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Title: **Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) Relating to construction
of driveway within Tree Root Protection Area (PPA)**

Client: **Antony Meah / Bespoke Homes**

Site: **The Old Vicarage, South Hetton, DH6 2SW**

Surveyor: **Mr Andrew Burden, HNDip.arb**

Date: **06 December 2021**

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1.0 Introductory Details

- 1.1 There are four trees situated along the Western boundary of the site which are being retained throughout the period of proposed development which are close to the position of the proposed access driveway.
- 1.2 Tree No: 24 (Ash) & Tree No: 26 (Sycamore) The root protection areas (RPA) of these trees are outside the boundary of the proposed driveway, other than fenced protection of these trees RPA's no specialist construction methods or further ground protection methods are required.
- 1.3 The proposed access driveway has partial interface with the RPA's of Tree No: 34 (Sycamore) & Tree No: 35 (Wych Elm) specialist construction methods and ground protection will be required for works close to and within the RPA's of these two trees.

2.0 Protected Status Of Trees

- 2.1 All trees present which are being retained within the site boundary are covered by a Tree Preservation Order No: ED-TPO 7 / AZ as such no works recommended within this method statement should be carried out without the formal consent of Durham County Council.

3.0 Restrictions to operations within RPA's

- 3.1 The following controls will be required throughout the period of proposed development relating to access and the construction of the entrance driveway, and any service runs close to or within the RPA's of Tree No's: 34 & 35.
- * Any excavation required will be carried out by hand and completed under the supervision of the project arboriculturist in strict accordance with the Arboricultural Method Statement.
 - * No mechanical excavation is to take place within the root protection areas.

- * No lowering of ground levels for any purpose is allowed within the root protection areas.
- * No storage of plant or materials is allowed within or adjacent to the root protection areas.
- * Vehicle and plant access to site only allowed following installation of ground protection measures within the RPA's of Tree No's: 34 & 35.
- * No substances injurious to tree health including fuel, oils, bitumen, cement / cement washings, builders sand, concrete mixing or any other construction chemicals shall be stored or used within or adjacent to the RPA's.
- * Care will be required when planning site operations in proximity to Tree No's: 34 & 35 to ensure that tall or wide loads, plant with jibs or booms can operate safely without coming into contact with the retained trees. Any operations of this nature close to the retained trees will require the use of a banksman.

3.2 Enabling works

- * All site tree works should be carried out prior to the proposed construction phase.
- * Tree protection fencing to be erected prior to the proposed construction phase.
- * Ground protection methods to be installed within the RPA's of Tree No's: 34 & 35 prior to the proposed construction phase.
- * Fig 1. – Example of ground protection method.
- * Fig 2. – Example of Cell Web driveway foundation construction .

Fig 1.



Fig 2.



4.0 Arboricultural Method Statement

4.1 Project arboriculturist to spray mark position of protective fencing.

4.2 Erect tree protection fencing.

4.3 Project arboriculturist to spray mark position of required ground protection within RPA's of Tree No's: 34 & 35. Ground protection will comprise the following;

- * Lay semi-permeable geo textile membrane.

- * Deposit woodchip to a depth of 400 mm within ground protection area (suitable material is available locally from Junction House Farm, South Hetton Road, Easington, SR8 3TZ)

- * Place suitable thickness metal sheets on woodchip to allow vehicle access, ramps will be required at the Northern & Southern sides. The integrity of this ground protection should be maintained at all times throughout the period of proposed development. The ground protection will be required throughout the entire period of proposed development, removal shall only be undertaken prior to final construction works of the entrance driveway.

4.4 Construction of entrance drive within RPA

- * If it is anticipated that construction traffic can use the finished driveway without causing damage to the final surfacing it may be possible to install the driveway prior to completion of the project, or at a point when large plant or machinery is no longer required to access the site.

- * The construction technique required for installation of the access driveway within the RPA will require installation of a cellular confinement system (CellWeb or similar).

- * Remove temporary ground protection materials.
- * Lay geotextile membrane upon existing ground surface.
- * Lay cellular matrix within RPA.
- * Fill matrix with inert, angular stone. Loose fill no fines using hand tools only.
- * A second geotextile membrane should be laid on top prior to final surfacing.
- * If edging stones are required these should be installed upon the existing ground level, no excavation to be carried out within the RPA.

4.5 Installation of service runs within RPA

- 4.6 Although we have not been provided with details relating to the installation of service runs for this project we are assuming that services will be required to be installed along the proposed entrance driveway. These should be kept to the East of the proposed entrance driveway if possible.
- 4.7 If service runs are to pass through the RPA of T 35 the use of either no dig / trenchless technology, air spade or hand dig will be required, under supervision of the project arboriculturist in accordance with the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) guidelines.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 Assuming the tree and ground protection methods as described within this method statement are adhered to throughout the period of proposed development, the proposed works will not be detrimental to the long term health of the trees being retained on site.

6.0 Sequencing of works & supervision

6.1 Phase 1 Pre Start meeting, relevant stakeholders to be made aware of Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) and sequencing of works. These include:

- * Site Manager (TBC)
- * Site Arboriculturist – Andrew Burden, HNDip.arb
- * LPA Tree Officer (TBC)
- * Engineer / Architect (TBC)
- * Appointed tree work contractor (TBC)

6.2 Agenda of this meeting will cover installation of tree & ground protection measures and scope of tree works.

6.3 Phase 2 Enabling works prior to start of construction phase to be inspected by the project arboriculturist:

- * Tree works.
- * RPA Protective fencing.
- * Ground protection within RPA's of Tree No's: 34 & 35
- * Trouble shooting.

6.4 Phase 3 Construction Phase.

- * Unscheduled visits by project arboriculturist to assess position & specification of protective fencing & ground protection.

* Assessments for unauthorised encroachment upon tree protection zones.

* Trouble shooting with site manager.

6.5 Phase 4 Completion & landscaping.

* Site visit by project arboriculturist to complete final monitoring report.

* Agree timing of removal of tree & ground protection.

* Supervision visits to be recorded including photographs which will be made available to the LPA upon request.

Surveyor: **Mr Andrew Burden, HNDip.arb**

Signed:

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Date: **06 December 2021**