



# BATSON

Landscape & Tree Care Ltd.

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Planning Ref.

**Method Statement for protection of Tree's and RPA's prior to, during and following site development works.**

**Prepared for:** Development Works at the **Former Cleadon Infants School**

**Introduction:**

This document has been written to serve two primary purposes:

- To give clear instruction as to the methods to be adopted and the expectations of the company in respect of its employees, associates and sub-contractors
- To give clients sufficient information as to the intended methods of operations to be adopted on the worksite and to foster confidence that the operators of Nicola Watson shall be working in line with current industrial best practice

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This Method Statement has been prepared with the object of work being carried out within the spirit of **BS.5837:2012 (Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations)** and **BS3998:2010 (Tree Work Recommendations)**

**BS.5837:2012 Para. 5.2.4** *Particular care is needed regarding retention of large, mature, over mature, or veteran trees, which become enclosed within the new development. Where such trees are retained, adequate space should be allowed for their long term physical retention and future maintenance.*

## **1.0 Method Statement for removing structures or, overlying hard surfacing materials during demolition or excavation works which are adjacent to, or within Trees Root Protection Areas.**

- 1.1** All work involving the use of mechanical plant and equipment, as far as reasonably possible, shall be undertaken with the equipment working outside of the Root Protection Area.
- 1.2** Removal of structures, example road kerbs or walls, shall be gently and slowly removed in a manner which will cause no damage to the trees' roots, trunk or branching systems.
- 1.3** Teeth attachments, to mechanical implements should only penetrate sufficiently to allow lifting or drawing away of material from the Root Protection Area.
- 1.4** Where overlying hard surfacing is to be removed from Root Protection Areas using mechanical equipment, all reasonable care must be exercised to avoid deep penetration of soil, thus avoiding damage to roots, by mechanical teeth or blades.
- 1.5** When hard surface material has been mechanically removed, remaining surface material must be gently removed by the use of hand held implements. Care must be taken to avoid damage to surface roots.
- 1.6** When overlying hard surfaces or structures have been removed and roots are exposed, it is important that the roots are immediately and progressively covered with sharp sand or good quality, medium, fibrous loam or moist hessian, to prevent desiccation of the exposed surface roots.
- 1.7** Soil or covering material should be gently firmed upon completion of spreading.
- 1.8** Protective fencing should be re-placed around the trees' Root Protection Area's and removed upon completion of the development works.

## **2.0 Ground Protection Measures where access is required for construction purposes.**

- 2.1** Where hard surfacing exists, these should be retained, where appropriate, for the duration of the construction works, as temporary ground protection.
- 2.2** Where construction working space or temporary construction access is justified within the RPA's, 'set-back' in the alignment of the protective fencing will facilitate, in accordance with an Approved Tree Constraints Plan.
- 2.3** In order that the tree roots are protected within the justifiable access areas, during the execution of 'Approved Works', it is recommended that a 100mm layer of 'woodchip mulch' be spread over the full extent of the soil surface, and beyond, where access is justified.
- 2.4** 'Ground protection panels', or other approved materials suitable to accommodate passage of appropriate plant and machinery, are laid over the woodchip mulch surface and secured, to prevent movement, or in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations.

### **3.0 Additional Precautions outside the exclusion zone**

- 3.1** Operation of plant, equipment, wide or high loads, must be taken into account, in order that they may be operated without coming into contact with retained trees. A Banksman must be in attendance when operations are carried out within the vicinity of trees. Access facilitation pruning should be carried out where necessary to maintain clearance.
- 3.2** Fires should be avoided if possible. If unavoidable, they should be lit in a position where heat could not cause damage to leaves or branches. Fires should be attended at all times until safe to leave.
- 3.3** Avoid use of any materials which may cause damage to trees through spillage. These materials must be stored and handled well away from the outer edge of RPA's.

### **4.0 Site Monitoring**

- 4.1** Wherever trees on or adjacent to a site have been identified within the tree protection Plan for protective measures, there should be an auditable system of arboricultural site monitoring. Audits should extend to arboricultural site monitoring whenever activity is to take place within or adjacent to any RPA.

**Prepared by** T Batson

For and on behalf of Batson Landscape & Tree Care Ltd.