



7th December 2017

Ref:ha/let1rpt1/99canfieldrd

Your Ref:

Mr D Agostino
99 Canfield Road
London
NW6 3DY

Dear Mr Agostino

Tree Inspection and Recommendations – 99 Canfield Road, London, NW6

You have requested that I carry out a visual inspection of two Lime trees growing in the rear garden of your property, with a view to assessing their condition and making recommendations for tree management as appropriate to their condition and setting.

I carried out a site and tree inspection on 1st December 2017 and I am pleased to provide my observation and recommendations as follows. I have prepared a sketch plan with both trees identified and I refer to them as T1 and T2.

I understand the trees subject of this report are protected by virtue that they are growing within a conservation area. Consequently, authorisation for any tree work is required from the Council in advance of any work commencing. The property is a residential house (ground floor apartment), with access to and use of the whole garden area. I understand you are responsible for the upkeep of the trees in your garden.

T1 – Common Lime

The tree is mature and stands around 14m in height. Its trunk diameter is 550mm. The tree appears to be growing with normal vitality, evident by the density of shoots and buds. The tree has been pollarded (removal of all stems and branches to a given point above ground level) and reduced in height and spread also. The tree does carry a number of structural defects.

At the tree's base, open cavities exist and the trunk is partially hollow, which is confirmed by tapping with a sounding mallet. In spite of the cavities and hollowness, strong and thick wound wood has formed around the cavity openings. Coupled with previous size reduction work, the tree is, in my view reasonably safe but I recommend that some further size reduction work is carried out in the form of re-pollarding. This work will further reduce the size of the tree and reduce wind purchase and stress placed upon the weakened trunk area. I note a number of decay areas at the sites of previous pollarding and it will be sensible to reduce the length of the stems for general tree management and safety reasons, particularly given that the tree is located within a residential garden, used frequently throughout the year.

Fig. 1 T1 Lime With decayed trunk cavity and pollarded canopy – dashed line of new pollarding



T2 – Common Lime

This tree appears to have been permitted to grow somewhat taller than T1 and stands around 17m in height. Its trunk is around the same diameter at 500mm. The tree has been reduced in the past and it is clear why this has been carried out because the base of the tree is significantly decayed. However, unlike T1, which is relatively upright and even, this tree leans north in the opposite direction to the side of the decay, which is on the tree's southern side. The decay is extensive and well-established. Dead wood decay fungi are present in the base (*Ramaria* spp.), which indicates the longevity of the wood decay.

I note flattened form of the trunk above the open cavity at the base, which can be an indication of trunk weakening, in advance of complete failure. Certainly, the extent of the decay at the base is severe and given the position of the decay and the majority of the weight leaning away from the weakened area, the flattening effect if the trunk is consistent with a weakened trunk structure. I also note the darkened colour of the bark, which is often associated with internal weakness in Lime in my experience.

It is possible to retain this tree with heavy pollarding, which would remove at least 50-60% of the tree, leaving a tall stump to re-sprout new shoots. I am not convinced that this tree will tolerate this type of tree work and which may lead only to further decline and decay, triggered by the imbalance of energy resources distributed throughout the tree, when

heavy pruning takes place. Aggressive wood-decay fungi take advantage of a weakened tree system, causing roots to be colonised by cell-killing mycelia and bacteria.

Bearing in mind the above structural problems with this tree, coupled with the residential location and presence of many other trees in the area, I recommend that this tree be removed completely. This will eliminate the risk of failure but, owing to the presence of other trees locally, will not impact adversely upon the quality of the conservation area.

Fig. 2 T2 Lime with extensive decay (arrowed) and flattened area of trunk (circled)



Description of Proposed Tree Works:

Tree Ident. and location*	Tree Dimensions** (approx.)	Proposed Works (refer to spec.)	Summary Reasons
T1 Lime	14 x 3 x 550	Pollard to 8m (remove 5-6m from height) (Sp7)	Decayed base; reduce canopy area and wind purchase; reduce risk of branch and stem failure
T2 Lime	17 x 3 x 500	Fell (Sp6)	Extensive decay in trunk base;

*refer to plan **Tree Dimensions are height in metres x radial canopy spread in metres x trunk diameter in millimetres

Specifications for recommended tree works:General

All work is to conform to BS 3998:2010 'Tree work – Recommendations' and with current arboricultural best practice. Tree works are to be undertaken by a professional and specialist arboricultural contractor, who carries the appropriate experience and insurance cover, equipment and PPE. All works and processes are to comply with all relevant Planning, Wildlife, Environmental, Conservation and Health and Safety legislation.

Sp6. Felling involves the careful removal of a tree to ground level (or other specified height), either in sections or in one unit (straight felling). The method of felling will be suited to the constraints of the site and judged by the competent operator undertaking the task. Removing the stump may be part of the requirements and this will be carried out using a mechanical stump grinder where accessible.

Sp7. Pollarding means cutting a tree in order to encourage formation of numerous branches arising from the same height on the main stem or principal branches. Re-pollarding means removal of all re-growth to but not beyond the point of previous pollarding.

