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Arboricultural Survey & Report

Site:

10 St Mark's Crescent
London
NW1 7TS

Client:

Mr & Mrs Devaney

Date of Report:

August 2022

Date Reference:

AR/MF/0128/22

Report Prepared by:

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Report Contents

1.0 Instructions

1.1 This report has been instructed by Mr & Mrs Devaney to survey, make assessment and provide recommendations for 1 no. Himalayan birch tree within the rear garden of 10 St Mark's Crescent, London, NW1 7TS.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 A site visit was made on 4th August 2022 to survey and assess the tree. The weather at the time of inspection was bright and mild with tree in late growing season.

2.2 The details of the subject tree are set out in the tree survey table in Appendix A. The tree was surveyed on the date and time shown above and the tree survey assessment information for the tree describing size, condition and surroundings is found in this appendix.

2.3 The tree surveyed is shown in a site plan, Appendix B, and this corresponds to the tree survey schedule, Appendix A.

2.4 Photographs of the tree can also be found in Appendix C.

2.5 This report and the opinions within it have been produced without prejudice by Marcus Foster; a qualified arboriculturist and professional member of the Arboricultural Association (MArborA) holding a National Diploma in Arboriculture, and the Arboricultural Association's Technicians Certificate as well as the Professional Tree Inspection Certificate (LANTRA). Marcus Foster also holds a degree in History and Society (University of Exeter). Work experience within the industry includes work as a Contracts Manager for an Arboricultural Association Approved Company, a Local Authority Tree Preservation Officer and an independent Arboricultural Consultant.

3.0 Survey Details and Scope

3.1 The site survey for the purposes of this report includes 1 no. tree (T1) as shown in the survey, Appendix A, and also highlighted on the site plan, Appendix B.

3.2 The survey has been undertaken to determine:

(i) Long term strategy of tree / canopy cover for rear garden location

(ii) general health and safety / hazard assessment

3.3 The tree has been surveyed from ground level only. The height of the tree has been estimated.

3.4 The following information was recorded for the tree and is shown in the Tree Schedule included in Appendix A - refer to full tree schedule key:

- Number: an identity number which cross references locations shown on the plan in Appendix A with the schedule in Appendix B.
- Species: listed by common names
- Tree Height: approximate height in metres
- Tree Spread: approximate height in metres
- Stem diameter: measured in millimetres (mm) and taken at 1.5m above ground level
- Age Class: Y (young); EM (early-mature); M (mature); OM (over-mature)
- Physiological Condition:: G (good); F (fair); P (poor); D (dead)
- Structural Condition: G (good); F (fair); P (poor); D (dead)
- General Comments: Specific comments relating to each tree
- Management recommendations
- NHBC Categorisation (Chpt 4.2 - 2018)
- Work Priority Ratings
- Inspection Frequency

3.5 The information contained within the report reflects the condition of the specimen examined at the time of the inspection. As the inspection was only visual no guarantee can be given concerning the condition of the wood at present in any of the trees inspected and furthermore that no future problems or deficiencies may arise.

3.6 Information recorded in the tree survey is expanded in the report findings and a management programme specified in the recommended schedule of works has been included.

4.0 Survey Limitations

4.1 No soil excavation or root inspection has been carried out.

4.2 This report only considers conditions at the time of inspection and is a visual inspection.

4.3 No internal decay devices/ invasive tools were used during this site survey.

4.4 Soil conditions have been researched but have not been physically investigated.

4.5 It should be noted that trees and vegetation are dynamic organisms and are subject to environmental change / alterations further to site condition changes.

4.6 Should there be any future structural movement the situation regarding the tree and / or vegetation should be re-assessed.

