

Arboricultural Method Statement & Tree Protection Plan For construction works on land at The Brambles in Lye Green



On behalf of Mitchell Belk
The Brambles
102 Lye Green
Upper Westwood
Bradford-on-Avon
BA15 2DT

Inspected and Prepared by Nick Baxter BSc(Hons) MArborA
17th October 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 Mitchell Belk, to demolish the existing dwelling and to construct a new residential dwelling at the site.

This document accompanies an Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 17th October 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 two tasks during this project and an agenda for arboricultural supervision is also included on the tree protection plan. A record of each site visit will be made available to the planning case offer.

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 fencing and ground protection 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 removing the hard surfacing near T28. Follow Section 7 when laying the cellular confinement system - Arboricultural supervision will be required at this point. 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. 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.

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 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.

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.

Since this is a relatively small and short-term project it will not be necessary to install metal fencing supported by a scaffold framework (as detailed in Figure 2 of BS5837). Instead, it is proposed that standard Heras panels are used with a stabiliser strut secured by a ground pin. Alternatively, the panels may be secured with a construction pin through the rubber feet.

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.

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 is to take place within a construction exclusion zone. This supervision must be carried out by a suitably qualified arboriculturist.



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

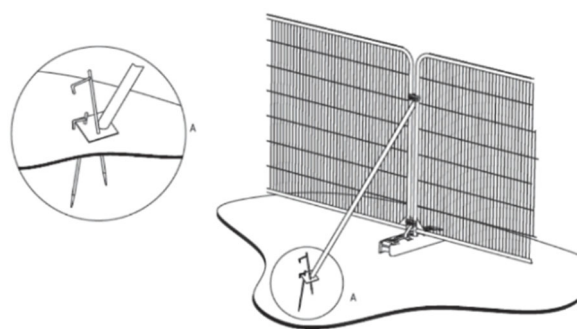


Figure B: Appropriate tree protection fencing for this project.

4 Specification for Ground Protection

The new dwelling will be close to retained trees so ground protection will be required to allow for staff access and scaffolding around the edge of the new dwelling whilst it is being built. 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.

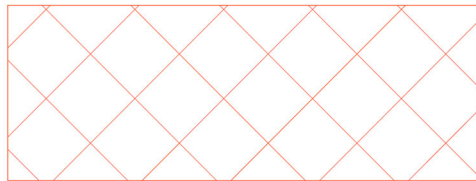


Figure C: An example of how ground protection is shown on the tree protection plan.

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) and pinned into place to avoid displacement; this is illustrated in Figure D. Alternatively, in areas where scaffolding is required, a low-level scaffold walkway may be installed just above ground level.

Construction exclusion zone

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



Figure D: An example of load-spreading boards to be 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 demolition and construction to protect the retained trees at the site (see Section 3 & 4 for further guidance). **These protected areas will be construction exclusion zones.**

The existing tarmac driveway between the existing dwelling and T28 will not be fenced off from construction activities because it is already a hard surface. A large section of this area is within root protection area of the adjacent tree (T28) so the RPA is designated as a **Precautionary Zone**.

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

No excavations	No excavations (including utility trenches) or raising of soil levels is permitted within the construction exclusion zones or precautionary zone 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 areas. 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 Removing Existing Hard Surfacing Near Trees

The proposal includes the removal of an area of block paving and tarmac surface so it can be reverted to a soft landscape space. Given the proximity of one tree, there is a chance that some tree roots could be beneath the hard surface and so care will need to be taken when it is removed. In order to minimise the impacts on the adjacent tree, the removal of the existing tarmac surface must be carried out in accordance with the method statement detailed below.

Location

The location of where special measures will need to take place are indicated by blue hatching on the tree protection plan.

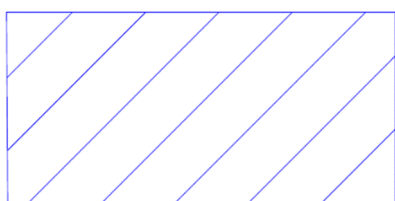


Figure E: An example of the hatching used to indicate the location of the special measures required on the tree protection plan.

Use of hand tools

In the areas immediately adjacent to the trees only hand tools should be used to remove the hard surface, taking care not to damage any roots that may be beneath or beyond the edge of the surface. Workers should be mindful that the roots are likely to be extending in a straight line from the trunk and so they should try and face the tree when using a pickaxe. Obviously, any roots encountered should be avoided and worked around.

Use of machinery

Tracked vehicles may be used to remove the hard surface if it is too difficult to remove with hand tools, but they must always be positioned on top of current hard-standing. If tracked vehicles are used then extra care must be taken not to disturb the soil with the bucket, as this will damage the roots beneath.

