



Landmark Trees

Our ref: JDL/17LDG/Ltr/01

28th November 2024

Dear Sirs,

Re: Lime trees at 15 Lyndhurst Gardens

I write following the email to you of the 25th of November 2024 regarding the condition of the lime trees standing along the boundary between Nos. 15 and 17 Lyndhurst Gardens. As it sets out, trial excavations for the replacement boundary wall footings revealed historic damage to the roots of all of the lime trees. I say historic on the basis of visual inspection: the exposed wood is mostly of dull grey-brown colour, as opposed to more vibrant yellow-brown, coated in pink fibrous bast. I have enclosed various photographs illustrating this damage for your convenience. The proximity of the damage to the stems and the diameter of root affected leads me to consider it likely this damage has had such an effect on the stability of the trees that they pose an intolerable risk. As Richard notes, LB Camden's Arboricultural Officer is of the same opinion that the damage is historic and significant enough in his estimation to warrant prompt felling under planning exemption as a hazard.

There are two potential options to reduce the risk the trees pose, carrying out a significant pruning operation or removing and replacing them. As Photograph 4 below shows, there is not much left of the trees to prune without leaving them as poles and undermining their long-term health. This would though be the cheaper initial option although there would be a perpetual need for cyclical pruning and the trees would have little to no amenity value.

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Removing and replacing the trees would be the more expensive option initially but the selection of columnar cultivars such as those shown in Photograph 5 would mean the expense and nuisance of cyclical pruning would be avoided. It would be possible to appoint the same company to supply, plant and maintain the trees for the requisite period thereby ensuring a single chain of responsibility.

The decision is of course your client's to make but my professional advice would be to adopt the latter course of action and fell the trees, grind out their stumps and replant with a columnar cultivar of a native species.

I trust the above provides sufficient information at this time but please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information.

Yours Sincerely

Adam Hollis
MSc Arb

Encs: Photographs



Photograph 1: Example of damaged roots uncovered



Photograph 2: Further damaged roots



Photograph 3: Damaged roots to all limes on neighbouring property



Photograph 4: Current form of subject trees



Photograph 5: Established planting of a columnar cultivar