

Arboricultural Method Statement & Tree Protection Plan For construction works at Langfords Car Spares in Shaftesbury



On behalf of Karl Langford
Langfords Car Spares
Semley
Shaftesbury
Wiltshire
SP7 9AQ

Inspected and Prepared by Nick Baxter BSc(Hons) MArborA
4th February 2026

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

Site manager: Karl Langford

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 Karl Langford, for constructing a new self-storage facility at the site.

This document accompanies an Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 4th February 2026.

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 as specified in Section 3 of this document and as illustrated on the tree protection plan (TPP-1A). 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 to discuss any potential conflicts with trees with the contractors.
During construction	Always follow the restrictions and protocol in Section 4. Follow Section 5 when installing the drainage features near T13 - Arboricultural supervision will be required at this point. Follow Section 6 when installing the new security fence near T9 & T30. 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. Soft landscaping to be carried out and new trees to be planted. 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. There are two sections of fencing that will not be necessary if the proposed security fence has already been installed (noted on the tree protection plan). This is because the security fence will be more than adequate for tree protection during construction activity.

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 in 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.

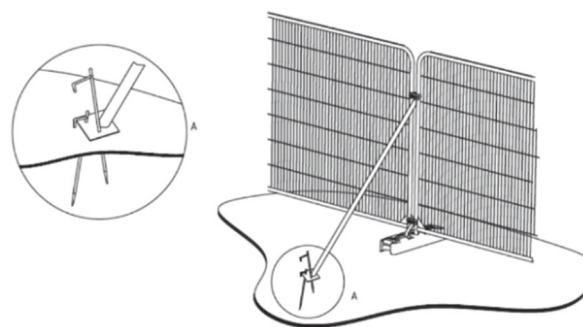


Figure B: Appropriate tree protection fencing for this project.

4 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 will be used during construction to protect the retained trees at the site (see Section 3 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.

5 Method Statement for Excavations to Facilitate New Drainage Features

For this project an existing drainage chamber will need to be replaced, and a new drainpipe will need to be installed to the same chamber. Given the proximity of a mature oak tree (T13) there are likely to be some tree roots within the areas to be excavated and so the excavations will be excavated using a mix of hand tools and small machine in accordance with the method statement below. Supervision from the project arboriculturist will be required during the excavations works to ensure this method statement is followed appropriately.

Location

The location of the replacement chamber and new drainage route is indicated on the tree protection plan.

Soil excavations

Hand tools should be used to excavate the existing chamber but if hand tools are not realistic due to the required depth of the excavation then a mini digger may be used. If a mini digger is used, it must be a small machine and should use a narrow grading bucket. It must also be positioned on the existing hard standing or load spreading boards if required when working over the root protection areas. To avoid damaging roots, the excavation must be at a reduced speed and excavate just a small amount of soil with each dig.

If roots greater than 25mm in diameter are found, a hand spade should be used to excavate around the root so it can be retained.

Root pruning

During the excavations, roots smaller than 25mm in diameter may be pruned back using a sharp tool to make a clean cut (e.g., using secateurs) at the edge of the excavation.

If roots greater than 25mm diameter are encountered, they will be retained, and the service pipes will be laid in smaller sections where necessary. As soon as roots greater than 25mm in diameter are exposed, they will be wrapped with a layer of damp rough hessian fabric which will be kept moist to prevent them from drying out.

Backfilling

Once the chamber and new drain have been installed, the excavations will be backfilled as soon as possible with a good quality topsoil compliant with the British Standard for topsoil (BS3882:2015) and the hessian will be removed from retained roots.

The soil will be returned around the roots using hand tools only, ensuring that no spaces or voids are present around the roots. Compaction of soil around the retained roots will be carried out using foot pressure only and not by mechanical means.

6 Method Statement for Installing Security Fencing near Trees

A new security fence has been specified around the edge of the new site. There are two mature trees (T9 & T30) located close to the new fence, and these could potentially be damaged if standard procedures for fence installation were used. The fencing will be installed in accordance with this arboricultural method statement to minimise potential harm to adjacent trees.

Location

The location of the new security fencing is indicated by the thick orange line on the tree protection plan which accompanies this report.

Specification

Standard 2.4m high twin mesh fencing will be used and so in most cases post holes will be required at 2.5m intervals.

Post hole excavation

Only hand tools will be used to excavate the fence post holes in the root protection area of both trees at the site. This is because a digger cannot be as easily controlled and so root damage is more likely to occur. Where solid rock is present, a powered hand-held breaker may be used because they are relatively small tools so any significant tree roots uncovered may still be avoided.

Workers should be mindful that the roots are likely to be extending in a straight line from the trunk of any of the adjacent trees. Obviously, any roots encountered must be avoided and so there will need to be some flexibility in positioning fencing/fence posts.

Root pruning

If any roots greater than 25mm diameter are uncovered whilst digging a post hole they must 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.

