WOODLAND FOOTPATH ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT to BS 5837:2012 at Clayton Fields Edgerton Huddersfield HD2 2AF

Client:
Prospect Estates

Client Address:
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Client Telephone:
01943 850111

JCA Ref:
11854h/TT

JCA Limited
Arboricultural & Ecological Consultants

Contents

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Method Statement

1.1.1 This Arboricultural Method Statement has been prepared to ensure good practice in the protection of the trees located within a woodland belt during the installation of a footpath, which forms part of the proposed development at **Clayton Fields** in **Huddersfield**.

1.2 Terms of Reference

1.2.1 JCA Limited are instructed by **Prospect Estates** to prepare a Method Statement for the proposed woodland footpath, based on our arboricultural report dated 26th September 2014 (JCA Ref: 11854/AJB). The arboricultural survey and report conforms to the most recent specifications outlined in BS 5837: 2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations*.

1.2.2 A residential development is proposed for the main site. The proposals also include for the creation of a footpath which will run adjacent to Clayton Dike, through the woodland trees to the north of the site, which have been collectively identified as **W29.**

1.2.3 This Method Statement focuses solely on the proposed woodland footpath and the woodland trees forming **W29**.

1.2.1 We have been provided with **Drawing Ref: 1414-101 Revision Z**, which shows the proposed route of the woodland footpath. This drawing is the basis of the **Arboricultural Method Statement** and the **Tree Protection Plan** at **Appendix 1**:

1.3 Status of the Method Statement

1.3.1 This Arboricultural Method Statement should be included as part of the specification and schedule of works issued to the building contractor and can form part of the contract.

1.3.2 This Arboricultural Method Statement should be available on site for inspection by the local authority, contractors and other relevant persons.

1.3.3 The project of installing this path is specifically expected to be supervised closely by an arboricultural consultant.

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2. Tree Works

2.1 Tree Works Prior to the Footpath Installation

2.1.1 The proposed route of the woodland footpath has been designed and located to accommodate the sloping topography of the site (avoiding steep gradients) and where possible to avoid the trees.

2.1.2 Before the installation of the woodland footpath commences, the proposed route will be first marked out on site using an appropriate method (e.g. temporary, biodegradable spray paint or pegs and lines).

2.1.3 The appointed arboriculturalist will then visit site, walk the route of the woodland footpath and prepare specific recommendations regarding any required tree work.

2.1.4 This will include any necessary tree removals (for trees which will be within the direct line of the proposed footpath or for any dangerous trees within falling distance of the footpath) and any necessary pruning work (to provide safe clearance heights for pedestrian access and to remove any potentially dangerous branches/deadwood etc. from over the footpath)

2.1.5 All pruning work will be carried out by means of hand-saws only and will not remove any branch greater than 50mm in diameter (unless such a branch in considered to be a potential health and safety hazard).

2.1.6 All required work will be agreed in advance with the local authority tree officer and carried out under the supervision of a JCA representative.

2.2 Tree Works During Installation

2.2.1 Due to the woodland setting, it is expected that tree roots will be encountered during the installation process. Where tree roots are encountered which cannot be retained, these will be cleanly severed using appropriate hand tools (e.g. sanitised hand saws or bypass secateurs), where less than 50mm in diameter.

2.2.2 If roots are to be severed then clean, straight cuts must be made, in order to minimise the extent of wounding. If roots with a diameter of greater than 50mm are encountered, then a representative from JCA must first be informed before any further work is undertaken.

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2.3 Tree Works Post Installation

2.3.1 Following the competition of the woodland footpath installation, the appointed arboriculturalist will walk the length of the footpath and prepare specific recommendations regarding any required further tree pruning.

2.3.2 Any post construction remedial works must be applied for via a tree work application submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

2.3.3 No post construction remedial works are to be carried out on the trees until permission has been granted by the Local Planning Authority.

2.4 Recommendations for Tree Works

2.4.1 All work must be undertaken to BS 3998: 2010 - *Recommendations for tree work* and carried out by qualified, experienced and, ideally, Arboricultural Association approved contractors who must be adequately insured.

2.4.2 Any defects seen by a contractor or the client that were not apparent to the consultant must be brought to the attention of JCA immediately.

2.4.3 No liability can be accepted by JCA in respect of the trees unless the recommendations of this Method Statement are carried out under our supervision.

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3. Installation of the Woodland Footpath

3.1 Ground Excavations

3.1.1 The location of the footpath lies within the woodland floor of **W29**, as shown on the attached Tree Protection Plan at **Appendix 1**. Effectively, the entirety of this woodland floor must be considered as a rooting zone for the surrounding trees.

