

# Forge Mill, Chinley Arboricultural Method Statement

This Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) outlines the parameters within which demolition, remediation and construction must be undertaken in order to retain protected trees in satisfactory condition. This document gives a definitive account of the treatment of retained trees during the construction process and outlines appropriate design and construction methods. The detail and requirements of this method statement comprise commitments to complete the construction phase of the development in a specific manner and must inform the production of all relevant tender documents and instructions to contractors.

Failure to adhere to the correct sequence, manner and timing of operations detailed below may result in irremediable damage to trees, and thereby breach of planning consent.

## GENERAL TERMS

A. The activities described by this method statement must be completed in full before relevant planning conditions can be discharged.

B. A copy of this Method Statement will be made available for inspection on site and introduced to all relevant contractors.

C. Works will proceed in a careful and logical manner, such that accidental damage to trees by booms, cranes, vehicles etc. is avoided.

D. All areas that are protected by Tree Protection Fencing will be collectively defined as a **Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ)**.

E. Tree protection fencing will not be removed or realigned other than as directed by an arboricultural consultant.

F. Storage of materials and access of any kind will be prohibited within the CEZ.

G. Any change in ground level, excavation, trenching or other piercing of the ground within the CEZ will be supervised.

H. If unexpected large roots (>25mm diameter) are encountered during excavation works or if additional pruning of branches is required, the advice of an Arboricultural Consultant will be required for further direction.

I. No compaction, smearing or rutting of soils will be allowed to occur by whatever means within the CEZ.

J. Operations within the CEZ will be undertaken during dry weather. Works will cease during rainfall and recommence after 24 hours.

## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS (Operations to be undertaken in strict chronological order)

1. An arboricultural contractor will be engaged to undertake the felling and pruning works.
2. An Arboricultural Consultant will be appointed to undertake supervision and sign off completion of works.
3. A chain of command for the implementation of each part of this method statement will be established.

## Setting-out

4. In three highlighted areas (dashed line box) the proposed layout will be set out by a surveyor using marker posts.
5. The arboricultural consultant will set out the tree protection fencing alignment using spray paint and/or post markers; the site/construction manager will be present.
6. Where any variations in fencing specification or alignment are required, a revised Tree Protection Plan will be produced to reflect the changes. This will be issued to the LPA; changes that reduce the level of protection will not be made without written approval.

## Tree marking

7. Trees for removal will be marked by the appointed arboricultural consultant using marker spray.

## Nesting bird checks

8. Within bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) checks of all trees will be undertaken immediately prior to felling (within 24 hours).
9. Any unprocessed piles of brash that have been left unattended will also be subject to checks prior to processing.
10. Nesting bird checks will be undertaken by a qualified ecologist.

## Tree clearance

11. Tree works will be undertaken according to BS3998:2010 by a suitably qualified, experienced and insured contractor.
12. All trees shown for removal on drawing D4581.002 will be felled.
13. Felled trees will be processed by chipping and all arisings will be removed from the site.
14. All tree works will be undertaken with diligent regard for restrictions arising in relation to invasive and/or protected species.
15. The removal of trees in G45 may be required (see D4581.002). This will be dependent on the methodology that is approved for the treatment of Japanese Knotweed in this area and other ground remediation works. If removal of G45 is required, operations will strictly follow the advice of the supervising Japanese Knotweed specialist. If it is retained, tree protection fencing will be installed a minimum of 1m outside the canopy spread.

## Formative pruning and additional tree removals

15. Following completion of felling works, an inspection will be undertaken by an arboricultural consultant to assess the finished edge of groups and trees that were previously internal and sheltered. Minor additional pruning works may be specified. This would typically include reshaping of trees that appear to be vulnerable to windthrow or are otherwise aesthetically unsuitable.
16. Any additional tree works will be completed and will be subject to the same methods and restrictions as above.

