

SHIFT

Presentation for TDAG Seminar on Subsidence





Save our oaks

AXA stop axing oaks

SAVE THE OAKS

AXA
AXA, stop axing our oaks

AXA STOP AXING OAKS

AXA
AXA, stop axing our oaks

AXA
AXA, stop axing our oaks

SAVE OUR TREES



Don't let me
be AXA-ed!

#saveQueensWoodlands

We realised we needed to:

- Emphasise the importance of mature trees in resolving the climate and ecological emergency.
- Challenge the principle that a mature tree can simply be replaced by new planting.
- Make local authorities value their current canopy cover.
- Challenge the way the Insurance Industry deals with subsidence.





Arboricide in Coldfall Wood January 2022

Wanton, ill-informed and futile

The stumps of 2 mature oaks felled in 2018 and 2019. This did not cure the subsidence. Arrowed: pointless tree removal, Jan 2022



92 Creighton Ave. small trees felled near house (arrowed). 3 larger trees next to road untouched but are due to be felled



Coldfall Wood next to 92 Creighton Ave

- Felling of small trees Jan 2022.
- Although these were small their felling has opened up and effectively destroyed the woodland habitat next to 92 Creighton Ave.
- It will take decades to repair the damage
- **Since felling of 2 mature trees 2-3 years ago failed to cure the subsidence removal of the small trees will have no tangible effect**

Haringey Tree Protectors



- **Formed in 2021** in response to excessive felling of trees on local nature reserve the Parkland Walk.
- We aim to **protect and preserve existing mature trees under increasing threat** by insurers, councils, developers, central government.
- Like SHIFT, **we want to see much more robust laws to protect** existing mature trees.

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<https://linktr.ee/treeprotectors>

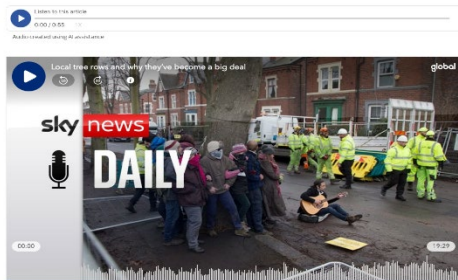


March 2023. TREES ARE BIG NEWS

Case of 120-year-old London Plane tree in Stroud Green, N4, (involving insurers Allianz & Aviva) hit the press when it was smothered in white tarp, watchtower platforms and 24/7 hour security. Ended up in High Court. Cost to Haringey council **£92,000.**

Local tree rows and why they've become a big deal

© Friday 28 March 2023 00:50 UK



120-year-old Haringey tree under threat in legal row

© 14 March



Security officers from the council have been providing round-the-clock surveillance on the tree

By Yasmin Rufo
BBC News

The Telegraph

120-year-old tree saved after neighbour gets last-minute injunction against council

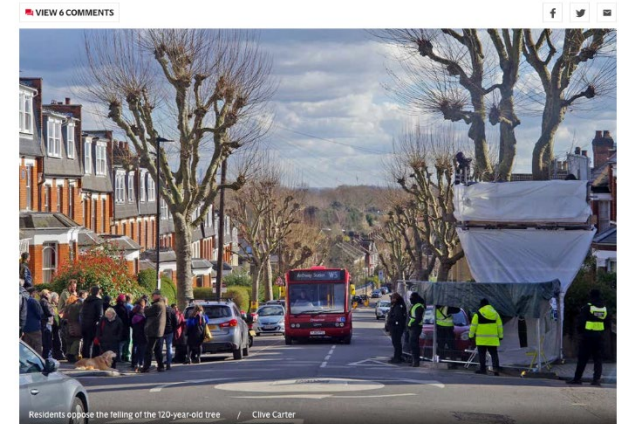
The council had taken possession of the tree and aimed to fell it over claims its deep roots were causing subsidence to two homes

By Telegraph Reporters
17 March 2023 - 10:02pm



Locals accuse Haringey council of Orwellian tactics to fell 120-year-old tree

The council are employing 24/7 security guards at the plane tree



By Barney Davis @BarneyDavisES | 14 March 2023

Current approach to mature trees by insurance industry is broken.

Status quo has to go.

- **Web of blame against trees.** Complacency, lack of transparency, hostility (insurers)
- **Case law is against trees.** No standardized protocol. Claims can last decades.
- **Unreliable/partial tree reports**
- **Inadequate foundations/clay soil fare worse.**
- **Bullying from insurers/loss adjustors** while branding greenwash.
- **Stress, mental/physical ill-health** on tree owners, campaigners & community. Anger/upset at lack of logic.
- **DATA gap when trees felled;** liability ends so no follow up or monitoring; the issue of 'heave';
- **Toxic legacy of removal:** habitat loss, mycorrhizal/mycelium network destroyed, increase in pollution, urban heat, flood risk





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**SHIFT supports this petition calling for the reversal
of the TPO system:**

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/637544>

From the England Trees Action Plan 2021

Tree Preservation Orders we will make sure the planning system fully recognises all the benefits trees provide.

We want to make sure trees in the urban environment are no longer seen as a management liability because of the costs, rather that they are seen as an important asset.

To supplement the new duty on local authorities to consult on felling street trees ... we will provide more guidance to support local authorities to manage street trees.

We will:

3.15. Reform the felling licence system ...

3.16. ...ensure strong protections for existing trees;

3.17. Work with engineers, developers and arboriculturists to get more trees on streets and in developments, including by revising the Manual for Streets and potentially amending National House Building Council guidance on foundations.

We say “Yes, please.”

No mention in the ETAP of Insurance claims and subsidence.

We ask: 'Why not?'

Minister Harrison, replying to Catherine West's enquiries on the progress of the ETAP, actually stated: "We are not planning to produce guidance for the Insurance sector."

We ask: 'Why not?'



Summary of our demands:

1. Parliamentary Select Committee

to investigate and remedy the problem of
Insurance/Subsidence/Trees

2. Tree Preservation Act in parliament:

to implement the promises of the England Trees Action Plan.