

PROTECTED TREE REPORT (TREE WORKS)

Haringey Council, L4,
Alexandra House, Station
Road N22 7TY

Please Scroll to Page 2

Application number	HGY/2026/1717
Application type	Conservation Area Notification
Site Address:	1A Dukes Avenue Hornsey London N10 2PS
Proposal	<i>Tree T1 – Mature Robinia pseudoacacia Proposed Works: Fell to ground level and grind stump where practicable. T1 is a mature tree situated immediately adjacent to the public highway and pedestrian footway. The tree exhibits a pronounced lean towards the highway and public footpath, resulting in a substantial proportion of the crown mass being biased over areas of frequent pedestrian and vehicular occupation. Inspection of the tree identified a significant historic wound within the principal stem, believed to be associated with previous chainsaw operations and/or historic pruning works. Whilst wound wood has developed around the margins of the injury, the defect remains evident within a primary structural section of the tree and represents a potential point of weakness. Robinia pseudoacacia is widely recognised as a species with comparatively brittle timber characteristics and a limited ability to effectively compartmentalise decay following large mechanical injuries. Consequently historic stem damage of this nature may result in progressive internal deterioration that is not always externally visible. The tree is additionally responsible for significant displacement and distortion of surrounding hardstanding surfaces through root activity. The lifting and deformation of paving adjacent to the stem indicate ongoing root pressure and demonstrate the tree's interaction with surrounding infrastructure. The following factors have been considered collectively: Pronounced stem lean towards a heavily used public footway and highway. Historic mechanical injury to a principal stem section. Potential for internal dysfunction associated with the wound. Species characteristics associated with brittle timber and structural limb failure. Species characteristics associated with brittle timber and structural limb failure. High target occupancy beneath and adjacent to the tree. Removal and replacement planting with a more suitable species is therefore considered the most appropriate long-term management solution.</i> <i>Tree T2 – Mature Robinia pseudoacacia. Proposed Works: Crown reduction by approximately 3 metres in height and 1.5–2 metres laterally. Remove deadwood throughout crown. Prune and reshape crown to provide suitable clearance from adjacent building and achieve a balanced form. The crown currently extends towards the neighbouring building where lateral branches are in direct contact with the structure and are causing abrasion against the building. The proposed crown reduction will: Provide suitable clearance from the adjacent building. Reduce end-weight on</i>

	<i>extended lateral limbs. Improve crown balance and form. Remove dead, damaged and diseased wood. Improve long-term management and retention of the tree. The works are intended as routine arboricultural maintenance and are not expected to adversely affect the health or amenity value of the tree</i> <i>All pruning works will be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations of BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations</i>
--	--

RECOMMENDATION:	No Objection	
Application date	16/06/2026	
Tree Inspector	DM	Date: 22 nd July 2026

Site

The mature *Robinia* spp. trees T1 & T2, as marked on the plan and seen in the labelled photographs (see below) are situated in the front garden of the property. They are publicly visible.

A site visit was deemed necessary to determine the appropriateness of the proposed works (14/07/2026 at approximately 11:15am).

The location is also within the Muswell Hill Conservation Area. This protects every tree with a diameter at breast height (taken at 1.5m) >75mm.

Proposal

Tree works proposed.

Tree T1 – Mature Robinia pseudoacacia Proposed Works: Fell to ground level and grind stump where practicable. T1 is a mature tree situated immediately adjacent to the public highway and pedestrian footway. The tree exhibits a pronounced lean towards the highway and public footpath, resulting in a substantial proportion of the crown mass being biased over areas of frequent pedestrian and vehicular occupation. Inspection of the tree identified a significant historic wound within the principal stem, believed to be associated with previous chainsaw operations and/or historic pruning works. Whilst wound wood has developed around the margins of the injury, the defect remains evident within a primary structural section of the tree and represents a potential point of weakness. Robinia pseudoacacia is widely recognised as a species with comparatively brittle timber characteristics and a limited ability to effectively compartmentalise decay following large mechanical injuries. Consequently historic stem damage of this nature may result in progressive internal deterioration that is not always externally visible. The tree is additionally responsible for significant displacement and distortion of surrounding hardstanding surfaces through root activity. The lifting and deformation of paving adjacent to the stem indicate ongoing root pressure and demonstrate the tree's interaction with surrounding infrastructure. The following factors have been considered collectively: Pronounced stem lean towards a heavily used public footway and highway. Historic mechanical injury to a principal stem section. Potential for internal dysfunction associated with the wound. Species characteristics associated with brittle timber and structural limb failure. Species characteristics associated with brittle timber and structural limb failure. High target occupancy beneath and adjacent to the tree. Removal and replacement planting with a more suitable species is therefore considered the most appropriate long-term management solution.

