

# **The English Tree Company Ltd**

## **Arboricultural Consultant's Report**

**The Meadows, off Blanche Lane, South Mimms  
Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 3PB**

**Tel: 01707 654069 Fax: 01707 649814**

### **Tree Inspection**

**at**

**64 BELSIZE PARK GARDENS**

**LONDON NW3**

Ref: 1115

20 September 2016

## INTRODUCTION

I have been commissioned to advise on the health of trees within the site of the property, the tree is located to the front of 64 Belsize Park Gardens, which is within a Conservation Area.

I confirm that I am a Fellow of the Arboricultural Association, and have attained the Royal Forestry Society Professional Diploma in Arboriculture.

I have over 25 years of experience in tree inspection and arboricultural reporting. I devised and managed basic and advanced tree inspection courses whilst section head of Arboriculture at Capel Manor College. I have provided expert witness services and given expert evidence in Planning Inquiries, Magistrates, County and the High Courts. I was a “significant contributor” to the publication “Lonsdale L (1999) Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management HMSO”. I am a LANTRA Registered “Professional Tree Inspector”.

***Before undertaking any work to any of the trees, statutory controls should be checked. If Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) cover any of the trees, and / or if the site is in a Conservation Area then no works can be undertaken without the relevant statutory processes being followed.***

## LIMITATIONS

Inspection was carried out on the basis of ground level, visual examination of external features of each individual tree. The principal objective of the survey was to identify trees, or parts of trees, which appear to be in a hazardous condition and to advise remedial action to ameliorate the risk they could represent to users of the site and adjacent areas.

Visual assessment, in accordance with accepted arboricultural practice, was based on apparent vitality (leaf cover, extension growth), presence of deadwood and die back, fractured and detached limbs, evidence of excessive basal movement and external indications of stem and basal decay likely to affect the structural condition of the tree.

Trees and shrubs are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly. The health, condition and safety of trees should be checked on a regular basis, preferably at least once a year, and conclusions and recommendations are only valid for a period of 1 year. These periods of validity may be reduced in the case of any change in conditions in proximity to the trees or buildings. This assessment of the level of risk posed by trees, either individually or collectively is based on the available evidence, current published works, recognised professional opinion and my experience in these matters.

**The Brief**

I have been asked to report on:

1. The health and safety of the tree within the site and appropriate management options.

**Inspection method**

The inspection was undertaken from ground level only to assess the aerial parts.

Percussion testing was used to test stems where appropriate.

The report and recommendations relate to the condition of the trees and of their surroundings at the time of inspection only.

**FINDINGS & OPINION**

The tree details and recommendations are included within the Schedule of trees and are marked on a sketch plan.

The subject tree is well within their species' potential rooting and influencing distances of buildings (which have basements) and I am unaware of any current or previous subsidence damage. There are cracks to nearby walls, paths and light structures which are almost certainly due to the influence of tree roots.

Plane T1 appears to have been originally pollarded at around 7-8m above ground and by its age and size I consider that the tree is possibly close to contemporary with the date of construction of the building, around the mid to late 1800's. T1 has a moderate growth potential if left unattended. The crown of the tree will come into contact with the building if no action is taken and the crown imbalance over the road could lead to branch failure of long laterals. There were no obvious signs of recent branch drop, however the species is prone to a fungal disease (*Massaria*) that makes lateral branched brittle and liable to failure. Indications of this fungus should be assessed.

Any tree works would be affected by the local parking restrictions.

## REFERENCES

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### Schedule of Trees

**Species** – Common Name

**Age** – Fully Mature (FM), Mature (M), Early Mature (EM), Semi Mature (SM), Young (Y)

**Condition** – Good, Fair, Poor, Dying, Dead

**Height** – Estimated in metres

**Spread** – Average Spread in metres

**DBH** – Diameter at Breast Height in millimetres

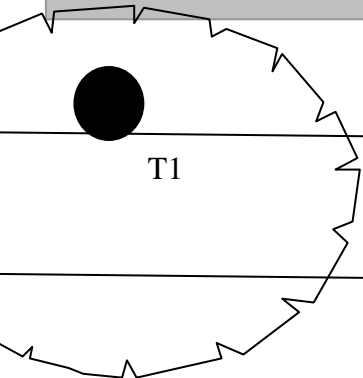
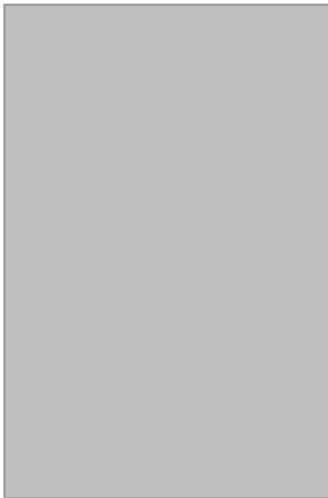
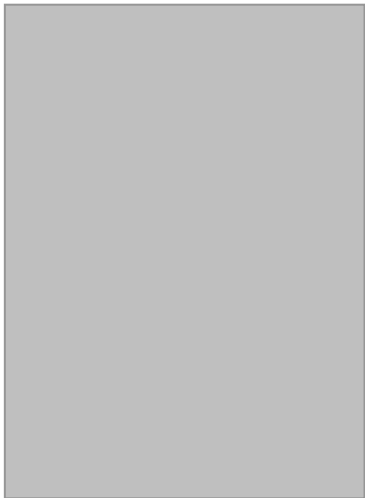
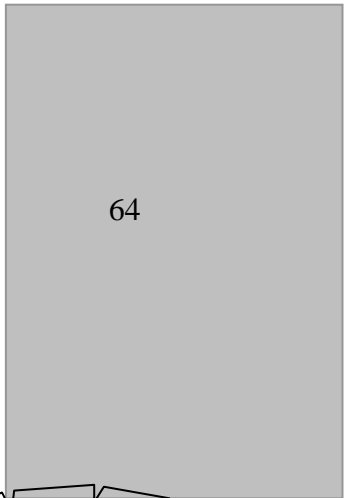
Tree	Species	Age	Condition	Height	Spread	Diam.	Comments	Recommendations
1	Plane	Mature	Fair	17	6.5	970	Evidence of past pruning, crown unbalanced to roadside. Multi stemmed habit with main fork at 2.5m and further divisions in main scaffolds at around 8m. The foliage appears normal and healthy. Crown extends close to building.	Reduce and re-shape crown to improve balance. Reduce height by 7m, reduce spread by up to 4.5m. Climbing inspection of lateral branches for any discolouration and other signs of Massaria infection.

All tree works to comply to BS3998 (2010)



T1

Sketch Plan and photograph of tree location



T1

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