

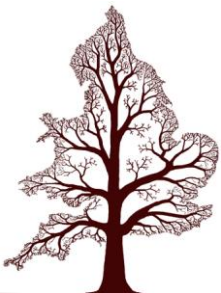
Arboricultural Report

Regarding a pine tree (T1) at

5 The Hermitage Richmond TW10 6SH



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I am instructed by Eavan Quaid to inspect the pine tree (T1) that grows in the rear garden of the above property and to provide evidence supporting its removal by:

- Documenting existing and potential future nuisances.
- Assessing the impact of consented development on T1.
- Assessing the amenity value of T1.

Inspection details

I inspected the tree on the 22nd of May 2024.

My inspection was undertaken from ground level using binoculars, a sounding hammer and metal probes. The trees were assessed using the VTA system as endorsed by the Arboricultural Association and the British Standards Institute. I examined the stem base, stem, scaffold branches and branch junctions for anomalies, defects, or symptoms of disease or inner decay which might affect structural integrity.

No climbing or specialist decay detection were undertaken.

Tree Location

The tree is in the rear garden of 5 The Hermitage, adjacent to a boundary wall and footpath. A plan showing the trees location can be found at Appendix 3.

Tree Description and Discussion

T1 is an early-mature pine tree with a height of approximately 9m and a stem diameter of 56cm. It has a radial canopy spread of 4m to 4.5m. It is multi-stemmed at 6m with a balanced crown and has previously been reduced.

The tree has significant deadwood approximately 5m above ground level on the western side adjacent to the footpath (see Photo 2).

Nuisance

T1 is located in a raised planting area retained by a dwarf wall which is being displaced. Photo 3 shows a crack adjacent to the tree, which is slightly wider towards the top, indicating it is being lifted. This is likely as a result of incremental growth put on by tree roots. As such, this damage will continue to worsen as the tree grows. Moreover, T1 is situated adjacent to a large boundary wall and there is a risk of future nuisance and damage occurring as a result of rooting activity.

T1 is a Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). Such trees can grow to around 35m tall. Given its huge growth potential, this tree is unsuitable for the small garden space in which it is growing. This species is known for having a compact canopy with a mostly bare stem and will

readily drop its old lower branches as it grows. Given that beneath the canopy are small gardens and a public footpath, this creates both a nuisance and a risk. Indeed, significant deadwood is present within the lower canopy of this specimen, adjacent to the footpath.



The tree also creates further nuisance by intercepting sunlight and shading the rear garden as well as the rear of the house at certain parts of the day. Considering the huge growth potential of the tree, the amount of shade produced will continue to increase as the tree grows.



Impact From Consented Development

I have measured and drawn the footprint of the consented development proposal (Ref: 23/2074/HOT) on the tree location plan and assessed the impact on the tree.

The Root Protection Area of the tree has been calculated as per British standard recommendations - BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction. The drawing shows that the proposed patio extension and associated lowering of ground levels shall impact approximately 5% of the RPA of T1. Given that most tree roots generally lie in the upper soil horizons, it is expected that such work shall involve the removal of tree roots.

The proposals will also reduce the size of the garden, making T1 even less suitable for its location given its growth potential.



Amenity Value

From publicly accessible land, the tree can be seen only with difficulty. Photo 4 shows a small part of the tree can only be seen between buildings on The Hermitage, Photos 5 and 6 show that this is only possible from a specific position. Photographs 7 to 12 show that the tree can only be seen from the footpath adjacent to 5 The Hermitage when almost underneath the canopy. Therefore, the Amenity value of the tree is considered to be low.



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Conclusion

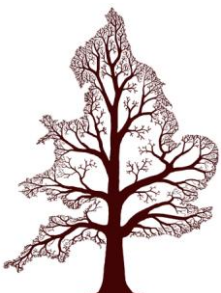
Given the current nuisance, unsuitability for a large forest tree with a huge growth potential in a small back garden, and the juxtaposition of the tree in relation to consented development, it is proposed to be removed. Considering that this tree can only be seen with difficulty from the public realm, its removal shall not have a significant impact on local amenity.



