BHA Trees Ltd
Arboricultural Consultants

5418C

11th November 2026

ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Terms of Reference

1.1 This Arboricultural Method Statement was requested by Myfyr Jones-Evans of Gold Care Homes, First Floor, 2 Vine Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1QE.

1.2 It has been compiled to aid the protection of trees to be retained at The Marriott Hotel, Bath Road, Heathrow. Implementation of the protection methods and specialist construction detailed here are integral to achieving this goal.

1.3 The information contained within this Arboricultural Method Statement is in line with BS5837 : 2012 'Trees in relation to construction – recommendations'.

1.4 This method statement is to be made available to all operatives on site during the construction process, so that they understand the scope and importance of the measures set out for tree protection.

Phasing & Monitoring of Development

2.1 Phasing is governed by operational constraints and therefore subject to change. The project's arboriculturalist must be notified of any changes to this schedule.

2.2 Phase 1 – Pre-development stage

- 2.2.1 Tree removals/pruning of trees directly impacted by the development
- 2.2.3 Tree removals/pruning of trees indirectly impacted by the development
- 2.2.4 Tree protection measures implemented

2.3 Phase 11 – Development stage

- 2.3.1 Site accessible to construction traffic
- 2.3.2 Site compound / WC / materials
- 2.3.3 Groundworks and services
- 2.3.4 Development
- 2.3.5 Completion of development

2.4 Phase 111 – Post development stage

2.4.1 Removal of protective barriers
2.4.2 Hard and soft landscaping

Root Protection Areas

3.1 The Root Protection Areas (RPA) have been determined for each retained tree and are designed to protect the absolute minimum of tree root mass to ensure that the trees survive the construction process.

3.2 For details of the locations of trees to be retained, Root Protection Areas and Tree Protection Barriers, reference should be made to the Tree Protection Plan.

3.3 It is the responsibility of everyone involved in the project to respect the tree protection measures and observe the necessary precautions within and adjacent to them.

3.4 The location of site cabins within the RPA's of retained trees on the existing tarmacadam surface is an ideal way to protect the tree's stem, crown and roots. If temporary cabins or storage of materials not hazardous to trees are carefully located close to but not in contact with retained trees, damage by excavators, delivery lorries and small plant is prevented.

3.5 However, condition 6 of the planning consent contradicts this method of tree protection, if this is unacceptable, the site cabins will be located outside Root Protection Areas, as shown on the Tree Protection Plan.

3.6 As the site is an active car park with a fully functioning hard surface, vehicles of all sizes already drive over and park within Root Protection Areas.

3.7 The existing surface outside of the immediate building construction zone should remain intact and be treated as suitable ground protection.

Tree Pruning

4.1 Care must be taken when planning site operations in proximity to retained trees to ensure that machinery, such as excavators, dumpers and cranes, can operate without coming into contact with retained trees as this may cause damage and jeopardise their retention.

4.2 Some pruning may be required to facilitate access, but this should be kept to a minimum and must be carried out in strict accordance with the following guidelines. Under no circumstances shall construction personnel undertake any tree pruning operations.

4.3 Excluding planned tree removals, no other pruning work is currently proposed. However, if pruning is required, it will be carried out in accordance with BS3998 2010 Recommendations for Tree Work and in line with any work already agreed with the LPA.

4.4 The statutory protection afforded by the Wildlife & Countryside Act and Countryside & Rights of Way Act will be adhered to.

4.5 The contractor shall ideally be chosen from the Arboricultural Association's Approved Contractor list. All work shall be undertaken with the consent and approval of the site agent and arboriculturalist.

Tree Protection Barriers

5.1 The TPP shows two options for tree protection fencing.

5.1.1 The RED line is to isolate each retained tree and its RPA from any vehicular or plant movement, storage or site cabins.
5.1.2 The BLUE line is showing what I consider appropriate taking into account the specific site circumstances.

5.2 Remedial tree work and any site clearance will be carried out prior to the erection of any tree protection barriers. However, it may be expedient to mark out the extents of any barriers to aid any site clearance and/or trimming of vegetation.

5.3 The Tree Protection Plan shows the alignment of Tree Protection Barriers which must be installed before any of the following take place:

5.3.1 Plant and material delivery
5.3.2 Demolition
5.3.3 Soil stripping
5.3.4 Construction work
5.3.5 Utility installation
5.3.6 Landscaping

5.4 Once erected, all barriers will be regarded as sacrosanct and will not be removed or altered without prior approval by the arboriculturalist or the LPA.

5.5 The barriers may require initial adjustment to facilitate removal of the current hard surface. All hard surface removal must be carried out in accordance with the relevant section of this method statement. Any alteration to the fence line must be approved by the arboriculturalist.

