

**SOUTHERN OFFICE**

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Tanya Farrell
Ardmore
6 Wharf Studios
28 Wharfe Road
London N1 7GR

Our ref: RS/10408/PD

Dear Tanya:

RE. Norway maple at Hornsey Town Hall

To facilitate the development at Hornsey Town Hall it was originally intended to relocate T4 (red Norway maple), as it is a memorial tree and therefore a heritage asset. T4 is also a healthy tree of good structural condition and has significant future growth potential to become a notable landscape asset as well. However, at the detailed design phase of development a company called Ruskins (specialists in moving large trees) were consulted and advised T4 was too large to move so would be unlikely to survive the translocation process. Due to the heritage value of T4 as a memorial tree, it was decided instead that the landscaping scheme would be changed to enable retention of the tree.

To facilitate the retention of T4, the tree has been surrounded by permeable resin bound gravel. This covers the majority of the root protection area which was originally grass. This is the optimum type of surface to be used around the trees in public areas because it is permeable, which will allow continued moisture ingress and gaseous diffusion with the soil, both of which are required for root function. Additionally there will likely be ground movement around the tree as the buttress and buttress roots grow (T4 is a semi mature specimen with significant future growth potential), and the resin surface can be replaced/repared relatively easily without causing a significant trip hazard like paving slabs or other block paving would.

Questions have been raised regarding the aesthetics of the resin bound gravel and whether this could be changed for the impermeable paving used in other areas at the frontage of the site. It is my recommendation that the new hard standing is not replaced with impermeable paving because this would negatively impact on the viability of the rooting medium for which the tree has adapted to by significantly reducing moisture ingress and gaseous diffusion. Additionally, T4 has significant future growth potential which can much more easily be accommodated in an area of resin bound gravel. I suggest that pavers installed around the tree would ultimately be replaced with resin bound gravel in the future anyway as they become damaged by the tree.

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If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Peter Davies

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