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Arboricultural Method Statement

**Ballymany
Newbridge
Co. Kildare**

Client:

Briargate Developments Newbridge LTD

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1.0 Statement of Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this method statement is to demonstrate how works will be undertaken at Lands being developed at Ballymany, Newbridge, Co. Kildare in order to avoid unacceptable arboricultural impact and provide an adequate level of protection for those trees that are to be retained.
- 1.2 This method statement has been produced for Briargate Developments Newbridge Ltd in order to inform the construction team and satisfy the requirements of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Kildare County Council. The works are the subject of a planning application and this arboricultural method statement has been prepared to support the application.
- 1.3 This method statement merely considers the systems of work in relation to the health and safety of retained trees. It does not address requirements of the Health and Safety Executive that should be considered in detail by those parties involved.

2.0 Related Documents and Drawings

Most Relevant and Quoted British Standards:

BS3998:2010 British Standard for Tree Work – Recommendations

BS5837:2012 British Standard for Trees in Relation to design, demolition and construction - recommendations

Plans and Documents for the proposed Development Phases 2 - 7 and the Link Road

Tree Survey and Tree Protection	Plan No's	01.21.005_S1 01.21.005_S2
Tree Constraints Plan	Plan No's	01.21.006_S1 01.21.006_S2
Tree Survey (Document)	February 2022	
Arboricultural Impact Assessment	February 2022	

3.0 Arboricultural Implications & Issues

- 3.1 Detail of the trees and their protection are detailed in the documents and shown on drawings listed above and should be read in conjunction with this method statement.
- 3.2 The *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash) on the northern boundary will be removed with the view of long-term safety, as detailed in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment
- 3.3 The Trees on the western boundary are on the neighbouring property and permission needs to be sought before any tree works such as pruning or deadwood removal occurs.
- 3.4 The link road and cycle path are in the vicinity of the Western boundary trees however it is the cycle path that mostly infringes the RPA (root Protection Area) and CEZ (Construction Exclusion Zone)
- 3.5 The cycle path can easily be constructed in line with the no dig principles outlined on the Tree Constraints Plans. Where the road structure come into the CEZ and RPA area around trees 5082, 5083 and 5084 the project engineer will need to proposed a solution that will avoid root compaction and also prevent the root area from becoming asphyxiated.
- 3.6 Supervision will occur with monthly visits by the site appointed Arborist

4.0 Tree Works to Facilitate Development Works

- 4.1 The removal of one tree is recommended
- 4.2 The pruning of lower branches of the western boundary trees has been recommended along with the removal of deadwood on these trees.
- 4.3 The boundary has been stacked with soil from previous ground works or quarrying works and this needs to be remediated under supervision of the site arborist
- 4.4 It is recommended that the agricultural fence attached to the trees is removed for the health of the trees however as they are not the property of the developer this may not be possible and should not be done without owner permission.
- 4.5 All tree work shall be undertaken in accordance with BS3998:2010:Tree Work Recommendations.

5.0 General Site Care

- 5.1 No access is permitted behind the Tree Protection fence line as indicated and detailed in section 7.0 of this document, including:
 - plant machinery
 - items being stored
 - any personnel without the supervision of the site arborist