3.1.2 It is therefore imperative that mechanical equipment is **not** used as a means of excavation within the woodland. All excavations required in order to install the woodland footpath must be carried out by hand in a cautious fashion and to the minimum depth and width required in order to limit damage to tree roots.

3.2 Exposed Roots

3.2.1 Any tree roots exposed during excavations must be left as intact as possible.

3.2.2 Exposed roots can become desiccated quickly and must therefore be covered with a dry cloth, to prevent freezing overnight, or a wet cloth, on warm days.

3.2.3 It may be necessary to prune tree roots. Where tree roots are to be pruned, clean, straight cuts must be made, in order to minimise the extent of wounding, as detailed in **Section 2.2**.

3.3 Arboricultural Supervision

3.3.1 As the woodland footpath will be installed within a woodland setting, this will be closely supervised by an arboricultural consultant.

3.3.2 The arboricultural consultant will be on hand to ensure the trees are safeguarded during the installation phase; they will supervise excavations close to trees and undertake any root pruning.

3.3.3 It is proposed that the arboricultural consultant be present on site at a number of key stages (as listed in the tables in **Section 5**) and that they give an initial toolbox talk, describing how to avoid damaging the trees and specifying when arboricultural supervision is required.

3.3.4 In addition to the key stages listed, it is proposed that the arboricultural consultant keep in close contact throughout the installation process, visiting site on occasion and be on standby to visit site if requested.

3.3.5 The toolbox talk will be done on the first day of works and then a daily visit will be made until the project is completed and operable.

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3.4 Principles of Woodland Path Installation

3.4.1 The following comments are offered as a guide to acceptable construction methods of a footpath type in close proximity to trees. Please also refer to **Inset 1A, Inset 1B** and **Inset 2** on the Tree Protection Plan at **Appendix 1**.

- **A No-dig Construction Method:** The woodland footpath will be installed using a no-dig method of construction (as demonstrated in **Inset 1B** on the Tree Protection Plan at **Appendix 1**), following the existing ground contours as much as possible. The footpath will be laid on top of the existing ground levels with a timber edging held in place with pegs inserted into the ground at regular intervals.

- **Addressing the changes in ground level:** As the woodland footpath will run across a banking, there will be sections where the ground level will be higher on the southern side of the footpath and lower on the northern side, as the banking slopes downwards towards Clayton Dike.

  Minor excavations in ground level may be required on the southern side of the footpath, in order to create a level platform (as demonstrated in **Inset 1A** on the Tree Protection Plan at **Appendix 1**).

  Where the woodland footpath needs to bridge a gap/channel, boardwalks will be used (as demonstrated in **Inset 2** on the Tree Protection Plan at **Appendix 1**). These boardwalks will be constructed upon posts which are to be inserted vertically into excavated holes; the holes are to be excavated by hand and will require minimal digging.

- **Wooden Decking Solutions:** These are to be considered where the woodland footpath crosses gaps/channels, banks and where it runs closest to Clayton Dike.

- **The Final Surface:** The finished surface needs to be permeable with a non-slip finish. Due to the woodland setting, woodchip is proposed.

- **Hand Rails:** The woodland footpath will be required to include hand rails, in order to ensure pedestrian safety.

- **The Use of Concrete**: The posts required to be used for the construction of the boardwalks will need to be set in concrete. The mixing of concrete **must not** take place within the vicinity of the trees. Additionally, care must also be taken to prevent the woodland and Clayton Dike from being contaminated with concrete or other chemical spillages.

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4. Post Installation Phase

4.1 Completion Meeting

4.1.1 Upon completion of the woodland footpath, a JCA consultant will invite the Local Planning Authority representative to meet with them on site, walk the route of the footpath and agree on any remedial works which may be required (if any).

4.1.2 Any necessary remedial tree works will be confirmed in writing and must be carried out in accordance with BS 3998: 2010 - *Recommendations for tree work*.

5. Arboricultural Supervision: Key Stages

5.1.1 The timescale for key arboricultural supervision is as follows:

	Arboricultural Supervision	✓	Initial
Stage 1	An initial site meeting is to be held prior to any works commencing with the relevant contractors. At this meeting, the route of the woodland footpath will be walked and any trees requiring removing/pruning clearly marked. *The route of the woodland footpath will need to be clearly marked out on site prior to this meeting.* **Please refer to Section 2.1.** **A toolbox talk will be given by the arboricultural consultant prior to work commencing on the installation of the woodland footpath.**		
Stage 2	Daily site visits will take place once the woodland footpath installation has begun to ensure compliance with this method statement, to assess how work is progressing and to discuss any issues encountered.		
Stage 3	A final meeting will take place to assess whether any additional tree pruning work is required once the woodland footpath is in place. **Please refer to Section 2.3.**		
Throughout the installation phase, JCA will be on standby, ready to visit site in case any tree/root issues are encountered which requires our assistance.			

