

Construction Methods Statement

**Beam and Pad Foundations adjacent to a TPO tree
35 Moor Park Road, Northwood, HA6 2DL**

Hillingdon Council Planning Ref: 1809/APP/2026/1823

August 2026

Table of Contents

Section		Page
1.	Project Description	3
2.	Scope of works	3
3.	Responsibilities	4
4.	Tree Protection	4
5.	Setting Out	4
6.	Excavation Method	5
7.	Root Protection During Excavation	5
8.	Pad Foundation Construction	6
9.	Ground Beam Construction	6
10.	Concrete Placement	6
11.	Plant Restrictions	6
12.	Spoil Removal	7
13.	Weather Precautions	7
14.	Inspection Hold Points	7
15.	Completion	7
	References	8
	Appendix I – Environment Controls, Health & Safety	8
	Appendix II – Tree Protection Specifications	9

1. Project Description

Construction of a single-storey part rear extension with a pitched roof and an outbuilding to the rear garden (demolition of an existing conservatory) using concrete pad foundations connected by reinforced concrete ground beams adjacent to a protected mature tree.

This methods statement is to be cross referenced with:

- The **Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report (AIA)** dated 28 May 2026 issued by M/S GREENWOOD Environmental Ltd (Ref: 182903988)
- A **Tree Protection Plan (TPP)** showing the Root Protection Area (RPA)
- Structural engineer's foundation details demonstrating why a **beam-and-pad foundation system** has been selected to minimise root disturbance

2. Scope of Works

The works comprise:

- Site establishment
- Installation of tree protection measures
- Careful excavation for concrete pad foundations
- Construction of reinforced concrete ground beams spanning between pads
- Construction of suspended floor (Beam and Block)
- Superstructure construction using traditional cavity wall

Note: The foundation design has been selected to minimise excavation within the tree Root Protection Area (RPA).

3. Responsibilities

	Responsibilities
Principal Contractor	• Overall site safety • Compliance with this method statement • Coordination with the project arboriculturist
Site Manager	• Daily supervision. • Ensuring exclusion zones remain intact. • Preventing unauthorised excavation
Arboricultural Clerk of Works	• Monitoring works adjacent to the tree during the works • Advising on root protection. • Inspecting excavations where required during the works

4. Tree Protection

Prior to commencement of works:

- Protective fencing shall be erected in accordance with BS 5837
- Fencing shall remain throughout construction
- No storage of materials to be done within the RPA
- No concrete washout within the RPA
- No plant refuelling within the RPA
- No fires beneath the tree canopy

Ground protection shall be installed where temporary access is required.

5. Setting Out

- Foundation positions shall be accurately set out
- All excavation locations shall be confirmed before work begins
- Arboricultural approval shall be obtained before excavation within the RPA

6. Excavation Method

Excavation within or adjacent to the RPA shall be undertaken using the following sequence:

Initial Excavation

- Remove surface vegetation by hand only
- Carefully strip topsoil using hand tools where required
- Small excavator (maximum 3 tonnes) may be used only outside the RPA

Within the RPA

Excavation shall be carried out by:

- Hand digging only using spades, forks and trowels and carried out with due care to avoid damage to roots
- Air spade excavation where significant roots are anticipated
- Vacuum excavation where specified

No ripping buckets or breakers shall be used.

7. Root Protection During Excavation

Roots encountered shall be assessed immediately, and the following methods will be adhered to.

Root diameter	Process
less than 25 mm diameter	May be pruned cleanly with sharp secateurs.
25–100 mm diameter	Only pruned following approval by the project arboriculturist.
greater than 100 mm diameter	Shall not be cut without prior consultation with the project arboriculturist.

Temporary exposed roots shall be:

- kept damp, to protect from drying out
- covered with damp hessian
- protected from sunlight
- covered again as soon as practical

Excavations shall not remain open longer than necessary.

8. Pad Foundation Construction

Pads shall be excavated individually.

Sequence:

1. Excavate pad
2. Inspect excavation
3. Install reinforcement
4. Pour concrete immediately
5. Backfill after curing where specified

Pads shall be positioned to avoid major structural roots wherever possible.

9. Ground Beam Construction

Ground beams shall span between pad foundations. This significantly reduces excavation through the RPA. Ground beam excavations shall be:

- Only for the minimum width as required by design
- Carefully excavated by hand
- Reinforcement installed immediately
- Concrete poured without delay

10. Concrete Placement

Concrete shall be supplied by pump, wheelbarrow or a buggy. No concrete washout shall occur within the RPA.

11. Plant Restrictions

The following will not be allowed within the protected area:

- Heavy tracked excavators
- Dumpers
- Storage of soil
- Material stockpiles
- Site cabins
- Fuel storage

Light plant only where approved.

12. Spoil Removal

Excavated material shall be:

- Removed immediately
- Stored outside the RPA
- Prevented from contaminating tree roots

13. Weather Precautions

Following precautions will be adhered to at all times.

During hot weather	• Roots to be kept moist with wet hessian • Excavations minimised
During wet weather	• Prevent soil compaction • Suspend work if excessive rutting occurs

14. Inspection Hold Points

Work shall stop for inspection at:

- Tree protection fencing installed
- First excavation within RPA
- Roots encountered
- Before cutting any significant roots
- Before concrete placement

15. Completion

Following completion:

- Remove temporary protection only with approval
- Reinstate ground levels
- Remove waste
- Inspect tree protection before handover

Notes

Where a TPO tree is involved, most Local Planning Authorities will expect this method statement to be accompanied by:

- An **Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)**.
- A **Tree Protection Plan (TPP)** showing the Root Protection Area (RPA).
- Structural engineer's foundation details demonstrating why a **beam-and-pad foundation system** has been selected to minimise root disturbance.

References

- Structural Engineer's Foundation Design Drawings
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report (AIA) dated 28 May 2026
Ref:182903988
- Tree Protection Plan (TPP) and Arboricultural Method Statement (Appendix E) as part of the AIA report
- BS 5837:2012 – Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction.

Appendix – I : Environmental controls, Health & Safety

Environmental control measures	• Dust suppression • Noise control • Spill kits on site • Waste segregation • Protection of nearby vegetation
Health & Safety hazards to watch out for	• Excavations • Reinforcement • Wet concrete • Plant movements • Manual handling
Health & Safety controls	• PPE • Safe excavation procedures • Daily briefings • Competent operatives • Banksman where required

Appendix – II : Tree Protection specifications

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



