



The Director of Planning
London Borough of Camden
Camden Town Hall
Judd Street
London
WC1H 9JE

11th January 2018



Dear Sirs,

Re: TPO application and Conservation Area notice for the installation of screw-pile foundations within the root protection areas of trees at 1 Boscastle Road, London, NW5 1EE

The London Borough of Camden Tree Preservation Order C1198 2018

Dartmouth Park Conservation Area

I am writing this letter to accompany a dual purpose application for works within the root protection areas (RPAs) of trees. The dual purpose is because the trees potentially affected by these proposals are either covered by a tree preservation order (TPO) or are within the Dartmouth Park Conservation Area.

As you know, both TPOs and Conservation Areas afford trees differing levels of protection and there are different processes by which an applicant can seek consent/permission for works to trees. A TPO application must follow the standard tree works application process whereas a conservation area (s211) notice must only describe the proposed works and include sufficient particulars to identify the trees. We see no reason, in this instance, why the two cannot be combined in this letter, the associated plan, schedule and tree works application. This should enable the proposed work to be considered simultaneously by the LPA and allow it to make a joint decision.

In terms of the proposed work, no trees are to be removed and no trees are to be pruned. The proposed work is for the installation of ten 'screw-piles' which may necessitate the severance of some small diameter tree roots.

The attached plan illustrates the locations for these ten piles and sets out the methodology for their installation. By way of brief summary, a small hole will be dug, by hand, approximately 600mm deep and as wide as is necessary (up to 600mm), in the location of each proposed pile. Within each hole



it is expected that there will be sufficient space to install a screw-pile without necessitating the severance of any roots greater than 25mm in diameter. It is even expected, in the pile locations more remote from the yew tree (no. 3) that there will not be any roots greater than 25mm in diameter.

The exact location of the screw-piles is flexible, to a degree, hence why each hole dug is to be up to 600mm wide. The piles themselves are only 150mm wide. Installation of the piles is an entirely pedestrian activity. No plant or machinery is required.

We appreciate that a TPO application requires a 'reason' for proposed works. The reason is self-evident, the installation of piles will support an above ground structure without necessitating any further root severance. The exact form or extent of what the above ground structure will be is not known to us but is ultimately irrelevant for the purposes of this dual application/notice. Whatever form the above ground structure will take, it will be designed so that the retained trees are not harmed in any way.

The fact remains that the proposed works will not cause significant harm to any of the retained trees. The tree with the greatest potential to be affected by these works is the yew (no. 3). However, as a species, yew is recognised as being good at tolerating root pruning and disturbance. As this specimen and, indeed, all other trees implicated in these proposals are of average physiological condition (the highest level of physiological condition ascribed to a tree by SJA) there is no reason to suspect they will not be able to tolerate the severance of a small number of small diameter roots within their RPAs.

I trust the above is self-explanatory but if further advice or clarification is needed please do let us know.

Yours sincerely,



**Director
SJAtrees**

