Arboricultural Method Statement

Flat 1, 23 Tanza Road

Hampstead

London

NW3 2UA

Date: July 2020

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1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this method statement is to detail what actions need to be taken to prevent unacceptable damage occurring to the retained tree on this site during the proposed construction of a garden room at Flat 1, 23 Tanza Road, Hampstead, London, NW3 2UA.

1.2 This method statement complies with the recommendations of British Standard BS 5837: 2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations (BS 5837).

1.3 This method statement is designed to reflect the principles of the tree protection required for the proposed development and should not be read as a definitive engineering or construction statement for this site. Matters relating to construction detail or engineering performance should be referred to a qualified architect or structural engineer for further information and specification.

2. Liaison & communication

2.1 The developer shall appoint an arboricultural consultant to ensure that the specified tree protection measures are carried out during the entire construction process. A copy of the letter of appointment shall be sent to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

2.2 Before any works of any description take place on the site, the developer shall convene a pre-start meeting. This should be attended by the developer's contract manager, the site manager, the groundwork contractor, the arboricultural consultant and, if appropriate, the LPA tree officer. The meeting will be led by the arboricultural consultant who will ensure that contact numbers are exchanged and that the methods of tree protection outlined in this statement are fully discussed and explained. Any modifications to this statement arising from this meeting will be recorded and the revisions circulated to all parties.

2.3 The developer shall inform the arboricultural consultant if at any time during the construction process, the site manager is replaced. In this event, the arboricultural consultant will, within 5 days, arrange a meeting with the new site manager to review all the remaining aspects of this method statement.

2.4 A copy of this method statement shall be given to all personnel who have control over works of any nature within the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of the retained trees. The developer will ensure that adequate instruction is given for the implementation of the protection measures outlined within this statement.

3. Tree removals and pruning

3.1 No felling or pruning of the retained trees is required to permit construction of the proposed development.

4. Protective fencing

4.1 No vehicles of any kind shall enter the site, nor any works commence, until the root protection areas of the retained trees, as shown on the TPP, have been protected by the erection of protective fencing to the specification found in BS 5837, Section 6.2. The location of the fencing is denoted by the continuous, bold purple lines on the TPP.

4.2 The fencing shall comprise of 2m tall welded mesh panels on rubber or concrete feet. Panels are to be joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers, installed so that they can only be removed from inside the fence. The panels should be supported on the inner side by stabiliser struts, which should be mounted on a block tray. Notices stating "Tree Protection Zone – Keep Out" will be attached with cable ties to every other panel.

4.3 No activity of any kind shall be undertaken behind this protective fencing; there shall be no storage of materials, no access for vehicles or personnel and no excavation or changes in soil level of any kind.

4.4 Areas for storing or mixing of fuels, oils or cement shall be agreed at the pre-start meeting. None of these areas shall be within the area behind the protective fencing, and where possible shall not be within 10m of any retained tree.

4.5 No fixtures of any nature shall be attached to the retained trees.

4.6 If the protective fencing is accidentally damaged or knocked over, the damaged sections shall be immediately marked with high visibility tape or with mesh fencing. The damaged sections shall be replaced or repaired to the original specification within 48 hours. All events of this nature must be recorded and reported to the arboricultural consultant.

4.7 When the installation of the protective fencing is complete, the arboricultural consultant shall be informed so he may come and inspect it. If it complies with this statement he will record the fact and notify the client and LPA.

4.8 The protective fencing will not be moved, dismantled or relocated without the prior approval of the arboricultural consultant. When the construction period is complete the fencing may then be removed, but only after first informing the arboricultural consultant of this intention.

5. Ground protection

5.1 In order to protect the structure of the soil within the RPAs of trees adjacent to areas of construction, temporary ground protection shall be put in place for the duration of the construction period, in the locations shown by pink hatching on the TPP. This ground protection should be capable of supporting any traffic, pedestrian or mechanical, entering or using the site without being distorted or causing compaction of underlying soil.

5.2 The ground protection shall comprise one of the following:

- For pedestrian-operated plant up to a gross weight of 2t, proprietary inter-linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 150mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane.

6. Ground screw

6.1 Where indicated on the TPP by the bold orange circles, pilot holes shall be dug by hand under direct arboricultural supervision to a depth of 300mm. If any roots less than 25mm in diameter are found in that proposed ground screw location, they shall be cleanly severed by the supervising arboriculturist. The screws shall be inserted at these locations by using a hand operated screw pile machine.

6.2 If any roots of 25mm diameter and above are found, they shall initially be covered and protected by damp hessian. The supervising arboriculturist shall then decide if it is necessary to retain them. If not, then the exposed roots shall be cleanly severed. If removal of the exposed roots is not feasible, then that particularly pilot hole shall be abandoned, and another one excavated.

6.3 During supervised excavation, constant liaison with the garden room construction team shall be conducted to determine the required amount of ground screws and locations for the load bearing structure.

