BS 5837:2012 Arboricultural Method Statement

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Report No. 2026_AMS.01 Project: Barnacre Road Primary School Authored by: Matthew Lally







METHOD STATEMENT

PROJECT

Barnacre Road Primary School Barnacre Road Longridge Preston PR3 2PD

DOCUMENT ISSUE RECORD

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Appendix II Auditable Site Monitoring



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Author Information & Report Purpose

- 1.1.1. My name is Matthew Lally (FdSc) and I have created this Method Statement to outline the required steps which must be implemented to successfully retain the trees we wish to retain without adversely affecting their safe useful life expectancy. The steps in this Method Statement must be followed and if there is any misunderstanding or difficulty with these steps then I must be contacted immediately to clarify any issues.
- 1.1.2. Failure to adhere to the recommendations outlined in this document could result in tree decline or tree death which will mean a breach of planning consent. The trees outlined for retention in this document are protected by planning law and any tree loss and damage could result in prosecution.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1. Understanding Tree Roots and Damaging Factors

- 2.1.1. It is important to understand that the majority of the root system is within the top 600mm of the soil extending radially for distances in excess of the Root Protection Area (the Root protection Area is simply the minimal amount of untouched root system deemed to be required for this tree to be successfully retained). Beyond the main structural roots (close to the base of the trunk), the root system rapidly sub-divides into smaller diameter roots: off this main system, a mass of fine roots develops which are incredibly important for the tree to be able to take up water and essential nutrients.
- 2.1.2. These very fine roots are easily damaged by a number of factors such as:
 - a) Compaction of the ground, which reduces the space between soil particles. This is particularly important on clay soils. A single passage by heavy equipment on clay soils or storage of heavy materials can cause significant damage.
 - b) Changing soil levels, even for a few weeks.
 - c) Covering the root area with impervious surfaces.
 - d) A rise in the level of the water table. Roots can tolerate submersion for short periods. But a permanent rise will deplete the soil of oxygen.



- e) Stripping the topsoil, such works must be avoided until protective fencing has been erected.
- f) Pollution, such as cement washings & oils.
- g) Excavations in the root protection area. Even shallow excavations can cause damage and therefore must be avoided unless otherwise stated in this document.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1. Sequence of Events

- 3.1.1. I have compiled the sequence of events below that must be undertaken in the order stated. Each step listed below is then expanded upon in section 3.2 onwards to ensure the requirements for each step are understood. This sequence should be read in conjunction with the Tree Protection Plan in appendix I.
 - 1) Pre-commencement site meeting (See 3.2)
 - 2) Tree pruning (See 3.3)
 - 3) Site briefing for personnel (See 3.4)
 - 4) Installation of protective fencing & ground protection (See 3.5)
 - 5) Implementation of development (See 3.6, 3.7 & 3.8)
 - 6) Completion of development works
 - 7) Completion signed off

3.2. Pre-commencement Site Meeting

3.2.1. Prior to commencement of any site works or tree works, a meeting onsite must take place including the Site Manager and an Arboricultural Consultant. This meeting will allow further discussion of the programme of works, tree protective measures, locations of areas for storage/site organisation and the agreement of any changes to the Method Statement that may be required which will be formally updated and approved as required.



3.3. Tree Works

3.3.1. Once the pre-commencement site meeting has taken place then the following tree works must be undertaken by a qualified and insured tree surgery company.

Table 1. Table of tree works

Tree Species F		Proposed Works to Facilitate Development	Reason for Works	
G1#	Hawthorn, Holly, Norway Maple	No Action	-	
T2#	Holly	No Action	-	
T3	Norway Maple	No Action	-	
T4	Norway Maple	No Action	-	
H5#	Hawthorn, Holly, Elder	No Action	-	
T6	Norway Maple	No Action	-	
T7	Common Ash	No Action	-	
T8	Holly	No Action	-	
G9#	Goat Willow, Japanese Maple, Rhododendron	No Action	-	
T10	Ash	No Action	-	
T11	English Oak	No Action	-	
T12	Hornbeam	No Action	-	
T13	Plum	No Action	-	
T14	Sycamore	No Action	-	
H15	Ash, Hawthorn, Elder, Wild Rose, Holly	No Action	-	
T16	Beech	No Action	-	
T17	17 English Oak Crown lift to 3.5m on development side of crown		To facilitate the installation of the fence	
T18	Holly	No Action	-	
T19	Sycamore	No Action	-	
T20	T20 English Oak Crown lift to 3.5m on crown		To facilitate the installation of the fence	
H21	Beech	No Action	-	
T22	Rowan	No Action -		
G23	Beech	No Action	-	
T24	Rowan	No Action	-	
H25	Beech	No Action	-	
T26	Grey Alder	No Action	-	
T27	Common Alder	No Action	-	



