

**ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT,
TREE PROTECTION METHOD STATEMENT AND ECOLOGY ASSESSMENT**

Gate 9 Heaton Park

November 2023

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This document has been prepared by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) on behalf of Manchester City Council.

It provides an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA), an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) and an Ecology Survey in regard to the following proposed development -

- Repairs to boundary wall and improvements to access at Gate 9, Heaton Park, Manchester.

1.2 Heaton Park is a Grade 2 listed Park scape and proposed tree removals should have regard to this listed status.



Fig 1 Site location and approximate survey extent (bordered in red)

(not to a recognised scale)



Fig 2 Aerial view, location of proposed access (bordered in red)
(not to a recognised scale)



Photo 1 - General View of Gate 9 and trees from Manchester Road

- 1.3 For the purposes of preparing this document the following plans and drawings provided by Manchester City Council were referenced –
- Dwg ref MCCB01 01 DR B 002 S4
 - Dwg ref MCC XX XX DR B 010 S2
- 1.4 The Report assesses the potential impacts to trees and the local sylvan landscape as a consequence of the development proposals, as well as specifying the necessary methods required during works to ensure that retained trees are afforded adequate protection from harm.
- 1.5 The Report also assesses the potential impacts of the proposed works on Ecology.
- 1.6 Surveys and Assessments were carried out by Principal Ecologist Derek Richardson BSc Hons and Ecologist Samuel Bolton BSc in October 2022.

2.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

2.1 The consequences on existing trees situated within and adjacent to the proposed development site are considered.

2.2 Tree Values are taken from BS: 5837 and are represented as follows –

A – High Value

B – Moderate Value

C – Low Value

U – Trees of very Low Value and which require removal

2.3 Potential Impacts are characterised as follows –

REMOVAL

PARTIAL REMOVAL (TREE GROUPS)

HIGH

MODERATE

LOW

NONE

2.4 Causes of impacts include, but are not exclusive to,

- To facilitate development
- Due to poor condition
- Direct disturbance to roots
- Pruning needed
- Possible future pruning

2.5 Comments are included to provide more information where necessary

2.6 Planned works

Tree Works will be needed to -

- widen the current access road
- carry out repairs to the boundary wall

2.7 The trees which will be affected by the access proposals form part of a wider area of broadleaved woodland along the boundary of the Park with the adjacent roadway. They do make a current contribution to the wider parkscape, although Gate 9 is not a well-used pedestrian access point at the Park and lies away from the main pathways which are regularly in day-to-day use in the Park.

2.8 Trees affected are of two species only – Poplar and Sycamore

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3 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT TABLE

Ref No.	Species / Condition	Height (m)	DBH cm	Value	Impact	Impact Cause	Comments	Other
T1	Mature Poplar hybrid, good condition. Some bark loss and loss of smaller stems, usual for this species. Regeneration at base.	25+	270	B2	Remove	Harm to structure, to facilitate improved access	Large mature tree causing structural damage to boundary wall and pillar. Not possible to retain this tree and implement required improved access. As the tree enters late maturity more branches will gradually be lost.	The tree does make a significant contribution to the local treescape, but is causing substantive damage to property
T2	Mature Poplar hybrid, good condition. Some bark loss and loss of smaller stems, usual for this species.	25+	240	B2	Retain, but monitor impact on boundary wall	Possible future structural harm to boundary wall	Large mature tree with potential to cause damage to boundary wall	Tree makes a substantive contribution to local treescape but likely to cause structural harm to boundary wall in future.
T3	Mature Sycamore, clean main stem, reasonable condition	20	90	B2	Remove	To facilitate improved access	Remove	Tree does not make a substantive contribution to treescape. Removal to facilitate new access will not cause significant harm to woodland cover
T4	Mature Sycamore, bifurcated main stem at 2m, reasonable condition	20	90-100	B2	Retain	N/A	Will require tree protection fencing	N/A
T5	Mature Sycamore, clean main stem, reasonable condition	20	80-90	B2	Retain	N/A	N/A	N/A
T6	Mature Sycamore	20	90	CB22 / U	Retain	Protect with tree protection fencing	Will require tree protection fencing	N/A
T7	Semi-mature Sycamore, bifurcated main stem, poor condition, causing harm to adjacent wall	10	40	C	Remove to facilitate development	Remove to avoid further harm to the boundary wall	Remove	The poor condition tree makes little contribution to the local treescape