6.4 The ground screws will be installed with both the operator and the screw pile machine positioned on top of the temporary ground protection as denoted by the pink hatch on the TPP (see para. 5.2 above).

7. Underground services

7.1 No proposed underground services are required for this build. A single above ground armoured cable is proposed to follow the southern fence line in order to provide the garden room with electricity. No proposed excavations are required to implement this.

8. Landscaping

8.1 Prior to the commencement of any landscaping works within the protected area behind the protective fencing the developer shall arrange a pre-start meeting with the site manager, the arboricultural consultant and the landscape contractor. The details of this part of the method statement shall be discussed in relation to the proposed landscape operations and a clear sequence of operations established.

8.2 Within the RPAs the following principles will be maintained:

- Existing ground levels shall not be substantially altered.
- No plant or vehicles shall enter the RPA.
- No fuels or chemicals shall be stored within any of these areas.
- Any excavation required for fence posts, log retaining walls or any other landscape structures shall be undertaken by hand, under direct arboricultural supervision. If roots are encountered, then the position of the excavation shall be moved to a new location. If this is not possible then any roots with a diameter less than 25mm may be cut cleanly by hand. Any exposed roots shall be re-covered within 24hrs of excavation.
- No structure shall be fastened in any way to the trunks of the retained trees.
- No drainage or irrigation pipes shall be installed within the RPAs of the retained trees.
- Any unwanted vegetation shall be removed by hand.

9. Supervision & monitoring

9.1 The arboricultural consultant shall visit the site on a regular basis, as agreed with the local planning authority at the pre-start meeting, or when specifically required as set out in Table 2 below, to ensure that the tree protection measures are kept in place and functioning as designed. Regular contact will be maintained with the site manager to determine any forthcoming operations that may make an impact on these tree protection measures and if arboricultural supervision is required. A record of these monitoring visits will be kept, and copies sent to the developer and the LPA.

9.2 The site manager shall give at least 48 hours' notice to the arboricultural consultant of any operations, which may make an impact on the RPAs of the retained trees.

9.3 Any alterations or variations in drawings for the site that are in, or within, the RPAs of the retained trees shall be referred in the first instance to the arboricultural consultant for his advice. If these changes make any kind of impact on the retained trees the arboricultural consultant shall suggest changes that will either avoid damage to the retained trees or offer solutions to minimize the impact. Following this consultation, the arboricultural consultant shall issue revised Tree Protection Plans that reflect the changes.

9.4 Where any operations carried out by the developer deviate substantially from this method statement, a meeting will be convened between the developer, the arboricultural consultant and the site manager to determine the best method to mitigate any damage that may have occurred.

Visit no.	Timing of visit	Function carried out
1	Following erection of protective fencing and installation of ground protection.	To check protective fencing and ground protection have been installed in the correct locations and to the correct standard.
2	Immediately prior to commencement of construction works on site.	To mark out the locations for the ground screws, and to check no scraping of soil has occured.
3	During the excavation of the ground screw pilot holes to 300mm below ground	In order to supervise the manually excavated pilot holes for the ground screws.
4	At any other time which is sensitive in arboricultural terms.	To ensure retained trees are protected from development activities.

Table 1 - Timings of Supervision and Monitoring Visits.

Michael Roberts | Arboricultural Technician

July 2020

APPENDIX 1 – Tree Schedule

Notes for the Tree Schedule

This schedule is based on an inspection carried out by Michael Roberts on Tuesday the 3rd December 2019. Weather conditions at the time were clear, dry and bright. Deciduous trees were not in leaf.

The information contained in this schedule reflects the conditions of those specimens at the time of inspection. They were inspected from the ground only; they were not climbed and no internal investigations were undertaken, thus no guarantee may be given as to their structural integrity.

As trees are dynamic organisms and subject to continual change no dimensions expressed in this schedule may be relied upon for development purposes for more than 24 months from the date of survey. Estimated dimensions are marked 'est'.

