

Site Investigation and Meeting Record

Site Address: 7 Church Road, Highgate, London, N6 4QH

Client:	Samantha and Zoltan Lehel
Survey Date:	30.03.23
Consultant:	Emily Kempson

Notes

The site investigation meeting was carried out at 7 Church Road, on the 30th March 2023. In attendance was Samantha and Zoltan Lehel (clients), Hadi Hamza (H Hack Engineering), and David Dowding (GoRoots Ltd).

The aim of the trial excavation was to investigate the potential rooting environment from trees 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12 along the existing fence line to determine any potential roots from the offsite trees, growing within the site boundary (Figure 1).

Prior to my arrival, the air spade was used to uncover the roots to a depth of approximately 600mm, along the fence line (Figure 2).

The excavation revealed that whilst there are roots present within the site boundary, none are considered significant, i.e. above 25mm in diameter. No dense masses of fibrous roots were found along the trench line. The largest of the roots encountered were measured in diameter, the largest was recorded at 21mm diameter. Examples of the roots identified and measured are shown in Figures 4 and 5.

The growing conditions of the offsite trees was explored, it was established that there is a change in elevation at the site boundary of approximately 600mm (Figures 6 and 8), with the trees growing at a greater elevation than the site. A visit to the offsite to the trees revealed that they are growing on an embankment, that slopes up further from the site boundary , to approximately 300mm above the boundary line (Figure 7) . Therefore, the stems of the trees are growing up to 900mm above the existing ground level of the site.

Following completion of the investigations, the trench was backfilled with the original material.

Conclusions

As the trees are growing at approximately 900mm above the existing site level, and no roots in excess of 25mm diameter or dense mass of fibrous roots were identified within the site boundary, it was determined that the extension could be constructed using standard foundations, without causing detriment to the offsite trees to be retained. This is provided that the methodology for excavation and root pruning included within the arboricultural method statement is adhered to. Please refer to documents Arbtech AIA 01, AMS 01 and TPP 01.

Figures

Figure 1: Location of air spade trial excavations highlighted in red.

