

190431: Signature Highgate

Site Inspection Report – May 2021

Location: 58 The Bishops Avenue, London, N2 0BE

Date: 27th May 2021

Distribution: (DL) Daryl Luckhurst – Wates

(CL) Colin Ludlow – Wates

(TE) Tony Entwistle – Fed3 Projects

Executive Summary

- Drainage works along the western elevation within the RPA of retained trees were monitored by the arboricultural clerk of works.
- Roots greater than 25mm were uncovered during the works adjacent to the Scots pine tree T33, as anticipated. The works required a reduction in levels to the tree protection area, rather than a drainage channel being created, therefore exposed roots were cut cleanly using a sharp blade.
- 5 x roots at 25mm diameter, 1 x 30mm and 1 x 40mm diameter were cut back to the edge of the excavation, located 3m from the tree at its closest point.
- Given the relatively young age of the tree, abundant viable rooting area, the relatively low number of roots pruned and industry literature regarding the effects of root pruning on one side (Tree Roots and the Built Environment, 2006, 8.3.2.2); it is not considered that the physiological or structural condition of the tree has been compromised.
- No significant roots were uncovered in relation to T36 and T37, which are at significantly different levels to the excavation.

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	Notes	Action
1.0	Inspection	
1.1	The site inspection was undertaken on 27 th May 2021 to inspect the tree protection measures on site and discuss any issues the site manager had regarding trees.	
2.0	Tree Works/Condition	
2.1	All tree works have now been completed to specification. The work has been carried out to a high standard and no issues were noted.	
3.0	Tree Protection	
3.1	Tree protection was found to be sufficient across the site with Heras fencing slightly adjusted to accommodate the drainage excavations adjacent to T33.	
4.0	Construction	
4.1	TMA inspected the hand dug area adjacent to T33 which had exposed a number of roots ranging from 25mm – 40mm diameter directly opposite the tree, the largest of which had previously been severed during works to facilitate the piling mat.	
4.2	The area beyond the RPA for T33 and within the theoretical RPA for T36 and T37 was then mechanically excavated using plant machinery whilst monitored by the arboricultural clerk of works, due to the low chance of discovery significant roots based on the site levels.	

4.3	No significant tree roots were uncovered within this stretch (see photo 1). Although some roots greater than 25mm diameter were uncovered during the works, they were not deemed to be from the retained trees due to the low wood density noted during inspection. These roots were likely from shrubs removed during site clearance.	
4.4	Satisfied that the drainage run adjacent to T33 did not contain a high number significant roots and was sufficient distance from the tree to facilitate root pruning, the drainage run was then mechanically excavated and roots cut cleanly at the edge of excavation (see photo 2).	
5.0	Other Comments	
5.1	Further drainage runs are located along the northern boundary within close proximity to offsite trees and within locations where drainage channels rather than reduced level excavations will be feasible.	
5.2	The use of a compressed air lance is recommended in these locations, the feasibility of which will be further inspected once the piling mat has been removed.	
5.3	Ground protection for plant machinery within the RPA of the central oak tree T34 was discussed and specification provided which will incorporate 150mm wood chip, 300mm reused crushed stone and track mats.	



Photo 1: excavations between T33 and T37 with no significant tree roots uncovered.



Photo 2: excavations adjacent to T33 prior to root pruning

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Photo 3: area of tree protection adjacent to T34 that will be replaced with ground protection.

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