

# Arboricultural Method Statement

Land at Burfield Valley  
Reef Way  
Hailsham

4<sup>th</sup> May 2018



PJC ref: 4830/18-03 Rev -

This report has been prepared by  
PJC Consultancy Ltd  
on behalf of  
Persimmon Homes South East

**Prepared  
by**

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**Checked  
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This method statement is written in conjunction with arboricultural survey ref. PJC/4843/18-01 and arboricultural impact assessment ref. PJC/4843/18-02.

1.2 **Instruction:** PJC Consultancy has been instructed by Persimmon Homes South East to provide an arboricultural method statement in accordance with BS5837: 2012 '*Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*', for proposed construction works on land at Burfield Valley in Hailsham.

1.3 **Objective of this report:** In order to safeguard retained trees on site during development works it is necessary to implement a tree protection strategy. The objective of the following arboricultural method statement is to provide protection methodology for retained trees throughout the proposed development, including the above ground and below ground parts of the trees as well as their rooting medium. This report is concerned with the protection of all retained trees at the site including trees around the curtilage with the potential to be impacted by the construction works.

1.4 **Limitations of report:** This document is based on the information available on the date of the report. Updates to the arboricultural method statement and Tree Protection Plan may be required following detailed design stage of development including the routing of services and formation of a construction management plan.

1.5 **Contents of report:** This report includes the following:

- Arboricultural Method Statement
- Tree Protection Plan

## 2 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

2.1 **General requirements:** The arboricultural method statement and Tree Protection Plan shall remain on site for the duration of construction and landscaping works and be available to site operatives at all times. All operatives at the site shall be briefed about tree related factors as part of their site induction.

2.2 Any variation from the methodology described in this method statement shall be discussed with the supervising arboriculturalist and agreed with the local authority arboricultural officer.

2.3 **Initial tree works:** The tree removals described in the arboricultural impact assessment shall be carried out as the first stage of development. The extent to which hedgerow H3 will be cleared will be agreed at the pre-commencement meeting between the contractors and the project arboriculturalist to ensure no unnecessary clearance occurs.

2.4 The stump and potentially first 2-3m of the stem for T6 shall be left in situ within hedgerow H3 to minimise disturbance of the hedgerow.

2.5 If bonfires are lit to dispose of arising's from the vegetation or tree clearance works, an assessment of wind direction and strength shall be made to ensure flames cannot extend within 5m of any part of a retained tree. No bonfires shall be lit within a root protection area.

2.6 Trees should be checked for protected species before works are undertaken. It is against the law to disturb bats or their roosts under the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations. Nesting birds are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act. If protected species are discovered, Natural England should be contacted for advice.

2.7 The tree works contractors should carry out all tree works to BS3998: 2010 '*Tree works – recommendations*' as modified by research that is more recent. They should also carry relevant, adequate and up to date insurance.

2.8 It is recommended that an Arboricultural Association approved contractor carry out all tree works. Approved contractors are expected to work to industry best standards. The Arboricultural Association website ([www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)) contains contact details and information on engaging a suitable contractor.

2.9 **Tree protection barriers:** The root protection areas of retained trees must be left free from disturbance, and protected from contamination or compaction during the proposed works. Protection shall comprise the formation of a construction exclusion zone through the installation of tree protection fencing.

2.10 Tree protection fencing shall be installed in the locations shown on the Tree Protection Plan. The specification for fencing is included in Appendix 2. Signs shall be affixed to the fencing as shown in Appendix 3 to explain its purpose. The signs shall be affixed at a reasonable size and frequency to ensure they are easily visible to operatives at the site.

2.11 The tree protection fencing shall be installed following the initial tree works, prior to construction traffic entering the site. It shall remain in place for the duration of construction and hard landscaping works, until all plant machinery and excess construction materials have been removed from site (unless otherwise agreed with the project arboriculturalist).

2.12 The areas protected by fencing (highlighted yellow on the Tree Protection Plan) shall be referred to as the construction exclusion zones. The following actions shall be prohibited within the construction exclusion zones:

- Vehicular access unless on suitable ground protection with prior agreement from the project arboriculturalist.
- Regular pedestrian access unless on suitable ground protection following consultation from the project arboriculturalist.
- Storage of construction materials.
- Storage or handling of harmful chemicals.
- Any change in ground level unless undertaken under the supervision of the project arboriculturalist.
- Construction activities including installation of new permanent hard standing.

