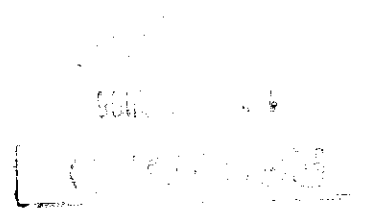


Strawberry Hill Trust

06 / 10 23 LBC



STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE  
Restoration of Walpole's Villa  
as a heritage site

TREE SURVEY  
Feb 2006

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**STRAWBERRY HILL  
TREE SURVEY AND REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 2006**

**The Landscape Agency**

DESIGN ■ PLANNING ■ MANAGEMENT

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## **1.0 REMIT**

The remit, as defined in our quotation dated 21<sup>st</sup> February and sent to Rupert Symmons at Fanshawe, is to:

- Carry out a survey of all trees and major shrubs, to include the following information:
  - Tree and shrub species.
  - Diameter at breast height (dbh).
  - Estimate of tree height and crown spread.
  - Tree age/age class.
  - Condition.
  - Comments: on actionable defects and other noteworthy characteristics of the tree.
  - Work recommendations: to include measures required to preserve the tree and/or to bring the risk of failure of hazardous parts within acceptable limits.
  - Man-hours: estimate of time required to carry out the work.
  - Work priority.
  - Re-inspection period.
- Prepare a map with all the plants plotted using GPS and colour-coded according to age.
- Present the findings in a bound report.

## **2.0 SITE SURVEY**

The trees were surveyed by Andrew Bowman-Shaw and Robert Yates, both experienced and qualified arboriculturalists, on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Weather</b>	<b>Trees Surveyed</b>
01.02.06	ABS	Overcast & dull.	T1-88 & G1-6
01.02.06	RY	Overcast & dull.	T89-177 & G7-16

## **3.0 REPORT LIMITATIONS**

- 3.1** Trees are dynamic organisms, and their condition can change rapidly over a short period of time. They therefore need regular inspection, to identify changes in condition and new hazards which may have developed since the last inspection.

Hence, the conclusions and recommendations in this report are valid only until the next recommended date for reinspection, as stated for each tree in the survey schedule [appendix 2]. This period may be lessened if conditions change in proximity to the trees, e.g. road works and/or trenching causing root severance and damage.

The reinspection dates defined for each tree are based on the recommended remedial tree works having been carried out within the timescale identified.

- 3.2** This is a preliminary survey from ground level using binoculars. If further investigation of defective trees with decay detection technology is required, this will be highlighted in the work recommendations for each tree [see appendix 2].
- 3.3** Defects may have been undetected where the trees are heavily ivy-clad, surrounded by impenetrable vegetation or inaccessible due to adjacent features. Where necessary, the removal of ivy to enable full inspection in the future is recommended in appendix 2.
- 3.4** Only the trees and woodland listed in the survey schedule [appendix 2] and identified on the tree map either as individuals or groups have been surveyed. Any other trees on the site are outside the scope of this report.

## **4.0 STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS**

### **4.1 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS AND CONSERVATION AREAS**

Work on trees with Tree Preservation Orders [TPOs] or within a Conservation Area [CA] requires permission or consent from your District Council. It is necessary to gain confirmation from the Council of any TPOs or CAs on the site, and to follow the necessary application or notification procedure if tree surgery is required to trees covered by these.

### **4.2 WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 / CROW ACT 2000**

Work on trees used by any wild birds for nesting or by bats as a current or past roosting site requires statutory consent under the above acts. Trees requiring tree surgery work should be checked for signs of bats or nesting birds. If these are found, the Species Protection Officer at your local English Nature office should be contacted for further advice.

## **5.0 THE SITE**

### **5.1 HISTORIC CONTEXT**

The original house was built between 1748 and 1790 by Horace Walpole, and later altered and extended by Lady Waldegrave between 1856 and 1873. In 1923, it was purchased by the Vincentian Community and became St. Mary's College; during the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> century some of the exterior and interior changes made by Lady Waldegrave were returned to Walpole's design.

The garden layout to the south of the house is still very much as created by Walpole; he created the Serpentine Walk bordered by trees and shrubs and the adjacent Open Grove. It was restyled by Lady Waldegrave, and has gradually come to provide an increasingly important screening role as the adjacent land was sold off and houses built.

Changes to the north of Walpole's house, such as the creation of the Forecourt by Lady Waldegrave, have probably resulted in a greater density of tree and shrub planting in an area originally used for flowers and low ground cover by Walpole.

Although the grounds have reduced in size considerably since Walpole's day, and are now surrounded by 20<sup>th</sup> century developments, the preservation of much of the garden's structural integrity provides an opportunity for restoring the landscape in keeping with Walpole's design.

### **5.2 CURRENT USAGE**

The site is currently used as a college of higher education (St. Mary's University College), and the grounds in the survey area are maintained for staff and student use, including informal games, walking and sitting out in the summer.

The pathways through the tree belts on the eastern and southern boundaries are used for access by staff and students to and from different buildings on the site.

The north-west corner of the survey area next to the Waldegrave Wing is used for college car parking. The parking area is normally full up and is bordered by shrub borders and mature trees.

At the northern end, the ground under the trees is used for tipping grass clippings and leaves, and there is a fire site near some mature False Acacia (T82 on map 1).

The survey area is bordered by the athletics track to the south, the house and college buildings to the west, Waldegrave Road to the north, and a public footpath and the back gardens of private houses to the east.

It is in this context and in view of the potential for increased use of the gardens by the public in the future, that the tree work recommendations are made.