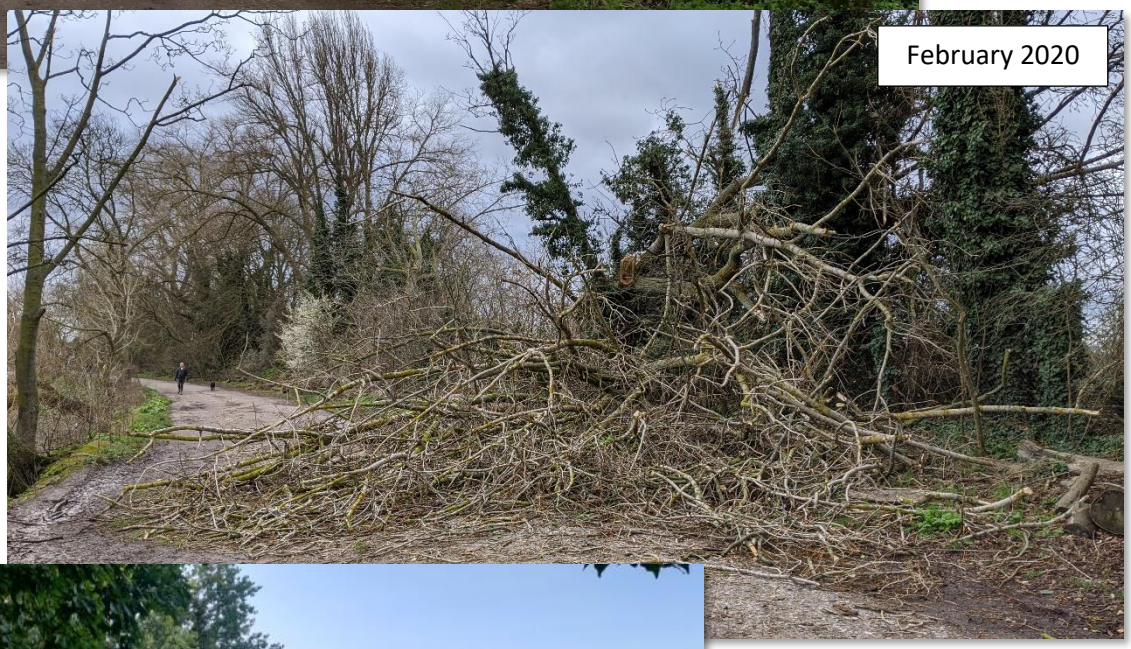
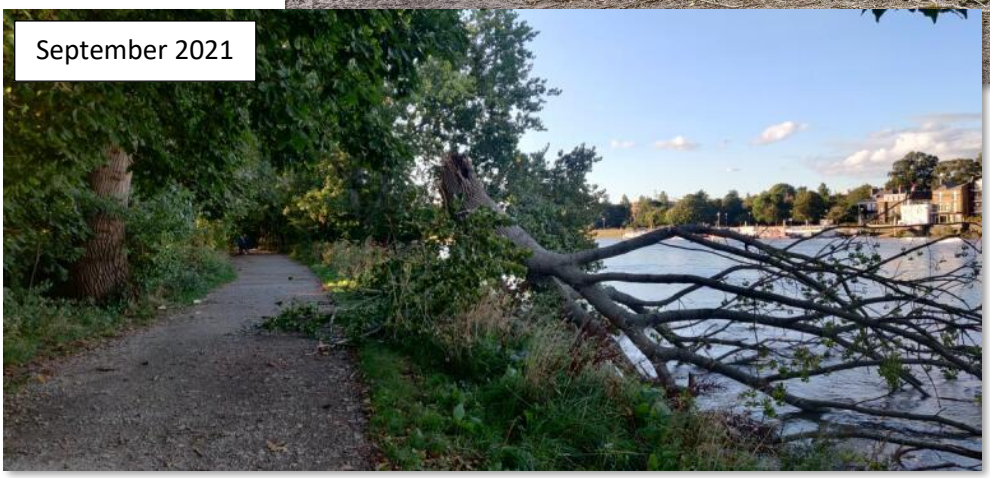
LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

