

# STEVE HOOPER TREEWORX

DESIGN

LANDSCAPING

GARDENING

TREE SURGERY

[www.stevehooperlandscapes.co.uk](http://www.stevehooperlandscapes.co.uk)



6 BARRINGTON ROAD

LONDON N8 8QS

TEL/FAX: 020 8340 6041

VAT No. 165 7727 73

[info@stevehooperlandscapes.co.uk](mailto:info@stevehooperlandscapes.co.uk)

GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

## ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Client: Golan Losinksy

Site: 4a Frognal Gardens  
London  
NW3 6UX

Date: 29th November 2021

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Our client is planning building works including an extension at the rear of the property and has asked us to put together an assessment of the trees on site. Some of the trees will need to be removed as part of the proposed works

### **2.0 Scope of Report**

- 2.1 This report concentrates on the rear garden of the property where the proposed work is planned.
- 2.2 We have identified all the trees within the rear garden and assessed in detail the trees that need to be removed as part of the proposed building works.

### **3.0 The Site**

- 3.1 The property is within the London Borough of Camden and located within the Hampstead conservation area.

## **TREE SURVEY**

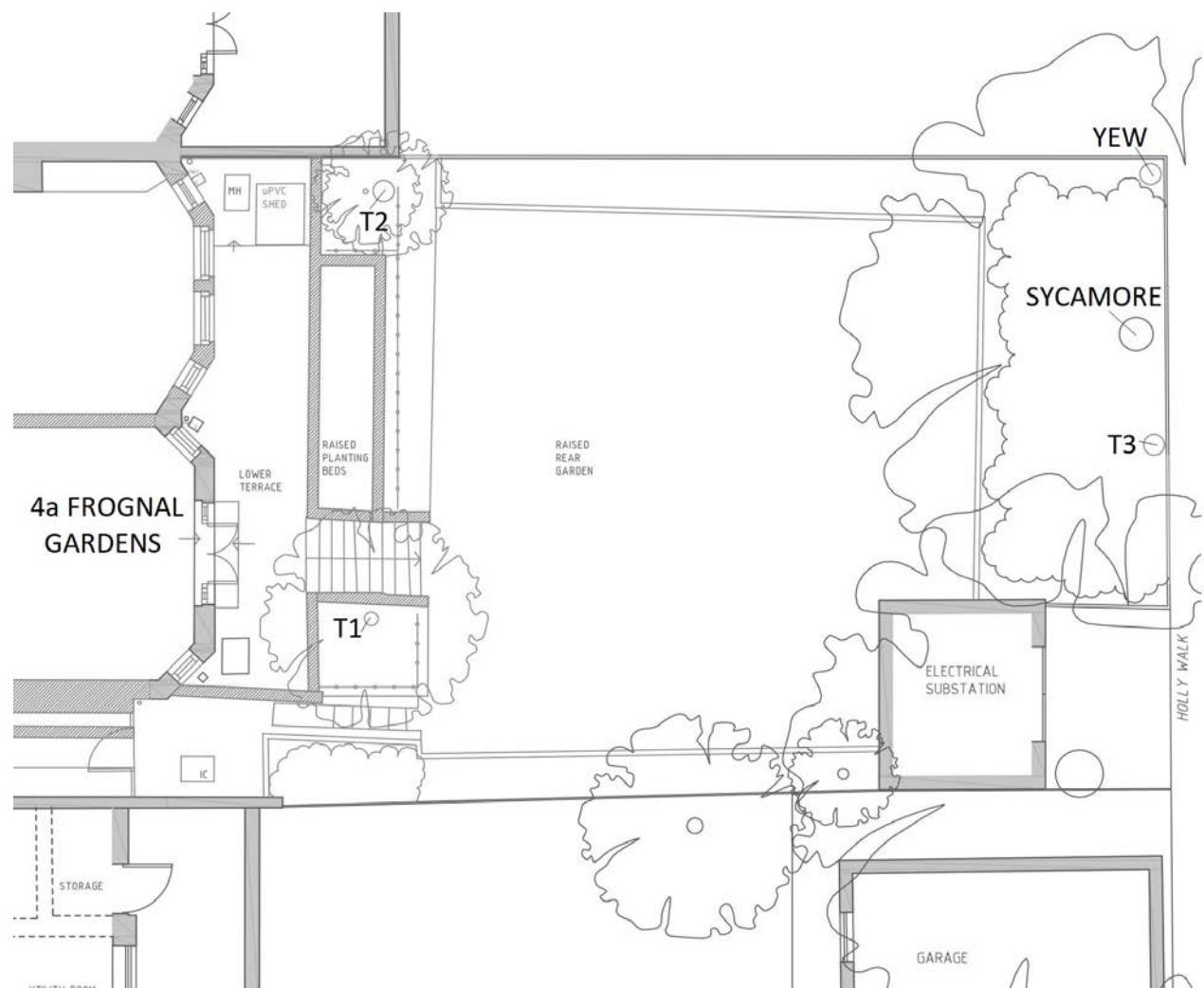
### **4.0 Survey Methodology and Limitations**