5.0 Tree Survey Findings

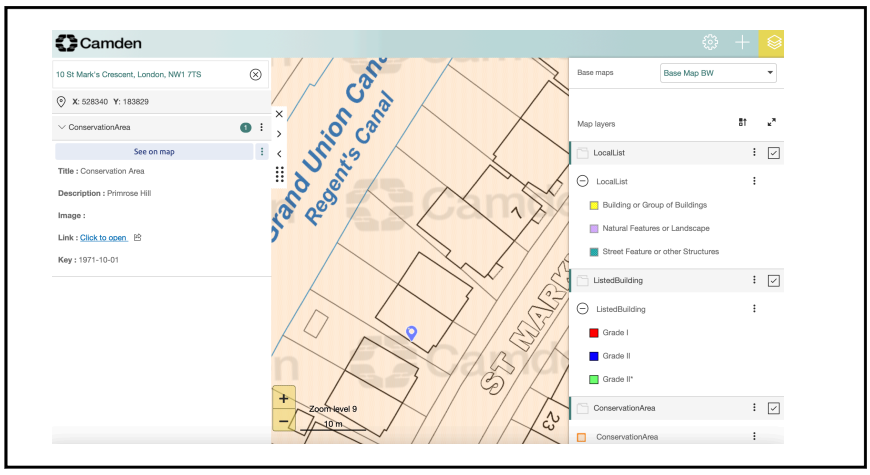
Overview

5.1 The following statutory checks have been made in relation to the trees and their status within London Borough of Camden (LBC):

CONSERVATION AREA STATUS
Primrose Hill Conservation Area

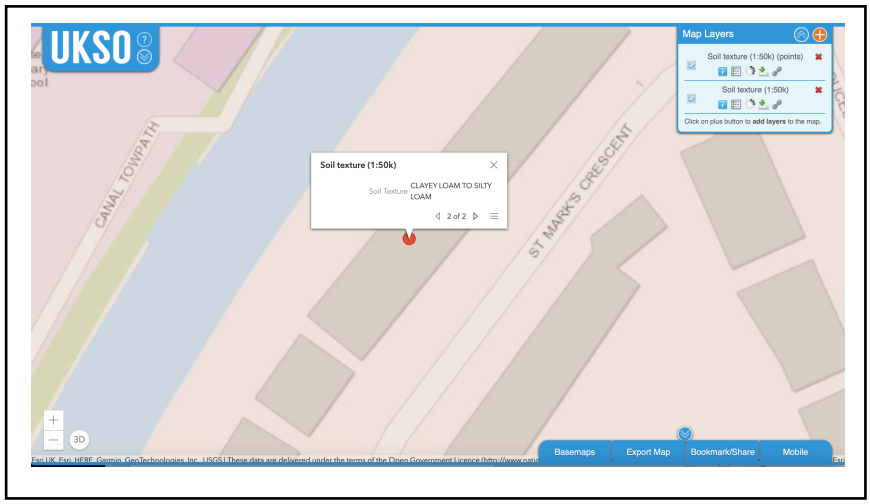
TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (TPO) STATUS
TPO protection check has not been undertaken due to GIS TPO map not available

6.3 The following extracted map confirms the Conservation Area status:



Extract from:
https://ssa.camden.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=CamdenConservation&lang=en-gb

5.3 As viewed May2022 http://www.ukso.org show the property to be located on a medium soil mix consisting mainly of clayey loam to silty loam meaning that plasticity levels of the soil are generally low to moderate.



Findings

5.4 A summary of the tree sited within close proximity of the property is confirmed below:

Tree No: T1
Species: Himalayan birch (*Petula utilise* 'Jacquemontii')
Distance from property: 7.0m
NHBC Rating[1]: Moderate
Management History: Cyclical - lapsed 1-2 years

5.5 In addition, the following notes below are relevant in relation to the tree:

(i) Sited at 7m distance property / 3m distance canal
(ii) Crown lifted to 3m height with open wounds - occluding. Main union at
(iii) 3-3.5m height is congested, gives way to columnar branch framework
(iv) Crown reduced to established reduction points at 5-9m; currently lapsed 2 years

Analysis

5.6 Tree T1 is proposed for removal and replacement for the following reasons:

(i) To provide replacement planting of a more appropriate species which does not require cyclical management and provides direct replacement of amenity value, canopy cover and biodiversity attributes

(ii) To provide a replacement planting which grows to its full potential at maturity to a scale within the landscape setting of a small rear garden with the important Willow tree remaining as the main feature tree

(ii) To enable the Weeping willow (sited on the canal bank to the north) to re-develop western crown; this tree is currently unbalanced due to suppression of the Himalayan birch; the removal will enable the Willow to improve in shape and form being the more appropriate tree for the canal bank setting

(iii) Delivery of a robust planting scheme with maintenance requirements to ensure successful establishment

5.7 In relation to tree T1 which although only a 'Moderate' water uptake NHBC category tree no damage has been noted to the property at present and no reference is made to structural engineers reports fro the relative close proximity to property. Additionally the canal bank has not been inspected in relation to the tree although it is presumed that the Willow tree has a greater extent of tree roots within this area. Where removal is recommended any potential heave resulting from the removal the should be made by a surveyor or structural engineer due to the heavy soil, canal bank location and 'Moderate' water uptake capabilities of the tree sited within 7m of the property.

