

Arboricultural Method Statement & Tree Protection Plan For construction works on land at InstaVolt Chippenham Hub



Instructed by Lone Wolf Planning Ltd

On behalf of InstaVolt Ltd
6 Cedarwood
Crockford Lane
Chineham Business Park
Basingstoke
RG24 8WD

Inspected and Prepared by Nick Baxter BSc(Hons) MArborA
19th September 2025

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If contractors need any advice on tree protection measures during the project, they should contact the project arboriculturist.

Site manager: TBC

The principal contractor must be provided with a copy of this document and a copy should be available on-site at all times. It is the site manager's responsibility to pass on the information in this document to all construction staff and site contractors.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background information

This arboricultural method statement report supports a planning application, submitted by InstaVolt Ltd for constructing a new electric vehicle charging facility at the site.

This document accompanies an Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 19th September 2025.

2 Method Statement Timeline

Following the written approval of this document by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), the following sequence of operations will need to be carried out. Arboricultural supervision will be required for at least three tasks during this project and an agenda for arboricultural supervision is included on the tree protection plan. A record of each visit must be made available to the planning case officer.

Table 1: *Sequence of arboricultural operations for this project.*

Stage	Action
Pre-construction	Undertake permitted tree works to facilitate the construction of the development. Install tree protection fencing and ground protection as specified in Section 3 & 4 of this document and as illustrated on the tree protection plan (TPP-1). A site visit from the project arboriculturist will be required at the start of the project to check the position of tree protection measures and to discuss any potential conflicts with trees with the contractors.
During construction	Always follow the restrictions and protocol in Section 5. Follow Section 6 when laying the cellular confinement system - Arboricultural supervision will be required at this point. Further arboricultural supervision will be required if any unforeseen construction activity is to take place within the root protection area of any of the retained trees on or near the site. This supervision must be carried out by the project arboriculturist.
Post-construction	Once all the construction activity has been completed, the tree protection fencing may then be removed. A final visit from the project arboriculturist will be required at this stage so any subsequent landscaping operations can be discussed. It is crucial that root damage does not occur, so vehicles must stick to designated transit routes and any digging near trees should be carried out with the use of hand tools only (see Section 7).

3 Specification for Tree Protection Fencing

There are increased chances of damage to retained trees from construction activity. As a result, fencing will be required in order to protect the retained trees. The information below specifies suitable fencing requirements for this project.

Location

The location of necessary tree protection fencing is shown by the blue lines on the tree protection plan. The fenced-off areas will be construction exclusion zones and should be regarded as sacrosanct.

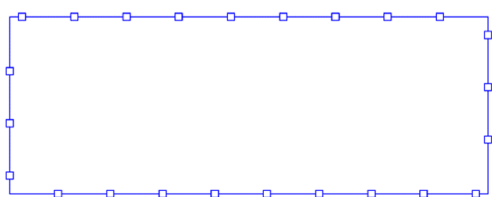


Figure A: An example of how tree protective fencing is shown on the tree protection plan.

Specification

Tree protection fencing must be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place around the retained trees. In most cases fencing should consist of a scaffold framework, well braced to resist impacts, with vertical tubes spaced at a maximum interval of 3m.

A specification for fencing suitable for most construction sites is illustrated in Figure C, but in some situations more lightweight stabilising systems for fencing may be sufficient; this is detailed in Figure D. Alternative methods of barrier could be appropriate for tree protection if they are sufficient to exclude construction activity, but any such methods must first be agreed by the Local Authority's arboricultural officer.

All-weather notices should be attached to the fencing with words such as: 'Construction Exclusion Zone - No Access.' Throughout the construction period, attention should be paid to ensure that barriers remain rigid and complete.

Installation

The tree protection fencing must be installed before any heavy plant machinery is used on the site and remain in place until the construction works have been completed.

The fencing should not be removed or altered without prior consultation with the project arboriculturist and, where necessary, approval from the local planning authority.



Figure B: An example of signs that should be attached to the fencing.

Removal

The tree protection fencing may only be removed once construction activity is completed.

