Tree Protection Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement

March 2017
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PLANS

Tree Protection Plan (drawing no. 1871-AMS-02)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) and Tree Protection Plan (TPP) have been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Limited on behalf of IM Properties. It sets out details of the methods by which retained trees will be protected during construction work; identifying those construction operations that are potentially injurious to trees and their rooting areas and describing working procedures that will reduce the risk of harm.

1.2 The site is in Blythe Valley Park, Birmingham and is Plot F5, situated to the North of the current commercial park (hereafter referred to as ‘the site’) and is centered on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SP 139 753.

1.3 The AMS and TPP have been requested by IM Properties to accompany the current reserved matters application for the development of a single commercial building with accompanying car parking provision, drainage infrastructure and green landscaping on Plot F5. This AMS will discharge condition 19 pursuant to planning permission reference PL/2016/00863/MAOOT in so far as it relates to this ‘phase’.

1.4 The document sets out the details of any proposed works that would potentially affect trees and provides the working methodology and specifications for the means of protection for those trees during construction of the site. Compliance with this method statement, once approved by the Local Authority’s Arboricultural Officer, will be a requirement of all relevant contracts associated with delivery of the development proposals.

1.5 An Arboricultural Assessment was also prepared by FPCR dated June 2016, submitted as part of the hybrid planning application, which should be read in conjunction with the AMS. A site specific Ecological Appraisal and Arboricultural Assessment (March 2017) has also been prepared and submitted in support of the reserved matters application. Tree reference numbers given within the AMS are as per those in the Arboricultural Assessment.

1.6 The AMS has demonstrated that the construction operations can be undertaken with minimal risk of any adverse impact to the retained trees.

2.0 PLANS

2.1 The AMS has been based upon the following plans:

- Proposed Plot F5 Site Plan (drawing no. 8460 P-101)
- Topographical Plan

2.2 The various tree protection measures have been detailed in the Tree Protection Plan (drawing no. 1871-A-03 F5). The plan shows the proposed layout and drainage arrangements in relation to the retained trees allowing the identification of constraints and position of protection measures to ensure the retained trees are sufficiently protected from any foreseeable damage.
3.0 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Background Information and Site Context

3.1 Much of the area associated with Plot F5 consisted of over grown grassland with Boundary groups of trees to south and west. Recent works to clear outgrown vegetation has been carried out to the north of the site leaving several individual trees in this area.

3.2 The majority of the trees are adjacent to the application boundary, however their calculated Root Protection Areas extend into the proposed development area.

3.3 In considering the construction works and foreseeable impacts arising to the retained trees, judgements have needed to be taken from an arboricultural perspective to apply and implement the most effective methods by which to protect the trees roots both directly from physical damage and indirectly by minimising disturbance to the soil environment and roots that are likely to be present, whilst allowing construction to progress.

3.4 Where possible therefore, it has been attempted in the measures set out in this AMS to retain much of the existing ground conditions as possible and to protect roots and their rooting environment to ultimately improve their future co-existence with the new development.

Particulars of the Method Statement

3.5 This section identifies where the various construction elements required may potentially risk harming retained trees and their rooting environment, and describes the methods by which works will be carried out in order to minimise that harm of foreseeable potential impacts to facilitate the proposed layout. The AMS also details the various components in respect of tree work requirements, tree protection measures and details for practical application of such measures.

3.6 Refer to the Tree Protection Plan (drawing no. 1871-A-03(F5)).

3.7 For each of the activities a brief description of the particular operation is given and following which, the methodology as to how the operation will be undertaken is given to best avoid damaging the trees rooting systems.

3.8 Tree work requirements have also been included where it has been required to undertake “Facilitation Pruning” in accordance with BS 5837 (2012).

3.9 Covered by this section also are details of all other tree protection measures to be adhered to for the retained trees across the remainder of the site, timeline for intended construction / tree protection works and monitoring / site supervision.

3.10 The details set out a working methodology for practical implementation of the protection measures, while being flexible to allow any necessary amendments to protection systems as the project evolves, as far as possible using current best practice within the arboricultural industry. The end result of the various considerations relating to tree protection has been to provide
practical yet effective means of protecting retained trees within close proximity to the development.

