



Tree protection-Method statement

Site: Charrington Way Recreation Area, Broadbridge Heath

Client: Broadbridge Parish Council

Document ref: CW10BTPMS

Revision: Initial issue 27/03/2026

1. Tree Categorisation and Exclusion Zones

All trees on-site have been surveyed and categorised to determine the required Root Protection Areas (RPAs), outlined on the attached tree survey. Protection will be established via physical exclusion zones:

- **Major Trees (e.g., Oak):** A mandatory 4m exclusion zone will be measured from the centre of the trunk.
- **Minor Trees:** A mandatory 2m exclusion zone will be measured from the centre of the trunk.

These zones are "dead ground." No access, storage, or ground disturbance is permitted within these boundaries at any time.

2. Site Compound Setup & Barrier Logic

The site compound has been strategically designed to act as the primary protection mechanism:

- **Boundary Positioning:** The compound fencing will be erected such that all Major and Minor tree exclusion zones fall outside the active site area. This is shown on the attached plan.
- **Physical Barriers:** Protective fencing (e.g., Heras fencing) will be installed along the exclusion line before any plant machinery or materials arrive on site.
- **Signage:** "Tree Protection Area – Keep Out" signage will be clearly displayed on the fencing to ensure all personnel are aware of the restrictions.

3. Working Near Young Trees (Within Compound)

Certain young trees are located in proximity to the works within the compound, notably the 'wild walk' area and some soft landscaping will occur around these trees. To protect their developing root systems, the following "Soft-Touch" protocol applies:

- **The 2m Rule:** Any excavation or ground-breaking required within 2m of a young tree must be performed exclusively by hand.
- **Tooling:** No mechanical excavators or pneumatic breakers are to be used within this radius.
- **Root Care:** If roots larger than 25mm in diameter are encountered during hand digging, works must stop and the site manager must be consulted.

4. General Prohibitions

To maintain the soil health and canopy integrity, the following are strictly prohibited within or near the exclusion zones:

- **Chemicals:** No mixing of cement, storage of fuels, or discharge of "wash out" water near the trees.
- **Combustion:** No fires are permitted anywhere on site.
- **Storage:** No leaning materials against trunks or hanging equipment from branches.

5. Monitoring

The Site Supervisor will conduct a daily compliance inspection to ensure all fencing remains upright and that no encroachment has occurred.



APPENDIX IV TREE LOCATION PLAN

Green Space Charrington Way



Toolbox talks: heritage

Working around trees and hedgerows

What?

- trees and hedgerows are an important part of the environment and the countryside and serve as habitats for wildlife. As such they can be protected by legislation enforced by the local authority
- they provide shelter and pathways for insects, amphibians, mammals and birds.

Why?

- **avoid environmental harm and prosecution:** during certain times of the year nesting birds (protected by law against disturbance) may be present in trees and hedgerows
- **avoid prosecution:** it is illegal to cut down or wilfully damage trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or in a conservation area, or to pull up certain countryside hedges except with the consent of the local planning authority (LPA)
- **reduce safety risk:** damaged trees may become unstable and potential hazards. Trees can be damaged by compaction of roots and other damage to the root system, by pollution and through impact by machines.

Questions

- 1 How can trees and hedgerows be protected on this site?
- 2 What care should be taken when moving plant or storing and using fuels and other potential pollutants on site?
- 3 What must be done if nesting birds are found on site?



Do?

- ✓ check with a line manager before felling any trees or removing any hedgerows to ensure permission has been obtained
- ✓ check for nesting birds and if any are found stop work and contact a line manager **IMMEDIATELY**
- ✓ ask a line manager what protection is required to trees and hedgerows
- ✓ check with a line manager before excavating near to trees and hedgerows
- ✓ ensure plant and machinery are kept out of any excluded areas
- ✓ store all fuels and oils and other potential pollutants away from root systems
- ✓ only hand dig around root systems.

Don't

- ✗ undertake tree felling or hedgerow clearance during the bird nesting season
- ✗ undertake any works to, or near to, trees without authorisation from a line manager
- ✗ track vehicles or plant over tree protection areas
- ✗ store materials, especially fuels and oils under or near trees.