown on the Tree Protection Plan.
G187	Various	Prune western canopy of trees as necessary to allow 0.5m working room for installation of new hard surfacing. These are shown on the Tree Protection Plan.

3.10. Protection for retained trees

- 3.10.1. BS5837:2012 section 6.2.1. states: 'All trees that are being retained on site should be protected by barriers and/or ground protection (see 5.5) before any materials or machinery are brought onto the site, and before any demolition, development or stripping of soil commences. Where all activity can be excluded from the RPA, vertical barriers should be erected to create a construction exclusion zone. A specification for protective fencing is given on the Tree Protection Plan. This shall comprise of Heras type panels on 'boots', well braced by attachment to scaffold pole uprights driven firmly into the ground. Should any alternative method of barrier construction be proposed the design should be approved by the local planning authority.'
- 3.10.2. A 0.5m off-set has been allowed for working room between the footpath west of G190 and components of G190 and between a visitor parking bay and T178. This results in an incursion into the RPA of G190 of 0.9%, and T178 of 0.2%. This is unlikely to have any impact on either tree. However, in accordance with BS5837:2012 section 5.3.1 a), the area lost to encroachment is compensated for elsewhere by the tree protection fence.

3.10.3. Areas of whip planting throughout the site may require translocation if not removed. Due to their size (outside the size requirements of BS5837) these have not been shown as part of the Tree Survey Data, therefore have not been afforded numbering. Where they are shown to be within the footprint of elements of the design they will be removed and relocated to an alternative section of the site. This will be displayed on the landscaping proposals.

3.11. Ground protection

3.11.1. The existing track west of T177 is to act as ground protection for temporary access purposes. See MILL24614-03 Temporary Construction Access for reference.

3.12. Demolition & Groundworks

3.12.1. To ensure damage does not occur to trees highlighted for retention, tree protection fencing must be erected prior to ANY plant machinery entering site whatsoever. No special demolition procedures need be observed on this site, other than respecting the tree protection fencing.

3.13. New Hard Surfaces within RPAs

3.13.1. Footpaths west of G190. As previously mentioned, require no mitigation other than additional rooting environment provided within the CEZ is required for G190. However, where the footpath encroaches into the RPAs of G213, the area will need to be sensitively excavated under supervision from the project arboriculturist.

3.13.2. It has been measured on CAD that the largest anticipated individual incursion from this footpath to G213 will be 5.8%.

3.14. Construction within RPAs

3.14.1. BS5837:2012 states at section 5.3.1: 'The default position should be that structures (see 3.10) are located outside the RPAs of trees to be retained. However, where there is an overriding justification for construction within the RPA, technical solutions might be available that prevent damage to the tree(s) (see Clause 7). If operations within the RPA are proposed, the project arboriculturist should:

a) demonstrate that the tree(s) can remain viable, and that the area lost to encroachment can be compensated for elsewhere, contiguous with its RPA:

b) propose a series of mitigation measures to improve the soil environment that is used by the tree for growth.'

3.14.2. A section of a proposed shed is located on the northern periphery of T182. Additional rooting environment has been afforded within the CEZ with the excavations for the shed and boundary fence necessary to be undertaken sensitively.

3.15. Services

- 3.15.1. On the northern section of site an SSE Electrical Cable Trench & Easement has been shown. This appears to potentially encroach into the RPA of G213 in the same location as the footpath. Due to this all excavations will be undertaken sensitively under the supervision of the project arboriculturist.
- 3.15.2. A storm water and foul water route has been shown within the RPAs of both T181 and T182, this will have an impact on both trees, of which are both category 'C' situated adjacent to 'Waterloo Road'. Where this is shown, the excavations will be undertaken sensitively under supervision from the project arboriculturist, observing the methodology detailed within the Arboricultural Method Statement. Space within the layout allows for additional rooting environment to be found within the CEZ.
- 3.15.3. It is fundamental to tree protection that infrastructure design is sensitively approached, as trenching close to trees may damage roots and affect tree health and stability.

