

**From:** Scott Fitzgerald <[scott@urbangreen-space.co.uk](mailto:scott@urbangreen-space.co.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Fitzjohns Ave

**Date:** 25 August 2015 12:41:53 BST

**To:** Pravin Muthiah

Hi Pravin,

The tree is less than 2m from the property and it could be argued that it should be removed regardless of proposals due to its position. I have shown the image to other staff in the office which includes arboriculturists, landscape architects and ecologists and all agree that this is a C category tree. I would classify a B category tree as one that has the ability to become an A category and this particular specimen has no chance of becoming an A category tree.

The main stem has ivy covering it which grows into the lower crown, so potential structural defects are obscured. It has been poorly pruned previously by being 'topped'. When a tree is topped, adventitious buds from meristematic tissue below the bark are triggered to produce sprout growth which grows into the newly formed crown that can now be seen. When trees are topped, decay tends to spread rapidly and lead to hollow stubs that have to support the new branches which, in turn, have a high potential for failure. The tree therefore requires topping on a regular basis to reduce the likelihood of branch failure and when topped again, leads to further problems and a loss of amenity when the crown is removed. Topping a tree also has the potential to cause unforeseen problems within the rooting area as the removal of the foliage means the tree is no longer able to produce food to feed its other parts including roots. Once topped, a tree can go into a spiral of decline and is unable to fully recover.

The tree is situated very close to the subject property and has clearly outgrown its position. This is further proven by the obvious need to prune it so drastically. Shigo states that when a tree needs to be topped, then it is time for a new tree (Shigo, A., 1991, Modern Arboriculture).