Russell Miller Arboriculture & Ecology

MSc, BA(Econ), VETcert, ABC Tech Cert, MArborA 22 Gospatrick Road London N17 7EG 07758 326530 rm@km551818.co.uk

Arboricultural Method Statement

5 Hillway London N6 6QB

August 2024

Introduction

- 1. This is an Arboricultural Method Statement written by Russell Miller, an arboricultural consultant engaged by the owners of 5 Hillway, London N6 6QB (hereafter, the property).
- Further to instructions from the owners in August 2023 the author provided an Arboricultural Report and outline Tree Protection Plan (TPP) in respect of the proposed building of a garden office.
- 3. Planning permission has now been granted subject to various conditions. Specifically, as regards trees, condition 6 requires that prior to works commencing:

details demonstrating how trees to be retained shall be protected during construction work shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. Such details shall follow guidelines and standards set out in BS5837:2012 "Trees in Relation to Construction"

Trees in Relation to Development

- 4. This document is written by an experienced arboricultural consultant and relies on industry accepted standards. It adopts guidance contained in British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations.
- BS5837 specifies how to protect trees to be retained during development, including how to calculate root areas requiring protection. It should be noted that dimensions for Root Protection Areas (RPAs) specified in BS5837 are <u>minimum</u> areas considered necessary for a tree to remain healthy.
- 6. B\$5837 Root Protection Area (RPAs) are circular and represent theoretical root areas. Tree roots are however very variable and follow natural rather than theoretical patterns. Roots will proliferate where soil conditions are favourable to their growth (i.e. water, air, nutrients). Roots cannot grow in very dry, compacted or anaerobic mediums. The actual root area for any tree will differ from B\$5837 idealised circles. Therefore, RPAs are indicative of the minimum area of soil requiring protection for a tree to be retained in healthy condition.
- 7. Changes to ground level can adversely affect roots as can compaction or anything that changes sub surface soil conditions.

5 Hillway Development Site

- 8. Retained tree RPAs are marked in blue on the Tree Protection Plan (below).
- 9. The footprint of the proposed building encroaches on the RPAs of three retained trees located in neighbouring properties (T6 cherry, T7 Lawson cypress and T8 lime). It is therefore not possible to construct the building without access to the RPAs. Standard tree protection by way of a Construction Exclusion Zone is therefore not possible.
- 10. This method statement outlines how operations within RPAs are to be conducted to minimise the risk of harm to retained trees
- 11. It is recommended that this document be shared with all contractors prior to tender/quotation since provisions herein are likely to have an impact on time and expense of operations.
- 12. Compliance with these provisions is to be a contractual obligation for all contractors and no part of this AMS shall be deviated from unless by prior written authorisation by a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant.

Method Statement for Operations within the RPAs

- 13. There shall be a pre-commencement on **site meeting** with the project manager and lead contractor to identify and agree how the provisions of this AMS will be met. If clarification is required or it is considered desirable by the project manager a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant shall attend that meeting.
- 14. No damage shall be caused to any tree, whether above or below ground (roots) other than operations specifically authorised below.
- 15. Access facilitation **pruning**. Low branches on trees T6, T7 and T8 may be removed to a height of not more than 5m to provide access for construction. No branch shall be removed unless necessary for access and no branch more than 5m from ground level may be removed without further consultation. Pruning shall be done by an experienced gardener or tree surgeon in accordance with BS3998: 2010 Recommendations for Tree Work.
- 16. There are to be **no changes to existing ground levels** within or outside the property boundary.

- 17.No excavations or drilling shall occur within RPAs other than as detailed in this AMS.
- 18. The author is advised that the specification for the foundation ground screws requires that they penetrate more than 1m below ground level making hand digging impractical for both tree protection and operator safety. Hand digging to that depth would require major excavations and shoring up of exposed soil walls creating significant root disturbance.
- 19. Excavations for all ground screws to be located inside any RPA will be supervised on-site by a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant. Unsupervised drilling is not permitted within RPAs to avoid damage to roots. Where directed by the arboricultural consultant surface excavations will be done by hand to identify locations of tree roots to be avoided.
- 20. Where recommended by the on-site arboricultural consultant any screw likely to cause damage to any identified tree roots >25mm in diameter (Θ) will be moved to avoid said root(s).
- 21. If moving the location of any screw is deemed not possible by reason of foundation performance, the arboricultural consultant will advise further, e.g. recommending further hand digging to investigate the size and location of roots.
- 22. If any other conflict between construction methodology and any root >25mm θ is encountered further arboricultural advice must be sought from a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant.
- 23. Routing and excavations for all **services shall be outside all RPAs** in accordance with the Tree Protection Plan.
- 24. No root >25mm Θ shall be severed or damaged without prior agreement of a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant.
- 25. Any root <25mm Θ may only be cut if essential and then only with a sharp saw, loppers or secateurs.
- 26. Any exposed roots are to be covered with hessian so long as they are exposed. Said roots are to be watered during dry weather at least once a day while exposed. Hessian is to be removed immediately prior to back filling.

- 27.No materials of vehicles shall enter any RPA other than provided for here.
- 28. Storage of materials will be outside RPAs and outside areas designated for new tree planting. This is to avoid soil compaction which damages soil structure and therefore the health of tree roots.
- 29. If storage is required within RPAs **and agreed** in advance by a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant, the following temporary ground protection will be installed prior to any materials being brought on site.
 - The ground shall be covered with a permeable, geo-textile membrane.
 - Woodchip to a minimum depth of 100mm will be laid over the membrane.
 - Woodchip shall be untreated material from broadleaved trees of average particle size of 1 cm³ or larger.
 - The woodchip will then be covered with plywood (minimum 20mm thick) or interlocking proprietary temporary ground cover of equivalent strength and thickness.
- 30. No chemical, fuel, construction run off, fire or other foreign substance shall enter any RPA or be permitted to permeate the soil in any part of the construction site. Industry standard measures shall be used to prevent any spillage or leakage.
- 31. In the event of further advice being required or deviation being considered necessary a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant shall be consulted prior to any changes.

Russell Miller August 2024

GLOSSARY

AMS Arboricultural Method Statement – a specification for works written by a qualified professional who understands the requirements of trees.

CEZ Construction Exclusion Zone – no access area without prior written agreement with a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant.

RPA Root Protection Area – the **minimum** area that must be protected if a retained tree is to survive; i.e. to avoid unacceptable root damage the entire RPA must be protected from trenching, digging, compaction, spillage and other construction activity unless as specified in an Arboricultural Method Statement.



Tree Protection Plan – all areas bounded by **dashed blue lines are Root Protection Areas**. The provisions of the Arboricultural Method Statement apply to all operations within these areas.