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#### **Arboricultural Method Statement:**

Land at West Way South Shields

## **Prepared for:**

South Tyneside Homes Decent Homes Team Strathmore 11 Rolling Mill Road Viking Business Park Jarrow NE32 3DP

Job Ref: STH\_WestWay\_AMS1.1

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# **CONTENTS**

1.0	Introduction		Page 3	
	1.1	Background and scope		
	1.2	Details of proposals		
	1.3	Field survey methodology, timing and personnel		
2.0	Arbo	ricultural Method Statement	Page 4	
	2.1	Tree removal		
	2.2	Japanese knotweed barrier		
	2.3	Tree protection		
	2.4	Summary		
	Арре	endices		
	Appe	endix 1a: Tree protection plan – Location of T3		

Appendix 1b: Tree protection plan – Knotweed barrier

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background & scope

1.1.1 Dendra Consulting Ltd was commissioned to undertake this arboricultural method statement by South Tyneside Homes. The scope of the contract was to produce an arboricultural method statement for an ongoing development at West Way, South Shields. This report was requested in order to assist with the installation of a new Japanese knotweed barrier on the site. The barrier is being installed to replace an existing barrier and may conflict with the root protection areas (RPA) of trees being retained to the south of the development.

### 1.2 Details of proposals

1.2.1 The site is currently being developed for residential housing. A new Japanese knotweed barrier is to be installed to replace an existing damaged barrier. The location of the barrier also needs to be adjusted slightly from the original location.

#### 1.3 Field survey methodology, timing and personnel

1.3.1 Site visits were made on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016. The weather on the day of the surveys was fine and dry. The fieldwork was undertaken by Barry Anderson. Barry holds a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Biology and is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and the Arboricultural Association.

#### 2.0 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

#### 2.1 Tree removal

2.1.1 During the site visit the removal of T3 was discussed. This tree is very close to one of the new properties (appendix 1a) and is likely to have suffered from severe root damage. The retention of the tree is also likely to result in post development tree/resident conflicts as residents of the adjacent plot are likely to complain regularly about issues such as shading, leaf fall, encroachment, etc. It is considered appropriate to remove this tree before the site is completed. The impacts of this will be negligible given the number of trees being retained.

#### 2.2 Japanese knotweed barrier

- 2.2.1 An existing Japanese knotweed barrier is to be placed along the green line shown on appendix 1b, to the north of T18-T34. This is close to the line of an existing barrier. However in the yellow shaded area shown on appendix 1b new excavations are required closer to the trees than any existing excavations. Appendix 1b clearly shows that this is outside of the RPA of trees being retained and as a consequence no special construction methods or tree removals are required.
- 2.2.2 Further west the green line of the barrier extends into the RPA of T32, T34 and T35. However the new barrier will lie to the north of the existing barrier. This will ensure that no further root damage will occur. The main danger to T32, T34 and T35 is likely to result in root compaction from the operation of machinery beyond the excavation zone. Advice on avoiding such damage is provided below in section 2.3.

#### 2.3 Tree protection

2.3.1 Protective fencing of an adequate specification was present on site during the site visit. This fencing should remain in place to the south of the working area. However it may be adjusted according to appendix 1b to provide for a larger working area to the north of T19-T29. This should allow greater room for machinery to operate. However at the western end of the site near T32, T34 and T35 the fencing will need to be retained just to the south of the proposed barrier. Any machinery here will need to operate to the north of the barrier to prevent root damage beyond the existing barrier line.

## 2.4 Summary

- 2.4.1 The proposed removal of T3 will have only a negligible impact on site and will remove the potential for tree resident conflicts in the future. No significant impacts are predicted.
- 2.4.2 The placing of the new Japanese knotweed barrier is highly unlikely to impact upon the trees being retained near the buildings. However in order to protected the roots of T32, T34 and T35 machinery at the western end of the new barrier location will be required to work from the north of the barrier.



