

T2- *Acer platanoides* 'Crimson King' can be a short lived tree in a UK garden situation. I believe that this one is close to the end of its life and shows signs of loss of vigour and possible disease. It has a split trunk and in places the trunk is covered in sooty mould that may indicate a weeping canker, or Verticillium Wilt.

Fig 1 .This would obviously be easier to ascertain in spring or summer when flowing sap would make it more apparent. From The client's description, I think the tree may have a large infestation of aphids in the summer too, also impinging on the continued healthy development of the tree.



Fig 1



Fig 2

Many of the lower branches are dead and leafless and break up fall into the garden during high winds. Fig 2. This is very hazardous for the young children who live at the address, and prevents full and safe enjoyment of the client's garden.

This tree also hinders the growth of the very closely planted *Ailanthus altissima*. The two trees create a wind sail effect in the garden during high winds and move rather alarmingly. I have been on site and witnessed this myself.

Additional sheets – application for tree work : 9, Conisboro Avenue.

It is my belief that the Altissima would benefit from removal of its close neighbour allowing it to develop into its full, rather beautiful potential. The Acer also creates deep shade and prevents use of the lower patio which is littered with leaves and twigs each time the wind blows as well as bird guano from pigeons that roost there.

We are currently developing a garden design (drawing attached)and would like to replace the tree with area of diverse wildlife friendly planting, to include a range of nectar rich plants and grasses. A couple of native Rowan trees are included in the plan which will be in scale with the garden and encourage small birds with the berries in autumn.

So in conclusion, I believe that the deep shade and roots close to the surface are preventing proper use and development of the garden. I don't believe that the tree has much longer to live in a healthy and stable state. I have in my long experience as a botanist and garden designer witnessed the demise of many these particular trees so commonly planted in the 1950's and 60's bought from catalogues and planted far too close to other trees, raised originally (in Belgium 1937) as a garden tree but without much appreciation of its potential to grow as large as its Norway Maple parent, or its apparent susceptibility to die back recently due to possible Verticillium wilt. Given the clients intention to develop the garden in a wildlife friendly way, it is my professional opinion that the loss of this poorly positioned tree in favour of a much more wildlife friendly, bio diverse scheme is a positive development of the space.

