Sports and Entertainment UK Limited
on behalf of Equestrian Event Organisers UK Limited

The Global Champions Tour of Great Britain Event, Kensington

ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

18th January 2013
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Arboricultural Method Statement has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd on behalf of Sports Entertainment UK Limited and their client Equestrian Event Organisers UK Limited. It relates to matters of tree protection that would be required to protect trees during the construction, deconstruction and reinstatement / remediation of the site following an equestrian event, The Global Champions Tour of Great Britain on a site within and adjacent to Kensington Gardens. The measures to protect trees have been considered with reference to the guidance contained within British Standard 5837 (2013) Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction (Section 6). This document is produced by the British Standards Institute and copies can be obtained through purchase via the Institute.

Description of the Site

1.2 The site is located to the west of Kensington Gardens and comprises two separate compartments connected by roads, as described below. A location plan of the site is shown in Figure 1.

- a northerly section within Perk’s Field, an area of private land owned by the Royal Household immediately adjacent to Kensington Gardens. The field is set amongst well established formal gardens belonging to various properties associated with Kensington Palace Gardens to the west. To the south were further buildings belonging to the Palace. Perk’s Field does not have public access and is used relatively infrequently. Its use is mostly for football practice and occasional matches but also archery events at times.

- a southerly section which is located in the south western corner of Kensington Gardens. The southerly section is an area of public parkland with tree-lined pathways used on a regular basis by pedestrians and dog walkers.

1.3 Both compartments lie within Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens Site of Metropolitan Importance (SMI) for Nature Conservation.

Content of the Method Statement

1.4 The prepared document has been formulated at the request of the Local Planning Authority for supporting documentation to accompany a planning application for the event, to identify the arboricultural implications arising from staging the event within the site and to safeguard the health of trees.

1.5 Elements covered within the Method Statement will include as far as possible details on the following:

- Tree Protection Plan (Figure 2.1 and 2.2) illustrating the location and positions for protection measures such as tree protective fencing and ground protection,

- Working methods for the construction of temporary structures including pathways; stalls; stands and stables,

- Details of tree protection during deconstruction of the temporary structures as above,

- Details of any reinstatement following the event,

- Details of services and any excavations that may be required,
• Details of tree and ground protection measures for affected trees where applicable,
• Pre-commencement pruning where applicable.

1.6 Compliance with this method statement, once approved by the Local Authority’s Arboricultural Officer, The Royal Parks Arboricultural Officer, or similar appointed person, will be a requirement of all relevant contractors associated with staging the event.

1.7 The following sections of the Statement provide details of the above and as part of the discussions, highlight any foreseeable potential impacts to trees from construction works. The aim of this statement is to provide a working methodology for practical implementation of the protection measures, while being flexible to allow any necessary amendments to protection systems as the project evolves, as far as possible using current best practice within the arboricultural industry. The end result of the various considerations relating to tree protection has been to provide practical yet effective means of protecting trees within close proximity to the event, appropriate to the level of protection being required and being suitable for purpose.

2.0 PROPOSALS

2.1 A planning application is to be submitted for the construction of the following temporary structures within the southern compartment for a four day equestrian event:

• **Main Arena**: This is to comprise an 80m by 41m structure with raised, tiered seating along its northern, western and southern aspects for up to 3,400 visitors. In addition, to the east and south sides there are to be two hospitality tents. Lastly, close to the arena is to be a warm up area measuring 50m by 25m. The site for the main arena area is slightly sloping and therefore in order to create the necessary level surface to support specialist equine surfacing materials it is required to include levelling materials of aggregate bedding and Equiflow Upfill. The warm up area will comprise aggregate bedding atop a geotextile membrane directly on the ground surface and other specialist surfacing materials.

• **Shopping Area**: To the west of the main arena is to be a Shopping Village Area. The shopping village will house a number of commercial stalls and a small number of mobile video screens.

• **Stabling Area**: Perk’s Field will be the location for the stabling area providing 292 stables (inclusive of 6 stables at the Veterinary Centre), a mobile veterinary clinic, fodder store and stable manager office within temporary tented barn structures. There will also be an area for exercise measuring approximately 40m by 20m.

• **Public East Area**: To the north east of the main Arena there is to be an area for large TV screen. The final positioning of the area will be micro-sited as to avoid any trees that are present. There would therefore be no impact to trees arising from the public east area of the event.