[1] NHBC, Chapter 4.3. Building near trees (2021)

5.8 Replacement tree planting shall ensure that the following is accounted for:

- Climate change resilience
- Pest and disease resilience
- Right tree for right place mantra
- Implementation of scheme to BS8545 (Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape, 2014)
- Aftercare and establishment programme

5.9 To provide suitable replacement planting with the above attributes suitable species (list not exhaustive) include:

Amelanchier arborea 'Robin Hill'
Cercis cnadensis 'Forest pansy'
Heptacodium micinoides
Hoheria sextylosa
Lagerstroemia indica
Luma aciculate

5.10 Tree Planting Specifications which must be adhered to with any replacement planting scheme:
(i) Irrigation pipe installed to be Platipus Pidler irrigation pipe
(ii) Suitable staking implemented as part of the scheme: - subject to planting pit detail
(iii) A weed suppressing bark mulch between 40-60mm thickness applied
(iv) The tree planting should be accompanied with a strict watering programme for the first 2 x full growing seasons after planting

6.0 Summary

6.1 Tree T1 provides canopy cover and amenity value within the borough but with current form and over-extended scale for the rear garden and in relation to adjacent Willow is incongruous within the landscape.The tree requires cyclical pruning and is a medium to large sized tree for a small rear garden where the important canal bank Willow tree's form to the north shall be improved further to removal and replacement of a smaller tree.

6.2 The future replacement shall provide:
(i) Improved species selection
(ii) 'Low' or 'Moderate' NHBC water uptake species
(iii) Climate change with pest and disease resilience

6.3 It should be noted that the report does not make reference to or provide structural engineering recommendations and should there be any future structural movement of the property the situation regarding the tree should be re-assessed.

6.0 Tree Works Schedule

6.1 Any tree work should be carried out to BS 3998; 2010 Recommendations for Tree Work. Permissions from the Local Authority, are applicable as tree protection applies by virtue of location within a Conservation Area.

TREE WORKS SCHEDULE: 10 St Mark's Crescent, London, NW1 7TS				
Tree No.	Common Name	Tree Works	Reasons for works	Priority Rating
T1	Himalayan birch	Fell to ground level and grind out stump Provide replacement tree as follows: 1 no. 12-14cm girth Heavy Standard (species selection to be confirmed - Low to Moderate NHBC category species only) All planting must be carried out to standards outlined within BS8545 Trees:FromNursery to Independence in the Landscape (2014) with a management plan to ensure establishment for long term retention. Tree Planting Specifications which must be adhered to with any replacement planting scheme: (i) Irrigation pipe installed to be Platipus Pidler irrigation pipe (ii) Suitable staking implemented as part of the scheme: - subject to planting pit detail (iii) A weed suppressing bark mulch between 40-60mm thickness applied (iv) The tree planting should be accompanied with a strict watering programme for the first full season after planting	Cyclical management	M

NOTE: Wildlife & Habitat Protection Guidelines
The tree work specifications included within this report do not provide an exemption from the requirements to comply with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Habitats Regulations 1994 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, or any acts offering protection to wildlife. Of particular note is the protection offered to bats, birds and their nests, whilst being built or in use. It must be noted that failure to comply with the Acts may result in a criminal prosecution.

