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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in my capacity as the author of the Arboricultural Technical Note (Ref: 2240.01) regarding the retaining wall adjacent to Tree T1 at the Friends Meeting House site in central Manchester.

Following my assessment and input from engineers and other technical experts, I confirm that the preferred option for stabilising the structurally compromised wall is the installation of ground anchors. This method involves the installation of Platypus Earth Anchors driven through the wall and the soil behind. However, it is important to note that this approach may have implications for T1, particularly if significant roots lie within the proposed anchor position. To mitigate potential harm to the tree, I strongly recommend that a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey be undertaken prior to any works commencing. This survey should accurately locate significant root systems and allow the structural engineers to design an anchor layout that avoids or minimises impact on vital roots.

While some localised root damage may be unavoidable, my professional opinion is that if the GPR identifies areas of limited root activity, the wall stabilisation can proceed with minimal adverse effect on the tree's long-term health and stability. This balanced approach ensures both structural safety and arboricultural best practice.
I trust this clarifies the recommended path forward and am happy to discuss further or provide additional detail should you require it.

Yours sincerely,
Matthew Lally (MArborA)
Arboricultural Consultant.