JEFFERSON PARK WHITEHAVEN

ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Prepared for: Thomas Armstrong Construction

> On: 03 December 2021

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Treescapes Consultancy Ltd.

Reference No. AH/AMS/170621

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

Thomas Armstrong Construction, on behalf of Home Group, instructed Treescapes Consultancy Ltd to prepare an Arboricultural Method Statement for the proposed development on land at Jefferson Park, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 9HE. This method statement describes the precautions required for working in close proximity to the root protection areas of the retained trees during the construction of the proposed development.

1.2 Relevant Standards and Codes of Best Practice

The main arboricultural industry standards and codes of best practice relevant to the planning and execution of this project are:

- BS 5837 (2012) Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations
- BS 3998 (2010) *Tree Work Recommendations*
- NJUG Vol.4 National Joint Utilities Guidelines Volume 4 (<u>National Joint</u> <u>Utilities Group (streetworks.org.uk)</u>)

1.3 Planning Permission – 4/21/2339/0F1

Condition 10 of Planning Permission Application No. 4/21/2339/0F1 states:

Prior to the commencement of development, a robustly worded arboricultural method statement must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. All details approved must be implemented and retained as such at all times thereafter.

Reason To ensure a satisfactory appearance and method in accordance with Policy DM26 of the Copeland Local Plan.'

1.4 Construction Area

Please read this document in conjunction with the tree protection plan (TPP) included at Appendix 1. The TPP in this document shows the location of the trees in relation to the proposed development layout. It also shows the location of the construction exclusion zone (CEZ). Maintaining the CEZ should prevent further root damage and soil compaction within the root protection areas (RPA) of the retained trees.

The location of the CEZ shown on the plan should leave adequate space for contractors to construct the proposed development. Where the proposals encroach into the RPAs of the trees, employ the special measures detailed in Section 3 of this method statement and on the TPP to minimise the impact of the proposed development.

If there is insufficient room for material storage on the site, Thomas Armstrong Construction will need to make alternative arrangements. Altering the tree protection barrier could affect the health and longevity of the retained trees.

If the development needs to encroach further into the RPAs, discuss any CEZ alterations with the Tree Officer or the Arboricultural Consultant before moving the tree protection barriers.

1.5 Report Limitations

This report:

- shows tree locations based on those plotted as part of the topographic survey;
- is only concerned with assessing the condition of the trees on the site, and adjacent properties, affected by the development proposals;
- does not take account of whether the trees could affect the soil in the area and cause tree related subsidence damage;
- is based on the documents provided and the information collected during the site survey;
- contains recommendations concerning work that should be carried out to responsibly manage the risks posed to and by the trees, and where necessary, reduce those risks to an acceptable level. However, even after carrying out the recommended work, there is a risk failure could still occur, especially during extreme weather conditions and/or if there are major hidden defects;
- does not take into account the possibility of extreme weather events;
- cannot account for future outbreaks of pests or diseases;
- does not take into account mechanical operations carried out in the vicinity of the trees which could affect their health and stability; and
- does not contain data collected with technical decay detection equipment

2 SITE OPERATIONS

Responsibility	Title	Name	Organisation	Contact No.
Site Owner	Owner		Home Group	
Project Building	Contracts	Robert	Thomas Armstrong	07785
Contractor	Manager	Copeland	Construction Ltd	611883
Local Planning			Copeland Borough	01946
Authority			Council	598300
Drojaat Traa Advisar	Arboricultural	Mr Alistair	Treescapes Consultancy	07710
Project free Advisor	Consultant	Hearn	Ltd.	751970

2.1 Responsible Persons

Any tree related issues and concerns arising during the construction process should be brought to the attention of the Project Tree Advisor or the Local Planning Authority. With regard to the trees, only trained personnel should carry out remedial pruning operations.

2.2 Operation Timings

The following table gives a short list of site operations and when they should be carried out in relation to the construction of the development. This list is not exhaustive, any operations not listed should be carried out with due consideration to the retained trees and with the protective fencing in place.

Stage	Operation	Responsible Person
	TREE WORK PHASE	
1.	Instruct a tree work contractor to carry out the work specified in Section 3 of this Method Statement.	Tree Work Contractor
2.	PROTECTIVE FENCING PHASE Erect the protective fencing (see Section 3.3) along the line of the CEZ, as shown on the TPP. Consult the Project Tree Advisor or Local Planning Authority prior to reducing or altering the size of the CEZ	Construction Contractor
3.	CONSTRUCTION PHASE Construct the development in accordance with the approved plans	Construction Contractor
4.	Complete the construction operations	Construction Contractor
5.	Remove the protective fencing	Construction Contractor
6.	LANDSCAPING PHASE Carry out the landscaping operations taking care not to allow machinery into the CEZ	Landscaping Contractor
7.	Carry out a site visit and tree assessment	Project Tree Advisor and/or Tree Officer

2.3 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

2.3.1 Protected Trees

We understand a Tree Preservation Order – TPO 68 (1999) – protects some of the trees in this report.

It will therefore be necessary to obtain permission from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) before any work, other than certain exempted operations, can be carried out to them. The work specified in this report is necessary for their reasonable management and should be acceptable to the LPA. Tree owners, however, should appreciate that they may take an alternative point of view and have the option to refuse to grant consent.

We understand that full planning consent allows the minimum amount of work to protected trees necessary to implement the consented development without requiring permission under tree protection legislation – this should be checked with a solicitor or planning consultant.

2.3.2 Wildlife Conservation Legislation

Most birds' nests have legal protection while in use; also, bats and their roosts have legal protection whether in use or not. Tree surgeons should be aware of their duties under the legislation to protect wildlife and should carry out their site assessment and work accordingly. If you suspect bats use the area, consult English Nature.

