

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2022/0419/T	Alan Steynor	23/02/2022 15:23:31	SUPPRT	<p>I write in support of the EES' application for the plane trees in the garden of 8 Doughty Street to be taken down and in response to a number of points made by objectors.</p> <p>Of course everybody wants trees to be preserved where it is practicable to do so. There are cases where trees are growing at a distance from a property but causing damage by tree root action or soil dessication, and remedial measures may be possible by restricting the roots or reducing the canopy. This is not the present case however. The trunks of these large trees are actually leaning against the rear wall of the EES premises and causing serious damage. This problem can only get worse with the passage of time as the trees continue to grow in girth and move in the increasingly strong winds we experience. The only 'solution' which objectors put forward is for the rear wall to be demolished and rebuilt further back to accommodate the trees, with a resulting substantial loss of space and at a high cost. I very much doubt whether any of the objectors would adopt this solution if their own property was at risk. Trees can be replaced by new planting elsewhere (which the EES has offered) but every property is unique and the EES' Doughty Mews property cannot simply be moved to a new location.</p> <p>The EES application is supported by detailed expert reports from a respected structural engineer (who was recently commended in the High Court for his expertise) and an experienced tree surgeon, and their conclusions are unequivocal: that the trees must come down. It is significant that most objectors do not engage at all with these reports, and those who do make factual errors. There is some suggestion by objectors that an engineering scheme may be devised to preserve the trees, although this has not materialized. But rebuilding the wall will present formidable difficulties. A new wall will require the construction of new foundations, which will need the building and its contents to be emptied and internal modifications to be made. It is by no means clear how a new wall would support the existing roof, which would need to be taken off and modified.</p> <p>Apart from these technical problems, there are broader issues. It is regrettable that objectors fail to acknowledge the fundamental problem: that real danger is posed by increasing tree damage to staff, visiting members and above all to the EES' unique heritage collections which are housed in the building. Objectors ignore the fact that the cost of any engineering work will run into tens of thousands of pounds. None of the objectors is offering to contribute to the cost of this work, and it is hard to see why the members and supporters of the EES, a charity, should be asked to do so. There will be no benefit to the EES, which will simply lose space in its building. If nothing is done, the damage to the Society's premises will simply get worse: no doubt Camden Council is aware that if they refuse permission in these circumstances, they may be exposed to a substantial claim for compensation. It is a pity, but the trees are simply growing in the wrong place and must be taken down, as One Housing Group, the owners of the trees, agree.</p>

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2022/0419/T	Rachel Ford	23/02/2022 14:06:19	COMMNT	<p>Re Planning Application 2022/0419/T, 3 Feb 2022: 8 Doughty Street London WC1N 2PI</p> <p>Again, we strongly object to this application, which was previously rejected in 2020/2021.</p> <p>Firstly: The removal of the trees would not be without significant risk to the soil structure which supports the EES and neighbouring buildings.</p> <p>Secondly: Would the Ancient Egyptians have been unable to find an engineering solution to this problem? As any Egyptologist must appreciate, planning for the future, or for the afterlife, which ever you believe in, is something that requires the utmost care, effort, and imagination. Those who support the destruction of these trees appear to show little concern for the environment on which our future history will depend.</p> <p>Why not:</p> <p>Move the wall and staircase a little for example.</p> <p>Or:</p> <p>Start a competition, or employ an architect with vision, to incorporate the trees into any new structure in an imaginative way, taking advantage of their magnificent and mature beauty, rather than maximising short-term profit.</p> <p>With local support, and visionary architecture, could the EES create something for the future that could inspire the next generation of Egyptologists?</p> <p>Occupant Flat 5, 6 Doughty Street.</p> <p>23 February 2022 submitted online</p>
2022/0419/T	Gerard Abou Jaoude	24/02/2022 02:33:25	OBJ	<p>I work as a research fellow at the UCL Institute for Global Health nearby and am writing to object to these plans in an individual capacity. Chiefly, because it appears that a workable, well considered alternative has been proposed to avoid work on the trees. These are very old trees seen by many and felling them would have a negative on the community - especially given the densely built environment in Bloomsbury. The evidence is clear on the positive impact that trees have on air quality/ physical and mental health. If there are other reasonable alternatives and solutions, these should be considered.</p>

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2022/0419/T	Celin	23/02/2022 22:52:39	COMMNT	<p>I am shocked and saddened to hear of the planned felling of these venerable old trees. Please explore alternative solutions - as several of other objectors, including some who have architectural expertise, assert, there are alternative solutions. These may costly but so too will be the removal of the trees and repairing the ensuing damage the extensive excavations to remove the roots will ensue. We have already lost too many plane trees in London, which is detrimental to the environment, wildlife and the well-being of the local population.</p> <p>Reduce their size if you must - they are slow growing so should be able to co-exist with the building for a long time into the future, thus benefiting generations of local wildlife and helping to improve the local environment.</p>
2022/0419/T	Celin	23/02/2022 22:52:42	COMMNT	<p>I am shocked and saddened to hear of the planned felling of these venerable old trees. Please explore alternative solutions - as several of other objectors, including some who have architectural expertise, assert, there are alternative solutions. These may costly but so too will be the removal of the trees and repairing the ensuing damage the extensive excavations to remove the roots will ensue. We have already lost too many plane trees in London, which is detrimental to the environment, wildlife and the well-being of the local population.</p> <p>Reduce their size if you must - they are slow growing so should be able to co-exist with the building for a long time into the future, thus benefiting generations of local wildlife and helping to improve the local environment.</p>