

Mr & Mrs M Newall  
4 Wilderhope House  
Poutney Gardens  
Belle Vue  
Shrewsbury  
SY3 7LG

19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Mr & Mrs Newall

Cherry and Maples at Wilderhope House

Further to your request for me to visit site and make recommendations for works to the trees on the above site. I am writing to confirm my observations made on the day. I have appended photographs of the trees to assist the council in coming to a decision regarding these trees.

T1 is a Cherry located on top of a retaining wall on the northern corner of your property and a drive serving a neighbouring house. The tree is a large Cherry with 3 stems emanating from near ground level. The tree overhangs the corner of the house and has a wide spreading form. The retaining wall the tree sits upon has been surveyed by a civil engineer who has confirmed the wall is in such a condition that demolition and rebuilding is required to prevent the wall from collapsing. I have appended his comments at Fig 5.

The removal and replacement of the wall would make the retention of the tree unsustainable. Excavation works as indicated in the appended email from the engineer indicates that these would be extensive, and retention of the tree would be unlikely. I concur with this and agree it would be a reasonable option to remove the tree given its location, species and potential future life expectancy.

There are two Norway Maples located to the south east of your property. Both trees overhang the roof space of the house. Pruning works to alleviate direct contact between the house and the trees is required to prevent damage occurring because of this contact.

With your approval I will submit this report to Shropshire Council as part of an application to fell T1 Cherry and prune both T2 and T3, Norway Maples.

It is highly likely the council will expect a replacement tree to be planted for T1 and to this end I suggest a Field Maple or Himalayan Birch both of which are reasonable sized trees suitable for your location. The trees will need to be at least 10-12cm in girth and planted in accordance with BS8545 2014 Trees from Nursery to Independence in the Landscape.

Yours sincerely

A L Smith M Arb MICFor CEnv F Arbor A  
Chartered Arboriculturalist

### Tree Data

Tree No	Species	Crown Spread	Height	Stem Diameter	Remarks	Works
1	Cherry	10	11	270 x 3	Causing damage to wall and Overhanging adjacent building	Fell
2	Norway Maple	12	15	450	Overhanging nearby building	Prune back to leave at least a 2m Gap between the tree and the house
3	Norway Maple	9	13	320	Overhanging nearby building	Prune back to leave at least a 2m Gap between the tree and the house

