NO MORE DIGGING NORTH EAST ENGLAND
RADIX Ground Screw installation team
Residential installation division of Radix Base Systems Ltd

Project Specific Ground Screw Installation Method Statement

Tree root protection requirements for proposed works

Issued by	Tom Bell, No More Digging North East England
Prepared for	Amber Valley Borough Council Trees and Conservation Officer
Site	8 Burland Green Lane, Weston Underwood, Derbyshire, DE6 4PF
Client	Mr K Edmondson
Installation contractor	No More Digging North East England / RADIX Ground Screws
Issue date	15 September 2026

Purpose

I have prepared this method statement on behalf of No More Digging North East England in response to the questions raised by the Amber Valley Borough Council Trees and Conservation Officer. It confirms the project-specific installation controls we will apply to protect the retained beech tree and its roots during the ground screw works. It addresses access, equipment, soil protection, installation, pile-position flexibility and the procedure for roots measuring 25 mm diameter or greater. We confirm that we have received and reviewed structural piling layout IKT6162_001 and the associated IKT calculations and recommendations, which we will retain for reference and follow when carrying out the installation.

Installer and system experience

No More Digging North East England is the residential installation division of Radix Base Systems Ltd and part of the RADIX Group. We provide site surveys and load testing, the supply and professional installation of RADIX Ground Screws, and bespoke base design and installation across our service area, including Derby. Our ground screw system provides a low-disturbance, no-dig foundation solution that minimises disruption to gardens, trees and natural habitats, including environmentally sensitive sites.

We regularly carry out RADIX Ground Screw installations at sites containing trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders and at other environmentally sensitive locations. Working within tree-protection requirements and adapting the installation to avoid harm to retained roots is therefore a familiar part of our work. The low-disturbance, no-dig installation method and the ability to adjust individual screw positions are among the reasons RADIX Ground Screws are commonly selected for projects of this nature.

Pre installation site investigation

We undertook a preliminary site investigation and ground testing exercise to assess the proposed foundation and piling area. Eight separate screw tests were distributed across the proposed development footprint during the witnessed testing, using two test units: one RADIX PRO 1550 M16 76 mm ground screw and one RADIX PRO 2050 M16 76 mm ground screw. No roots measuring 25 mm diameter or greater were encountered during the eight screw tests. The issued report describes the ground as rooty and recommends extendable screws with a minimum in-ground depth of 2050 mm to achieve the required loading.

The eight screw tests provide evidence of investigation across the foundation area but are not relied upon as proof that significant roots are absent from every final screw position. The root-avoidance procedure below therefore applies to every screw during installation.

Installation method

The following controls will be applied throughout the works and form the installation methodology for this project. Local adjustment of screw positions, including root avoidance and the root-bridging procedure described below, will be undertaken within this methodology and will not constitute a departure from it. If an unexpected condition arises that cannot be accommodated using these measures, work will stop at the affected location while an appropriate solution is agreed with the structural engineer and project arboriculturist.

Control	Required installation method
Installer and system	We will undertake the installation using the specified RADIX Ground Screw system. No More Digging is the residential installation division of Radix Base Systems Ltd.
Site investigation	We confirm that our feasibility investigation assessed the proposed foundation and piling area and included eight screw tests distributed across the proposed development footprint using the two test units. The ground was recorded as rooty, but we encountered no roots measuring 25 mm diameter or greater during those tests.
Access and equipment	We will use pedestrian access only. We will install the ground screws using hand-held or pedestrian-operated equipment; no heavy tracked plant will enter the protected rooting area.
Ground protection	Where repeated pedestrian access or material handling could compact the soil, we will install suitable temporary ground protection before work starts and retain it for the duration of the installation.
No-dig installation	We will install the ground screws rotationally without general excavation. We will not undertake pre-augering or other soil disturbance unless it has first been agreed with the project arboriculturist and any further approval required by the Local Planning Authority has been obtained.
Pile location flexibility	We may adjust individual screw positions locally where necessary to avoid significant roots, using the root-avoidance and bridging procedures described in this method statement. Where an adjustment would materially alter the supporting beam or base-frame arrangement, the revised detail will be confirmed with the structural engineer before installation continues at that location.
Roots encountered	If resistance or other evidence indicates that a root may be present at a proposed screw position, installation at that position will stop. The root will not be exposed, cut, severed or otherwise disturbed. The screw will be withdrawn and repositioned locally to avoid the suspected root, using the root-avoidance and bridging procedures described in this method statement.
Roots 25 mm or greater	We will not cut, sever or damage any root measuring 25 mm diameter or greater. If resistance indicates that a significant root may be present, the screw will be withdrawn and repositioned locally in accordance with this no-dig methodology. Routine local repositioning may be carried out by No More Digging without additional consultation. If a suitable alternative position cannot be achieved, the root-bridging contingency below will be followed.
Root bridging contingency	Where a suitable single-screw position cannot be achieved, additional ground screws may be installed in suitable root-free positions on either side of the retained root, allowing the supporting beam or base frame to bridge the root without disturbing it. This forms part of the installation methodology. The precise arrangement will be recorded on the as-built foundation layout. The structural engineer will be consulted only if the adjustment would materially alter the supporting beam or base-frame design.
Supervision and records	We will follow the approved arboricultural controls, accept any required arboricultural supervision and record material changes to pile positions or significant root encounters for the project file.

Sequence of works

1. Before installation, brief all operatives on the tree-protection controls and establish the pedestrian access route and any required temporary ground protection.
2. Set out the proposed screw positions from drawing IKT6162_001 and verify their relationship to the retained tree.
3. Install each screw rotationally using hand-held or pedestrian-operated equipment, with no general excavation or pre-augering.
4. Monitor each installation for evidence of, or resistance indicating, possible root interaction. If this occurs, stop at that position, withdraw the screw and follow the no-dig root-avoidance procedure stated above.
5. Where necessary, reposition an individual screw or, if this is not practicable, install suitable additional screws in root-free positions on either side so the supporting beam or base frame bridges the retained root. Record the arrangement on the as-built foundation layout and consult the structural engineer only if it would materially alter the supporting beam or base-frame design.
6. Record significant root encounters and all material changes to screw positions on the as-built foundation layout, then remove equipment and temporary protection without disturbing or compacting the rooting area.