T8	Mature Poplar Hybrid, reasonable condition, some lost bark and branches but this is normal for the species	25+	190	B	Retain, but monitor impact on boundary wall	Possible future structural harm to wall	Large tree with potential for future growth and therefore potential to cause future damage to the boundary wall. But the tree makes a significant contribution to the treescape so early removal would be premature.	N/A
T9	Mature Poplar Hybrid, some lost bark and branches but this is normal for the species	25+	190	B	Retain, but monitor impact on boundary wall	Possible future structural harm to wall	Large tree with potential for future growth and therefore potential to cause future damage to the boundary wall. But the tree makes a significant contribution to the treescape so early removal would be premature.	N/A
T10	Semi-mature Sycamore, poor condition	10	40	C	Remove to avoid further damage to boundary wall	Remove to avoid further harm to the boundary wall	Remove	The poor condition tree makes little contribution to the local treescape
T11	Semi-mature Sycamore, poor condition	15	75	C	Remove to avoid further damage to boundary wall	Remove to avoid further harm to the boundary wall	Remove	The poor condition tree makes little contribution to the local treescape
T12	Mature sycamore, reasonable condition	20	70	B	Retain	Will require protection from fencing	Retain	N/A
T13	Mature sycamore, reasonable condition	20	70	B	Retain	Retain	Retain	N/A

