Site investigations

Site investigations are to be undertaken within the RPAs of retained trees to determine the size, depth and location of any roots that may be present for the purpose of informing foundation design.

All excavation within the RPAs are to be initially undertaken to a minimum depth of 800mm deep for any excavation or to the full depth of the proposed foundations, hard surfacing or underground services. The soil is to be loosened with the use of a fork or pick and then cleared with the aid of an air-spade and air-vac using a specialist arboricultural contractor; If an air-spade is not used and all excavations are to be undertaken using hand tools (forks, shovel, trowel, brush). Soil will be loosened with the aid of a fork or trowel and the spoil removed from with the aid of a shovel. Where an air spade or specialist arboricultural contractor is not employed, all excavations are to be undertaken under direct arboricultural supervision. All roots are to be retained in situ and the project arborist will visit the site to recorded and photograph the depth, location, and size of any roots present; during this visit the project arborist may be able to cut specific roots with the use of a hand saw or secateurs. The edge of the excavation closest to the retained trees and all uncovered roots will be covered over with a minimum of two layers of damp hessian to prevent drying out, and where necessary be shuttered to prevent soil collapse or contamination. If appropriate soil beneath the depth of 800mm may be sheet piled with any deeper excavations being undertaken by a machine with an appropriate bucket under direct arboricultural supervision. If a decision is made for a machine to be used it must work form outside of the RPA or have appropriate ground protection in place to move and work upon.

Upon the completion of the site investigations all trial excavations are to be back filled with the original material or inert fill. It may be suitable to insert a root barrier in locations where the proposed roots are not present or are beginning to enter to prevent root activity within areas deemed to be root free.

Foundations within RPAs

The use of traditional strip foundations can result in excessive root loss and as such should be avoided.
Designs for foundations that would minimize the adverse impact upon trees should include particular attention to the existing levels, proposed finished levels and cross sectional details. Site specific and specialist advice should be sought from the project engineers and arboriculturist.

Root damage can be minimised by using:

- Piles with site investigation used to be determined their optimal location whilst avoiding damage to roots important for the stability of the tree, by means of hand tools or compressed air soil displacement, to a minimum depth of 600mm;
- Beams, laid at or above ground level, and cantilevered as necessary to avoid tree roots identified by site investigation.

Where a slab for minor structures (e.g. shed base) is to be formed within the RPA, it should bear on the existing ground level, and should not exceed an area greater than 20% of the existing unsurfaced ground.