- 4.1 Trees are observed, assessed and plotted on the drawing. All locations are approximate although where relevant the distance from buildings or other trees is given.
- 4.2 The condition is a visual assessment from ground level. No excavation or bore holes were carried out and no trees were climbed.
- 4.3 As well as the health of the tree the survey takes into account any other issues we observe on site and any concerns that are raised.
- 4.4 The trees were assessed for any sign of animal habitation especially bird nests and bat roosts.
- 4.5 All observations recorded were true at the time of the survey.
- 4.6 Our recommendation is given to address any concerns raised. Where appropriate this is given in priority levels or in phases. On request we can put together an ongoing management plan.

### **5.0 General Survey Notes**

- 5.1 The trees are numbered. These numbers refer to numbers on the drawing. Individual trees are marked as T and groups as G.
- 5.2 Genus and species followed by common or English name in brackets. Where flowers, leaves or fruit are absent and they are required to identify the species, the Genus has been stated followed by sp. (e.g. *Crataegus* sp.)
- 5.3 The height (HT) is approximate in metres, estimated by eye.
- 5.4 The diameter at breast height (DBH) is measured at a height of 1.30m from ground level. Multi-stemmed trees are noted, measurements of multi stemmed trees are followed by x and the number of stems. The value is given in centimetres.

6.0 Site Plan



\* Site plan put together by de Unit

## 7.0 Tree Survey

T	TREE SPECIES	HT	DBH	CONDITION	RECOMMENDATION
T1	Myrtus communis (Myrtle)	6m	15cm x 3	Poor: Over mature shrub, considerable deadwood, close to house (3.5m), in raised bed, limited life	Fell and treat stump
T2	Ilex aquifolium (Holly)	7m	10cm x 2, 5 cm x 1	Fair: Overhangs fence	Fell and treat stump
T3	Salix caprea (Goat Willow)	11m	25cm x 2	Fair: Pushed on fence, under crown of sycamore	Fell and treat stump

## ASSESSMENT

### 8.0 Arboricultural Report

- 8.1 There are five trees within the rear garden - 1 x myrtle, 1 x holly, 1 x goat willow, 1 x sycamore and 1 x yew. There are three trees that will need to be felled to make way for the proposed building work - the myrtle, holly and goat willow.
- 8.2 Based on our assessment we would recommend that the myrtle should be felled within the next few years regardless of any building work. It is in poor health, a considerable amount of deadwood present within the crown of the tree and has limited life left, we would flag this up as a potential risk due to dropped branches. It is also relatively close to the house although it is growing in a raised bed. Myrtles are generally considered shrubs rather than trees so we would classify this as an overgrown shrub.
- 8.3 The holly is in fair health although it is quite sparse and a lot of the crown leans over the fence into next door's garden. Although felling it will result on a loss of crown cover we do not think it is significant. Its stems are very small (all under 10cm) so it is not a very significant tree.
- 8.4 The goat willow is also in fair health but is struggling somewhat under the crown of the sycamore. Its trunk is pushing on the fence which will result in considerable damage to the fence. Goat willows also have quite a high water demand so they are not always a suitable tree for London gardens. If it needs to be felled as part of the building work we do not see this as a considerable loss as it will also create less competition for the sycamore.
- 8.5 The yew and sycamore are both in good health and should be retained.