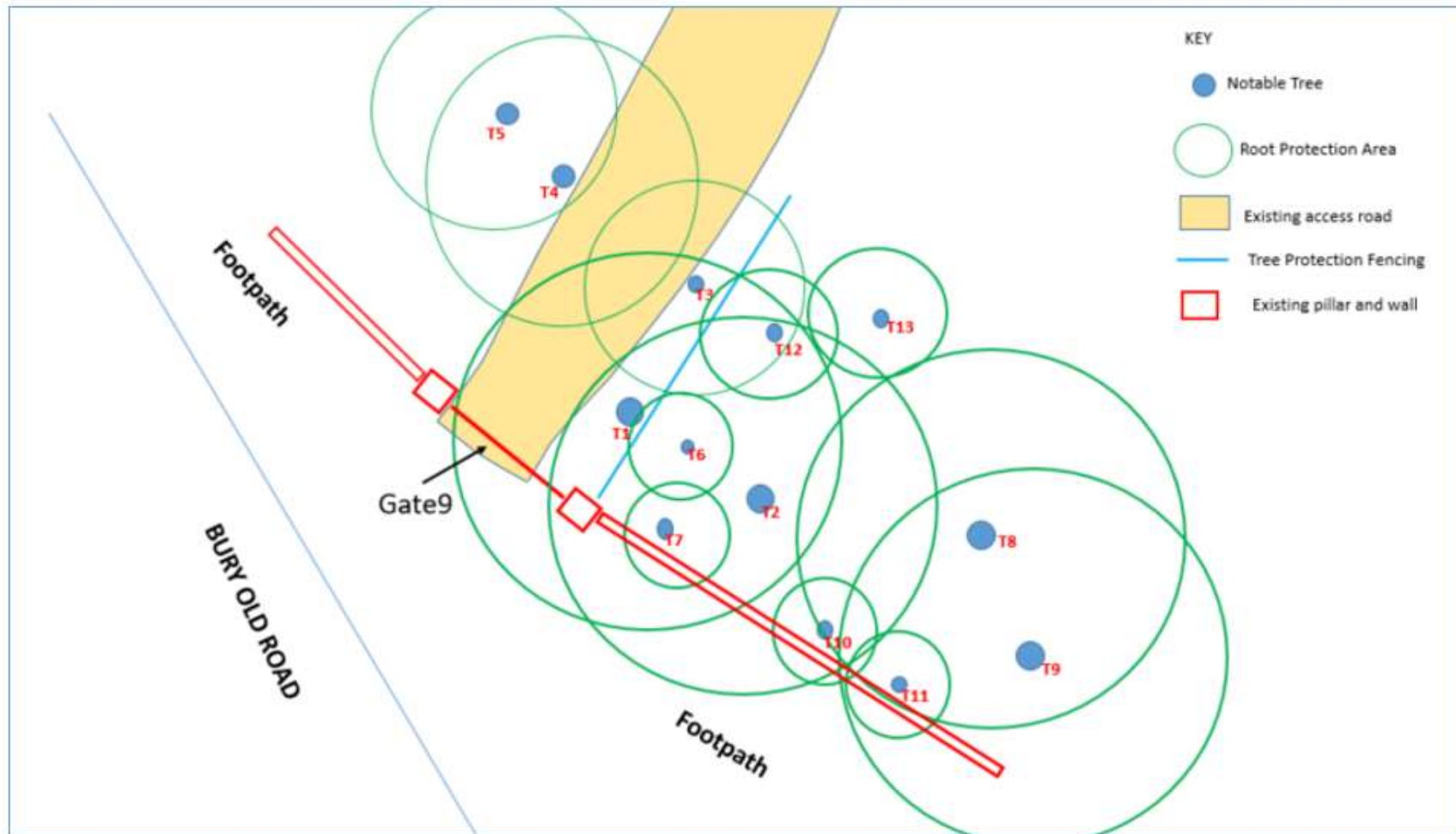


Fig 1 Heaton Park Gate 9 Existing Tree Cover

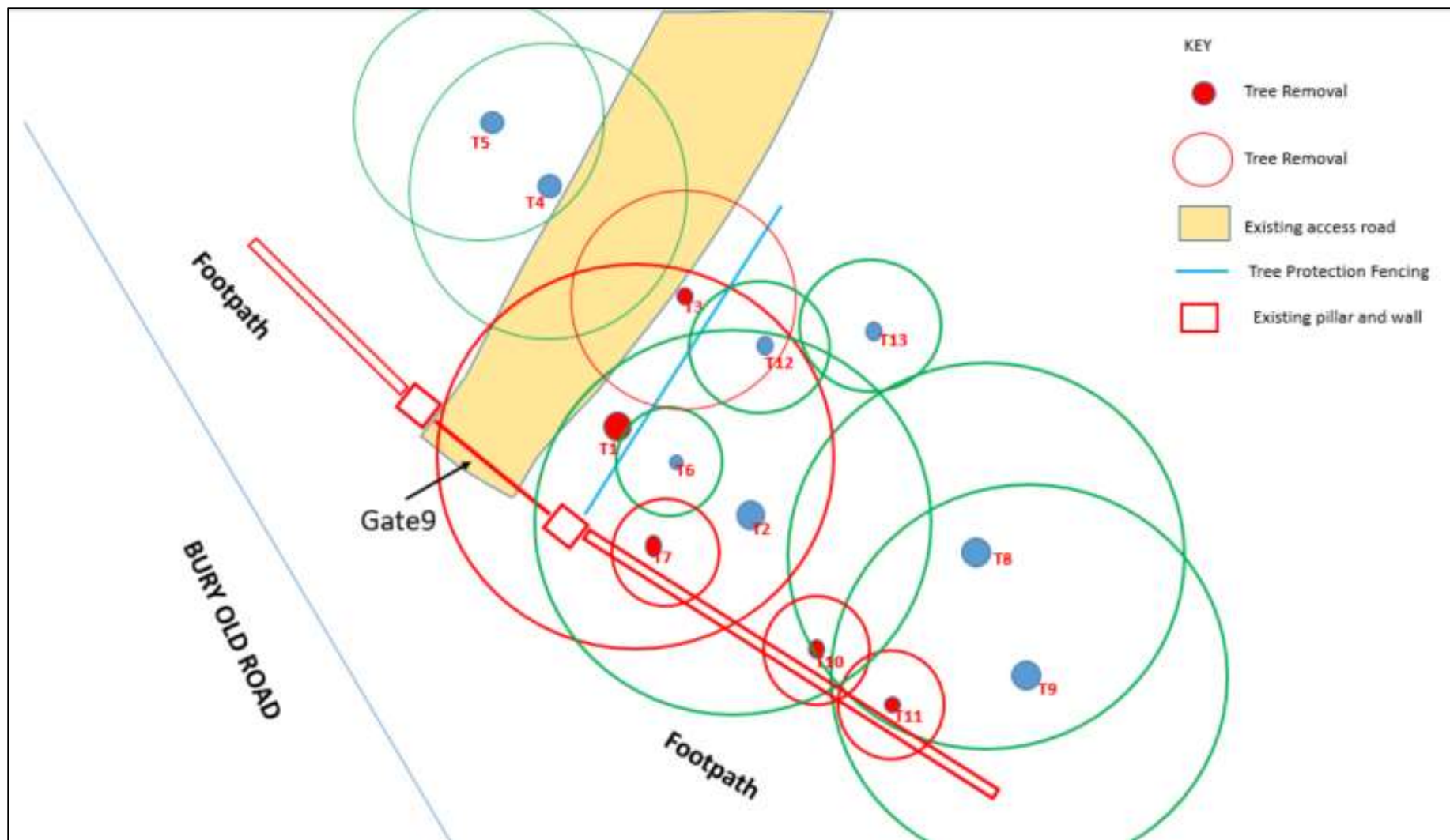


Fig 2 Heaton Park Gate 9 Tree Removals

- 3.1** Trees T1, T3, T7, T10 and T11 will need to be removed to facilitate development and/or to prevent further damage to the boundary wall of the Park

Trees T4, T5, T6 and t12 are capable of being retained, but will require the installation of temporary protective fencing during works

Other trees within the survey area can be retained and should not require tree protection

Trees T8 and T9 should be monitored for possible cause of damage to the boundary wall. Poplars have invasive root systems, the wall is within the root zone of these trees and the trees have potential for future growth.

4 General issues

4.1 Installation of underground services

At the time of considering the layout design, no information was available relating to the proposed location of underground services. By default no services shall be placed within the identified Root Protection Areas of trees being retained. While it is possible in some cases that underground services may be placed within Root Protection Areas, this is best done under arboricultural supervision (at least initially). Where special installation methods are necessary (such as pipe jacking) supplementary method statements must be provided. The proposed location of underground infrastructures must be made available to the local planning authority prior to installation.

4.2 Storage of materials, contractor parking and site logistics

Logistically the site has adequate space for the placement of site huts and material storage. By default all compounds and storage areas are to be outside root protection areas/construction exclusion zones.

4.3 Level changes on site