Thames Towpath Closure - Barnes West:

Essential Tree Safety Works Nov 2021

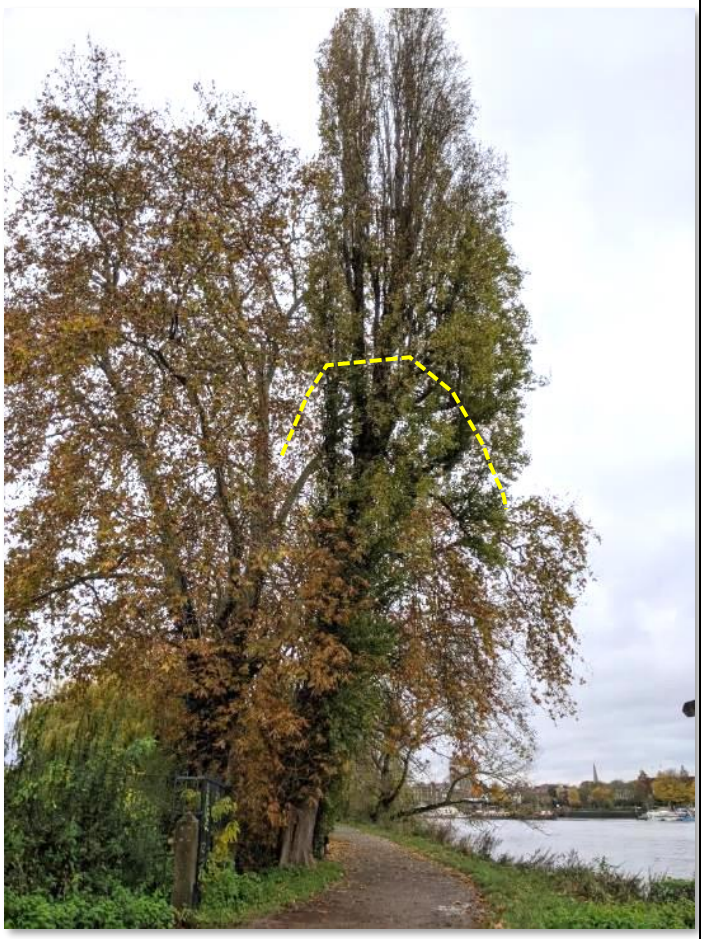
There have been several major tree failures on and across the Thames Towpath over the last 3 years





The following works have been identified by the Arboriculturists of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames as essential to maintain the safety of the public.

