

St. Martins Centre, Church Street, Caversham

Schedule of pruning works

Introduction:

On 10/01/2025 ACD Environmental conducted a site visit to assess a single Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) to inform a TPO application, further to this, four Tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in proximity to the Holm Oak were also assessed.

Findings:

The Holm Oak is located adjacent to the 'Costa Coffee' in the town centre. The tree is a large specimen with a noticeable void in the northern aspect of the crown. The tree is observed to have good vitality with minor damage to the base likely from the high volume of foot-traffic. It is also noted that the resin surfacing surrounding the stem of the tree is being disturbed by the roots of the tree. The tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order ref. 58/13 – T3.

The four Tulip trees are a recently planted, linear group within the parade of shops. The trees appeared to have good vitality, despite some minor deadwood and hanging branches in the crown, due to the brittle nature of the wood, this is typical of the species.



Image 1 – Screenshot from 'Google' satellite imagery showing location of the trees.

Recommendations:

Holm Oak – Crown lift over all footpaths to a height of 3-4 meters, finding suitable secondary growth to prune to. This will include any epicormic growth from the stem. Prune northern aspect of lateral crown by 2 meters, by removal of secondary growth only to allow for adequate clearance of street furniture. Lift crown over southern and eastern aspects of crown by 2 meters by removal of secondary growth only, to provide adequate clearance from the building. Note, the tree will still overhang the buildings via lateral growth.



Image 2 – Holm Oak, as view from 'Hemdean Road'.



Image 3 – Base of Holm Oak.



Image 4 – Reduction of northern crown to provide clearance from lighting column.

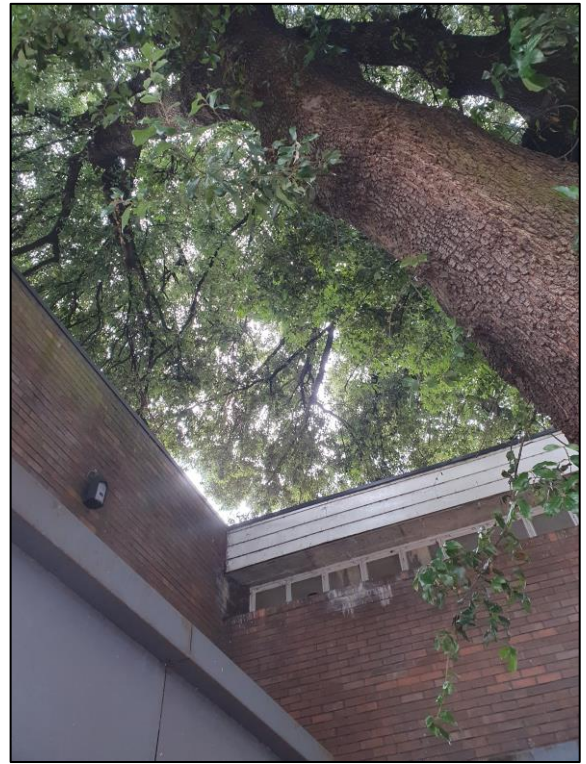


Image 5 & 6 – View of lower section of crown, showing proximity to roof.

Tulip Trees – Crown lift to a height of 3 – 4 metres to provide adequate clearance for pedestrians. This height is to account for the additional ‘droop’ to branches when the trees are in leaf. Further to this, the removal of all cracked and hanging branches will be required.



Image 7 – Tulip trees to be crown lifted.

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