



# Visual Tree Assessment Report

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British Museum, Great Russell Street, London  
WC1B 3PD

A report to: Total Support Services on behalf of the British Museum

Date: 15th July 2021

Report No: WAS 174 /2021

## 1 Summary of Findings

All trees within the ownership of The British Museum were visually inspected on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 except trees T13 to T17 and T20, which were viewed from the museum land only. It is recommended that these 6 trees are individually inspected in the gardens of the houses concerned to support the VTA below.

The survey inspection findings can be found below at the end of the report along with a tree survey plan of the estate and picture gallery of trees inspected.

## 2 Recommendations for current management and planned maintenance (Risk Control Measures)

- Please see recommendations in end column of tree survey information below
- Recommended timescale priority: U = urgent. A = within 6 months. B = within 18 months. C = within 3 years
- Re-inspect trees every 3 years

## 3 References

1. Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management 2008 – Dr. David Lonsdale
2. The Body language of Trees 2015 – C. Matheck

Signed:



Date: 15.07.MMXXI

**Richard Wassell**

**CHort MCIHort MARborA NDarb (RFS) Kew Diploma NEBOSHlevel3**



## Tree Survey Information

SITE: British Museum, Great Russell Street WC1B 3PD

DATE: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

\* PLEASE SEE KEY AND PLAN AFTER TREE DATA\*

Tree No	Species	Diameter mm	Height metres	Crown Spread metres	Age Class	SULE years	Structure	Crown Functionality %	Physiology, Condition & other factors	Management recommendation
T1	Tree of Heaven	300	10	8	SM	10-20	P	70	REASONABLE Growing from base of wall at a 45degree angle. Self-set tree	RC 4M OR REMOVE & TREAT STUMP <b>Priority B</b>
T2	Tree of Heaven Tag 0176	500	15	10	SM	10-20	P	50	DECLINING 3 stemmed from 2 metres. Recent reduction work undertaken. Poor quality tree and self-set with large deadwood	CONSIDER REMOVAL? <b>Priority B</b>
T3	London Plane Tag 0177	1000	25	16	M	30+	G	90	GOOD Growing next to boundary wall Low canopy over Hotel garden	LC 6M Massaria Check and remove infected wood <b>Priority A</b>
T4	London Plane Tag 0178	1200	25	16	M	30+	G	90	GOOD Growing next to boundary wall. Ivy severed but all dead throughout crown with dead stems dropping out onto Hotel garden. Low canopy over garden	LC 6M Massaria Check and remove infected wood <b>Priority A</b> Remove dead Ivy from crown <b>Priority A</b>
T5	London plane	250	12	9	SM	30+	G	100	GOOD Low canopy. Good specimen	LC 6M Massaria Check and remove infected wood <b>Priority B</b>

Tree No	Species	Diameter mm	Height metres	Crown Spread metres	Age Class	SULE years	Structure	Crown Functionality %	Physiology, Condition & other factors	Management recommendation
T6	False Acacia	450	16	8	M	20+	G	90	REASONABLE Slight lean towards building.	RC 2M from building Priority B
T7	False Acacia	500	14	8	OM	0	H	0	Mostly dead with dead Elder close by. Likely to start dismantling itself soon and falling into the garden area	FG Priority A
T8	Common Lime	400	15	7	M	30+	G	90	GOOD Low canopy. Good specimen	LC 4M Priority B
T9	Common Ash Tag 0180	500	16	8	OM	10-20	M	40	DECLINING Close to building Previously pollarded at 8M. Crown sparsely foliated with die-back occurring plus evidence of annual Velvet Fungus bracket indicating decay at probably the original pollarding point?	FG Priority A/B
T10	London Plane Tag 0507	1000	18	16	M	30+	G	90	GOOD Growing next to railings in gravelled area at 500mm above street level	Massaria Check and remove any infected wood Priority A
T11	London Plane Tag 0508	1000	20	16	M	30+	M	80	GOOD Growing next to wall in service access road	Massaria Check and remove any infected wood Priority A
T12	Bay	350	8	6	M	20+	M	90	REASONABLE Low canopy and suppressed by nearby T11	RC 2M LC 3M Re-shape Priority B
T13	London Plane	2 x 800#	25	15#	M	20+	NK	80	GOOD Rear garden No: 30 Twin stemmed and Ivy clad	Sever Ivy at base and remove 3M section on stem. Return after 6 months to remove from tree. Massaria Check and remove any infected wood

