



WE KNOW SERVICES

ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Site

St Luke's RC Primary School

Client

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

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We Know Services
Court Hey Park, Roby Road, Huyton L16 3NA
E: info@weknowservices.co.uk
www.weknowservices.co.uk

Ref: 21/00093/AMS
Author: Jonathan Henderson
Qualifications: B.Sc Hons, TechArborA

Arboricultural Method Statement – St Luke's RC Primary School



A photograph showing T1 and T2.

Quality Assurance

The information which the author has prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Arboricultural Association's Code of Ethics and Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed within this report are true and represents the author's professional opinions.

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1. Introduction

Resulting from the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (ref: 21/00093/AIA), an Arboricultural Method statement has been recommended to ensure good working practices when working in proximity to trees to implement the proposed development.

The need for this method statement is a result of the client's proposals as outlined in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

The following information outlines the need for an Arboricultural Method Statement.

2. The Importance of Protecting Tree Roots from Development Related Activities

Most of the root system of a tree is in the top 600mm of the soil, extending radically for distances frequently more than the trees height. Beyond the main structural roots, the root system rapidly sub-divides into smaller diameter roots until a mass of fine roots develops.

The main structural roots develop in response of the need for the tree to have physical stability. Beyond these major roots, root growth and development are influenced by the availability of water and nutrients.

Unless conditions are uniform around the tree, the location and extent of the root system is typically irregular and difficult to predict. Typically, it will not reflect the symmetry seen in the branch system.

The parts of the root system, which are active in water and nutrient uptake are very fine, typically less than 0.5mm diameter. They are short lived and develop in response to the needs of the tree, with the majority dying each winter.

It is essential that conditions in the soil remain conducive to the healthy growth of these fine roots so that the water and nutrients necessary for healthy tree growth can be absorbed.

All parts of the root system, but especially the fine roots, are vulnerable to damage. Once they are damaged, water and nutrient uptake will be restricted until new roots have regenerated. Vigorous young trees will be capable of rapid regeneration, but over mature trees will respond slowly, if at all.

To live and grow, roots need oxygen from the soil. Respiration by the roots and other soil organisms depletes this oxygen and increases carbon dioxide levels in the soil; a correct balance of these gases is normally maintained by diffusion between the soil and the atmosphere. Anything, which disturbs this balance, will affect the condition of the root system.

The factors that most commonly affect this diffusion adversely, and therefore damage roots, are the following: -

- A. Compaction of the ground, which reduces the space between soil particles. This is particularly important on clay soils. A single passage by heavy equipment on clay soils or storage of heavy materials can cause significant damage to the structure of the soil.
- B. Altered soil levels, even for a few weeks.
- C. Covering the root area with impervious surfaces.
- D. A rise in the level of the water table. Roots can tolerate submersion for short periods. But a permanent rise will deplete the soil of oxygen.
- E. Excavations in the rooting area can sever roots. As most roots are in the surface 600mm, even shallow excavations can cause damage.
- F. Excavations for foundations, landscaping, service trenches or soil stripping which sever or damage the roots may impair the stability of the tree and make it dangerous.

Serious damage is often caused during preliminary site works by stripping the topsoil. For this reason, such works should be avoided until protective fencing has been erected.

3. Method Statement

3.1 Tree Works

Before any form of development commences on the site the following works should be undertaken: -

Tree No.	Proposed Works
G3, G5, G6, T7, T8, G9 (In Part), G10.	Remove trees as detailed on plan
G4	Raise crowns of all trees within group to 5m above ground level.

3.2 Tree Planting

Trees and shrubs planted shall comply with *BS 3936 Specification of Nursery Stock* and shall be planted in accordance with *BS 4428 General Landscape Operations* and *BS8545:2014 Trees from Nursery to Dependence in the Landscape*.

All imported soils should be uncontaminated and from a recognised supplier in accordance with *BS 3882:2015 Specification for Top Soil*.

Bare root and root-balled stock to be planted in the dormant season (which typically extends between from mid-November to late-March). All planting stock to be clearly labelled on delivery with the full botanical name.

Tree pits to be dug 400mm larger than rootball in any direction. Organic soil improvement compost to be dug into all planting areas and used at 1m³ per 10m². All planting beds to be mulched in 75mm depth medium grade bark mulch immediately after planting.

3.3 Additional Precautions When Working in Proximity of Trees

Oil, bitumen, cement, or other material likely to cause damage to the tree will not be stacked or discharged within 10m of the trees stem or within the protective area. Also, materials in general will not be stacked or discharged within the exclusion zone.

Concrete mixing and washing will not be carried out within 10m of any retained trees.

Fires will not be lit beneath the foliage or in a position where the flames could extend to within 5m of the foliage, branches, or trunk. If the fire is large, then this may necessitate a distance of at least 20m.

Trees that are to be retained will not be used as anchorage for equipment.

Notice boards, telephone cables, or other services will not be attached to any part of the retained tree.

Care should be taken when using cranes or other equipment near the canopy of the retained trees. Also, any trees to be felled in proximity to the retained trees should be done so with particular care.

Appendix I.0 Tree Protection Plan