Appendices

Appendix A: Tree Schedule

Key to Tree Schedule

Number:
Identity number which cross reference locations shown on the plan in Appendix A with the schedule in Appendix B also

Species:
Listed by Latin name and / or common names as deemed appropriate

Tree Height:
Height in metres

Tree Spread:
Height in metres

Stem diameter:
Measured in millimetres (mm) and taken at 1.5m above ground level

Age Class:
Y (young)
Recently planted or established tree - less than 150mm diameter
SM (semi-mature)
Established tree but with significant growth to reach optimum size and form
EM (early-mature)
A tree at maturity but with potential for increased girth and spread which will continue to develop size and form
M (mature)
A mature specimen within final third of lifespan; limited increase in size and/or development of form
OM (over-mature)
A declining tree within latter stages of lifespan. Increased frequency within crown of structural defects and/or lower vigour are likely
V (Veteran)
A tree of significant physical, biological, cultural or aesthetic value which has lived beyond the typical lifespan relative to species. Structural defects are likely a prominent feature and require appropriate management in relation to the importance of the tree
Dead
The tree is dead and cannot be categorised within any of the above

Vitality:
G (good)
- Generally in good health and condition - relative to species - and requiring no remedial action
- Minor deadwood may be evident although extent relative to species
- Leaf size, extension growth and crown density normal for species

F (fair)
- Tree is showing signs of stress including, although not exhaustive of - lowered crown density, excessive deadwood, excessive epicormic growth, selective dieback, pests and diseases, abnormal leaf size / extension growth
- The condition may be alleviated with remedial works / plant health care although these works should not be prioritised in relation to health and safety

P (poor)
- Tree is showing signs of signifiernt physiological decline including overall crown dieback, stag headed form, very poor crown density, limited extension growth, bud burst and decline thereafter, pest infestation
- Remedial work is unlikely to provide improvement in physiological condition

D (dead)
- The tree is no longer alive with no physiological attributes evident

Structural condition:
G (good)
- Few minor defects with overall good structural condition
- Showing no adverse risk of failure/s

F (fair)
- A tree which has a structural defect (major in early / semi maturity or developing stages of life and minor in full maturity) which requires remedial action
- Structural defects could include significant compression forks, co-dominant stems, major deadwood, poor previous pruning, storm damage, limb failure, cavities, decay
- Tree may repair via self optimisation which could be dependant on species / age of tree. Or remedial tree works specified for management of defect

P (poor)
- Tree's structural integrity compromised from poor structural condition
- Major structural defects may include decay, cavity, fungal fruiting bodies, significant dead wood, hanging limbs, major storm damage, excessive and significant pruning wounds

D (dead)
Tree is dead

Comments & Observations
Further to inspection comments which relate to both the physiological and structural condition of the tree and any important site factors also

Management recommendations
Tree Works Specification in accordance with BS3998:2010 and where appropriate BS8545:2014

Work Priority Rating:
U (Urgent)
Immediately / Make safe within 24 hours
VH (Very High)
Within 5 Days
Also appropriate where significant site constraints / infrastructure organisation exists to enable implementation, including 5 day notice
H (High)
Within 30 Days
M (Moderate)
Within 90 Days
L (Low)
Within12 months
May refer to works related to aesthetics of the tree where deemed appropriate / previously implemented

