

Western Gateway, Wrexham Technology Park - Access Road

Arboricultural Method Statement

This Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) outlines the parameters within which construction must be undertaken in order to retain protected trees in satisfactory condition in order to discharge Planning Conditions 8 to 12 and 15. This AMS document gives a definitive account of the treatment of retained trees during the construction process and outlines appropriate design and construction methods. The detail and requirements of this method statement comprise commitments to complete the construction phase of the development in a specific manner and must inform the production of all relevant tender documents and instructions to contractors.

Failure to adhere to the correct sequence, manner and timing of operations detailed below may result in irremediable damage to trees, and thereby breach of planning consent.

GENERAL TERMS

- A copy of this Method Statement will be made available for inspection on site and read by all relevant contractors. All construction personnel and associated contractors will be made aware of the tree protection requirements set out in the AMS at the site induction stage.
- Works will proceed in a careful and logical manner, such that accidental damage to trees by booms, cranes etc. is avoided.
- All areas protected by Tree Protection Fencing and those highlighted as areas of specialised construction measures within this AMS will be collectively defined as a **Construction Exclusion Zone** (CEZ).
- Storage of materials and access of any kind will be prohibited within the CEZ.
- No change in ground level within the CEZ will be permitted.
- No excavation, trenching or other piercing of the ground will be permitted within the CEZ other than as described by this Method Statement.
- If unexpected large roots (>25mm diameter) are encountered during any excavation works or if additional pruning of branches is required, the advice of the appointed Arboricultural Consultant will be sought.
- Tree protection measures will not be removed or realigned other than as directed by an appointed Arboricultural Consultant and only after being approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
- Increases in soil bulk density can significantly harm existing roots and impede new root growth.* No such compaction, smearing or rutting of soils will be allowed to occur by whatever means within protected areas.
- Operations within the CEZ will be undertaken during dry weather. Works will cease during rainfall and recommence following a minimum drying period of 24 hours. Apart from the installation and construction of the storm water carrier drain no other works shall be undertaken within the CEZ unless approved in writing by the LPA.

Many of the trees located within Construction Exclusion Zone are protected by planning condition and/ or Tree Preservation Order and damage to these trees including soil structure may result in planning enforcement action and/ or criminal prosecution.

Appointment of a project Arboricultural Consultant

- An Arboricultural Consultant will be appointed prior to commencement to oversee and sign off elements of the work.
- The construction Site Manager will be responsible for contacting the appointed Arboricultural Consultant in advance of any operations detailed in this Method Statement, within the CEZ or where they could reasonably be foreseen to have an impact on retained trees.
- Each element within this AMS will be signed-off by the appointed Arboricultural Consultant in the Operations Sign-off below opposite.

Pre-start meeting and setting out

- Prior to commencement of any works on site the contractor shall give 10 working days written notice, to the Local Planning Authority, of a meeting on site to reinforce the required tree protection measures. This will be arranged between the site contractor, the appointed Arboricultural Consultant and the council's Arboricultural Officer at the earliest opportunity.
- During the meeting, trees shown for removal will be marked with orange spray-paint, the proposed road layout will be set out with marker posts and the alignment of protective fencing will be marked using spray-paint. The scope of this method statement will be discussed including any technical or logistical issues.

Should any construction detail change from the methods shown in this AMS, the drawings will be updated and approved by the LPA before any revised works commence

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS (Operations to be undertaken in strict chronological order)

Nesting Bird Check

- Trees identified for removal and pruning will be checked by a suitably qualified ecologist for nesting birds 24hrs prior to any tree works (if works are scheduled in period March to August inclusive).
- Should any nesting birds be found, trees identified for removal will be left until the nest has become inactive. Ongoing advice from an ecologist will be required.

Tree Removal

- No tree works will be undertaken until written approval of this Method Statement is issued by the Local Planning Authority and until the pre-start meeting has taken place between the consulting arboriculturist and the LPA Tree Officer.
- Following approval, trees shown with an angled **red hatch** will be removed and will have been identified by marking with bright orange spray paint.
- Trees identified for removal in larger groups and woodlands will be demarcated by an orange line on the ground; an arrow will depict which side of the line to remove.
- No vehicles, heavy plant or machinery to be used within retained trees RPA's/ CEZ's during tree and vegetation removal operations, unless agreed in writing with the LPA.
- Arisings will be removed from the site and not stored within the CEZ.
- All tree works will be undertaken with diligent regard for restrictions arising in relation to invasive and/or protected species.
- All stumps will be ground out (i.e. not excavated or pulled). The stumps of removed trees located within the CEZ will be accessed via existing areas of hard-standing or by using temporary boards over the rooting areas of retained trees.

