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TREE SURVEY, ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND TREE PROTECTION PLAN

A report to accompany a planning application for the demolition of the existing detached dwelling and construction of new detached house on an extended footprint with basement at 81 Avenue Road, London NW8 6JD

Report by Iain Waddell
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On the instructions of Wolff Architects

30 September 2015

MDA reference D08

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Martin Dobson Associates Ltd were instructed by Andy Goodchild on behalf of Wolff Architects Ltd on 30 July 2015 to carry out a survey of trees on or immediately adjacent to land at 81 Avenue Road, London NW8 6JD. The purpose of the survey was to inform architects of potential tree-related constraints on the site and to provide advice in relation to the demolition of the existing detached dwelling and rebuilding on an extended footprint with basement.

1.2 The British Standard 5837: 2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* provides a framework for considering trees in the planning process. It gives guidance on categorising the qualities of trees in order to enable decisions to be made as to which trees are appropriate for retention within a development. It then advises on options for protecting trees to be retained during the development (at all stages including demolition, construction and hard landscaping), and the means of incorporating trees into the developed landscape.

1.3 Seventeen trees and one group were surveyed and out of these two are considered to be category A and of high value (London planes T16 and T17), seven are considered to be category B and of moderate value (Limes T6 and T13, Poplar T7, Cypress T9, Robina T11, Pear T14 and a group of 5 Limes G1). The remaining trees are considered to be category C and are of low value.

1.4 In general category C trees should not be considered a material constraint to development.

1.5 Since the time of survey and prior to the completion of this report the home owner removed six category C trees which are not included in the list of seventeen trees referred to above. Details of these trees are noted in the appendix **MD1** but they are not considered further in this report.

1.6 All of the remaining trees will be retained and will be protected during development. Details of tree protection are contained in this report.

2. Tree survey

2.1 The tree survey was carried out by Iain Waddell on 31 July 2015.

2.2 Appended at **MD1** is the tree survey schedule which provides details of the seventeen trees and one group present within or immediately adjacent to the property. Two are considered to be category A and of high value (London planes T16 and T17) situated outside of the property on Avenue Road. Seven are considered to be category B and of moderate value (Limes T6 and T13, Poplar T7, Cypress T9, Robinia T11, Pear T14 and a group of 5 Limes G1) and are located at the rear of the back garden. The remaining trees are considered to be category C and are of low value.

2.3 The site survey drawing appended at **MD2** shows the positions of the trees surveyed and gives a reasonable indication of their comparative branch spreads. The drawing has been colour coded as follows:

A trees (high quality and value, minimum 40 years useful life)	LIGHT GREEN
B trees (moderate quality and value, minimum 20 years useful life)	MID BLUE
C trees (low quality and value, minimum 10 years useful life)	GREY
U trees (unsuitable or dead/dying/dangerous, less than10 years useful life)	RED

2.4 It should be understood that no individual safety inspection has been carried out on any tree. Similarly, any suggestions for tree work should not be taken as a specification for tree works.

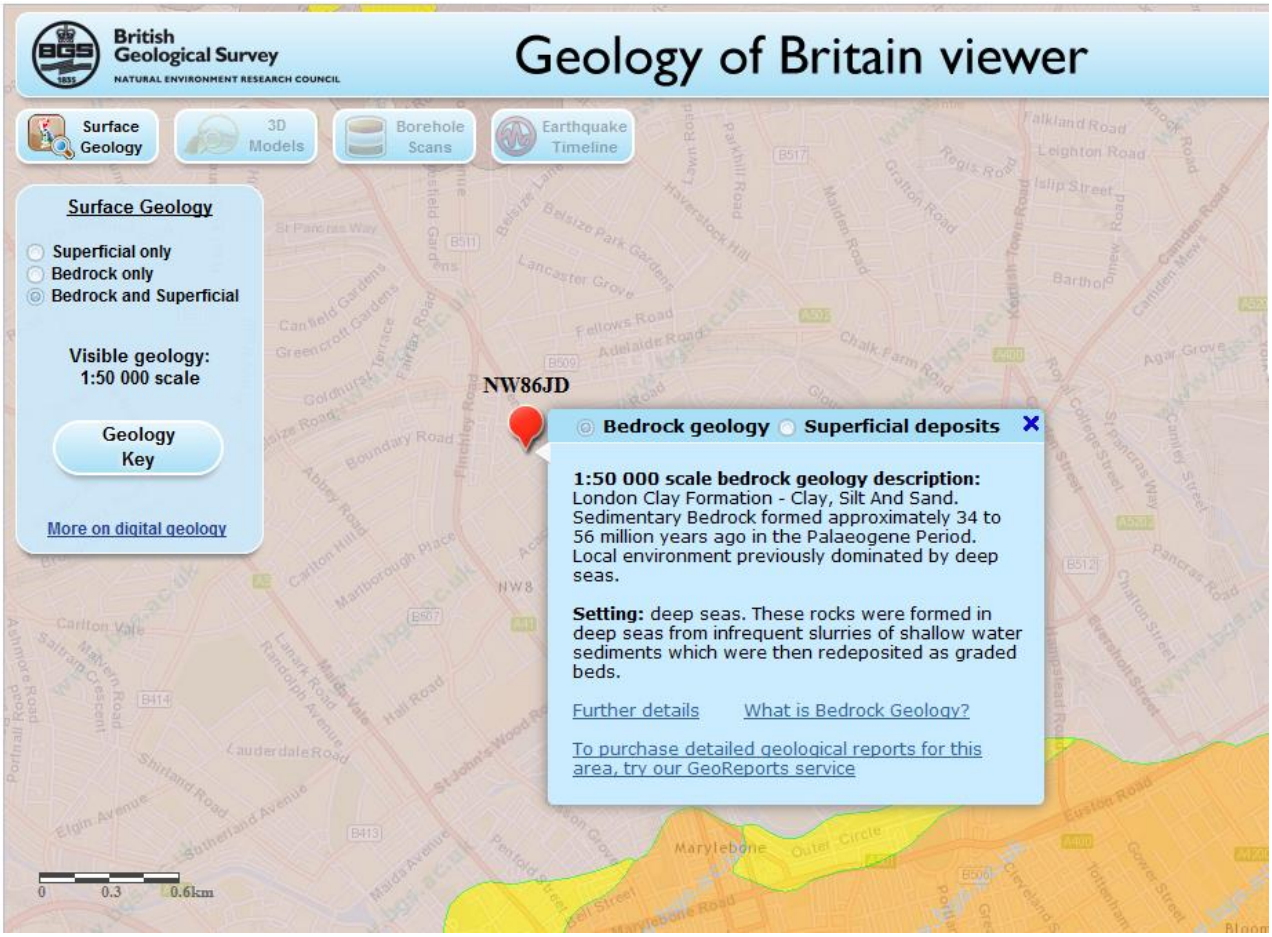
2.5 Adequate protection, both above and below ground, is essential for trees that are to be retained as part of a development. The British Standard BS5837: 2012 *Trees in Relation to Construction - Recommendations* advises that there should be a root protection area (RPA) around trees which is kept free of construction activities by means of an exclusion zone enforced by protective fencing and/or ground protection. The RPA is calculated as the area equivalent to a circle with a radius of 12 times the trunk diameter at a height of 1.5 m above ground level. Based on the tree survey data root protection areas (and radial distances from the trunk to be protected) have been calculated and these are shown as circles around the trees on the tree constraints plan at **MD2** and are tabulated at **MD3**.

