

Our ref : 8794 / JW

09th July 2026

INTRODUCTION

This Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) for the woodland path has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Limited on behalf of Homes by Honey to provide the methods of protection for retained trees at Occupation Lane, Woodville (hereafter referred to as 'the site').

This AMS details the methodology by which the construction operation will be carried out, whilst safeguarding trees in a satisfactory condition during the proposed works. This method statement sets out a definitive account for the treatment of retained trees during the construction operation.

A meeting was held on site on the 3rd July 2026 with the South Derbyshire District Council Tree Officer to discuss the viability of creating a pedestrian pathway through the retained woodland onsite.

DISCUSSIONS ON SITE

It was agreed that to implement the woodland path, the route of the path would meander through the trees, avoiding any of the larger specimens within the woodland and would only require the removal of several small trees to facilitate the construction. A tree works schedule would be created to inform the tree officer specifically of which trees would require removal to enable the construction of the pathway.

The path would be constructed using tree friendly techniques, with the need for minimal excavation within the woodland.

The woodland would be subjected to a thinning regime to remove the dysfunctional and etiolated trees.

ACTION PLAN

The main issue within the woodland are the weak structures posed by the high number of narrow stems. It is therefore recommended that some of the trees within the woodland are removed in order to create more space for the remaining specimens to develop more substantial forms. This would allow the remaining trees to obtain more daylight to their lower sections, potentially resulting in more growth to both stem and canopy.

The thinning operations would involve the woodland being revisited, by a fully qualified arboriculturist, to select and mark the most appropriate trees for removal. This will include the trees with the narrowest stems in comparison to their height, and trees that are closely positioned to other trees. The remaining trees would eventually have a minimum of a 3m clearance around their stems. The overall thinning operations should include the removal of 10% of the tree stock within the woodland.

During the thinning works, several trees will be removed to facilitate the route of the proposed footpath. The trees to be removed to facilitate the footpath will be marked up by the Arboricultural Clerk of Works during the pre-commencement site meeting and, where required, with the clients engineer and tree surgeon present. Highly visible fluorescent paint will be used to assist in identification.

The proposed works are detailed within Appendix A Tree Work Schedule.

The footpath shall then be installed using a cellular confinement system, starting from outside the woodland. All plant machinery will run on the suitable ground protection or the confinement system that has been laid, avoiding any compaction or damage to rooting systems within the woodland.

METHODOLOGY

Construction of No Dig footpath

The proposals have shown a footpath within the RPA of W1. To minimise any potential impacts to this retained tree cover this footpath will need to be constructed using a three-dimensional load bearing cellular confinement system.

These systems are designed to sit on the existing ground level and are designed to spread and support the load of the hard surface and anticipated usage without causing compaction of the soil structure beneath.

An example of a no dig footpath is illustrated below in Figure 1.

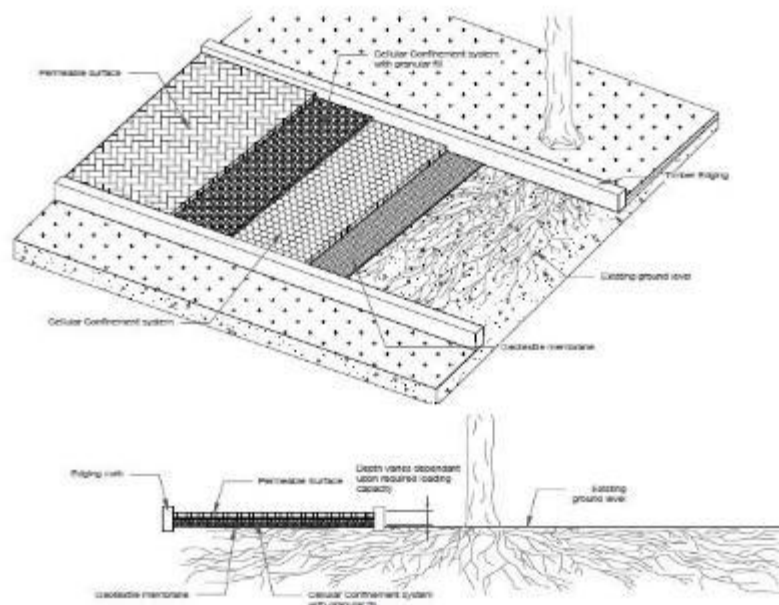


Figure 1 – Example of No-dig Footpath Construction

The following methodology should be used as a guideline for the installation of cellular confinement systems:

1. Remove the upper surface layer vegetation / turf. The depth of the excavation will be determined by the arboriculturist and shall commence until the shallowest root with a diameter greater than 25mm, or a matt of fine fibrous tree roots, is encountered. Holes shall be filled with clean angular stone and sharp sand. Do not level off high spots or compact the soil through rolling.
2. Immediately after an even soil surface layer has been prepared, a geo textile membrane will be laid. The geo-textile membrane sheets should overlap by a minimum of 300mm.
3. Lay out the collapsed cellular confinement system on-top of the membrane. Use a J pin (usually supplied) into the centre cell at the end of the panel and secure into the ground.
4. Pull the cellular confinement sheet out to its full length and secure its length with another J pin. Measure its width to 2.56m and secure in each of the corners with the J pins. Use 10 pins per panel to create a panel measuring 8.1m x 2.56m. Each cell must be fully extended and under tension.
5. Staple adjacent panels together at each cell (200mm: 5 staples. 150mm: 4 staples. 100mm: 3 staples. 75mm: 3 staples).
6. If a curved path or shape is required, this should be cut when the cellular confinement panel is pinned out to 8.1 x 2.56m, ensuring complete cells remain. Do not try to curve or bend the panels into place.
7. Infill the Clean Angular Stone. The infill material must be a clean angular stone, Type 4/20mm or Type 20/40mm. Do not use M.O.T type 1 or crushed stone with fines for tree root protection.
8. Infill the cells with the clean angular stone, working towards the tree and using the infilled panels as a platform – working from one end to the other. Minimum 25mm overfill of clean angular stone when used in conjunction with a hard surface. No compaction is required of the infill. Do not use a whacker plate or other means of compaction.
9. Encourage settlement of the stone with the use of a light roller or with 2-3 passes of the construction plant used for installation.
10. Where edging is required, this will comprise treated timber sleepers or a standard HB Kerb with a concrete bed which sits on the existing ground level.
11. All surfaces in Root Protection Areas must be porous. Surfaces can include porous block paving, porous asphalt, and resin bound gravel.

PHOTOS OF INTENDED ROUTE OF FOOTPATH



Picture 1 : Indicative entrance for woodland path



Picture 2 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 3 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 4 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 5 : Indicative route for woodland path

Picture 6 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 7 : Indicative route for woodland path

Picture 8 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 9 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 10 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 11 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 12 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 13 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 14 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 15 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 16 : Indicative route for woodland path



Picture 17 : Indicative route for woodland exit



Picture 18 : Picture viewpoints and indicative route of footpath.



Picture 19 : Approximate location of trees to be removed to facilitate the footpath.

Yours sincerely

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FPCR is a corporate member of the Arboricultural Association

Appendix A - Tree Work Schedule

Measurements	Age Class	Overall Condition	Work Recommendations
Height - estimated from ground level (m).	YNG: Young trees up to ten years of age	G - Good: Trees with only a few minor defects and in good overall health needing little if any attention.	Recommendations made are in accordance with British Standard 3998(2010) - Tree Work - Recommendations. All recommendations are made according to the condition of the specimens at the time of inspection and cannot be assumed to remain unchanged. Re-inspection would be recommended within 12 - 18 months. The works recommended may be subject to approval from the local planning authority and should not be acted upon without ensuring proper authorisation has been received.
Stem Dia. - Diameter measured (mm) in accordance with Annex C of the BS5837.	SM: Semi-mature trees less than 1/3 life expectancy	F - Fair: Trees with minor but rectifiable defects or in the early stages of stress from which it may recover.	
Crown - crown spread estimated radially from the main stem (m).	EM: Early mature trees 1/3 – 2/3 life expectancy	P - Poor: Trees with major structural and/or physiological defects such that it is unlikely the tree will recover in the long term.	
Abbreviations est - Estimated stem diameter avg - Average stem diameter for multiple stems upto - Group has a maximum stem diameter of	M: Mature trees over 2/3 life expectancy	D - Dead: Trees no longer alive. This could also apply to trees that are dying and unlikely to recover.	
	OM: Over mature declining or moribund trees of low vigour		
	V: Veteran tree possessing certain attributes relating to veteran trees		

Tree No	Species	Height	Stem Dia.	Crown Radius	Age Class	Overall Condition	Works Recommendation
T30	Sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus	16	150	2	SM	F	Remove to ground level
T31	Sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus	16	170	2	SM	F	Remove to ground level
T32	Sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus	16	150	2	SM	F	Remove to ground level
T33	Ash Fraxinus excelsior	16	210	2	SM	F	Remove to ground level
T34	Ash Fraxinus excelsior	16	170	2	SM	F	Remove to ground level
T35	Ash Fraxinus excelsior	16	150	2	SM	F	Remove to ground level
T36	Goat Willow Salix caprea	14	upto 6x 230	6	M	P	Remove to ground level
T37	Sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus	10	180	2	SM	F	Remove to ground level
T38	Ash Fraxinus excelsior	16	110	2	SM	F	Remove to ground level
T39	Ash Fraxinus excelsior	16	100	2	SM	F	Remove to ground level
T40	Ash Fraxinus excelsior	8	upto 80	0	Yng	D	Remove to ground level
T41	Ash Fraxinus excelsior	8	upto 60	0	Yng	D	Remove to ground level
T42	Elder Sambucus nigra	6	est 40 40 40 40	2	EM	F	Remove to ground level
T43	Sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus	8	upto 100	2	SM	F	Remove to ground level