The Bat Conservation Trust produce a useful webpage for managing trees and bats: <u>www.bats.org.uk/our-work/landscapes-for-bats/bats-and-woodland/woodland-wildlife-toolkit</u> (viewed 03/12/21). This links to a Government webpage (<u>www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-and-protect-woodland-wildlife</u> – viewed 03/12/21), which states:

'You must comply with regulations protecting wildlife species and habitats when you're managing woodland and planning forestry operations. These include the European protected species (EPS) listed in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

It's an offence to:

deliberately capture, injure, kill or cause significant disturbance to a protected species

deliberately destroy the eggs of a protected species

damage or destroy protected species' breeding sites or resting places (such as a bat roost in a tree or a dormouse nest on the woodland floor)

You must carry out planned operations carefully, making the necessary checks, and you may need a wildlife licence in certain circumstances. If you follow good practice you should be able to carry out most activities without the need for a licence – but to do so you may just have to modify or reschedule some of your management proposals or practices.'

3 TREE PROTECTION – RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 General Precautions

The following general precautions should ensure the health and longevity of the retained trees. Enforce these precautions within the RPAs during the construction and landscaping phases.

- No soil disturbance, including compaction
- No change in the soil level, by stripping or filling
- No redirection of surface water runoff into or out of the RPA
- No temporary buildings, sheds, or offices, without prior discussion with the Project Tree Advisor and/or the Council Tree Officer
- No storage of materials or fuel
- No dumping of materials, whether into a skip or onto the ground
- No fires within 10m of the RPA or canopy, whichever is greater
- No vehicles, including parking
- No operation of plant equipment, without prior discussion with the Project Tree Advisor and/or the Council Tree Officer
- No refuelling of mechanical equipment
- No storage or mixing of cement
- No washing of cement mixers within or uphill of the RPA
- Follow the guidance contained within the National Joint Utilities Group Volume 4 (Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees (Issue 2, 2007); <u>www.streetworks.org.uk</u>) when installing underground services within the RPA of a tree.

<u>DO</u>

- > Erect suitable protective fencing prior to any construction activity on the site
- Ensure the protective fencing remains intact in the appropriate location for the duration of the construction phase.

DO NOT

- > Do not attach notices, cables or any other services to any part of the trees
- Do not move fencing to increase the construction area, without authorisation from the Project Tree Advisor and/or Tree Officer
- Do not take machinery or vehicles into the construction exclusion zone (CEZ) without suitable ground protection.
- Do not operate or turn tracked machines within the RPAs without adequate ground protection.
- Do not use plant equipment or vehicles within the CEZ during the landscaping phase, unless it is on a load-bearing surface.

3.2 Tree Work

Appendix 2 contains a schedule of the recommended tree work.

3.2.1 Felling

To facilitate the proposed development, fell the following four trees:

- group 1G tree No.3 in, and
- group 3G tree Nos.5, 6, & 7.

3.2.2 Pruning

Currently, we have not made any pruning recommendations. Some pruning work might be required if conflicting branches become evident as the construction work progresses.

3.2.3 Tree Work Standards

We recommend a suitably qualified, competent, experienced, and insured contractor undertakes the tree work. The contractor should carry out their work in accordance with current industry safety standards and the recommendations contained in the British Standard – BS 3998, *Tree work – Recommendations* (2010) – as modified by research that is more recent.

3.3 Tree Protection Barrier – Construction Exclusion Zone

Erect the protective fencing along the line of the CEZ shown on the TPP at Appendix 1. This fencing is at a 1m offset from the Garden Room and will prevent construction activity close to the trees. No plant equipment or vehicles should operate within the protective fencing without suitable ground protection and authorisation.

The fencing must be robust enough to withstand impacts from machinery and plant equipment operating in the area. In areas where lighter plant and machinery (typically <2t) are operating, we recommend using either:

- 2 m tall welded mesh panels on rubber or concrete feet joined together using a least two anti-tamper couplers, installed so that they can only be removed from inside the fence. Support the panels on the inner side with stabilizer struts, secured with ground pins. Where the fencing is erected on hard surfacing or it is otherwise unfeasible to use ground pins, mount the stabilizer struts onto a block tray; or
- wooden posts (Ø75-100mm x 1.8m) driven securely into the ground (300-500mm) every 2m, with top and bottom wooden rails (2m x 25mm x 100mm) attached securely to the posts to create a rigid structure and chestnut paling fencing (1.25-1.5m high) attached securely to the rails every 300-400mm.

Erect the protective barrier prior to any other development activity taking place and it should remain in place for the duration of the construction phase.

We recommend erecting the fencing detailed in Appendix 3, the default specification recommended in BS 5837 (2012).

3.4 Root Protection Area – Underground Services

In areas where the proposed underground services require excavations within the RPAs of retained trees, we recommend carrying them out using hand tools and a pneumatic excavation lance such as an:

- 'Air-spade' <u>http://www.guardaircorp.com/airspade/</u> (accessed 03/12/21); or
- 'Soil pick' <u>www.mbw.com/products/Pick.aspx</u> (accessed 03/12/21).



Appendix 2

Feature No.	Tree ID No.	Species	Trunk Diameter	BS5837 Retention Category	Recommended Work
1G	3	Oak	260mm	С	Fell to facilitate the proposed development
	5	Sycamore	160mm; 180mm; 220mm; 250mm; 360mm	С	Fell to facilitate the proposed development
3G	6	Sycamore	350mm	С	Fell to facilitate the proposed development
	7	Sycamore	280mm	С	Fell to facilitate the proposed development

Tree	Work	Schedule
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Appendix 3

British Standard: BS 5837 *Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations* (2012): Default Specification for Protection Barrier



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