**Underground Utility Services**

3.11 There has currently been no confirmation of any existing service lines running close to or within rooting areas of existing trees.

3.12 All underground services, where their position would be within RPA’s, will be hand dug and using hand operated tools only; in accordance with NJUG (National Joint Utilities Guidelines) Volume 4 – Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees – November 2007.

3.13 Where there would be need to excavate within RPA’s this will be carried out under supervision by the Project Arboriculturalist. Providing any trenching is dug by hand and if any roots encountered are treated appropriately as in accordance with clause 7.2 of BS 5837 (2012) there should be no adverse impact on the trees.

**4.0 TREE PROTECTION METHODOLOGY**

4.1 Tree Protection Fencing will be installed prior to the commencement of any site activity, at the appropriate stage, including the installation of the construction compound, site offices, topsoil stripping or material storage unless specified elsewhere such as use of the existing fencing and site hording serving as Tree Protection Fencing.

4.2 Fencing will be installed, as detailed in the Tree Protection Plan (1871-AMS-02), this will form a **CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE** to prevent access of construction machinery, plant or other operatives beyond the areas identified unless required to carry out approved operations such as excavation of drainage pipe.

4.3 The fencing being proposed is strong and suitable for the location, type and proximity of construction activity. Barriers will remain rigid and in place for the duration of the development and not removed until construction work on the site has been completed, or otherwise specified for temporary periods.

4.4 The fencing and construction exclusion zones will be clearly marked using appropriate signage an example of which has been included as Appendix B. Protection will be in the form of Heras fence panels and hoarding, examples of both are shown in Appendix A.

4.5 Once the barriers have been completely installed the site manager should contact the project arboriculturist so that a visit can be made and written confirmation that the barriers have been installed in the correct position, to the required standard, can be given.

**Site Rules for Tree Protection**

4.6 This section details non-specific precautionary measures for tree protection and will be applied at all times.
4.7 All the retained trees will be adequately protected during all construction works. Measures to protect these trees will follow the best practice principles set out in *BS5837: Trees in Relation to Construction Recommendations* (2012). These have been broadly summarised below.

4.8 No materials or soils are to be stored within the RPAs of the retained trees.

4.9 The tree protection fencing will be positioned as per the Tree Protection Plan and described in this AMS around the extent of the RPA to create an exclusion zone to all construction activity accordingly.

4.10 Oil, bitumen, cement or other material that is potentially injurious to trees will not be stacked or discharged within 10m of a tree stem, even if the outside of the Tree Protection Fencing distance. No concrete mixing will be done within 10m of a tree. Allowance will be made for the slope of ground to prevent materials running towards the tree.

4.11 Wide or tall loads etc. should not come into contact with retained trees. The banksman should supervise transit of vehicles where they are in close proximity to retained trees to ensure that damage to trees does not occur.

4.12 No fires will be lit where flames are anticipated to extend to within 5m of tree foliage, branches or trunk, taking into consideration wind direction and size of fire.

4.13 Notice boards, telephone cables or other services will not be attached to any part of a retained tree.

4.14 No roots will be left uncovered if exposed during the removal of existing surface materials. They will be covered over as soon as possible to minimise the risk of drying out and dying.

**Other Works within Root Protection Areas**

4.15 Should any other works be necessary within the RPA of retained trees (other than those described above), this will need to be discussed with the Project Arboriculturalist and with prior agreement from the Local Planning Authority.

**Removal of Protective Fencing**

4.16 Following the completion of all construction works and in agreement with the Project Arboriculturalist the tree protection fencing will be removed carefully as to avoid causing root disturbance. This operation can be carried out prior to soft landscaping works such as new planting, mulching, grass sowing etc.
Table 1: Timeline of Tree Protection Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Works required</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Approximate Timetable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tree Protection Fencing</td>
<td>Erect fencing as detailed above to the specification shown in Appendix B and as per the positions shown by the Tree Protection Plan. Fencing will be marked out by the appointed Site Contractor and approved by the LPA Tree Officer / Project Arboriculturalist.</td>
<td>Prior to storage of materials, commencement any site activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval of fencing by Project Arboriculturalist</td>
<td>Written confirmation from Project Arboriculturalist that fencing has been positioned and erected satisfactorily.</td>
<td>Immediately following completion of fencing installation and prior to commencement of works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal of Tree Protection Fencing</td>
<td>As detailed within section 5</td>
<td>Following the completion of all construction works and in agreement with the Project Arboriculturist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.0 INDUCTION AND SITE BRIEFING

5.1 As part of the overall tree protection measures inductions of all appointed construction personnel and contractors working near to the retained trees are aware of the protection measures. This will involve briefing personnel on the various constraints and working practices around the retained trees to safeguard them from damage during construction and the importance of the tree protection measures. Site induction meetings would need therefore to include a brief synopsis of section 3 and the full details of section 5 of this document.

