

Arboricultural Method Statement & Tree Protection Plan

For construction works at Chaldicotts Barns in Semley



Instructed by Thomas Wilde & Partners
On behalf of Chaldicotts Limited
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Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Background information.....	1
2	Method Statement Timeline.....	1
3	General Method Statement for Effective Tree Protection.....	2
4	Method Statement for Installing Cellular Confinement Systems.....	3
4.1	Detailed procedure of installing the cellular confinement system.....	4
5	Method Statement for Landscaping Operations	5
6	Tree Protection Plan.....	6

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

Principal Contractor: Chaldicotts Limited

The principal contractor shall confirm the name and contact details of the appointed site manager to the project arboriculturist before commencement and shall notify any change. 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 supports a planning application, submitted by Thomas Wilde & Partners, for constructing a new industrial building amounting to 7,448 sqm with associated facilities, access with security, parking, hard and soft landscaping, drainage and associated works.

This document accompanies an Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 22nd September 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 a record of each site visit will be made available to the planning case officer.

Table 1: *Sequence of arboricultural operations for this project.*

Stage	Action
Pre-construction	Install tree protection fencing as specified on the tree protection plan (TPP-1 RevB). A site visit from the project arboriculturist will be required at the start of the project to check the position of tree protection measures and to discuss any potential tree conflicts with the contractors.
During construction	Always follow the restrictions and protocol in Section 3. Follow Section 4 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. It is crucial that root damage does not occur, so vehicles must stick to designated transit routes and any digging near trees must be carried out with the use of hand tools only (see Section 5).

3 General Method Statement for Effective Tree Protection

Retained trees are an important factor on construction sites, whether on or near the working areas. Guidance 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. A tree that has taken many decades to reach maturity can be damaged irreparably in a few minutes by unwitting or negligent actions.

Temporary fencing will be used during construction to protect retained trees (see tree protection plan for further guidance). These protected areas will be construction exclusion zones.

Vehicles passing over soil can quickly cause compaction which reduces water infiltration, drainage, and oxygen availability to roots; in turn this reduces root growth and tree health. No vehicles will therefore be permitted within fenced-off areas during construction.

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.

4 Method Statement for Installing Cellular Confinement Systems

A new access road near a group of pollarded willows is 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 is 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.

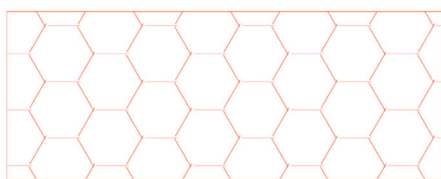


Figure A: An example of how the no-dig system is shown on the tree protection plan.

Specification

A 200mm thick geocell system will be used in this project and so the final surface will be approximately 225mm above the existing ground level. The cell depth, and the depth and grading of the sub-base and surfacing, shall be confirmed by the project engineer against that design loading before installation. Where the engineer requires a build-up greater than that specified above, the project arboriculturist shall be consulted before the specification is amended.

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 200mm thick cellular confinement system
2. Non-woven geotextile
3. 20-40mm clean angular stone with no fines
4. Timber 'peg & board' edging, timber sleepers or kerb stones
5. Porous asphalt

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 structurally necessary for the cellular confinement system itself but is required to retain the surface layer. Kerb stones set above ground level are advised for this project but treated timber 'peg & board' or timber sleepers may also be used.

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 (20-40mm) and then settled by tracking the digger over the cells.

A wearing course of porous asphalt will be suitable for the final surfacing. It is fundamental that the final surfacing is a permeable finish.

A step-by-step guide for installing cellular confinement systems is listed on the next page and further details can be downloaded here - <https://bit.ly/4xF4FuW>



4.1 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 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), kerb stones 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 20-40mm 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. Then lay the porous asphalt in the standard manner;
9. A layer of topsoil may be applied between the new surface and the adjacent trees to create a new gradient. This new layer must comprise no less than 70% of washed sharp sand to no more than 30% screened topsoil, placed loose and not compacted. It must be no deeper than 250mm and not com in contact with the root collar of adjacent trees.
10. Re-install the tree protection fencing to the new position as shown on the tree protection plan.