Some landscaping works may be necessary at this stage, but it is crucial that root damage does not occur so vehicles must stick to designated transit routes and any digging near trees should be carried out with the use of hand tools only.

Works inside a construction exclusion zone

Arboricultural supervision will be required whenever construction and development activity are to take place within a construction exclusion zone. This supervision must be carried out by a suitably qualified arboriculturist.

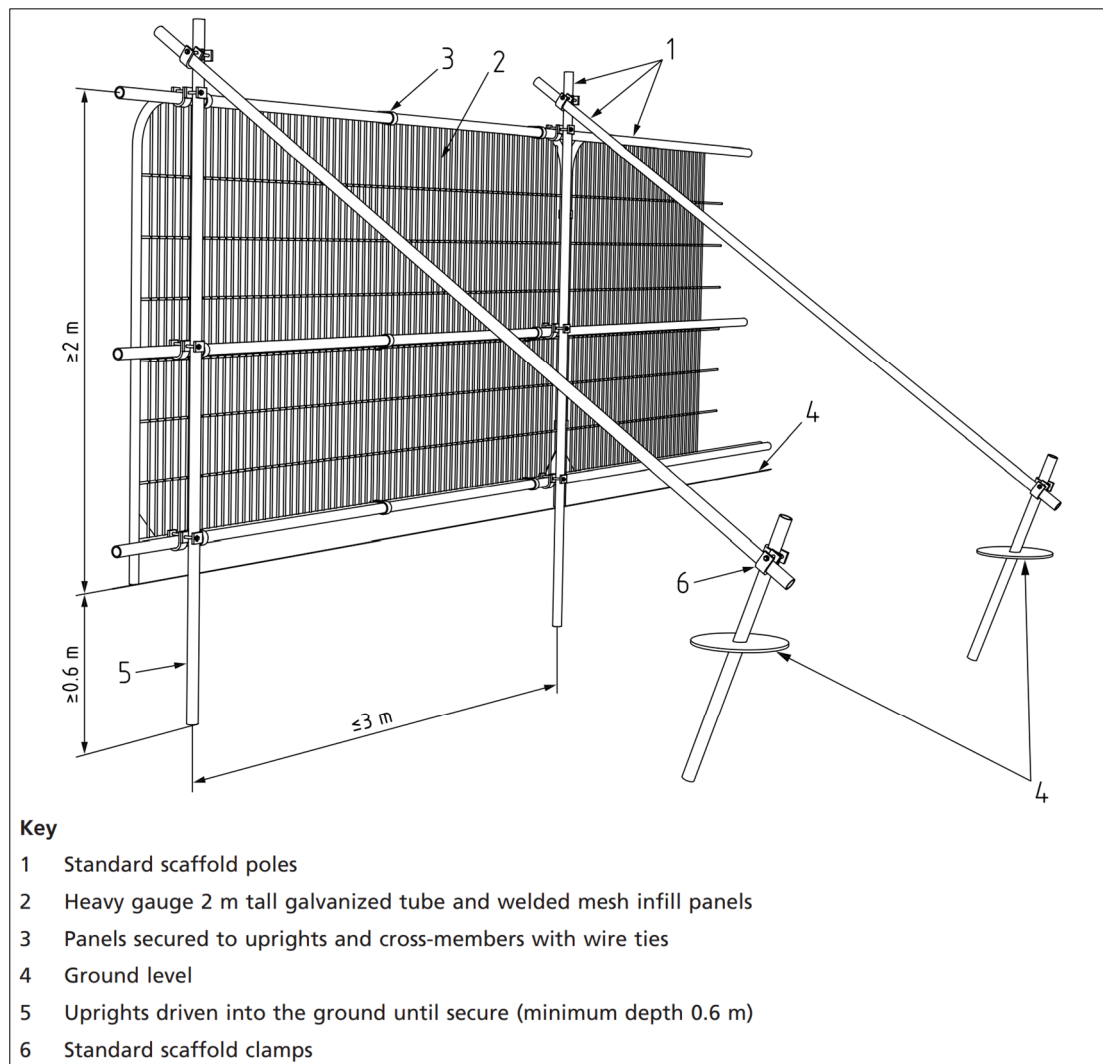


Figure C: Default specification for a tree protection fencing.