I am informed that the owners of T1 intend to replace it with a more suitable specimen. I suggest the following species would be more suited to a small residential garden:

- Birch (*Betula* sp.)
- Cherry (*Prunus* sp.)
- Magnolia (*Magnolia* sp.)
- Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia* or *Sorbus vilmorinii*)

Dated 5th July 2024



Appendix 1: Qualifications and Experience.

Qualifications & Experience of Carl Lothian – BSc (Hons) (Arboriculture), MArborA.

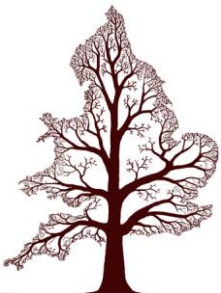
Carl began his arboricultural career by undertaking a Level 3 extended diploma in arboriculture and forestry at Merrist Wood College in 2015. Upon completion of his diploma, Carl worked with several tree surgery firms completing a range of arboricultural works. In 2018 Carl began his BSc (Hons) in arboriculture and urban forestry, graduating with a first-class degree and attaining the Institute of Chartered Foresters Student of the Year Award.

After graduating, Carl worked as a TreeRadar technician where he carried out tree root and decay surveys with specialist ground-penetrating radar equipment. During this time Carl was fortunate enough to work at prestigious sites, such as the Palace of Westminster and the National Maritime Museum.

Whilst working at Crown, Carl has undertaken a range of tree surveys and written reports relating to development, tree condition, subsidence, hazard assessment, and decay detection. Carl is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association.



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Appendix 2: Photographs



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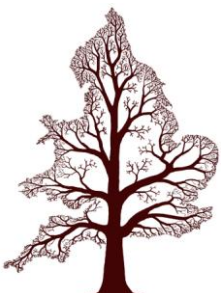


Photo 1. T1.



Photo 2. T1 (deadwood).



Photo 3. Displaced dwarf wall



Photo 4. Photograph taken towards T1 from The Hermitage (tree visible with difficulty).



Photo 5. Photograph taken towards T1 from The Hermitage (tree not visible).



Photo 6. Photograph taken towards T1 from The Hermitage (tree not visible).



Photo 7. Photograph taken towards T1 from footpath (tree not visible).



Photo 8. Photograph taken towards T1 from footpath (tree not visible).

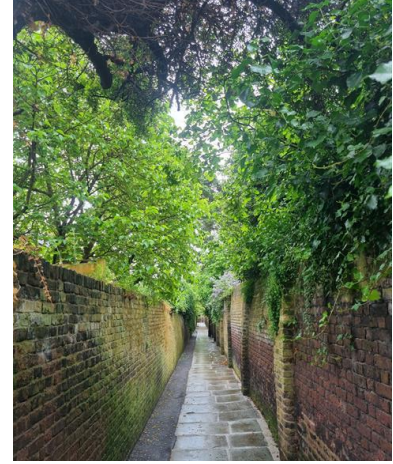
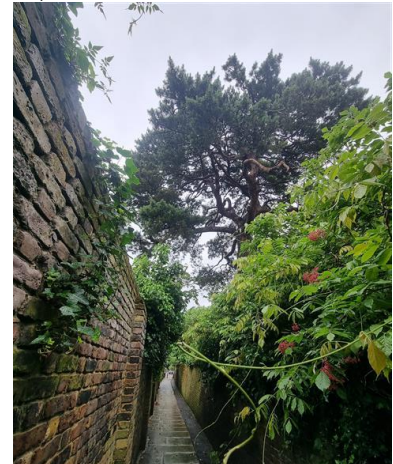


Photo 9. Photograph taken towards T1 from footpath (tree partly visible).



Photo 10. Photograph taken towards T1 from footpath (tree partly visible).



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Photo 11. Photograph taken towards T1 from footpath (tree not visible).

