

## Trooper Potts VC Memorial

### Root Protection Areas & risk of significant roots being found.

In March 2015 Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer, Planning & Building Control, Environment & Neighbourhood Services, Reading Borough Council advised us of the Root Protection areas of the nearby trees in Forbury Gardens.

There are three trees are close to the garden wall where the Roll of Honour will be positioned. They are, working from the garden entrance;



Lime Tree RPA 9.9m



Yew RPA 12m.



Lime Tree RPA of 9m

All the above RPAs run under the site of the Roll of Honour and the Sculpture. Details have been provided to the architect and the company that will construct the plinths and thus will undertake any excavation work, if it is required.

The company constructing the plinths (Francis Construction) have been advised of the following condition “...**if it is necessary to undertake excavation works on the site that these have to be done by hand and if any roots of 25mm diameter or above are discovered, work shall stop immediately until professional arboricultural advice has been obtained and Sarah Hanson of RBC is to be contacted in the first instance.**”

Their Construction Method Statement incorporates the phrase “**if excavation works are required below the modern roadway/ paving construction they will be undertaken by hand**”.

As proposed in our Planning Application (6.e.iii (7)) in May 2015, the gardener for Forbury Gardens undertook on our behalf exploratory excavation work to test for evidence of significant Tree roots on the garden side of the gardens wall next to the site of the Roll of Honour. The photo evidence is provided below.

We now also have evidence the thickness of the paving stone and the underlying foundations on site. This information suggests it will be very unlikely that we will find tree roots under the site. The information about the depth of the paving and underlying foundations is provided separately.

## Excavations at the other side of the wall from the planned Roll of Honour 12 May 15

If the plinths require the foundations they are not expected to exceed 400mm.

In order to test the risk of our finding tree roots under the paved area the gardener for Forbury Gardens dug on the other side of the wall next to the site of the Roll of Honour plinth.

As the ground in Forbury Gardens is 200mm lower than the paved area we need to see if significant tree roots could be found to the depth of 200mm on the garden side.

We found substantial foundations for the wall to Forbury Gardens - to a width of 250mm. The only roots were of the nearby Ceanothus. The gardener commented that **“nothing is going to get through that at the depth you are concerned about”**. Images are below



Richard Bennett

15 May 2015