

# 51 architecture

## HAND DIG METHOD STATEMENT

12 Keats Grove, Hampstead, London

1. The area to be excavated will be inspected by a professional arborist to assess the likely proximity of root activity and concentration prior to the commencement of any works. All relevant authorized personnel to be informed and required permissions gained before work commences.
2. If hand digging is not possible/practicable a method of excavation will be agreed and undertaken by a suitably qualified person for example air spading or a competent digger operator etc., in the presence of a qualified Arborist.
3. During excavation great care will be taken to minimize damage to retained roots, including the bark around the roots.
4. All roots greater than 25mm diameter will be retained and worked around. Where clumps of smaller roots (including fibrous roots) are found these are to be retained.
5. Roots with a diameter in excess of 25mm must not be severed without permission from an Arborist.
6. If roots are encountered, the Arborist must conduct the root pruning and inform the relevant person to suggest mitigation works to the tree(s) if required. If severance is unavoidable roots must be cut back using a sharp tool, leaving the smallest wound possible.
7. If there is a possibility of infection being passed from one specimen to another, tools will be sterilized in an appropriate method to reduce the risk of cross contamination.
8. When backfilling an inert granular material mixed with topsoil or sharp sand (not builder's sand) is to be used around the retained roots, unless an alternative backfill substrate has been agreed with in writing by the appropriate authorized personnel.
9. If roots are to be left exposed for a period of longer than 1 hour (dependent on weather conditions), then a covering of dampened Hessian or similar material is to be used to cover the exposed roots. Any changes to this practice are to be authorized by a qualified arborist.