

## Tree Report. St Mary Le Wigford, Lincoln

### Location Overview.

The trees border the church grounds, four trees are situated on the northern side of the church, the largest and most prominent being located on the north-western corner of the area. The remaining two trees are on the southern boundary in proximity of the rail line to the rear of the church. One of the trees (T3) was removed in the past, this was situated between T2 and T4.---

The area is somewhat typical of an urban street scene with the trees located within planting pits; a mixture of slab and brick work making up the pavement and the borders of the tree pits. Some large gravestones have been laid near the trees.

Due to the proximity of Lincoln train station and numerous high street shops etc the area has a high footfall traffic and car traffic. Cars seem to park under the trees between the edge of the pavement and the church itself despite no defined parking bays or any signage stating restrictions or parking hours.

The numbering of the trees below is based on the initial report lodged by Horthholme



### Tree Species Overview

*Platanus x acerifolia* common name London Plane is a deciduous tree, the species was formed from hybridisation in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Widely planted worldwide due to it being a tree ideal for an urban environment, providing shade in summer, its distinctive silhouette and appearance offering visual interest throughout the year. The tree is robust to the difficulties of the urban environment and shows good adaption to the following biotic and abiotic conditions: compacted soil, pollution, dry and wet weather

conditions, and extreme temperatures. The tree is very tolerant of pruning and tree management techniques.

The taller specimens of the species grow to between 30-35 metres. The tree forms a heart root system which suits an urban environment where trees tend to be planted within a tree pit.

### Data Collection.

Tree surveying undertaken on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2022, weather condition on the day were still, 16 degrees Celsius, and overcast.

**Tree Reference:** T1 London plane

**Tree Height:** 22m

**DBH:** 157cm

**Crown Spread**

North	East	South	West
10.5m	11m	9.5m	7.5m

The tree is situated on the north-eastern corner of the church bordering with the train station car park.

- Tree has a large basal flare located in a tree pit with a surrounded by closely associated brick and slab work; there is evidence of minor slab damage to exposed eastern root. There is evidence of ground works with some cut and broken slabs that have been re-laid and the removal of a brick pier from the boundary wall.
- Bark shedding observed during the survey however is typical and expected of the species. No tonal resonance was found when the base of the tree was sounded via the use of a fibreglass mallet.
- There is a seam of suppressed force flow between buttress roots, blunt nose rib present on northern side of stem. There is a shallow fissure seam no signs of decay or cavity present in seam.
- There is a small area of decay that appears to be from an old lateral root that has been damaged by vehicle access very minor in scale.
- The main trunk is bifurcated at a height of 4m , second bifurcation forming in the Southern co-dominant stem.
- Tree has previously been pollarded the current canopy is comprised of stems which have formed from this work, burr formation can be observed around the base of the original pollard points however this is typical of the species.
- There is an un-occluded pruning wound on western stem with possible cavity
- The canopy forms at 1.5m and forms a cohesive canopy with T2.
- Tree at time of inspection has high vitality with dense leaf coverage.
- The canopy is slightly asymmetrical due to the presence of the building influencing the growth towards the east.
- Extension growth identified by the distance between girdle scars indicates the has not experienced any lack of vigour in the recent past.

- Plane Anthracnose (*Apiognomonia veneta*) was observed within the canopy; in London plane this fungal infection tends to be unsightly rather than detrimental to the tree's health.

**Amenity Value: Using the Arboricultural Association approved 'Helliwell System' of Visual Amenity Valuation of Trees and Woodlands, I have evaluated this tree as follows:**

<b>Size</b>	7
<b>Useful Life Expectancy</b>	4
<b>Importance of Position in Landscape</b>	3
<b>Presence of other Trees</b>	4
<b>Relation to Setting</b>	4
<b>Form</b>	2
<b>Special Factors</b>	N/A
<b>Total</b>	2688
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>£110,208</b>

#### **QTRA Assessment.**

Using the quantified tree risk assessment methodology, the tree has been given a threshold of 1/300k which under the QTRA guidelines is "Tolerable where imposed on others"

#### **Recommendations.**

As the tree is considered a lapsed pollard at this current stage, I would not recommend re-pollarding of the canopy, as per British standards document BS3998:2010 tree work recommendations if "the pollard cycle has been allowed to lapse over many years, the crown should instead be reduced"

The canopy can be reduced removing up to 20% of current canopy volume. The works would allow clearance of the church as well as reducing bio-mechanical stress on the extended canopy towards the neighbouring carpark. Removal of deadwood is also recommended as works take place.

**Tree Reference:** T2 London plane

**Tree Height:** 22m

**DBH:** 126cm

**Crown Spread**

<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
8.5m	9m	6m	6m

Tree is located towards the northern face of the church, brick works, and graves border the tree pit. An access port for drainage is located towards the rear of the tree.

