

Arboricultural Method Statement & Tree Protection Plan

For construction works at Fairfield in Winterbourne Earls



On behalf of Simon & Hannah Dreyer
Fairfield
Main Road
Winterbourne Earls
Salisbury
SP4 6HJ

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Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Background information.....	1
2	Method Statement Timeline.....	1
3	Specification for Tree Protection Fencing	2
4	Specification for Ground Protection	4
5	General Method Statement for Effective Tree Protection.....	5
6	Method Statement for Removing Existing Hard Surfacing Near Trees.....	6
7	Method Statement for Soil Excavations Near Trees.....	7
8	Method Statement for Installing Screw Pile Foundations Near Trees	8
9	Tree Protection Plan.....	9

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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 Simon & Hannah Dreyer, for constructing a new boundary wall and altering the vehicle entrances at the site.

This document accompanies an Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 5th June 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 and ground protection as specified in Section 3 & 4 of this document and as illustrated on the tree protection plan (TPP-1A). Inform the local planning authority two weeks in advance of starting construction that the protective measures have been erected. Photos can be used as proof. Alternatively, employ an arboricultural consultant to check the fencing and produce a record to notify the LPA.
During construction	Always follow the restrictions and protocol in Section 5. Follow Section 6 when removing the hard surfacing at the southern site entrance - Arboricultural supervision will be required at this point. Follow Section 7 when widening the northern site entrance - Arboricultural supervision will be required at this point. Follow Section 8 when installing the screw piles.
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 two suitable fencing requirements for this project.

Location

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

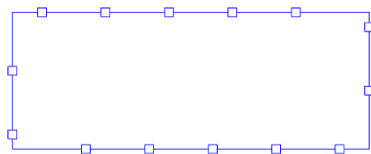


Figure A: How Type 1 tree protective fencing is shown on the tree protection plan.

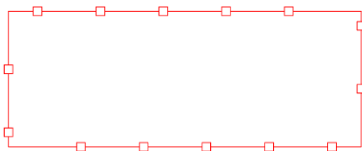


Figure B: How Type 2 tree protective fencing is shown on the tree protection plan.

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.

For this project given some trees are at further distances from the proposed works than others, two types of fencing are proposed.

Type 1 will be standard Heras panels used supported by a stabiliser strut secured by a block tray (see Figure D). Alternatively, the panels may be secured with a construction pin through the rubber feet. Where these fence panels can't be installed due to space restrictions, Type 2 may be used.

Type 2 will be chestnut pale fencing, wire stock fencing or orange plastic barrier fencing. In general, fences of this nature are 1.2-2m high, and they can be installed with construction pins or timber posts that are hammered into the ground (see Figure E).

Notices

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.



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

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.

Removal

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

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.

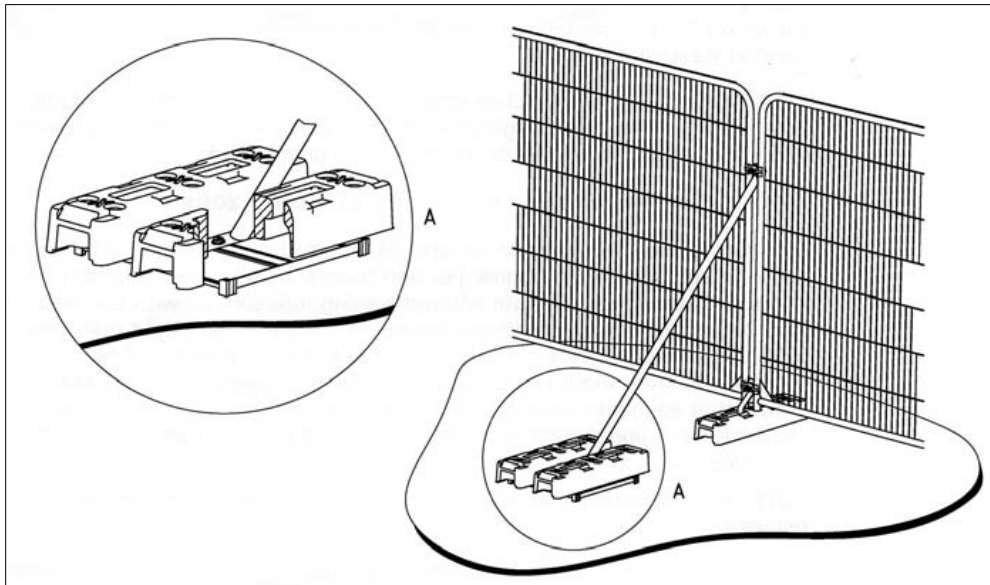


Figure D: *Tree protection fencing supported by a stabiliser strut mounted on block tray (Type 1).*



Figure E: *Lightweight fencing (Type 2).*

4 Specification for Ground Protection

Ground protection will be required 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 F: *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 of heavy- duty load-spreading boards ('TuffTrak' or thick plywood sheets); this is illustrated in Figure G.