Tree T2 – Mature Robinia pseudoacacia. Proposed Works: Crown reduction by approximately 3 metres in height and 1.5–2 metres laterally. Remove deadwood throughout crown. Prune and reshape crown to provide suitable clearance from adjacent building and achieve a balanced form. The crown currently extends towards the neighbouring building where lateral branches are in direct contact with the structure and are causing abrasion against the building. The proposed crown reduction will: Provide suitable clearance from the adjacent building. Reduce end-weight on extended lateral limbs. Improve crown balance and form. Remove dead, damaged and diseased wood. Improve long-term management and retention of the tree. The works are intended as routine arboricultural maintenance and are not expected to adversely affect the health or amenity value of the tree

All pruning works will be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations of BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations

Issues

I hold no objections to the removal of the Robinia tree T1.

However, it is not for the reasons stated above. A leaning tree is not a defective tree, and Robinia wood is notoriously hard.

The acute lean is at a 45° angle with perpendicular corrective growth within the crown. There is no recent lifting of the root bole, but direct damage has been caused over time to the surrounding area on the tension north side of the trunk.

The tree has been reduced in the past to account for the lean (reduce weight within the crown and reducing the sail area within a sheltered area) and address the crown cavities. Robinias generally respond well to such reductions and management regimes.

Both trees are adjacent and leaning out towards the footway, highway, and an adjacent children's nursery.

It was noted on a site visit and closer inspection that there is severe base decay, a seam, and closed cavities on the weaker compression side on the south, west, and east side of the trunk. The decay extends >50% of the stem's circumference to a height of 0.5m.

There is longitude cracking across the wood fibres low down on the west side of the stem and significant dead peeling bark plates.

Old fungus fruiting bodies were found at the base of the tree which were hard to identify. However, I am certain the fungus was the *Inonotus hispidus* (white/ soft rot mode of decay). There is mycelium activity under the bark and dead cambium.

When probed with a 450mm probe, the decay was found to be extensive, with the probe lost within the trunk in all directions including down into the buttresses of the roots.

When sound tested with a nylon headed mallet the trunk had hollow sounds.

No adaptive reactive growth was present on the trunk.

It is for the above observations, and reasons that I hold no objections to the removal of the Robinia tree T1.

There is duty to replace dead, dying and dangerous trees within a Conservation Area.

The applicant intends to re plant with a suitable species for the site and is considering the following appropriate choices:

Amelanchier lamarckii (Snowy Mespilus)

Prunus 'Amanogawa' (Flagpole Cherry)

Crataegus persimilis 'Prunifolia' (Hawthorn):

Sorbus 'Joseph Rock' (Rowan)

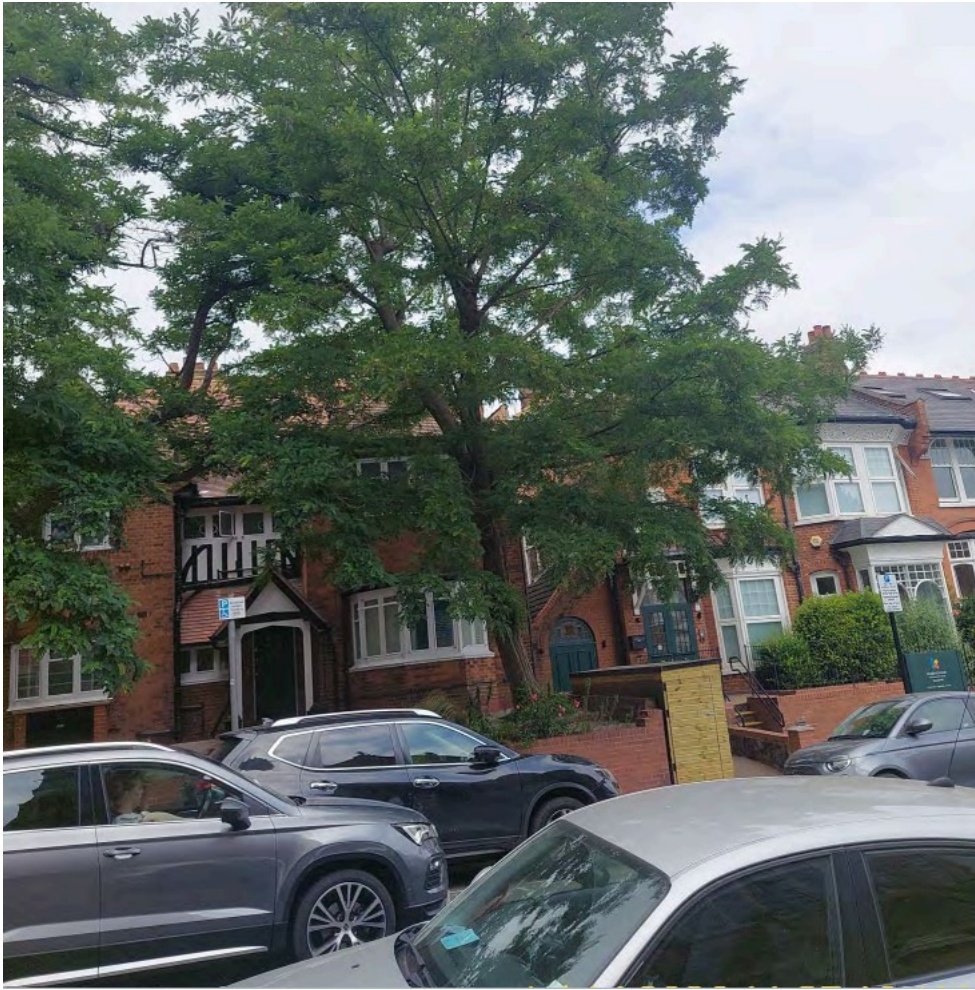
There is a Facilities Manager (FM) on site when I did the visit. I am sure that the FM can water the newly planted tree, as aftercare, to establish independence within the landscape and graduation to maturity.

