



Arboricultural Method Statement

Croft Street

Birkenshaw

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of report

This report has been created to ensure good practice in the management of trees during the proposed development at: Croft Street, Birkenshaw

1.2 Status

The recommendations of this report are based on the plans as provided and incorporates information provided by the client.

This report should be included as part of any specifications and schedules of works supplied to all demolition and construction contractors.

2 Preparation for development

2.1 Necessary tree works

The first operation will be the tree pruning and felling works as detailed at **Appendix 1**.

All tree works should be carried out by suitably qualified, experienced and insured contractors in accordance with BS3998: 2010.

In order to both reduce costs and to ensure timely completion, no check has been made by this consultant with the local planning authority.

We recommend that the local planning authority is contacted to check whether the trees on this site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order or are within a Conservation Area.

Trees may also be subject to legal protection under a range of other legislation, much of which is aimed at wildlife and habitat protection.

No work should be done to any trees until either suitable permission has been granted or it has been verified that the intended work does not require permission.

We are happy to assist in establishing whether trees on this site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order or a Conservation Area designation if required.

2.2 Protective fencing

The protective fences can be installed after the necessary tree works are completed, but they must be fully installed and completed before any other work commences, this includes; demolition, soil stripping or the bringing onto site of materials, supplies or machinery.

Protective fencing must be constructed in such a way as to exclude construction activity and be appropriate to the degree and proximity of likely works. The default fencing as described in BS5837:2012 is shown at **Appendix 2**.

Unless otherwise specified in this report or its attached drawings the fenced areas shall be considered complete construction exclusion zones; there shall be no pedestrians, vehicles, materials, equipment or machinery allowed in the fenced areas at any time.

There should be adequate signs informing all relevant persons that access is denied, an example sign is included at **Appendix 3**.

Care must also be taken to prevent fenced areas being contaminated with chemical spillages, including; petrol, diesel, oils, cements and concretes. In addition, water run-off from areas of construction activity must be diverted away from fenced areas.

2.3 Site inspection

Once the necessary tree works have been completed and the protective fences are in place it is recommended that the developer's arboriculturist is invited to visit the site, meet with the relevant local authority representative, and check that the necessary tree works and the protective fences are completed satisfactorily.

3 Development Phase

3.1 *The root protection area (RPA)*

The root protection area (RPA) is the area of ground it is desirable to leave undisturbed during development. BS5837:2012 recognises that this is often not practical and that some development within the RPA should be allowed.

The RPAs are shown on the attached plan as hatched circles or polygons.

Other than the activities as shown in this method statement, there must be no activity of any kind within any RPA unless it is by prior written agreement of the local authority.

3.2 *Demolition of existing hard surfaces within the RPA*

Existing hard surfaces must be removed with caution to prevent damage to tree roots. This should be done using hand tools, but suitable machinery may be used in some situations.

Where machinery is to be used to break up existing surfaces then work should be done progressively; starting closest to the trees and working backwards towards the outer edge of the root protection areas. Tracks, wheels, or other load bearing parts of machinery used must be located on existing hard surfaces at all times when within the root protection area – vehicles, machinery and equipment must not enter the areas where hard surfaces have already been removed.

Excavation within the RPA must not be deeper than the existing hard surface unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority.

Broken up tarmac, concrete and other arisings should ideally be removed by hand using a wheel barrow. However, where the use of machinery (such as excavators, mini-diggers, or dump trucks) is permitted by the local authority, then buckets must have a straight edge and vehicle tracks and/or wheels must be located on existing hard surfaces at all times when within the root protection area.

3.3 *Demolition of existing buildings and other features within the RPA*

Often there are existing buildings within the RPA, these must be demolished inwards and within their existing footprint.

Existing foundations and other below ground or surface features must be either left in place, or must be dismantled and removed as described in section '3.2 - Demolition of existing hard surfaces within the RPA'.

3.4 Construction of special surfaces

Where special surfaces are to be constructed within the RPA then these surfaces must be completed prior to the areas being used for pedestrian or vehicle access.

Until special surfaces within the RPA are complete the RPA must be treated in the same way as any other area which has been protected with tree protective fencing as described at 3.1.

This means that until the surface is fully installed, there must be no; pedestrians, vehicles, materials, equipment or machinery allowed within the RPA at any time, other than as required for construction of the special surface.