3. Soil assessment

3.1 BS5837: 2012 advises that soil properties should be considered as part of a tree survey report. This is necessary because trees can cause damage to structures founded on soils that shrink and swell with changes in moisture content (principally clays). Such movement is exacerbated by the influence of trees and therefore if a shrinkable soil is suspected foundations should be deigned to extend below the likely zone of seasonal moisture change.

3.2 The British Geological Survey 1: 50,000 scale map indicates that the underlying geology of the site is shrinkable clay of the type London Clay Formation – Clay, Silt and Sand (Figure 1). Thus, foundations should be deepened to take account of trees. The National House Building Council Chapter 4.2 Building near trees provides guidance on suitable foundation depths on shrinkable clay near to trees. NHBC separates trees into three water demand categories. Trees such as Poplar and Cypress are classed as "high" whereas Cherry, Lime, Maple, Pear, and Plane are all classed as "moderate" water demand.

Figure 1. British Geological Survey 1: 50,000 scale showing that the site is underlain by the London Clay Formation – Clay, Silt and Sand.



4. Arboricultural impact assessment

4.1 The site consists of a well maintained property and grounds where regular maintenance work has been carried out on the trees. T1 (Viburnum) and T2 (Cherry) are both situated in the front garden and are in fair condition. These will be in a construction exclusion zone (CEZ) which will protect the majority of their RPAs, the remainder will be protected by the existing driveway which will be retained throughout the construction.

4.2 The remainder of the trees situated within the property boundary (T3, T4 and T6-T14) are in the rear garden and will be within the CEZ behind protective fencing. Parts of the RPA will be outside fencing in order to allow space for construction workers and piling rig to operate. In these areas the soil will be protected from compaction by ground protection.

4.3 T3 (Elder) and T4 (Cypress) are of moderate quality with some structural defects.

4.4 T5 is a Norway maple located just outside the southern boundary of the property. It has been supressed by surrounding trees and is a poor specimen. Its RPA is contained within the CEZ.

4.5 Pruning has taken the form of pollarding for the mature trees Lime T6, Poplar T7 and Lime T13. This work has been carried out within the last 10 years and the trees have responded well to the works.

4.6 Two of the Cypresses, T8 and T9, have had their heights reduced through the removal of the upper section of the crown in the last 5-10 years.

4.7 T10, a species of Whitebeam, has had extensive reduction work carried out recently and has responded with significant epicormic growth creating a poor specimen.

4.8 T11 is a Robinia which has been reduced in the past leaving a moderate quality tree.

4.9 T12 is a poor quality Lawson cypress which has been supressed by surrounding trees.

4.10 T14 is a Pear which has been well maintained.

4.11 T15 is a Cherry in the neighbouring garden which has been poorly pruned in the past and has also been crown raised on the northern side where it was overhanging the neighbouring property. The remaining tree has an unnatural appearance and is of poor quality. There is a minimal incursion of the basement excavation into the RPA's of T14 and T15 but it is small enough (< 2%) to be acceptable without causing detriment to the trees.

4.12 T16 and T17 are both located on Avenue Road and are mature London planes which form part of a long avenue of similar trees. They have crown clearance of 4m which is sufficient to prevent interference from site traffic and their RPAs will be protected by the retention of the front driveway.

4.13 G1 is a group of five Lime trees of similar age/size located on the neighbouring property. Their crown encroaches slightly onto the site but this has been crown raised to a height of 3m so will not be affected by the development. Their RPAs are protected by the driveway.

4.14 Trees to be retained will be protected by fencing to create a construction exclusion zone and by ground protection. The existing driveway will be retained for the duration of the construction and will provide ground protection which will prevent damage to tree roots. It is considered that implementation of tree protection measures will mean that the development will have no material deleterious effect on trees.

5. Tree protection plan

5.1 Trees can very easily be damaged during construction activities through their branches being broken by construction traffic passing close to the canopy or by root severance during the digging of foundation or service trenches. The majority of roots are to be found in the upper 600 mm of soil and so even relatively shallow trenches can sever the majority of roots growing across the direction of the trench. Similarly, the diameter of tree roots tapers sharply within a few metres of the trunk of a tree, so that what might seem to an uninitiated site worker to be an insignificant root (perhaps only a couple of centimetres in diameter) may actually be highly important.

5.2 Tree roots can also be damaged indirectly, often inadvertently, through soil compaction, which disrupts soil structure and can lead to root death through the development of anaerobic soil conditions. Spillage of toxic materials (e.g. oil or diesel) can also result in root damage and ultimately the death of a tree. Protection of the soil around trees by means of a construction exclusion zone (CEZ) is therefore vitally important in order to preserve roots undamaged.