It ought to be possible to achieve the required road widening without substantively affecting the root protection zones of retained trees.

However, no significant excavation or raising of ground levels are to occur within the construction exclusion zones within the site demarked by tree protection barrier fencing (green coloured zones) within the Tree Protection Plan. Where ground level changes are to occur adjacent retained trees, retaining structures are required.

5.0 Arboricultural Method Statement

- 5.1** The Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) specifies all measures to be undertaken to ensure the ongoing health and viability of trees to be retained within the proposed development.

- 5.2** This AMS is in compliance with British Standard 5837: 2012. Accompanying this document is a plan that shows the position of protective fencing and any additional special measures that are required. This plan is referred to as the **Tree Protection Plan**.

- 5.3 The AMS must be considered a 'working document', subject to possible change as the scheme progresses. It must be made available to the developer, site manager, and LPA. A copy of this document and the Tree Protection Plan must be kept on the development site at all times.

All site operatives must be briefed on the main contents of this document.

- 5.4 It is the Site/Project Manager's responsibility to ensure that the detail of this AMS and the TPP and any agreed amendments are known and understood by all site personnel. A copy of this AMS and the TPP will be available for reference on site by the Project and Site Managers, and will form the basis of the management of all works relating to the trees on the site following commencement of the project. The Site Manager shall induct all personnel who could have an impact on trees on the content of this document.

