



Dear Sir,

The Heath & Hampstead Society have already objected to this rear garden development. I should like to comment further on the trees on this site.

The 2 oak trees T1 and T2 are described in the Arboricultural Report as 'mature'. The consultant concerned is probably unaware that there are many historic veteran trees in this area that originally stood along the hedgerow lines of the field boundaries here. While veteran trees are usually of large girth, the hedgerow trees here and on Hampstead Heath are often of smaller girth despite being more than 250 years old, no doubt due to past ground compaction by animals, periodic waterlogging from the many streams and seeps in the area and competition from other hedgerow trees and shrubs. These trees demonstrate well the previous hedgerow competition: as with other veteran hedgerow oak trees on the Heath and nearby in the town their trunks are often quite angular and contorted.

I enclose an OS map from 1866 which is exceedingly accurate for mature trees. We can therefore be certain that the 2 oak trees in the rear garden of 59 Redington Road are the 2 I have marked, meaning they are *at least* 250 years old possibly a lot older. The hedgerow boundaries can still be seen to be reflected in garden boundaries in places, which with a comparison with subsequent OS maps ensures we can be certain about their position. Consequently these trees are in fact category A - trees of historic, landscape and cultural value - not B.

The Heath & Hampstead Society and the Hampstead and Redington Froggnal Neighbourhood Forums are very anxious to protect these important trees and the green corridors linking the veteran trees on the Heath and in the town. It is vital that the unique biodiversity - the invertebrates and fungi - associated with veteran trees are able to move along these corridors to replenish themselves. For this reason the Natural England Standing Advice for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees has been produced.

I request that if this application is passed or another is re-submitted, the tree plan be re-drawn using the advice by Natural England to ensure that sufficient RPZs of 15 metres are used and not encroached upon by the planned building and its construction, and that no branches, alive or dead (dead wood in these trees is of immense biodiversity value), are removed to make it easy or possible to construct any building that might be planned. Outside the 15 metre RPZs, where tree roots from T2 are encountered, then hand digging must be used.

I am concerned that the Design and Access statement, in the absence of a construction management plan, does not mention how access to the site by construction vehicles is to be made or where materials are to be stored. While this might not be considered necessary for such a building, in this case with veteran trees on site, I feel this is important.

I also request that an arboricultural expert with *veteran tree experience* supervise this or any future building work in this area, and that s106s are made to ensure that the RPZs of these trees are protected to their full extent, and that storage of any materials is NOT made over these RPZs.

David Humphrey of the Corporation of London who looks after veteran trees on the Heath, has for past developments involving veteran tree work in this area agreed to be available for advice.

Vicki Harding

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Dr Vicki Harding
Voluntary Tree Officer Heath & Hampstead Society



HENDON, ST JOHN HAMPSTEAD & ST PANCRAS P^{NS}