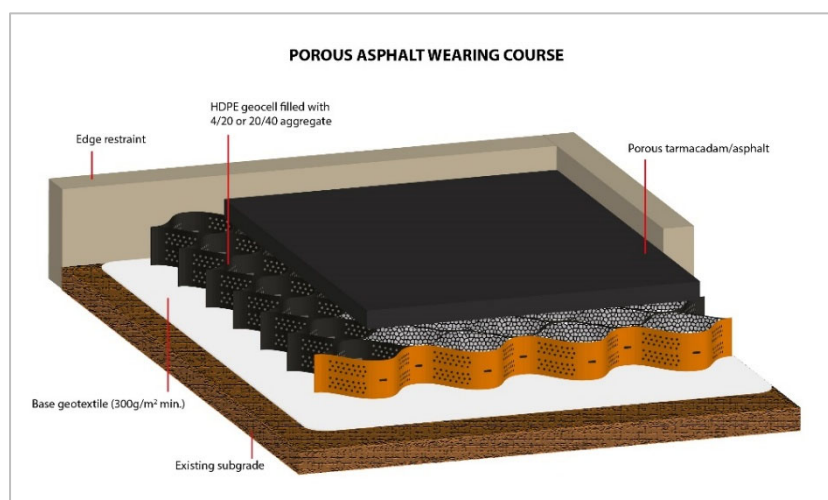


Figure B: The new surface will be topped with porous asphalt.

5 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.

Prohibited works

Although the fencing will no longer exclude access to the root protection areas, groundworks of any kind such as rotavating, trenching or altering ground levels will remain prohibited within the construction exclusion zones during the landscaping works (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

Where new fencing is specified within the root protection areas of retained trees, the excavation of fence postholes 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 fencing/fence posts. 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 C.

If any roots greater than 25mm diameter are uncovered whilst digging a posthole, they will 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.

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.