5.5 Tree Works –General Issues

- 5.5.1 All required tree works (tree felling and pruning) are to take place prior to any site operations and immediately before the installation of protective fencing.
- 5.5.2 All works to the existing trees are to be carried out by a fully qualified tree surgeon and in accordance with BS 3998 (2010) Recommendations for Tree Work.
- 5.5.3 The necessary tree surgery works should be carried out before any construction work starts and immediately before erection of protective fencing. Any works will include any trees that require removal in order to facilitate construction and access.
- 5.5.4 **Wildlife issues and timing of operations.**

The following must be observed:

Bats

None of the trees inspected were considered to have any potential to support roosting bats. However, bats can turn up in unexpected places. Under current legislation, it is an offence to 'intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat' or 'damage, destroy or block access to the resting place of any bat'. For further details, consultation must be made with the Statutory Nature Conservancy Organisation (Natural England, 0300 060 1842 www.naturalengland.org.uk). Where relevant any current ecological surveys for the site will take precedence in this matter.

Nesting Birds.

It is an offence to kill, injure or take any wild bird; or take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. Therefore work likely to disturb nesting birds should be avoided from late March to August, unless nesting birds have been shown to be absent by a suitably qualified person.

Ground flora

There is no woodland ground flora of substantive importance within the works area.

5.6 Tree Protective Barrier Fencing

- 5.6.1 Protective barriers must be erected prior to any site operations. The protective barriers are essential to prevent root severance or compaction of the soil in the Root Protection Areas, and so give the best chance of continued good health of the retained trees.
- 5.6.2 Tree protective barriers are to comprise a vertical and horizontal scaffold framework, which is braced to withstand impacts, and not easily moved or relocated by site operatives (to prevent opportunistic moving of the barrier fences). The vertical tubes should be spaced at intervals of no more than 3m and driven securely into the ground. Onto this framework, welded mesh panels should be securely fixed (such as Heras). The fencing is to be placed accurately as shown within the Tree Protection Care must be taken when locating vertical poles to avoid underground services and, in the case of bracing poles, also to avoid contact with structural roots. If the presence of underground services prevents the use of driven poles, an alternative specification should be prepared; such alternatives could include the attachment of the panels to a freestanding scaffold support framework.

Where fencing is required adjacent, the site boundaries it is acceptable to use hoarding to double as protective fencing but only where the exact location of the protective fencing is adhered to (as per the Tree Protection Plan) and where it is hand installed only.

5.7 General Requirements

- 5.7.1 Developers must enforce the methods of protection identified within the statement. All contractors must also agree to them. Any failure to comply with them must be dealt with by the developer. Any damage that may occur to trees due to failure to observe the method statement must be reported to the Local Planning Authority and arboricultural advice must be sought.
- 5.7.2 No pruning, lopping, felling or severance of roots is to take place without prior consent of the local authority or unless in compliance with specifications included within the Method Statement.
- 5.7.3 The ground levels within the protected areas, be they fenced or special working areas, must neither be raised nor excavated unless specifically in compliance with requirements within this method statement.
- 5.7.4 No ropes, cables, services, or notice boards shall be fixed to existing trees.
- 5.7.5 Fires should not be permitted, or else not lit where flames could extend to within 10m of the foliage, branches or trunk of any trees (it should be noted that local environmental health authorities may have specific restrictions on fires),
- 5.7.6 Should temporary access within the Root Protection Area be required that is not included within the method statement, an agreement, in advance, with the consultant and the LPA must be made. The fence may need to be re-aligned and the ground

surface protected. For vehicular access, this protection will need to be specifically detailed and agreed.