1. **No:** Expressed in sequential order starting from number 1 – woodlands, groups & hedges are prefixed as W, G, & H respectively.
2. **TPO / Con. Area:** Tree by Tree Preservation Order(s) ref. TPO. REF C766, & Trees and Tree Groups standing within the (South Hill Park) Conservation Area; all trees with "TPO" are protected from removal or pruning without prior consent from, or notification to, the local planning authority.
3. **Species:** The common name as given in "Collins Tree Guide", Johnson & More (2004).
4. **Height:** Estimated with the aid of a 'Disto' laser range finder and expressed in metres**.**
5. **Trunk Diameter:** Measured at 1.5m above ground level and expressed in millimetres to the nearest 10mm; where multiple stems are present they are measured individually and a cumulative total calculated in accordance with BS5837 (2012**).**
6. **Radial Crown Spread:** Distance in metres from the centre of the trunk to each cardinal point of the compass and rounded up to the nearest half metre.
7. **Crown Clearance:** Mean height from adjacent ground level to the lowest point of the crown.
8. **Height to First Branch:** Height, in metres, of the first significant branch (100mm) or to crown break from ground level.
9. **Life Stage:** Young, Semi mature, Mature, Veteran/Ancient.
10. **Physiology:** Health and condition of the tree in comparison to a typical specimen of species and age: Good, Average, Below Average, Poor, Dead.
11. **Structure:** The structural condition of the tree based on an assessment of any visible roots, trunk and crown, noting the presence of any defects or decay: Good, Moderate, Indifferent, Poor, Hazardous.
12. **Landscape Value:** Reflecting the importance of the tree in the local landscape. High, Moderate, Low, Nil.
13. **Estimated Years:** Estimate of remaining contribution expressed in years <10, 10-20, 20-40, 40+.
14. **Comments:** Notes relating to health and condition, structure and form, estimated life expectancy and importance within the local landscape.
15. **Category: -** A rating given to individual trees based on Table 1 in the British Standard, BS 5837 (2012) "*Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations*".

Category 'U' - Trees in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboriculture management.

Category 'A' - Trees of high quality and value; in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (Normally a minimum of 40 years).

Category 'B' - Trees of moderate quality and value; those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (Normally a minimum of 20 years).

Category 'C' - Trees of low quality and value; currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (Normally a minimum of 10 years), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.

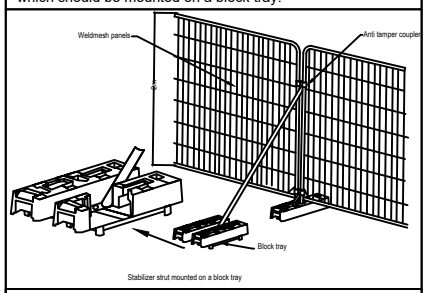
Sub-categories (where appropriate); 1 – Mainly arboricultural qualities: 2 – Mainly landscape qualities: 3 – Mainly cultural values, including conservation.

No.	TPO.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clear-ance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physi-ology	Structure	Landscape Value	Est. Years	Comments	Cate-gory
1	TPO. C766	Sessile Oak	18m	840mm	N7.5m E7m S7.5m W8.5m	7.5m	5m	Mature	Average	Average	High	40+	Some basal growth on East side; prominent buttress bulging or flaring; unlike typical buttresses; some slight differences in tone when lower trunk and buttresses are tested for acoustic resonance; fungal fruiting body found at base, possibly *Inonotus dryadeus* ; slightly leaning trunk; epicormic growths on trunk; crown has been severely lifted in past; recently reduced in 2014. However, regrowth has notably reduced shoot extension growths. Of moderate to high landscape value.	B (12)

APPENDIX 2 – Tree Protection Plan

PROTECTIVE FENCING

To comprise of 2m tall welded mesh panels on rubber or concrete feet. Panels are to be joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers, installed so that they can only be removed from inside the fence. The panels should be supported on the inner side by stabiliser struts, which should be mounted on a block tray.



Stabilizer strut mounted on a block tray

GROUND PROTECTION

To be installed prior to any demolition or construction works. For *pedestrian-operated plant* up to a gross weight of 2t, proprietary inter-linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 150mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane;

CONSTRUCTION ACCESS TO GARDEN VIA PARK; TO STOP COMPACTION TO EXISTING ROOTING AREA DURING CONSTRUCTION

PROPOSED GARDEN ROOM
TO BE ELEVATED ABOVE SOIL

1 TPO
Sessile Oak

Oak tree

Existing Bed

EXISTING
FLOWER BED

SUPERVISED EXCAVATION OF GROUND SCREW PILOT HOLES; INDICATIVE GROUND SCREW LOCATIONS; DEPENDANT ON IF ROOTS ARE ENCOUNTERED.

PROTECTIVE
FENCING

GROUND
PROTECTION

Stairs with open storage underneath

Tap and power supply

LGF Entrance

1.64m
9.12m
Gate
5.00m
1.12m
1.37m
3.42m
2.89m
3.24m

0m 1m 2m 3m 4m 5m
1:100@A3

PROPOSED PLAN
INDICATING TREE
PROTECTION MEASURES

DAVID ARCHER ASSOCIATES
ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANCY

Project:	Flat 1 23 Tanza Road Hampstead London NW3 2UA
Client:	MacArthur
Drawing:	TREE PROTECTION PLAN
Based on:	Existing garden survey + Proposed Site Plan
Drawing No:	TPP 03
Rev:	-----
Date:	Jul 2020
Scale:	1:100 @ A3
Drawn:	MR

Tree nos.:	● 1	Canopies of trees:		Category 'B' RPA:	
Protective fencing:		Ground protection:		Indicative screw locations:	
Above soil structure:		TPO Tree:	TPO		

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