WE KNOW SERVICES

ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

10 NORTHDENE DRIVE
ROCHDALE
OL11 5NH

DECEMBER 2020

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1.0 Discussion

1.1 The majority of the root system, of a tree, is in the surface 600mm of the soil, extending radically for distances frequently in excess of the trees height. Beyond the main structural roots (close to the base of the trunk), the root system rapidly sub-divides into smaller diameter roots: off this main system, a mass of fine roots develops.

1.2 The shape of the main structural roots develops in response to 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, which would be unusual, the extent of the root system will be very irregular and difficult to predict. It will not generally show the symmetry seen in the branch system.

1.3 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, developing 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.

1.4 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*.

1.5 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.

1.6 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.

b) Changing soil levels, even for a few weeks.

c) Covering the root area with impervious surfaces; and

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.

1.7 Serious damage is often caused during preliminary site works by stripping the topsoil.

1.8 Excavations in the rooting area can sever roots. As many of the roots are in the surface 600mm, even shallow excavations can cause damage.

1.9 Excavations for foundations, landscaping or service trenches are usually sufficiently deep to sever most of the roots, and it should therefore be assumed that all parts of the root system beyond the excavation would no longer serve the tree.

1.10 Excavation or soil stripping which sever or damage the roots may impair the stability of the tree and make it dangerous.

2.0 Method Statement

2.1 Tree Works

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

Tree No.	Proposed Works
T1 and T2	Prune overhanging branches to ensure 1 metre clearance from proposed extension

2.2 Protective Fencing

2.2.1 Due to the presence of an existing boundary fence and as the scope of the proposed works are small-scale, it is not deemed appropriate to install tree protection fencing.

2.3 Special Precautions During Foundation Installation

2.3.1 Excavation within the root protection area of T2 will be carried out under a watching brief from a qualified arboricultural consultant. It will be their responsibility to monitor the effect of the works on the tree and provide ongoing advice on how to avoid or minimise damage as the work proceeds.

2.3.2 The property owner will notify the arboricultural consultant at least 48 hours prior to works commencing.

2.3.3 The arboricultural consultant will monitor the size and density of tree roots encountered and make on-site recommendations according to the following findings:

- No roots - continue without constraint
- Minor roots (<10mm) - continue to monitor
- Moderate roots (<25mm) - prune roots neatly
- Major roots (>25mm) - agree additional design, methodology or tree management measures. This would be discussed with the LPA to agree an acceptable way forward.

2.3.4 If roots less than 25mm in diameter are present they will be pruned using an appropriate sharp clean pruning tool such as pruning saw or secateurs and treated with an approved fungicidal sealant.

2.3.5 Fine roots (< 25mm in dimeter) will not be left exposed overnight where there is a risk of frost.

2.4 Special Measures Surface for Pedestrian Access / Scaffold Installation within the Root Protection Area (RPA)

2.4.1 Where pedestrian access / scaffolding is required within the RPA the following methodology must be followed:

- Mulch must be spread to a depth of 150mm over the dedicated area.
- The mulch must be levelled then covered with boarding. The boarding may be either: scaffold boards laid butted together (Appendix 2.0); or plywood sheets 2440mm by 1220mm at least 19mm thick laid butted together.

2.5 Additional Precautional Measures.

2.5.1 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. Also, materials in general will not be stacked or discharged within the exclusion zone.