Formative pruning and additional tree removals

- Following completion of felling works, an inspection will be undertaken by an arboricultural consultant to assess the finished edge of groups and trees that were previously internal and sheltered. Minor additional pruning works may be specified such as coppicing or tree removal. This would also typically include reshaping of trees that appear to be vulnerable to windthrow or are otherwise aesthetically unsuitable. No additional tree works will be undertaken until details are submitted to and approved by the LPA's Tree Officer.
- Any additional tree works will be completed and will be subject to the same methods and restrictions as above.

Installation of Tree Protection Fencing

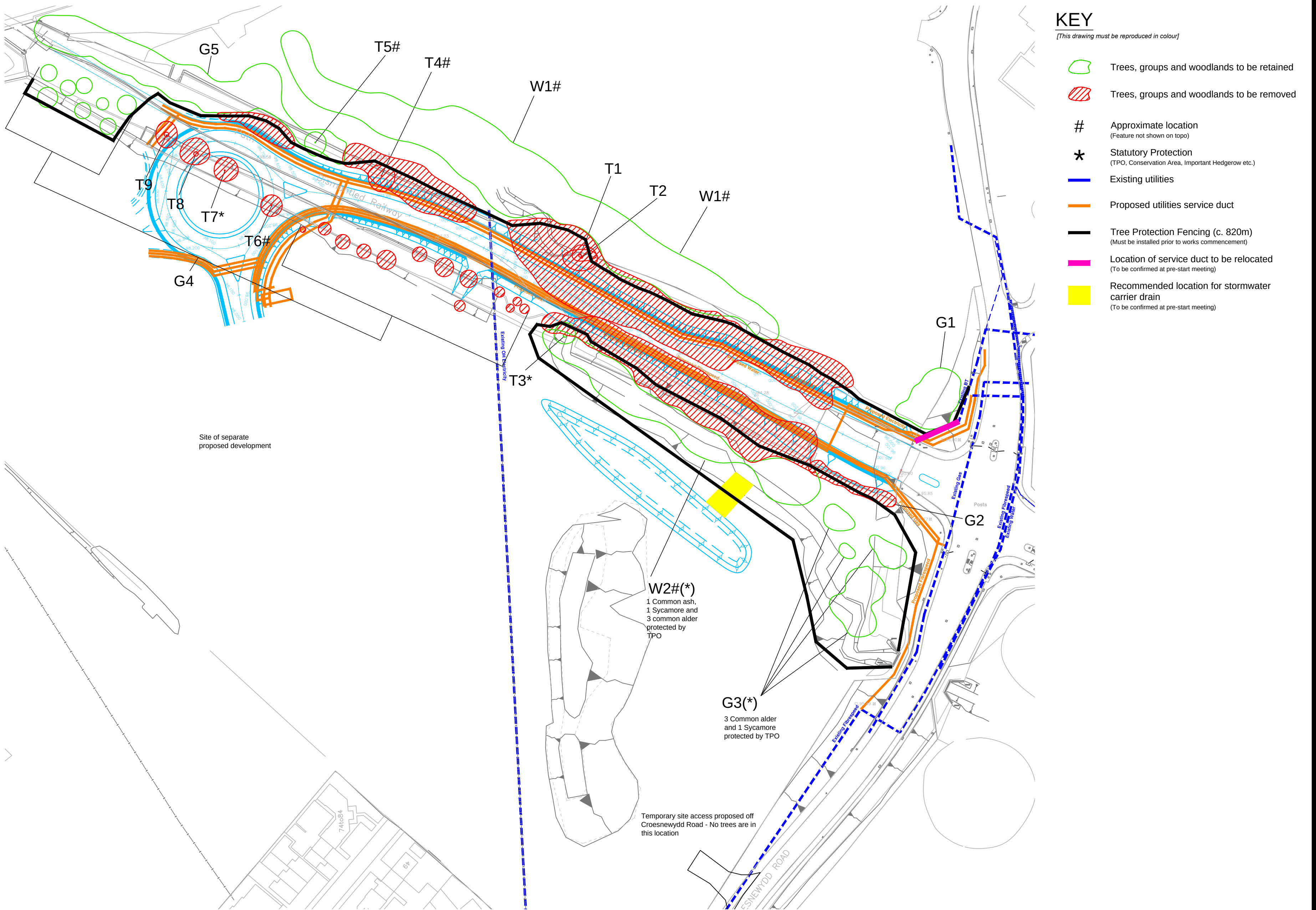
- Tree Protection Fencing will be installed at the alignment shown opposite (as marked on site during the pre-start meeting).
- Fencing will be installed according to the specification shown in **Inset 1** (Type A). Where this cannot be installed due to utilities or other constraints, the arboricultural consultant will be contacted and an alternative will be agreed (Type B or bespoke design). Details of alternative fencing will be submitted in writing to the LPA and shall only be installed following confirmation that the LPA has agreed its use.
- Any deviation from this specification will be approved in writing by the LPA.
- Signs will be affixed to the boundary fences indicating the protected status of all trees and the restrictions on construction and excavation within the protected area.
- The correct installation of tree protection fencing will be verified in writing by the appointed Arboricultural Consultant or the LPA's Tree Officer before construction commences.
- If any requirement to enter the fenced **CEZ** for operational reasons arises, the Arboricultural Consultant will be contacted for advice in the first instance with the LPA informed in writing. No incursion in the CEZ will be permitted without the LPA's written permission, apart from approved encroachments listed in this AMS.
- Tree protection fencing will remain in situ for the duration of the construction or until its removal or re-alignment is permitted by the appointed Arboricultural Consultant and the LPA's Tree Officer.
- Inspection of the fencing will be undertaken monthly for the duration of the main construction phase by the appointed Arboricultural Consultant. Inspection frequency may also be regulated by specific activities proposed close to the CEZ or by observations made during a routine visit.
- A record of observations and recommendations made during each visit will be recorded and made available to the site manager and submitted to the LPA's Tree Officer for inspection.