Construction exclusion zone

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



Figure G: *An example of load-spreading boards used as ground protection.*

5 General Method Statement for Effective Tree Protection

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. The roadside verge cannot realistically be protected but it will still have the same restrictions as a construction exclusion zone.

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 & roadside verge.

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

The proposal includes the removal of a tarmac drive and the adjacent brick walls to be reverted to a soft landscape space. There are likely to be some tree roots beneath the hard surfacing and so care will need to be taken when it is removed. The removal of the hard surfacing must be carried out in accordance with the method statement detailed below.

Supervision from the project arboriculturist will be required during the excavation to ensure this method statement is followed appropriately. A photographic record of this visit will be made available to the planning case officer.

Location

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

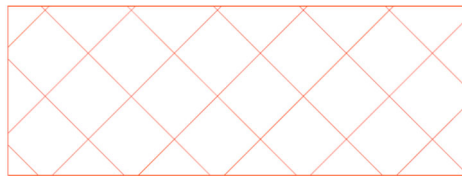


Figure H: *An example of the hatching used to indicate the location of the special measures required on the tree protection plan.*

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 surfacing if it is too difficult to remove with hand tools, but they must always be positioned on top of current hard-standing or beyond the root protection areas of adjacent trees. 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. If access is required, ground protection should also be laid over this area until the new surface is laid (see Section 4).

Summary of works

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

1. Ensure the project arboriculturist is present to oversee the works.
2. Mark out on the ground the areas of tarmac that can be removed mechanically.
3. Remove tarmac, kerbstones and brick walls near 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).
4. 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.
5. Sprinkle grass seed or roll turf over the area and water generously.

7 Method Statement for Soil Excavations Near Trees

For this project the northern entrance will be widened to facilitate safe turning and visibility splays. There are likely to be some tree roots in the area to be excavated and so it must be excavated using in accordance with the method statement below.

Location

The location of the excavations are shown on the Tree Protection Plan (TPP-1A) at the rear of this report.

Arboricultural site visit

A site visit will be required from the project arboriculturist to oversee the excavations. A record of this visit will be made available to the planning case officer.

Rationale

The excavation will be within the rooting areas of two mature trees. The primary cause of harm is severance that results in a shattered root end. Shattered root ends take much longer to heal and exposes the roots to entry of decay pathogens. These works aim to minimise the wound size to enable them to heal as quickly as possible.

Works methodology

The following procedure must be followed when carrying out this excavation;

1. Ensure the project arboriculturist is on site to over see the excavation and prune any exposed roots.
2. Use line marker spray paint to mark ground the closest excavation to the tree.
3. A machine may be used to remove the initial mass of the soil bank but only hand tools may be used to excavate the final layers. This is because a digger cannot always be as easily controlled and so root damage would be more likely to occur.
4. Where roots are encountered, they be may be severed using a sharp tool to make a clean cut (e.g., using secateurs) at the edge of the excavation.
5. The cut ends of roots shall be covered back over with a layer of topsoil once they have been severed. If left exposed for more than 12 hours, they must be covered with damp hessian.

8 Method Statement for Installing Screw Pile Foundations Near Trees

The new boundary wall will be within the root zone of numerous retained trees and in order to minimise the risk of root damage, screw piles are to be used for the foundations. The piles come with fixing plates to which the suspended concrete beams can be fitted just above ground level.

A detailed methodology for installing the screw piles will be dictated by the provider. However, the following principles of installation will be followed:

1. If the screw piles are installed using machinery powered by air compressors, the air compressors must be located on existing hardstanding or ground protection;
2. If a piling rig is required it must be a small machine that can operate beneath the canopy of the trees;
3. Once the piled foundations have been installed, the remaining works can be carried out manually;
4. No further groundwork is permitted without written permission from the Wiltshire Council tree officer.