3.16. Levels and Landscaping

- 3.16.1. Where the proposed raise in levels is shown within the RPA of T189, good quality topsoil will be used only. No machinery is to be situated within the RPA to undertake this. The foundations for the retaining wall structure shown on the periphery of the RPA is to be excavated in a sensitive manner with the use of hand-tools.
- 3.16.2. H173 within the centre of the site, will require minor pruning to build the levels up, this is demonstrated on the Tree Protection Plan.
- 3.16.3. Further 'whip planting'. On the western aspect of site will be removed or translocated where the levels are shown to be built up.

3.17. Boundaries

- 3.17.1. All plot boundaries will need to be designed, positioned and installed to avoid damage to retained trees. When within RPAs, this will include hand excavation of all post holes, and the lining of any post holes with a non-porous membrane to stop leachates from the concrete damaging tree roots.

3.18. Supervision & monitoring

- 3.18.1. The development process should be subject to arboricultural supervision and monitoring, especially areas where incursion into the RPA of retained trees is required, e.g. excavation works, raising of levels. Therefore, a pre-commencement site meeting is advised. Supervision is also recommended during the excavation works within RPAs.

4. Arboricultural Method Statement

TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE APPENDED TREE PROTECTION PLAN REFERENCE: MILL24614-03B

4.1. Phasing of operations for tree protection

- 4.1.1. Implementation of tree protection measures on the site must be carried out in the following order:
- 1) Tree removals and tree surgery.
 - 2) Line of tree protection fence to be set out to node points by surveyor.
 - 3) Accurate erection of tree protection fence and ground protection.
 - 4) **Pre-commencement site meeting with project arboriculturist, Local Authority Tree Officer, site manager and groundworkers.**
 - 5) Site accessible to construction/demolition traffic.
 - 6) Demolition/site clearance.
 - 7) Construction.
 - 8) Removal of tree protection fencing.
 - 9) Remedial tree surgery (if required).
- 4.1.2. The above phasing must not be changed without approval from the project arboriculturist and agreement with the Council.

4.2. Site supervision

- 4.2.1. The development process will be subject to arboricultural supervision where construction work inside the construction exclusion zone is required, and for the installation of any special detail (e.g., no-dig surface). Therefore, input and supervision from the project arboriculturist will be required at the following stages:
- 1) Tree removals and access facilitation pruning.
 - 2) Accurate erection of tree protection measures.
 - 3) Site meeting with project arboriculturist, Local Authority Tree Officer, site manager and groundworkers.
 - 4) Excavations within RPAs
- 4.2.2. Arboricultural supervision is to be carried out at all crucial stages throughout the development process to ensure detailed tasks are carried out as per the approved methodology, and during any other, unplanned incursions into protection areas, for whatever reason.
- 4.2.3. This supervision will require the arboriculturist to be present throughout the task, to ensure all the arboricultural objectives are met.
- 4.2.4. If the task is to take a long period of time, provided the arboriculturist is satisfied, and after an initial 'tool-box talk', the supervision may be reduced to telephone contact between the site foreman/contractor and arboriculturist.

4.3. Restrictions within tree protection areas

4.3.1. Inside the exclusion area of the fencing, the following shall apply:

- No mechanical excavation whatsoever.
- No excavation by any other means without arboricultural site supervision.
- No hand digging without a written method statement having first been approved by the project arboriculturist.
- No lowering of levels for any purpose (except removal of grass sward using hand tools).
- No storage of plant or materials.
- No storage or handling of any chemical including cement washings.
- No vehicular access.
- No fire lighting.

4.3.2. In addition to the above, further precautions are necessary adjacent to trees:

- No substances injurious to tree health, including fuels, oil, bitumen, cement (including cement washings), builders sand, concrete mixing and other chemicals shall be stored or used within or directly adjacent to the protection area of retained trees.
- No fire shall be lit such that flames come within 5m of tree foliage.

4.4. Avoiding damage to stems and branches

4.4.1. Care shall be taken when planning site operations in proximity of retained trees to ensure that wide or tall loads, or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights, can operate without coming into contact with retained trees. Such contact can result in serious injury to them and might make their safe retention impossible.

4.4.2. Consequently, any transit or traverse of plant in proximity of trees shall be conducted under the supervision of a banksman, to ensure that adequate clearance from trees is at all times maintained. In some circumstances, it may be impossible to achieve this without pruning works known as 'access facilitation pruning'.