## Installation of Tree Protection Fencing

17. Once tree works are complete tree protection fencing will be installed.
18. Fencing will be installed according to the specification shown (Type A).
19. In one area (around the chimney stack), fencing will follow a more robust specification (Type D) to protect against demolition dust and debris.
20. Any deviation from this specification will be approved in writing by the LPA.
21. Signs will be affixed to the fencing at visible intervals indicating the protected status of the area and prohibiting access.
22. The correct installation of tree protection fencing will be verified in writing before construction commences.
23. If any requirement to enter the fenced CEZ for operational reasons arises, the Arboricultural Consultant will be contacted for advice in the first instance.
24. Tree protection fencing will remain in situ for the duration of the construction.

## General demolition

25. Demolition work (including processing of materials) will be undertaken with diligent regard for the welfare of trees.
26. All works will be completed without entry into any fenced off area (CEZ).
27. If any requirement to enter the fenced CEZ arises, the Arboricultural Consultant will be contacted before works proceed.
28. The removal of any buried or retaining structures that are adjacent to the CEZ will be removed from outside the CEZ. This will generally be completed by excavation of or pulling towards the interior of the site and away from retained trees.
29. No excavation or piercing of ground within the CEZ will be permitted.
30. Any excessive dust build-up will be washed from tree foliage on a weekly basis by spraying with water. Detergents will not be used.
31. All other remediation and processing of materials will be completed outside of the fenced CEZ.

## Chimney stack demolition

32. Demolition of the chimney stack in the north of the site will be by the remote use of explosives.
33. The demolition will be planned to cause the stack to fall away from the surrounding trees (i.e. to the south-east).
34. Demolition fencing with netting will be installed at the alignment shown prior to demolition. Wooden hoarding may be installed if preferred.
35. If any demolition material enter the CEZ to the north or west of the chimney stack, it will be left in situ so that the Arboricultural Consultant can assess the extent of any damage and specify remedial works.
36. Any additional tree pruning or felling that is required following and as a result of the chimney stack demolition will be notified in writing to the LPA.
37. Any excessive dust build-up will be washed from tree foliage on a weekly basis by spraying with water. Detergents will not be used.

## Construction phase

38. Following completion of site remediation and demolition works, the arboricultural consultant will be contacted to undertake an inspection of trees adjacent to works areas. Remedial works may be specified according to tree condition and tree protection fencing may be realigned. Any changes to fencing design or tree retention will be notified in writing to the LPA.
39. Construction works will proceed as per the approved plans.
40. Highway improvement works to Forge Road will be completed without removing the existing stone wall to the north of the road.
41. Any accidental damage to Tree Protection Fencing will be reported immediately to the arboricultural consultant.
42. All retained trees within the application boundary will be inspected biannually during the construction phase.

## Supervised excavation

43. Any excavation within or immediately adjacent to the CEZ will be supervised by the arboricultural consultant.
44. In areas of supervised digging topsoil will be stripped by hand to a depth of 600mm or until, in the opinion of the supervising arboriculturalist, no deeper roots are anticipated. Roots that are encountered will be neatly severed at the trench face using a pruning saw or bypass secateurs.

45. The supervising arboriculturalist will determine the acceptability of necessary root severance in terms of each tree's age, vigour, species and the size and number of roots encountered.
46. If the level of required root loss is deemed unacceptable, alternative methods will be discussed. Where no alternative methods are available, tree removal will be considered as a last resort. Any such additional tree removal will be notified in writing to the LPA and mitigation planting will be agreed prior to removals being undertaken.
47. Tree Protection Fencing may be realigned temporarily to allow access to works at the direction of the supervising arboriculturalist and where this does not compromise tree protection.