Fencing and ground protection

5.3 Tree protection will comprise of 2 m tall fencing installed in the positions shown at **MD4/MD5** before materials are delivered to site or construction commences. The fencing will consist of a scaffold framework, well braced to resist impacts, with vertical tubes spaced at a maximum interval of 3 m (Figure 2). Onto this, weld mesh panels or 2 m high shuttering board will be securely fixed with wire or scaffold clamps. Weld mesh panels alone on unsecured rubber or concrete feet will <u>not</u> be used as these are not resistant to impact and are too easily removed by site operatives. An alternative system of bracing which does not require a scaffold framework is shown in Figure 3. Fencing will define a construction exclusion zone (CEZ).

Figure 2. Diagram to illustrate design of protective fencing with scaffolding anchored into the ground

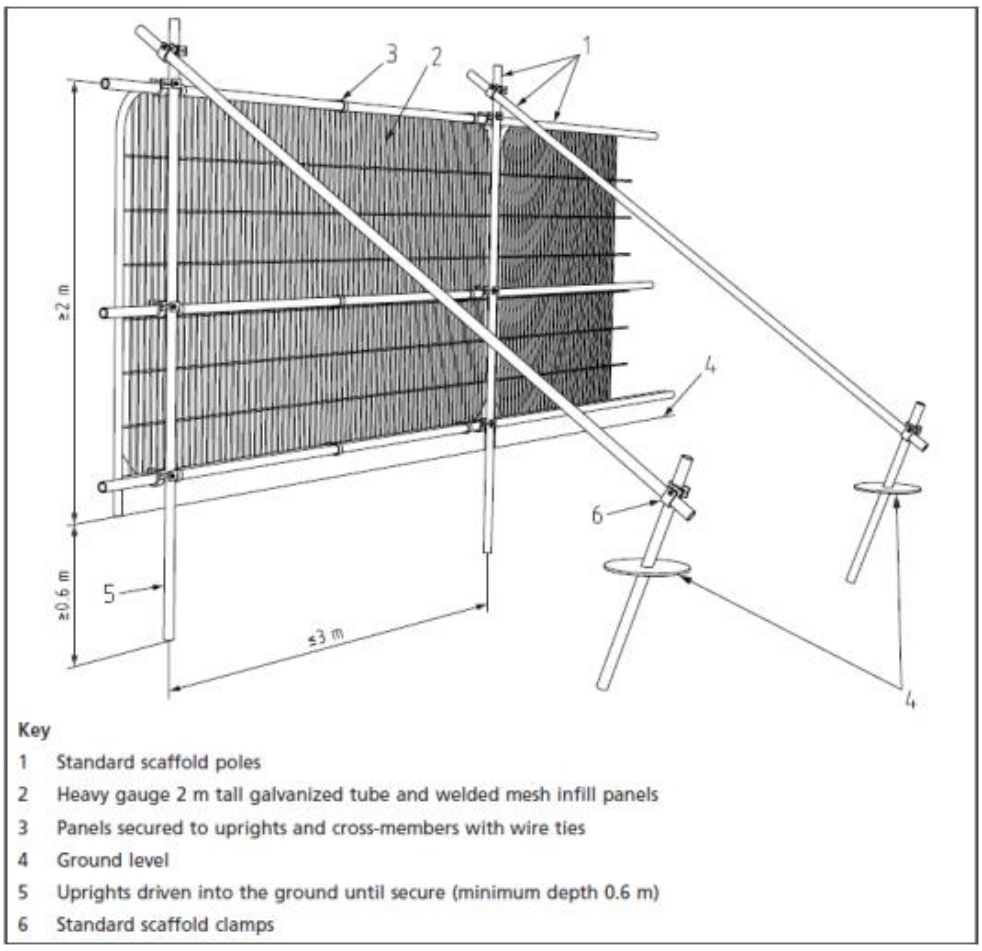


Figure 3. Diagram to illustrate alternative design of protective fencing

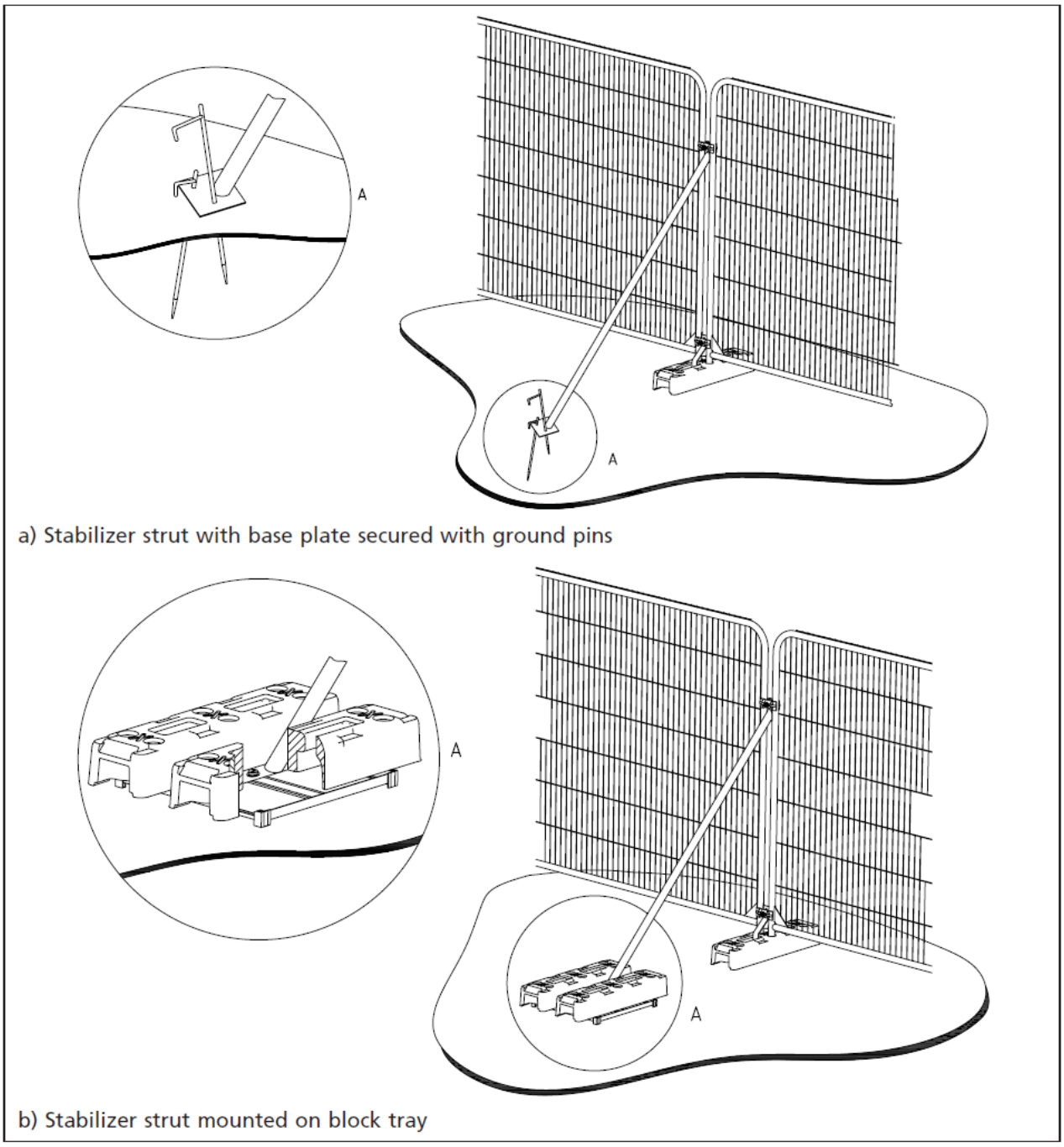


Figure 4. Photograph to illustrate installed protective fencing

5.4 High visibility all weather notices will be securely attached to the barrier around each protection zone with wording as shown in Figure 5. Where long lengths of barrier are erected a sign will be attached at intervals of no less than 6 m.

Figure 5. Wording to be included in high visibility all-weather sign attached to protective fencing

5.5 In order to allow access for construction at the rear of the house it is proposed that part of the RPA will be protected by ground protection. This area, hatched purple on the tree protection plans (**MD4/MD5**), will be covered by heavy duty plywood boards laid over a 100 mm thickness of a compressible material such as woodchips laid onto a geotextile such as Terram (Figures 6 and 7). Once laid the plywood sheeting will be secured in place by wooden battens screwed into adjacent sheets. An alternative would be to lay a temporary concrete plinth over an impermeable membrane as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 6. Specification for ground protection

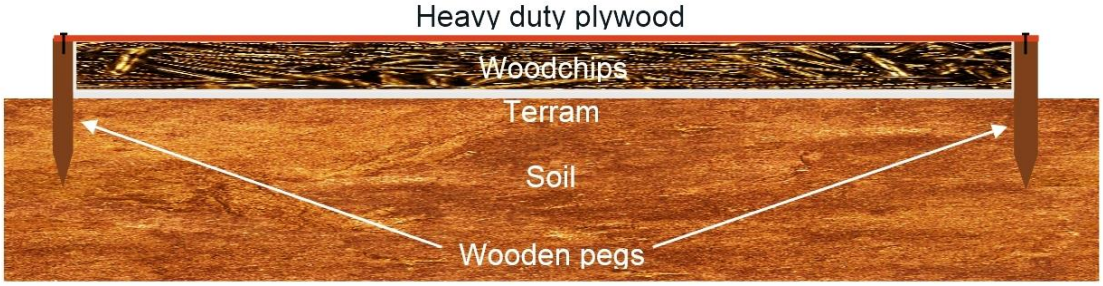


Figure 7. Plywood sheeting used as ground protection.

Retention of driveway

5.6 In order to provide protection for roots at the front of the property the existing driveway will be retained throughout the development. This will provide an adequate load suspension layer which will resist the compressive forces which cause soil compaction.

5.7 For the duration of development the driveway in the area hatched blue in the tree protection plans (**MD4/MD5**) will be covered with a continuous layer of heavy plywood sheets cut so that they fit together in a continuous layer. Sheets will be joined together using wooden battens as illustrated in Figure 7.

