Arborology
Arboricultural Consultancy

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Arboricultural Report

In conjunction with:

Ms Ariel Bruce

Prepared by:

Russell Hodson (Arborology)

Arboricultural Consultant

Site Visit	9th September 2018	Date Completed	September 2018
Document Version	V1r0	Updates	n/a
Author	RSH	Date	11th September 2018

Contact Details

Home Owner: Ms Ariel Bruce
Address [redacted]

Contact details
Email:

Reference: Impact Assessment / Site & Tree Survey, Laurel Tree in westerly adjacent garden.
Tree Ownership: One Laurel owned by Freeholder, adjacent property to west. No.7 Regents Square, WC1H 8HZ.
Inspection note. Inspection / Assessment was visual from no.6, no access took place into no.7.
Site visit carried out Sunday 9th September 2014

Arborology Disclaimer

At no point did any penetrative testing take place, penetrative testing to mature/very mature and trees entering senescence (old age) can be counterproductive, it can lead to further pathogenic attack, neither was the tree/s climbed, which can identify failure points or signs of pathogenic entry and subsequent decay further up in the tree which may not be visible from the ground. This report is valid for **6 (six)** months from the date above, the report is declared invalid if the dynamics of the tree have changed and Arborology are/were not informed. If the tree or ground around the tree is/has changed through roadside workings, maintenance of any type, vandalism, poor pruning etc. this report will be declared invalid.

Trees can fail if the strength of the wind or other natural forces/weather is/are greater than the integral strength of the roots, stem or canopy. This can and does include any kind of climbing plant. E.g.: Ivy or Clematis. This can also include extreme weather including harsh temperature change, snow etc. Again, extreme weather in the next 6 months may invalidate this report. Meteorological records are available retrospectively.

Health & Safety within Arboriculture.

In the management of trees, risk minimisation is often cited as an objective. the benefits of risk reduction must be balanced with its costs, both financial and in terms of lost benefits from the tree. Where risk reduction comes at a disproportionately high cost in relation to lowering the level of risk, the risk control measure can be said to be disproportionate and unreasonable. Indeed, where safety from trees is concerned, the law, both common and in statute, requires only that the occupier of land do what is reasonable

There is no such thing as a 'safe' tree, research and evidence has shown that when the strength of wind/natural forces is greater than the integral strength of timber, the timber fails, be it in the stem area, root area, or canopy area. However, if this was the case, every tree near the public environment would be removed. Research shows that when severe weather is around the public in urban areas, or in the remote location, people tend to move away from objects which have the potential to fall, snap, break or fail. This means in high winds people do not tend to congregate under a large tree. People know not to stand under a tree in a thunderstorm or lightning strike.

Buildings however cannot choose to move their location, nor can they counter the increasing risk from natural growth of trees without human intervention

A pragmatic approach must be undertaken; there are programs which look at the quantifiable risks associated with trees, mainly subjective. By identifying faults, diseases or other signs, symptoms and the body language of trees, a better understanding of how the tree is responding to them, a suitable framework of monitoring and arboricultural management can take place. For instance, trees adapt their stability to counter the prevailing wind- in this case south westerly- with a diminution in their stability to winds from other directions.

Management Overview

Remove the laurel to ground level and poison the stumps with a brush-based application of a non-trans locational poison.

No further investigation or assessment is required based upon the arboricultural evidence, the body language of the trees presented at the time of inspection and assessment.

Land Orientation/Property orientation

Garden faces south of 6 Regents Place, West of House at rear of 6 Regents Square.

Weather Conditions

Sunny, Dry, little wind

Soil Sampling

None taken

Property owner / Tree owner responsibility

In the UK, as in many other countries, the occupier of a site has a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the risk of personal injury or damage to property arising from the presence of any tree on the site, or from its breakage or uprooting. This duty is defined in law, in particular by the Occupiers' Liability Act (1957 &1984) in the case of England and Wales. The later act concerns occupiers and their duty of care towards other persons. Duty of care has also been a consideration in various court cases involving harm caused by trees. *Extract taken from Ref: Lonsdale, D (2006) Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management.*

Information gathered to date

Moved in approximately 1989

Tree Protection (TPO or Conservation area)

Trees protected by conservation regulations

Evidence

Photographic / documentation: visual assessment, tree inspected by Arborology

Tree Identity

Semi mature laurel in adjacent garden, western boundary

Tree Categories

A Tree of high quality: at least 40 years life expectancy

B Trees of moderate quality, at least 20 years life expectancy

C Trees of low quality, at least 10 years life expectancy or stem diameter <150mm

U Cannot be realistically retained, structural defect, decline, diseased or showing signs of pathogenic attack.

Tree number	Species	Dbh (cm)	Height (m)	Category	Comments
T1	Laurel	~ twin stem 20cm	8-9m	u-c	Tree has elongated out from walled corner, now through phototropic responses in bending out to the west and east, then backward towards the south, trees causes a great deal of shade, leaf litter, question where roots are in relation to boundary walls.

Arboriculturally Observations

The laurel been left to grow, no maintenance has taken place in a long time, evidence though the amount of leaf litter and rubbish underneath the tree at time of assessment. Once the sun has passed the southern arc, heading southeast to west, the laurel casts a great deal of shadow, the down stairs lights in no.6 are having to be switched on during a sunny afternoon. Due to shading the patio to the east never dries out, creating lichen patches which are becoming a slip/trip hazard. This is having to be cleaned regularly by the homeowners.

