TreeSure Second Tree Report

This is the second tree report, which concludes that the tree is in a worse condition than originally assessed. The tree is approximately 90 ft high. The report states that there is advanced decay at the base and recommends removal.

Despite this, the council's tree officers have not removed the tree at the base, where the decay is located. Instead, the tree has been left standing at approximately 30 ft high. While this may reduce the immediate risk of damage, it does not address the point of decay identified in the report.

The report does not state that decay exists above 30 ft. It identifies decay at the base. Common sense would therefore suggest that removal should take place at the point of decay, rather than leaving a substantial section of the tree standing above it.

We have been unable to identify other examples in Heswall where trees have been cut back and left at this height. By contrast, we have found several examples on Telegraph Road where trees have been cut back to approximately 7 ft or removed entirely down to their stumps.

This raises an obvious question. Why has this tree been left standing at approximately 30 ft when other trees in the same area have been removed much further down, or entirely? This is a further issue that will be taken up separately with the council.

Andrew Hodson
last seen today at 08:59

2 February 2024

Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. Only people in this chat can read, listen to, or share them. Learn more.

Missed video call
Tap to call back 14:56

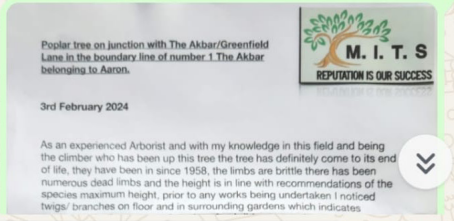
can you call me councillor Andrew Hodson 14:58

Hi Andrew, just seen message. Just in a meeting. Will call asap. Regards 15:10

Voice call
3 mins 15:33

15:37

6 February 2024


Poplar tree on junction with The Akbar/Greenfield Lane in the boundary line of number 1 The Akbar belonging to Aaron.

M. I. T. S
REPUTATION IS OUR SUCCESS

3rd February 2024

As an experienced Arborist and with my knowledge in this field and being the climber who has been up this tree the tree has definitely come to its end of life, they have been in since 1958, the limbs are brittle there has been numerous dead limbs and the height is in line with recommendations of the species maximum height, prior to any works being undertaken I noticed twigs/ branches on floor and in surrounding gardens which indicates

Message

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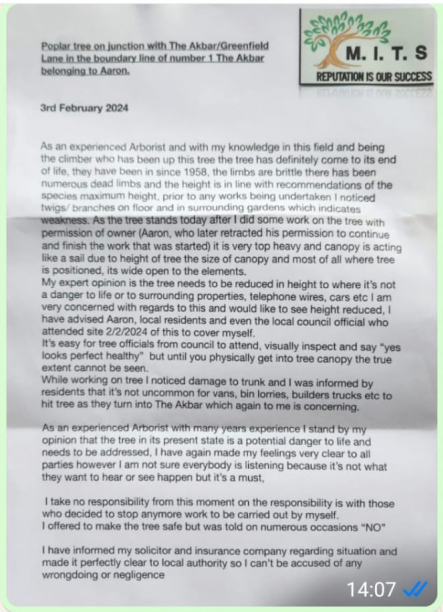
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My expert opinion is the tree needs to be reduced in height to where it's not a danger to life or to surrounding properties, telephone wires, cars etc I am very concerned with regards to this and would like to see height reduced, I have advised Aaron, local residents and even the local council official who attended site 2/2/2024 of this to cover myself.
It's easy for tree officials from council to attend, visually inspect and say "yes looks perfect healthy" but until you physically get into tree canopy the true extent cannot be seen.
While working on tree I noticed damage to trunk and I was informed by residents that it's not uncommon for vans, bin lorries, builders trucks etc to hit tree as they turn into The Akbar which again to me is concerning.

As an experienced Arborist with many years experience I stand by my opinion that the tree in its present state is a potential danger to life and needs to be addressed, I have again made my feelings very clear to all parties however I am not sure everybody is listening because it's not what they want to hear or see happen but it's a must,

I take no responsibility from this moment on the responsibility is with those who decided to stop anymore work to be carried out by myself.
I offered to make the tree safe but was told on numerous occasions "NO"

I have informed my solicitor and insurance company regarding situation and made it perfectly clear to local authority so I can't be accused of any wrongdoing or negligence

14:07


The responsibility now lies with the owner of the tree and needs to be addressed forthwith.

