

SIMON JONES ASSOCIATES Ltd.

ARBORICULTURAL PLANNING CONSULTANTS

Arboricultural Consultancy - Tree Surveys
Planning & Development - Hazard & Safety
Tree & Woodland Management - Expert Witnesses

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The Director of Planning
London Borough of Camden
Camden Town Hall
Judd Street
London WC1H 9JE

9th December, 2011

Dear Sirs,

Ref.: Town & Country Planning Act: Section 198(6)(a) Notice.
2 Fitzroy Close, Highgate, N6 6JT.

I write to notify you formally of our clients' intention to fell one cherry tree subject to a Tree Preservation Order at the above address.

The Tree Preservation Order was made in October 2007 following receipt of a notification of an intention to fell two cherry trees at this address (ref. 2007/4819/T).

The tree is a small ornamental cherry, between 5 and 6m in height, situated in the front garden of the property, adjacent to the north-west corner of the house and overhanging the road itself; it is the more westerly of two cherry trees in this location.

When inspected during the summer of 2011 it was extremely sparsely foliated (see **Photos #1** and **#2** below). Many twigs and sub-branches contained no leaves at all, others contained only a few and these were markedly of a smaller size than those on the adjacent tree to the north and much yellower in colour. The extent of die-back and sparsity of foliage is such that the tree is most unlikely to be able to recover and is therefore moribund. There is simply not enough photosynthesising material within the tree to provide the starch it will need to survive.

No clear reason for the demise of this tree can be seen. However, I noted that the ground levels around the bases of both trees appears to have been covered with a geotextile membrane with pea shingle above. No buttress roots are visible at the bases of either tree and it is quite probable therefore, that the positioning of this membrane has restricted the amount of water and oxygen available to the roots of the tree, and is also preventing the replenishment of any organic matter within the soil through leaf fall etc. However, ornamental cherries tend to be both short-lived and prone to disease; so the decline of this specimen is neither uncommon nor unexpected.

Accordingly, I regard this tree to now be exempt from the TPO regulations in that it is dying.



Photo #1: View of cherry tree (from the west) on 13th July 2011. Note sparseness of foliage of subject tree in foreground compared to other cheery behind.



Photo #2: View of cherry tree (from the north) on 13th July 2011. Sparseness of foliage readily apparent. Healthy foliage in upper left of picture is from the other cherry to the east.

I look forward to an acknowledgement of the receipt of this Notice: if you have any comments or queries about the proposed works please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number or address.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Jones

SIMON JONES ASSOCIATES LTD.