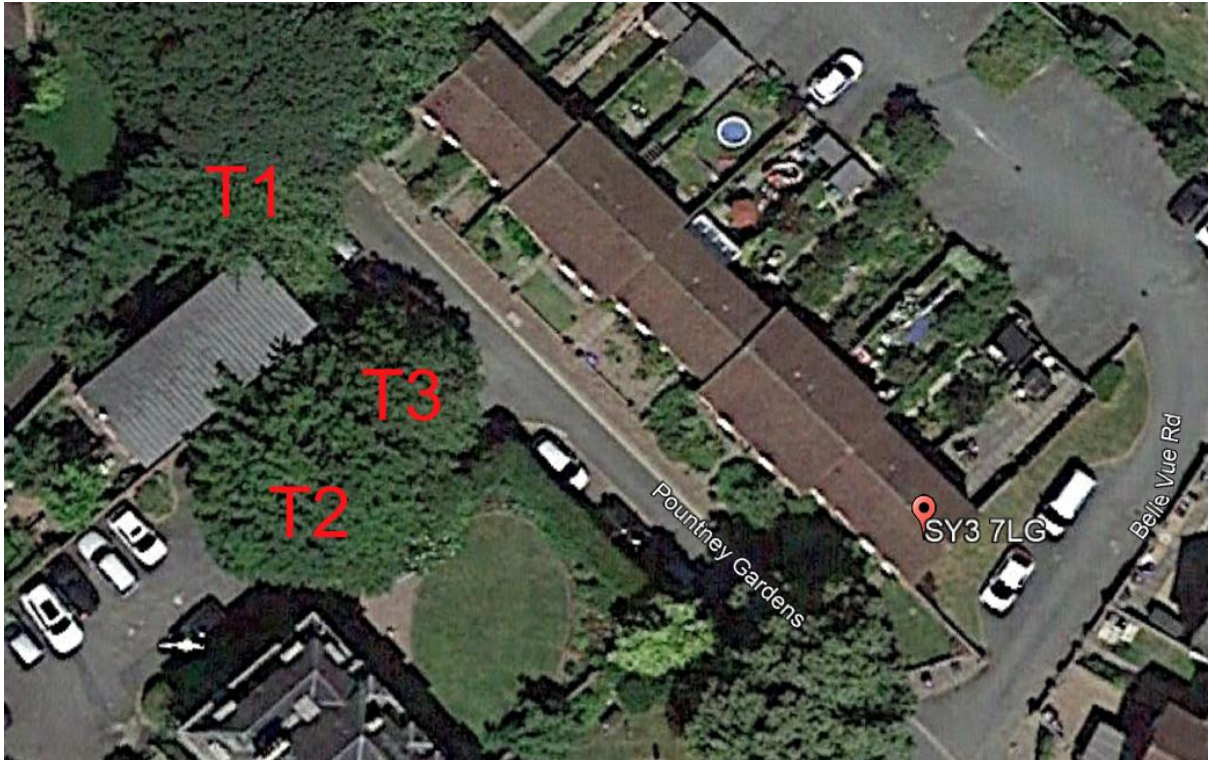


Fig 1 Location Plan

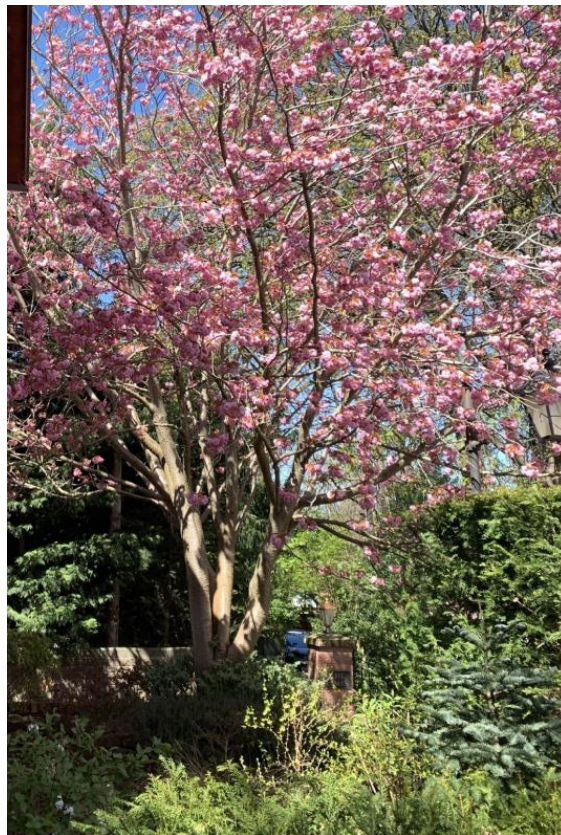


Fig 2 T1 Cherry to Fall



Fig 3 Wall Damage

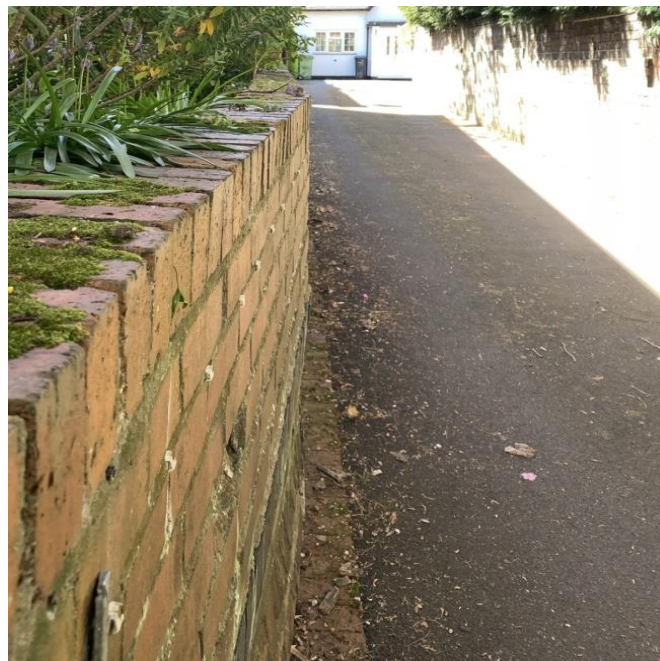


Fig 4 Wall disturbance looking towards neighbouring property

# Carroll & Williams LLP

Consulting Structural Engineers

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Mr M Newall  
Baart Harries Newall  
Wilderhope House  
Pountney Gardens  
Belle Vue Rd  
Shrewsbury SY3 7LG