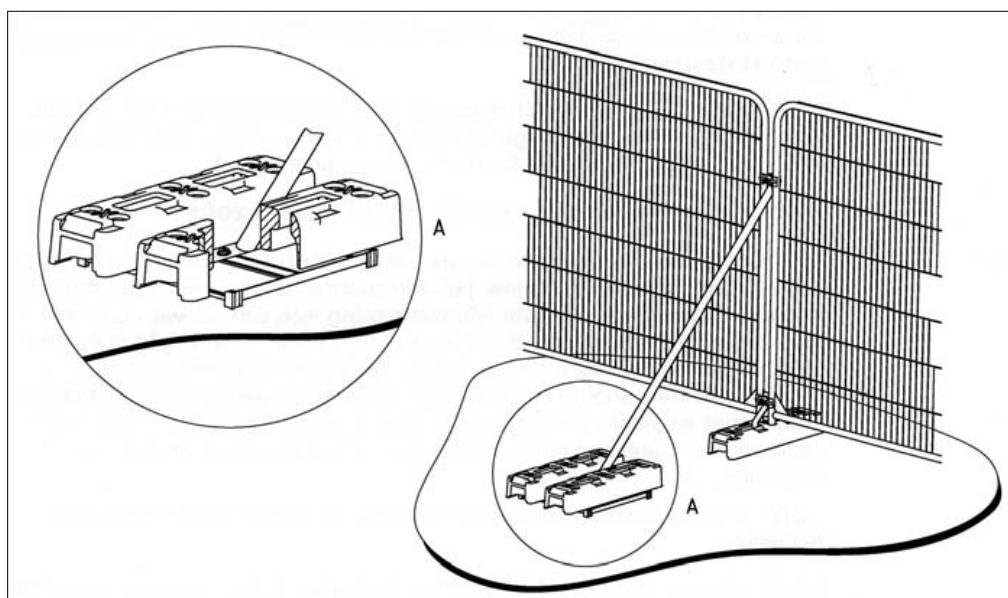


Figure D: Lightweight system using a stabiliser strut mounted on block tray.

4 Specification for Ground Protection

Ground protection will be required in order to minimise ground disturbance during the construction works. The information below specifies suitable ground protection requirements for this project.

Location

The location of necessary ground protection is shown as orange hatching on the tree protection plan.

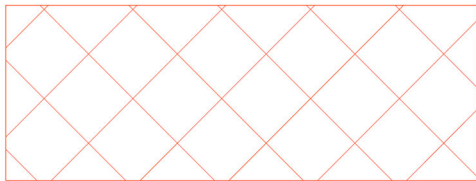


Figure E: An example of how ground protection is shown on the tree protection plan.

Installation

The ground protection must be installed before any heavy plant machinery is used on the site and remain in place until the construction works have been completed.

The ground protection should not be removed or altered without prior consultation with the project arboriculturist and, where necessary, approval from the local planning authority.

Removal

The ground protection measures may only be removed once construction activity has been completed.

Specification

The ground protection will comprise a 5-10cm layer of woodchip mulch covered with heavy-duty load-spreading boards ('TuffTrak' or similar); this is illustrated in Figure F.

Construction exclusion zone

The restrictions for this area are the same as those for the construction exclusion zone.



Figure F: An example of load-spreading boards and woodchip mulch used as ground protection.

5 General Method Statement for Effective Tree Protection

Retained trees are an important factor on construction sites, whether on or near the working areas. Guidance for the protection of trees during development projects is provided in BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

Trees are vulnerable to root damage caused by ground disturbance, direct injury of the trunk or branches, environmental change, pests, and diseases. Construction work often exerts pressures on existing trees, and a tree that has taken many decades to reach maturity can be damaged irreparably in a few minutes by unwitting or negligent actions.