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

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

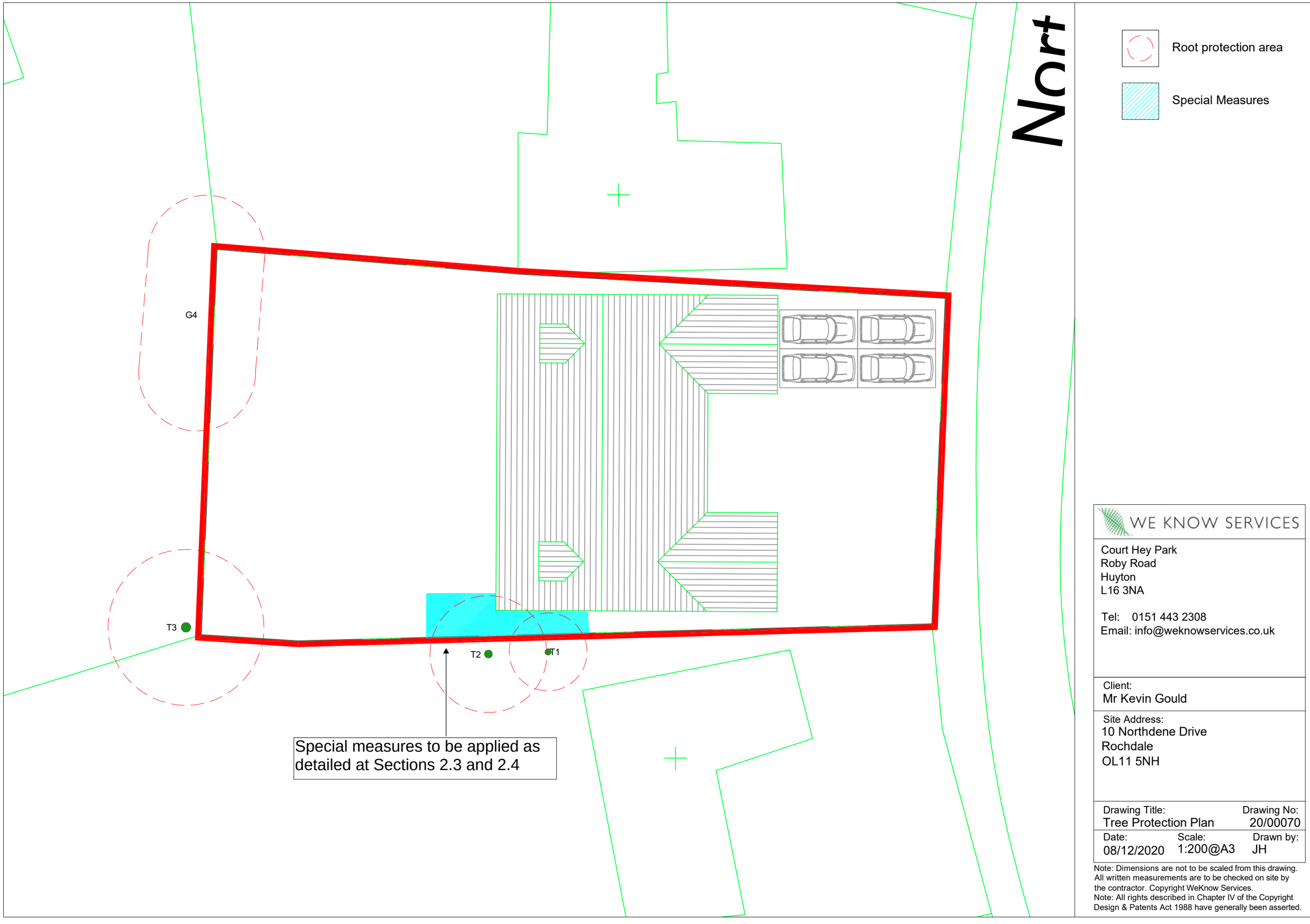
2.5.4 Trees that are to be retained will not be used as anchorage for equipment.