Your Ref: :  
Our Ref: : NG/N21167  
Date: : 18 May 2021

Dear Mr Newall,

## **Boundary retaining wall, Wilderhope House**

On your instruction, a joint inspection was made of the damaged retaining wall on the northeast and northwest boundaries of your property. The retaining wall is of brick masonry construction, retaining ground to a height of approximately 1.2m above your neighbour's driveway. The corner of the retained ground contains a mature cherry tree, this positioned no more than 600mm from the corner junction of the retaining walls to Pountney Gardens and to your neighbour's access.

Very significant exposed roots (200mm approx diameter) are noted at the upper ground level, these being partially constrained by the wall construction. Deeper root growth has resulted in significant damage and distortion to the exposed faces of the wall which, as a result, now exhibit a considerable outward lean as well as more localised areas of bulging and fractured / loosened brickwork. Full thickness cracking of the brickwork is evident at a number of positions with discontinuities of alignment occurring at the positions of the cracking. Whilst the damage appears more critical along the neighbour's driveway, both lengths of wall are now considered to be at risk of local or total collapse.

There is no doubt that the significant damage noted to the retaining wall, both along the Pountney Gardens elevation and down the neighbour's access has occurred as a result of root growth from this tree. The damage and distortion is such that stability of both lengths of the wall may only be restored by rebuilding of the affected lengths. It is understood that you are loathe to lose the tree and that, being subject to a tree preservation order and being in a conservation area makes the retention of the tree a priority if at all feasible.

In formulating a possible scheme for reconstruction of the walls, there are a significant number of constraints to be considered if the tree is to be retained:

1. The outer face of each run of the wall is assumed to be the boundary of your property.
2. The wall to Pountney Gardens is bounded immediately by the public highway / footpath.
3. Your neighbour's driveway extends tight to the face.
4. A replacement wall will require a designed foundation. Due the above constraints, the foundation will not be able to extend beyond the outer face of the wall which, in turn, means

that the new foundation would run into the retained ground, potentially undermining the root system and causing root damage. Significant excavation would be required around the base of the tree, given the proximity of the tree to the wall.

5. The tree would require temporary restraint / propping / anchorage during the works. Such temporary works would inevitably impede the overall construction.
6. We understand that your neighbour requires free vehicular access to be maintained throughout which precludes or severely limits any working space on the driveway.
7. The new wall construction would need to be designed with a degree of strengthening to resist lateral thrust from the root system. This is likely to increase the thickness of the construction, further impacting the viability of the existing roots at the back of the wall.
8. Consideration must be given to the safety of working beneath the tree canopy whilst the root system is not constrained by the wall construction.
9. Any works to the wall would lie well within any proscribed root protection zone.

Given the above constraints, we do not consider the retention of the tree to be achievable. Removal of the wall would leave the currently partially constrained root system unsupported. We understand that your consultation with an arboriculturalist has reached the same conclusion.

In its current condition, the wall must be considered to be structurally unsound and liable to collapse without warning. High wind loading could easily provide the necessary trigger for collapse with this possibility increasing whilst the tree is in full leaf. Given the position of the tree, it could potentially fall in any direction although it would appear that falling into the highway or into your neighbour's drive would be the most likely scenario. In our opinion and in the interests of public safety, urgent attention is required to avoid total failure of the wall and consequent collapse of the entire tree. We would therefore recommend that the tree is removed as a matter of urgency allowing reconstruction of the retaining wall to be completed in a safe manner.

We trust that our will be of use. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries / comments.

Yours sincerely



**N Gilbride**  
for Carroll & Williams

Fig 5 Report from Civil Engineer describing damage



Fig 6 T1 Branches suggested for removal, final cuts to be no more than 100mm  
T2 to be pruned in a similar manner