• **Means of Access**: All vehicular access to Perk’s Field during the construction and deconstruction phases will be via the private entrance to Perk’s Field from the Bayswater Road which is opposite and slightly east of Palace Court. Egress is proposed as being via Orms Square Gate (top of Jubilee Walk). There will be no direct access via gates at the north or south of the Broadwalk.
A Traffic Management Plan has been prepared detailing transport movements through out the setting up, dismantling and during the event, and should be cross referenced. All construction traffic movements during the setting up and dismantling phases will be tightly controlled and managed as to prevent passage of vehicles and storage of materials in key sensitive areas beneath trees.

Ground Protection will largely be put in place in the open grass areas and not implemented beneath the trees as the key areas beneath trees are to be fenced off during the construction and deconstruction phases using appropriate barriers thus excluding vehicle movement and preventing the development of ground compaction from vehicle / materials weight. No vehicle will be permitted to drive on any un-protected grass area unless specifically agreed. A detailed day by day track way plan will be developed as part of the on-going planning phase of the project.

In summary, any grassed areas over which vehicles and / or plant are to be driven will be subject to suitable ground protection suitable to the type of work being carried out in the various areas. In key sensitive areas i.e. beneath trees, vehicle movements and storage of materials will be excluded through the use of appropriate barriers.

During the event, access to the stable area is to be via a rubber matted walkway placed directly on top of the ground. For the movement of horses between the main area and the stables it is proposed to provide a fenced-off walkway along The Broad Walk.

2.2 The duration of the construction period, actual staging of the event and de-construction of structures is envisaged to be a period of up to four weeks, to be followed immediately by habitat reinstatement works, estimated as being 4-6 weeks in duration. The proposed build dates for Perk’s Field are 17 May to 17th June inclusive and for Kensington Gardens between 20th May and 16th June inclusive. Live event days are to be between 6th June and 9th June inclusive.

2.3 The construction of the main arena, warm up and exercise areas, stabling, temporary seating and other structures will have only limited potential to impact upon the existing tree cover from direct damage by vehicles delivering materials as measures to protect trees will be put in place such as suitable barrier fencing. Equally there will only be limited potential to indirectly damage the existing tree cover as a result of compaction of the ground and erosion as measures to protect the ground in the vulnerable areas will be put in place.

2.4 Therefore, having regard to the potential impacts, precautionary working practices as detailed in the AMS will be employed throughout the site preparation/construction and deconstruction phases to satisfactorily minimise the risk of harm to both short and long term tree health. Appropriate amelioration, including any habitat restoration as detailed in the Ecological Appraisal (FPCR Environment and Design Limited January 2013, which should be read in conjunction with the Arboricultural Method Statement) will be implemented to decompact the worst affected areas following the event and de-construction of structures. It is envisaged that the worst affected areas would be formed around the horse chestnut specimen in Perks Field and where foot traffic is judged as being heaviest within the main event site itself, although in both cases as the potential impact on trees from compaction damage is slight, it is not anticipated that a high amount of decompaction measures would be necessary.
2.5 There will not be any requirement to remove trees in order to facilitate the event and providing the measures to protect trees from soil compaction and accidental damage such as branch breakages throughout the event, as detailed in the AMS are adhered there will be no long term impact to the trees within the gardens resulting from the staging of the event. It would be concluded that providing measures are put in place to protect trees as detailed in this document, there would be negligible short and medium term impact to the existing tree cover.

3.0 CONSTRUCTION DETAILS AND PROCESSES

3.1 The following section deals with the individual elements for the staging of the event where tree protection and specific design / construction methods are required.

3.2 Additionally, the paragraphs below indicate where certain further consideration could possibly be given in respect of the proposals to slightly modify the arrangements as to minimise impact to the tree cover.

Tree Protection Fencing

3.3 The most important measure required for protecting trees both in terms of above ground and below ground, direct and indirect forms of damage (i.e. branches and roots) from construction works during the initial set up stages and deconstruction stages of the event is the erection of appropriate levels / types of protective barriers or fencing.

3.4 The barriers or fencing will serve to form exclusion zones thus preventing vehicle movements and storage of materials within the sensitive areas as to avoid creating compacted soil conditions which would ultimately impact on the long term health of the trees, and to prevent unnecessary branch damage from collision by machinery. Soil compaction squeezes the soil closing up the pores especially in the upper levels and so reduces the amount of oxygen available to roots that prevents them from growing through the soil. This will impede air movement into and out of the soil around the roots and consequently reduce the availability of oxygen to the roots.