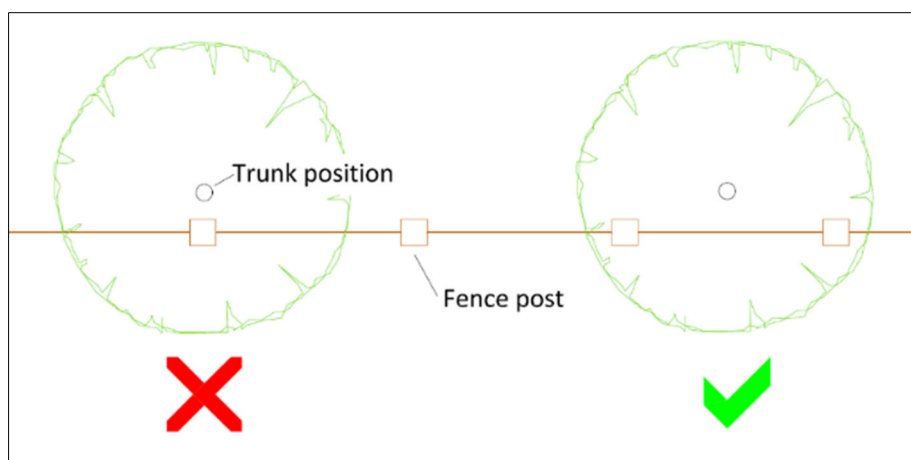
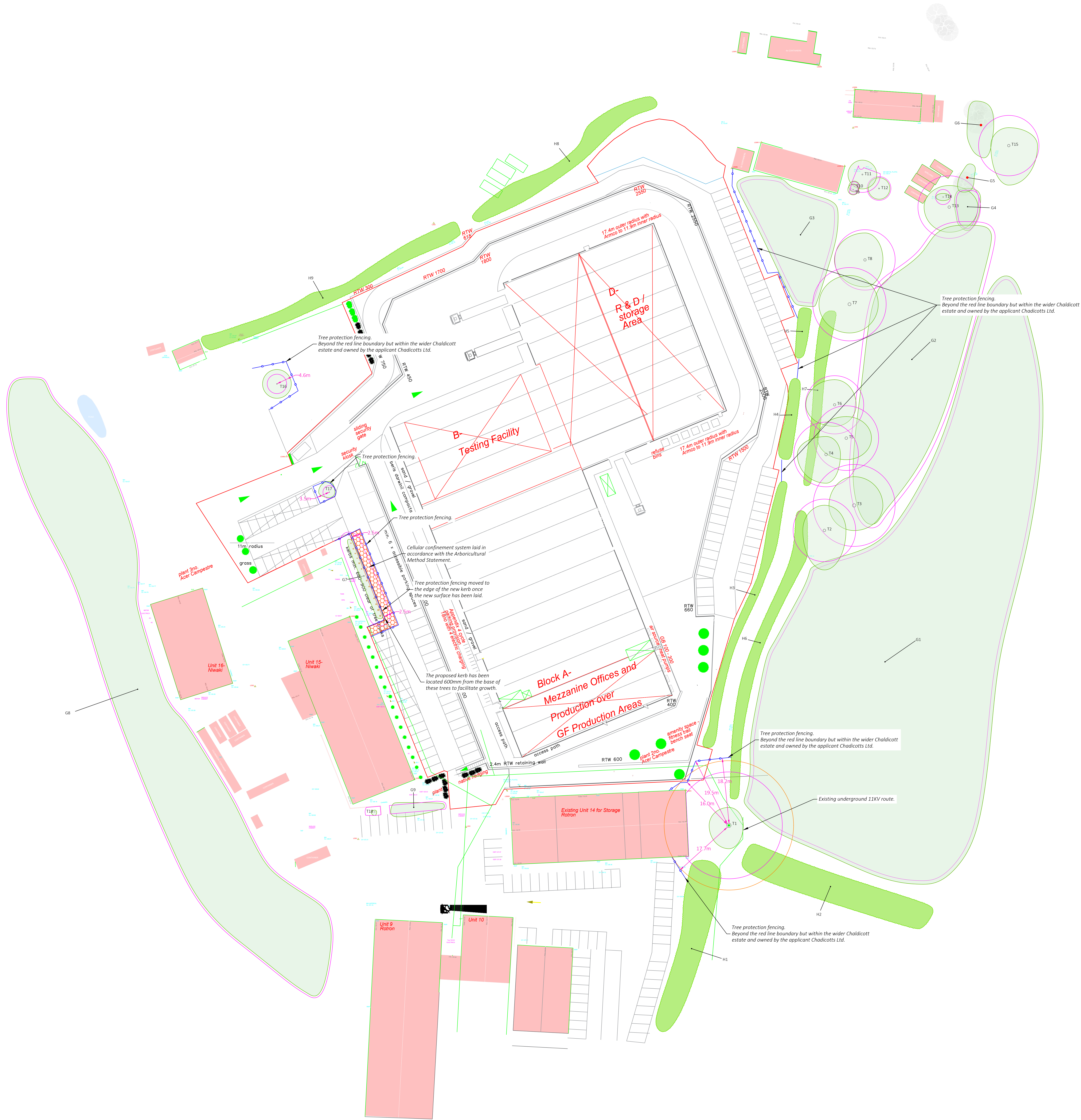


Figure C: An illustration of how fence posts should be positioned away from trees.