The design and construction techniques of special surfaces within tree root protection areas must meet the biological and environmental requirements of tree roots; the expected level and type of traffic; and be practicable in terms of time and resources required for construction.

BS5837:2012 recommends that where the construction of a hard surface is required within the root protection area a “no dig” construction method is used where possible

The various requirements for a hard surface within the RPA are often achieved using a load suspension layer incorporating a three dimensional cellular confinement system. Other systems are also occasionally used.

Any proposed surfaces within the RPA must be fully specified by a suitable engineer and be agreed in writing with the local planning authority prior to implementation.

3.5 Service runs

New underground services **must not** be installed within the tree root protection areas.

Above ground services should be positioned away from the crowns of trees to be retained.

Any works to existing underground services should be done in accordance with current NJUG (National Joint Utilities Group) guidance.

3.6 Changes in ground level

There must be no works within an RPA unless by prior written agreement of the local authority.

3.7 Removal of protective fencing

When the development phase is complete, all drainage and service runs are in place, and the main site machinery has been removed, the protective fencing may be dismantled. This must be done with care, there must be no; vehicles, materials, equipment or machinery allowed within the RPA at any time.

3.8 *Post Construction Landscaping*

Some trees on the site are likely to be subject to some form of landscaping or seeding beneath the canopy after the main development phase has been completed. At this stage, it is inevitable that some of the protective fencing will have already been removed.

In view of this, the landscaping works must be carried out in such a way as to avoid ground level changes or deep digging. Mechanised cultivation methods must be avoided within the RPA.

There must be no; vehicles, materials, equipment or machinery allowed within the RPA of retained trees at any time.

Any herbicides used must be appropriate for their purpose, and must not be used in such a way as will damage trees to be retained.

4 Completion meeting

Upon completion of all the works specified, it is recommended that the developer's arboriculturist and the local authority's arboriculturist are invited to meet on site to check that all works are completed satisfactorily and to discuss any remedial works as required.

5 Contact Details

I hope this report provides all the required information. However, if further advice is needed then please contact me and I will be happy to help.

James Royston – Independent Arboricultural Consultant

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Report completed 16th April 2025

Appendix 1: Tree works

Tree Number	Common Name	Botanical Name	Pre-development tree works	Reason for works
1	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
2	Mix	<i>Mix</i>	Retain one tree and remove the rest of this group as shown on attached drawings	To facilitate development
3	Cherry	<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
4	Mix	<i>Mix</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
5	Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
6	Mix	<i>Mix</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
7	Willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
8	Mix	<i>Mix</i>	Remove part of this group as shown on attached drawings	To facilitate development
9	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Crown lift to give 2.5m clearance over location of new footpath	For a better quality development
10	Mix	<i>Mix</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
11	Mix	<i>Mix</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
12	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
13	Willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
14	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Remove part of this group as shown on attached drawings	To facilitate development
15	Willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
16	Mix	<i>Mix</i>	Remove	To facilitate development
17	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Remove	To facilitate development