Tree No	Species	Diameter mm	Height metres	Crown Spread metres	Age Class	SULE years	Structure	Crown Functionality %	Physiology, Condition & other factors	Management recommendation
										Check base & growing environment <b>Priority A</b>
T14	London Plane	500#	12	10#	M	20+	NK	70	REASONABLE Rear garden No: 32 Leaning and suppressed by T13	NA Check base & growing environment. Massaria Check and remove any infected wood <b>Priority A</b>
T15	London Plane	1000#	15	12#	M	20+	NK	70	REASONABLE Rear garden No: 36 Dead Ivy throughout crown – obviously severed at base	NA Check base & growing environment. Massaria Check and remove any infected wood <b>Priority A</b>
T16	Cherry	400#	12	10#	M	10-20	NK	60	REASONABLE Rear garden No: 42 Leaning towards building	RC 2M from building Check base & growing environment <b>Priority B</b>
T17	Sycamore	500#	14	12#	M	20+	NK	80	GOOD Rear garden No: 42 Dead tree nearby in same garden?	RC 2M from building Remove dead tree Check base & growing environment <b>Priority B</b>
T18	Sycamore	600#	16	9#	M	20+	NK	60	REASONABLE Rear garden No: 48 Ivy clad and causing die-back in crown	Sever and remove Ivy CC <b>Priority A</b>
T19	Sycamore	600#	18	10#	M	20+	NK	80	GOOD Rear garden No: 50	CC <b>Priority B</b>
T20	Sycamore	600#	16	10#	M	20+	NK	80	GOOD Rear garden No: 60	Check base & growing environment <b>Priority B</b>

Tree No	Species	Diameter mm	Height metres	Crown Spread metres	Age Class	SULE years	Structure	Crown Functionality %	Physiology, Condition & other factors	Management recommendation
T21	London Plane	1000	20	15	M	20+	G	90	GOOD Situating in lower ground and barriered -off. Close to Montagu Place entrance	Massaria Check and remove any infected wood <b>Priority A</b>
G1	Himalayan Birch x 17	75-100	5-7	3	Y	20+	G	90	GOOD Planted in raised bed as part of newish landscaping scheme. 1 dead tree	Remove dead tree <b>Priority A</b>
G2	Snowy Mespilus x 14	75-100	4-5	3	Y	20+	G	90	REASONABLE Planted in raised bed as part of newish landscaping scheme.	NA

KEY:

