APPENDIX 7 - TREE PRESERVATION ORDER
APPENDIX 8 - ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT
ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Aim

The aim of this Arboricultural Method Statement is to outline working practices to ensure that planning conditions are fulfilled during the construction works at the site located at Fowlmere Road, Foxton, CB22 6TA.

1.2 Root Protection Area

The Root Protection Area refers to an area of ground around a tree which needs to be protected to comply with planning conditions. It is calculated as the area a tree will need to be sufficiently rooted to the ground in order to survive and remain safe. If any damage is caused to the roots within this area, a tree will suffer health consequences and may become a hazard.

The Root Protection Area is plotted on the Tree Constraints Plan Drawing ref. 2280,EC,AR/004/Rev 1. The Tree Protection Plan Drawing ref. 2280,EC,AR/016/rev 0 details the type of protection that is suitable, for example protective barriers to limit access to an area, or ground protection to protect the roots under the ground.

1.3 Construction Exclusion zones

Barriers will be erected to protect tree canopies and Root Protection Areas. These barriers should remain in place until construction works are complete. Once the barriers are erected they delineate the boundary between the construction zone and the construction exclusion zone. No construction activities should be undertaken within the construction exclusion zones without the specification from the Project Arboriculturalist.

The Project Arboriculturalist can authorise the movement of the construction exclusion zone at stages of development when required, for example to allow specified work to commence within the Root Protection Areas.
ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

1.4 Development Phases

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2. PHASE 1- PRECONSTRUCTION

2.1 Appoint a Project Arboriculturalist

A Project Arboriculturist will be appointed to oversee all the arboricultural aspects of the development project outlined in this method statement. It is recommended that the arboriculturist takes an active role in the development from the beginning of the project to advise in the planning stage, and supervise site works throughout development. The arboriculturist should be appropriately qualified and experienced.

2.2 Tree management

A Tree Management Plan has been drawn up stating any tree work recommendations that have been made throughout the tree survey process and Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

If any unforeseen tree work becomes necessary during the construction phase, written consent must be sought from the Local Authority Tree Officer before any further pruning works can commence.

Any trees which are removed in the development process will have a replacement tree replanted to mitigate against its loss. Consideration should be taken to ensure that a suitable tree species is selected for the space available. Species and varieties local to the area of development should be considered first when selecting suitable species.

2.3 Potential damage to stems and limbs

The trees will be pruned prior to the beginning of construction to allow adequate clearance for construction work to commence. Beyond this, care must be taken to ensure that all activities on site are planned so that no plant or materials come into contact with the remaining trees.

In the event of damage to trees, the project arboriculturist must be contacted, in order that they may assess any hazards that may have arisen from the damage.
2.4 Protective barriers

Temporary protective barriers will be erected as detailed in the Tree Protection Plan Drawing ref. 2280,EC,AR/016/ rev 0. The designs for barriers are specified in BS 5837: 2012. The barriers must be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and be appropriate to the degree and proximity of the work to the protected tree.

Where construction activities are limited, and there is a low risk of incursions into the protected area it is acceptable to use 2m high weldmesh panels, with rubber or concrete supports and back stay supports as shown in Figure 1 on Page 4.

In cases where construction activities provide a higher risk than in low risk situations, more sturdy barriers will be required. BS 5837: 2012 stipulates that in such situations a scaffolding frame should be driven at least 0.6m into the ground with mesh panels attached, as shown in figure 2 on Page 5.

Once the exclusion zone has been protected by barriers and/or ground protection, construction can commence. All weather notices should be fixed to the barriers with the words: “Construction exclusion zone – Keep out” or similar.
Figure 1. Low risk fencing solution from BS 5837: 2012

a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins

b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray
2.5 Pre-development inspection

The pre development pruning works, protective fencing and ground protection will be signed off by the project arboriculturalist before proceeding to the construction phase.

3. PHASE 2- CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

Areas behind protective barriers are to be considered construction exclusion zones unless specified by the project arboriculturalist.
3.1 Works outside the construction exclusion zones

Works on site which may damage trees will have to be controlled so the damage to trees is limited. For example; excessive dust generated through demolition and construction works will be removed from trees by spraying water over the trees. Other activities such as chemical storage or fires must be kept back from trees so damage is not caused to the canopy, roots or stem.

4. PHASE 3- POST CONSTRUCTION

4.1 Post Construction Inspection

When the construction process is complete, the site should be inspected by the project arboriculturalist or Local Authority Tree Officer. The inspection will be used to gather evidence on the condition of trees post construction and to advise any remedial action that may need to be taken. The evidence gathered during the inspection will be used for a closing report which provides evidence that the work was carried out following the recommendations of this Arboricultural Method Statement.

4.2 Removal of protective fencing

Following the Post construction inspection, the Project Arboriculturalist or Local Tree Officer can authorise the removal of the protective fencing and ground protection. Any proposed landscaping operations by heavy machinery should be carried out before the protective fencing is removed.

4.3 Remedial tree works

During the Post Construction Inspection, the condition of the trees will be assessed. Any damage caused during construction will be noted, and remedial action will be recommended. Any tree works undertaken will comply with BS 3998:2010 Trees work- Recommendations.

4.4 Planting of trees lost during development

Trees should be planted on site to mitigate any trees lost during development. The details of the planting scheme should be included in the landscape plans. The post construction inspection will include checking the condition of newly planted trees.

4.5 Closing report

Once the construction works have been completed, a closing report will be submitted detailing evidence that works have been carried out correctly.
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