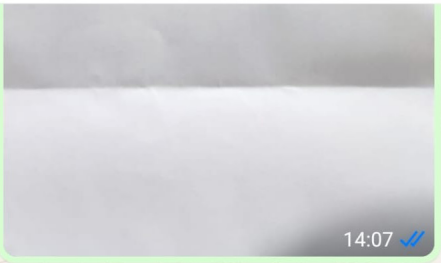
M. I. T. S
REPUTATION IS OUR SUCCESS

Yours sincerely

Mark Robertson
(Owner, operator MITS)

Message

Andrew Hodson
last seen today at 08:59


14:07

Thank you I will pass this onto the owners of the trees 14:10

For info.. I've offered the owner of the tree to pay to have it cut down if its done this week.

I'm hoping he's sensible enough to agree or we may need to get you guys involved again.

The road is heavily used by walkers (who park at the top and head towards the wirral way horsey types , families with kids etc

14:10

wrongdoing or negligence

Hi Aaron, i trust all is as good as can be following TreeGate. This is the report from the tree surgeon on the current state of what we always believed to be your tree. Let me know what you want to do. If it's cut down to the min safe level this week whilst Mark is still here then I'll pick the costs up.

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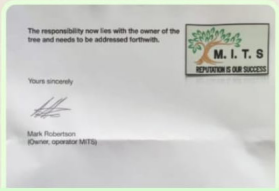
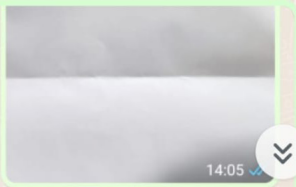
14:05



This is what I added to the pics I've also sent him. The text wouldn't forward hence this screenshot. Cheers
14:11



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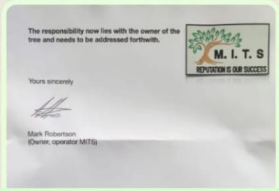

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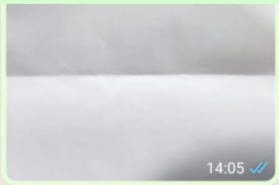


Ok thanks - it's good to have this. I think it should stay as it is certainly given the strength of feeling on the Akbar and of course the issue over ownership. If anything changes of course I'll let you know.
18:15

Re ownership the councillor rang me on Friday and said its clear that you own the tree and not Lorraine. They said letters will follow to confirm.

The feeling of having the tree made safe is strong in Greenfield, and there is much public traffic...walkers, horse riders etc. And tree surgeon

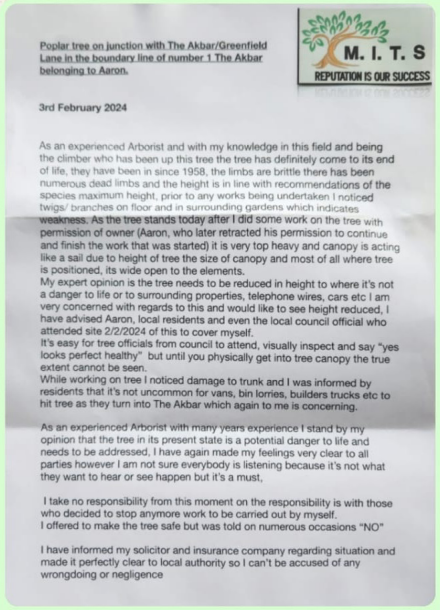
Hmmm 🤔
18:26

Message

Aaron BORBORA
last seen today at 00:57

Thanks! 🙏 09:08

6 February 2024



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Message

Subject: RE: Imminent danger of fatality from 'creaking', decaying tree - tree surevy report attached - escalation

Date: Thursday, 18 July 2024 at 18:09:22 British Summer Time

From: Wallbank, Nicola <nicolawallbank@wirral.gov.uk>

To:

Attachments: image001.jpg, image002.jpg, image003.jpg, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png, image007.png, image008.png, image009.png

Hi ,

Many thanks for your explanation. We've done a land registry check and the verge on the outside of your neighbours' hedge is unregistered. Therefore, we are unable to issue them a notice to make the tree safe as they are not registered as owners of the land (or tree).

I have made Councillor Hodson aware of the situation and so we hope that no further objections will be made when our contractors attend.

Kind regards

Nicola Wallbank Ph.D. B.Sc. (Hons) MArborA
Senior Trees and Woodland Manager
Wirral Council
Email: nicolawallbank@wirral.gov.uk
Visit our web site www.wirral.gov.uk

JULY 1, 2024

TREESURE

TREE SURVEY AND RECOMMENDED WORKS

Table of Contents

Introduction 2
Scope and Limitations 2
Methodology 3
Headings and Abbreviations 4
Summary 4
Recommended Tree Works 4
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Fig 2 (Tree Preservation Order) 5
Plan 1 (Tree Location) 6
Tree Survey 7
References 9

1: Introduction

1.1 Guy Smallthwaite is an Arboricultural consultant with Treesure. He has been awarded a foundation degree in Arboriculture with the University of Central Lancashire in conjunction with Myerscough College and is a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association.

