

6.11 Foundations

The proposed development encroaches into the RPAs of a number of trees. These are all included in the list of trees that I recommend be felled to allow the proposed development. If any of these were to be retained the affected structure(s) should be constructed using foundations that require minimal excavations within its/their RPA(s). Pile and beam foundations with the beams installed above the existing ground level, or a raft foundation, may be suitable foundations types.

6.12 'Over-dig'

I recommend that it would demonstrate a level of commitment to carry out the construction to a high standard if measures could be implemented to minimise 'over-dig' to the minimum. Suitable measures may include using shuttering to prevent soil falling into the excavated trench.

6.13 Shallow excavations within the RPAs of retained trees

In areas where shallow excavations are required within the RPAs of retained trees – less than 300mm deep – they should be carried out with hand tools and a pneumatic excavation lance such as an:

- 'Air-spade' – <https://www.airspade.com/> (accessed 03/01/20); or
- 'Soil pick' – <https://www.mbw.com/products/utility/pneumatic-soil-excavators> (accessed 03/01/20).

I recommend that suitable members of the project team, including the main contractor and Arboricultural Consultant, should assess where shallow excavations are required close to trees and prepare a method statement for carrying them out.

Treescaping Consultancy Ltd. have a Soil Pick and are able to assist with this work if required.

6.14 Tree establishment

A number of trees of suitable species could be established in appropriate locations to enhance the visual character of the site and ensure that trees remain part of the landscape for decades to come.

A tree planting plan showing the proposed site layout is shown in Plan 4. I recommend that all the planting schemes A-C should be established. Information on the plants, materials and maintenance are included in Appendix 8.

Areas where trees are to be established should be protected from soil compaction and contamination during the construction phase by the same design of temporary barriers and/or ground protection used to protect existing trees and the soil within their RPAs. Alternatively, if compacted or contaminated, the soil will have to be suitably remediated or replaced to enable the trees to grow.

6.15 Tree management – future inspections

Due to the size of a number of the trees, their condition and locations close to proposed residential buildings, roads, gardens, public open space, car parks and associated features, I recommend that they should be inspected every two to three years and after tree altering weather events, such as drought or windstorms, by a suitably qualified, experienced and insured Arboricultural Consultant.