

Description of Development

Re-alignment of the final part of the White Peak Loop Trail as it passes through the grounds of the Parks Inn public house.

Location of Development

Parks Inn, 2 Burlow Road, Harpur Hill, Buxton, SK17 9JD.



Full permission for development **approved** under the Town and Country Planning Act and the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 on 19th April 2017 **with conditions**.

**SUBMISSION OF ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT
SEEKING THE DISCHARGE OF PLANNING CONDITION No.4**

"No operations shall commence on site in connection with the development hereby approved (including demolition works, tree works, fires, soil moving, temporary access construction and / or widening or any operations involving the use of motorised vehicles or construction machinery) until a Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) in accordance with BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and erected".

Arboricultural Method Statement

Introduction

The purpose of this Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) is to set out working practices that will avoid causing damage to adjacent retained trees during the construction of this section of the White Peak Loop. This AMS has been written to comply with Condition 4 of the planning permission (ref. HPK/2017/0064) granted on 19th April 2017 by High Peak Borough Council, which states;

"No operations shall commence on site in connection with the development hereby approved (including demolition works, tree works, fires, soil moving, temporary access construction and / or widening or any operations involving the use of motorised vehicles or construction machinery) until a Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) in accordance with BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and erected."

Background

Trees are susceptible to sustaining damage both above and below ground during construction works primarily from mechanical impacts, chemical pollutants, soil compaction and excess heat e.g. from fires, tar torches, vehicle exhausts etc.

The following methodology complies with the relevant sections of BS5837:2012 that relate to the types of work involved with the construction of a multi user trail in order to avoid causing damage to the trees within the works area.

Work Sequencing and Tree Protection

A no-dig method of construction - illustrated in drawing no 9328.01/33 - will be used within the 'root protection' areas (identified in drawing no 9328.01/42) utilising a cellular geogrid overlaid on existing ground to contain the base course of the trail and negate the need to excavate in to the rooting zone.

1. The stems of the trees adjacent to the works will be protected by installing 2m high Heras fencing between the tree stems and the works, with a minimum offset distance of 1 metre from the respective tree stems. All work to install the protective fencing will be undertaken using hand tools. If there is a need to provide additional ground anchorage to the protective fencing, this will be achieved using 1.3m long steel fencing/road pins to minimise the potential impact to roots.
2. There will be no clearance or construction works carried out on site until the protective fencing has been installed at the locations shown on drawing no 9328.01/42 and as described below. The protective fencing will be retained intact for the full duration of the development.
3. A mini tracked 360° excavator - 1.5 to 3 tonnes fitted and with a grading bucket - will be used to clear the organic surface material, grass, leaf litter etc and soil to a maximum depth of 50mm. This will be undertaken under the guidance of an arboriculturalist. The purpose of this operation is to remove material that has the potential to enter an aerobic state if left under the trail or buried within the footprint of the construction.

4. All operatives who will be using the 360° excavator and overseeing/assisting associated works will be briefed to minimise sideways movements of the machine boom at all times when its span at full extent is within range of trees. This will eliminate potential for damage to the bark of trees which would subsequently allow the ingress of pathogens to the detriment of the trees' long term health. No other plant to be used in the contract will have a sideways moveable machine part.
5. Construction through the grounds of the Parks Inn will mainly start from the south end of the property at the boundary with the adjacent field. Firstly, the trail footprint will be shallow scraped (max 50mm depth) to remove significant organic material. Secondly, fill material (where possible utilising select excavated material) will be placed where required using a front tip method to build up the elevation of the ground to reach the designed formation level.
6. Prior to machinery running over the formation level, a woven geotextile will be installed to form the base of the trail construction. This geotextile will be directly overlaid with a cellular containment geogrid, secured into position by proprietary pegs. The geogrids will then be filled with aggregate using a dumper of no more than 3 tonnes in weight. This filling will also be undertaken using the front tip method, leaving an aggregate bed for the dumper to travel over to reach and fill the next section of geogrid. This method utilises the trail construction to provide a weight displacement surface for the dumper to pass over, thus significantly reducing or eliminating the potential for compaction to occur.
7. Once the aggregate filling work is complete, the trail surface will then be acceptable for limited vehicular use. This will be restricted to essential passage by the construction plant required to construct the trail, and will affect the footprint of the trail and adjacent areas of proposed fill as indicated on drawing no's 9328.01/30 and 9328.01/42, the latter to a minimal degree. Within the root protection area, vehicles will only run on the filled cellular geogrid, the one exception being a small tracked excavator that may be used to clear organic material from the surface across the proposed width of the trail prior to installing the geogrid. This method will reduce/eliminate the risk of compaction and damage occurring to soil and roots respectively. Vehicle movements will be kept to the minimum required to construct the trail.
8. A single drum roller with a maximum weight of 200Kg will be used if necessary to compact the filled geogrid and overlying surfacing media.
9. No excavations for services, storage of materials or machinery, parking of vehicles, deposit or excavation of soil or rubble, or disposal of liquids shall take place within any area designated as being fenced off or otherwise protected in the approved protection scheme.
10. The contractor's storage area for plant and materials shall be identified on site in agreement with the land owners and the Engineer on site. This area will be located at least 1 metre outside the edge of the crown of any tree so as to avoid contact damage and ground compaction and/or contamination.
11. No fires will be lit within 6m of the furthest extent of the canopy of any tree or tree group to be retained as part of the approved scheme.

Tree Felling and Pruning

12. The large sycamore tree adjacent to the proposed access from the field as shown in red on drawing no 9328.01/42 will be felled by professional arboricultural contractors working to BS3998:2010 in a manner to ensure that the adjacent retained trees are not damaged, prior to executing any other work in this area.
13. Some small self-set trees within the line of the trail will also be cut down as indicated on drawing no 9328.01/30, although this will be kept to a minimum.

Implementation and monitoring of AMS

14. This AMS will be conveyed to the Principal Contractor, who will disseminate the information to all site operatives by way of 'Tool Box Talks'. A copy of the AMS will be available to the site operatives at all times they are on site. The Principal Contractor will be instructed to take all due care so as not to damage any of the trees to be retained.
15. All items described in this AMS in respect to tree protection measures will be carried out under the supervision of the County Council's Tree Officer or other suitably qualified arboriculturalist.

14 JUNE 2017