



15th February 2018

Our Ref: ha//let1/25ehrd

Your Ref:

Ms K Flowers
25 East Heath Road
Hampstead
London
NW3 1EB

Dear Ms Flowers

Tree at rear of 25 East Heath Road, NW3 1EB

1. Further to your instructions, I carried out a site and tree inspection at the above address on 24th January 2018.

2. You have asked that I inspect the tree for its general safety and suitability to the location and to provide any recommendations for tree management that are appropriate to ensure the house and garden are maintained in an acceptably safe condition.

3. I understand the tree in question is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and as such any applications for tree work, must be accompanied by an arboriculturist's report.

4. The Site and Tree (sketch plan attached)

5. The tree subject of this report grows at the northern edge of a paved rear garden area, which serves the ground floor apartment of No 25 East Heath Road. The garden is adjoined upon the northern and eastern sides by Hampstead Heath woodland, comprising many mature trees and understorey vegetation.

6. The tree is a mature False Acacia. It stands around 17m in height with a canopy spreading between 3m and 5m in all compass directions. The canopy extends further south over the garden area. The trunk measures 420mm in diameter at breast height (1.5m). The trunk sweeps south, out toward the rear of the house and leans out over the garden. The base of the tree abuts the northern boundary brick wall.

7. I note that decay has developed at the trunk's base upon the northern side. The bark is loose and unattached to the wood tissue beneath. An area of around 20cm by 20 cm is affected in this way. The dead wood beneath the bark covering has been infected by wood-degrading fungi but no fruting bodies were evident during my inspection to assist with fungal identification. However, it is very common for False Acacia trees to be colonised by *Laetiporus sulphureus* (common name 'Chicken of the Woods'). This is a

well-recognised wood-decay fungus, which causes internal wood degradation (brown rot) and strength loss, leading to a brittle fracture. Commonly, with False Acacia, only a thin residual wall (outer ring of sound wood) is left to support the tree. There is no evidence at this stage that internal wood has significantly decayed but it is clear that some strength loss has occurred upon the side of the trunk which is placed under high tensile forces, as the tree leans out to the south (opposite) to the side of the decayed area. Decayed wood under tension is at higher risk of failure than wood, which is decayed but not under tension.

8. I also note that the rooting spread of the tree, which for normal support and anchorage would grow radially in all compass directions, has been significantly restricted from growing north by the position of the brick boundary wall. It is possible that some roots may have extended underneath the footings of the wall but I believe insufficient to afford the tree with normal and effective anchorage. Roots will have been deflected, by the position of the wall and its footings, to grow more to the east and west and doubtless also grow south, toward the house (under the paving stones), without restriction. These roots offer some support but crucially, roots to the north are probably absent in any effective quantity. I have already stated that the tree grows south toward the house and the majority of the tree's weight therefore hangs over the garden area. For effective support, especially in windy conditions and when additional weight is added to the tree from rain, leaf emergence and from falls of snow falls, roots growing northward would need to be robust and effective in the case of this tree. This support is significantly impaired and reduced, the result being the development of a risk of the tree up-rooting or breaking from the base. I believe this risk to be moderate¹.

9. Where there is deemed to be a moderate risk of failure, over an assessment period of 12 months, tree management intervention is warranted in my view. In this case, tree pruning to reduce the tree's height and spread is an option, and could be carried out without being too detrimental to the quality of the tree. However, crown reduction pruning, whilst might reduce the wind purchase upon the tree and the weight exerted upon its asymmetrical root system, charged with supporting the whole tree, such work would lead to a disfigured form and the production of root sucker shoots, bearing large thorns. This is unreasonably problematic in the residential setting. Certain species are more prone to the production of root sucker shoots, including False Acacia and Poplar species for example. Where this is the case, and where the tree is one set against a backdrop of a dense, established woodland supporting many mature trees, it seems entirely reasonable to remove the tree in favour for a replacement tree in a more suitable location and which is commensurate to the garden size and location. I have provided a table of recommended tree works below.

Description of Recommended Tree Works:

Tree Ident. and location*	Tree Dimensions** (approx.)	Proposed Works (refer to spec.)	Summary Reasons
T1 False Acacia	17 x 5 x 420	Fell(Sp6) and replace	Slender tree with poor, asymmetric rooting spread and low quality anchorage; Decay at base in tension wood; Limited realistic options for effective pruning
		Suggested replacement planting: Rowan - <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> 20cm girth in planting bed	Replacement with native tree with ecological benefits and suited to the woodland setting

*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

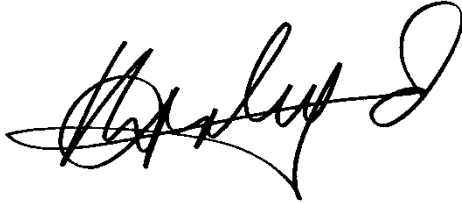
All work is to conform to BS 3998:2010 'Tree work – Recommendations' and with current arboricultural best practice. Tree works are to be undertaken by a professional and specialist arboricultural contractor, who carries the appropriate experience and insurance cover, equipment and PPE. All works and 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.

10. The above recommended tree work should be carried out as soon as practicable and with all necessary authority. Any replacement planting is to be carried out in the soonest planting season following tree removal i.e. between November and March.

