

# JAMES BLAKE

A S S O C I A T E S

## NRP Car Park Extension: Arboricultural method statement

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## **Operations**

This method statement refers to, and should be read in conjunction with, the appended Tree Survey Schedule and has been drawn up to detail how the following operations are to be undertaken.

- 1 Retained trees
- 2 Installation of tree protection barrier
- 3 Site monitoring
- 4 post construction completion and landscaping works within RPAs
- 5 Location of site facilities and infrastructure works
- 6 Order of operations
- 7 General procedures

## **Background**

Detailed planning consent is being sought to enlarge the existing multi-storey car park (immediately to the south of the proposals), to increase the capacity of the wider car park.

This Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) has been prepared in support of the application. Implementation of the AMS will ensure that the retained trees are protected during the development and can continue to thrive.

BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' (BS 5837) requires that retained trees should be protected during development by observing sacrosanct, 'no-go' Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZs). CEZs are observed during development so that the underlying roots of the retained trees are offered a degree of protection from construction and development activity. Protecting the roots will ensure that trees can be retained to form continuing features of the local landscape. The CEZs are marked by tree protection fences.

Section 5.3 of the standard suggests that the arboricultural consultant may, using their experience and knowledge of tree morphology, alter the shape (but not the area) of the Root Protection Area (RPA) to allow a construction to take place inside the RPA, as long as the incursion can be mitigated elsewhere within the contiguous CEZ. The Standard allows RPAs, in certain instances, to be used for other light activities such as private driveways and paths but stipulates that any such activity can only proceed if it can be shown that there will be no significant detrimental effect to the retained trees or their root systems.

## **1 Retained trees**

1.1 As outlined in our tree survey schedule, there are three mature oaks (T1-T3, to the north of the site) and a landscape/woodland group (G4, to the east of the site).

1.2 All of the existing trees are due to be retained.

## **2 Installation of tree protection barriers**

2.1 All of the trees are currently fenced off from the existing car park by a 1.6m (Approx) steel weld-mesh fence located at the edge of the existing car park, so that there is no access to the areas around the trees from the car park or the construction site.

2.2 The fence around the oak trees is some distance from the trees and as there will be no construction access beyond the existing fence, there will be minimal impact on the retained trees.

2.3 The eastern trees are significantly younger than the oaks, with smaller Root Protection Areas (RPAs). Again, the tarmac surface will have served to restrict the lateral root growth, so that there will again be minimal additional impact on the trees.

2.4 It has been confirmed that the main construction area will be defined by the weld mesh fence and that there will be no construction works or access beyond the fence, or closer to the trees.

2.5 BS 5837, states that tree protection barriers/fences should be of a suitable specification to withstand the expected level of construction work close to retained trees.

2.6 While the weld-mesh fence forms a stout barrier designed to prevent pedestrian or vehicle access, it may not be suitable to prevent any unintended construction 'pressure'. In order to improve the level of protection to the retained trees, the weld-mesh fence should be supplemented with additional 'Heras' panel fencing in areas closer to the construction area (principally along the eastern boundary).

2.7 The upper canopy of the largest of the retained oaks extends slightly beyond the existing weld mesh fence. The existing tarmac surface and the existing lighting columns around the car park will have effectively prevented any root growth extending beyond the protected CEZ. Care will need to be taken to ensure that the upper canopy is not damaged during construction. The site monitoring visits (discussed below) will include discussions with the site team about how best to ensure that machine operators are made aware that the oak canopy extends slightly closer towards the new building.

2.7.1 These measures could include the use of tall 'goal posts' (similar to the measures used to warn site operatives of over-head power cables), installed around the extent of the canopy encroachment.

### **3 Site monitoring**

3.1 The project arboricultural consultant will visit the site regularly throughout the development to monitor the tree protection arrangements and ensure that they are maintained in accordance with the requirements of this method statement. A site monitoring log will be completed for each site visit to record any defects in the tree protection fence and/or any issues with the potential to be detrimental to the retained trees. Any necessary remedial action will then be taken to ensure the tree protection arrangements remain effective. Copies of the site monitoring forms will be kept on site and a copy forwarded to the client's office and to the LPA (if required). The frequency of the arboricultural site inspections made during the development will be influenced by the intensity and location of the construction activities but will normally be monthly unless it is deemed necessary that they should be more frequent.

3.2 A pre-commencement site meeting will be held before the start of any construction works, attended by at least the site manager and the arboricultural consultant. The tree protection arrangements outlined in this method statement will be fully discussed, so that all aspects of their implementation and sequencing are made clear to all parties. The outcomes of the meeting will be recorded on the first of the site monitoring forms.

### **4 post construction completion and Landscaping works within RPAs**

5.1 Once the main construction has been completed the post construction completion and landscape works will be undertaken.

5.2 The post-completion works include the construction of a new cycle store and footway immediately to the south of the extension of the multi-storey car park.

5.3 The back section of the cycle store and the connecting footway encroach slightly beyond the existing weld mesh fence in front of the retained oaks.

5.4 During the post completion works an 'Heras' panel fence will be erected just beyond the back of the new cycle store, to ensure that there is no access closer to the retained oaks.

5.5 The base of the cycle store will be formed with a low-impact stone pad or 'No-dig' solution. The details of the pad will be discussed and agreed with the site team and agreed with the LPA Arboricultural Officer, prior to the start of the work.

5.6 The specification of the new footway will also be agreed prior to the start of the work, though the presence of the existing lamp columns and the connecting cable will need to be considered.

5.7 On completion of the construction works the 'Heras' panels and the weld mesh fence can be removed to give access for any landscaping works that are due to be carried out within the RPAs. The extent of the works within the RPAs will be agreed with the project arboricultural consultant during one of the site monitoring visits.

5.8 Any significant lumps or hollows in the ground surface may be regularised using hand tools and dressed in good quality topsoil to comply with BS 3882.

5.9 Once agreed the landscaping may be undertaken but care must be taken to ensure that the works do not cause any damage to the existing trees. When carrying out the landscaping works within the RPAs the following points shall be observed:

- Ground levels will not be altered
- No heavy plant or machinery such as tractors shall enter the RPAs
- No fuels or chemicals shall be brought into or stored within these areas.

## **5 Location of site facilities and infrastructure**

5.1 At the time of writing the location of the site facilities has not been confirmed. However, all the facilities will be located within the existing weld mesh fence. So that there will be no disturbance beyond the protection fence.

5.2 All the new services, drainage and infrastructure will be routed within the area of the new car park, so that there will be no disturbance within the protected CEZs.

## **6 Order of operations**

The work detailed in this method statement will be undertaken in the following order:

1. Erection of tree protection barriers
2. Pre-commencement site meeting
3. Ground works & construction activity and site monitoring visits
4. Relocation of tree protection barriers and commencement of post-construction completion works and final landscaping.

## **7 General procedures**

Once sanctioned by the LPA, this method statement should be regarded as an approved procedure. Any variation of the details specified will need further sanction and work will need to be halted until further approval has been granted.

Any and all contractors working on the operations covered by this method statement must research, supply and adhere to their own risk assessments and working method statements. James Blake Associates and its instructing client, Bullen Developments, cannot be held liable for any accident, injury or other incident that may occur in carrying out the operations described in this method statement.