

Arboricultural Method Statement
Tree Protection Plan

WESTHIDE SOLAR SITE, HEREFORDSHIRE



On behalf of

Ersun (Westhide SPV) Ltd

Sue Rankine BSc (hons), Dip Arb L4, *TechArborA*
Arboricultural Consultant

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Arboricultural Method Statement

INTRODUCTION

*The purpose of this document is to give a step by step guide to protecting trees on this site. It is vital that all members of the team are familiar with it so that they not only understand **why** trees need protecting but also **how** they are to be protected and their own role in protecting them.*

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES

- Trees play a crucial role in the fight against climate change. One mature tree can absorb in the region of 1 tonne of carbon during its lifetime – the world needs all the trees it can get
- Trees are an important wildlife habitat, for example many insects and birds rely on them for food and shelter
- Trees are an integral part of human habitat. People like trees for their landscape value and for their shading and sheltering properties

WHAT WILL CAUSE DAMAGE TO A TREE?

- Wounds to the trunk or limbs of a tree can let in pathogens which could go on to infect and eventually even kill a tree
- Removal of branches decreases the number of leaves a tree has. Leaves are vital to the tree for manufacture of the energy they need through photosynthesis
- Compaction of the soil around a tree will damage its roots making it unable to absorb water or oxygen which can result in the tree's death. The extent of the roots are shown on the Tree Protection Plan in the document below as Root Protection Areas or RPA's

HOW YOU AND YOUR TEAM CAN PREVENT DAMAGE TO TREES

- Ensure all members of the team read this document before work starts
- Follow the instructions given, don't cut corners
- Take pride in protecting trees – treated well they will outlive you and continue to give benefit for years to come

Planning permission for this project depends on this method statement being followed. Dealing with breaches of condition is far harder, more time consuming and costly than following the instructions. Failure to comply could even result in prosecution.

THE PROJECT ARBORICULTURALIST IS ON HAND TO HELP. IF IN DOUBT, PLEASE RING FOR ADVICE. 01761 233244

Hillside Trees Ltd.

2 Hillside, Bowden Hill, Chilcompton, Radstock, BA3 4EN
Tel: 01761 233244 E: enquiries@hillside-trees.co.uk

Directors: A Rankine BSc (Forestry), Tech Cert (Arbor A), ProfArborA, S J Rankine BSc (Hons), Dip Arb L4, TechArborA

Registered in England No. 07175569

Registered Office: Broadway House, Third Avenue, Westfield Industrial Estate, Radstock. BA3 4XD

This Method Statement Comprises:

- 1. Method Statement Document**
- 2. Appendices:**
 - I. Schedule of Tree Removal**
 - II. Tree Protection Site Notice**
 - III. APN 12 ‘Through the Trees to Development’, CellWeb Confinement Systems and Rootbridge Green Grid Systems**
 - IV. Masterplan**
- 3. Tree Protection Plans (212103-WSS-TPP-SD-SO1 and 212103-WSS-TPP-SD-SO2)**

THESE DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE KEPT TOGETHER**Proposed Development:**

The proposed development involves the construction of a solar farm with associated access, infrastructure and ecological and landscape enhancement measures

Contacts:**Client:**

Gulya Isyanova
Head of Development
TEKSS Ltd

Telephone: 07817 888 506
Email: gulya@tekss-energy.com

Project Manager (for the client):

To be confirmed

Contractor / Builder:

To be confirmed

Site Manager:

To be confirmed

Arboricultural Officer:

Oliver Kaye
Tree Officer
Herefordshire County Council

Project Arboriculturalist:

Sue Rankine
Hillside Trees Ltd.

Telephone: 01761 233244
Email: sue@hillsidetrees.co.uk

Works Requiring Tree Protection / Works:

Development Operations	Tree Number	Type of Protection / Works	Reference
Site Traffic and construction / upgrading of tracks	T1- T5, T10, T12, T13, T19, T23-T26, T34, T61	No-dig construction methods OR re-routing of tracks	Appendix III Section 5
General Construction	T9, T16, T18, T30, T32, T60	Remove	Appendix I
	T20, T27, T28, T31, T38, T40, T41, T43-T45, T57-T59,	Tree protection barriers Tree protection notices	Appendix II
		Site fencing	Appendix IV

Sequencing of Operations:

The tree protection measures appropriate for the site operations below, if required by the Local Planning Authority will be monitored by the Project Arboriculturalist. It will be the responsibility of the Project Manager and / or the Site Manager to inform the Project Arboriculturalist if site visits and reports are required and to arrange them accordingly

1. Pre-commencement site meeting

- a. The Appointed Contractor will co-ordinate with the Project Arboriculturalist to discuss and agree the site operations programme and tree protection.