Appendix 2: Tree protective fencing

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier

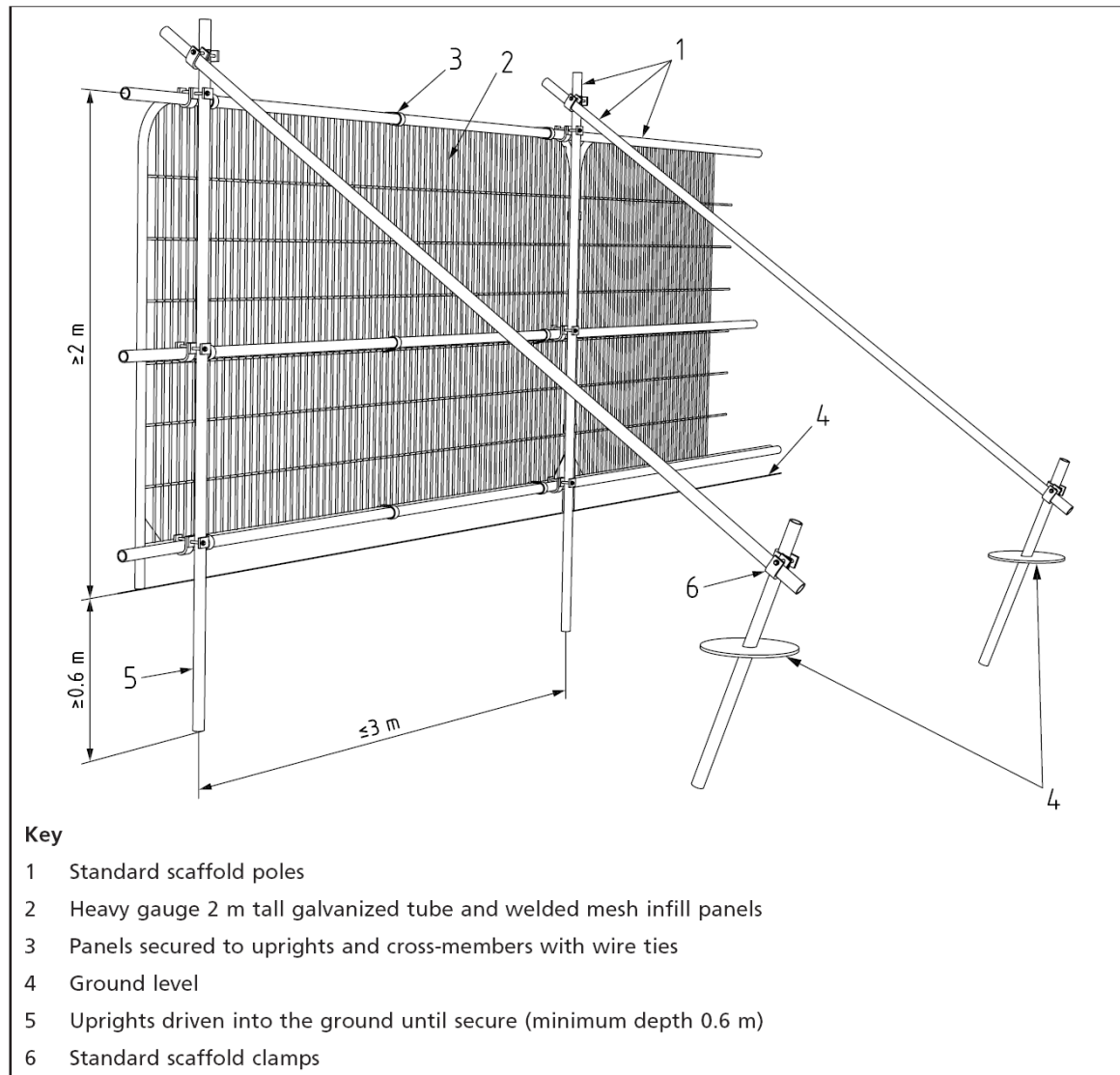
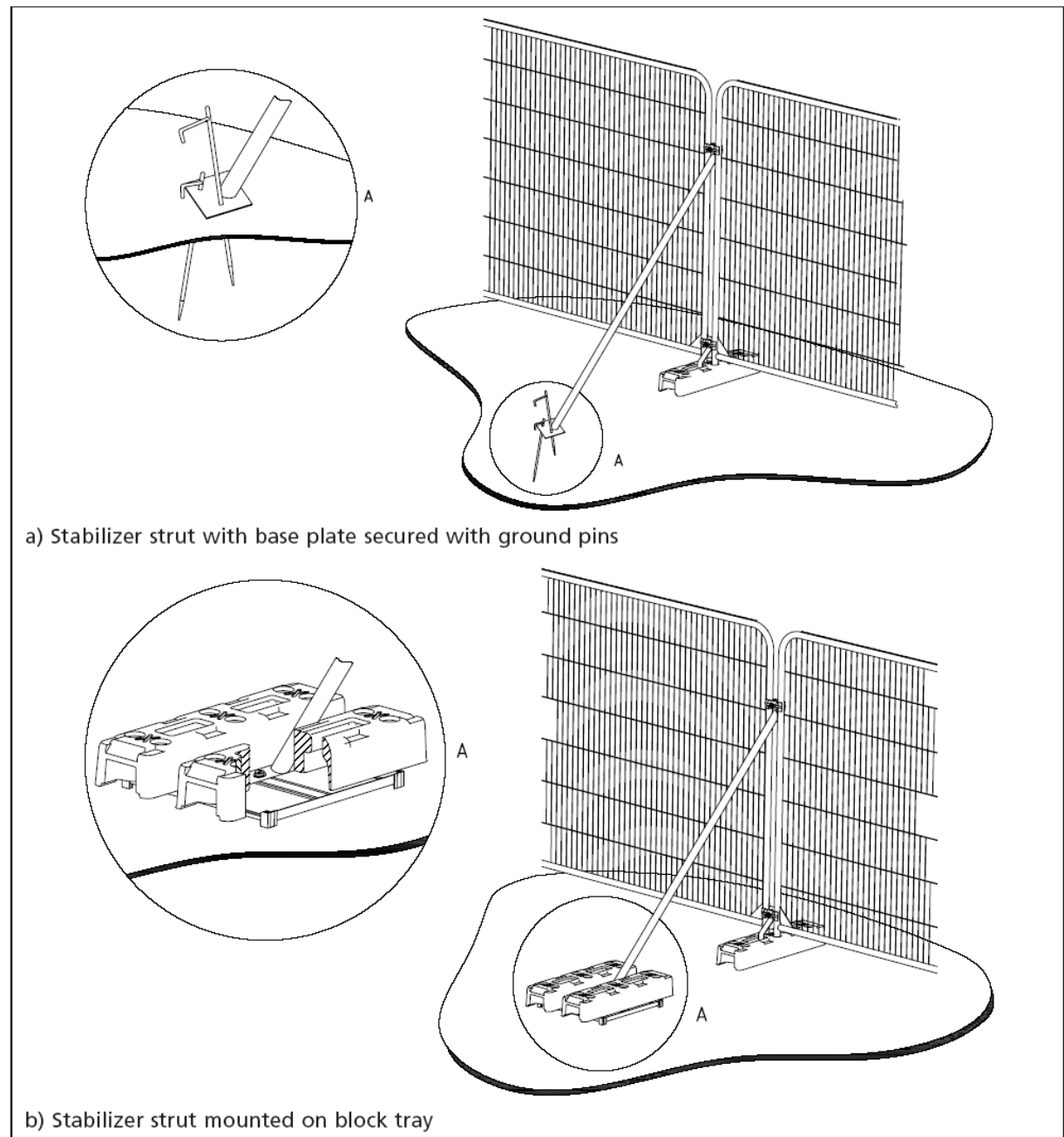


Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



Appendix 3: Example sign to be attached to tree protective fencing



TREE PROTECTION AREA - KEEP OUT

**TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED
BY PLANNING CONDITION AND/OR A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER**

**NO INCURSION WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE
LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY**

Appendix 4: Example special surfaces within the RPA

Cellweb® TRP

Tree Root Protection

Cellweb® TRP is a 3D cellular confinement tree root protection system. The system provides a 'no dig' solution for the construction of new hard surfaces within root protection areas (RPAs). Cellweb® TRP has been designed and independently tested to comply with recommendations made in Arboricultural Practice Note 12 and BS 5837 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction.



Cellweb® TRP Key Functions

Cellweb® is a 'no dig' solution which is constructed directly on the existing ground surface. This eliminates the requirement for excavation, preventing root severance.

Cellweb® is a completely porous system allowing continued water permeation and gas exchange between the rooting environment and atmosphere.

Cellweb® spreads point loads, minimising increases in soil compaction within the rooting environment. This maintains an open graded soil structure allowing continued root growth, water, gas and nutrient migration.

The Cellweb® TRP system comprises the following three components

Treetex™ Geotextile. Following minimal ground preparation the Treetex™ is laid onto the existing ground and top soil. This acts as a separation layer, separating the system above from the soil and rooting environment below. Treetex™ performs as a hydrocarbon pollution control measure in accordance with BS5837, holding 1.7lt of oil per square meter.

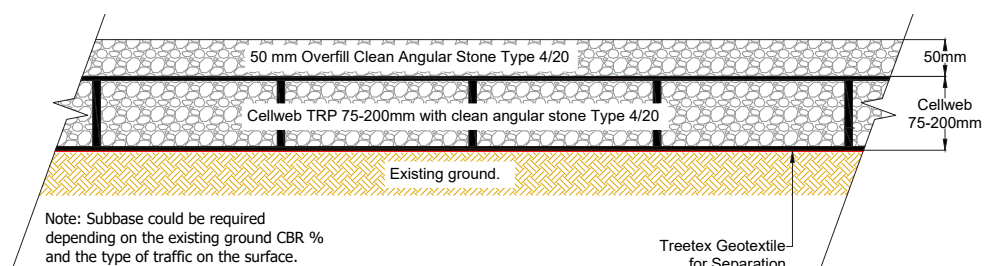
Cellweb® 3D Cellular Confinement. The Cellweb® is installed on top of the Treetex™ layer. This is fixed to the ground using ten steel J pins per panel. The panels can be cut to the required shape and adjoining panels can be connected using heavy duty staples or cell ties.