3.5 The effect on the tree is usually progressive shoot and branch dieback until a new balance has been reached between reduced capacity of the damaged root system to absorb water and the demands of the leaves. If damage is progressive or so severe that such a balance cannot be achieved the tree will ultimately die.

3.6 Placing measures to prevent soil compaction by reducing the loading on the soil greatly increases the chances of survival.

3.7 Final positions of stalls will be micro-sited as to be away from areas of trees.

3.8 Tree Protection Fencing / Barriers will be erected around the key sensitive groupings of trees as shown on the Tree Protection Plan, figures 2.1 and 2.2. It is proposed that decisions as to the amount, type and final positioning of fencing / barriers be discussed at an on site meeting with the The Royal Parks Arboricultural Officer.

3.9 The type of fencing to be used would be to the satisfaction and approval of the Parks Officer, and suitable for purpose yet practical and effective for protecting trees from the type of activity occurring on site.
3.10 Once erected, fencing / barriers will remain in place for the duration of the erection and deconstruction phases of the temporary structures. Once the temporary structures have been set up the fencing would be removed for the four days of the actual event and be re-erected for dismantling of the temporary structures and exit from site.

3.11 Once the fences have been erected they will not be removed or altered without prior consultation with The Royal Parks Arboricultural Officer.

3.12 Arrangements will be made for the fencing to the checked as being suitable for purpose and in the correct positions prior to the commencement of activities on the site.

3.13 Fencing must be installed with the appropriate signage in place. Example signage is shown in Appendix A.

3.14 No materials / equipment will be stored within the fencing (these must be removed immediately from the area).

3.15 Once the areas around trees have been protected by fencing, any works on the remaining site area will be commenced providing activities do not impinge on protected areas. Notices will be placed on fencing to indicate that operations are not permitted within the fenced area.

3.16 Wide or tall loads etc will not come into contact with trees. Banksmen will supervise transit of vehicles and loads where applicable.

3.17 Notice boards, telephone cables or other services will not be attached to any part of a tree.

**Ground Protection**

3.18 A second measure for protection of trees in terms of safeguarding the soil rooting area and the root systems present within in vulnerable areas from soil compaction damage is ground protection. Ground protection would aim to spread the load of weight across the area thereby reducing the risk of developing compacted ground.

3.19 There would be a parts of the proposed link pathway between the north and the south sections where it enters the main competing area which may require protection of the ground and in addition to the link pathway there will also be a need to place protection around the solitary mature horse chestnut in Perk’s Field where stabling is proposed. The stabling would encroach into the calculated root protection area for the tree in question thereby necessitating suitable ground protection to be considered. Figure 2.1 illustrates the position of the stabling in relation to the trees’ root protection area and where ground protection would be recommended.

3.20 Figure 2.2 shows the locations of the four pedestrian walkways entering the hospitality area / main arena which may require consideration for suitable ground protection to reduce the degree of soil compaction.

3.21 It would be proposed that in the stabling area, a suitable form of ground protection be put in place for the several stables concerned so that load will be best distributed over the duration of the event as to minimise the anticipated ground loading below the RPA of the tree to minimise any long term effect to the tree’s future growth resulting from ground compaction.
Facilitation Pruning

3.22 There may be a requirement for undertaking only minor branch pruning works such as to trees alongside the edges of the main arena and hospitality tents particularly where the walkways enter the area, although it is not anticipated that pruning of tree branches would be necessary. It is therefore proposed any need would be judged on site during the set up phases by a suitably qualified arboriculturalist or other similar person prior to any work being carried out. At all costs, any pruning would be avoided to only that which is necessary to clear minor low hanging branches.

3.23 In addition, where it is deemed necessary to operate a wide or tall load, plant bearing booms, jibs, counterweights or other such equipment as part of construction works and such equipment would have potential to cause injurious contact with crown material i.e. low branches and limbs of retained trees, it is advised that appropriate tree surgery be carried out beforehand to remove any obvious problem branches.

3.24 Any such pruning would be undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by the client specified arboriculturalist.

