

REEVES ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES

Reeves Arboricultural Services Ltd. 68 Maltings Place, London, SW6 2BY

info@reevesarbservices.com

www.reevesarbservices.com

Site: St. Osmund's Catholic Primary School Church Road Barnes London SW13 9HQ

Inspection details: Aerial inspection of T001- Cedar of Lebanon

Date of inspection: 10.01.24

Inspected by: Ross Fountain Dip. Arb L4 ABC and Gillon Laidlaw FdSc MArborA

Method of inspection: Visual aerial inspection via MEWP. No further investigation or testing of the tree or soil was carried out.

1. Findings of the aerial inspection.

Flexible bracing-

On inspection the previously installed bracing has 2012 date tags and the bracing kit used was 4T cobra bracing.

The bracing cables were very tight. There was some wear to the sleeving that surrounds the bracing cable at the stems. There was minor wear to the cabling at one of the stems.

Bird Scarer-

The previously installed bird scarer was secure in the tree. Reaction growth has engulfed the fixing point, and the connection was secure. Furthermore, on closer inspection it was noted that the materials of the item, are predominantly very lightweight plastic, almost film thickness. Therefore, there is very low risk associated with the bird scarer falling if it was to become less secure in the future. See picture 1.

The tree-

A large amount of deadwood was removed from the tree including some large deadwood sections. This deadwood was mostly visible from the ground level, but the volume was significant.

There were not many defects of note. One relatively small north heading branch was being partially supported by, or its movement limited by the deadwood stubs retained after the deadwood removal. However, this branch had been previously reduced and therefore was relatively limited both in wind exposure and weight. See picture 2.

A small wound, potentially a historical longitudinal split or occluded longitudinal wound was evident on a NW heading branch in the inner N/NW canopy, which is not considered to be significant. See picture 3.

2. Analysis of the findings

The most significant finding is considered to be the condition and age of the flexible bracing. Given the tags present, it is assumed that it was installed at some point during 2012. 4T Cobra® bracing has a manufacturer's recommended service

REEVES ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES

Reeves Arboricultural Services Ltd. 68 Maltings Place, London, SW6 2BY

info@reevesarbservices.com

www.reevesarbservices.com

life of 12 years, therefore it is at the end of its serviceable life and needs to be replaced. As the bracing was very tight also, simply replacing the bracing with new bracing has risks that must be considered. If the bracing was simply replaced there would be no way to get the new bracing as tight as the existing without significant mechanical intervention (which would pose its own risk) and therefore there is a risk that there would be small movements of the braced limbs, which could pose a risk of structural damage.

An additional (new) section of flexible bracing was installed between the stems where the existing bracing showed some signs of wear and deterioration. This secondary bracing was installed as a precautionary measure, prior to the mitigation recommended below, being carried out. It is also worth noting that the removal of deadwood has reduced some weight and sail that has also reduced the risks posed prior to the recommended mitigation.

3. Recommendations and priority

Reduction works

It is recommended that the canopy is reduced prior to the replacement of the bracing to reduce the weight and sail of the limbs. This will reduce the risk of movement in the process of replacing the bracing and reduce the forces acting on the new bracing and unions. As the vast majority of the canopy is supported, to some degree, with flexible bracing this work will equate to a full reduction of the crown but given the nature of the growth habit of the tree this reduction will take place to the upper to mid-section of the sides of the canopy. The upper central canopy and inward heading (towards the trunk) growth in the outsides of the upper canopy should be retained. So should growth that can safely be retained that may in the future become lower canopy growth and provide some dampening.

It is recommended that the reduction of the specified parts of the crown is carried out by selectively reducing growth generally up to 1.5m. This can be increased to up to 2.5m in places where sufficient photosynthetic material can be retained so the likelihood of branch death is reduced.

Flexible bracing replacement

The flexible bracing should be replaced, like for like with 4T Cobra® bracing, unless the stem diameter at the base of the stem to be braced requires 8T bracing. It should be located in as similar positions as possible as the existing bracing will have some impact on where the tree has put on reaction growth. In addition to the existing bracing, an additional section of bracing should be installed in the NW section of the canopy to provide some additional support beyond a potentially weakend union. See picture 4.