5.8 Once all construction activities have been completed and heavy machinery has been withdrawn from the site the driveway may be replaced, if necessary. Removal of the existing surface will be by hand and the existing sub-base will be used rather than excavated and replaced. Any areas of unevenness or settlement will be repaired by localised patching. The final surface will be of a porous nature such as paviours or stone setts bedded on sand.

Arboricultural supervision

5.9 Subject to contractual arrangements being in place Martin Dobson Associates will be the project arboricultural consultant overseeing tree protection for the duration of the construction/ landscaping contract(s). The project arboriculturist will be consulted on any issues that may arise concerning trees and will visit the site as often as necessary to ensure that trees are protected and/or at the following key stages:

- Prior to contractors commencing works on site in order to meet with the supervising architect and/or the contractor's nominated site manager to ensure that the principles of tree protection are understood and the procedure, timescale and materials for installation of tree protection are agreed;
- Following installation of tree protection but prior to any works commencing on site to confirm that it is fit for purpose;
- At monthly intervals and/or at any time that there are potential conflicts with tree protection;
- At the completion of construction works to confirm that tree protection may be removed to enable final landscaping;
- Prior to the driveway being taken up and re-laid to ensure that operatives understand the constraints and are aware of working practices necessary to preserve roots;

5.10 A pre-start meeting will be held on site with the project arboriculturist and the contractor's representative(s) so that the precise details of the schedule of works together with details of installation of tree protection can be agreed.

5.11 No enabling works will take place until after the meeting has been held and tree protection has been installed, inspected and approved as fit for purpose.

5.12 Fencing and ground protection will not be removed under any circumstances during construction unless with the express approval of the local authority. If in any doubt the site manager must contact the nominated arboricultural consultant.

Burning of waste

5.13 No fires will be lit on site within 3 m of root protection areas due to the danger of scorching of leaves and branches of overhanging trees.

Space for machinery, parking of vehicles, storage of materials and site huts

5.14 All machinery required on site will operate outside of root protection areas or from the ground protection. Site huts will be located outside root protection areas or from ground protection.

5.15 Delivery vehicles will park in the drive or off site and storage of materials will be outside root protection areas.