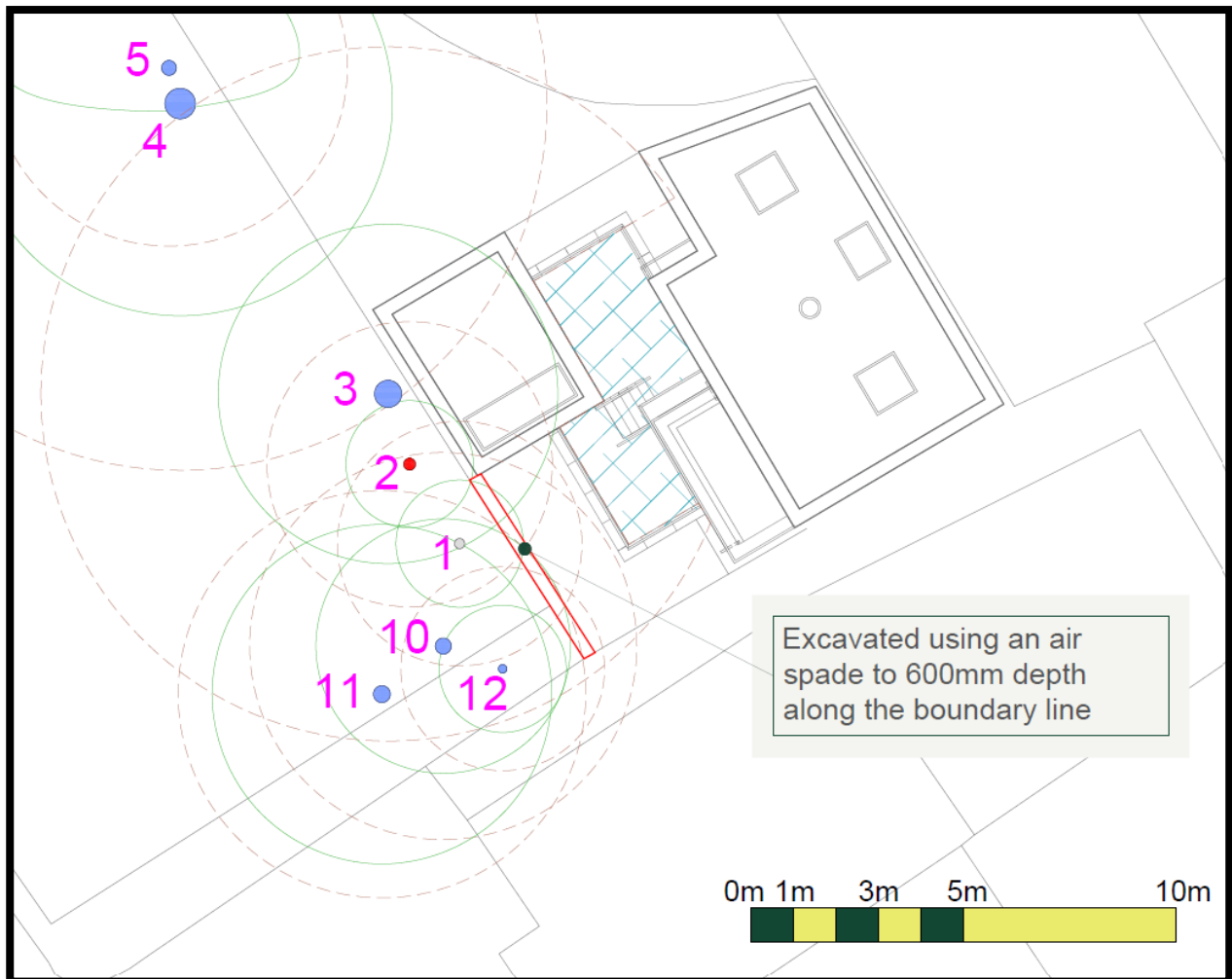




Figure 2 – Completed air spade trial excavation to a depth of 600mm.



Figure 3 – Average depth of the excavation up to 600mm



Figure 4 – Example root measurement, below 25mm diameter



Figure 5 – Example root measurement, below 25mm diameter



Figure 6 – Measurement of the level difference from within the Site – the red line denotes the approximate ground level on the other side of the fence



Figure 7 – Measurement of the stem location up the soil embankment, offsite. Stems are situated approximately 300mm up the slope, as noted with the red line.

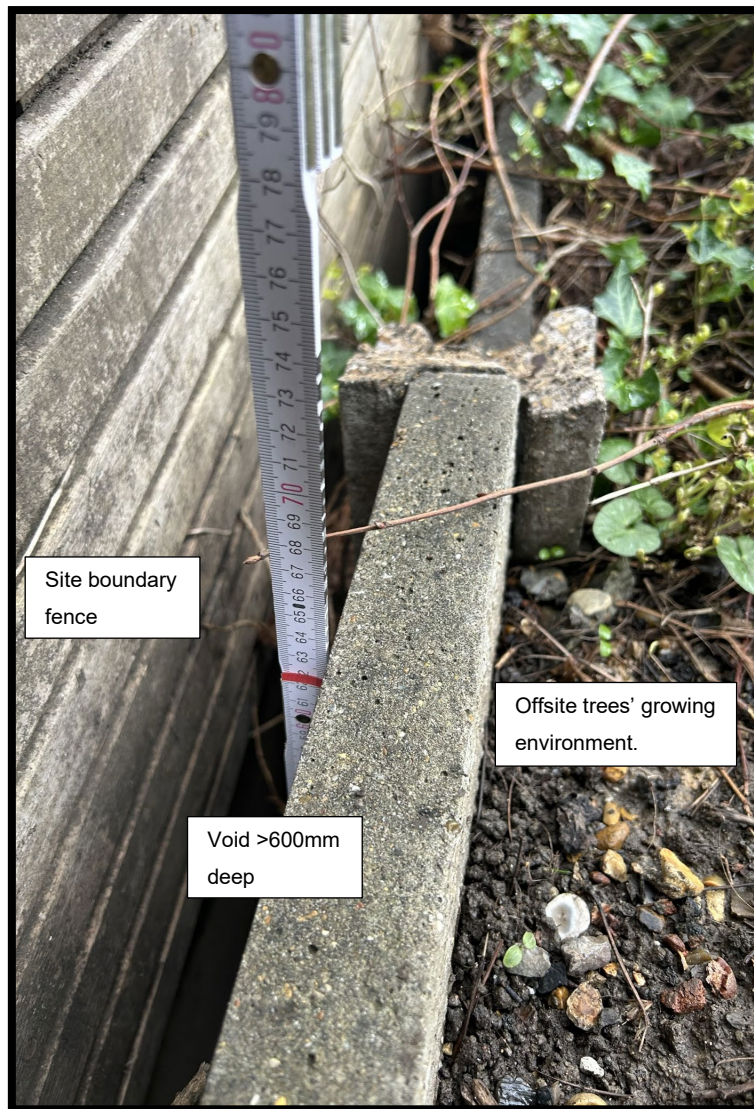


Figure 8 – Measurement of the level change of at least 600mm, with the trees (right hand side), separated from the site (left hand side) by a concrete retaining structure.

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