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

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

Appendix 1.0

Tree Plan



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Drawing Title:		Drawing No:
Tree Protection Plan		20/00070
Date:	Scale:	Drawn by:
08/12/2020	1:200@A3	JH

Note: Dimensions are not to be scaled from this drawing. All written measurements are to be checked on site by the contractor. Copyright WeKnow Services.
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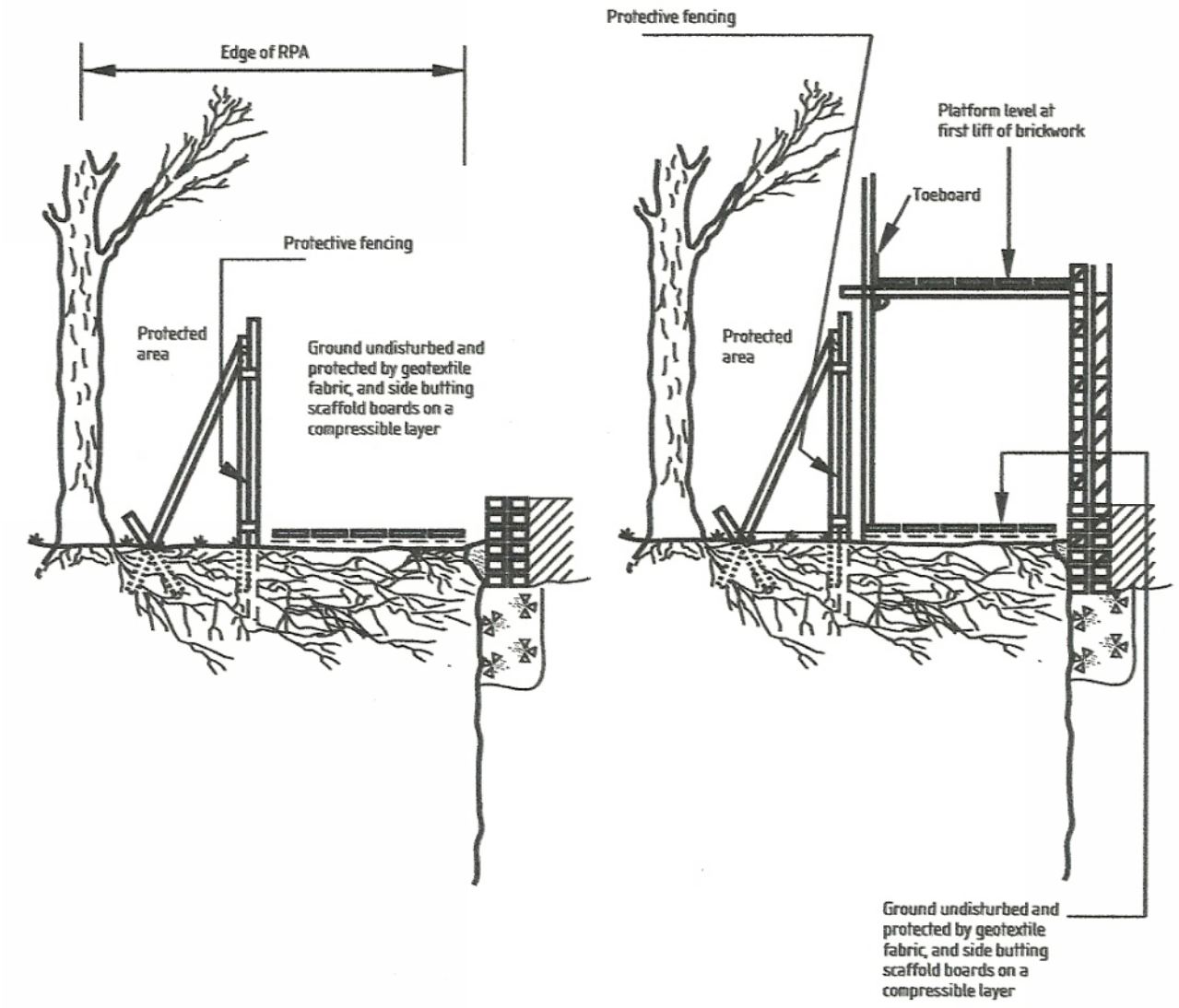
Appendix 2.0

Ground Protection Measures



The scaffold boards may be substituted for plywood sheets (e.g. 2440mm by 1220mm) of at least 19mm thickness and laid on 150mm depth mulch in order to spread the load of any high points on the original surface.