

# Delegated Report

**Officer**

Tom Little

**Application Number(s)**

2019/1668/T

**Application Address**

Junction of Gloucester Avenue / Oval Road above  
the railway tunnel  
London  
NW1 7AT

**Proposal(s)**

TRIANGLE AREA ABOVE TUNNEL ENTRANCE: 1 x Cherry - Fell to ground level and poison roots.  
1 x Cherry - Fell to ground level and poison roots.  
1 x Unknown - Fell to ground level and poison roots.

**Recommendation(s):****No Objection to Works to Tree(s) in CA****Application Type:****Notification of Intended Works to Tree(s) in a Conservation Area****Consultations****Adjoining Occupiers:**

No. notified

**0**

No. of responses

**0**

No. of objections

**0****Summary of consultation responses:**

No consultation was carried out on this application due to lack of adjacent addresses. Network Rail will be carrying out a letter drop locally prior to works being carried out.

**CAAC/Local groups\* comments:**

\*Please Specify

## Assessment

The three trees are positioned in ground above a railway tunnel they are highly visible from the public realm and are considered to make a positive contribution to the character of the conservation area. However documents relating to an engineering inspection of the tunnel were submitted with the notification which indicate cracking to the roof and walls of the tunnel in close proximity to the trees. Although it is unclear whether the trees are the sole cause of the damage it seems likely that they are a contributory factor. Given that Network Rail is a statutory undertaker and the trees are situated on the roof of a tunnel which is critical infrastructure it is arguable that the removal of the trees in order to remedy the damage should be viewed as a statutory undertaking and exempt from the requirement to notify the Council. Given the presence of damage to rail infrastructure and the potential repercussions of further damage it is not considered that it would be expedient for the Council to object to removal of these trees.

The Council does not wish to object.