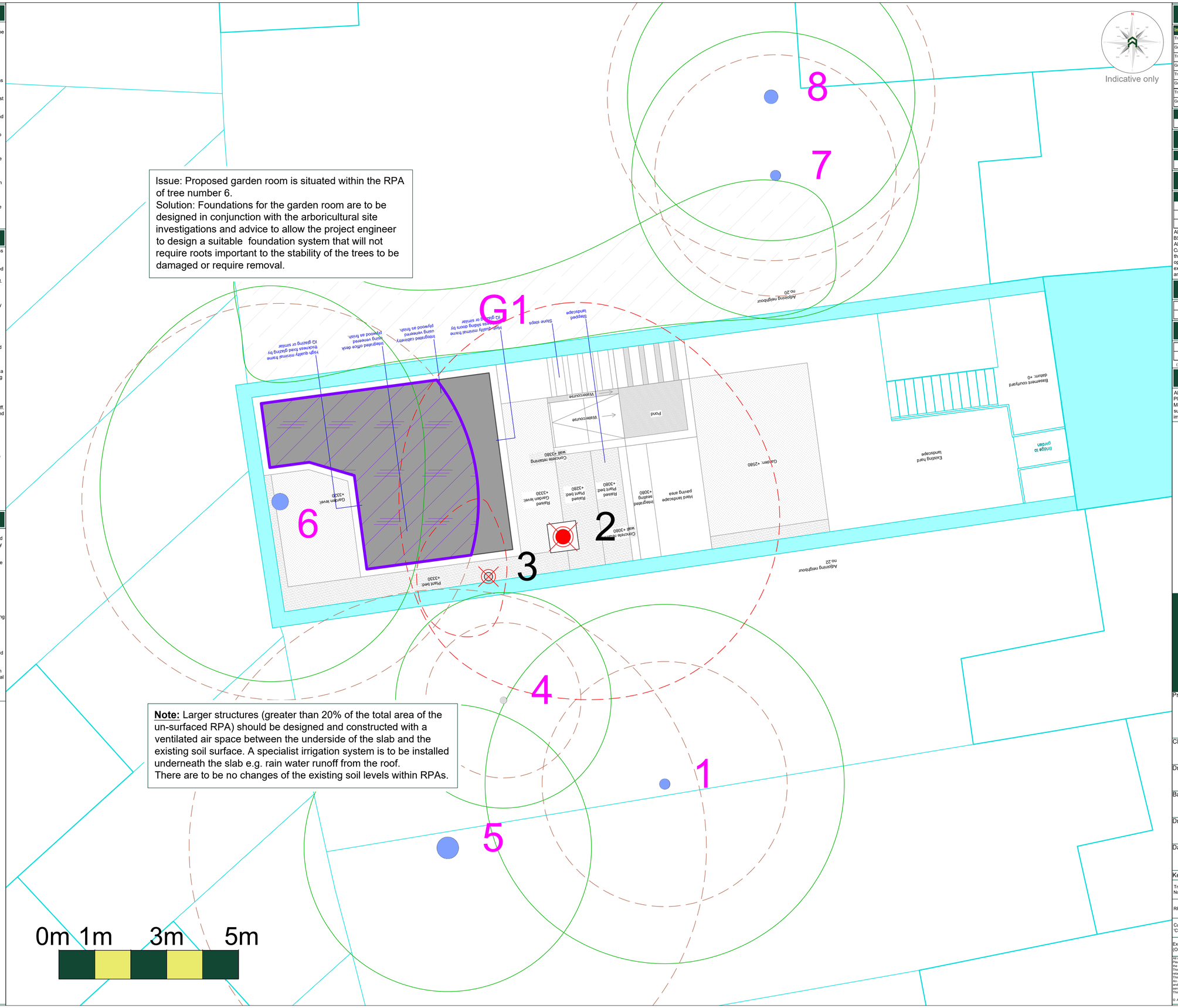
Slabs for larger structures (e.g. dwellings) should be constructed with a ventilated air space between the underside of the slab and the existing soil surface (to enable gas exchange and venting through the soil surface. In such cases, a specialist irrigation system should be employed (e.g. roof run-off redirected under the slab). The design of the foundation should take into account of the effect on the load bearing properties of the underlying soil from the redirected roof run-off. Approval in principle for a foundation that relies on topsoil retention and roof run-off under the slab should be sought from building control authority prior to this approach being relied upon.

Where piling is to be installed near to trees, the smallest practical pile diameter should be used, as this reduces the possibility of striking major tree roots, and reduces the size of the rig required to sink the piles. If a piling mat is required, this should conform to the parameters for ground boarding. Use of the smallest practical piling rig is also important where piling within the branch spread is proposed, as this can reduce the need for access facilitation pruning. The pile type should be selected bearing in mind the need to protect the soil and adjacent roots from the potentially toxic effects of uncured concrete, e.g. sleeved bored piles or screw piles.

This information is compliant with British Standard BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design demolition and construction - Recommendations, section 7.5 Special engineering for foundations within the RPA.