For this project temporary fencing and ground protection will be used during construction to protect the retained trees at the site (see Section 3 & 4 for further guidance). These protected areas will be construction exclusion zones.

Soil compaction quickly occurs if vehicles pass over an area of soil. Compaction may cause reduced infiltration rates of water, poor drainage, reduced availability of water, and reduced air and oxygen supply to roots. This leads to reduced root growth and as a result the health of the tree is impacted. Therefore, to ensure that soil compaction is avoided, it is very important that no vehicles enter the fenced-off areas during construction operations.

All construction staff should be made aware of the following restrictions that apply to the construction exclusion zones:

No excavations	No excavations (including utility trenches) or raising of soil levels is permitted within the construction exclusion zones without written permission from the project arboriculturist.
No storage or mixing of materials	No materials of any kind are to be stored, dumped or discharged within the construction exclusion zones. Contaminants such as diesel oil, cement and bitumen must be stored at least 10m from any trees, with provision made for any spillage or run-off to be contained away from the protected area. Mixing of cement and concrete must also take place at least 10m from any trees, and over a suitable hard surface or bunded trap to prevent soil contamination from spillage or washing out.
No offices or welfare facilities	Site offices and staff welfare facilities must be located outside of the construction exclusion zones unless agreed with the local authority's arboricultural officer.
Avoid fires	Fires should be avoided; however, if permitted by the site manager, they must not be lit in a position where heat could affect foliage or branches (at least 15m from the base of a tree would normally be sufficient).
Tie branches back to prevent harm	Care must be taken when planning site operations to ensure that wide or tall loads, or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights, can operate without coming into contact with retained trees. Branches may be tied back so that they are out of the way if necessary.

6 Method Statement for Installing Cellular Confinement Systems

A new hard surface is proposed to support a new storage container and it is likely that the adjacent trees will be rooting beneath the area to be surfaced. A cellular confinement system will be used for the new surface because it's a 'no-dig' approach which removes the chances of damaging tree roots. This system also allows for permeability and reduces the bearing pressure on the subsoil which lessens the chances of damaging roots by soil compaction.

Location

The location the new no-dig surface is illustrated by the orange honeycomb pattern on the tree protection plan which accompanies this report.

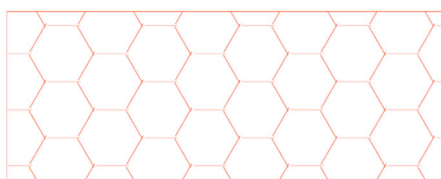


Figure G: An example of how the no-dig system is shown on the tree protection plan.

Specification

A 150mm thick geocell system is suggested at this stage but it is advised that the final specification is produced by an engineer.

Cellular confinement system providers include Greenfix, Wrekin ProtectaWeb and Core LP.

Materials

The following items will be needed for this project; however, the contractor will need to determine exact quantities. Depending on the needs of the contractor, additional materials may be required.

1. A 150mm thick cellular confinement system
2. Non-woven geotextile
3. 20-40mm clean angular stone with no fines
4. Timber 'peg & board' edging, timber sleepers or kerb stones
5. Suitable porous asphalt and decorative gravel

Ground preparation

A relatively even surface will be required before the surface is laid. The removal of up to 50mm of leaf litter, surface vegetation and rocks will first be required; any depressions may be filled with sharp sand or clean angular stone.

A mini digger may be used to remove the surface vegetation but it must not be allowed to pass over unprotected soil. If there is no alternative, then load spreading boards ('TuffTrak' or similar) may be laid over the surface to facilitate temporary access.

Surface edging

The trenching required for conventional kerb edging set in concrete is likely to result in damaged roots and should be avoided. Edging is not required for the cellular confinement system, but it will be required to retain the surface layer. Either kerb stones or timber sleepers set above ground level are advised. Alternatively, treated timber 'peg & board' edging may be used.

Installation summary

The first step is to lay a non-woven geotextile over the prepared ground. This is followed by the cellular confinement system which is then infilled with clean angular stone (4-20mm or preferably 20-40mm) and then settled by tracking the digger over the cells. A second geotextile layer is then laid down prior to the top dressing.

