

**Tree work Contractors and Consultants
R.G.Usher - Director of Arboriculture**

TREE REPORT

Kerr Parker Associates Ltd

Site Address: 7 & 8 St Katharine's Precinct

- We inspected the site on Thursday 8th May 2008
- We understand that it is proposed to excavate within the rear garden of 7&8 St Katharine's Precinct to create an underground extension to within 2m of the rear boundary wall.
- We understand our instructions to be to assess the implications of such an excavation upon a FIG tree located within number 9 St Katharine's Precinct and upon an ASH tree and PLANE tree located in the side garden of number 2 Gloucester Gate.

The FIG tree in the rear garden of No.9 St Katharine's Precinct is a small tree 3.5m in height growing in a brick planter close to the boundary wall. This wall is approximately 2m in height. It appears to be a 9 inch brick wall of considerable age.

We consider it very unlikely that roots from this FIG tree would have grown beneath the foundations of this wall and into the rear garden of number 8. We consequently advise, that the effect on this tree of the proposed excavations would be very slight.

The situation regarding the ASH and the PLANE trees in Gloucester Gate is more complex. The canopy of the ASH tree overhangs the gardens of both 7 and 8 and it would be reasonable to expect that its root spread might extend into those two gardens. However, there is a substantial brick built wall which abuts the alleyway leading to the outer circle. This wall is the flank boundary of the properties in Gloucester Gate. It stands about 3m high and it must be expected to have considerable footings to support such a structure. It is possible however, that the root plates of this tree could have extended to the rear gardens of 7 and 8 and that the proposed excavations, might as a consequence, affect its health and stability.

Under British Standard BS5837 2005, trees in relation to construction recommendations, some encroachment to enable building work is accepted provided this is limited to no more than 20% on one side only. Our understanding of this document is that, the proposed encroachment would fall within these recommendations.

However, in order to set our clients mind at rest in this respect, I have instructed some trial pits to be excavated in both gardens to determine the degree of root encroachment. I have enclosed photographs of the pits as supporting documentation. None of the pits revealed significant root encroachment, and the severing of any of the roots involved would not effect either the health or stability of this tree.

It must be assumed from this that the boundary wall has acted as a root barrier diverting the root spread of this tree elsewhere.

The location of the PLANE tree and its proximity to the ASH would lead us to believe that this tree is not at risk from the proposed excavation.

Some parts of the crowns of both trees do overhang the gardens of 7 & 8, and care will need to be taken of these branches during the excavation and construction phase.

Some light lifting work may be required to ensure extremities are not damaged.

SUMMARY

Low risk evaluated to the health and stability of FIG tree located in number 9 St Katharine's Precinct from excavation works in number 8.

Low risk evaluated to the health and stability of mature ASH located in Gloucester Gate from excavations in 7 and 8 St Katharine's Precinct.

Low risk evaluated to the health and stability of PLANE tree located in Gloucester Gate from excavations in 7 and 8 St Katharine's Precinct.

Photographs from trial pits enclosed.