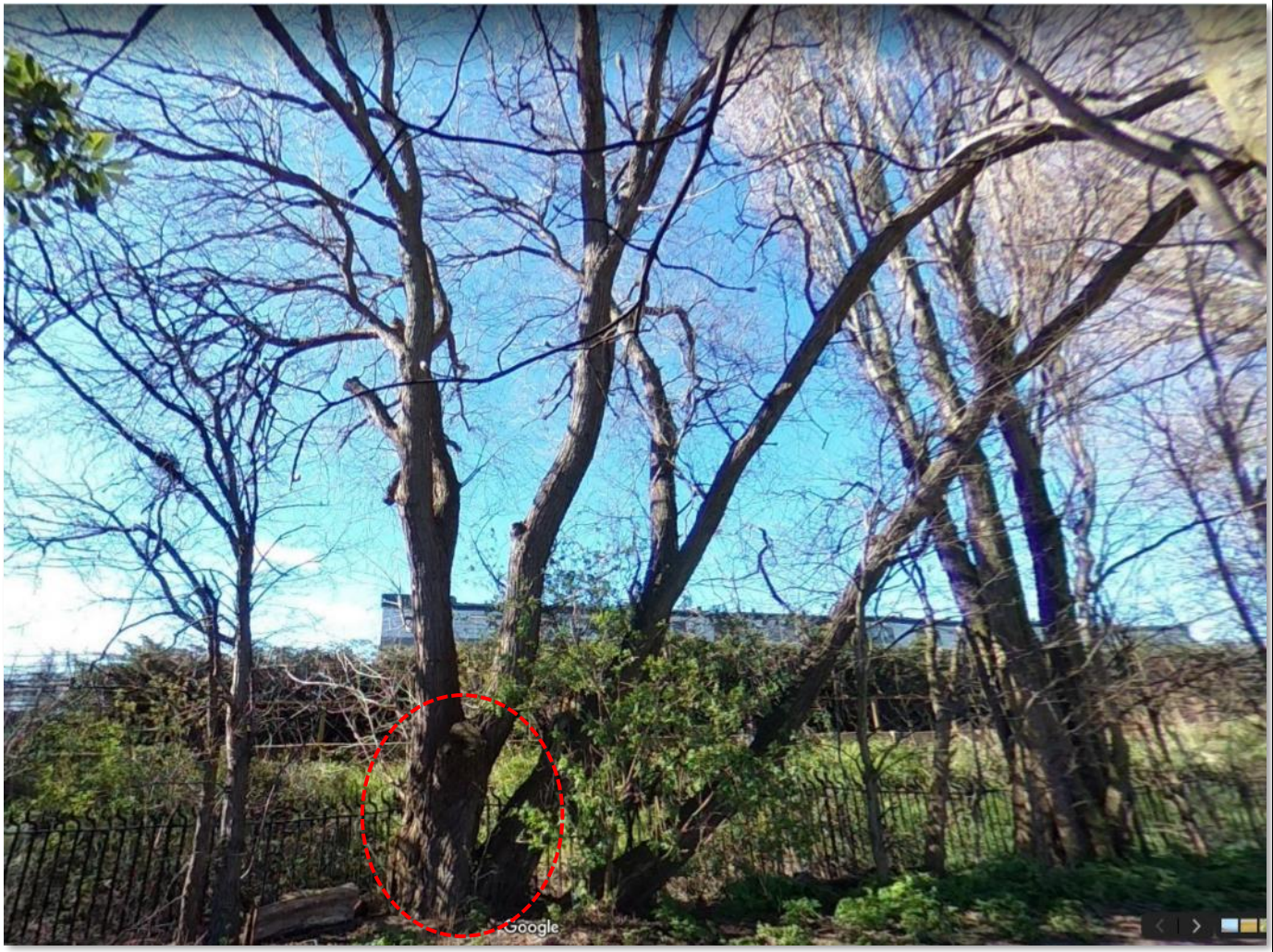
Tree number	T002 (Tag 0626)	Species	Populus nigra 'Italica'
Observations	There is a column of decay from the base of the tree (Image 2.) extending up the eastern side of the trunk. This tree has been reduced in height in the past (Indicated in image 1.) with decay evident at old reduction points. This re-growth is now subject to higher wind loading which leaves it susceptible to failure and falling from height over the footpath.		
Works Specification	Crown reduce to sound wood, 5m below last reduction points, thereby minimising the wind profile of this tree and removing decay from old wounds. This will also reduce mechanical stresses to the decayed main stem, reducing the risk of whole and partial tree failure, thereby extending its beneficial & safe life-expectancy.		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/dk2eSWLTgkTdrPXb7		

Image 1	Image 2
	

Tree number	T005	Species	Populus x canadensis
Observations	This tree has a progressive lean due to being subordinate to the larger adjacent tree and is resting on and being supported by a private Horse Chestnut tree on the adjacent land. Remedial pruning works will be beneficial to reduce the loading on the adjacent tree, reducing the risk of whole tree failure, thereby extending its beneficial & safe life-expectancy.		
Works Specification	Coppice to 1m stump and allow for future regenerative regrowth from retained stump and rootstock as per historic riverside coppice management.		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/v25yUL7gVUKLZDBs9		
Image 1			

