

Arboricultural statement in relation to 2 trees at Thomas Cowley School.

Prepared by: East Midlands Tree Surveys Ltd.

Date: 19/05/2022

This statement has been produced in support of a proposed planning application to replace the existing grass with play hard surface.

As such, this will result in the loss of 2 trees - T593 Ash & T72 Rowan, both are to the east of the site, 2 replacement trees will be planted elsewhere on site.

No-dig solutions have been explored however due to the age and condition of both trees, the cost and potential impact is not considered to be viable.

The Ash has no significant defects however it has been topped historically at 8m with obvious reaction growth.

Topping is perhaps the most harmful tree pruning practice known. Yet despite more than 25 years of literature and seminars explaining its harmful effects, topping remains a common practice.

Topping is the indiscriminate cutting of tree branches to stubs or lateral branches that are not large enough to assume the terminal role.

The survival mechanism that causes a tree to produce multiple shoots below each topping cut comes at great expense to the tree. These shoots develop from buds near the surface of the old branches. Unlike normal branches that develop in a socket of overlapping wood tissues, these new shoots are anchored only in the outermost layers of the parent branches.

The new shoots grow quickly, as much as 20 feet in one year, in some species. Unfortunately, the shoots are prone to breaking, especially during windy conditions.

The Rowan is co-dominant at 3m with included unions but no significant defects.

Both trees have limited public visual amenity due to other mature trees that line the site. It is suggested that the loss of both will have no significant impact on the street scene in that location.





John Wilcockson

John Wilcockson – Director, East Midlands Tree Surveys LTD.

Tech Cert (Arbor A), NDF For

19/05/21