The laurel has become the inappropriate large shrub/small tree in the wrong garden. Due to the biomechanics being setup through phototropism, the tree will try and bend to present as much canopy to the sun as possible, which will have a detrimental issue on the integral strength of the stem, also crating a lot of leverage in the root area. Which is located quite close to two masonry walls.

To prune the tree is pointless due to root bundle location with walls, and where the large shrub/small tree will try and grow to. Remove the tree/large shrub to ground level and poison with a brush-based application of a non-trans locational poison, suitable for gardens etc.

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Boundary Location

South and western aspect, tree located in the south east corner of adjacent garden, no. 7

Root Plate Area (and Protection)

When trees and construction come into conflict, all building work must comply with BS5837/2012. When building work encounters trees and roots, it is years later that the impact of building work and trees can be seen. Usually in the form of canopy dieback, lack of vitality and a general demise in the condition of the tree. Whilst trees make up the urban sky scape, construction and arboriculture must take a pragmatic approach, there is little to be gained from leaving a diseased, dying or potentially dangerous tree in a place where future development will or may well take place.

To calculate the Root Protection Area (RPA) BS5837 uses 12(twelve) times stem diameter for single stemmed trees. This gives the tree or trees the best opportunity of survival and longevity when building and construction work is taking place in the proximity. This is then interpreted as circle around the tree which is sacrosanct or out of bounds.

BS 3998:2010 Tree work. Recommendations

Home owner advised.

Arboriculturally Recommendations.

Remove the laurel to ground level and poison the stumps with a brush-based application of a non-trans locational poison.

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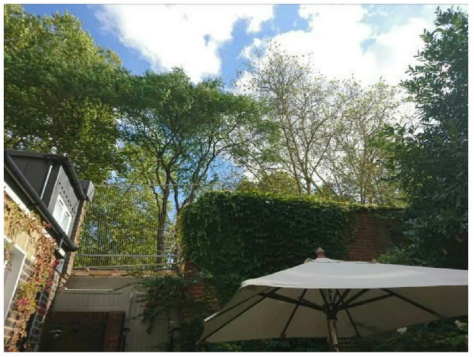
Site / tree layout

The laurel in question is arrowed above

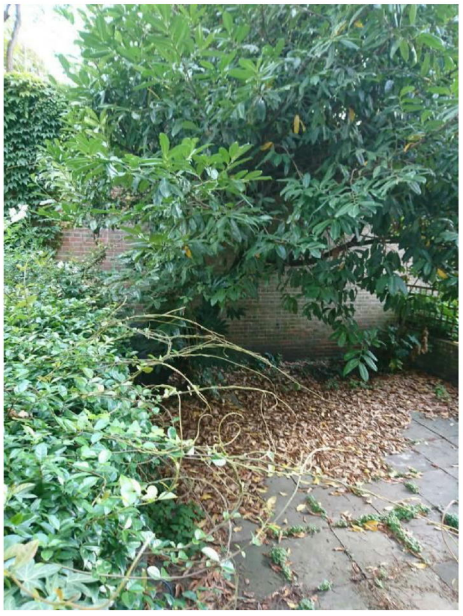
Source: Google Maps 2018

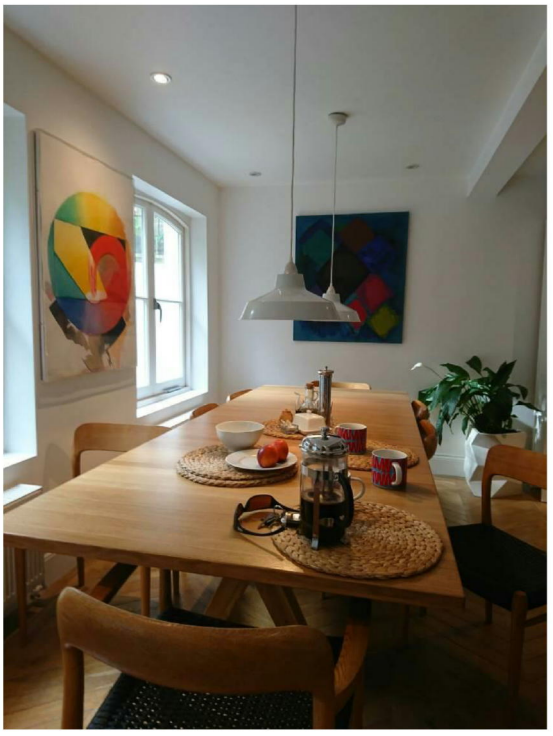
Site specific photographs



This photo, facing west, shows the proximity of the Laurel and the high level of shading. The right-hand photo confirms the sunny conditions.

This photo identifies the lack of maintenance and level of lean the stem is experiencing.





These photos show the lack of maintenance and the lights on in the house at 1400 on a sunny afternoon

Data Protection & Accessibility

Electronic copy held by woodland/tree owner
Copy held by Arborology indefinitely for record

Reference

Ref: Claus Mattheck & Helge Breloer: 2006 *The Body Language of Trees, a handbook for failure analysis* TSO

Ref: BS5837:2005 *Trees in relation to construction*-Recommendations. BSI

Ref: Lonsdale, D (2006) *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management.* Forestry commission TSO

ISBN 011 753545 1

Ref: Roberts, J, Jackson, N, Smith, M 2006 *Tree Roots in the built environment*, TSO

Ref: Harris, R.W, (2004) *Arboriculture, Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, shrubs and vines* Prentice Hall

Ref: Watson, Bob, (2006) Trees, *Their use, management, cultivation and biology* Crowood