If, after the reduction works the existing bracing is still heavily loaded, then mechanical assistance should be used to minimise the risk of movement of the limbs after the existing bracing is removed. In this case the new bracing should be installed as tight as possible between 2 stems. Then these stems should be carefully winched towards each other, to make a minor reduction to the loading of the existing bracing. Excessive force must be avoided to minimise the risk of damage from the winching. This should be repeated on all heavily loaded limbs until all the bracing is replaced.

Priority of works

The recommended work should be carried out **within 8 months** of the inspection. Late summer (**late August- early September 2024**) is an ideal time to carry out the recommendations. This is due to the energy reserves being high at the end of the summer and reaction growth is also triggered more quickly in a period of active growth. Furthermore, the work is likely to be less disruptive within the summer holidays. It is advised that the work is carried out within the recommended timeframe as the existing bracing has reached the end of its serviceable life.

Reeves Arboricultural Services Ltd is registered in England & Wales No 8650515 VAT No. 172056228

REEVES ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES

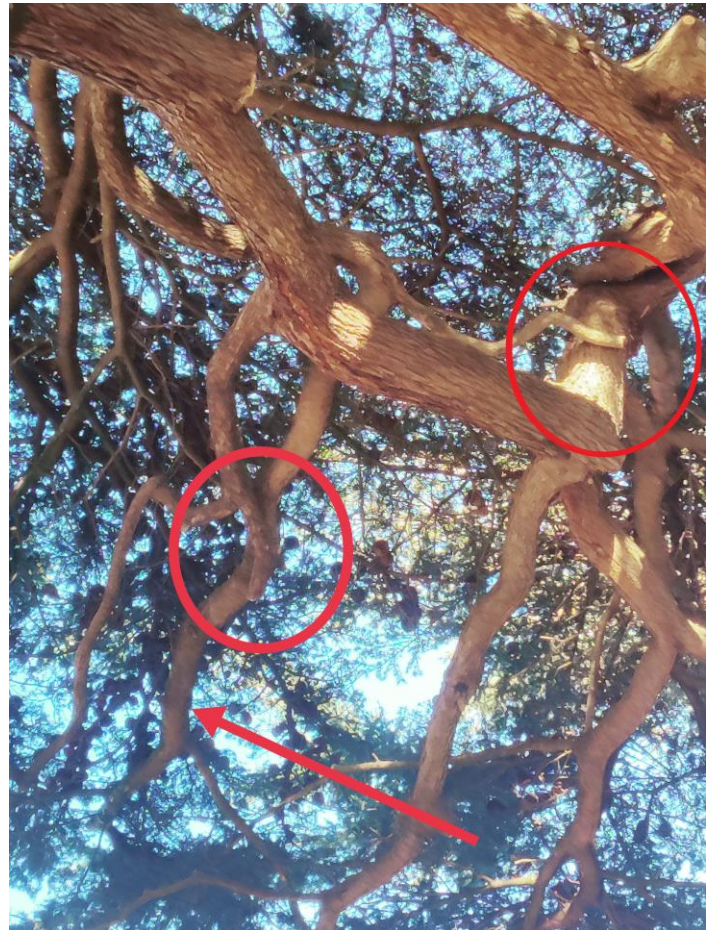
Reeves Arboricultural Services Ltd. 68 Maltings Place, London, SW6 2BY

info@reevesarbservices.com

www.reevesarbservices.com



Picture 1. Showing the secure bird scarer



Picture 2. A small branch partially supported by, or movement limited by remaining stubs in contact with other branches

REEVES ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES

Reeves Arboricultural Services Ltd. 68 Maltings Place, London, SW6 2BY

info@reevesarbservices.com

www.reevesarbservices.com



Picture 3. Showing a small wound, potentially a historical longitudinal split or occluded longitudinal wound

REEVES ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES

Reeves Arboricultural Services Ltd. 68 Maltings Place, London, SW6 2BY

info@reevesarbservices.com

www.reevesarbservices.com



Picture 3. Showing a potentially weakened union and limb extending from this union.