5.6 For Tree Protection Fencing, I propose 2m tall welded mesh panels on rubber or concrete feet, stabilised on the inside and joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers, installed so they can only be removed from inside the fence.

5.7 "Protected Trees No Entry" signs should be affixed to every fourth panel. The barriers should remain in place until completion of the construction phase and removed only on the consent of the Local Planning Authority.

5.8 Once the exclusion zone has been protected by barriers and/or ground protection, construction work can commence. All weather notices may be erected on the barriers as per the examples in Appendix C.

Restrictions with Tree Protection Areas

6.1 Inside the exclusion area of barriers, the following shall apply:

- 6.1.1 No mechanical excavation whatsoever
- 6.1.2 No excavation by any other means without arboricultural site supervision
- 6.1.3 No hand digging without a written method statement having first being approved by the arboriculturalist
- 6.1.4 No lowering of levels for any purpose (except removal of grass sward using hand tools)
- 6.1.6 No storage or handling of any chemical including cement washings
- 6.1.8 No fire lighting

6.2 A 10m separation distance shall be observed between any tree and substances injurious to tree health, including fuels, oil, bitumen, cement (including cement washings), builders sand, concrete mixing and other chemicals.

6.3 No fire shall be lit such that flames come within 5m of tree foliage

Ground Protection

7.1 Ground protection will be adequately provided by the existing hard surface.

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Hard Surface Removal within Root Protection Areas (RPA)

8.1 Tree protection measures will remain in place until work commences and when removed all personnel working within the RPA are to be made aware of the extent and nature of the area.

8.2 The initial break up of the hard surface may be carried out by a mechanical excavator and the material then removed by hand.

8.3 Removal of the hard surface will occur in small areas working from undisturbed surface. This will enable any roots exposed to be covered with a good quality top soil to avoid desiccation and the ground to be made good as the operation progresses.

8.4 There will be no reduction in the level of the underlying soil surface. The soil may be levelled by the addition of up to 120mm of good quality top soil to BS3882:1984 using hand tools only to avoid disturbance.

8.5 Should any roots over 25mm diameter be left above the final soil level and be a hindrance to the final surface installation, their removal will only be carried out under arboricultural supervision and with the approval of the LPA.

8.6 If the area around retained trees is to be left following the removal of the existing hard surface before a new hard surface is laid, or soft landscaping implemented, the protective barriers must be correctly re-established immediately the hard surface removal has been completed.

Installation of Underground Services

9.1 The routing of all services has been designed to avoid retained trees and their RPA's. However, if installation is required within an RPA, the arboriculturalist and LPA must be notified prior to removal of any Tree Protection Barriers.

9.2 Excavation with an air-spade or similar is the preferred option as it uses compressed air to remove soil from around tree roots, causing minimal damage. This operation must be undertaken by a competent operator or supervised by the arboriculturalist.

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Hard Surface Construction

10.1 Construction of the replacement hard surfaces will incorporate two main components, a geogrid and an aggregate sub-base.

10.2 Geogrids are a high tensile strength synthetic grid designed to support roads on soft ground. When placed on a geogrid, appropriate granular sub-base material penetrates the mesh, but is unable to pass through it, forming a positive interlock creating a reinforced platform.

10.3 The aggregate should be of low fines so that even when compacted, it is free draining and will allow oxygen to diffuse into the soil.

10.4 Construction of a surface using a geogrid and aggregate sub-base will be as follows:

- 10.4.1 Fill in any hollows with sharp sand by manual grading.
- 10.4.2 Lay the geogrid onto the soil to cover area of the driveway
- 10.4.3 Construct an edging if necessary with boards attached to pegs driven through the geogrid.
- 10.4.4 Cover the geogrid with 100mm of aggregate. This should not be tipped onto the geogrid, but placed at one end and pushed onto the geogrid so that any machinery moves on the spread sub-base, not directly onto the geogrid and not on the ground either side of it.
- 10.4.5 Compact the sub-base to ensure binding with the geogrid.
- 10.4.6 Place the final surface. It is recommended that this consists of gravel or block paviours to allow free drainage and gaseous exchange.

10.5 The recommended specialist material is a cellular confinement system called Cellweb, manufactured by Geosynthetics Ltd. Porous or permeable tarmac can also be used, but final levelling should be with a pedestrian roller rather than heavy machinery.

Soft Landscaping within Root Protection Areas (RPA)

11.1 Ground preparation will be carried out sensitively to ensure root damage is mitigated as much as is practicable. At no time is any heavy plant to be used within any RPA. Removal of existing vegetation will be carried out by hand, or with light machinery.

11.2 At no time shall a rotavator be used within any RPA to prepare the soil. Any levelling will be done by hand and with the use of hand tools.