2.13 **Storage and handling of harmful chemicals:** Provision needs to be made to avoid the storage and handling of harmful chemicals in proximity to trees. Harmful chemicals include fuels, oils, builder's sand (which has a high salt content) and cement. Provision shall also be made to prevent fuelling or the handling of cement from occurring in areas proposed for further planting.

2.14 Cement mixing shall only occur where there is no potential for cement washings to leech into a root protection area. A designated fuelling station for plant machinery shall be selected that is either bunded or has provision to avoid spillages leeching into a construction exclusion zone.

2.15 **Contractor facilities:** A suitable location for site cabins, contractor parking and site facilities for operatives shall be agreed with the project arboriculturalist during a pre-commencement meeting. These facilities should be located outside the root protection areas of retained trees (unless on retained tarmac surfaces). Provision must also be taken to prevent exhaust fumes or hot air from generators or kitchen facilities from damaging the canopies of retained trees.

2.16 **Installing new permanent fencing within root protection areas:** Installation of garden fences within the root protection areas of retained trees (potentially T2, G2, H3, T4, T5 and T7) will require access into the construction exclusion zones. Only pedestrian access will be permitted into the construction exclusion zone and scaffold board pathways shall be used in wet weather conditions. For ease of access the garden fences should be installed during the soft landscaping phase of development when it is safe to dismantle the tree protection fencing.

2.17 The fencing specification is to be confirmed on the date of this report. A fencing type that requires only postholes (no trenching) shall be used within the root protection areas. The postholes shall be hand excavated with care taken to avoid damaging or severing roots with a diameter greater than 25mm (potentially requiring the position of the fence posts to be altered slightly). The postholes shall be lined with impermeable sheeting before any concrete is added to prevent alkaline burn to retained trees. Cement mixing shall occur outside the construction exclusion zones.

2.18 **Soft landscaping within root protection areas:** New soft landscaping within the root protection areas of retained trees shall occur as the final phase of development. The specification for soft landscaping is to be confirmed but may include turfing and tree/shrub planting within root protection areas.

2.19 Where new turf is to be laid within the root protection areas of retained trees, topsoil will likely need to be imported. The existing soil may be lightly tilled by hand but use of rotavators will be prohibited. A maximum increase of 100mm of topsoil may be introduced to avoid suffocating root growth. Care must be taken to prevent soil being piled against tree buttresses or buttress roots. When soil or other materials are transported across a root protection area, scaffold board pathways must be used to prevent compaction of the rooting medium. It should be noted that even light pedestrian use could compact the soil, particularly in wet conditions.

2.20 All planting pits within root protection areas shall be individually hand excavated (no trench planting). Care must be taken to avoid severing or damaging roots with a diameter greater than 25mm.

2.21 **Arboricultural supervision:** Arboricultural supervision will be required for the following stages of development:

- Prior to commencement of works, the project arboriculturalist shall review and where necessary provide input into the construction management plan. Where necessary, this arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan shall be updated to accommodate the construction management plan.
- Prior to commencement of works, the project arboriculturalist shall review the routing of new services and provide guidance on best practice for installation where necessary.
- A pre-commencement meeting shall be held between the contractors and the project arboriculturalist. The local authority arboricultural officer shall be given reasonable notice of the pre-commencement meeting so they may also attend if it is deemed necessary. The purpose of the pre-commencement meeting shall be:
  1. To clearly identify the pre-commencement tree works.
  2. To mark out locations for the tree protection barriers.
  3. To discuss the phasing of works.
  4. To agree locations for contractor facilities if not already specified in a construction management plan.
- The project arboriculturalist shall sign off that the pre-commencement tree works have been completed in full and as specified.
- The project arboriculturalist sign off that the tree protection barriers have been installed in the correct locations and to the agreed specification.

2.22 In addition to the above, a system and programme of onsite monitoring by the appointed arboricultural consultant should be agreed with the Local Authority Arboricultural Officer, if it is deemed necessary. The form and frequency of site monitoring shall be agreed at the pre-commencement meeting.

2.23 If significant root growth is disturbed during construction activities that are not within the scope of this report, the work shall cease until the project arboriculturalist has been consulted. Roots greater than 25mm in diameter or dense/matted fibrous roots shall be considered significant root growth. It should be remembered that whilst root protection areas are part of industry best practice, tree root growth is influenced by a number of factors and may not conform to expected ideals.

