Construction Phase – Arboricultural Method Statement

KEY

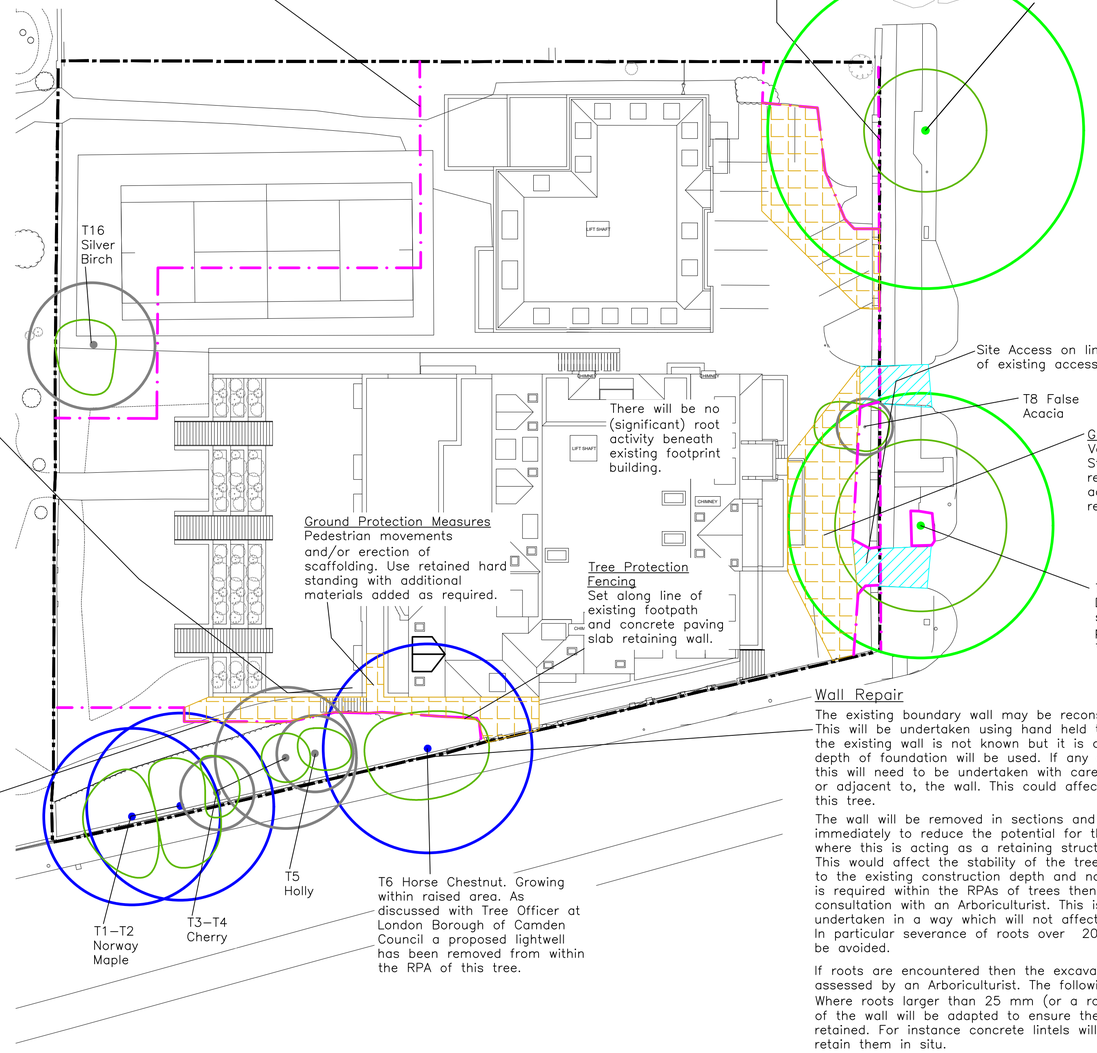
- Tree (Trunk) Locations (indicative)
- Root Protection Areas and Category Grading (see below)
- Tree Canopy Spreads – indicative
- Trees to be removed due to the site development
- Existing buildings or structures to be removed
- Construction Site Access and Ground Protection Measures
- Ground Protection Measures
- Tree Protection Fencing

Category Grading (See BS 5837:2012 – 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction, Recommendations')

- Category A
- Category B
- Category C
- Category U

Heras Fencing
Within the main body of the site. 2.0 m high metal mesh panels. Examples would include Heras fencing (See Photograph). The panels will be joined together using a minimum of two anti–tamper couplers to prevent access except for maintenance operations. The distance between the fence couplers will be at least 1.0 m and they will be uniform throughout the fence. Where space does not allow for a full panel to be erected then panels may overlap each other to fill a gap. The panels should be supported on the inner side by stabilizer struts, which should normally be attached to the rubber blocks. Where required the site the panels will be staked and secured in place so that they do not move during the development process. Dust' netting will be fixed to the fencing to prevent airborne material generated during the site development from coating the leaves of trunks of trees.

