

Arboricultural Method Statement & Tree Protection Plan

For construction works at The Old Paddock on Manor Farm in Winsley



On behalf of Mr & Mrs T Tomkins
Manor Farm House
Winsley
Wiltshire
BA15 2LN

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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 Mr & Mrs Tomkins, for constructing self-build dwelling at The Old Paddock on Manor Farm in Winsley (BA15 2LN).

This document accompanies an Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 27th August 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 three 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-1B). 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 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 (see Section 7). 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.

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.

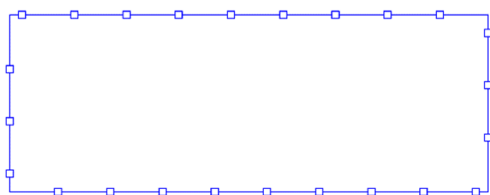


Figure A: An example of how tree protective fencing is shown on the tree protection plan.

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.

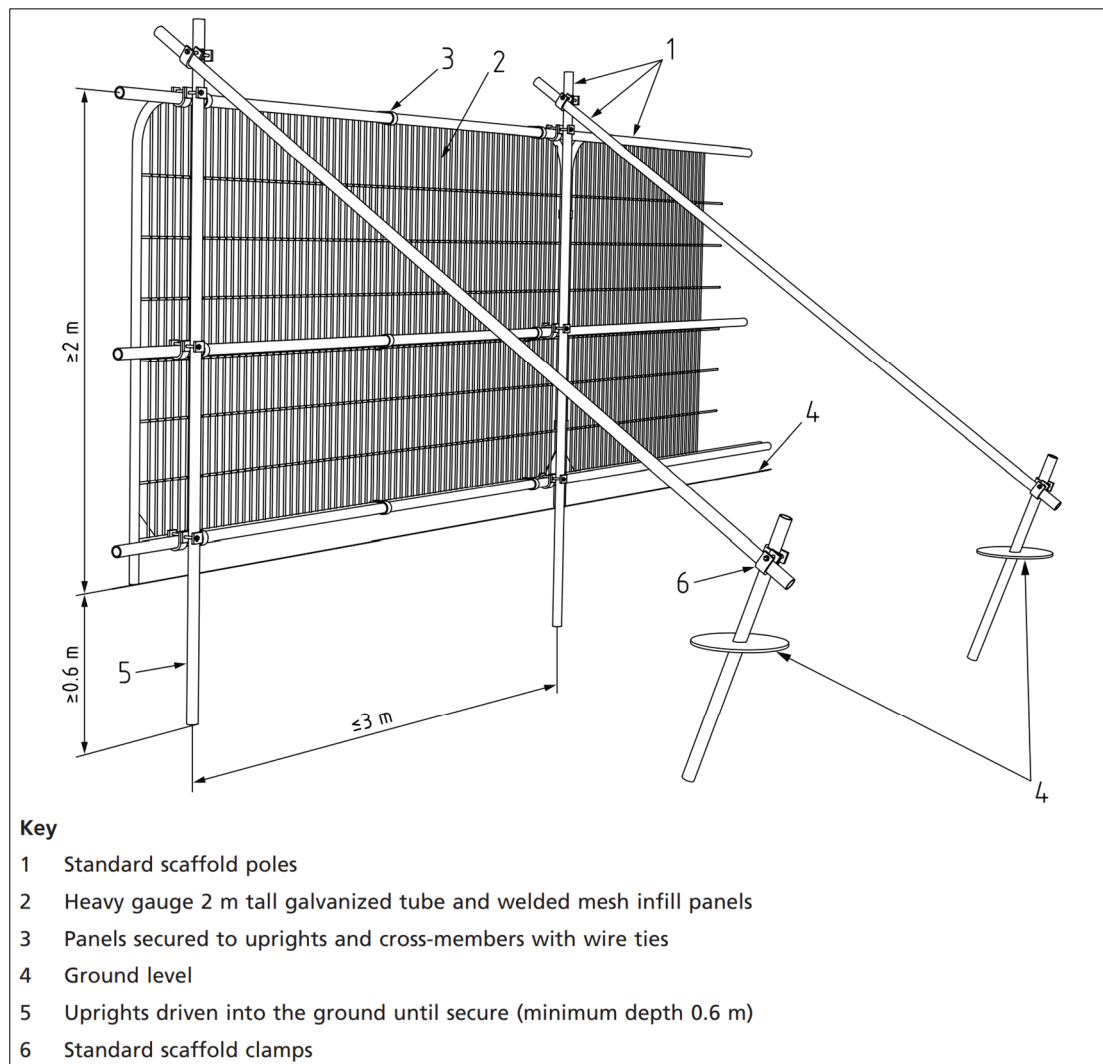


Figure C: Default specification for a tree protection fencing.

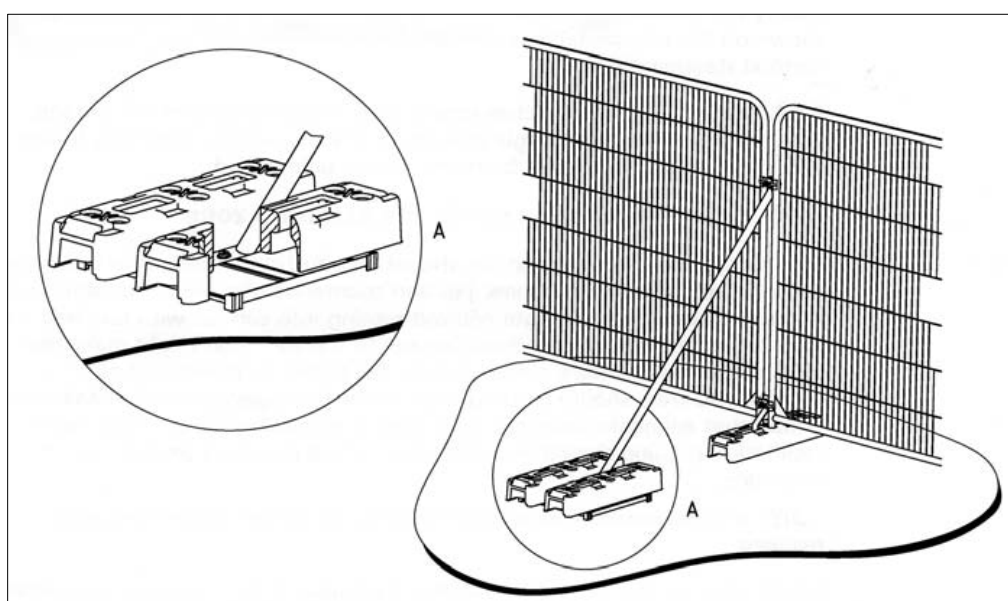


Figure D: Lightweight system using a stabiliser strut mounted on block tray.

4 Specification for ground protection