- Base of the tree appears to be in good health and condition it is however outgrowing its current location and growing over the brickwork bordering the tree pit.

- Loose bark is present (like T1) and typical of the species. Increment strips can be observed on both northern and north-easterly sides of the lower stems a small fissure can be observed on the eastern side of the bole, no visible signs of decay.
- The main Stem has a fairly gradual change in diameter with a slight increase from basal flare to approximately 1m in height this may be due to adaption as the tree has grown adaptive timber resulting in the change of diameter. Evidence of some minor fibre buckling.
- The Main scaffold union forms at approximately 4m with a slight lean towards the north.
- Slight burring present around original pollard point
- The upper canopy is weighted towards the north and east, canopy had good vitality with dense leaf coverage, some larger pruning wounds present within lower canopy resulting in heavy regrowth.

**Amenity Value: Using the Arboricultural Association approved ‘Helliwell System’ of Visual Amenity Valuation of Trees and Woodlands, I have evaluated this tree as follows:**

<b>Size</b>	7
<b>Useful Life Expectancy</b>	4
<b>Importance of Position in Landscape</b>	3
<b>Presence of other Trees</b>	4
<b>Relation to Setting</b>	4
<b>Form</b>	2
<b>Special Factors</b>	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>2688</b>
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>£110,208</b>

#### **QTRA Assessment.**

Using the quantified tree risk assessment methodology, the tree has been given a threshold of 1/300k which under the QTRA guidelines is “Tolerable where imposed on others”

#### **Recommendations.**

As the tree is considered a lapsed pollard at this current stage, I would not recommend re-pollarding of the canopy, as per British standards document BS3998:2010 tree work recommendations if “the pollard cycle has been allowed to lapse over many years, the crown should instead be reduced”

The canopy can be reduced removing up to 20% of current canopy volume. The works would allow clearance of the church as well as reducing the canopy extending towards the road. Crown lifting of canopy to highways standards if required and the removal of deadwood.

**Tree Reference T4 London plane****Height:** 10m**DBH:** 27cm**Crown Spread**

North	East	South	West
2.4m	2.7m	2.8m	2.1m

Young vigorous tree in good condition and with good form, slight lean towards the north and upper canopy lacks apical dominance.

<b>Size</b>	4
<b>Useful Life Expectancy</b>	4
<b>Importance of Position in Landscape</b>	3
<b>Presence of other Trees</b>	4
<b>Relation to Setting</b>	4
<b>Form</b>	2
<b>Special Factors</b>	N/A
<b>Total</b>	1536
<b>Total Value</b>	£62,976

**QTRA Assessment.**

Using the quantified tree risk assessment methodology, the tree has been given a threshold of 1/300k which under the QTRA guidelines is "Tolerable where imposed on others"

**Recommendations.**

Tree is in good health and condition recommended works are to allow for pedestrian clearance crown lifting of the canopy to 2.5m. Removal of deadwood is also recommended.

**Tree Reference T5 London Plane****Height** 22m**DBH** 98cm**Crown Spread**

North	East	South	West
5.5m	4.5m	5.2m	5.6m

Tree is located towards the north-western corner of the church.

- T5 is the most prominent tree out of the 6 trees within the area due to its proximity to the pedestrian crossing and its visibility from the high street and Wigford way.
- Root and basal flare appears to be in good condition with large, pronounced buttress roots, root flare is symmetrical in shape.
- Brick and slab work bordering the tree pit has begun to lift.
- Some minor vandalism appears to be bark picking or scratching present on southern side of stem is not severe enough to be detrimental to the trees overall health and vitality.

- Slight bulging of stem present on eastern side no signs of decay found in or around bulging via sounding with a fibreglass hammer.
- Multiple stems form at approximately 6.4m; large unions appear healthy and well secured.
- Evidence of limb removal in lower canopy. Multiple laterals form on the north-eastern stem with a possible wedge union forming.
- Tree appears to have been pruned in the past and has responded well to this.
- Unions within the upper canopy appear healthy and well secured.
- Minimal deadwood present within canopy.
- Dense leaf cover at time of inspection with good vitality.

<b>Size</b>	7
<b>Useful Life Expectancy</b>	4
<b>Importance of Position in Landscape</b>	3
<b>Presence of other Trees</b>	4
<b>Relation to Setting</b>	4
<b>Form</b>	2
<b>Special Factors</b>	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>2688</b>
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>£110,208</b>

#### **QTRA Assessment.**

Using the quantified tree risk assessment methodology, the tree has been given a threshold of 1/300k which under the QTRA guidelines is “Tolerable where imposed on others”

#### **Recommendations**

As the tree is in good health and condition minor reduction works are recommended to reduce the canopy encroaching towards the church thinning of the remaining canopy as to provide an aesthetic shape and feature due to the tree’s prominent location. No more than 20% of canopy volume to be removed during reduction and thinning works. Crown lifting to highways standards as required and removal of deadwood.