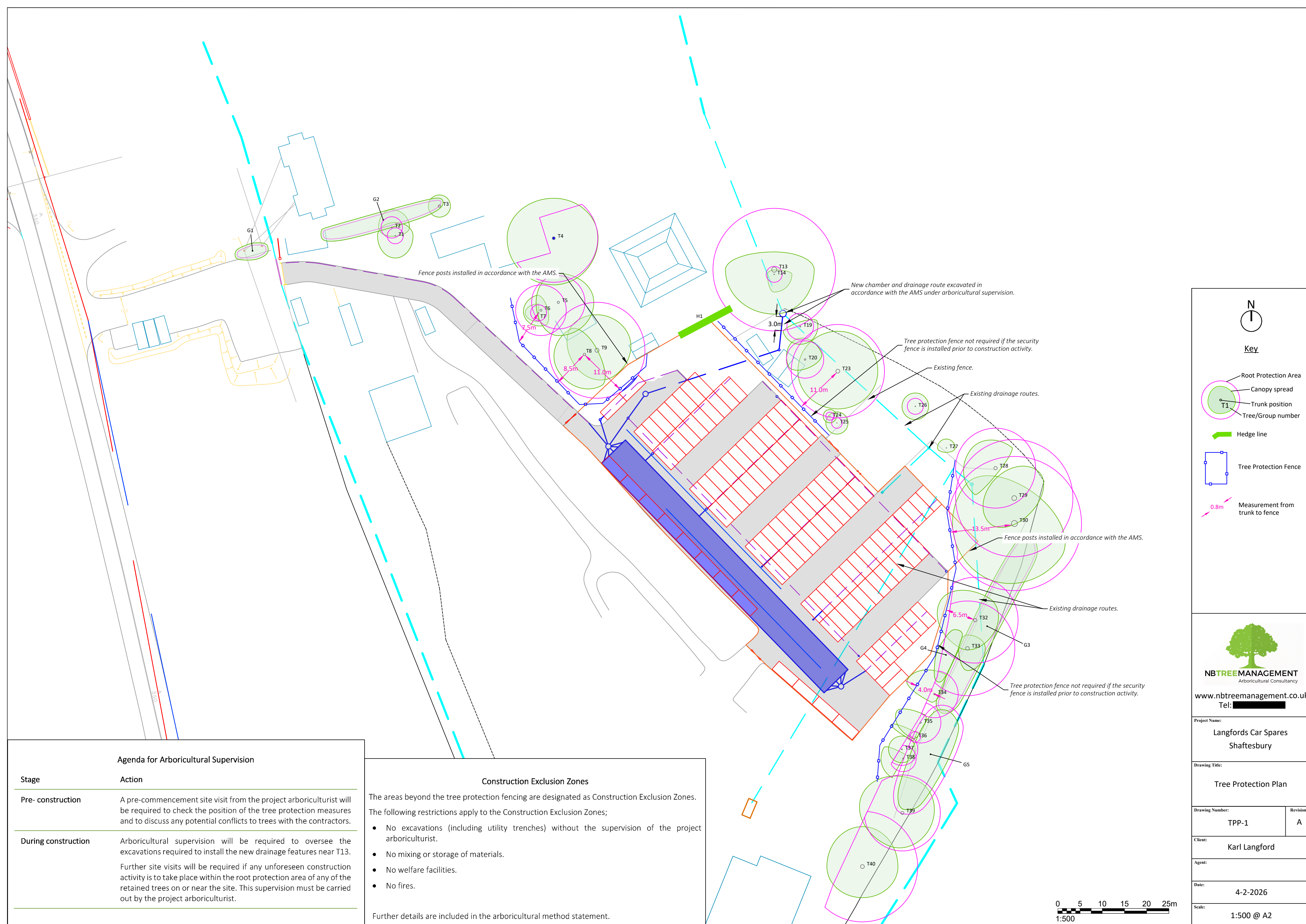
Fixing the posts

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

Summary of works

When it is time to install the close-boarded fence in any of the root protection areas of the trees, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Ensure that the contractors understand the approach detailed in this method statement.
2. Excavate the post holes using hand tools, taking care to avoid any tree roots encountered. Keep the size of the holes to a minimum.
3. Position and level the post as required and fix in place using postcrete.
4. Install the fence panels in the standard manner.



N

Key

Root Protection Area

Canopy spread

Trunk position

Tree/Group number

Hedge line

Tree Protection Fence

Measurement from trunk to fence



NBTreeManagement

Arboricultural Consultancy

www.nbtreemanagement.co.uk

Tel: [REDACTED]

Project Name:

Langfords Car Spares
Shaftesbury

Drawing Title:

Tree Protection Plan

Drawing Number:

TPP-1

Revision

A

Client:

Karl Langford

Agent:

Date:

4-2-2026

Scale:

1:500 @ A2

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 excavations required to install the new drainage features near T13. Further site visits 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 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.