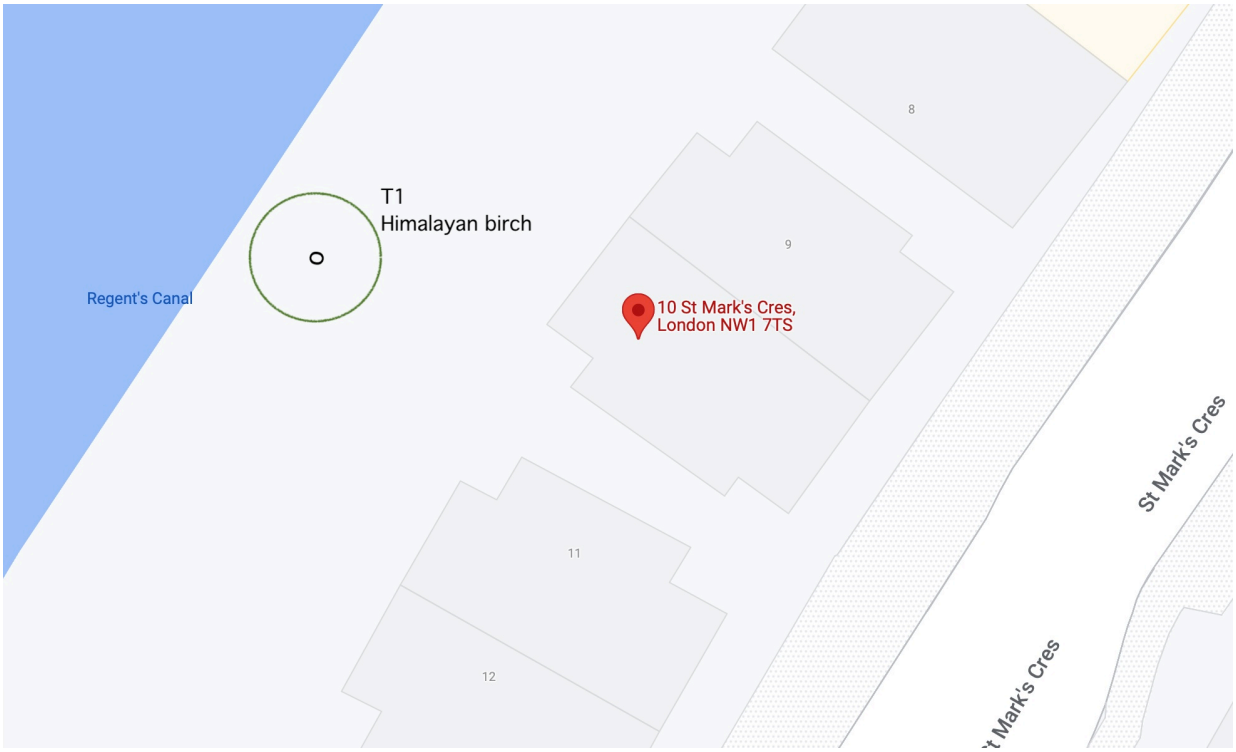
Inspection Frequency
U (Urgent)
Carry out as soon as possible - likely for an aerial inspector
VH (Very High)
Within 30 days
H (High)
Within 6 months
M (Moderate)
Annually
L (Low)
Every 3 years

MARCUS FOSTER ARBORICULTURAL DESIGN & CONSULTANCY - TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE
Survey Site: 10 St Mark's Crescent, London, NW1 7TS
Survey Date: 4th August 2022

Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Crown Spread (m)	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments	Recommendations	NHBC Category Rating	Distance from property (m)	Work Priority Rating	Inspection Frequency
T1	Himalayan birch	11	340	5	M	F	G	Sited at 7m distance property / 3m distance canal. Crown lifted to 3m height with open wounds - occluding. Main union at 3-3.5m height is congested, gives way to columnar branch framework. Crown reduced to established reduction points at 5-9m; currently lapsed 2 years.	Fell to ground level and grind out stump Provide replacement tree: 1 no. 12-14cm girth Heavy Standard or 2.0-2.5m multi-stem (species selection to be confirmed)	M	7	M	/

Appendix B:Tree Survey Plan

10 St Mark's Crescent, London, NW1 7TS



Do not scale from this sketch

Prepared by M Foster

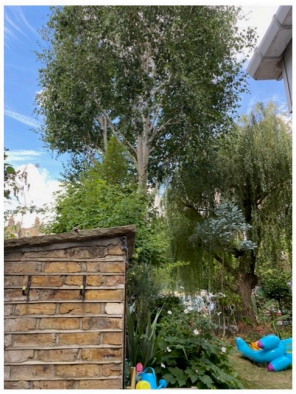
Appendix C: Site Photographs

10 St Mark's Crescent, London, NW1 7TS_Taken by M Foster
4th August 2022 (PM)

Tree T1 as viewed to the south west

Tree T1 as viewed to the west showing reduced form of crown

Main stem of tree T1 viewed to the south east



Tree T1 as viewed to the west showing suppressed form of adjacent Willow

Overview of rear garden - 10 St Mark's Crescent tree T1 as viewed to the south west showing suppressed form of adjacent Willow

Appendix D:
References

1. Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management, Lonsdale, D. (Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions, 1999)

2. The Body Language of Trees, Mattheck, C. and Breloer, H. (HMSO, 1994)

3. Trees in Britain, Philips, R. (Pan Books, 1978).

4. Diagnosis of Ill Health in Trees, Strouts, R. and Winter, (TSO, 1994)

5. NHBC, Chapter 4.3 (2021)

END OF REPORT
PREPARED BY Marcus Foster MArborA