I hope that this information is clear and helpful at this stage but if I can be of any further assistance, or if you would like to arrange a site meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Hal Appleyard
Dip. Arb. (RFS), F.Arbor.A, MICFor. RCarborA
Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant
Chartered Arboriculturist

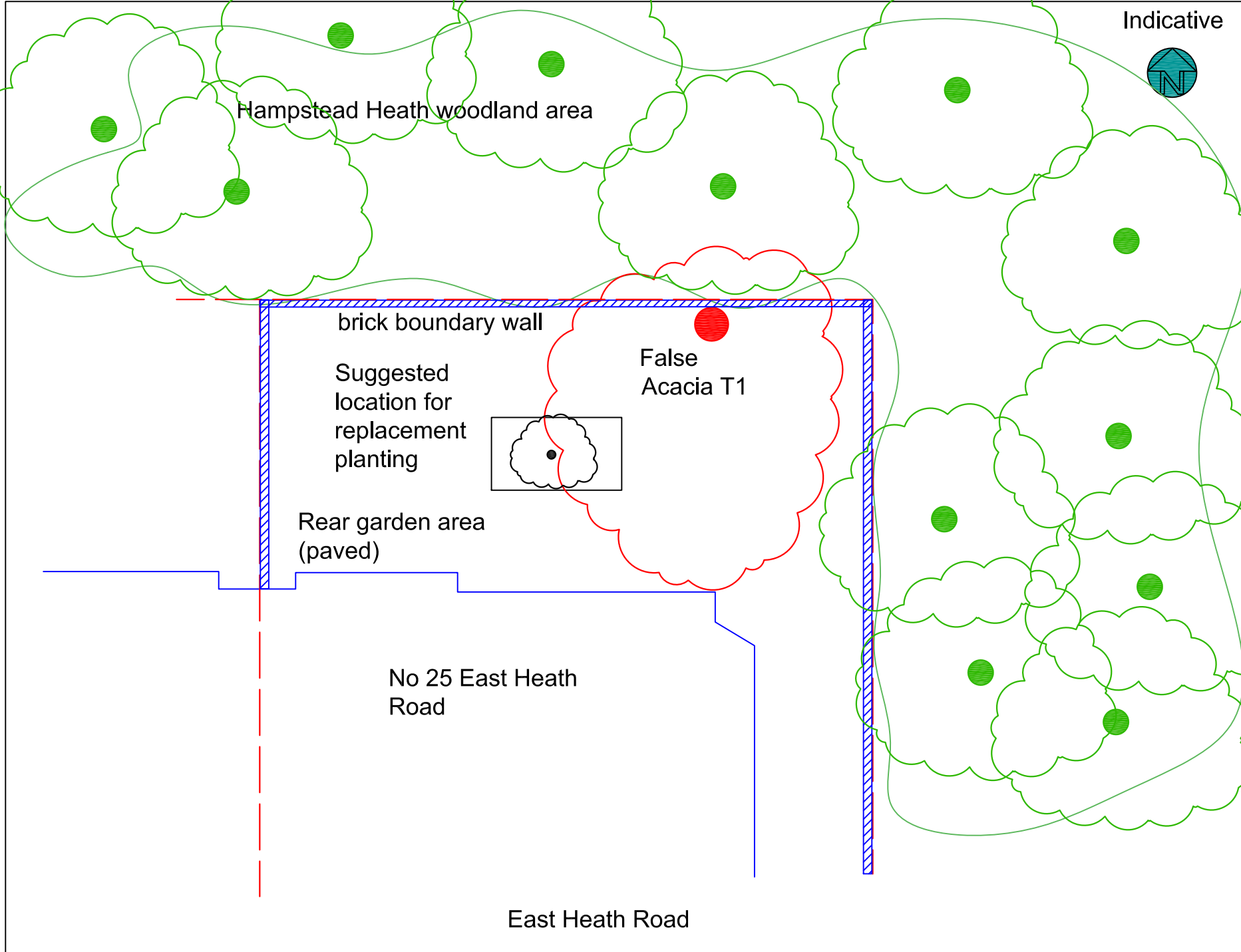


 Institute of
Chartered Foresters
Registered Consultant

enc.
Sketch plan

Reference:

1. International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment Qualification



Indicative 

ACS (Trees) Consulting

Tree Management Consultants

Pilgrims Court
15-17 West Street
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 9BL

T1: 020 8687 1214
T2: 01737 249351
E: info@acstrees.co.uk

Site:
25 East Heath Road
Hampstead
NW3

Client:
Ms K Flowers

Date: 24.01.18

Ref: 25ehrd/sk1

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

Tree Risk Assessment - International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment Qualification method. The use of words (qualitative method) rather than figures (quantitative), helps to realise the assessment process and consequences. Normally, the assessment PERIOD is over one year unless it is stated otherwise.

Likelihood of Failure	Likelihood of Impacting a Target			
	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
Imminent	Unlikely	Somewhat Likely	Likely	Very Likely
Probable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat Likely	Likely
Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat Likely
Improbable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely



Likelihood of Failure & Impact	Consequences of Failure			
	Negligible	Minor	Significant	Severe
Very Likely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High
Somewhat Likely	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low

Note: Intervention (tree management) is normally prudent when there is, at least, a 'Moderate' risk that a tree or tree part might fail and that there would be consequences of that failure.