

## Gentet, Matthias

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**From:** Vicki Harding <vickiruthharding@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 14 July 2014 09:57  
**To:** Planning; Planning; Bell, Nick  
**Subject:** 2014/3825/T 26a FrognaI

Dear Sir,

re: 2014/3825/T 26a FrognaI

I am writing to object to the application to fell the ash in the front garden at this address.

There is insufficient data to accuse the ash tree of causing cracking. There is no movement monitoring to demonstrate excessive seasonal movement, the borehole data is hand written and the detail almost invisible. No details of the crack sizes and position have been given. As is frequently the case with this particular company:

*"We have not inspected wood work, damp proof courses, services, foundations except where exposed, or any other part of the structure which was covered, unexposed or inaccessible, and we are therefore unable to report any such part free from defect."*

In other words no tests have been done to discover the cause of the cracking and the tree has been blamed despite a lack of evidence for this too.

The roots on the underside of the foundations are 7mm thick - this is not large enough to be causing movement by direct pressure, yet these are not fine roots that would be taking up water. There is no water here - the foundations are keeping the rain off - it is dry, though not severely dessicated - hence no rootlets.

The roots at 1.0-1.6m depth are fine. These are related to the depth of the ground water found in the borehole, indicating that the tree is keeping the below-ground water in balance for the property. This evidence would seem to indicate a high likelihood of problems if the tree were taken out.

The soil here is likely to contain a large amount of silt - this is near the boundary of Claygate Beds and band D of the London Clay Formation (a spring line in fact, hence the water in the boreholes). I cannot read the borehole data well to confirm this. A much more likely cause of cracking here is washing out of the silt

from the soil below the foundations - loss of volume. This could be from the frequent mains pipe failures that occur in this road - this caused by loss of support for pipe foundation/support - or could be from basement or extension building (common in Hampstead) causing differential subsidence or ground water flow constraint.

Please would you place a TPO upon this tree - it certainly warrants it - and refuse to allow the felling or any severe pruning of this tree for reasons of subsidence until this company actually provides evidence that there are no other causes of the cracking.

I am pleased to note that OCA do not consider other trees to be a factor, and hope that they do not - on refusal of this felling - then turn to the street trees for something to do.

Yours faithfully

Vicki Harding

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*Dr Vicki Harding*

*Voluntary Tree Officer Heath & Hampstead Society*

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