I hold no objections to the proposed crown reduction works to the larger Robina tree T2.

The specification is within standard good practice and husbandry.

Recommendation

No Objection



T1



T1

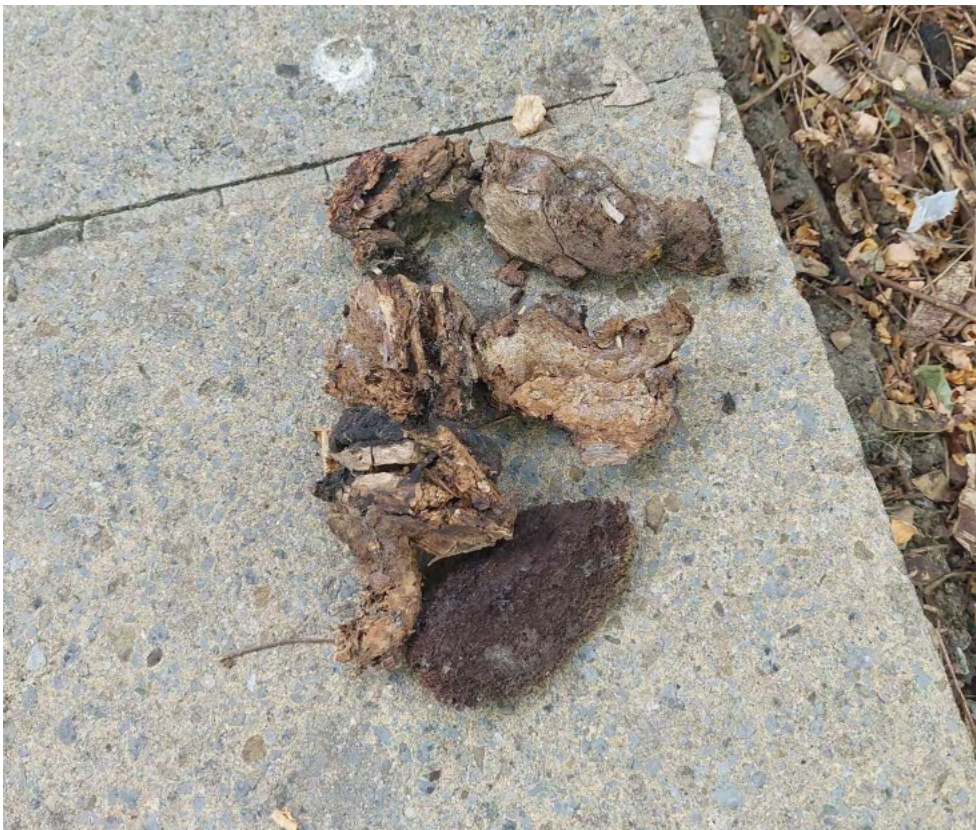


T1



T1 (right) & T2 (left)





Dead peeling bark and old fungal fruiting bodies



Fungal fruiting bodies est side of the trunk



450mm Probe west side of the trunk's base



Longitude cracking west side of the trunk



450mm Probe on south side of trunk and possible *Inonotus hispidus* fungus fruit