Services

5.16 Existing services will be used, however, any new services and drainage runs will be installed outside root protection areas. The project arboriculturist will be advised of the proposed locations and will approve them.

Landscaping

5.17 Once construction has demonstrably finished (to the satisfaction of the project arboriculturist) fencing may be removed in order to allow final landscaping to be undertaken. Landscaping will not involve any changes in soil levels, digging of any trenches or construction of masonry or retaining walls within root protection areas.

6. Conclusions

6.1 A BS5837: 2012 survey of seventeen trees and one group trees has been carried out at 81 Avenue Road, London NW8 6JD

6.2 Two trees are considered to be category A and of high value (London planes T16 and T17), seven are considered to be category B and of moderate value (Lime T6 and T13, Poplar T7, Cypress T9, Robinia T11, Pear T14 and a group of five Limes G1). The remaining trees are considered to be category C and are of low value.

6.3 Six trees (not included in the list of seventeen referred to above) were removed by the owner of the property between the surveying of the site and completion of the report. The trees removed were category C trees of poor quality or contained significant defects. The details of these are included in the schedule of trees at appendix **MD1**.

6.4 The proposal does not require the removal of any further trees.

6.5 The trees to be retained will be protected during development and methods for ensuring their protection have been described.

6.6 It is considered that the proposed development will pose no threat to trees to be retained and is sympathetic to the leafy character of the area.

APPENDIX MD1
Tree survey schedule (BS5837: 2012)

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Trunk diameter (mm)	N (m)	S (m)	E (m)	W (m)	Height of crown clearance (m)	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Useful life	BS5867 Grade	Comments
T1	Viburnum	4	290	1	3	1	2	1.5	MA	Good	Fair	10-20	C	Stem leans to south, Included unions suppressed by T21
T2	Cherry	4	310	1	3	1	3	2	MA	Fair	Fair	<10	C	Heavily reduced, poor pruning wounds
T3	Elder	6	300	4	1	1	1	2	MA	Fair	Poor	<10	C	Leaves are chlorotic, Heavily end weighted branches and poor union at base
T4	Monterey cypress	7	430	1	4	4	1	2	Y	Fair	Fair	<10	C	Leaning on boundary wall, Has been topped in the last 5 years, Hazard beams in crown and wisteria in crown
T5	Norway maple	7	Estimated 300	4	4	4	1	2	Y	Good	Fair	10-20	C	Suppressed by T7 has poor form.
T6	Lime	8	670	3	3	3	3	2	MA	Good	Good	20-40	B	Topped at 6m approximately 10 years ago, Heavy basal growth made assessing base difficult. Epicormic growth throughout crown
T7	Poplar	15	870	4	4	4	3	6	M	Good	Good	20-40	B	Heavily reduced within the last 5 years and has responded well, Base is tight against boundary wall to the west

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Trunk diameter (mm)	N (m)	S (m)	E (m)	W (m)	Height of crown clearance (m)	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Useful life	BS5867 Grade	Comments
T8	Cypress	6	180	1	1	1	1	3	Y	Fair	Fair	<10	C	Topped recently, Suppressed by surrounding trees, close to boundary wall
T9	Cypress	10	520	2	1	2	1	1	M	Good	Good	10-20	B	Topped in the last 5 years, Roots lifting paving slabs and are being constricted by them
T10	White-beam species	8	450	1	4	1	4	2	M	Fair	Fair	10-20	C	Heavily reduced in the past 5 years. Heavy end weighted branches over boundary, included unions on stem
T11	Robinia	15	420	4	4	3	3	3.5	MA	Good	Good	20-40	B	Minor Deadwood in crown, Been reduced in the past and has moderate epicormics on branches and stem.
T12	Cypress	4	130	1	1	1	1	1.5	Y	Good	Good	10-20	C	Suppressed by surrounding trees
T13	Lime	8	560	4	3	4	3	3	M	Good	Fair	20-40	B	Topped approximately 10 years ago, Heavy basal growth made assessing base difficult. Epicormic growth throughout crown
T14	Pear	6	330	2	2	2	2	1	M	Good	Fair	10-20	B	Been reduced in the last 5 years, some epicormics growth on branches

* multi stem. ^ trunk measured at ground level. Age class: OM – over mature; M – mature; MA – mid-aged; Y - young

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Trunk diameter (mm)	N (m)	S (m)	E (m)	W (m)	Height of crown clearance (m)	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Useful life	BS5867 Grade	Comments
T15	Cherry	12	Estimate 300	3	1	2	3	2	MA	Good	Fair	10-20	C	Crown raised on south side to 6m, poor pruning wounds, climbing rose throughout
T16	London plane	18	1050	6	6	6	6	4	M	Good	Good	40+	A	Avenue of Plane trees. Very old lapsed pollard
T17	London plane	18	910	6	6	6	6	4	M	Good	Good	40+	A	Avenue of Plane trees. Very old lapsed pollard
G1	Limes	10	Estimate 180	1	2	1	2	2	Y	Good	Good	20-40	B	Lapsed pleached group of same aged limes. Have been crown raised to 3m on southern side. Made up of 5 trees