A wearing course of porous asphalt and gravel will be used for the final surfacing. It is fundamental that the final surfacing is a permeable finish.

A step-by-step guide for installing cellular confinement systems is listed on the next page.

6.1 Detailed procedure of installing the cellular confinement system

When it is time to install the cellular confinement system, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Ensure the necessary materials and equipment are on site and the arboriculturist is present to supervise the works;
2. Remove surface vegetation to level the ground, a mini-digger may be used but must be positioned beyond the root protection areas or over load-spreading boards;
3. Install the edging – this may be treated timber boards (min. 25mm thick), kerb stones or timber sleeper but they must be set above the existing ground level to avoid root damage;
4. Cover the whole area with a non-woven geotextile, ensuring sheets overlap by at least 30cm;
5. Expand the cellular confinement panels and pin the panels with staking pins to anchor open the cells and staple adjacent panels together to create a continuous mattress. Remove surplus cells using a sharp knife;
6. Fill the cells with clean angular stone 4-20mm with no fine material. Overfill the cells by 25mm to protect their upper edges from being bent out of shape. Construction vehicles may only track over cells that have already been stone-filled;
7. Settlement of the gravel should be with 4 passes of a smooth roller (max weight of 1,000kg/m width without vibration) or several passes with a mini-digger. Add further gravel to maintain 25mm excess above the upper edge of the cells;
8. Where porous asphalt is specified beneath the new container, lay the top dressing in the standard manner (see Figure H);
9. Where gravel is specified around the edge of the new container, lay a second geotextile over the surface with a stabilisation grid. Then infill with the finished gravel (see Figure I).
10. A layer of topsoil and may be applied between the new surface and the adjacent trees to create a new gradient. This new layer must be no deeper than 250mm.
11. Re-erect the tree protection fencing to include the 'Phase 2' section as illustrated on the tree protection plan.

