2 Hampstead Square London NW3 1AB

Architect's Report and photos
To accompany a Conservation Area Application for Tree Felling, 28th June 2011

Introduction
These photos and photomontages are in support of an application to fell a very mature Sycamore tree and replace it with a Cherry tree in the Hampstead Conservation Area. The tree is covered by a Tree Protection Order but, as the attached arboricultural report by Honey Tree Specialists shows, has been subject to many years of heavy pruning, is in a frail state, and now has been found to have a dangerous fault line of poor bonding between the two stems.

The Site
2 Hampstead Square is a Grade II Listed building dating from 1720s and has a small walled garden on the north side dominated by the Sycamore tree that is the subject of this application. The tree is only half a meter away from the original basement vault just below the garden surface and only 1.4m from the 18th C garden wall behind.   While the tree serves to form a visual barrier between Stamford Close and Hampstead Square, this function could be fulfilled by a smaller semi-mature replacement tree located a little further from the listed building and wall.

Existing Photos

Planning History
An application was submitted in 2008 (Ref. 2008/4291/T) for the felling of a cherry and the same sycamore. The felling of the cherry was later approved (Ref. 2009/0430/T) but the Sycamore refused.   The fragile state of the bonding between the two main stems had not been identified at that point and the proximity of the basement vault beneath the garden had not been drawn to the tree officer's attention in that application.

Pre-planning advice
Advice from Camden's tree officer was sought from Alex Hutson by email sent on Wednesday, May 18, 2011. He responded: "The Council will [need to] make a site visit to assess the application and inspect the tree and consider any replacement proposals. We also consult neighbouring residents for their views. Until this time, I can not give you an indication of whether your application would be approved."

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Existing & Proposed (photomontage, showing replacement cherry)

Existing

Proposed replacement tree