4.4.3. Access facilitation pruning shall be kept to the barest minimum necessary to facilitate development and shall be carried out in strict accordance with the guidance below (Tree Surgery). Under no circumstances shall construction personnel undertake any tree pruning operations.

4.5. Tree protection fencing

- 4.5.1. The Tree Protection Plan (see the latest revision of: MILL24614-03B) shows the alignment of Tree Protection Fencing (TPF), which is to be installed prior to any of the following taking place:
- Demolition.
 - Plant and material delivery.
 - Soil stripping.
 - Utility installation.
 - Construction works.
 - Landscaping.
- 4.5.2. Stages for installation of TPF:
- 1) Hand clearance of any vegetation to allow clear working access.
 - 2) Setting out of fencing points.
 - 3) Fencing erected.
 - 4) Site accessible to demolition/construction traffic.
- 4.5.3. To ensure accuracy and avoid future costly adjustments, the Tree Protection Fence must be set out by a surveyor with all node points being marked clearly on site for the fencing contractor to work to.
- 4.5.4. Once erected, all TPF will be regarded as sacrosanct, and will not be removed or altered without prior recommendation by the project arboriculturist and approval of the local planning authority.
- 4.5.5. The typical TPF construction is suitable for areas of high intensity development, and shall comprise of interlocking weld-mesh panels, well braced to resist impacts by attachment to a scaffold framework that is set firmly into the ground. A detailed specification can be found on the TPP.
- 4.5.6. Should any alternative method of barrier construction be proposed, consultation with the project arboriculturist will be obtained to clarify the efficacy of the revised design prior to informing the local planning authority and obtaining their consent.
- 4.5.7. Once the exclusion zone has been protected by barriers and/or ground protection, construction work can commence.
- 4.5.8. All weather notices should be erected on the barriers (for example see figure below).



Figure 1: Tree Protection Sign (digital copies available for download at: www.acdenvironmental.co.uk)

4.6. Site storage, parking, welfare facilities

- 4.6.1. The site will require provision for; site storage, contractor parking, welfare facilities, temporary services/drainage, material drop of points, etc.
- 4.6.2. No details of these provisions are available at the time of writing of this report.
- 4.6.3. None of the above provisions will be sited within RPAs of retained trees without the input or the project arboriculturist and the consent of the Local Authority.

4.7. Tree surgery and removal

4.7.1. Those trees which are to be removed as part of this application are shown with a red dashed canopy outline, with a red hatched fill within the canopy and a dashed emblem around the trunk on the Tree Protection Plan ACD reference MILL24614-03B.

4.7.2. The following surgery works are to be carried out:

Tree number	Species	Operation
H173	Various	Remove sections as shown on the Tree Protection Plan.
G187	Various	Prune western canopy of trees as necessary to allow adequate working room for installation of new hard surfacing. These are shown on the Tree Protection Plan.
G190	Oak	Remove most northern constituent of group for pedestrian connection.
Whip planting	Various	Remove or translocate as shown on the Tree Protection Plan.

4.7.3. All trees to be removed are indicated on the Tree Protection Plan.

4.7.4. If any further tree surgery works are required, a proposed specification will be submitted to, and approved by the Local Planning Authority before any works are carried out.

4.7.5. All work will be carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 Recommendations for Tree Work, industry best practice and in line with any works already agreed with the Council.

4.7.6. The tree surgery contractor is responsible for carrying out any relevant health and safety risk assessment, and insurance, prior to any work being carried out.

4.7.7. The statutory protection afforded by the Wildlife and Countryside Act and Countryside and Rights of Way Act will be adhered to. If further advice is required, particularly if bats are discovered during tree work, it will be obtained from Natural England or other competent persons and recommendations adhered to.

4.7.8. The stumps of any trees removed from within the Construction Exclusion Zone or the RPAs of retained trees will be either; cut flush to ground level and left in situ or ground out using a stump grinder. They will not be winched out.

4.7.9. All operations shall be carefully carried out to avoid damage to the trees being treated or neighbouring trees. No trees to be retained shall be used for anchorage or winching purposes.