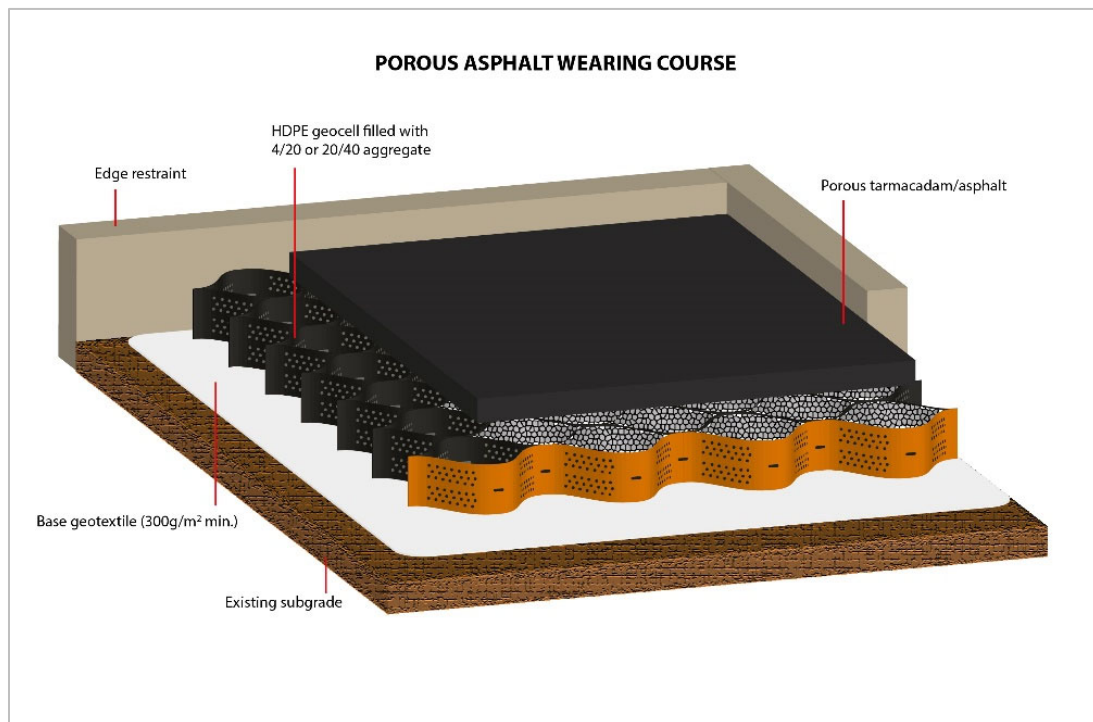


Figure H: *The centre of the new surface will be topped with porous asphalt.*

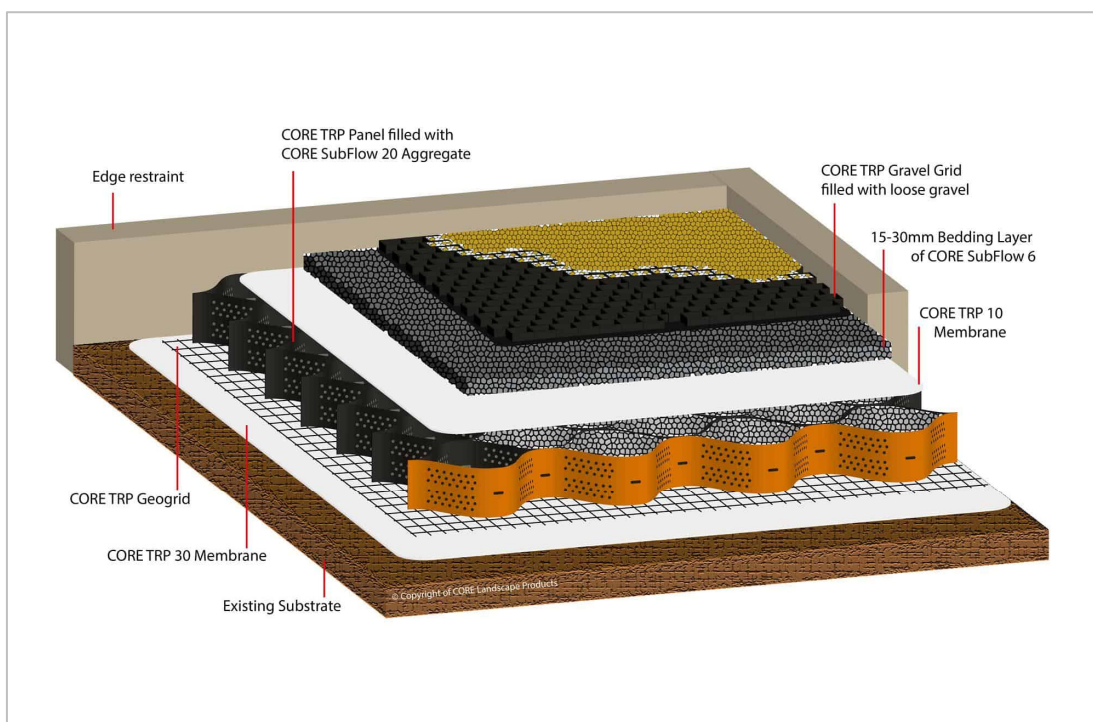


Figure I: *The edge of the new surface will be topped with gravel*

7 Method Statement for Landscaping Operations

When construction activity has been completed, it will be necessary to carry out soft landscaping works within the construction exclusion zones.

Final visit from the arboriculturist

At this time a final site visit from the project arboriculturist will be required to witness the tree protection fencing being removed, and during this visit the contractors will be briefed on how to carry out potentially damaging operations near trees. The supervising arboriculturist will make a record of this visit and make this available for the local authority tree officer.

Prohibited works

Although the fencing will no longer exclude access to the root protection areas, groundworks of any kind such as rotavating, trenching or altering ground levels will remain prohibited within the construction exclusion zones during the landscaping works (unless carried out under arboricultural supervision).

After the tree protection fencing has been taken down, vehicles must stick to designated transit routes. The tree protection plan should be used as a guide by the landscaping contractors to identify the sensitive areas.