The new dwelling will be close to a retained tree in the neighbouring property 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.

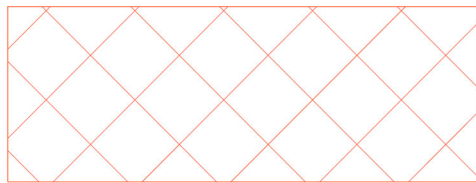


Figure E: An example of how ground protection is shown on the tree protection plan.

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) and pinned into place to avoid displacement; this is illustrated in Figure F. 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 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

Two visitor parking bays are proposed, 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 of the new no-dig surface is illustrated by the orange honeycomb pattern on the tree protection plan which accompanies this report.

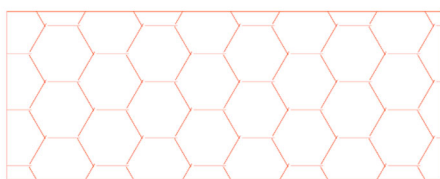


Figure G: An example of how the no-dig system is shown on the tree protection plan.

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 needed:

1. A 150mm thick geocell system
2. Non-woven geotextile
3. 20-40mm clean angular stone with no fines
4. Timber 'peg & board' edging or timber sleepers
5. Core Grass HD Grid
6. Suitable loam and grass seed

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 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.

For the top dressing, grass in a stabilisation grid (i.e. Core Grass HD Grid) has been specified which can be laid over a bed of loam mix.

