



Arboricultural Installation and Tree Protection Note

Ref: DA26002 - Birch Hotel

Site address: Manchester Rd, Heywood OL10 2QD

Date: 10th March 2026

Proposal: Proposed Security Fencing and Access Control

1. Introduction

This note has been prepared to accompany the planning application for the installation of perimeter security fencing and associated access control measures at Birch Hotel. The purpose of this document is to:

- address the presence of protected trees located along sections of the site boundary
- confirm that the proposed works will not adversely affect existing trees or hedgerows
- set out the installation methodology that will be used to protect root systems during construction

The proposed development consists solely of the installation of lightweight security fencing supported by steel posts and mesh panels. The works are limited in scale and do not involve trench foundations, ground regrading or excavation beyond individual post holes.

No trees or hedgerows are proposed to be removed as part of the development.

2. Existing Trees and Boundary Vegetation

Sections of the site boundary contain mature trees and established hedgerows which contribute positively to the visual amenity and landscape character of the area. The proposed fencing layout has been deliberately designed to respect and retain this vegetation.

In particular:

- The fence line has been set approximately **1 metre inside the legal boundary** where trees and hedgerows are present.
- Existing hedgerows and trees will remain **fully in situ**.
- Boundary vegetation will continue to form the **primary landscaped edge** to the site.
- The fencing will sit **behind the existing vegetation**, ensuring that the green boundary remains visually dominant.

This approach ensures that the character and visual amenity of the boundary is preserved while allowing the necessary security measures to be implemented.

No tree removal is required and no significant vegetation works are proposed.

3. Nature of the Proposed Works

The proposed development consists of the installation of perimeter security fencing comprising:



- steel fence posts
- welded mesh security panels
- minor isolated post foundations

The works do **not involve**:

- strip foundations
- trench excavation
- ground level alterations
- removal of vegetation

Excavation is limited to individual post holes only. Given the limited scope of the works, the potential interaction with tree roots is inherently minimal.

4. Installation Methodology and Root Protection

Where fencing is installed in proximity to existing trees, a careful installation methodology will be adopted in order to protect root systems.

The approach follows recognised arboricultural good practice and is consistent with commonly used methods for installing fencing or poles close to trees.

Excavation Method

Where required near trees:

- Excavations for fence posts will be undertaken **by hand**.
- Soil will be removed **in shallow layers** to allow inspection for roots.
- Heavy machinery will not be used within areas where roots may be encountered.

Root Protection Measures

- Tree roots will be **retained wherever possible**.
- If small roots are encountered, they will be **cleanly pruned using appropriate hand tools**.
- Root pruning will be undertaken in accordance with **BS3998:2010 – Recommendations for Tree Work**.
- Roots exceeding approximately **50mm diameter will be retained wherever practicable**.

Flexibility of Post Locations

If significant roots are encountered during excavation:

- Individual fence post locations can be **adjusted slightly along the fence line** to avoid root disturbance.
- This flexibility allows installation to proceed while protecting tree root systems.

Scale of Excavation

Excavation required for fence posts is limited to **small diameter post holes only**.



Given the small scale of these excavations, together with the setback of the fence line from boundary vegetation, the works are **unlikely to cause adverse impacts on tree health, stability or longevity**.

5. Protection of Existing Vegetation

The development has been specifically designed to retain existing vegetation along the site boundary.

In particular:

- **No trees will be removed** as part of the works.
- **No hedgerows will be removed or significantly altered.**
- Existing vegetation will continue to form the visual boundary to the site.

Minor trimming of small tertiary branches may occasionally be required to provide clearance between vegetation and fencing panels.

Any such works would:

- be limited in scale
- avoid alteration to the overall structure of the trees
- be undertaken in accordance with **BS3998:2010**

The visual amenity and environmental benefits provided by the existing trees will therefore be fully preserved.

6. Proportionality of Arboricultural Assessment

The proposed development consists solely of lightweight fencing supported by individual steel posts.

The works involve **minimal excavation limited to isolated post holes**, rather than trenching or foundation works.

Given the nature and scale of the development:

- no trees are proposed to be removed
- the fence line has been deliberately set back from boundary vegetation
- excavation works are minor and localised
- tree roots can be readily avoided through hand excavation

In circumstances such as this, arboricultural considerations can typically be addressed through an **installation methodology and tree protection note**, rather than requiring a full Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

This document therefore provides a proportionate level of arboricultural information appropriate to the scale of the proposed works.

7. Planning Context



Boundary fencing of this nature would ordinarily fall within **permitted development rights** were it not for the additional height required for security purposes.

The installation methodology and nature of the works would otherwise be identical to fencing that could typically be erected without planning permission.

The planning application is therefore required solely due to the **height of the proposed fencing**, rather than the nature of the works themselves.

The tree protection measures set out in this note therefore represent a proportionate response to the limited arboricultural considerations associated with the development.

8. Security Context and Implementation

The proposed fencing forms part of a wider programme of security improvements intended to address safeguarding risks identified at the site.

The installation is being undertaken with the involvement of the **Community Security Trust (CST)**, a nationally recognised organisation specialising in protective security for community premises. In many cases such measures are supported through central government protective security funding programmes.

The design, specification and installation methodology for this type of perimeter security fencing is well established and routinely implemented across community, educational and institutional sites where enhanced safeguarding measures are required.

The installation methods used are therefore:

- well established in practice
- designed to minimise ground disturbance
- compatible with sites containing existing trees and vegetation

The proposed works therefore represent a standard and proven approach to improving site security while maintaining environmental protection.

9. Conclusion

The proposed fencing can be installed without harm to existing trees or hedgerows.

In summary:

- No trees or hedgerows will be removed.
- The fence line has been deliberately set back from boundary vegetation.
- Excavation is limited to small individual post holes only.
- Hand excavation will be used where roots may be present.
- Root disturbance will be avoided wherever possible.
- Any minor vegetation management will follow recognised arboricultural standards.

The proposed development will therefore **not adversely affect the health, stability or visual amenity of existing trees**. The fencing can be installed safely while preserving the established landscape character of the site.