

# Tree Report

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is to assess the options and reasons of work to 4 mature trees in a rear garden of 17 Frognal , London , NW3 6AR. There is 2 mature Limes and 2 Sycamores that are the focus of the report
- 1.2 The garden is owned by Nick Sofroniou

## 2 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SCOPE OF REPORT

2.1 This report is a visual assessment of 2 *tilia x europaea* and 2 *Acer pseudoplatanus* situated in a small garden that sits on the westerly boundary of the property . The trees are in a small garden that is one of 3 that have sub divided from the original garden , probably at the same time that the property was split into flats .

2.2 A visual inspection was carried out on the 18/07/2018

2.3 The visual inspection and the report were conducted by Simon Causer.

2.4 Simon Causer has sixteen years' experience as a qualified arborist, covering all aspects of tree work (including working in partnership with local authorities and subcontracting). He has also acted as an expert witness in a litigation case. He is currently studying for the Technician's Certificate in Arboriculture. In addition, he has taken part in a report writing course under instruction by D. Dowson of Tree Life Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd.

## 3 LIMITATIONS OF REPORT

3.1 Trees and shrubs are living organisms whose health and conditions can change rapidly. The conditions, health, and safety of trees should be checked at regular intervals. Thus, any recommendations and conclusions can only be valued for one year.

3.2. The report reflects the day of inspection: work to trees or property undertaken after this time will not be reflected in this report. Any tree works undertaken as a result of advice from this report should follow British Standards 3998:2010.

3.3 Assumptions have been made of soil types as set out by Dr. Peter Hobbs of the British Geological Survey Unit at Keyworth. Soil testing can be done in a supplementary report if required



## **The Site**

- 4.1 The garden is the last one in a row of 3 gardens that have been subdivided from one original. The site is approximately 360 metres squared.
- 4.2 It stands on the furthest westerly boundary.
- 4.3 The garden looked like that it had not been tended for some considerable time,

however there had been recent bramble and ground base ivy removal.

- 4.4 The trees covered in this report are all part of a group Tree Preservation Order (T.P.O) or have individual orders on them.
- 4.5 A Tree Preservation Order is an order made by a local planning authority in England to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of their amenity value to an specific area .
- 4.6 The law on Tree Preservation Orders is in [Part VIII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) as amended and in the [Town and Country Planning \(Tree Preservation\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) which came into force on 6 April 2012.
- 4.7 This means any works to the trees covering this order, need approval from the local authority, with specifics about what is to be done to the trees, and why the works need to be done.

## 5 The Trees

- 5.1 T1 is large mature sycamore, on the day of inspection all showed good vitality and had a healthy looking crown spread.
- 5.2 T1 stands approximately 17 metres high with a crown spread of approximately 7.5 metres.
- 5.3 T1 was ivy covered, possible due for the long time the garden had been neglected. Therefore the owner of the garden had, under instruction, cut round the base of the but and removed a strip of ivy, with the intention of killing the ivy further up the tree, so making visual inspection of the health of the trees better
- 5.4 This process was undertaken approximately a month before the visual inspection of the trees and applies to all the trees that are covered in this report.
- 5.5 T1 has multi stemmed from the base and splits into 3 main stems approximately halfway up one of these stems it appears that previously it has failed leaving the last 2 remaining stems to extend further upwards . See Photo1 the blue line shows the point of the lost stem.
- 5.6 At the base of the trunk there are large wounds extending vertical up the stem which seemed to of sealed well. See photo 2



Photo 1



Photo 2

- 5.7 T2 is a Lime tree. It stands approximately 13 metres has a crown spread of approximately 7.5 metres. It has a good-looking vitality and a healthy-looking crown spread. See photo 3.
- 5.8 This tree is also covered in ivy and as the ivy has retreated, due to the severing at the base, 2 lateral limbs can be seen that have completely failed and are detached from the stem and are being held in position by the encompassing ivy. Photo 3 shows the lime , the orange lines are approximates of the position of the detached limbs .
- 5.9 T3 is also a Lime tree and stands directly on the opposing boundary to T2.
- 5.10 It also stands approximately 13 metres high and has a crown spread of approximately 7.5 metres.
- 5.11 Again, there are smaller dead lateral branches that have detached from the main stem and are held in position by the encompassing ivy.



**Photo 3**

- 5.12 **T4** is a Sycamore, It stands approximately 16 metres high and has a crown spread of approximately 7 metres . Its condition seems fair .Photo 4 shows crown
- 5.13 The stem splits into two just above ground and there can clearly be seen an occluded front , where the two stems join. Photo 5 shows the base of T4 and between the blue line is the occluded front of the two stems.



5.14

**Photo 4**



**Photo5**

## **6 Discussion and Recommendations**

- 6.1 T1 Stands close to garages and if any failure to the remaining high stems there is the potential of catastrophic results to property and /or public and users of the garden.
- 6.2 I would recommend that the remaining high stems be reduced to the same level as the lowest stem. This would balance the crown and reduce the sail of the crown and so the pressure further down the trunk. This would have the effect of retaining the tree sustain it for many years
- 6.3 T2 and T3 I would recommend for an overall crown reduction of 2 metres and to lift the crown 3 metres. Additionally, to remove all dead wood and to clear some of ivy in the upper crown.
- 6.4 T4 there is a clear line that is visible suggesting an included stem which



goes into the root ball. This is where two stems grow separately but due to their proximity incremental annual growth, grows around this point sealing the union. This union has high potential of failure as the sail from further up the limbs can literally pull one stem away from another, due to this poor union.

6.5 Due to the proximity of the tree to the neighbouring garden and the potential hazards of failure to one or both stems, I would recommend that this tree be felled to ground level.

Simon Causer 05/08/2018

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY OF REFERENCE**

**David Lonsdale, Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management (TSO, 2009)**

**Claus Mattheck and Hege Breloer, The Body Language of Trees (TSO, 2010) Guidance**

**Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas Gov.uk**