

Arboricultural Method Statement

Gwern- Y- To, Shocklach Road, Threapwood, Wrexham



Aspinalls Planning & Landscape
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INTRODUCTION

A precautionary approach towards tree protection is proposed and the operations, including access, proposed within the Root Protection Zone RPA (or crown spread where this is greater) is described within this document, to demonstrate that the operations can be undertaken with minimal risk of adverse impact on trees to be retained.

The Method Statement is informed by the detailed tree survey and the Arboricultural Assessment. Essentially, all trees worthy of retention will be retained, whilst those which are past their best and not considered worthy of retention will be removed.

A comprehensive landscape scheme is produced (in a separate document), which outlines the landscape proposals, which is designed to supplement the retained vegetation and to provide a broad range of habitats for wildlife. Native species will predominate.

BARRIERS AND GROUND PROTECTION

All trees that are being retained on site shall be protected by barriers and/or ground protection (see Tree protection plan) 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. Where, due to site constraints, construction activity cannot be fully or permanently excluded in this manner from all or part of a tree's RPA, appropriate ground protection should be installed.

Areas of retained structural planting, or designated for new structural planting, should be similarly protected, based on the extent of the soft landscaping shown on the landscape drawings.

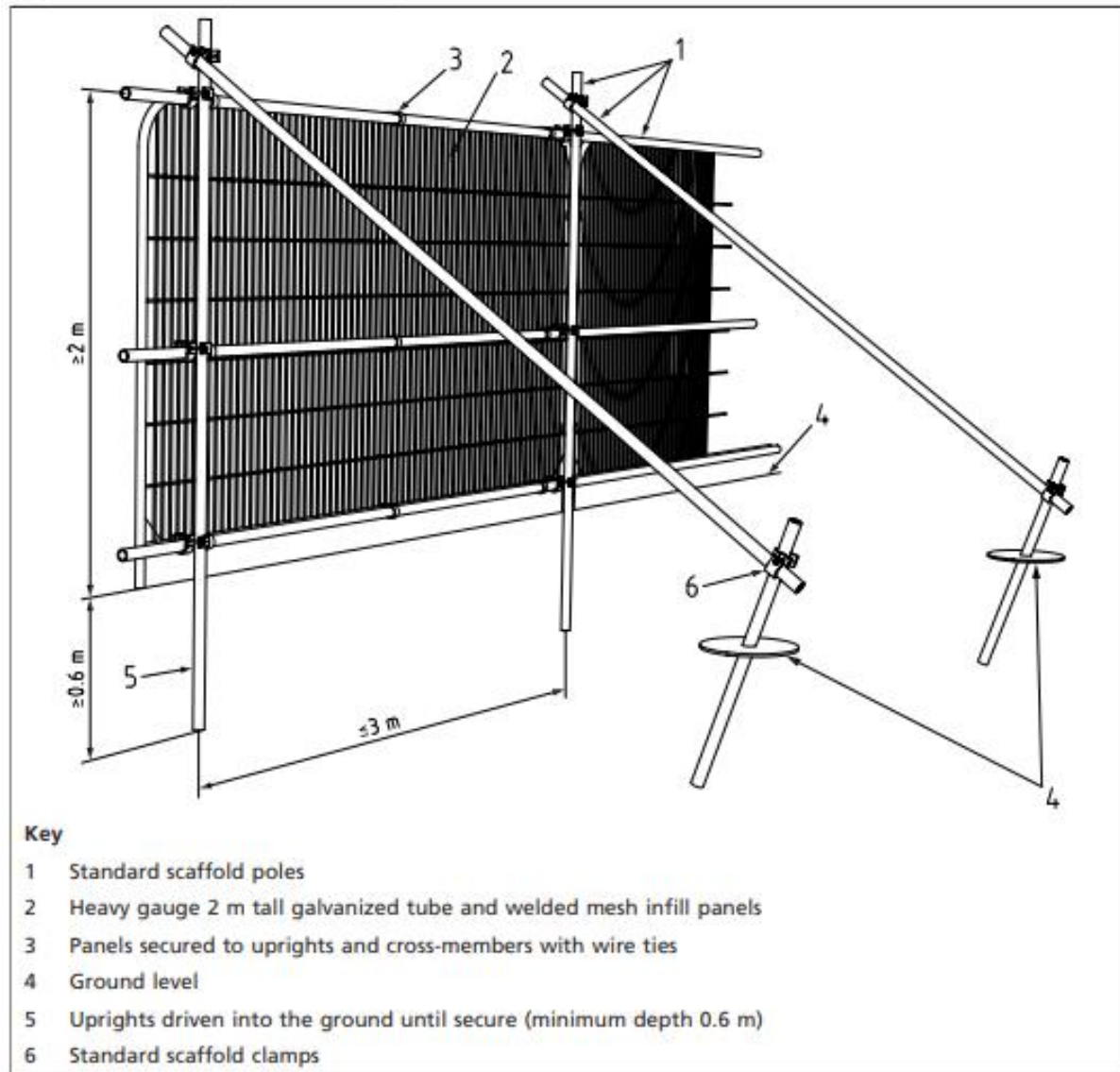
The protected area should be regarded as sacrosanct, and once installed, barriers and ground protection should not be removed or altered without prior recommendation by the project arboriculturist and, where necessary, approval from the local planning authority.