5.2 As it would be impractical for the Project Arboriculturalist to be present for all site briefings and inductions through the various phases of the sites development this duty will be delegated to the Site Manager or their appointed staff member, once having been sufficiently briefed by the Project Arboriculturalist.

6.0 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND KEY PERSONNEL

6.1 The Project Arboriculturalist, Harry Raffle (FPCR 01509 672772), will be responsible for monitoring the tree protection measures as detailed within this document and will refer all relevant details to the Local Planning Authority Tree Officer upon request.

6.2 The Site Manager will be responsible for the implementation of this AMS on site; ensuring the protective fencing remains in place for the duration of all construction phases and construction activity on site following approval from the Project Arboriculturalist, and is not moved without approval ensuring the general protection measures are fully adhered to at all times.
7.0 PROCEDURES FOR VARIATION OR INCIDENT

7.1 Should at any time, during the construction of the proposals, a variation to the protection measures be required then advice will be sought from first the Project Arboriculturalist and, if necessary, by submission of an addendum to this document for review by the Local Planning Authority Arboricultural Officer.

7.2 Variations may be required for such work as; facilitation pruning of retained trees where branches conflict with the approved design; temporary removal or movement of protective fencing due to unforeseen circumstances. This will be important as part of the review process of the Tree Protection Scheme as the various phases of the development take place.

8.0 MONITORING OF TREES DURING AND POST CONSTRUCTION

8.1 This is to take place as outlined below and as formerly approved and agreed with the Local Planning Authority. The Project Arboriculturalist will be responsible for monitoring of all arboricultural works and issuing a certificate of practical completion at the various stages.

8.2 In addition, the Project Arboriculturalist will inspect the protective fencing and oversee / monitor any works within exclusion zones. A record of site visits will be maintained for inspection on site and copies can be forwarded to the developer / agent and to the Local Planning Authority.

8.3 Key monitoring stages are summarised below:

- Site visit to check position of tree protection fencing and specification to ensure it has been correctly installed and is fit for purpose. Inspection and approval of fencing.
- Signing off of the protective fencing.
- Eventual removal of all tree protection barriers following the completion of all construction activity and landscaping works on site in agreement with the Project Arboriculturalist.

8.4 The Project Arboriculturalist will carry out inspections of the site at agreed intervals / key stages following decisions made at initial meetings with Construction Team.

8.5 The purpose of the visits will be to approve and monitor the tree protection measures’ including ensuring the position of fencing is correct and overseeing any other works required works within RPAs. A record of site visits will be maintained for inspection on site and copies can be made available upon request. Site monitoring of tree protection fencing will be undertaken daily by the Site Manager and by the Project Arboriculturalist, time frame to be decided, throughout the duration of the development to ensure trees integrate successfully into the development.
Standard specification for protective barrier
1. Standard scaffold poles
2. Heavy gauge 2m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
3. Panels secured to scaffold frame with wire ties
4. Ground level
5. Uprights driven into the ground until secure (min depth of 0.6m)
6. Standard scaffold clamps
7. Construction Exclusion Zone signs

Above ground stabilising systems
1. Stabiliser strut with base plate secured with ground pins
2. Feet blocks secured with ground pins
3. Construction Exclusion Zone signs
PROTECTIVE FENCING. THIS FENCING MUST BE MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED PLANS AND DRAWINGS FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT.

TREE PROTECTION AREA
KEEP OUT!
(TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)
Trees enclosed by this fence are protected by planning conditions and/or are the subjects of a tree preservation order. Contravention of a tree preservation order may lead to criminal prosecution.

Any incursion into the protected area must be with the written permission of the local planning authority.