4.8. **Soft landscaping within RPA**

- 4.8.1. All landscaping and associated ground preparation within exclusion zones will be carried out sensitively to ensure root damage is mitigated as much as is practicable. At no time is any heavy plant to be used within any protected area. Removal of existing vegetation will be carried out by hand; turf may be removed using a mechanical turf stripper or by hand.

4.9. **Turfing**

- 4.9.1. Stages for turfing gardens and open spaces:

No plant machinery¹ to be used in the area for whatever reason

- 1) Remove TPF to allow access to area.
- 2) Do not reduce any high spots or excavate in any way.
- 3) Existing poor-quality turf may be removed with a turf stripper.
- 4) Use good quality topsoil to level any low-lying areas and hollows and provide a fine tilth to lay turf on. This imported soil must not result in a level increase of more than 100mm in any area.
- 5) Import turves by hand in wheelbarrow.
- 6) Lay turves.

4.10. **Planting**

- 4.10.1. Should the soil be compacted or have a poor structure which may hinder the development of any new planting, soil decompaction techniques may be used upon consultation with the project arboriculturist.

- 4.10.2. Stages for planting within tree protection areas:

No plant machinery to be used in the area for whatever reason

- 1) Remove TPF to allow access to area.
- 2) Remove existing vegetation by hand, turf may be removed using a mechanical turf stripper.
- 3) Do not reduce any high spots or excavate in any way.
- 4) Import good quality topsoil by hand (with wheelbarrow) into area.
- 5) Level to a depth of no more than 100mm with hand tools.
- 6) Dig individual planting pits for each plant by hand (including hedging which must not be trench planted).
- 7) Any mulch should also be imported and spread by hand.

- 4.10.3. No works will be carried out within any protected areas if the soil moisture is of a level likely to allow compaction to occur.

¹ Including rotovators

4.11. Installation of underground services within RPAs

4.11.1. If for whatever reason installation within RPAs is required, the project arboriculturist and local authority must be notified prior to any tree protection barrier removal and the following details adhered to.

4.11.2. Stages for installing services within tree protection areas:

No plant machinery to be used in the area for whatever reason

- 1) Contact project arboriculturist to hold pre-start site meeting and 'toolbox' talk before starting work.
- 2) Remove just enough tree protection fencing to allow access to area and facilitate trenching.
- 3) Remove any surface vegetation or existing hard surfaces using hand tools.
- 4) Excavate the trench using hand tools only, keeping to minimum dimensions required.
- 5) Roots below 25mm should preferably be retained, however if required can be cut cleanly using secateurs or hand saw.
- 6) Roots over 25mm diameter will be retained and kept damp by covering with hessian (re-wetted as required).
- 7) Feed in services.
- 8) Back fill trench with 200-300mm depth of excavated soil, or a mixture of excavated and imported top-soil (to BS3882:2015), firming down with heels.
- 9) Repeat step 7 until trench is filled.
- 10) Re-erect tree protection fencing as per approved plan.

4.11.3. An alternative to the method of excavation above, for trenching within RPA's, is by using an 'air-spade' or similar. This tool utilises compressed air to remove soil from around tree roots causing minimal damage and can be run off a typical site compressor. ACD can provide details of contractors supplying air-spade services if required.

4.11.4. Alternatively, trenchless technology such as thrust boring can be used in some instances and is particularly effective as it can pass directly under the tree, at a depth which is likely to avoid almost all impact on roots of the subject tree. As no access/thrust pits will be located within the RPAs of the subject trees, the need for arboricultural supervision is limited.

4.11.5. Reference can be made to National Joint Utilities Group Publication Volume 4 (NJUG Vol 4) for guidance, but any approach must be approved by the project arboriculturist.

4.12. Tree translocation

4.12.1. Stages for tree translocation using hand tools:

- 1) The trees to be relocated are to be clearly marked and surrounding vegetation cleared with hand tool.
- 2) Hand tools used to extract trees from ground.
- 3) Care must be taken that the roots are not allowed to dry out and plants must be protected by damp straw moss, sacking, or the like. Trees that are not used immediately on site shall be heeled into ready-prepared trenches and shall be kept thus in a moist condition until planting on the same day. Trees not used on the same day may be heeled in and stored at a site to be agreed upon with the Contract Administrator.
- 4) Section of new planting to be clearly marked and approved to avoid having to move the trees more than once.
- 5) Transplants (80-100cm in height) or smaller are to be notch planted. 'I', 'L' or 'H' shaped notch to be made in the soil to a depth to accommodate the depth of roots. Transplant to be placed in notch, notch closed with root collar at ground level and firm the soil. Plants are to be protected for the first 3-5 years with appropriately sized biodegradable tree, shrub guards and spiral guards.