2. Carry out tree removal (See Appendix I)

- a. All tree surgery removal will be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced tree surgeon
- b. All works will be carried out to industry best practice and will be in accordance with BS3998

3. Install tree protection barriers

- a. Tree protection barriers will be installed in the locations shown on the Tree Protection Plan
- b. The area between the tree protection barriers and the trees will be a construction exclusion zone (CEZ)
- c. Tree protection barriers will be 'Heras' weldmesh panels secured in robust bases and tightly clamped
- d. Site notices will be securely fixed to the tree protection barriers panels (Appendix II)
- e. There will be no movement of tree protection barriers unless it is overseen by the Project Arboriculturalist
- f. No activity will take place within the CEZ's

4. Installation site fencing

- a. Site fencing as shown on the site masterplan (Appendix IV) will be installed. This will negate the need for tree protection barriers except for where specified above
- b. Site fencing will be post and wire
- c. If tree roots are encountered when digging holes for the posts, the position of the post will be moved

5. Construction of new tracks and upgrading of tracks

- a. Where the new access tracks breach the root protection areas of T1- T5, T19, T23- T26, T34 and T61 as indicated on the Tree Protection Plan, construction will be in accordance with Arboricultural Practice Note (APN) 12 'Through the trees to Development' using a 'No-Dig' Cellular Confinement system such as 'CellWeb' or Rootbridge Green Grid Systems (Appendix III). This will also apply to the upgrading of the existing track where it breaches the RPA's of T10, T12 and T13
- b. The position of the new track layouts will be marked out (incorporating the existing track where applicable). This area will then be cleared of vegetation and a general level created using hand tools and clean sand where necessary. A geo textile membrane will then be laid across the surface.
- c. The 'Cellular Confinement System' (CCS) will then be laid across the area. This will provide a load-bearing and permeable structure. The cellular design and perforated cell walls reduces the vertical load pressure on sub soils to tree roots and prevents damage.
- d. Once the CCS is in place it will be backfilled with clean angular stone which will enable air and moisture to reach the roots and encourage healthy growth. A porous wearing course will then be applied, to a depth of 30-40mm as the finished surface. The edges of the driveway will be retained using tannalised wooden retaining boards staked into the ground tapering down to the existing ground level with top soil.

Please note that it may be possible in some cases to re-route the tracks to avoid the RPA's of the above trees and if this is the case a revised Tree Protection Plan will be issued

6. Installation of solar panels

- a. Installation of the solar panels will not require access to the CEZ's.

7. Installation of infrastructure

- a. Installation of infrastructure will not require access to the CEZ's

8. Removal of tree protection barriers

- a. Tree protection barriers will only be removed once all works associated with the development have been completed. These include:
 - Construction and upgrading of tracks
 - Installation of solar panels and associated infrastructure

General Precautions

1. Site office, welfare facilities and site storage compound will be positioned outside the CEZ's. The location will be agreed between the Site Manager and the Project Arboriculturalist prior to commencement of the project.
2. Any crane or plant for the manoeuvring of materials will be sited on locations to be agreed between the Site Manager and the Project Arboriculturalist prior to commencement of the project. All crane operations should be conducted under the supervision of a banksman to ensure adequate clearance from the retained trees is maintained at all times.
3. No materials that are likely to have an adverse effect on tree health will be stored or discharged within 10 metres of the trunk of a tree that is to be retained. Consideration will be given to the implications of storing materials upslope of this exclusion zone in order to avoid the risk of potential spillages leaching down-slope and contaminating the Root Protection Area of a tree. Such materials include:
 - Oil
 - Bitumen
 - Cement
4. No fires will be lit unless the site of the fire is agreed with the Project Arboriculturalist.
5. Concrete will not be mixed or transported over unprotected ground, within 10 metres of the trunk of any tree.

6. In the event of unforeseen incidents occurring that may adversely affect or threaten the welfare or security of the trees, the Site Manager shall inform the Project Arboriculturalist at the earliest opportunity and not more than one working day following the incident.
7. The Project Arboriculturalist will visit the site to inspect and assess the circumstances and make any appropriate recommendations. The Local Planning Authority Tree Officer will be informed by the Project Arboriculturalist of such incidents and recommendations will be submitted for approval by the Local Planning Authority, initially verbally, and then in writing.
8. A record of any emergency incidents and works shall be maintained by the Project Arboriculturalist.
9. Incidents which may merit such contingency plans include:
 - Accidental / unauthorised damage to the limbs, roots or trunk of trees
 - The spillage of chemicals within or adjacent to a Root Protection Area
 - The discharge of toxins / waste within or adjacent to a Root Protection Area
 - The un-scheduled breaching of a tree protective barrier or Construction Exclusion Zone.

This Method Statement has Been Informed by the Following Information

- Arboricultural Site Survey carried out by Hillside Trees Ltd on 30th March 2021
- Topographic Survey. Healer Surveys Job No. P3372
- Masterplan. The Landmark Practice Drawing No. 3352_L_GA_0_01 Revision F
- BS5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'

Appendix I

Schedule of Tree Removal

Tree Number	Work Specification
T9, T16, T18, T30, T32, T60	Take down to ground level or a safe height Arisings to be left on site and used for construction of hibernacula

All tree surgery works will be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced tree surgeon

All works will be carried out to industry best practice and will be in accordance with BS3998:2010 'Works to Trees'

Appendix II

Tree Protection Site Notice



**PROTECTIVE FENCING. THIS
FENCING MUST BE
MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE APPROVED PLANS
AND DRAWINGS FOR THIS
DEVELOPMENT.**



**TREE PROTECTION AREA
KEEP OUT !**

**(TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)
TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY
PLANNING CONDITIONS AND/OR ARE THE SUBJECTS OF A
TREE PRESERVATION ORDER.
CONTRAVENTION OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER MAY
LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION**

**ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE
WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LOCAL
PLANNING AUTHORITY**