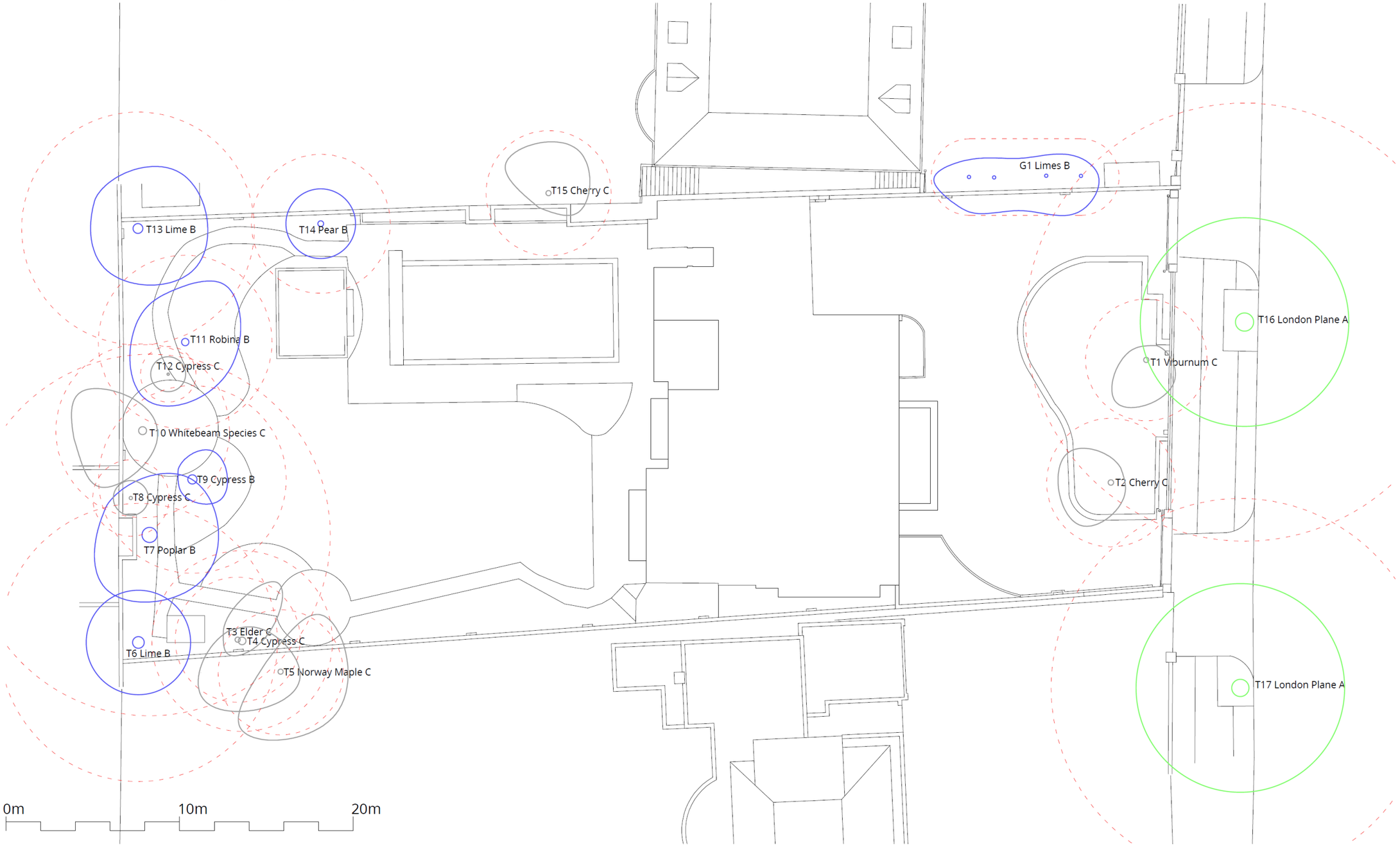
Schedule of Trees which were present in the garden at the time of Survey but have since been removed by the property owner.

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Trunk diameter (mm)	N (m)	S (m)	E (m)	W (m)	Height of crown clearance (m)	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Useful life	BS5867 Grade	Comments
	Cypress	7	200	1	1	1	1	1	Y	Good	Fair	10-20	C	Base of stem constricted by kerb and boundary wall
	Cypress	6	150	1	1	2	1	0.5	Y	Good	Fair	10-20	C	Heavily weighted to the east due to close proximity to house
		4	380	1	1	9	1	1	M	Fair	Poor	<10	C	Main stem collapsed some years ago and is on the ground. Chlorotic leaves throughout crow with curling leaf margin. Deadwood through out
	Tree of heaven	12	Estimate 400	3	1	3	2	2	MA	Good	Fair	20-40	C	Crown raised south side, Poor pruning wound on south side, Growing, touching and covering south corner of neighbouring property number 83. Crack on two walls of boundary wall potentially from this tree
	Cypress	6	120	1	1	1	1	1	Y	Good	Good	20-40	C	Young tree straight stem
	Cabbage Palm	3	*	1	1	1	1	2	Y	Good	Fair	<10	C	Multi stemmed, suppressed by T4

* multi stem. ^ trunk measured at ground level. Age class: OM – over mature; M – mature; MA – mid-aged; Y - young

APPENDIX MD2

Tree constraints plan showing existing plot layout with tree numbers, BS5837: 2012 colour codes (A – Green, B – Blue, C – Grey, U - Red) and root protection areas (dashed circles)



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rev:		date:	rev:		date:
0	First Issue	14.08.15			
A	Tree Information Added	29.09.15			

