

Elm Grove, Trowbridge (Phase 2): Arboricultural method statement

Prepared for:	Redrow Homes
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Revision table:

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D21 87 02 Phase 2	June 2026	Draft
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Appendices

Tree Protection Plans (TPP) Ref; D21 87 P2 Rev A or as revised

Operations

This method statement refers to, and should be read in conjunction with, the appended TPP and has been drawn up to detail how the following operations are to be undertaken.

- 1 Tree work
- 2 Installation of tree protection barrier
- 3 Site monitoring
- 4 Specific Arboricultural Issues
 - 4.1 Drynham Lane
 - 4.2 Link to off-site park
 - 4.3 T359
- 5 Landscaping works within RPAs
- 6 Location of site facilities
- 7 Location of service runs and other infrastructure supplies.
- 8 Order of operations
- 9 General procedures

Background

Wiltshire Council has granted planning consent for residential development of the Elmgrove site, over a number of phases. This Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) and the appended TPP have been prepared to discharge a planning condition placed on the consent. The condition requires that an AMS should be produced for each phase of the development detailing the steps to be taken to allow the trees and hedges indicated on the TPP to be retained and protected through the development of that phase.



Implementation of the AMS and adherence to the TPP will ensure that the retained trees and hedges are protected during the development and can continue to thrive.

BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' (BS 5837) requires that retained trees should be protected during development by observing sacrosanct, 'no-go' Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZs). CEZs are observed during development so that underlying roots of the retained trees and hedges are offered a degree of protection from construction and development activity. Protecting the roots will ensure that trees can be retained to form continuing features of the local landscape. The CEZs are marked by tree protection barriers and hedge protection fences, indicated on the TPP.

BS 5837 stipulates that an experienced arboricultural consultant should carry out the arboricultural process outlined in the standard.

Section 5.3 of the standard suggests that the arboricultural consultant may, using their experience and knowledge of tree morphology, alter the shape (but not the area) of the Root Protection Area (RPA) to allow construction to take place inside the RPA, as long as the incursion can be mitigated elsewhere within the contiguous CEZ. The Standard allows RPAs, in certain instances, to be used for other light activities such as private driveways and paths but stipulates that any such activity can only proceed if it can be shown that there will be no significant detrimental effect to the retained trees or their root systems.

1 Tree work

1.1 Before the start of the approved demolition, groundwork or construction activities, the trees and hedges outlined in red on the TPP will be felled or cleared as required to facilitate the proposed development.

1.2 Where necessary trees will be dismantled in sections to avoid damaging any adjacent retained trees. Stumps of felled trees that are located outside the CEZs or away from retained hedges/vegetation may be removed by excavation. Any tree stumps that are located within CEZs or immediately adjacent to retained hedges/vegetation will be removed by the use of a stump grinder to ensure that there is no unnecessary ground disturbance.

2 Installation of tree protection barriers and hedge protection fences

2.1 Before the start of any demolition, groundwork, or construction activity on the site, the specified protection barriers and fences will be erected to protect the retained trees and hedges to establish the CEZs.



2.2 No materials will be stored within the CEZs, and no fires will be lit or other activities undertaken that could be harmful or injurious to the trees or their root systems. All-weather notices will be placed on the barriers prohibiting either vehicular or pedestrian access into the enclosed area.

2.3 The barriers and fences will be inspected regularly during the development to ensure that they remain fit for purpose. Any damage will be corrected immediately.

3 Site monitoring

3.1 The project arboricultural consultant will visit the site regularly throughout the development to monitor the tree protection arrangements and ensure that they are maintained in accordance with the TPP and this method statement. Confirmation of the visit and any findings will be completed for each site visit to record any defects in the tree protection barrier and/or any issues with the potential to be detrimental to the retained trees. Any necessary remedial action will then be taken to ensure the tree protection arrangements remain effective. Confirmation of the visits will be forwarded to the LPA Arboricultural Officer and both the site and technical teams. The frequency of the site inspections made during the development will be influenced by the intensity and location of the construction activities but will normally be monthly unless it is deemed necessary that they should be more frequent. If the frequency of the monitoring visits is to reduce, this will be recorded in the previous site visit's confirmation.

3.2 A site meeting will be held as soon as this AMS has been approved, attended by at least the site manager and the project arboricultural consultant. The tree protection arrangements outlined in the TPPs and this method statement will be fully discussed, so that all aspects of their implementation and sequencing are made clear to all parties. The outcomes of the meeting will be confirmed in as per S. 3.1 (above).

4 Specific Arboricultural Issues

4.1 **Drynham Lane.** Drynham Lane runs around the outside of and/or crosses through all of the different phases of the development, it is currently a small rural lane with hedges on either side. As part of the provisions for the wider development, sections of the lane are due to be closed to vehicle traffic and the 'live' lane diverted via the revised road network through phase 3. The lane is due to be improved and will largely become a footpath and cycle track rather than a vehicle route.



4.1.1 The section of Drynham Lane that forms the southern boundary of Phase 2 is being assumed into the built form for phases 1 and 2. The existing hedges are due to be removed and will be replaced within the revised landscape scheme for the wider development.