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 that all of the necessary materials & equipment are on site and an arboriculturist is present to supervise the works;
2. Remove the surface vegetation 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 area to be surfaced;
3. Install the edging – this may be treated timber boards (min. 25mm thick) or timber sleepers 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 a loam mix with a stabilisation grid (i.e. Core Grass HD Grid) filled with further loam mix and grass seed.
9. 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.
10. Re-install the fencing to the Phase 2 position as illustrated in the tree protection plan.

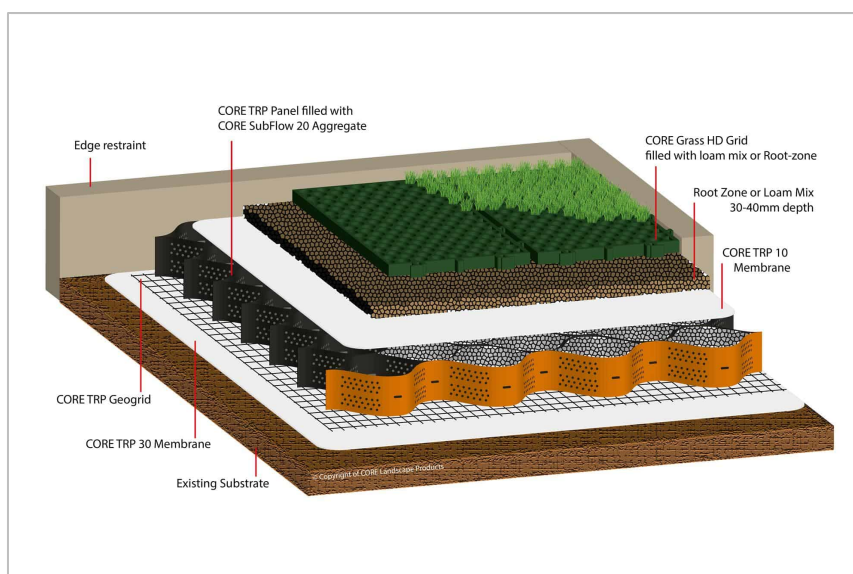


Figure H: The new surface will be finished with grass.

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, the mixing or storing of materials plus groundworks of any kind such as rotavating, trenching or altering ground levels will remain prohibited within the construction exclusion zones (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 and planting

Where new fence posts and planting holes are required within the root protection areas of retained trees, the excavations 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 the holes. 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 1.

If any roots greater than 25mm diameter are uncovered whilst digging a hole they will be retained intact. Where fence posts are required, the excavation will be backfilled and a second hole will be excavated closer to the previous fence post so that the root can be avoided, 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.

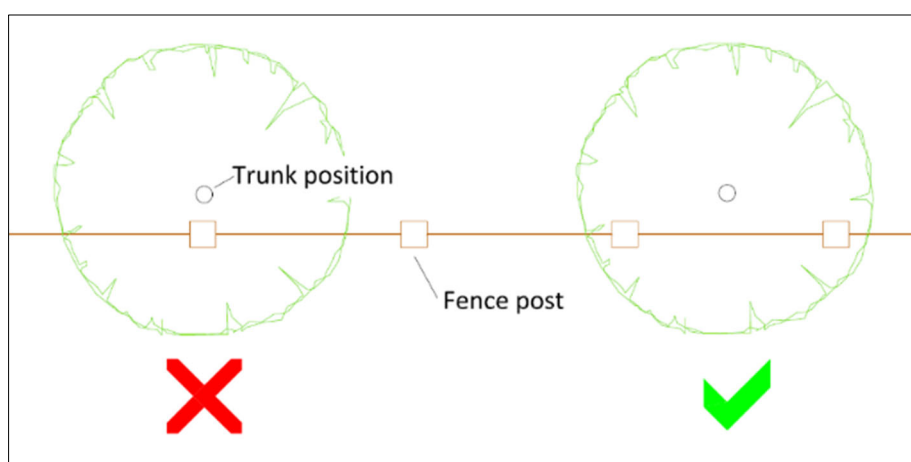


Figure 1: An illustration of how fence posts should be positioned away from trees.