status: FE

project: 81 Avenue Road London, NW8

title: Existing Site Plan

scale: 1:200 @ A3

no: 1510-FE-100

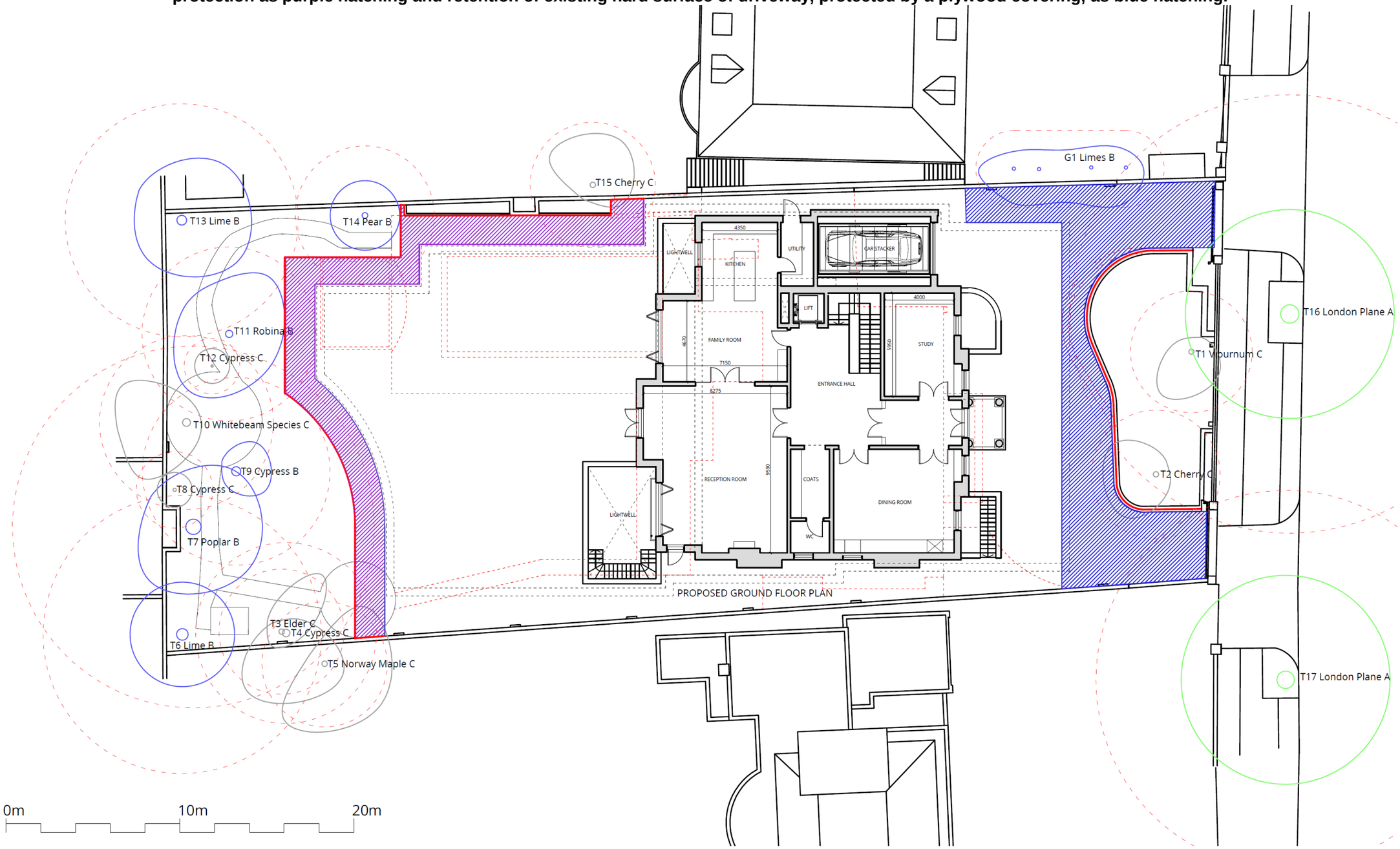
rev no: A

APPENDIX MD3
BS5837 schedule of protection areas

Tree No.	Species	Trunk diameter (mm)	BS5837: 2012 Root protection area, RPA, (m^2)	BS5837: 2012 Radial protection distance (m)
T1	Viburnum	290	38.1	3.5
T2	Cherry	310	43.5	3.7
T3	Elder	300	40.7	3.6
T4	Monterey cypress	430	83.7	5.2
T5	Norway maple	300	40.7	3.6
T6	Lime	670	203.1	8.0
T7	Poplar	870	342.5	10.4
T8	Cypress	180	14.7	2.2
T9	Cypress	520	122.3	6.2
T10	Whitebeam species	450	92	5.4
T11	Robina	420	80	5.0
T12	Cypress	130	8	1.6
T13	Lime	560	142	6.7
T14	Pear	330	49	4.0
T15	Cherry	300	41	3.6
T16	London plane	1050	499	12.6
T17	London plane	910	375	10.9
G1	Limes	180	15	2.2

APPENDIX MD4

Tree protection plan (ground floor) showing retained trees, tree numbers and root protection areas (dashed circles). The location of protective fencing is shown as red lines, ground protection as purple hatching and retention of existing hard surface of driveway, protected by a plywood covering, as blue hatching.



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rev:		date:	rev:		date:
0	First Issue	07.08.15			
A	Minor Amendments	12.08.15			
B	Alternative design	17.08.15			
C	Tree Numbers Added	29.09.15			