- 5.7.7 Care must be taken in regards to tall or wide loads, or use of plant with booms, jibs and counterweights. Where machinery may be required to operate in the vicinity of trees a banksman must ensure that no direct physical damage is caused to trees. It must be checked that any materials or vehicles entering the site are able to do so without causing damage to adjacent trees.
- 5.7.8 Any material that will contaminate soil (e.g. concrete mixings, and vehicle washings) must not be discharged within 10m of any Root Protection Area. In addition, it is essential that allowance be made for the slope of the ground so that damaging materials cannot run towards trees, or Root Protection Areas. If diesel and fuel containers are used or stored on site, they must be kept within a plastic container bund to prevent any ground contamination and spill kits must be kept available to remediate any spillage.

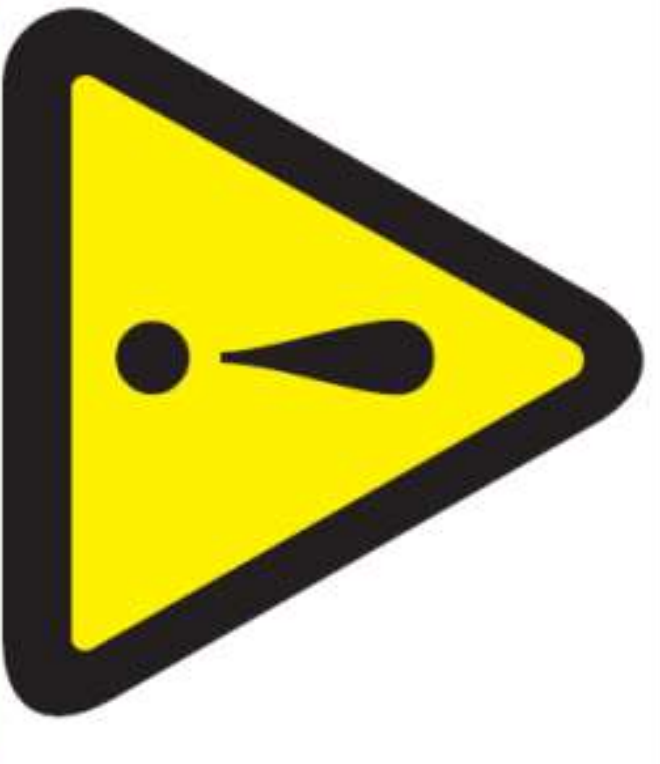
5.8 Arboricultural monitoring

- (i) The arboricultural consultant (or local authority Tree Officer) shall be consulted whenever an unexpected issue occurs that involves any retained tree on site including access within the Protection Area.
- (ii) No amendments shall be made to the methods detailed in this Arboricultural Method Statement without the agreement of the consultant or local planning authority Tree Officer.
- (ii) If the site agent is at all unclear about exact compliance with any of the above requirements, or if requested by any other party, then a pre-start meeting shall be arranged with the architect, site agent, local authority tree officer and arboricultural consultant in attendance as necessary.

5.9 Health and Safety Issues

All operations must be carried out with full regard to Health and Safety requirements. Due to the diverse nature of recommendations included (e.g. tree surgery works, construction *etc*) it is necessary that supervisors of those undertaking recommended operations undertake risk assessments prior to starting the relevant works. It should be the Site Managers/developers responsibility to ensure that risk assessments are submitted prior to undertaking relevant works.

APPENDIX A - SIGNS TO ATTACH TO PROTECTIVE FENCING

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	

Construction and Trees



Why Is Fencing Erected Around Trees?

1. The major cause of damage to trees on construction sites is due to **soil compaction**.
2. Roots use the spaces between soil particles to obtain Oxygen, Water and Nutrients.
3. Heavy plant and machinery compresses (compacts) the soil, squashing out the air spaces and preventing root function.
4. A compacted soil structure will stay compacted.
5. Consequently the tree suffers and will show signs of branch die-back.
6. Symptoms such as die-back may take several years to appear.
7. Soil compaction over roots can be prevented by maintaining a fenced exclusion zone over the tree roots.
8. The exclusion zone distance is calculated using British Standard 5837.
9. Protective Fencing is installed at the calculated distance.
10. Protective Fencing is a condition of planning approval, if it is removed or repositioned the construction firm is in breach of a condition and may be subjected to legal action.