Tree number	T012 (Tag 0610)	Species	Salix alba
Observations	Fungus & decay; Bark wounds; Cracked / included bark; Leaning; old pruning wound. Two heavily leaning limbs over footpath. Signs of honey fungus at base of tree with decay, also a weak union at base between stems (Indicated image 1). Weak forks & minor cavities. The presence of decay fungi and cavities coupled with the weak unions near the base of the main stems presents a very real risk of failure which Willow has a propensity for, even when healthy.		
Works Specification	Coppice to 1m stumps (But just above main fork on main stem retaining split fork) and allow for future regenerative regrowth from retained stumps and rootstock as per historic riverside coppice management.		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/jVcrZ8MWD3x8PqkN8		

Image 1



Tree number	T014 (Tag 0656+0607)	Species	Populus x canadensis
Observations	Extensive signs of decay fungi (See images below) and cavities at base of tree (Wasp Nest) and decay cavities in main limbs throughout the tree. This tree has been reduced to a pollard framework in the past with decay evident at old reduction points. This re-growth is now subject to higher wind loading which leaves it susceptible to failure. Remedial pruning works are necessary to reduce the mechanical stress and loading at these points of weakness, reducing the risk of whole or partial tree failure, thereby extending its beneficial & safe life-expectancy.		
Works Specification	Recommendations: Aerial inspection (Where safe and practicable) to check cavities for bat potential and to assess the structural integrity of the tree. Crown reduce to a 8-10m in height (Above main fork - Pruning point dependent on decay at old reduction points, to be determined by climber). Reduce lateral limbs extending to the East to lessen the weight and on this side, thereby moving the centre of gravity closer the centre of the tree. This will reduce mechanical stresses to the main stem and the risk of whole or partial tree failure, including falling regrowth from height, over the Towpath. The aim is to extend the trees beneficial & safe life-expectancy by allowing it to regrow and be maintained as smaller riverside pollard. (NB. Pruning height subject to change dependent on the results of the Aerial inspection)		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/adArsckcuMyuXGau7		

Image 1

Tree number	T015 (Tag 0606)	Species	Populus x canadensis
Observations	There is emergent Ganoderma decay fungi brackets at base of tree on the riverside (Image 2) and signs of Hornet Moth, tree has heartwood decay but at least 50cm intact radius. No obvious signs of the main stem being seriously structurally compromised at this time. However, the regrowth from the last pruning has grown to a size where it is susceptible to failure.		
Works Specification	Reduce crown below previous reduction points by approximately 4-5m (Pruning point dependent on decay at old reduction points, to be determined by climber). Allow to regrow and maintain as smaller riverside pollard.		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/LLSrdNyPGPz3DsBT8		

Image 1

Image 2

Tree number	T017 (Tag 0590)	Species	Norway Maple
Observations	Major deadwood in crown of tree and hanging branch over footway		
Works Specification	Remove Major Deadwood and hanging Branch		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/nUXvajXwHAcpaCEZ7		
Image 1			

Tree number	T018 (Tag 0589)	Species	Norway Maple
Observations	Major deadwood over towpath and Rowing Club building		
Works Specification	Remove major deadwood		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/g8HWzNd9LyzLrq2B9		
Image 1			