Where required, pre-development tree work may be undertaken before the installation of tree protection measures, with the agreement of the project arboriculturist or local planning authority if appropriate (see also 8.8.1). 6.2.1.5 It should be confirmed by the project arboriculturist that the barriers and ground protection have been correctly set out on site, prior to the commencement of any other operations.

Barriers

Barriers should be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place around the retained tree(s). Barriers should be maintained to ensure that they remain rigid and complete.

The proposed barrier will consist of a vertical and horizontal scaffold framework, well braced to resist impacts, as illustrated below:



The vertical tubes should be spaced at a maximum interval of 3 m and driven securely into the ground. Onto this framework, welded mesh panels should be securely fixed. Care should be exercised when locating the vertical poles to avoid underground services and, in the case of the bracing poles, also to avoid contact with structural roots. If the presence of underground services precludes the use of driven poles, an alternative specification should be prepared in conjunction with the project arboriculturist that

provides an equal level of protection. Such alternatives could include the attachment of the panels to a free-standing scaffold support framework. Where the site circumstances and associated risk of damaging incursion into the RPA do not necessitate the above level of protection, an alternative specification should be prepared by the project arboriculturist.

All-weather notices will be attached to the barrier with the following wording:

“CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE – NO ACCESS”.

ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS OUTSIDE THE EXCLUSION ZONE

Site operations will take sufficient account of wide loads, tall loads and plant with Booms, jibs and counterweights (including drilling rigs), in order that they can operate without coming into contact with retained trees. Such contact can result in serious damage to the trees and might make their safe retention impossible. Consequently, any transit or traverse of plant in proximity to trees should be conducted under the supervision of a banksman, to ensure that adequate clearance from trees is always maintained. Access facilitation pruning should be undertaken where necessary to maintain this clearance under the supervision of the project arboriculturist.

Fires on sites should be avoided if possible. However, where they are unavoidable, they should not be lit in a position where heat could affect foliage or branches. The potential size of a fire and the wind direction should be considered when determining its location, and it should be attended at all times until safe enough to leave.

Any materials whose accidental spillage would cause damage to a tree should be stored and handled away from the outer edge of its RPA.

SITE MONITORING

Wherever trees on or adjacent to a site have been identified within the tree protection plan for protective measures, there should be a system of arboricultural site monitoring. This should extend to arboricultural supervision whenever construction and development activity is to take place within or adjacent to any RPA.

Supervision will be provided by landscape architects and/or arboriculturists from Aspinalls Planning & Landscape.

DEMOLITION AND CONSTRUCTION IN PROXIMITY TO EXISTING TREES

Construction within the RPA should accord to the principle that the tree and soil structure take priority, and the most reliable way to ensure this is to preserve the RPA completely undisturbed. Soil structure should be preserved at a suitable bulk density for

root growth and function (of particular importance for soils of a high fines content), existing rootable soil retained and roots themselves protected.

Where alternative design solutions are not available such that construction is proposed within the RPA, the potential impact of the proposals on the tree should be assessed, and a tree protection plan and arboricultural method statement (6.1) produced. Details of design proposals should be developed in conjunction with the project arboriculturist.

AVOIDING PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO THE ROOTS DURING DEMOLITION OR CONSTRUCTION

To avoid damage to tree roots, existing ground levels should be retained within the RPA. Intrusion into soil (other than for piling) within the RPA is generally not Acceptable, and topsoil within it should be retained in situ. However, limited manual excavation within the RPA might be acceptable, subject to justification. Such excavation should be undertaken carefully, using hand-held tools and preferably by compressed air soil displacement.

Roots, whilst exposed, should immediately be wrapped or covered to prevent desiccation and to protect them from rapid temperature changes. Any wrapping should be removed prior to backfilling, which should take place as soon as possible. Roots smaller than 25 mm diameter may be pruned back, making a clean cut with a suitable sharp tool (e.g. bypass secateurs or handsaw), except where they occur in clumps. Roots occurring in clumps or of 25 mm diameter and over should be severed only following consultation with an arboriculturist, as such roots might be essential to the tree's health and stability. Prior to backfilling, retained roots should be surrounded with topsoil or uncompacted sharp sand (builders' sand should not be used because of its high salt content, which is toxic to tree roots), or other loose inert granular fill, before soil or other suitable material is replaced. This material should be free of contaminants and other foreign objects potentially injurious to tree roots.

Where demolition is proposed on a site where trees are to be retained, access facilitation pruning should be undertaken as necessary to prevent injurious contact between demolition plant and the tree(s). In some cases, working space may be provided by temporarily tying back tree branches. Pruning or tying should be undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by an arboriculturist.

All plant and vehicles engaged in demolition works should either operate outside the RPA or run-on ground protection. Where such ground protection is required, it should be installed prior to commencement of operations.

Where trees stand adjacent to structures to be removed, the demolition should be undertaken inwards within the footprint of the existing building (often referred to as "top down, pull back").

Where an existing hard surface is scheduled for removal, care should be taken not to disturb tree roots that might be present beneath it. Hand-held tools or appropriate machinery should be used (under arboricultural supervision) to remove the existing surface, working backwards over the area, so that the machine is not moving over the exposed ground. If a new hard surface is to be laid, it might be preferable to leave any existing sub-base in situ, augmenting it where required.
