

Appendix A
Phlorum, Arboriculturist
Letter and tree survey

**SOUTHERN OFFICE**

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By Email & Post (SMintoft@ardmoregroup.co.uk)

Simon Mintoft

Ardmore

6 Wharf Studios

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London

N1 7GR

Our ref: RS/10408/PD

Dear Simon:

Land at Hornsey Town Hall: Arboricultural Survey

Following a survey of retained trees at the Hornsey Town Hall by a separate tree consultant who was instructed by local residents, Phlorum were instructed to undertake their own updated survey of trees at the site to determine the condition of the trees and what mitigation measures are needed to improve their longevity. The following observations and recommendations were made:

T2 – Sycamore: The construction works around T2 have been completed. This primarily involved the installation of replacement hard standing within the root protection area, although it appears the area to the north of the tree has been used as a contractor compound during the development as well. T2 is exhibiting some dieback in the upper crown. As the tree had a full and healthy crown prior to the development, it is likely that this loss of vitality is a result of the development. As the majority of the rooting area of the tree is located under hard standing, and the retained grass area does not appear to have been compacted or contaminated during the construction period, there is very limited scope to ameliorate the rooting area. Instead, the tree should be monitored and have the dead wood removed as required in the future.

T3 – Chestnut: T3 has been reduced in accordance with the previous recommendations from Phlorum as a result of a limb snapping out in the crown during the course of the development. The tree is in a state of decline but this is not the result of the HTH development and there does not appear to have been any direct damage to the rooting medium or tree as a result of the construction works.

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T4 – Norway maple: T4 has a full and healthy crown. It is now surrounded by permeable hard standing on what used to be half grass and half tarmac. Concerns have been raised regarding this type of surface in terms of durability and aesthetics. It is my opinion that this is the most suitable surface type to surround the tree. The hard standing needs to be permeable and flush with level of the existing pavement. Use of block paving or permeable tarmac would likely require a greater sub-base than the bonded gravel that has been used. Additionally, any hard standing around the base of the tree is likely to be subject to cracking as the tree matures, however the bonded gravel will be the easiest to repair in the future.

T13 – Pear: The construction works surrounding T13 (installation of permeable paving) have been completed. These works do not appear to have impacted on the tree as it has a full and healthy crown and no visible physical damage resulting from the construction works.

T14 – Sycamore: T14 is exhibiting significant crown dieback (estimated to be about 30-40% density now whereas it had a full and healthy crown prior to the development). It is highly likely that this is the result of the construction activities that have occurred around the tree. A weak branch union was also observed on the north side of the tree. Ameliorating the rooting area of T14 will now be very difficult as it is surrounded by hard standing. Instead, it is recommended that the crown be reduced to approximately 10m height and monitored.

T27 – Weeping ash: The existing retaining wall to the south of the stem has been demolished and is to be rebuilt. Additionally, further works to the wall on the east side of the buttress is still to occur and will likely result in further root damage. Currently T27 has a healthy crown, however during the updated site visit, numerous *Perenniporia fraxinea* brackets were observed on multiple sides of the buttress. Given the high risk target zone of this tree in the completed development and the likelihood of further root disturbance during the course of the remaining construction works which will further weaken the trees natural defence against the decay, it is my opinion that this tree should be felled and replaced during the soft landscaping phase of development.

T28 – Weeping ash: T28 has a healthy crown. There are multiple cavities in primary limbs of the crown, however given the form of the tree it is not considered that any pruning works are needed/viable to mitigate these defects. The construction works directly around T28 are yet to commence and must occur sensitively to ensure no damage occurs to the roots or rooting medium.

Photographs 1-13 below show the trees that were assessed during this survey.

Photo No.	Photograph
1	 T2 – Sycamore
2	 T2 – Sycamore

Photo No.	Photograph
3	 T3 - Chestnut
4	 T4- Norway maple

Photo No.	Photograph
5	 T4 – Norway maple
6	 T13 – Pear

Photo No.	Photograph
7	 T13 – Pear
8	 T14 - Sycamore

Photo No.	Photograph
9	 T14 – Sycamore
10	 T27 – Weeping ash

Photo No.	Photograph
11	 T27 – Weeping ash
12	 T28 – Weeping ash

Photo No.	Photograph
13	 T28 - Weeping ash

If you have any queries regarding this project, or any other project we may be able to help you with, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Davies

Peter Davies
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Arboriculturist