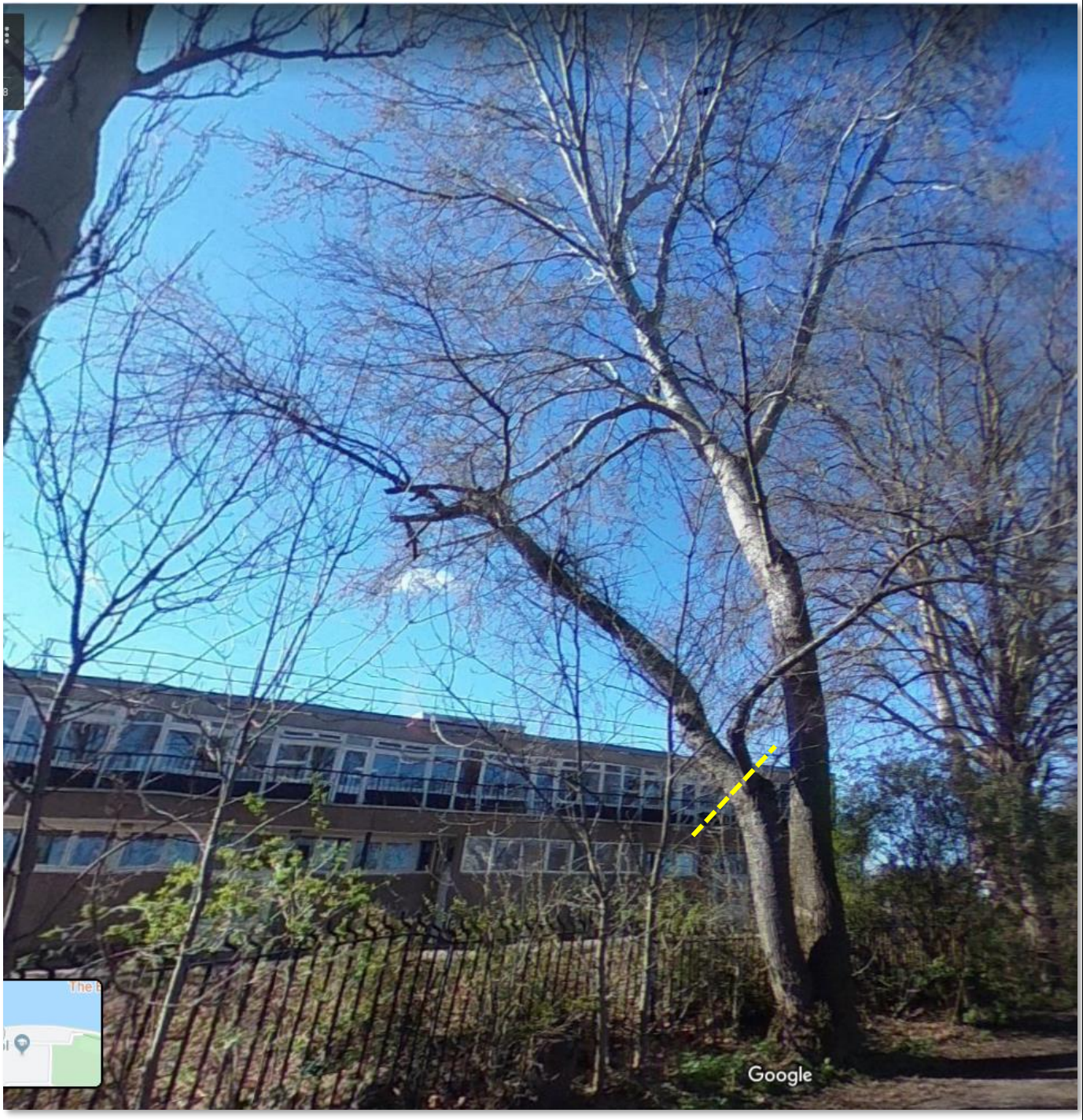
Tree number	T019 (Tag 0589)	Species	Norway Maple
Observations	Major deadwood over towpath and Rowing Club building		
Works Specification	Remove major deadwood		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/b3sDHtHRtthrgmLU7		
Image 1			

Tree number	(Tag 0585)	Species	Norway Maple
Observations	Major deadwood in crown of tree		
Works Specification	Remove Major Deadwood		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/2TUy7ZrgRLYCX2mPA		
Image 1			