### 9.0 Conclusion

- 9.1 Although we try to avoid felling trees as much as possible on this occasion we do not find the loss of the three trees as required for the proposed planning works to be a significant loss. The myrtle does not have much life left and both it and the holly would be considered shrubs or minor trees.
- 9.2 Given that the sycamore and yew are being retained there is still a good amount of crown coverage in the garden and as long as these are maintained well we support the proposals.

## **GENERAL ARBORICULTURAL ADVICE**

### **10.0 Arboricultural Practice**

- 10.1 Any tree surgery should be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS3998: 2010. This ensures the work is carried out properly with the ongoing health of the tree in mind and safely with minimal risk.
- 10.2 We recommend trees are inspected every three years for potential risks (deadwood, decay etc) and to maintain the tree at a good size if space is limited or the tree is close to the house.

### **11.0 Tree Protection**

- 11.1 Under Section 3.0 The Site we will have stated whether any trees are covered by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) or if the site is within a conservation area. This information will have been sourced from the local council. An application must be made for both options.
- 11.2 A TPO application should be decided within eight weeks (although it can take longer). After this time an appeal can be lodged but we would recommend working with the council's tree officer to come up with a compromise.
- 11.3 If within a conservation area the council are notified and are given six weeks to object or issue a TPO. Consent can be granted sooner or consent is automatically granted after six weeks.
- 11.4 Emergency work to dead or dangerous trees (exception work) can be granted via a five day notice.

### **12.0 Protection of Wildlife**

- 12.1 Birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence to destroy a nest when it is in use or being built, doing so would be an infringement of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and in breach of The European Habitats Directive 1992/Nesting Birds Directive.
- 12.2 The bird nesting season is from March to July (inclusive) for most species although some nest building will begin before this and this varies with different species. Where appropriate we advise work is avoided between this period although this is not always possible.

- 12.3 Care must also be taken to avoid ground nesting birds in ground vegetation that may not be obvious.
- 12.4 Bats and their roosts are protected by law meaning that it is illegal to damage, destroy or disturb bats or their roost sites. A roost is defined as any place that a wild bat uses for shelter or protection. The relevant legislation in England & Wales is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017.
- 12.5 As part of the survey trees and hedges will be observed for any signs of birds or bats. Work should not take place if there is any evidence of a bat roost or active bird nest. Once the work has started the tree and hedges will be assessed again by our climber and if any new evidence is discovered while the work is in progress the work should be paused.
- 12.6 If a tree is being felled we recommend a replacement tree is planted to minimise the effect the loss will have on the local environment.

### **13.0 Hazards**

- 13.1 **SOIL COMPACTION** Cars, people and building work are some of the things that can contribute to soil compaction and care should be taken to ensure this doesn't happen within the root protection area. Compaction can damage soil structure starving the tree of air, nutrients and water upsetting the balance between crown and roots established over many years. Sites should be planned to avoid heavy pedestrian traffic, car parking or building work below trees. Heavy machinery or temporary buildings should not be used within root protection areas and during building work these should be fenced off.
- 13.2 **LEVEL CHANGES:** Changing the soil level around the base of the tree can cause serious problems. Lowering the level risks removing roots, exposing the root system to the air and reduces the supply of moisture and nutrients available. Raising the soil level can cause compaction, affect bark and root function and moisture build up can cause rot and decay. Allowances to retain existing levels should be made to ensure this doesn't happen.
- 13.3 **FIRES:** Fires should be avoided near trees at all times or where necessary should be done safely with proximity to the tree's canopy and wind direction taken into account.



- 13.4 EXCAVATION: Digging down close to trees can severely impact the tree's health. Losing space for roots to spread can be a problem but the most likely outcome will be the loss of roots which will be detrimental to the health status or may compromise the stability and structural integrity of the tree. The closer to the trunk that roots are cut the more significant and severe the damage will be. A root protection area should be calculated and protected from any excavation.
- 13.5 CONTAMINATION: Hazardous materials should not be used within the tree's root protection area. If building work is taking place on site allowances should be made to ensure no cement or other contaminants run off into these areas. Protective barriers can be installed to mark these boundaries.

## APPENDIX

### 14.0 Photos

T1



T2





T3