6.0 Sequencing of Works

6.1 A logical sequence of events is to be observed as follows:

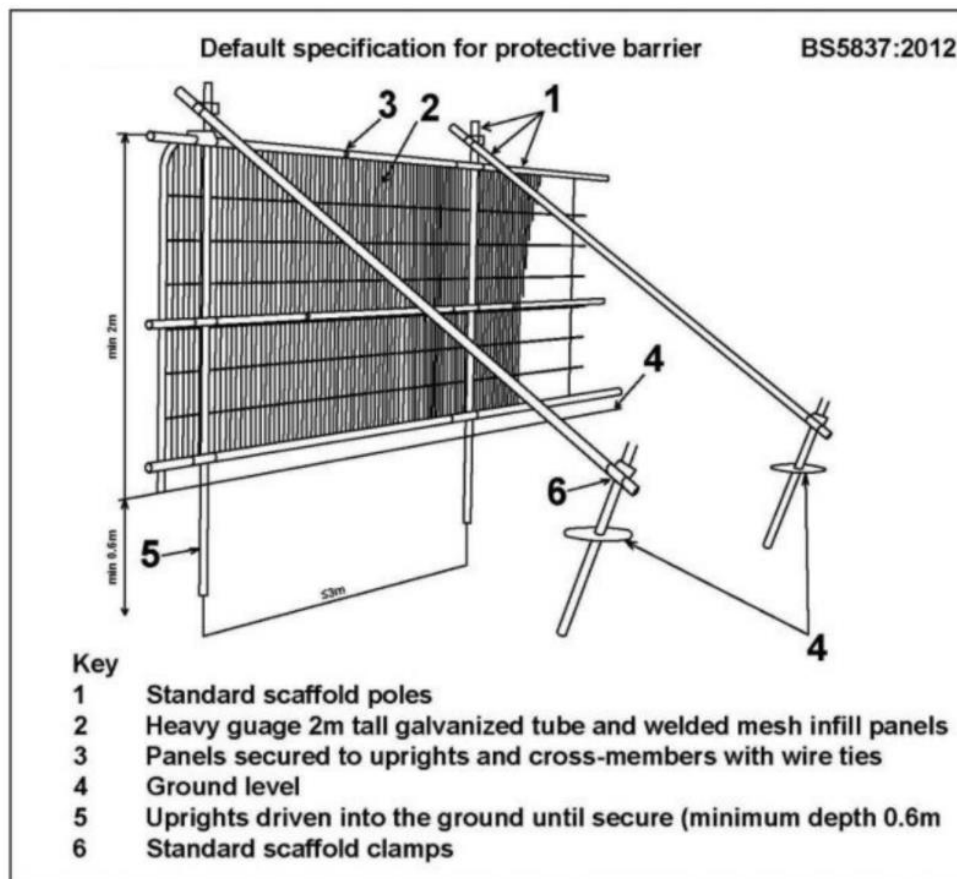
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| Stage 1 | Obtain Permission to carry out Tree Works |
| Stage 2 | Remove Deadwood and Prune overhanging limbs |
| Stage 3 | Remove soil mounding at the base of some trees |
| Stage 4 | Erect Tree Protection Fencing |
| Stage 5 | Carry out Construction Works in CEZ with consultation and supervision of site arborist. Reinstate Tree Protection fence for duration of remainder of works in this area. |
| Stage 6 | Remove tree on Northern Boundary |

7.0 Protective Barriers and Ground Protection

- 7.1 As set out in BS5837:2012 the RPA will be calculated by creating a circumference around the main stem of the tree 12 x the DBH (Diameter at Breast Height).
- 7.2 In order to protect this area the line of the proposed Tree Protection Fence will be kept outside the calculated RPA.
- 7.3 Where the tree is standing as an individual the Tree Protection Fence will be erected continuously around the tree. Where the trees are in a line, group or hedgerow the fence will be continuous where possible and return at the ends so as to prevent access to the RPA or Trees by any construction work or storage.
- 7.4 Suitable Signage is to be erected at regular intervals on the Tree Protection Fencing to clearly annotate its purpose. Examples below



- 7.5 Any access to the RPA or inside the Tree Protection Fence is to be gained under the supervision of the site-specific Arborist and a minimum of 5 days' notice must be given to allow time to arrange site presence.
- 7.6 Under no circumstances should the fencing be removed, opened or dismantled during construction works. Damaged fencing to be repaired within 2 hours. Fencing will be inspected upon monthly inspections by the Site Appointed Arborist.
- 7.7 Tree Protection Fencing Detail from BS5837:2012



- 8.0 **Creation of Hard Surfaces within Root Protection Areas**
- 8.1 A suitable solution to the construction of hard surfaces within the RPA / CEZ will be worked out and agreed between the project engineer and the appointed Arborist
- 9.0 **Excavations Close to Root Protection Areas**
- 9.1 In general excavations will not occur in the RPA, however if excavation works do need to take place they will be planned with direct consultation of the Site Arborist and any works will be supervised if necessary.
- 9.2 Excavation works may have to be carried out by hand or small machinery in order to maintain adequate protection of the tree the RPA relates to.