4-20mm Clean Angular Stone. The expanded Cellweb® is infilled with a 4-20mm clean angular stone. The confined angular stone locks together to produce a rigid stone mattress, while maintaining air pockets for continued water permeation and gas exchange. The low fines content of the stone prevents the Treetex™ layer from becoming blocked over time.

Which depth of Cellweb® TRP?

The Cellweb® System is provided in four different depths; 200mm, 150mm, 100mm and 75mm. The depth required is determined by the proposed traffic loadings and the site ground conditions. Geosynthetics in house engineering department can provide a free site specific technical recommendation. For free technical and engineering support please contact Geosynthetics Ltd 01455 617139 or the full installation guide can be found on our website www.geosyn.co.uk.

Indicative Cellweb with overfill



Method Statement For The Installation of Cellweb Tree Root Protection System.

When considering damage to tree roots, in applications of vehicular access and parking, the risk of oxygen depletion caused by compaction of subsoil's, site clearance damaging the root source and type of reinforcement are areas which need to be given due consideration.

Other risk factors are:

- Creating an impermeable surface
- Causing a rise in the water table due to construction
- Increasing ground level
- Contamination of subsoil's

1.0 Compaction

When looking at site conditions and use, the following information should be considered to enable a load bearing structure capable of supporting traffic to be proposed:

- Californian Bearing ratio (CBR) – Standard test method for measuring soil strength
- Soil types
- Water table
- Maximum load (vehicles)
- Acceptable rut depth
- Reinforcement type Cellweb Cellular Confinement 150mm deep

Type and Depth of engineered infill material, Clean, angular. Usually 40mm to 20mm.

2.0 Dig (site strip)

Site stripping does damage some root structure prior to construction; however, the use of no-dig construction elevates the access road requiring edge protection.

3.0 No dig

- Remove surface vegetation with herbicide suitable for the specific vegetation and not harmful to the tree root system
- Place 300mm of coarse sand onto the existing surface and lightly compact. The three dimensional cell structure, is formed by ultrasonically welding polyethylene (perforated) strips / panels together to create a three dimensional network of interconnecting cells. A high degree of frictional interaction is developed between infill and the cell wall, increasing the stiffness of the system
- Edge restraint - A treated timber edging is usually acceptable.

4.0 Cellular Confinement and Backfill Material

Expand the Cellweb 2.56m wide panels to the full 8.1 meter length. Pin the Cellweb panels with staking pins to anchor open the cells and staple adjacent panels together to create a continuous mattress. Infill the Cellweb with a no fines angular granular fill (typically 4-20mm) within each open cell. The use of cellular confinement reduces the bearing pressure on the subsoil by stabilising aggregate surfaces against rutting under wheel loads. Comparisons between cellular confinement and traditional aggregate and geogrid-reinforced structures demonstrate a 50% reduction in construction thickness of the granular material.

5.0 Surfacing Options

Block Paving:

- Lay second layer 300mm over the in filled Cellweb sections.
- Lay sharp sand bedding layer compacted with a vibro compaction plate to recommended depth.
- Place block pavers as per manufacturers instructions.

Tarmac:

- Place 25mm surcharge of the granular material above the Cellweb system and lay the bitumen base and wearing courses.

Loose Gravel:

- Ensure Cellweb is completely filled.
- Place decorative aggregate to required depth

NOTE: A treated timber edge should be provided to restrict gravel movement.