Specification for Tree Protection Fencing

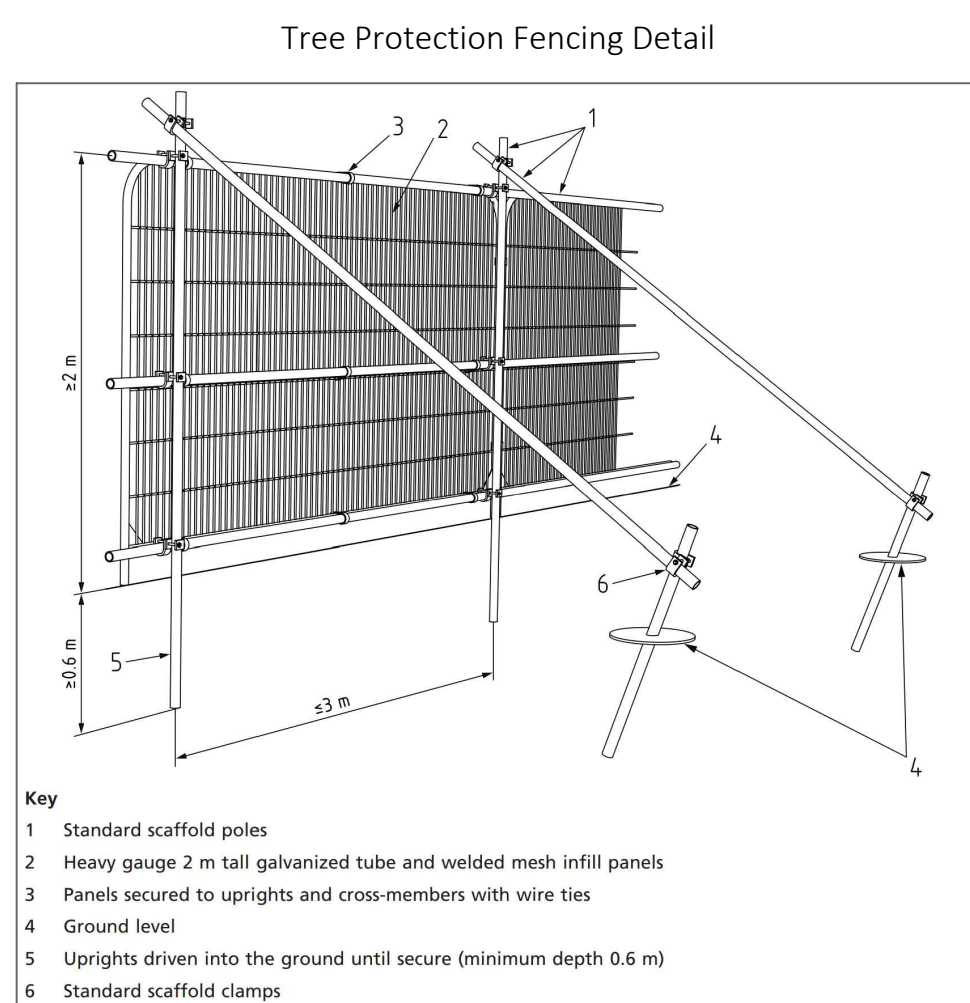
Tree protection fencing must be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place near trees. For this project, a scaffold framework will be used which must be braced to resist impacts, with vertical tubes spaced at a maximum interval of 3m. All-weather signs stating 'Construction Exclusion Zone - No Access' shall be attached to the fencing and must remain intact.

Installation & Removal

The fencing shall be installed before the commencement of demolition or construction activities. It must not be altered or removed without prior written approval from the project arboriculturist or local planning authority. Once installed, the area beyond the fencing will be a Construction Exclusion Zone. Some landscaping works may be necessary after the removal of the fencing, but it is crucial that root damage does not occur, so vehicles must stick to designated transit routes and any digging near trees must be carried out with the use of hand tools only.

Works Within Construction Exclusion Zones

Any construction activity within a construction exclusion zone shall be undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified arboriculturist.



Key

- Root Protection Area
- Canopy spread
- Trunk position
- Tree/Group number
- Hedge line
- Veteran tree buffer
- Tree protection fencing
- No-dig cellular confinement system

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Project Name:
**Chaldicott Barns
Northern Expansion**

Drawing Title:
Tree Protection Plan

Drawing Number: TPP-1	Revision: B
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Client:
Chaldicotts Limited

Agent:
Thomas Wilde & Partners

Date:
14-9-2026

Scale:
1:400 @ A0