Tree number	(Tag 0584)	Species	Platanus x hispanica
Observations	Major deadwood throughout crown of tree		
Works Specification	Remove Major Deadwood		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/yFBF5cDGDF67d7yCA		
Image 1			

Tree number	T022 (Tag 0657)	Species	Platanus x hispanica
Observations	Old pollard; Epicormic growths; Old pruning wounds; Jagged wound; Epicormic growths; Stubs; Major cavities; Fungus & decay. The is an old re-grown pollard and has a large wound in main the trunk where a part of the tree has failed in the past (Indicated in image 1). It has been previously reduced in the past to due to this structural defect.		
Works Specification	Aerial inspection to check cavities for bat potential and to assess the structural integrity of the tree. Reduce in height back to approx. 3m above the large trunk wound to remove mechanical stresses at the major decay point on the main stem to mitigate tree failure. (Pruning point to be determined by climber) Allow to regrow and maintain as smaller riverside pollard.		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/p3kdSCoSgHUn2Gvq6		
Image 1			

Tree number	T028 (Tag 0557)	Species	Populus canescens
Observations	The low limb overhanging the adjacent school is decayed at the point of an old pruning wound where the limb used to fork. This represents a deteriorating failure point for this limb and need to be rectified.		
Works Specification	Recommendations: Reduce limb OH school to a 3m Stump (indicated image 1) NB. School will need to notified and access to site may be necessary?		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/S2jCatEUFrduZ89P6		
Image 1			



Tree number	T034 (Tag 0552)	Species	Aesculus hippocastanum
Observations	Extensive defoliation and crown disfunction with decay forming fungi (Ganoderma) emanating from the main fork, Major deadwood in canopy overhangs school and branches interfering with adjacent building.		
Works Specification	Aerial inspection to check cavities for bat potential and to assess the structural integrity of the tree. Reduce in height back to approx. 1m above the main fork to a standing trunk to remove mechanical stresses at the major decay point on the main stem to mitigate tree failure. (Pruning point to be determined by climber). Maintain as standing dead timber (Monolith) for nature value and monitor for any future instability.		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/Vppuqn48Et8Xoqpy9		

