

Moving a 100-year-old Black Mulberry Tree

Glendale

Civic Trees



The Wellcome Trust approached Civic Trees to find out about moving a large 100-year-old black Mulberry tree at their Genome Campus near Cambridge.

The tree was positioned in the courtyard of the conference centre and needed to be relocated to a new accommodation block, aptly named Mulberry Court. The proposed new location mirrored the tree's original sheltered surroundings.

Civic Trees has expertise in large, complex tree transplanting and it was clear that moving the tree was viable logistically. However exploratory works were also needed and so, in 2012, a process of root pruning and investigative air spade work was undertaken to determine the tree's root composition.

The general manager of Civic Trees, explains: "Following the root pruning, the tree came into leaf the following spring and was inspected for signs of stress and weakness in the rootball structure. This inspection was positive."

He added that the tree was in a conservation area so relocating it also required the approval of English Heritage and the Local Tree Officer.

To prepare the tree for the move it was fitted with Civic Tree's unique Newman Frame. A 500 tonne crane and associated trackway was laid and rigged to lift the tree from the conference centre and deposit it onto a low loader.

Once the tree was lifted by the crane and placed on the lorry, it was a short drive down the road to its new location, where a smaller 250 tonne crane was waiting. This crane lowered the tree into its newly prepared tree pit and then underground and overhead anchoring systems were used to secure the tree in its new home.

The general manager comments: "Mature tree transplanting requires specialist arboricultural knowledge, experience, skills and equipment that very few companies in the UK can offer. This mulberry tree is thought to be around 100 years old and there are only a few in the country that are as old as this, however it should flourish in its new surroundings for many years to come."

The Genome Campus is set in the idyllic grounds of the Hinxton Hall estate, south of Cambridge. The Campus plays host to scientific research, courses and conferences, and a publicly-accessible nature reserve.



Supply, Plant, Relocate
civictrees.co.uk

T: 0208 950 4491
E: info@civictrees.co.uk