Temporary ground protection

If the ground is left exposed for more than 12 hours, damp hessian should be used to wrap any exposed roots. Ground protection should also be laid (see Section 4) over this area until the new surface is laid.

Summary of works

When it is time to remove the hard surfacing from the area indicated on the tree protection plan, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Mark out on the ground the areas of hard surfacing that can be removed mechanically.
2. Remove the hard surface trees taking care not to disturb the roots and soil beneath (no construction traffic may pass over the exposed ground before the new surface is laid).
3. Apply a layer of topsoil over the newly exposed ground as soon as it has been uncovered. This layer of topsoil must not be deeper than 250mm.

7 Method Statement for Installing Cellular Confinement Systems

A new driveway is proposed and it is likely that an adjacent tree will currently 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.

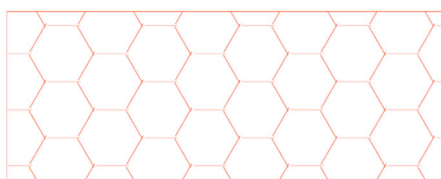


Figure F: An example of how the no-dig system is shown on the tree protection plan.

Specification

A 100mm 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 needed:

1. A 100mm thick cellular confinement system
2. Non-woven geotextile
3. 20-40mm clean angular stone with no fines
4. Timber 'peg & board' edging or timber sleepers
5. Stabilisation grid
6. Suitable 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, existing stone 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 within the RPA. 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 timber sleepers set above ground level or treated timber 'peg & board' edging are advised.

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 decorative gravel laid in a stabilisation grid be suitable for the final surfacing.

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

7.1 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 that all of the necessary materials & equipment are on site and the arboriculturist is present to supervise the works;
2. Remove the surface vegetation and any existing hard surfacing to create an even surface. A mini-digger with a grading bucket may be used to remove the very top layer of vegetation but it must be positioned beyond the RPA as identified on the tree protection plan;
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 to their full length. 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. The expanded panels shall be infilled with clean angular stone 4-20mm with no fine material. The cells need to be overfilled 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. Once the gravel has settled, more may be added to maintain 25mm excess above the upper edge of the cells;
8. Lay a second geotextile over the whole of the surface. Then lay the permeable bedding layer and install the gravel in a stabilisation grid in the standard manner;
9. A layer of topsoil and may be applied between the new surface and the adjacent tree to create a new gradient. This new layer must be no deeper than 250mm.
10. Re-erect the tree protection fencing to the 'Phase 2' position as shown by the green polyline on the tree protection plan.

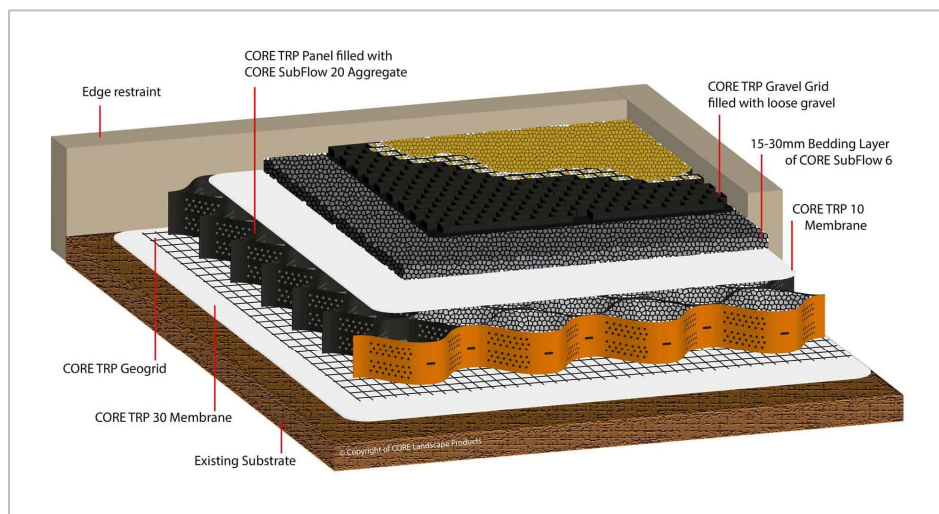


Figure G: The new surface will be topped with gravel in a separate stabilisation grid.

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 again 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.

Construction Exclusion Zones

The areas beyond the tree protection fencing and surfaces which are ground protected are designated as 'Construction Exclusion Zones'. The existing hard surfacing within the Root Protection Area of T28 is a 'Precautionary Zone'.

The following restrictions apply to the Construction Exclusion Zones and Precautionary Zone;

- 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.

The following restrictions apply to the Construction Exclusion Zones and Precautionary Zone;

- Further details are included in the arboricultural method statement.



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