**Tree Reference** T6 London plane

**Height** 22m

**DBH** 129cm

**Crown Spread**

<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
10	8	5.2m	10m

Tree is located on the southern boundary of the area running parallel to the train lines.

- Very large basal flare and buttress roots present.
- Large flaky bark plates around base of tree to approximately 4m.
- Several spheroplasts present on southern side of stem.
- Increment strips present on western side of stem.

- No variation in tonal resonance found while sounding with a fibre glass hammer
- Evidence of helical coiling can be observed in the lower trunk, ascending towards lower canopy formation.
- A large limb has been removed in the past, the wound has not fully occluded with some exposed heartwood present; there are no signs of decay or dysfunctional timber present.
- The main canopy is composed of reiterative growth that has formed from previous pollard points, the canopy attachments appear healthy and secure with some burring formed around base of stems.
- A large branch forms and grows towards the southwest.
- The canopy is encroaching towards adjoining signal room.
- The canopy shows good vitality with healthy and dense leaf coverage being observed at the time of the survey.
- Only minor deadwood is present within the canopy.

<b>Size</b>	7
<b>Useful Life Expectancy</b>	4
<b>Importance of Position in Landscape</b>	3
<b>Presence of other Trees</b>	4
<b>Relation to Setting</b>	4
<b>Form</b>	2
<b>Special Factors</b>	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>2688</b>
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>£110,208</b>

### **QTRA Assessment.**

Using the quantified tree risk assessment methodology, the tree has been given a threshold of 1/300k which under the QTRA guidelines is “Tolerable where imposed on others”

### **Recommendations.**

As the tree is considered a lapsed pollard at this current stage, I would not recommend re-pollarding of the canopy, as per British standards document BS3998:2010 tree work recommendations if “the pollard cycle has been allowed to lapse over many years, the crown should instead be reduced”

The canopy can be reduced removing up to 20% of current canopy volume. The works would allow clearance of the signal room as well as reducing the canopy extending towards the church. Crown lifting of canopy to highways standards if required and the removal of deadwood. Canopy extending over the rail line to be excluded until correct permissions etc are acquired.

**Tree Reference T7 London Plane****Height** 22m**DBH** 132cm**Crown Spread**

<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
10m	10.2m	7.8m	6.8m

Tree is neighbouring T6.

- T7 has a Large basal flare and associated buttress roots.
- There appears to be a small area of compacted soil to the rear of the tree.
- An inspection cover was observed to be near the base of the tree.
- There are large increment strips present on the base of the bole which appear to be associated with the root buttress formation.
- There is evidence of limb removal at the base of the tree which has occluded well; there is no evidence to suggest there is dysfunction at this point.
- No variation in tonal resonance was experienced when the base of the tree was sounded vi the use of a fibreglass mallet.
- A significant seam is present on the northern side of the trunk no visible sign of decay in seam.
- Spheroplasts are present on the southern side of the trunk.
- The main canopy is composed of reiterative growth that has formed from previous pollard points, the canopy attachments appear healthy and secure.
- The canopy shows good vitality with healthy and dense leaf coverage being observed at the time of the survey.
- Minor deadwood is present within the canopy.

<b>Size</b>	7
<b>Useful Life Expectancy</b>	4
<b>Importance of Position in Landscape</b>	3
<b>Presence of other Trees</b>	4
<b>Relation to Setting</b>	4
<b>Form</b>	2
<b>Special Factors</b>	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>2688</b>
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>£110,208</b>

**QTRA Assessment.**

Using the quantified tree risk assessment methodology, the tree has been given a threshold of 1/300k which under the QTRA guidelines is "Tolerable where imposed on others"

**Recommendations.**

As the tree is considered a lapsed pollard at this current stage, I would not recommend re-pollarding of the canopy, as per British standards document BS3998:2010 tree work recommendations if "the pollard cycle has been allowed to lapse over many years, the crown should instead be reduced"



The canopy can be reduced removing up to 20% of current canopy volume. The works would allow clearance of the signal room as well as reducing the canopy extending towards the church. Crown lifting of canopy to highways standards if required and the removal of deadwood. Canopy extending over the rail line to be excluded until correct permissions etc are acquired.

### **Conclusion.**

The trees around St Mary Le Wigford are of good condition and form and add much needed amenity, greenery, shade and aesthetic value to the area, large scale pollarding works would be detrimental to all these values as well as not following industry best practice laid out within BS3998:2010. Comparatively minor works to reduce the canopies will abate some nuisance caused by the trees while still retaining the value they provide. With the possibility of massaria (*Splanchnonema platani*) developing I also recommend that the trees are surveyed aerially during works to inspect the crown, branch unions and features mentioned within the report.