1.2 Treesure have been instructed by to undertake a tree survey on a mature poplar Lombardi tree located on the west side verge of [redacted] at the entrance to the [redacted] and opposite the front boundary wall of . The survey was undertaken on the 26th of June 2024.

1.3 The tree surveyed is not covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

2: Scope and limitations of the Survey

2.1 The scope of the survey includes a visual inspection of the tree located on [redacted]

2.2 The brief was to appraise the tree in relation to its health and condition and overall safety.

2.3 The survey refers to the condition of the tree through visual assessment noting all external signs of decay and of growth – related defects.

2.4 Any legal descriptions or information given by the consultant are understood to be accurate.

2.5 No responsibility is assumed by Treesure for legal matters that may arise from this report, and the consultant shall not be required to give testimony or to attend court unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made.

2.7 Any alteration or deletion from this report will invalidate it as a whole and the conclusions of this report will remain valid for one year from the date of inspection

2.8 The report is only valid for typical weather conditions. Exceptional severe weather conditions can result in the snapping or uprooting of any tree even if it is free from recognisable defects. Treesure cannot be held liable for any such failures.

2.9 The responsibility for any work undertaken on the surveyed tree rests with the persons in charge of the tree work.

2.91 Wildlife and Countryside Act -1981. Timing of tree work operations must be considered to avoid causing disturbance to any nesting or breeding birds that may be present within trees or hedgerows (March- August).

3.0 Methodology

3.1 The inspection took place from ground level aided by the Visual Tree Assessment Method (Mattheck and Breloer 1994) which is a widely accepted method which takes into account structure and physiological symptoms

3.2 The tree was assessed for potential hazards.

3.3 The survey was carried out without the use of a topographical survey.

3.4 Photographs have been included within the survey. Photographs are used as a comparative record for subsequent tree surveys and also assist contractors with identification.

4.0 HEADINGS AND ABBREVIATIONS

SPECIES	COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME
TREE NO	LOCATION OF TREE ON MAP
AGE RANGE	Y=YOUNG SM = SEMI MATURE, EM = EARLY MATURE, M = MATURE, PM = POST MATURE
HEIGHT	OTHER THAN WHEN THE HEIGHT OF THE TREE IS CRTITICAL TO THE RISK ASSESSMENT, APPROXIMATELY I IN 10 TREES ARE MEASURED AND THE REMAINDER MEASURED AGAINST THE MEASURED TREES
DIAMETER	STEM DIAMETER – MEASURED AT APPROXIMATELY 1.3 METRES
VITALITY	A MEASURE OF PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION D=DEAD, MD = MORIBUND, P=POOR, M=MODERATE, G=GOOD

5.0 Summary

5.1 Treesure have undertaken a tree survey on a mature poplar Lombardi tree located.

All specific tree work recommendations are detailed within this report.

Table 1. Tree work for individual trees

Table 1. Recommended works in order of priority.		
Individual trees and groups	Recommendations	Time Scale
T1 Poplar Lombardi *Populus nigra italica*	Advanced decay at base. Remove	Urgent. There is a risk of this tree failing in strong winds.

Fig 1. Aerial image of [redacted], Heswall.