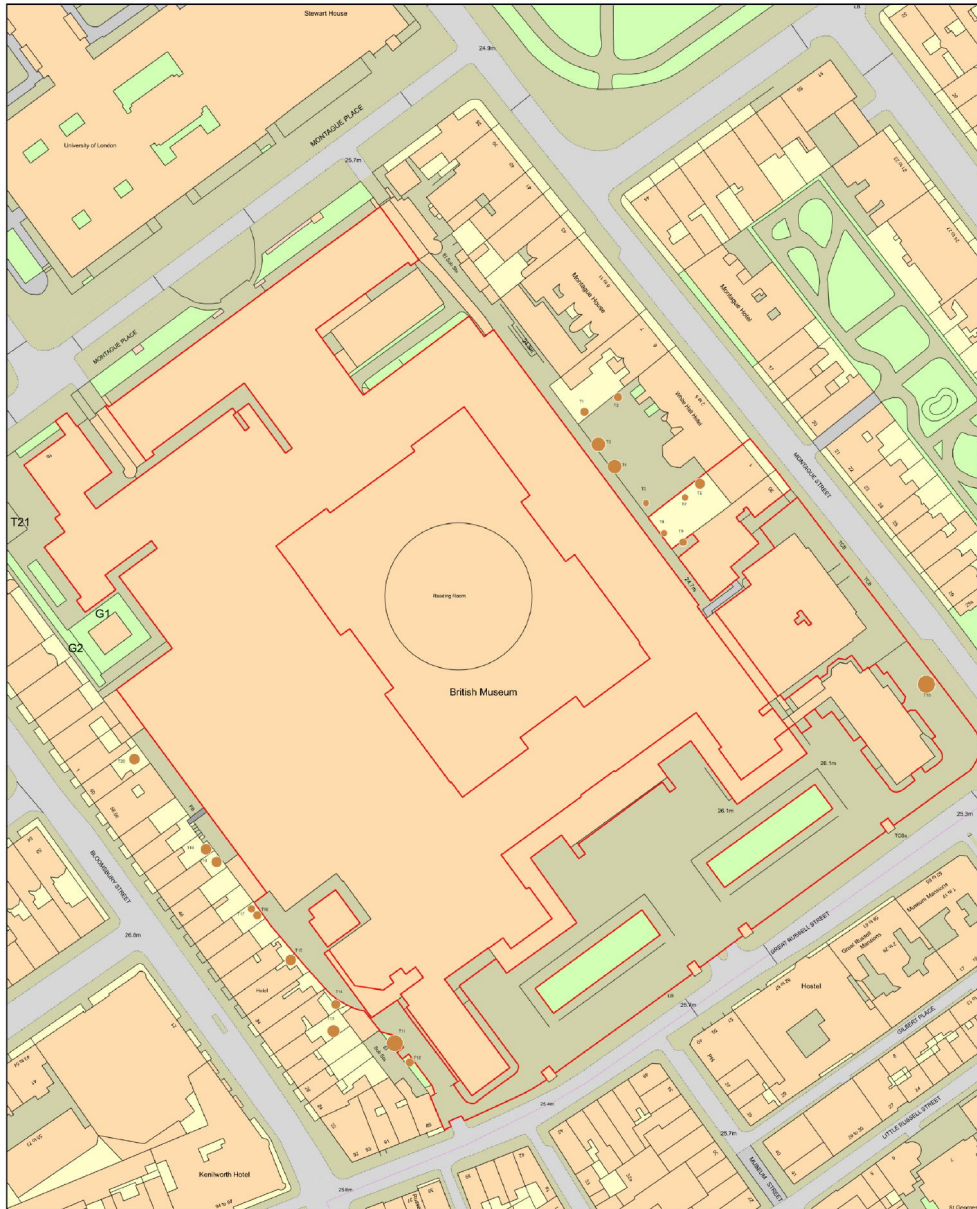
Tree Number and Species = number of tree on plan/tag and Common Name/botanical name  
Height = estimated height of tree from surrounding ground level +/- 1.5 metres  
Diameter = diameter of main stem @ 1.5 metres above ground level  
Crown Spread = maximum extent of branches measured radially from the base of the tree and expressed as a overall diameter \*Crown spreads in groups of trees, shelter belts and woodland are not measured\*  
Age Class = Young: age less than 1/3rd life expectancy | Semi-mature: 1/3rd to 2/3rd life expectancy | Mature: Over 2/3rd life expectancy | Over mature: mature and in state of decline |  
Veteran: Surviving beyond typical age range for species  
Crown functionality = expressed as % and based on previous crown pruning work, general vigor and any die-back. i.e. 0 -20%, 20 – 40%, 40 -60%, 60 -80% & 80 -100%  
SULE = safe useful life expectancy - estimated as useful, safe and remaining contribution to the site measured in periods of 10 years  
Structure = structural condition of the tree based on roots, trunk, and major stems/branches along with the presence of any structural defects and decay organisms. Categories are: Very Good; Good; Moderate; Poor; Hazardous  
Condition = Overall health, condition and function of the tree in comparison to a 'normal' specimen of its species and age. Categories are: Good **G**; Reasonable **R**; Declining **D**; Poor **P**  
Physiology /Other factors = any other physical/environmental factors that could influence the tree now/in the future  
Management Recommendations:  
NA= no action required. CC = removal of dead, diseased & dying wood from tree crown, thinning of overcrowded crown, removal of Ivy from crown & stem and removal of all epicormic growth within crown including stem & basal epicormic growth on Lime trees. LC = lift crown. TC = thin crown. RC = reduce crown. P = pollard. SP = scaffold pollard. RE = remove epicormic and basal growth. FP = Formative prune F = fell to ground level. FG = fell and grind out stump. R = carry out replacement planting. AI = 3 yearly Arboricultural inspection NK = not known

PRIORITY A = WITHIN 6 MONTHS | PRIORITY B = WITHIN 6 TO 18 MONTHS | PRIORITY C = WITHIN 18 TO 36 MONTHS

# = estimated data | n/a = not applicable  
t/R = stem thickness to radius ratio (residual wall) for trees with internal decay or hollow (<0.3 model) \* **measured only if required**  
H/D = height to stem diameter ratio (<30:1 model) - increased likelihood of wind throw/storm damage \* **measured only if required**  
IML = micro-hammer sound reading (M/sec) \* **measured only if required**  
GL = ground level  
OPM = Oak Processionary Moth  
BTM = Brown Tailed Moth  
DED = Dutch Elm Disease  
AOD = Acute Oak decline  
HCLM = Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner  
HCLB = Horse Chestnut Leaf Blight  
AD = Ash die-back (Chalara)

Massaria – fungal disease of Plane tree branches

## BRITISH MUSEUM, WC1B 3PD



Plan Produced for: TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Date Produced: 12 Aug 2020

Plan Reference Number: TQRQM20225082255701

Scale: 1:1250 @ A3



PICTURE GALLERY

