

Amended Arboriculture Method Statement



For 41 Sollershott East, Letchworth, Hertfordshire

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1. Introduction

I have been instructed to amend the existing Arboricultural Method Statement in respect of the proposed development to property 41 Sollershott East, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, in light of the potential impact onto the trees and hedges located within the rear garden, or its vicinity.

I am an Arboricultural consultant with over two decades of experience in the fields of Arboriculture and Forestry, a degree in Silviculture (Forestry) and a Professional Tree Inspection Certificate. I have been a professional member of the Arboricultural Association since 2008 and, have continuously been employed in Arboriculture since 2007.

During this time, I have had the opportunity to inspect, assess, survey, study and apply/decide necessary management, to tens of thousands of individual trees and hundreds of hectares of woodland.

I have also been involved in the development of Arboricultural Policies and Strategies, and had the opportunity to be part of the decision making process in numerous planning projects, ranging from large scale to small, residential applications.

As part of my continuous professional development, I regularly attend conferences, seminars and symposiums to enhance my knowledge and keep up to date with the latest developments and best practice in the industry.

This report includes:

1. Arboriculture Method Statement
2. Tree Protection Plan

This Arboricultural Report has been compiled in accordance to British Standards BS 5837 following the review of the existing plans and documents, the Visual Trees Assessment and the completion of relevant site measurements and studies.

Arboriculture Method Statement

In order to minimise any adverse effect on trees during this project, the following measures will be applied:

1. Yew tree T013 to be adequately protected during construction and other operations in accordance with BS 5837 : 2012 “Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction.”
2. Protection fencing as per *Tree Protection Plan* shall be erected prior to any operations on site.
3. The fencing shall not be removed or breached during operations without prior consultation with an Arboricultural specialist and the approval of the Local Authority.
4. Herras Fencing will be securely installed with the help of non invasive supports, and with RPA warning signs attached. This fencing shall be erected in accordance with the drawings in *Tree Protection Plan and Figure A* below.
5. No materials will be stored within the fenced-off area nor within the RPAs of either of trees on this site or its vicinity.
6. Notices should be erected on the fencing with such words as “Protected Area – no operations or materials within the fenced area.”
7. Additional precautions outside the fenced areas should be taken to avoid damage to trees by materials such as cement, oils, bitumen or anything else likely to cause damage to tree roots.



