



Arboricultural Consultancy

Report on Individual Tree of Heaven



Located at

69 Avenue Road, London NW8 6HP.

Instructions

I have been asked by Mr. Trevor Clapp of Foundation Architecture Ltd, acting for the owner of 69 Avenue Road, to carry out a visual inspection of a single Tree of Heaven located at the front of the property and to report on its condition. The tree is the subject of a Tree Preservation Order. This report has been commissioned to support a Tree Work Application and to justify its removal. Details of my qualifications and experience are appended to this report.

The Site Visit

I visited the site on Thursday 14th July 2016 arriving at approximately 08.00. The weather was dry and overcast. I carried out the inspection unaccompanied. The tree was inspected from ground level without the use of specialist equipment. No soil or tissue samples were taken. I returned on Monday 19th September to gather further information. The weather conditions were similar. My observations are recorded below.

Tree Location

The tree is located to the front of the property within 1m of a single storey structure. Its position is circled in red on the drawing below. (A larger scale plan will be submitted with the application.)



Tree Details



Species:	Tree of Heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>)
Age:	Mature
Height:	23m
Crown Spread:	14m
Diameter (at 1.5m):	950mm

Tree Condition

The tree is growing in a hard (tarmac) surface and is approximately 1m from the nearest single storey built structure. Damage (believed to be caused by tree roots) was noted to the drive and the retaining brickwork around the root plate. No root plate movement or fungal fruiting bodies were observed. Vitality and annual shoot extension are normal. There is developing decay at approximately 2.5 m on the south western side where a large limb has been removed which is approximately 400mm in diameter. A substantial cavity has formed which is evident from 40mm on the south western side and 120mm on the north western side. It extends approximately 400mm into the main stem and down to approximately 450mm**.



The Cavity Viewed from the Side and from Above.

There are several other small pockets of decay on structural limbs where branches have been removed. The most significant of these are 4m west on a north bound structural limb (approximately 150mm diameter) and at 12m on structural limb at the centre of the crown (approximately 100mm diameter).

** The cavity was probed with a steel rod and drilled to the southwest, northwest and south east just below the opening using an IML Resi MD300. This is a partially calibrated microdrill which gives a good indication of the level of decay.

Other Factors

There is potential for extending the existing property or complete re-development of the site. The location of the tree severely restricts the client's options. Retention of the tree is likely to cause him to abandon any such intentions. (Design Statement 522 prepared by Foundation Architecture, showing possible development options, is appended to the application.)

The view of the tree from the road is considerably obscured by two 'B' category (BS5837:2012) trees – a Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) to the left and a Pear (*Pyrus* sp.) to the right. My client would like to remove the tree and is prepared to prepare a new landscape scheme containing more suitable species.

The Tree of Heaven is a highly invasive non-native species which has raised many concerns among conservationists. It grows rapidly, produces large quantities of seed and can grow from suckers. It thrives in poor soil. These factors mean it can quickly colonise new areas. It is also allelopathic (releases toxins which restrict the growth of other plants).

Conclusions

Whilst the tree has some arboricultural merit, it has a significant cavity in the main stem. This, along with its proximity to the building, limited visual impact on the street scene and the invasive nature of the species coupled with the limitations it imposes on development justify its removal.

Recommendations

Fell and replace with a more suitable native species.



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Qualifications and experience of Arboricultural Consultant

I have been practising forestry since 1974 and the related discipline of arboriculture since 1997. I have worked on a number of private estates and carried out work for large companies and private individuals. I have been involved in practical tree work, project management, tree inspections & reports, Tree Preservation Orders and woodland management. I have prepared reports relating to development sites, health and safety and mortgage issues and acted as an Expert Witness.

My clients include:-

- Gascoyne Cecil Estates
- Carington Estates
- Strutt & Parker
- The Portman Estate
- Buckingham Town Council
- Gorhambury Estate
- Canopy Land Use
- London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
- Babcock International
- Lafarge Aggregates
- Crown Estate Management
- Tring School for the Performing Arts
- Hedgerley Parish Council
- Gerrards Cross Town Council

I am a Professional Member of The Arboricultural Association and The Consulting Arborist Society, a Practitioner Member of The Institute of Environmental Management. I also hold memberships of The Royal Forestry Society and the Small Woods Association. I have attended a LANTRA 'Arboriculture and Bats' course and National Trust courses on Veteran Tree Management and Veteranisation.

My qualifications include:-

- Technicians Certificate (Arboricultural Association)
- Diploma in Forest Management
- IEMA Associate Certificate in Environmental Management
- FdSc Arboriculture Pests Diseases & Weeds Module (merit)
- ISA Certified Arborist
- City & Guilds Forestry Stages 1 & 2
- Lantra Professional Tree Inspection Award
- RHS Certificate in Horticulture

I am licensed to carry out AMUIG Mortgage Reports and a licensed user of the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment and CAVAT methods.