



10th November, 2023

Our ref: AR4366

Mr S. Sosnov,
13 Gainsborough Gardens,
Hampstead,
London. NW3 1BJ
FAO Irina Kuzina LNK Brickwork Ltd

By e-mail only



**Fence post installation adjacent to the three limes
on the road frontage of 10 Christchurch Hill**

Dear Mr Sosnov,

Thank you for your telephone enquiry and your subsequent email with a site plan extract and photographs. I understand that you need a method statement for the erection of a replacement wooden fence on this short section of the road frontage to be submitted to LB Camden in view of the Conservation Area status of the property. The trees are to be retained and you require a method statement for the replacement of the fence posts.

We discussed this on the telephone and with the details you emailed to me I am content to send you the working specification without the need for a site visit.

The existing fence is to be replaced and you have dismantled it and have pulled the posts out of the ground leaving the holes intact. The new posts are pressure-treated and of slightly smaller cross-section so that they can be easily inserted into the holes.

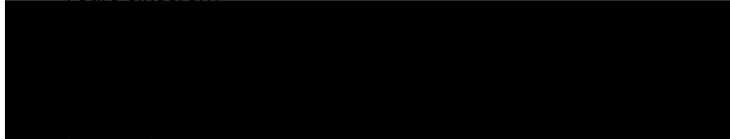
1. The holes should be widened on the side opposite the trees (road frontage side) to give more bulk to the concrete backfill. Some roots will have grown around the existing posts, but they will be small in diameter and if severed they will have no significant impact upon the stability or physiological well-being of the trees. The lower epicormic shoots have been pruned off.
2. There is no evidence one way or the other to demonstrate whether leachates from curing concrete cause any significant harm to root tissue. It may be that there is some localised "burning" of tissue in the zone of direct contact, but the effect is not systemic (i.e. translocated into the vascular system). In practice dry-mix concrete is frequently used because it enables the posts to be firmed up on the day. As moisture from the adjacent soil is absorbed by the concrete enabling it to set there is a reduced potential for leachates to seep outwards. If wet-mix concrete is chosen to be used, then the hole can be lined with a lightweight plastic bag to separate the concrete from the soil and roots.

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This is a standard methodology in common use. However, should there be any queries from you, Mr Dmytro of LNK Brickwork (the contractor), or the Arboricultural Officer please refer them to me.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Jim Quaife