



HAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

15 August 2020

Tree Allocation
London Borough of Camden

Re: **2020/3531/T**, 9 Downshire Hill London NW3 1NR

The Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum objects to this Notice of Intent, both for the work proposed and the actions taken. Felling a tree or doing any work to it without permission within a conservation area is contrary to the Town & Country Planning Act section 211, Camden Local Plan, the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan and the Hampstead Conservation Area Statement.

Both the applicant and the tree surgeon who carried out this work had a duty to inform Camden of their plans: work to trees in a conservation area cannot be undertaken without putting in a Notice of Intent and waiting 6 weeks for a response.

They have asked for:

T1 Ash: Reduce height by 2-3m, remove deadwood and cut back singular long lateral branch overhanging by 0.5m - routine maintenance
T2 Sycamore: Reduce height by 4-5m and width by 3-4m to shape - routine maintenance

The trees that were reduced and felled without permission were part of an important biodiversity corridor and an historic tree line identified in the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan (Biodiversity Corridor D). Policy NE3 of the Plan states that proposals should

- include measures to protect and assist in the restoration of Hampstead's tree line and biodiversity corridors, reducing the incidence of breaks and the length of gaps.
- should not diminish the ability of biodiversity corridors to provide habitat and *the free movement of wildlife*.

From the HNP: "4.10 These tree lines support tall trees, which will become the veteran trees of the future."

We believe that no evidence has been submitted that pruning either the ash or sycamore to reduce their height and certainly not their crown width in this corridor and tree line is necessary. We believe that retaining both their height *and* crown width is essential to the spirit of the HNP's NE2 and NE3 policies.

Sincerely,

Janine Griffis
Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum

www.hampsteadforum.org

info@hampsteadforum.org