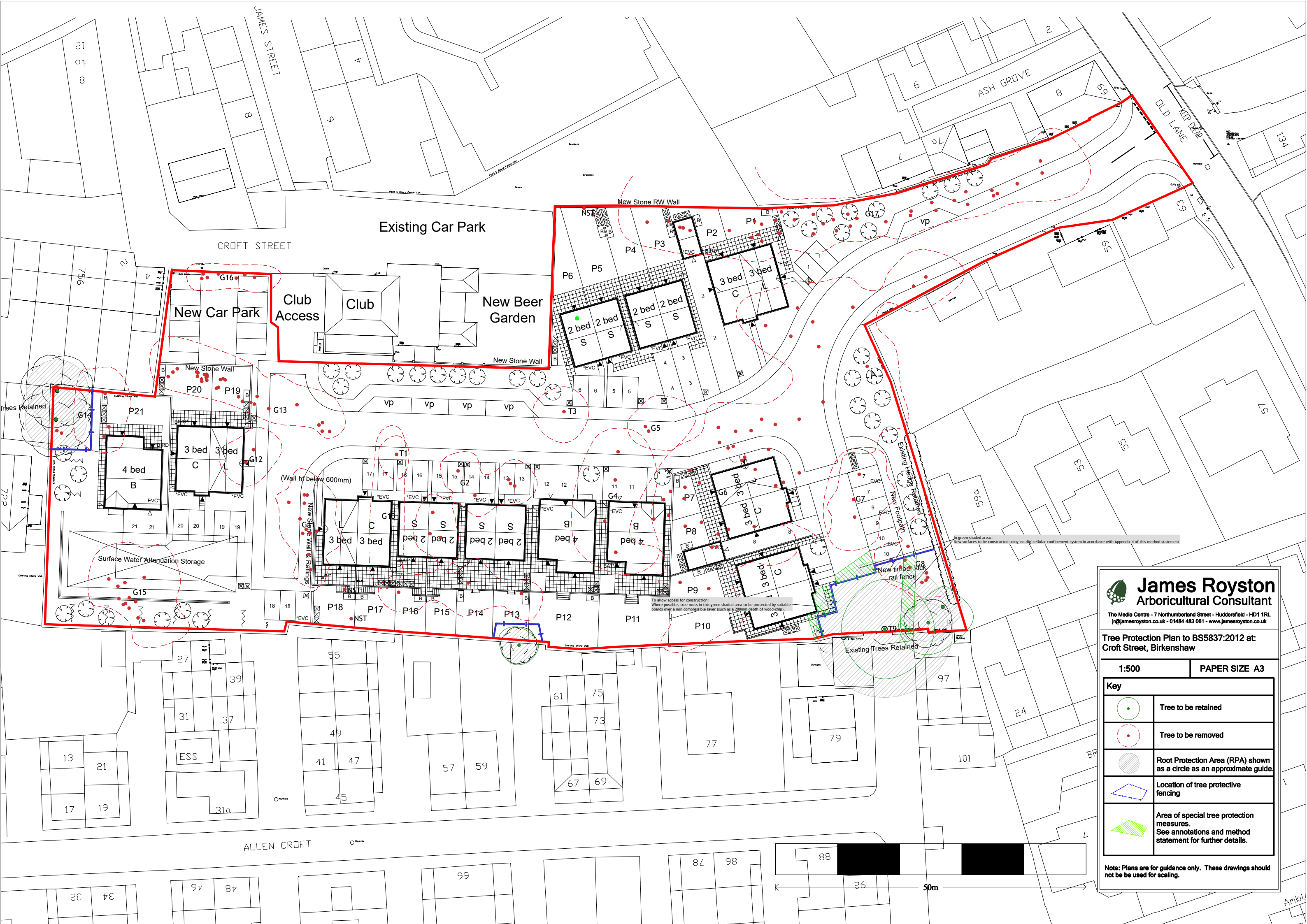
Grass Blocks:

- Place 300mm of course sand onto the existing surface and lightly compact.
- Place 50/50 root zone bedding layer to the required depth
- Lay recycled Duo Block 500 Grass Protection System in filled with 50/50 root zone mix.
- Seed as per architects instructions. (Alternatively the Grass Blocks may be in filled with gravel).

Concrete Slab

- Place 300mm of course sand onto the existing surface and lightly compact. Pour concrete base as specified.

Appendix 5: Tree protection plans



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Tree Protection Plan to BS5837:2012 at:
Croft Street, Birkenshaw

1:500		PAPER SIZE A3	
Key			
	Tree to be retained		
	Tree to be removed		
	Root Protection Area (RPA) shown as a circle as an approximate guide.		
	Location of tree protective fencing		
	Area of special tree protection measures. See annotations and method statement for further details.		

Note: Plans are for guidance only. These drawings should not be used for scaling.