Hoarding to Site Boundary
2.4 m high Timber hoarding fixed to timber posts set at 2.0–3.0 m centres (See Photograph). Where applicable post holes for the timber hoarding will be hand dug using hand held tools and avoiding severance of significant roots of adjacent trees.



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INDICATIVE

0 5 10 m

Notes
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Based on drawings supplied by CHMRP, London.

The original of this drawing was produced in colour – a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

The position of offsite trees is indicative where access was restricted during the survey.

RPA = Root Protection Area.

Basement and Garden Excavation

These will be excavated adjacent to or within the RPAs of Cherry (T4) and Horse Chestnut (T6). The Horse Chestnut sits in a raised landscaped area though the existing building is within the potential circular RPA of this tree. The raised position of the tree will have had the effect of containing the roots of this tree. Additionally the capping of the soils by the building footprint will reduce the availability of resources (such as water) to potential root activity and reduce gaseous exchange between the soils and the atmosphere. Factors such as soil compaction during the construction of these elements and the physical presence of foundations would also significantly reduce or prevent rooting activity in these areas. It is therefore assessed that there is limited (if any) rooting activity beneath the footprint of the building.

As part of the construction of the basement and garden area there will an incursion of 2% and 3% respectively within the RPAs of these trees. This is assessed to be a minimal and insignificant to the long term retention and viability of these trees. However in order to reduce the impact on the roots of adjacent trees the following methodology will be undertaken.

A trench will be excavated along the line of the proposals to expose any roots. The top surface of any existing surface may be removed using machinery – such as a mini digger – or hand held tools will be used. Excavation will take place to a depth of 500–600 mm which is a reasonable depth to expect roots to be encountered. If roots are encountered they will be pruned back, preferably to a side branch, using a proprietary cutting tool such as bypass secateurs or handsaws. They will be pruned back to just beyond the line of excavation prior to the main excavation works commencing. Excavation of these areas can then be undertaken without damaging any roots to be retained and will limit any potential impact on roots.

As soon as excavation has taken place then measures must be put in place to prevent indirect impacts on retained trees such as through the collapse of the soil profile which could affect the integrity of an RPA. This may mean that temporary measures are installed to retain the soil profile or that the final retaining walls are installed.

Access for machinery and pedestrians to the basement area will be via ramps or steps to avoid increasing the proposed excavated area by grading back or 'battering' of the soil profile.

Care will be taken during the works to prevent compaction of soils and therefore to ensure that roots are not damaged

Ground Protection Measures
The existing hard standing will be assessed to confirm if it is suitable to act as Ground Protection Measures during the site development.

Vehicle Movements and Storage of Materials
It is assumed that the maximum weight loading entering the site will be over 2t gross but this will be confirmed prior to the start of the project. If required a system will be proposed to an engineering specification designed in conjunction with arboricultural advice. This system could include a proprietary system such as heavy duty metal or plastic trackway which will accommodate the likely loading to which it will be subjected.

Pedestrian Movements and/or Erection of Scaffolding
The following additional measures will be used if required. For scaffolding areas a single thickness of scaffold boards placed on top of a driven scaffold frame, so as to form a suspended walkway, will be used. For pedestrian use concrete laid on a suitable geo–textile layer will be used.

Wall Repair

The existing boundary wall may be reconstructed within part of the RPAs of T6. This will be undertaken using hand held tools. The exact depth of foundation of the existing wall is not known but it is assumed at this stage that a similar depth of foundation will be used. If any additional excavation is required that this will need to be undertaken with care to avoid severing any roots beneath, or adjacent to, the wall. This could affect the long term viability and stability of this tree.

The wall will be removed in sections and each section repaired or replaced immediately to reduce the potential for the collapse of the remaining wall and – where this is acting as a retaining structure – the collapse of the soil profile. This would affect the stability of the tree. Initially the wall will be removed down to the existing construction depth and no deeper. If a greater excavation depth is required within the RPAs of trees then this will only be undertaken in consultation with an Arboriculturist. This is to ensure that these works are undertaken in a way which will not affect the long term retention of this tree. In particular severance of roots over 20 mm and damage to root bark should be avoided.

If roots are encountered then the excavation will be stopped while these are assessed by an Arboriculturist. The following procedure will then be implemented: Where roots larger than 25 mm (or a root mass) are encountered the design of the wall will be adapted to ensure the roots are not affected and can be retained. For instance concrete lintels will be used to bridge over tree roots and retain them in situ.

Roots which are exposed, but are to be retained, will be wrapped in dry, clean hessian sacking to prevent desiccation and to protect from rapid temperature changes. Prior to backfilling, any Hessian wrapping will be removed and retained roots will be surrounded with sharp sand or other loose granular fill, before soil or other material is placed over the roots. This material will be free of contaminants and other foreign objects potentially injurious to tree roots.

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