3.25 In the event of having caused such branch or limb damage to retained trees it is strongly recommended that suitable tree surgery be carried out, in accordance with BS 3998 (2010) Recommendations for Tree Work, to correct the damage as soon as is practicable and before such time as disease or other pathogens may affect the damaged tree.

Services

3.26 Trenching / excavation for the provision of services such as lighting cables etc to supply the event will not be required. Any such provision would be above ground and would not result in any direct impact to the trees within the site itself.

Post Event Re-Instatement

3.27 Where vulnerable areas may have been subjected to ground disturbance from foot traffic and the effects of the event it would be recommended that a series of compressed air injections be carried out to the soil to decompact the ground. The areas considered most vulnerable have been shown on Figures 2.1 and 2.2. Such vulnerable areas are relatively few and isolated and therefore such measures required to decompact the ground would be minimal.

3.28 Suitable remediation to decompact ground conditions are to apply air injections in the soil to guarantee the long term survival of the trees most affected as detailed in Section 6.3 BS3998:2010.

3.29 Air injection of the soil surrounding the roots should be undertaken with care and ideally include mycorrhizae that work in symbiosis with the tree to increase the amount of rooting surface area allowing better uptake of the available ground water. Implementation of this procedure is known to increase the chance of survival of the trees in the long term. (See also Section 8.4 BS5837:2012).
3.30 Mulch could be applied to a maximum depth of 100mm surrounding the stem of the horse chestnut tree in particular to prevent further compaction and drying of the soil over a short term period whilst the tree recovers from the effects of localised ground disturbance. Further details are described in section 6.2 BS3998:2010.

4.0 MONITORING AND SITE SUPERVISION

4.1 Once the protective fencing / barriers have been put in place prior to the set up stage, The Royal Parks Arboricultural Officer will carry out an inspection to ensure all is satisfactory and effective to protect trees.

4.2 Similarly, when the protective fencing / barriers are re-erected for the deconstruction phase's further checks would be recommended prior to the removal of the temporary structures.

4.3 It would also be recommended that the presence on site at the appropriate time by either the appointed Arboricultural advisor or The Royal Parks Arboricultural Officer is considered as to direct the site reinstatement work to include the air injections.
NOTES

All dimensions to be verified on site. Do not scale this drawing. All discrepancies to be clarified with project Arboricultural. Drawing is to be read in conjunction with Arboricultural Assessment and Appendix A - Tree Schedule.

Drawing produced in colour, monochrome copy should not be relied upon, and is based on digital information supplied by the client in dwg format. The exact position of trees are to be checked and verified on site prior to construction.

Trees are living organisms that change over time, the condition of all trees illustrated herein, are to be checked by a qualified arboriculturalist or tree surgeon should works commence 12 months after the date of the survey. Please note that no works should be undertaken to any trees illustrated herein without full details on the project authors to do so.

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**NOTES**

All dimensions to be verified on site. Do not scale this drawing. All descriptions to be classified as plans for information purposes. Drawing to be read in conjunction with Arboricultural Assessment and Appendix A - Tree Schedule.

- All areas highlighted in green represent the area to be retained.
- Yellow areas represent the calculated Root Protection Area (RPA).
- Magenta lines represent the line of protective barriers for prevention of vehicular access / material storage in RPAs during construction and deconstruction phases. Decisions as to the amount, type, and suitable to the level of activity and final positioning of fencing/barriers to be discussed and agreed at an on-site meeting with The Royal Parks Arboricultural Officer.
- Green lines represent Area of Ground Protection measures to be put in place to reduce damage from compaction (measures to be suitable for load distribution) and possible minor branch pruning works. Decisions as to the type of ground protection to be implemented to be agreed at an on-site meeting with The Royal Parks Arboricultural Officer.
- Extent of area for compressed air injection for decompaction of ground (to be carried out post event).

Trees are living organisms that change over time, the condition of all trees illustrated herein are to be checked by a qualified arboricultural or tree surgeon should works commence 12 months after the date of this survey. Please note that no works should be undertaken to any trees illustrated herein without first obtaining the proper authorisation to do so.

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**TREE PROTECTION PLAN - SOUTH**

**FIGURE 2.2**

1:1000 @ A3

January 2013

5454-A-05

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Sports and Entertainment Limited

The Global Champions Tour of Great Britain Event

Kensington

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**client**

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The Global Champions Tour of Great Britain Event

Kensington
Appendix A

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

(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