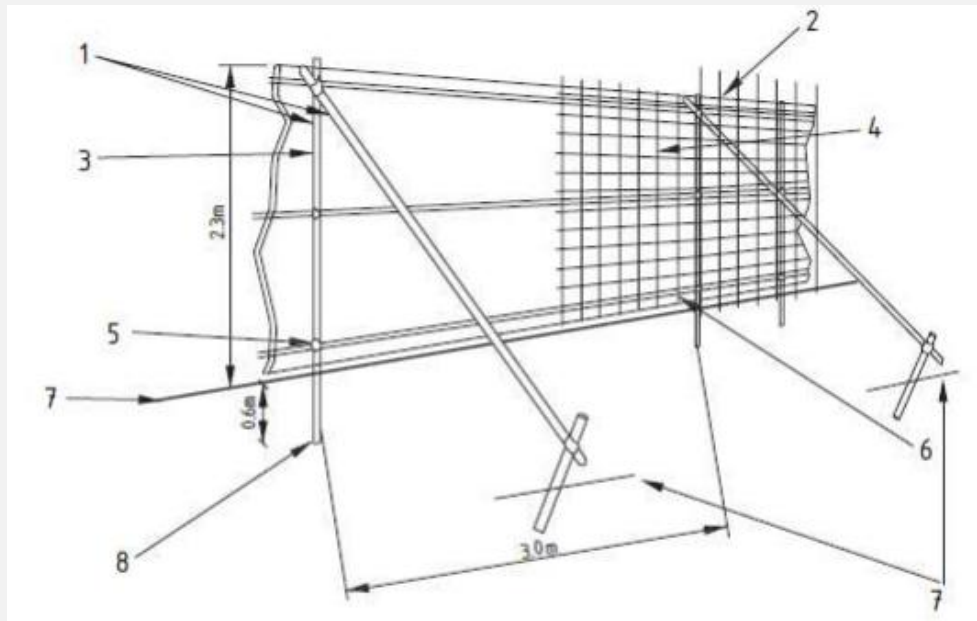


Figure A. Protecting fencing. 1. Standard scaffold poles - 2. Uprights to be driven into the ground - 3. Panels secured to the uprights by wire ties or scaffold clamps - 4. Weldmesh wired to the uprights and the horizontals - 5. Standard Clamps - 6. Wire twisted and secured on the inside face of fencing to avoid easy dismantling - 7. Ground level - 8. Approx 0.6 m driven into the ground.

In order to address specific concerns brought about by the characteristics of this site, the following, additional measures, will also be applied:

1. Foundation Construction within the Root Protection Area

The approved foundation design shall be constructed strictly in accordance with the engineer's approved drawings. The selected foundation solution has been designed specifically to minimise excavation and root disturbance within the Root Protection Area.

No alteration to the approved foundation design shall be undertaken without prior consultation with the project arboriculturist and agreement from the Local Planning Authority where required.

2. Excavations within the Root Protection Area

Wherever excavations occur within the Root Protection Area they shall be undertaken using hand or suction excavation or other approved low-impact techniques such as compressed air excavation (AirSpade) where appropriate.



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Mechanical excavators shall not be used for excavation within the Root Protection Area unless operating from outside the RPA and only after the upper soil profile has been carefully exposed under arboricultural supervision. Excavations shall proceed progressively to expose roots rather than sever them.

3. Procedure if Roots are Encountered

If roots are exposed during excavation:

- roots below approximately 25 mm diameter may be pruned cleanly using sharp secateurs where unavoidable;
- roots greater than 25 mm diameter shall be retained wherever reasonably practicable;
- where roots exceeding 25 mm diameter require removal, works shall stop and the project arboriculturist shall inspect the roots before any pruning takes place;
- root pruning shall be undertaken using clean sharp tools to produce smooth cuts;
- exposed roots shall be protected from drying by covering with damp hessian or similar material until permanently backfilled;
- open excavations within RPAs shall be backfilled as soon as reasonably practicable.

4. Drainage Installation

Where drainage must pass through the RPA it shall:

- follow the shortest practical route;
- be installed by hand/suction excavation or air-spade excavation;
- weave around significant roots where encountered;
- avoid cutting roots exceeding 25 mm diameter wherever possible;
- be undertaken under arboricultural supervision where significant roots are encountered.

5. Temporary Ground Protection

Prior to any pedestrian or construction traffic entering approved working areas within the Root Protection Area, temporary ground protection shall be installed comprising:



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- a compressible layer of woodchip to a minimum depth of approximately 100 mm; and
- scaffold boards or interlocking ground protection panels laid over the woodchip.

Ground protection shall remain in place throughout construction activities and shall only be removed following completion of works.

6. Within Root Protection Areas:

- no storage of spoil;
- no mixing of concrete;
- no fuel storage;
- no cement washout;
- no alteration of soil levels;
- no parking of machinery except on approved ground protection.

7. The Project Arboriculturist shall inspect:

- installation of protective fencing;
- installation of ground protection;
- commencement of excavations within the RPA;
- any excavation where roots greater than 25 mm diameter are encountered;
- completion of foundation and drainage works within the RPA.

8. Tree Protection Plan amendments

The Tree Protection Plan has also been updated to show:

- temporary ground protection areas (hatched);
- the route of drainage within the RPA;
- the foundation footprint matching the engineer's drawing;
- notes stating "Hand/Suction Digging / AirSpade Only";
- any arboricultural supervision points.

2. Amended Tree Protection Plan