10.0 Reinstatement or New Landscape Works

- 10.1 Any landscaping works, either reinstatement or new, to be carried out in the RPA of the trees will be done by hand where realistically possible.
- 10.2 Care will be taken that the soil levels are not greatly raised in the RPA

11.0 Planning, Communication and Supervision

- 11.1 A pre-commencement meeting will take place on site attended by the appointed Site Arborist, the tree contractor, the site manager and if available the local authority arboricultural officer. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that everyone fully understands the implications of the arboricultural method statement and to agree on finer points of detail prior to any works commencing.
- 11.2 The appointed arboricultural consultant shall monitor the works at the following key stages:
 - Confirm tree pruning
 - Confirmation that protective measures are in place
 - Confirm route of services
 - Monthly site visits
- 12.3 It shall be the duty of the client to notify the Site Arborist when the works are ready for inspection.
- 12.4 At the completion of each monitoring visit the appointed arboricultural consultant will circulate a short monitoring report to the client, site and the local authority arboricultural officer to confirm that works are progressing satisfactorily.
- 12.5 Monitoring visits will be undertaken by the arboricultural consultant at intervals commensurate with site progress, and as notified by the client, to make sure that all tree protection measures are in place. A record of these visits will be kept and maintained for inspection on site. These site visits may be carried out at intervals requested by the Local Planning Authority.
- 12.6 Should any problems arise on site; the site manager will immediately inform the appointed Site Arborist who will assess the situation and make recommendations accordingly. If any modifications to the method statement are proposed, the arboricultural consultant will immediately advise the local authority arboricultural officer.
- 12.7 The site manager will brief all site personnel on the implications of the arboricultural method statement. A copy of this method statement will be available on site at all times.
- 12.8 The progress reports detailed in Section 12.3 will be kept with the method statement so that both are readily available for inspection.

12.0 Transgression

- 12.1 Failure to adhere to the requirements in this method statement may result in a Stop Notice being issued by the local authority. This will bring all operations at the site to a halt until the local authority permits resumption.
- 12.2 Failure to adhere to the requirements of this method statement that results in damage to a tree subject to a Tree Preservation Order may result in prosecution of the individual, the contractor and the client.
- 12.3 The following measures will be required, but do not absolve the perpetrator from action, if the identified transgression occurs:
- a) Breakage of branches – the damaged shall be assessed by an arboriculturist, they shall advise on requirements and any pruning shall be undertaken in accordance with BS3998:2010 to remove the damaged section.
 - b) Damage to bark – the damage shall be assessed by an arboriculturist and they shall advise on the measures that can be taken to optimise the reparation of the damage. Some paring back of damage may be required.
 - c) Damage to roots – the damage shall be assessed by an arboriculturist and they shall advise on the pruning or reparation required.
 - d) Compaction of soil – where machinery operates outside of ground protection and hard surfaces, leading to the compaction of soil, the compaction shall be alleviated by using compressed air injected to circa 1m deep to create fissures in the ground and lift the compacted areas. The compaction shall be assessed by an arboriculturist. A specialist company shall be appointed by the contractor to undertake the work.
- 12.4 All items of transgression shall be reported to the Local Authority tree officer to consider if action should be taken.

13.0 Conclusion

- 13.1 If measures recommended in this Method Statement along with the recommended works and procedures outlined in the supporting documents and plans are followed, the proposed development works should be able to be carried out without any detrimental effects to the trees retained.