4.1.2 The section of the lane that forms the south-east boundary of Phase 2 will become a footway/cycle way, closed to vehicles. The lane surface will be improved/replaced as part of the general neighbourhood improvements. The hedges will be pruned/cut back as needed to deliver the improvements to highways requirements.

4.2 **Link to off-site park.** Also, as part of the general neighbourhood improvements, a new footpath link will be formed across the north-west boundary of Phase 2, linking with the adjacent existing public park.

4.2.1 The layout currently indicates that the link will run diagonally from the park across the dense hedge to Phase 2. Following the indicated route, the path will have a significant impact on the retained trees and will also need to cross a pond/flooded section of the ditch with a bridge or raised duck boards. It is hoped that the final route of the link can be rationalised as part of the detailed design and follow an alternative route, slightly to the north of the indicated route, that will not be so impactful on retained trees and habitats.

4.2.2 The tree protection arrangements for the final link route will be confirmed prior to work starting.

4.3 **T359.** The mature ash on Drynham Lane, T359, has been previously reduced and is not in the best condition, due to early Ash Die Back (ADB) infection. While its expected safe life expectancy will be compromised, the tree is a feature of the Drynham Lane street scene that can be retained till the ADB advances further.

4.3.1 The layout indicates that there are footpaths located inside the boundary. The engineering details also show that the existing ditch that forms the northern boundary of Phase 2 will need to be incorporated into the revised storm water management system, with a new headwall. While there will, inevitably be some disturbance to the tree, the tree should be able to be safely retain for a period.



4.3.2 The new footpaths are located below the tree's canopy and some crown reduction or crown lifting may be necessary to deliver the proposals.

5 Landscaping works within RPAs

5.1 On completion of the construction works the tree protection barriers can be removed to give access for any landscaping works that are due to be carried out within the RPAs. The extent of the works within the RPAs will be agreed with the project arboriculturist.

5.2 Any significant lumps or hollows in the ground surface may be regularised using hand tools and dressed with good quality topsoil to comply with BS 3882.

5.3 Once agreed the landscaping may be undertaken but care must be taken to ensure that the works do not cause any damage to the existing trees. When carrying out the landscaping works within the RPAs the following points shall be observed:

- Ground levels will not be altered
- No heavy plant or machinery such as tractors shall enter the RPAs
- No fuels or chemicals shall be brought into or stored within these areas.

6 Location of site facilities

6.1 At the time of initial preparation, the location of the site facilities, including offices, welfare facilities, car parking and materials storage has not been decided. However, it has been confirmed that all the facilities will be located away from the indicated tree and hedge protection arrangements, so that there is no impact on retained trees and hedges.

7 Location of service runs and other infrastructure supplies.

7.1 The appended TPPs include the final drainage strategy. All the private storm water and foul drains to each of the plots will be located below the various roads, drives and paths, so that there will be no additional disturbance to retained trees and hedges.

7.2 The various services and infrastructure supplies will also be routed below the roads, drives and paths, so that there will be no additional disturbance to retained trees and hedges.



8 Order of operations

The work detailed in this method statement will be undertaken in the following order:

1. Tree and vegetation clearance/management work
2. Erection of tree protection barriers and hedge protection fences
3. Pre-commencement site meeting
4. Ground works & construction activity, including the installation of the service supplies and roads and footpaths.
5. Completion of final landscape works, and removal of tree protection fences and barriers.

9 General procedures

Once sanctioned by the LPA, this method statement should be regarded as an approved procedure. Any variation of the details specified will need further sanction and work will need to be halted until further approval has been granted.

Any and all contractors working on the operations covered by this method statement must research, supply and adhere to their own risk assessments and working method statements. JP Associates and its instructing client, Redrow Homes, cannot be held liable for any accident, injury or other incident that may occur in carrying out the operations described in this method statement.



ATTENTION:
IMPORTANT INFORMATION- READ CAREFULLY

Failure to properly implement and adhere to the tree protection measures outlined on this plan may constitute a breach of the planning conditions, this may lead to the LPA taking official enforcement action. If non implementation of tree protection measures results in damage, including root damage by compaction or severance, or the death of legally protected trees, this may constitute a CRIMINAL OFFENCE and result in prosecution.

Tree Protection Notes :

Tree protection barriers & hedge protection fences shall be erected prior to any demolition, development or ground works taking place on the site. They shall form sacrosanct construction exclusion zones (CEZs) & shall be kept clear of construction activity, material storage and fires, no excavations shall take place within the CEZs.

No topsoil stripping shall take place within the CEZs or prior to the erection of the protective barriers & fences

The protection barriers & fences shall remain in place until completion of construction & shall only be removed as part of the final landscape works.

The protection fences shall be regularly inspected to ensure they remain effective and any defects shall be rectified immediately.

In the interests of safety mature trees shall be inspected annually or after periods of high winds.

POS (Phase 5)

Please Note:
Details of the connection from the POS to Phase 2 is subject to final design & confirmation