Image 1

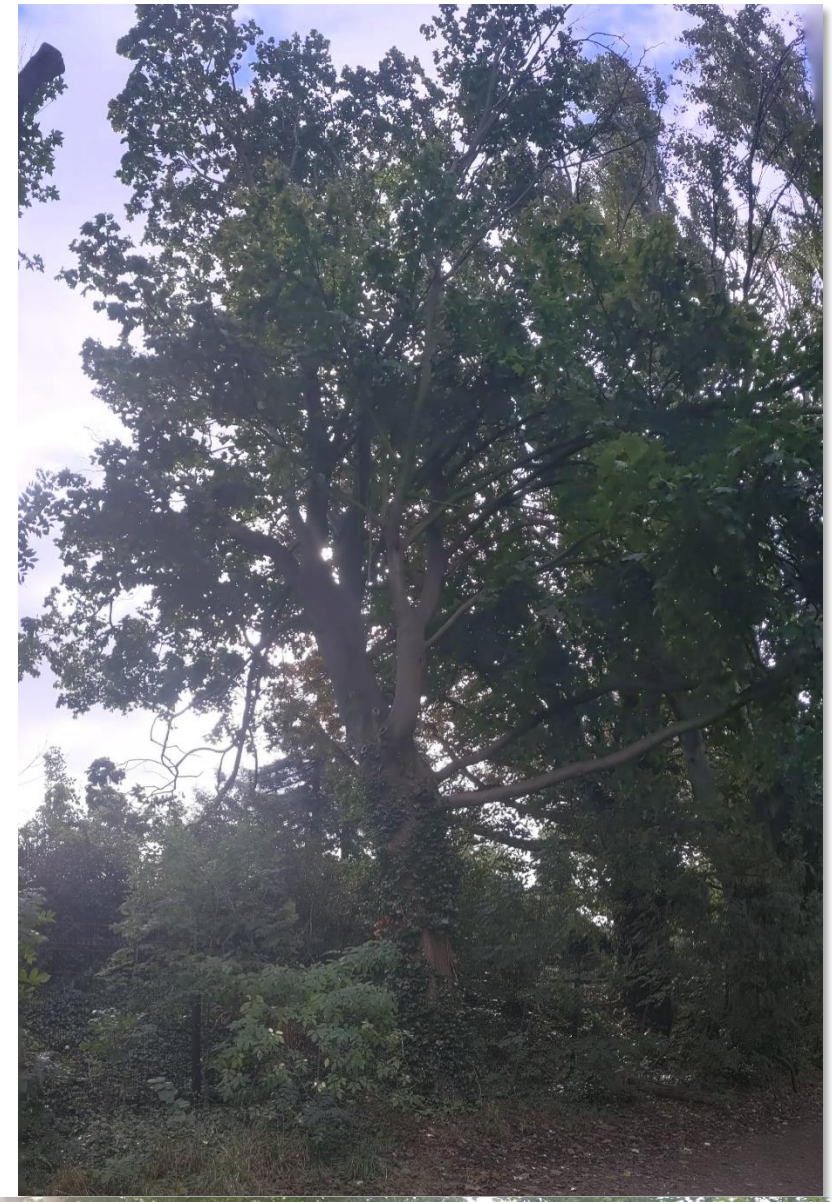
Tree number	T039 (Tag 0526)	Species	Populus alba
Observations	Significant cavities and decay fungi (Laetiporus sulfureus) present at main fork which heightens the real risk of tree failure. Remedial pruning works are necessary to reduce the mechanical stress and loading at these points of weakness, reducing the risk of whole or partial tree failure, thereby extending the trees beneficial & safe life-expectancy. NB. Possible signs that bats may be present (Image 3)		
Works Specification	Aerial inspection to check cavities for bat potential and to assess the structural integrity of the tree. Reduce to Standing trunk approx. 2m above main fork, while retaining cavities where possible (Final height to be determined by climber due dependent on structural condition limbs). Maintain as standing timber (Monolith) for nature value and monitor for any future instability.		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/qPTvGLGuHYRLBAqr7		

Image 1

Image 2

Image 3

Tree number	Opposite Tag 0578 (Sycamore) *indicated below	Species	Norway maple
Observations	Major deadwood in crown of tree		
Works Specification	Remove Major Deadwood		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/tpRQ4qeqWURBJb1m6		
Image 1			



Tree number	T043 (Tag 0783)	Species	Populus alba
Observations	Decay fungi Pholiota squarrosa found at base (Image 2) and Laetiporus sulfureus on truncated low limb. Significant crown defoliation and major decay cavities at main fork (Weeping with water).		
Works Specification	Aerial inspection to check cavities for bat potential and to assess the structural integrity of the tree. Reduce to truncated pollard framework at approximately 5-6m (shown in yellow), while retaining cavities where possible (Final height to be determined by climber due dependent on structural condition limbs). Maintain as standing timber (Monolith) for nature value and monitor for any future instability.		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/BuKLyoM71UoQfbG39		
Image 1			

Tree number	T044 (Tag 0784)	Species	Norway Maple
Observations	Decay cavities present it main fork and crown diminished by decay and deadwood.		
Works Specification	Aerial inspection to check cavities for bat potential and to assess the structural integrity of the tree. Reduce to truncated pollard framework approximately at main fork (shown in yellow), while retaining cavities where possible (Final height to be determined by climber due dependent on structural condition of tree).		
Google link	https://goo.gl/maps/fz7y9pVF4mDFeucP6		
Image 1