4.12.2. To ensure that the water requirement of the tree is met, an irrigation schedule may be required. This is to be agreed between the project arboriculturist and client. Details of any agreed schedule must be included in future management plans for the site.

4.13. Soil remediation measures for compaction within RPAs (If necessary)

4.13.1. Stages for soil remediation for compaction within RPA. The following works must be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced soil remediation contractor:

- 1) Soil test to be undertaken to identify soil texture, nutrient content and pH. Based on the results, appropriate remediation measures to be undertaken.
- 2) Compaction test to be undertaken to identify soil compaction level.
- 3) Appropriate soil decompaction measures using a Terravent to reduce any compaction that may have occurred. To be used in a 1m matrix over the entire area previously covered by the fill.
- 4) Add layer of well composted mulch to a depth of 100-200mm over the RPA area.

4.13.2. Contamination of the soil by fuel and lubricant leaks must be avoided at all costs. If such a situation arises the project arboriculturist must be notified to assess the situation and prescribe remedial measures.

4.13.3. No plant machinery to be used in the area for whatever reason.

4.14. Installation of boundary fencing within protected areas

4.14.1. Stages for installing wooden fence posts:

No plant machinery to be used in the area for whatever reason

- 1) Contact project arboriculturist to hold pre-start site meeting and 'toolbox' talk before starting work.
- 2) Remove TPF to allow access to area.
- 3) Dig post holes using hand tools, avoiding damage to the protective bark covering larger roots. Roots smaller than 25mm diameter may be pruned back using either secateurs or a hand saw, leaving a clean cut.
- 4) Damage or severance of roots above 25mm diameter must be avoided. If roots of this size are discovered, the hole should be relocated. If there are a large number of such roots it may be necessary to relocate the hole by half a fence panels length and adjust the fence panels accordingly.
- 5) Line hole with non-porous lining, for example durable polythene bag.
- 6) Insert post and fill post hole with concrete to ground level.
- 7) Trim polythene to ground level.

4.15. Sensitive excavation within retained RPAs

4.15.1. If excavations are not possible with the use of hand-tools or air-spade and low impact methods such a moling are not possible, then excavations within retained RPAs to be carried out using the following sensitive methodology:

- 1) Pre-start meeting between project arboriculturist and groundworkers.
- 2) Removal of Tree Protection Fencing where required to allow access to working area.
- 3) RPA radius of retained trees within proposed area of excavation to be measured and marked out with line-marker or pegs to inform areas of sensitive excavation.
- 4) Soil within marked out area to be excavated using hand-tools and/or air-spade.
- 5) Where suitable soil can be scrapped away carefully under direct supervision of project arboriculturist using an excavator located outside of the RPA with toothless bucket attachment.
- 6) Upon discovery of any large rooting systems (diameter of over 25mm), remaining soil will be removed using either hand tools or with use of an air-spade.
- 7) Once area is excavated as required an assessment is to be made in regards to any significant roots discovered as to the feasibility of root retention and significance of potential impact to vitality and stability of retained trees from root pruning.
- 8) If root pruning is viable, then it shall be undertaken by the project arboriculturist as access facilitation pruning and documented for review by the Local Planning Authority.
- 9) If impact of root pruning is considered too significant then approval must be gained for further tree removal prior to continuation of works within the RPA of affected tree.
- 10) During any delay between exposure of roots and agreement of either removal or pruning works, exposed rooting structures must be covered with a damp material which is to be re-wetted as required to prevent dehydration of root-hairs.
- 11) Re-erection of Tree Protection Fencing following completion of works or between daily work intervals.

Will Wareing *ND Arb*
Arboriculturist

10 February 2025

Revision A – 30 April 2025 – W. Wareing *Nd Arb*
Revision B – 22 July 2025 – W. Wareing *Nd Arb*

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Appendix 1: Tree Protection Plan
(MILL24614-03B)

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