

FAO Katie Hughes  
Gerald Eve LLP  
*Via Email Only*



2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

Dear Katie,

**RE. Belgrove House – Street Tree Pruning Recommendations.**

Please find my response to recent correspondence received from Camden Planning Authority in regard to the recommended pruning of street trees to facilitate the proposed re-development of Belgrove House.

The pruning requirements that have been stipulated within arboricultural impact assessment ref. PJC/5494/20/02, have been based upon the information available at the time of its production, namely the construction management plan that included scaffold specifications. The specified pruning has been slightly amplified to what is likely required. This was done to allow additional working space due to the complexity of the scaffold erection and installation of protection measures (sheeting etc).

The existing building sits to the north-west of the trees rather than directly north. This may have caused some confusion with orientation of the required pruning as standard North, West cardinal points have been stated. However, the Tree Retention Plan depicts the area of crown we are proposing to remove and these areas of reduction match that described within the arboricultural impact assessment.

The pruning requirement that has been specified reduces the crown away from the building by 2–3m (to allow for scaffolding etc), but also highlights the requirement for pruning of the western crown of T2 to balance the crown following the northern reduction. The western reduction to T2 and the northern reduction to T3 have been prescribed as an aesthetic reduction to balance the crowns both individually and collectively following access facilitation pruning to the north. However, Camden Planning Authority have raised concerns over excessive pruning, and therefore I recommend that the formative pruning to T2 and T3 not be undertaken. Removing this element of the pruning specification will not pose a material constraint to the re-development.

In order to facilitate the erection of scaffolding, lateral reduction to the tips of T2's northern crown by 2–3m and lateral reduction of the tips of T3's northern crown by 1–2m will be required. The idea of conditioning a pruning specification is welcomed. My personal preference is to specify the pruning on site with a representative from the council once the site hoarding and scaffold line have been marked out on site. That way we can provide accuracy and keep pruning to an absolute minimum. The marking of the scaffold line and assessment of pruning requirements should be undertaken well in advance of installation to allow sufficient time to hold the meeting and arrange for a suitable arboricultural contractor to undertake the work.

Yours sincerely



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Arboriculturist