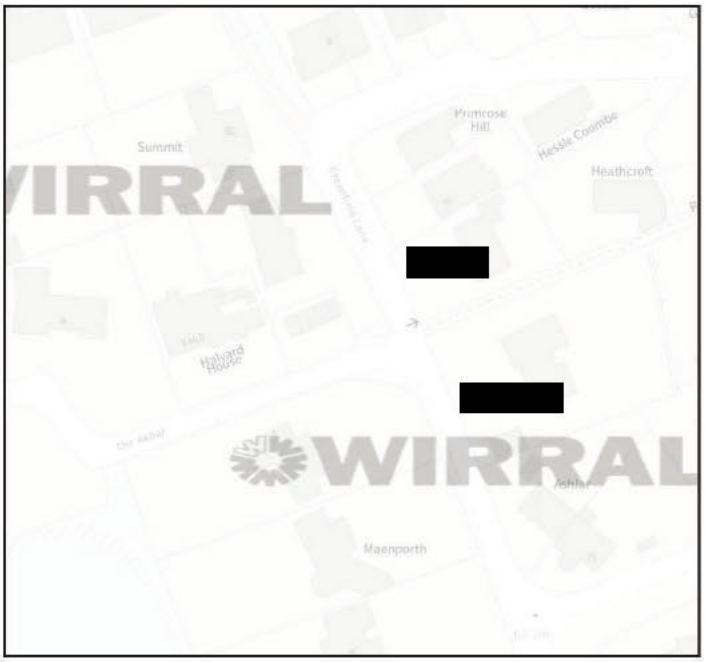
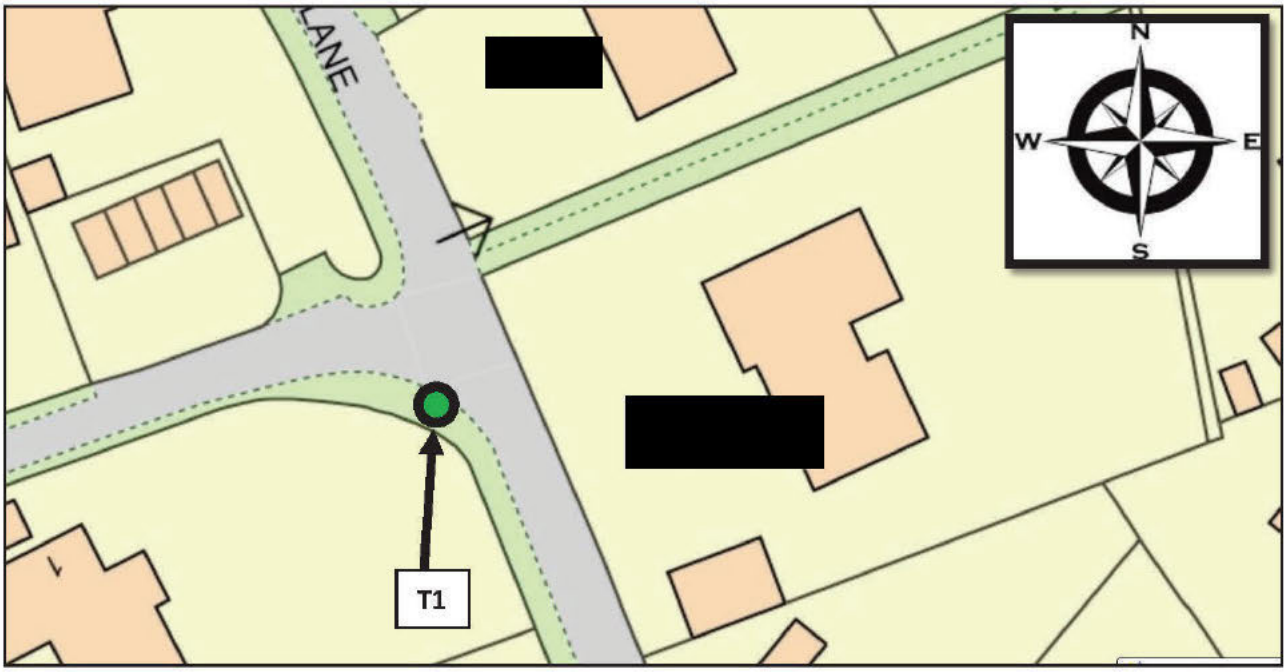


Fig 2. Image from Wirral Borough Council interactive mapping system, which confirms that the tree surveyed is not covered by a Tree Preservation order. The site is not within a Conservation Area.



Plan 1. Location of tree on site.

	Site: Greenfield Lane June 2024						Surveyor: Guy Smallthwaite Table 1	
Ref	Species	Height	Approx Stem Diameter	Cardinal points	Vitality	Age	Comments.	Management
T1	Poplar Lombardi *Populus nigra italica*	19m	891mm	N 3 S 0 E 3 W3	P	M	The tree is located on the west side verge of [redacted] at the entrance to the Akbar and opposite the front boundary wall of [redacted] It is approximately 20 metres from the house and in target range of the driveway and parking area. There is a large cavity in the main trunk at 2 metres. The tree was struck with a sounding hammer and audible signs of decay were evident indicating a large hollow to the base of the trunk and structural weakness.	**Remove.**

Plates.

Plate 1. An image of the large cavity and evidence of hollow and advanced decay.

Plate 2. A view of the tree indicating imbalance and susceptibility to prevailing wind.

Plate 3. Image when viewed from The [redacted]

6.0. References

Lonsdale, D. (1999) Principles of Tree Hazard Asssessment and Management, TSO, London, UK.

Mattheck, C and Broeler, H. (1994) The Body Language of Trees, TSO, London.

Slater, D. (2016). Assessment of Tree Forks. Arboricultural Association.