status: FE

project: 81 Avenue Road London, NW8

title: Proposed Site Plan

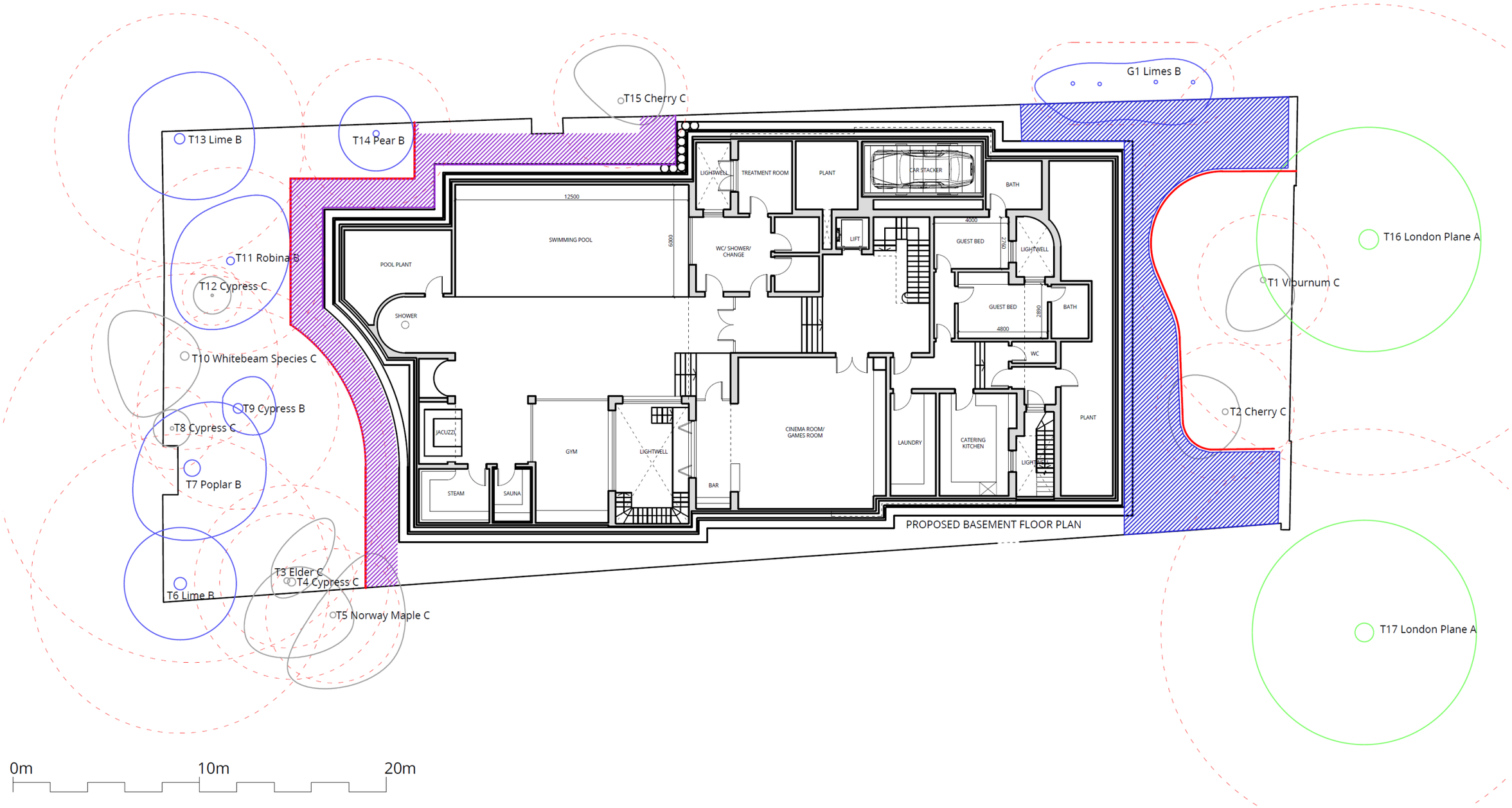
scale: 1:200 @ A3

no: 1510-FE-200

rev no: C

APPENDIX MD5

Tree protection plan (basement floor) showing retained trees, tree numbers and root protection areas (dashed circles). The location of protective fencing is shown as red lines, ground protection as purple hatching and retention of existing hard surface of driveway, protected by a plywood covering, as blue hatching.



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B	Alternative design	17.08.15
C	RPAs Added	29.09.15

rev:		date:

status: FE

project: 81 Avenue Road London, NW8

title: Proposed Basement Plan

scale: 1:200 @ A3

no: 1510-FE-201

rev no: C

APPENDIX MD6
Qualifications and Experience

Dr Martin Dobson has been engaged in research and advisory work on trees since graduating in 1986 with a BSc (Hons) Degree in Biology. Subsequent postgraduate research led to the award of a Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) Degree in Tree Physiology in 1990.

Postgraduate studies began in 1986 at the University of Ulster and continued in 1987 at the Forestry Commission's Research Station in Hampshire and focussed on the influence of air pollution on trees. Upon completion of this research in 1989 Dr Dobson was employed by the Forestry Commission and worked in both the Tree Pathology and Environmental Research Branches. During the next six years he was responsible for Department of Environment research contracts focussing on air pollution, climate change, de-icing salt damage to trees, woodland establishment on landfills and tree root research. He has authored two books: *De-icing Salt Damage to Trees and Shrubs* and *The Potential for Woodland Establishment on Landfill Sites.* He concluded his time at the Forestry Commission as Project Manager for research into the interaction between trees, roots and clay soils which included laboratory investigations, testing of root barriers and a three-year field-scale monitoring programme investigating the influence of woodland and grassland on the moisture status of clay soils.

In 1995 Martin joined the Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service as a senior Arboricultural Advisor. The AAIS advised the (then) Department of the Environment on matters concerning amenity trees and was the principal source of technical advice and information to the arboricultural profession as well as landscape architects, engineers, the horticultural industry and private individuals. A large proportion of advisory work focussed on issues relating to tree diseases and interactions between trees and buildings.

In 1997 Martin started an arboricultural consultancy practice specialising in subsidence and tree root claims, planning and development, tree safety and disease diagnosis. He was a local authority retained consultant providing expertise on tree protection practice and legislation from 1999 - 2006 and has dealt with several thousand Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area applications.

He has extensive experience as an Expert Witness in the High Court, County Court and Magistrates Court. Notable recent cases he has been involved in include Robbins v London Borough of Bexley and Khan v London Borough of Harrow and Kane.

From 1995 to 2011 he was an examiner for the Professional Diploma in Arboriculture for the Royal Forestry Society/ABC Awards and he is currently an assessor for the Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant scheme. He has been a guest lecturer for the Middlesex University Countryside Management MSc course and for Portsmouth University. Together with Dr Giles Biddle he has devised and teaches introductory and advanced courses on trees and subsidence and co-presents seminars on trees and climate change with Professor Andy Moffat for the Arboricultural Association.

In addition to over 30 publications in scientific and technical journals he is the author of Arboriculture Research and Information Note 130/95/ARB *Tree Root Systems*, and leading author of:

Driveways Close to Trees. Arboricultural Practice Note 1. AAIS, Farnham.
Trees in Dispute. Arboricultural Practice Note 3. AAIS, Farnham.
Root Barriers and Building Subsidence. Arboricultural Practice Note 4. AAIS, Farnham.

He is a Fellow and Registered Consultant of the Arboricultural Association and is a Member by examination of the Expert Witness Institute.

Qualifications and Experience

Iain Waddell

Iain Waddell has been working with trees since 2010 when he retired from a career of professional Ski Coaching in Canada and New Zealand.

He began his studies at Sparsholt College in Winchester where he gained a Level Three extended Diploma in Arboriculture. During his studies he worked for a Petersfield based firm – Sequoia Tree Services, starting as a groundsman but rapidly developing his skills to become a lead climber. After 4 years Iain became a Company Director and began to expand the business.

Whilst carrying out tree works at Sequoia Iain developed not only his skills with a chainsaw but also his interest in the legal side of tree management. This prompted him to attend an Arboricultural Consultancy course through Tree Life Training AC Ltd based at Westonbirt Arboretum which resulted in the attainment of a Level 6 Diploma in Arboriculture. His choice of subject of specialist research was the management of veteran trees.

Iain is a member of the Arboricultural Association and is enjoying working as a member of Martin Dobson Associates.