Construction phase

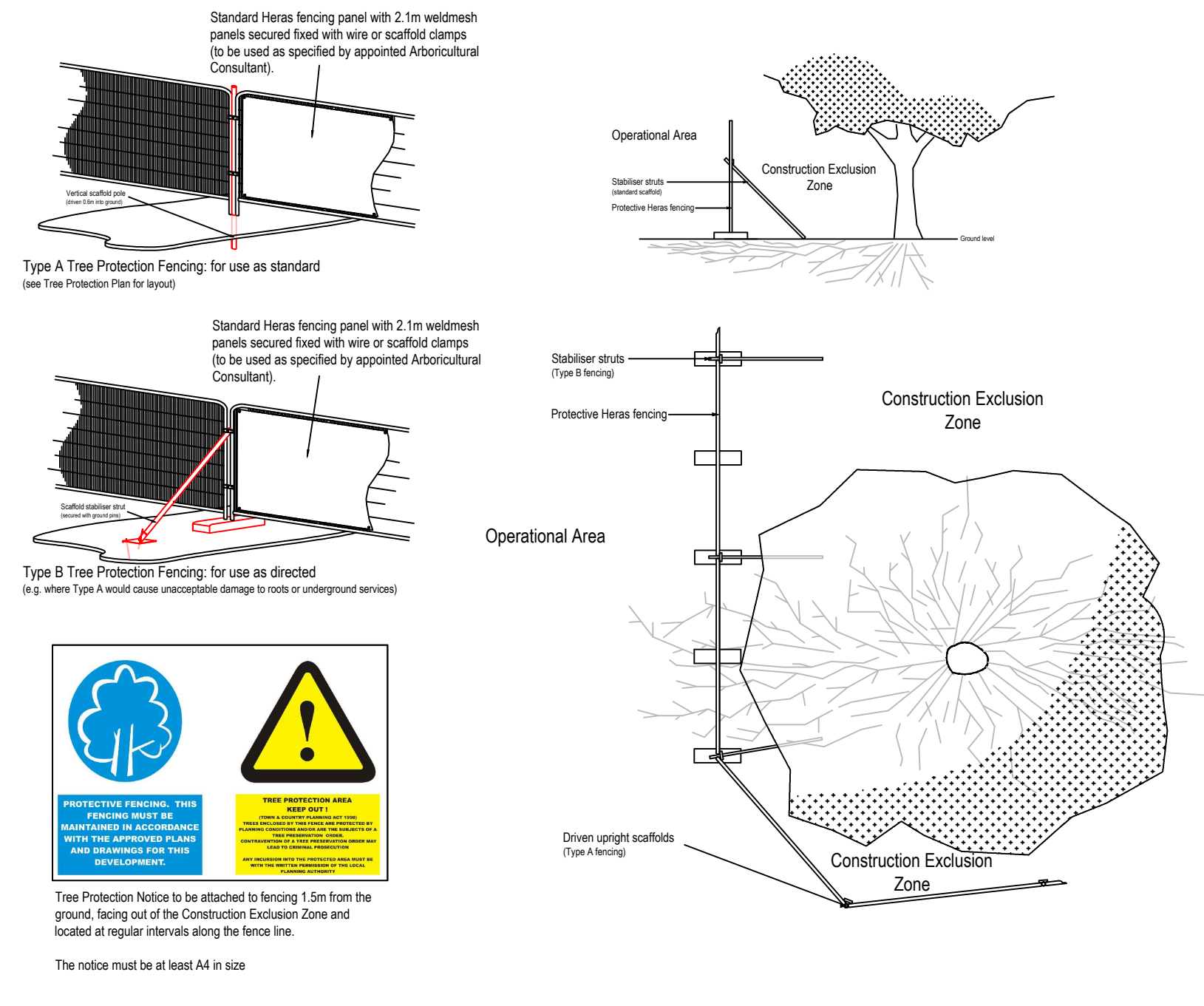
- Construction works for the access road will proceed as per the approved plans.
- The proposed service route (**orange lines**) is at this stage indicative; where there are incursions into the CEZ and the rooting areas of retained trees (**thick magenta line**) the service route will be diverted outside of the primary rooting area; the location will be determined at the pre-start meeting with the advice of the appointed Arboricultural Consultant. Once the location is agreed, the tree protection fencing will be re-aligned, the AMS updated and re-submitted to the LPA. No service route works to are to take place until the details are agreed in writing by the LPA.
- A storm water carrier drain is proposed to link the existing River Gwenfro to the proposed attenuation pond. This will be positioned away from retained trees. A suitable location is highlighted in **yellow** opposite. Once the location is agreed, the tree protection fencing will be re-aligned, the AMS updated and re-submitted to the LPA. No storm water drain works to are to take place until the details are agreed in writing by the LPA.
- Any accidental damage to Tree Protection Fencing will be reported immediately to the arboricultural consultant.
- All retained trees within the application boundary will be inspected biannually during the construction phase.