Tree	Species	Proposed Works to	Deceep for Works	
No.	species	Facilitate Development	Reason for works	
T28	Field Maple	No Action	-	
T29	Wild Cherry	No Action	-	
T30	Wild Cherry	No Action	-	
T31	Horse Chestnut	No Action	-	
T32	Dogwood	No Action	-	
T33	Hornbeam	No Action	-	
T.34	Lime	No Action	-	
T35	Goat Willow	No Action	-	
T.36	Scots Pine	No Action	-	
T37	Silver Birch	No Action	_	
T38	Hornbeam	No Action	_	
G39	Hawthorn, Rowan, Elder, Holly	No Action	-	
T40	Ash	No Action	-	
T41	Lime	Crown lift up to 3.5m on development side of crown as required	To facilitate the installation of the fence	
T42	Swedish Whitebeam	No Action	-	
G43a	Hawthorn, Cherry Plum and Elder	Crown lift up to 3.5m on development side of crown as required	To facilitate the installation of the fence	
G43b	Hawthorn, Cherry Plum and Elder	Crown lift up to 3.5m on development side of crown as required	To facilitate the installation of the fence	
G43c	Hawthorn, Cherry Plum and Elder	Crown lift up to 3.5m on development side of crown as required	To facilitate the installation of the fence	
G43d	Hawthorn, Cherry Plum and Elder	Crown lift up to 3.5m on development side of crown as required	To facilitate the installation of the fence	
G43e	Hawthorn, Cherry Plum and Elder	Crown lift up to 3.5m on development side of crown as required	To facilitate the installation of the fence	
G43f	Hawthorn, Cherry Plum and Elder	Crown lift up to 3.5m on development side of crown as required	To facilitate the installation of the fence	
G43g	Hawthorn, Cherry Plum and Elder	Crown lift up to 3.5m on development side of crown as required	To facilitate the installation of the fence	
G43h	Hawthorn, Cherry Plum and Elder	Crown lift up to 3.5m on development side of crown as required	To facilitate the installation of the fence	



Tree No.	Species	Proposed Works to Facilitate Development	Reason for Works	
T44	Hornbeam	No Action	-	
T45	Hornbeam	No Action	-	
T46	Hornbeam	No Action	-	
T47	Norway Maple	No Action	-	
T48	Cherry	No Action	-	
T49	Swedish Whitebeam	No Action	-	
T50#	Rowan	No Action	-	
G51# Hawthorn		Reduce by up to 1.5m on the northern part of the group as required.	To facilitate the installation of the fence	
T52	Crab Apple	No Action	-	
T53#	Silver Birch	No Action	-	
T54#	Silver Birch	No Action	-	
All tree works must be undertaken in line with BS3998:2010. Tree Work.				

Recommendations.

3.4. Site Briefing

3.4.1. Once the tree works have been completed to the recommended specifications and standards outlined in section 3.3, the Site Manager must ensure that all personnel who are to be working on this site are made fully aware of the constraints posed by the retained trees and that there are measures in place to protect these trees. I recommend making sure that all personnel have full access to the Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan (TPP), keeping a hard copy of this in the site office would also be advisable for reference.

3.5. Protective Fencing & Ground Protection

3.5.1. As all the works on this site are to be undertaken by hand and no plant is to be used, the use of protective fencing & ground protection is not deemed necessary for this site.



3.6. Precautions around trees

- 3.6.1. Oil, bitumen, cement or other material likely to cause damage to the tree will not be stacked or discharged within 10m of the trees stem or within the protective area. Also, materials in general will not be stacked or discharged within the RPA.
- 3.6.2. Concrete mixing and washing will not be carried out within 10m of any retained trees.
- 3.6.3. Fires will not be lit beneath the foliage or in a position where the flames could extend to within 5m of the foliage, branches or trunk. If the fire is large, then this may necessitate a distance of at least 20m.
- 3.6.4. Trees that are to be retained will not be used as anchorage for equipment.
- 3.6.5. Trees and hedges are not to be used as props or leans for equipment.
- 3.6.6. Notice boards, telephone cables, or other services will not be attached to any part of the retained tree.
- 3.6.7. Care should be taken when using cranes or other equipment near the canopy of the retained trees. Also, any trees to be felled in proximity to the retained trees should be done so with particular care.

3.7. Installation of Security Fencing

- 3.7.1. To mitigate any adverse effects of the installation of this fence the following precautions and guidelines will be adhered to:
 - A fence design that allows for varying distances between fence posts will be selected.
 - The fence will be installed around the trees and will be allowed to flow and bend through the site.
 - The fence will be installed using hand tools only. No plant machinery is permitted within the RPA of any trees or hedges.
 - Each fence post will have trial holes dug by hand to ensure that no major roots are severed, if a significant root is found (a root greater



than 2.5cm) then the holes will be backfilled, and another hole dug until a suitable place for the post can found to be installed.

- Roots smaller than 2.5cm can be pruned using a sharp tool such as secateurs or a handsaw.
- The posts will be installed at least 0.5 metres away from any tree stems.
- The panels will be installed no closer than 300mm to a stem to allow for yearly incremental growth.
- No large surface roots will be pruned or chopped for the installation of the panels. The panels should be cut around any surface roots leaving at least 10cm clearance.
- When installing the concrete to support the post within the RPA, the post hole must be lined with a waterproof liner such as a Visqueen product to prevent any toxic leaching from the uncured concrete into the surrounding soil.
- Excavated soil will be deposited outside of the RPA. It is very important that no soil is piled up around the stems of retained trees and hedges.



3.8. Site Visits by an Arboricultural Consultant

- 3.8.1. Site visits by an Arboricultural Consultant will be undertaken at key points during the development to ensure that everything has been understood and ensure that the Method Statement is being followed correctly.
- 3.8.2. A site visit schedule has been made available in appendix II.

Appendix I Tree Protection Plan



Appendix II Auditable Site Monitoring



Tree Number	Task	Date Completed	Signed (Project Arboriculturalist)	Signed (Site Manager)
Site	Pre-commencement site meeting			
See section 3.3	Tree pruning sign off			
Site	Toolbox talk for contractors on first day of works			
Site	Inspection of trees for damage and mitigation when works completed. Sign off from Project Arboriculturalist			