Utility apparatus

Underground utility apparatus
Mechanical trenching for the installation of underground apparatus and drainage severs any roots present and can change the local hydrology in a way that adversely affects the health of the tree. For this reason, particular care should be taken in the rout and methods of installation of all underground apparatus. Wherever possible, apparatus should be routed outside of RPAs. Where this is not possible, it is preferable to keep apparatus together in common ducts, all inspection chambers should be sited outside of the RPAs.
Where underground apparatus is to pass within the RPAs, detailed plans showing the proposed route should be drawn up in conjunction with the project arboriculturist. In such cases trenchless insertion methods should be used with entry and retrieval pits being located outside of the RPAs. If this option is not feasible and providing roots can be retained and protected excavations should be undertaken using hand held tools (air-spade, forks, shovels) or a combination of trenchless and manual excavation (broken trench).
Any design and installation should be undertaken in accordance with the National Joint Utilities Guidelines (NJUG).
Above-ground utility apparatus
Above-ground apparatus(including CCTV cameras and lighting) should be sited to avoid the need for detrimental tree pruning, as such the current and future crown size of the tree should be assessed.
Tree branches can be pruned back with care to provide space, though it is not appropriate for repetitive and significant tree work to bean initial design solution unless this is a suitable management outcome for the tree. Any pruning should be undertaken in accordance with BS3998:2010



Arboricultural Impacts

Impacts	Nos. of trees
Trees to be removed	2
Groups / Hedges to be removed (Partial removal of groups)	0 (0)
Trees with proposed incursions into RPAs	1
Groups / Hedges with proposed incursions into RPAs	0
Trees that will require pruning	1
Groups / Hedges that will require pruning	0
Trees to be transplanted	0
Groups / Hedges to be transplanted	0

No.	Species	Proposed structure	Incursion
6	Sycamore	Garden room	RPA / Canopy

Arboricultural Impacts - RPAs (Area)

No.	Species	RPA	Incursion	
6	Sycamore	95.73m²	20.21m²	21.11%

Tree Work Schedule

No.	Species	Works	Category
2	Tree of heaven	Fell to ground level; remove stump	U
3	Sycamore	Fell to ground level; grind out stump	C
6	Sycamore	Fell to ground level; remove stump	B

All tree work is to be undertaken in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:2010 Tree work - Recommendations.
All arising's are to be removed and the site is to be left as found.
Care is to be taken of the ground around retained trees to make sure that it does not become compacted as a result of tree surgery operations. No equipment or vehicles such as timber lorries, tractors, excavators or cranes shall be parked or driven beneath the crowns of any retained trees, to prevent subsequent compaction and root death.

No. of individual trees to be removed

U	A	B	C
1	0	0	1

No. of groups / hedges to be removed

U	A	B	C
0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

( ) = Partial removal of a groups

Arboricultural Method Statement

All tree work is to be undertaken in accordance with British Standard Please refer to Arbtech Consulting Ltd. Tree Schedule, Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan, for full details of all surveyed trees and how all aspects of the development maybe implemented without detriment to retained trees.

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Project:
21 Mornington Crescent,
London,
SW1 7RG.

Client:
Mornington Property Investments Ltd.

Drawing:
Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Based on:
105-GF-DR-200

Drawing No:		Rev:
Arbtech AIA 01		
Date: Feb 2022	Scale: 1:100 @ A1	Drawn: MGM

Key:

Tree Nos.:	1	Tree Canopies:		Trunks:	
RPAs:		Category 'U' trees:		Category 'B' trees:	
Category 'C' trees:		Category 'C' groups:		Trees to be removed:	2
Existing Site (OS file):		Incursion - Structures:			

All dimensions should be checked on site. No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing.
Please notify us of any discrepancies found. Arbtech Consulting Ltd. cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies in the base drawing in which this plan is based.
This drawing is designed to reflect the principles of the layout or design only, and relates only to the protection of retained trees.
This drawing is not to be read as a definitive part of the engineering or construction designs or method statement. An architect or structural engineer should be contacted over any matters of construction, detailing or specification and for any standards or regulatory requirements relating to proposed structures, hard surfacing or underground services.
This drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

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