New fencing

Where new fencing is specified within the root protection areas of retained trees, the excavation of fence postholes must be carried out using hand tools only, but a powered hand-held breaker may be used when large rocks or a bed of solid rock is encountered. Obviously, any roots encountered should be avoided and so there will need to be some flexibility in positioning fencing/fence posts. Where fences are installed within 1m of retained trees, posts must not be positioned adjacent to the tree base; instead, the panel should span the tree as illustrated in Figure J.

If any roots greater than 25mm diameter are uncovered whilst digging a posthole they will be retained intact, and the excavation backfilled. A second hole will be excavated closer to the previous post so that the root is avoided, and the fence panel will be cut shorter to marry up with the position of the post. Roots smaller than 25mm diameter may be pruned back using a sharp tool to make a clean cut (e.g. using secateurs) at the edge of the excavation.

A postcrete mix will be used to anchor the fence posts because it does not require machine mixing and once introduced to the posthole, it sets quickly so minimising the opportunities for the contamination of surrounding soil. One bag of postcrete per post is normally adequate

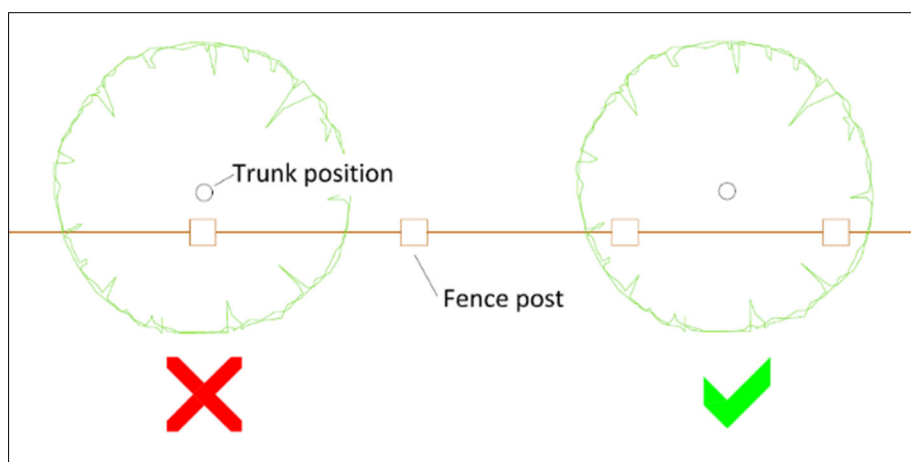


Figure J: An illustration of how fence posts should be positioned away from trees.

Agenda for Arboricultural Supervision	
Stage	Action
Pre- construction	A pre-commencement site visit from the project arboriculturist will be required to check the position of the tree protection measures and to discuss any potential conflicts to trees with the contractors.
During construction	Arboricultural supervision will be required to oversee the ground preparation in advance of laying the cellular confinement system. Further arboricultural supervision will be required if any unforeseen construction activity is to take place within the root protection area of any of the retained trees on or near the site. This supervision must be carried out by the project arboriculturist.
Post-construction	A final visit will be required at the end of the project when fencing is removed, and subsequent landscaping operations can be discussed.