Removal of tree protection fencing

- Following completion of the access road construction works and removal of vehicles, plant, compounds and materials, the tree protection fencing will be removed only after receiving written permission from the LPA.



Inset 1. Temporary tree protection fencing (1:100 @ A1)



Name of Appointed Arboricultural Consultant:

Telephone Number of Appointed Arboricultural Consultant:

Pre-start meeting Date: Initials: Comments:

Tree removal Date: Initials: Comments:

Additional tree works and formative pruning Date: Initials: Comments:

Tree Protection Fencing Date: Initials: Comments:

The above Method Statement elements have been discharged in full to the best of my knowledge and professional assessment. Where there has been any deviation from the specification, I am satisfied that this has not been injurious to retained trees and that all such deviations have complied with the spirit of the instruction insofar as was reasonably practicable or were approved in advance by the proper authority.

Signed:

General Comments and Notes on Ad-hoc Site Visits (Date/Initials)

KEY

[This drawing must be reproduced in colour]

- Trees, groups and woodlands to be retained
- Trees, groups and woodlands to be removed
- # Approximate location (Feature not shown on topo)
- * Statutory Protection (TPO, Conservation Area, Important Hedgegrov etc.)
- Existing utilities
- Proposed utilities service duct
- Tree Protection Fencing (c. 820m) (Must be installed prior to works commencement)
- Location of service duct to be relocated (To be confirmed at pre-start meeting)
- Recommended location for stormwater carrier drain (To be confirmed at pre-start meeting)



A	Updated method	RMG	RMG	23.01.15
Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date
TEP Genesis Centre Birchwood Science Park Warrington WA3 7BH Tel 01925 844004 Fax 01925 844002 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com				
Project				
Western Gateway, Wrexham Technology Park - Access Road				
Title				
Arboricultural Method Statement				
Drwg No D4598.004A				
Scale 1:1000 @ A1				Date 22/12/14
Drawn RMG	Checked KJO	Approved JGS		