Arboricultural Supervision

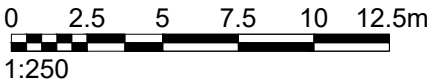
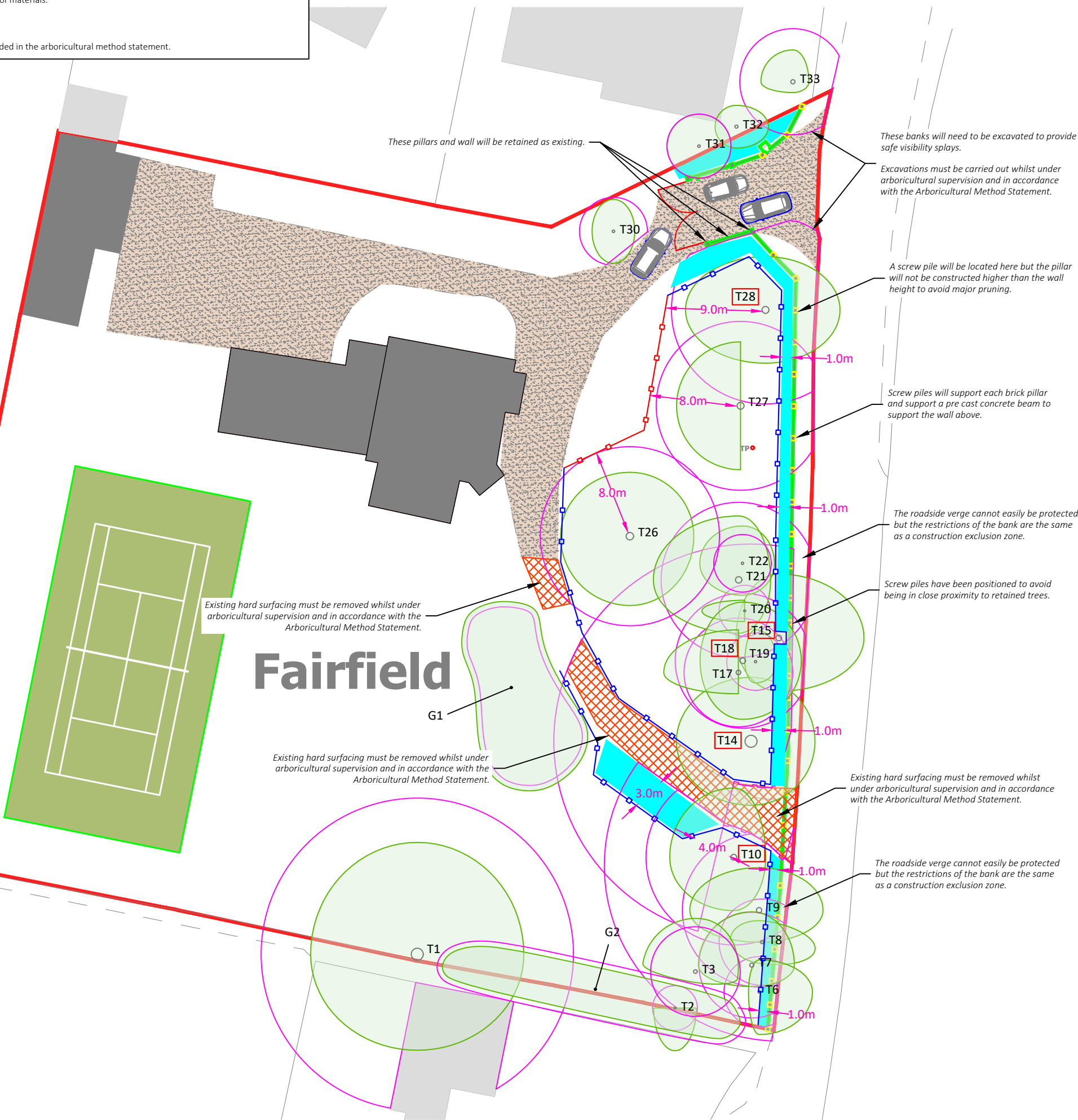
A site visit from the project arboriculturist will be required to oversee the removal of hard surfacing near trees at the southern entrance and for the excavation of both banks at the northern entrance. Further supervision will be required if any unforeseen construction activity is to take place within the root protection area of any of the retained trees on or near the site.

Construction Exclusion Zones & Roadside Verge

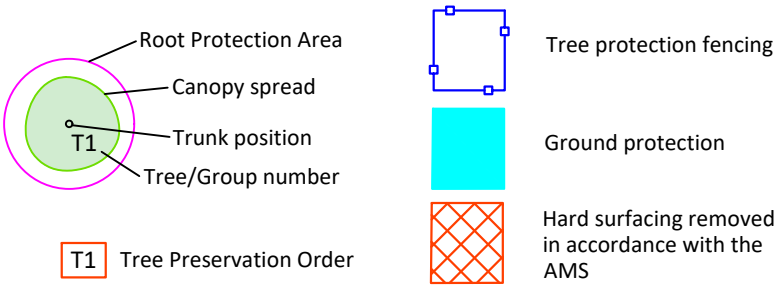
The areas beyond the tree protection fencing and surfaces which are ground protected are designated as Construction Exclusion Zones.
The roadside verge cannot be realistically be protected but it will still have the same restrictions as a construction exclusion zone.

The following restrictions apply to the Construction Exclusion Zones and exposed roadside verge;

- 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.



Key



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Project Name:
**Fairfield
Winterbourne Earls**

Drawing Title:
Tree Protection Plan

Drawing Number:
TPP-1

Revision
A

Client:
Simon & Hannah Dreyer

Agent:
Eston Architecture

Date:
5-6-2026

Scale:
1:250 @ A3