## New boundary fences

48. Single sections of protective fencing may be removed to allow for installation of boundary treatments.
49. Party fences will be installed at the alignment shown within the following parameters:
  - 49.1. No strip footings will be permitted within the CEZ; gravel boards will be laid above-ground and not cut in.
  - 49.2. Fence posts will be installed into hand-dug holes.
  - 49.3. The precise location of individual holes will be subject to modification, such that major roots are avoided.
  - 49.4. No fence post will be located within 2m of any retained tree.
  - 49.5. The maximum diameter of holes will be 300mm.
  - 49.6. Holes will be lined to prevent contact between concrete and the soil.
  - 49.7. Wooden boards will be laid to prevent pedestrian compaction during operations.
50. Protective fencing will be replaced following works.

## Removal of tree protection fencing

51. Following completion of all construction works and removal of vehicles, plant, compounds and materials, the tree protection fencing may be removed.

## Landscaping

52. Ground levels within the CEZ will be maintained. Surrounding ground will be built up or reduced to tie in with pre-existing levels.
53. A landscaping scheme will be drawn up that reflects all recommendations made in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment.
54. All works within the CEZ will be completed manually and no vehicle access will be permitted.
55. No mechanical excavation or rotavation of soils will be permitted within the CEZ.
56. All new planting will be done manually.
57. Care will be taken to minimise trampling and compaction of soils.
58. Temporary boards will be laid to prevent compaction of soils by repeated pedestrian access as required.
59. Planting will be undertaken with regard for the location of surface tree roots and where roots larger than 10mm are noted or encountered during digging planting locations will be adjusted to avoid roots.
60. All works will be completed without cutting tree roots that are larger than 10mm in diameter.
61. Newly planted areas will be mulched where possible to maximise water retention and improve soil structure. Composted woodchip or bark is recommended.
62. Ground level increases attributed to new planting will be restricted to a maximum increase of 200mm (including 100mm mulch layer).
63. Where turf is specified, a manual vegetation scrape to remove existing surface vegetation will be permitted to a maximum depth of 50mm. Where minor ground levelling is required prior to turfing, this will be achieved by the addition of a sharp sand layer. Any sand will be manually tamped and not mechanically compacted.
64. Prior to seeding, the CEZ may be scarified by vigorous raking with a rigid or wire rake but not rotavated or ploughed.
65. Any topsoil replacement operations will be supervised by the Appointed Arboricultural Consultant.

## KEY

(This drawing must be reproduced in colour)

- T1 Individual trees to retain
- G1 Groups of trees to retain
- H1 Hedgerow to retain
- Survey Boundary
- Approximate tree position (not marked on original topographical survey)
- Tree on third party land (retain and protect)
- Type A Tree Protection Fencing (Must be installed prior to works commencement)
- Type D Tree Protection Fencing (Must be installed prior to works commencement)
- Area to be set out by surveyor (Required prior to tree protection fencing installation)

## Name of Appointed Arboricultural Consultant:

## Telephone Number of Appointed Consultant:

Setting Out	Date:	Initials:
Tree Marking	Date:	Initials:
Tree Clearance	Date:	Initials:
Fencing Installation	Date:	Initials:
Demolition	Date:	Initials:
Landscaping	Date:	Initials:
Boundary Fences	Date:	Initials:

The above Method Statement elements have been discharged in full to the best of my knowledge and professional assessment. Where there has been any deviation from the specification, I am satisfied that this has not been injurious to retained trees and that all such deviations have complied with the spirit of the instruction insofar as was reasonably practicable or were approved in advance by the proper authority.

Signed:



Rev	Description	ML	TDP	09/07/14
A	Key updated	ML	TDP	09/07/14
		Drawn	Approved	Date

**TEP**  
Genesis Centre  
Birchwood Science Park Warrington  
WA3 7BH  
Tel 01925 844004  
Fax 01925 844002  
e-mail tep@tep.uk.com

**Project**  
Forge Mill,  
Chinley

**Title**  
Arboricultural Method Statement  
[DEMOLITION AND CONSTRUCTION]

**Drwg No**  
D4581.004

**Scale** 1:1000 @ A1 **Date** 30/06/14

**Drawn** TDP **Checked** RMG **Approved** JGS