2.24 If at anytime during the construction process, damage is inadvertently caused to a tree, the project arboriculturalist shall be notified to assess the likely implications and to prescribe potential remedial measures to be implemented. Damage can be in the form of chemical or fuel spillage, mechanical damage to either the above ground parts of the tree or the roots, fire or any other unforeseen circumstance.

2.25 The supervising arboriculturalist shall be appointed by the contractor. It will be necessary for the arboriculturalist to report to the local planning authority on the outcome of the site visits as well as any unforeseen tree related issues.



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## APPENDIX 1

### Tree Protection Plan



- Key:**
- RPA for tree to be retained
  - Canopy of tree to be retained
  - Tree protection fencing
  - Construction exclusion zone

Appendix 2, (Tree Survey Schedule) contained within the arboricultural report ref. PJC/4830/18-02 contains further information for each tree.

*This drawing should be viewed in colour.*

Tree numbers suffixed with PA indicate the tree position is approximate.

Drawing no: PJC/4830/18/C Rev: - Sheet number: 1 of 1

**Client and site:**  
Persimmon Homes South East

Land at Burfield Valley  
Reef Way  
Hailsham

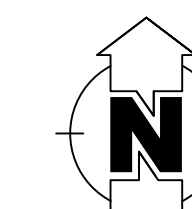
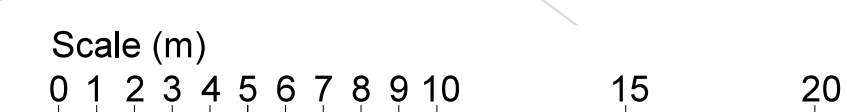
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**Date drawn:** 04/05/2018

**Scale:** 1:200 at A1

**Drawn by:** PD

**Checked by:** LW

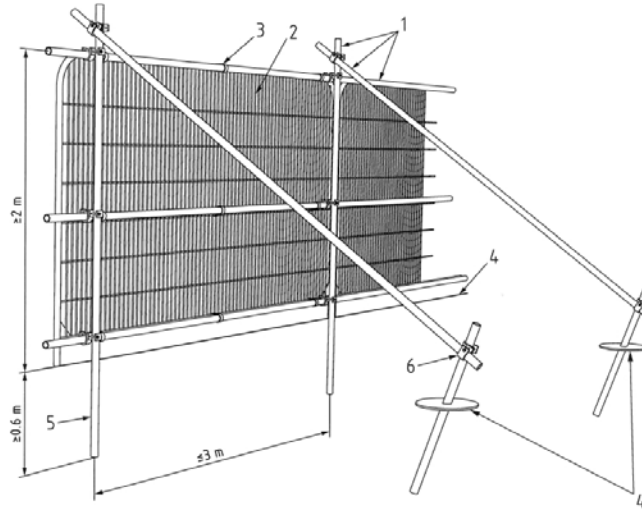


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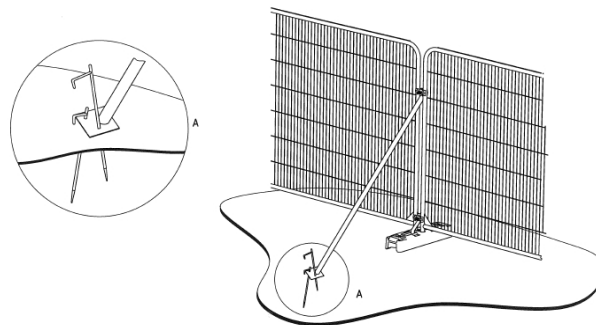
## APPENDIX 2

### Tree Protection Fencing Specification

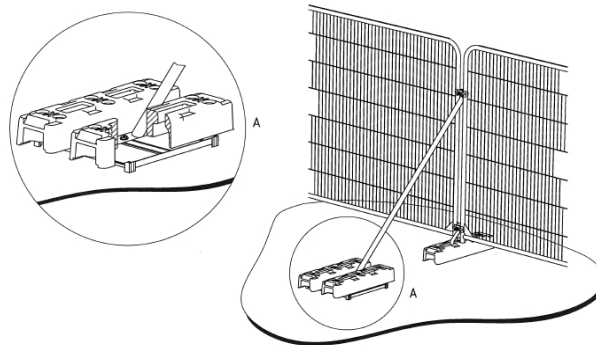


**Key**

- 1 Standard scaffold poles
- 2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
- 3 Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties
- 4 Ground level
- 5 Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)
- 6 Standard scaffold clamps



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray

## APPENDIX 3 Example Protective Fencing Signs