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Appendices

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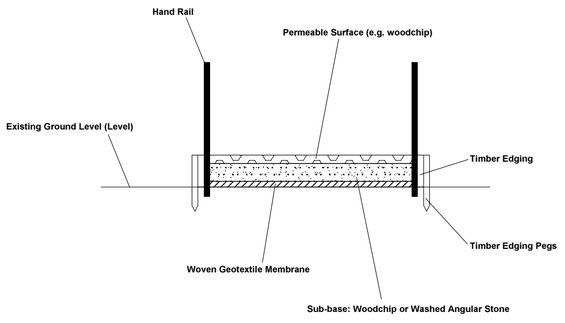
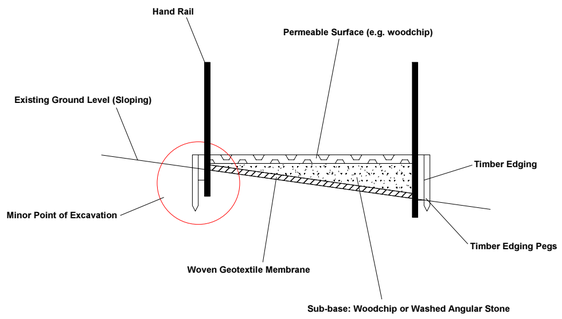
THIS PLAN IS TO BE PRINTED IN COLOUR AND READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE JCA ARBORICULTURAL REPORT (JCA REF: 11854h/TT)

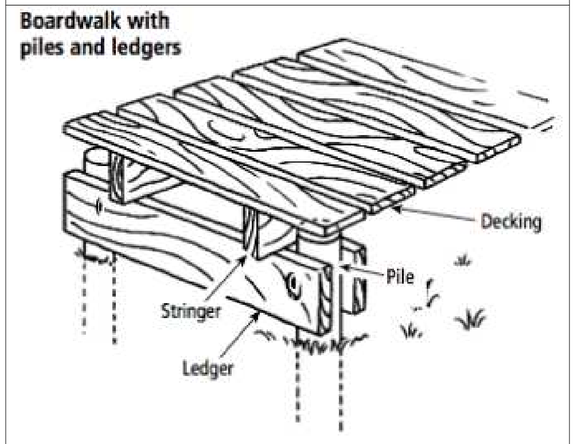
Inset 1B: An example of a No-Dig Footpath on level ground



Inset 1A: An example of a No-Dig Footpath on sloping ground



Inset 2: An example of an above ground woodland boardwalk type. Hand rails and a non-slip surface are recommended.



Appendix 1: Tree Protection Plan

ADDRESS: Clayton Fields, Edgerton, Huddersfield, HD2 2AF.
JCA REF: 11854h/TT

SCALE: 1:500	PAPER SIZE : A2

	CANOPY OF EXISTING TREE GROUP OR WOODLAND
	ROOT PROTECTION AREA (RPA)
	ROUTE OF THE PROPOSED WOODLAND FOOTPATH

JCA Limited

Arboricultural & Ecological Consultants

I hope that this report provides all the necessary information, but should any further advice be needed please do not hesitate to contact the author.

Signed

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Toby Thwaites *BSc. (Hons), H.N.D. Arboriculture, MArborA.*

30th July 2020

For and on behalf of ***JCA Ltd***

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Professional Tree and Ecology Advice nationwide

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Guidance for Architects and Developers

- British Standard 5837 Tree Surveys
- Arboricultural Implication Assessments (AIA)
- Arboricultural Method Statements (AMS)

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- Tree Surveys for Subsidence
- Heave Assessment
- Tree Root Identification

Advice for Local Authorities and Social Housing

- Tree Safety Surveys
- Specialist Decay Detection
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Veteran Tree Management

- Ancient Woodland Management
- Veteran Tree Management

Tree Health and Pest and Disease Management

- Pest and Disease Surveys
- Tree Health Checks
- Disease Mitigation and Control

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Ecological Pre-Planning Services

- Phase 1 Habitat Surveys
- Great Crested Newt eDNA Sampling
- Protected Species: Bat, Wintering and Nesting Bird, Badger, Amphibian, Otter, Water Vole, White-Clawed Crayfish, Dormice and Reptile Surveys.
- Preparation for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Invasive Species Surveys
- Code for Sustainable Homes

Ecological Post-Planning Services

- Biodiversity Enhancement Plans
- Protected Species Mitigation
- Ecological Management (Bat and Bird box installation and inspection)

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