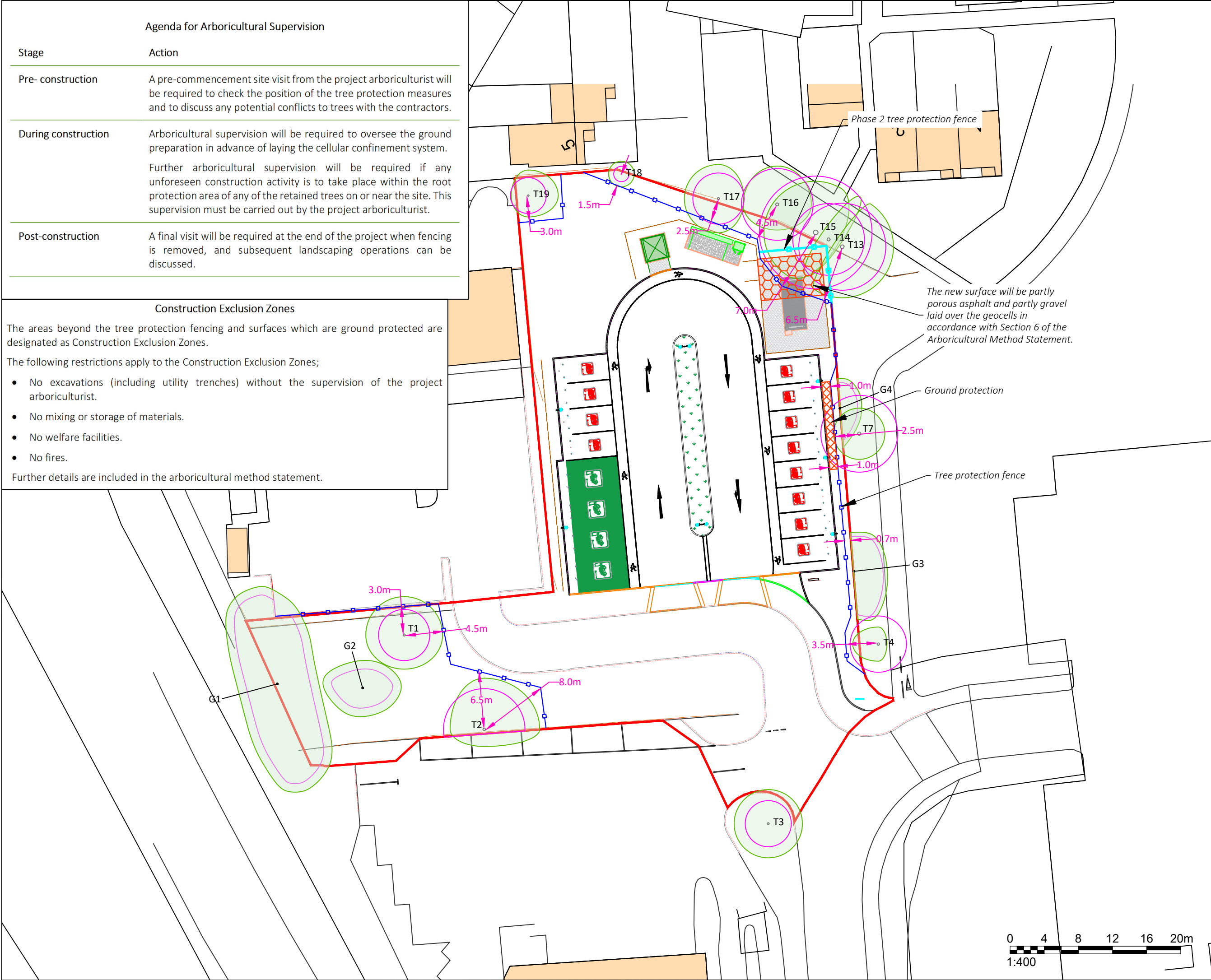
Construction Exclusion Zones

The areas beyond the tree protection fencing and surfaces which are ground protected are designated as Construction Exclusion Zones.

The following restrictions apply to the Construction Exclusion Zones;

- No excavations (including utility trenches) without the supervision of the project arboriculturist.
- No mixing or storage of materials.
- No welfare facilities.
- No fires.

Further details are included in the arboricultural method statement.



N

Key

Root Protection Area

Canopy spread

Trunk position

T1

Tree/Group number

Tree Protection Fence

Phase 2 Tree Protection Fence

Ground protection

Cellular confinement system

NBTREEMANAGEMENT

Arboricultural Consultancy

www.nbtreemanagement.co.uk

Tel: 07415 890038

Project Name:

Chippenham Hub

Drawing Title:

Tree Protection Plan

Drawing Number:

TPP-1

Revision

Client:

InstaVolt Ltd

Agent:

Lone Wolf Planning Ltd

Date:

19-9-2025

Scale:

1:400 @ A3