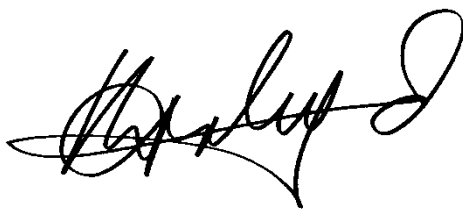
In conclusion, T1 is structurally sound provided the tree is reduced (pollarded) by 5-6m and T2 is too decayed to retain safely or effectively.

I recommend that the proposed tree works be carried out professionally and as soon as practicable (before February 2018) and with all necessary authority.

Finally, I recommend that you continue to re-inspect your trees professionally within three years of the above work being completed.

I hope that the above is clear and helpful but if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

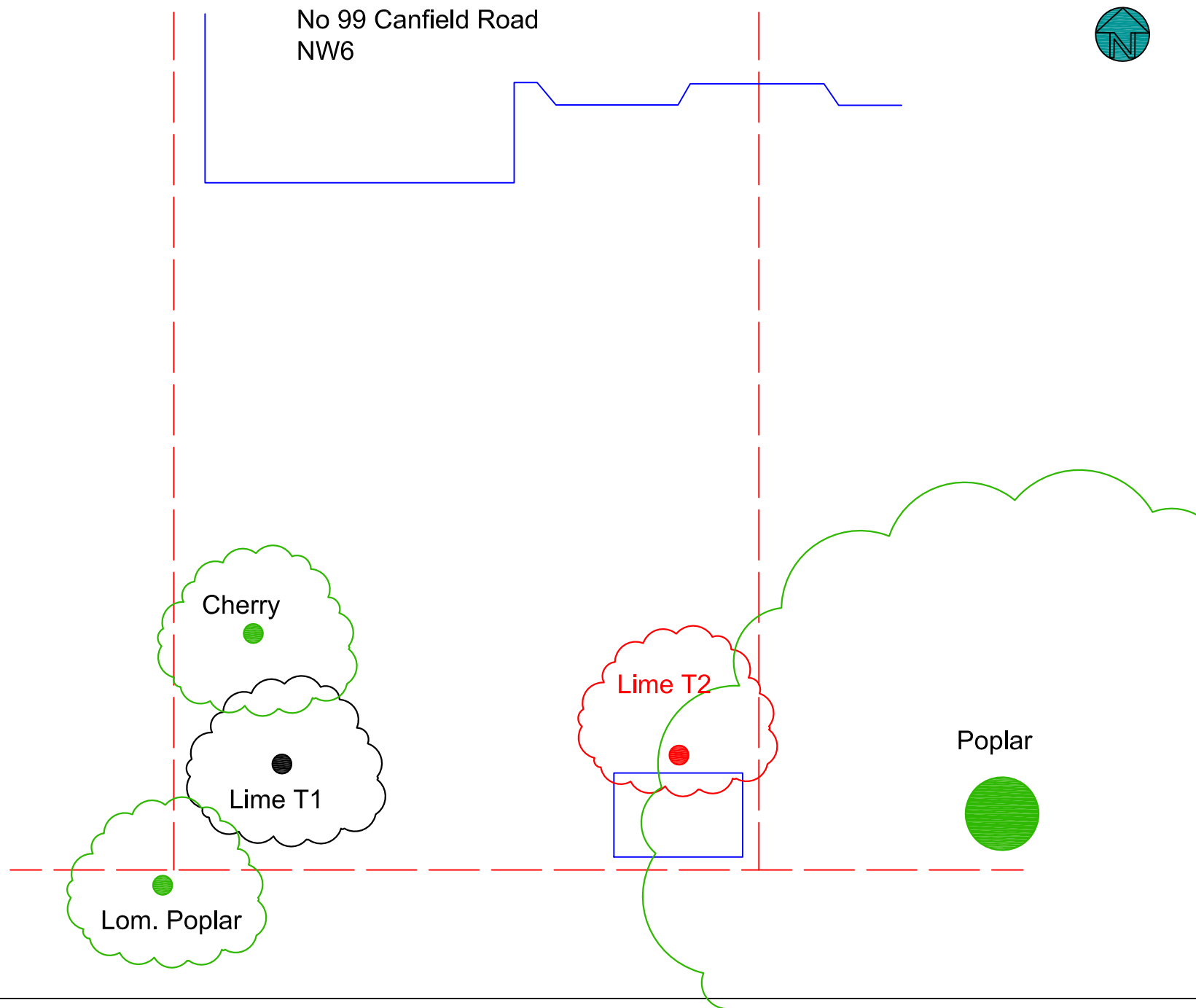


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enc. Sketch plan



Indicative



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Tree Management Consultants

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London
NW6 3DY

Client:

Mr D Angostino

Date: 01.12.17

Ref: 99canfieldrd/sk1

Note: Sketch Plan Only - Not to
Scale
Not all site features shown;
boundaries are approximate.