



# SOUTH WOKINGHAM PHASE 2B – SANG

## ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT (PIPELINE)

for

MILLER HOMES &  
KIER VENTURES LTD

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## Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Phasing of Operations for Tree Protection</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Site Supervision</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Tree Protection Areas</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5. Restrictions Within Tree Protection Areas</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6. Avoiding Damage to Stems and Branches</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7. Tree Protection Fencing</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8. Site Storage, Parking and Welfare Facilities</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9. Tree Surgery and Removal</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>10. Sensitive excavation within retained RPAs</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>11. Post construction monitoring and remediation</b>	<b>9</b>

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. ACD Environmental Ltd (ACD) was instructed by Miller Homes and Kier Ventures Ltd in December 2022, to prepare the following report to discharge condition 21 (pipeline under ancient semi-natural woodland) and ensure protection for all retained trees on the development site at South Wokingham Phase 2B – SANG, for the pipeline application. Implementation of the protection methods and other details within this report are integral to achieving this goal.
- 1.2. This report covers the drainage element Phase 2B SANG, specifically the installation of attenuation and surface water pipe which connects to the existing ditch.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. The pipeline route has been considered with the project engineers (Abley Letchford) to minimise impacts on the woodland and it is confirmed that the pipeline would not traverse through or under the ancient semi-natural woodland.
- 1.5. 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: PRI24132-03 Phase 2B Pipeline), which should be displayed prominently on site for all staff to see.
- 1.6. To ensure accuracy and avoid future costly adjustments, the Tree Protection Fence and Ground Protection must be set out by a surveyor 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.
- 1.7. The information contained within this Arboricultural Method Statement is in line with BS5837:2012 ‘Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations’.
- 1.8. The controlling authority is Wokingham Borough Council, who can be contacted at: Shute End, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1BN, Tel: 0118 974 6000.
- 1.9. 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.
- 1.10. 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.

## **2. Phasing of Operations for Tree Protection**

2.1. 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 Phase.
- 8) Removal of tree protection fencing.
- 9) Remedial tree surgery (if required).

2.2. The above phasing must not be changed without approval from the project arboriculturist and agreement with the Council.

## **3. Site Supervision**

3.1. The development process will be subject to arboricultural supervision where construction work inside the construction exclusion zone is required,. 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) Site accessible to construction/demolition traffic.
- 5) Demolition/site clearance.
- 6) Sensitive excavation works.

3.2. 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.

3.3. It is the responsibility of the client to ensure all instances of supervision are instructed and scheduled.

3.4. This supervision will require the arboriculturist to be present throughout the task, to ensure all the arboricultural objectives are met.

3.5. 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. Tree Protection Areas**

- 4.1. Based on tree survey data, tree protection areas have been determined for every retained tree. These areas are designed to protect at least a functional minimum of tree root mass in order to ensure that the trees survive the construction process.
- 4.2. A woodland group to the west of the site (ref. W157) is designated as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) as such a 15m buffer has been shown surrounding this woodland.
- 4.3. It is the responsibility of everyone engaged in the construction process to respect the tree protection measures and observe the necessary precautions within and adjacent to them.

#### **5. Restrictions Within Tree Protection Areas**

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. 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.

#### **6. Avoiding Damage to Stems and Branches**

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. 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'.
- 6.3. 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.

## 7. Tree Protection Fencing

7.1. The Tree Protection Plan (see the latest revision of: PRI24132-03 Phase 2B Pipeline) 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.

7.2. 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.

7.3. For the purpose of this application. The alignment of the TPF has been shown as blue on the TPP. The location of the TPF for the wider SANG development is also shown for context as red. For the associated works of this application the blue location of fencing must be applied prior to commencement of the works.

7.4. 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.

7.5. 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.

7.6. For this application, a temporary specification of fencing has been shown, this comprises of heras fence panels on 'boot's with a stabiliser strut, secured with base plate secured with ground pins, as shown in section 6.2.2 'figure 3' within BS5837:2012 A detailed specification can be found on the TPP.

7.7. Should any alternative method of barrier construction be proposed, the design should be approved by the local planning authority.

7.8. Once the exclusion zone has been protected by barriers and/or ground protection, construction work can commence.

7.9. All weather notices should be erected on the barriers (for example see figure below).



Tree protection sign (download from) <http://www.acdenvironmental.co.uk>

## **8. Site Storage, Parking and Welfare Facilities**

- 8.1. The site will require provision for; site storage, contractor parking, welfare facilities, temporary services/drainage, material drop off points, etc.
- 8.2. No details of these provisions are available at the time of writing of this report.
- 8.3. 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.

## **9. Tree Surgery and Removal**

- 9.1. The section of group to be removed are shown with a red dashed line, on the Tree Protection Plan ACD reference PRI24132-03 Phase 2B Pipeline.
- 9.2. The following surgery works are to be carried out:

<b>Tree number</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Operation</b>
W161	Various	Remove trees as necessary and as shown on the Tree Protection Plan to allow for a 4m corridor to install the pipeline.
G228	Alder, Willow	Crown lift northern aspect of crown to 4m to provide sufficient working room for excavation works.

- 9.3. 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.
- 9.4. Trees within W161 adjacent to the 'corridor' to be assessed to ensure excavation of the proposed pipe does not cause significant impact, where RPAs encroach into the pipeline footprint, further removals may be required.
- 9.5. 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.
- 9.6. 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.
- 9.7. 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.
- 9.8. 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.
- 9.9. 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.

## **10. Sensitive excavation within retained RPAs**

10.1.1. All 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 scraped 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.

## **11. Post construction monitoring and remediation**

11.1.1. As mentioned in section 1.4 of this report, the location of the pipeline is to no longer be situated within the ASNW or the 15m buffer zone. However, it will still be situated within W161 to the east, which will necessitate the removal of trees with a potential impact to the retained trees within this woodland parcel.

11.1.2. To remedy this, as referenced in the Woodland Management Plan ref. PRI24132 Woodland Management Plan, section 6, a visual Health and Safety assessment of the trees will be conducted on a monthly basis, with a detailed Health and Safety Assessment being carried out by a suitably qualified arboriculturist every two years. Although this has been written primarily for the ASNW, this should extend to the woodland parcel which has been impacted by the location of the pipeline. After the works have been completed an initial assessment of the trees should be conducted by the project arboriculturist to determine if any remedial tree surgery works or removals are required.

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Arboriculturist

28 August 2025

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