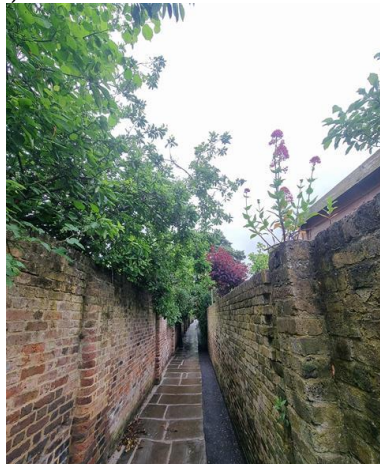
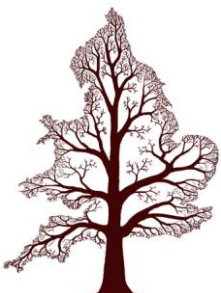
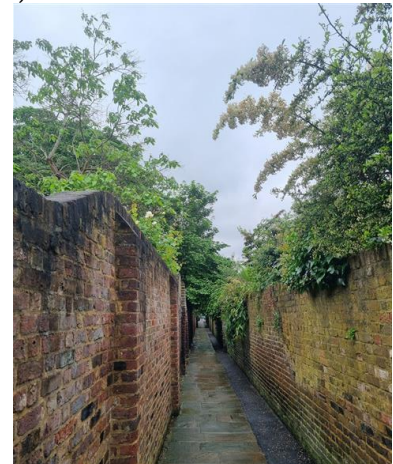


Photo 12. Photograph taken towards T1 from footpath (tree not visible).



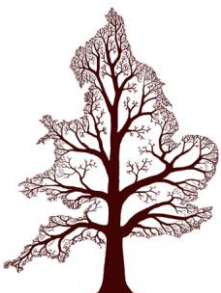
Appendix 3: Tree Location Plan



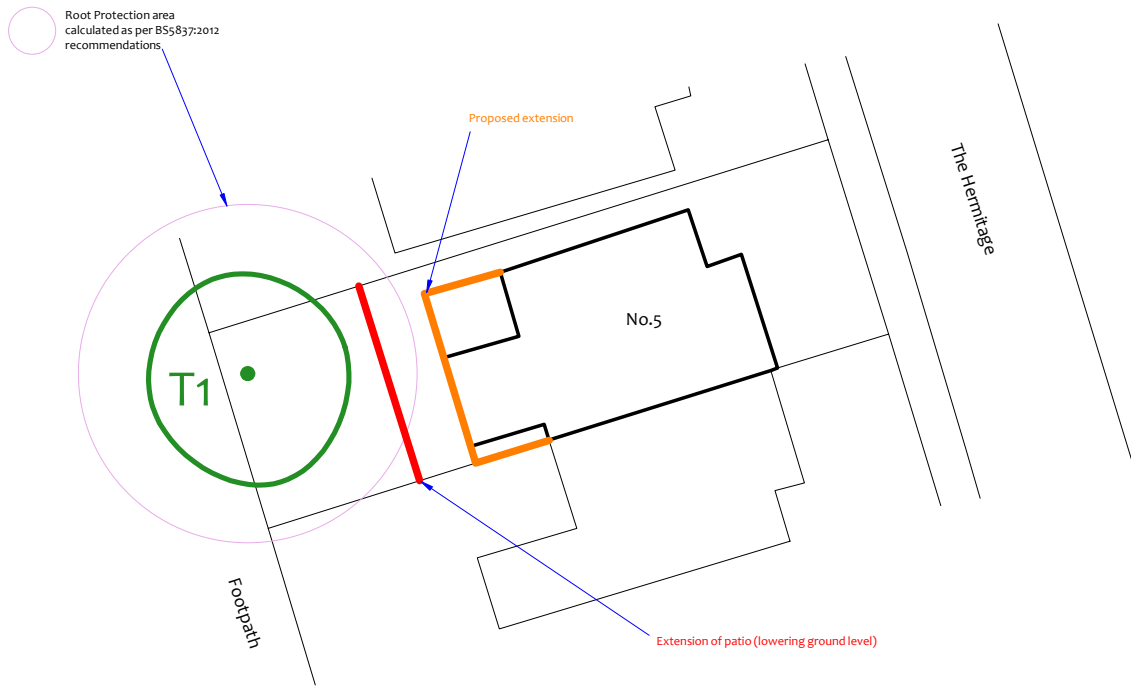
The Tree Location Plan follows this page.



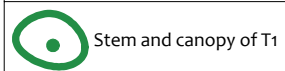
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Appendix 3



Tree Location Plan



Stem and canopy of T1

Site: 5 The Hermitage

Ref: CCL 11872

Scale: 1:300

Paper Size: A4



CROWN

Arboricultural Consultants