

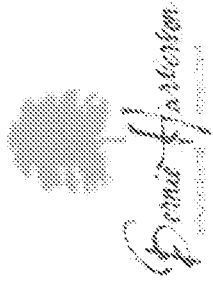


TREE HEALTH & SAFETY AUDIT

2 Kingsway, Aldwick, Bognor Regis

The Granary, White Chimney Row, Westbourne PO10 8RS





Section No.	Subject
1	INTRODUCTION & CLIENTS BRIEF
2	VISUAL TREE ASSESSMENT EXERCISE
3	RISK ASSESSMENT
4	TREE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

Appendix	Subject
BH1	Tree Location Plan & Photographic Evidence
BH2	Qualifications & Experience

1.0 Introduction & Clients Brief

- 1.1 I am instructed by Barry and Jean Houlston who are the owners of 2 Kingsway, Aldwick.
- 1.2 Following on from the total failure and collapse in recent high winds of a mature deciduous tree from land opposite No 2, I have been asked to assess the health and safety of one mature conifer tree which is positioned in the northern corner of the plot overhanging Barrack Lane and also the primary driveway access to the Kingsway Estate.
- 1.3 My main focus will be on the safety of the tree, making any appropriate recommendations for a Tree Management Strategy.
- 1.4 Further to this I am then to make written application (as the tree is TPO'd) to Arun District Council, on behalf of the owners, seeking their approval to any such works.

2.0 Visual Tree Assessment Exercise

- 2.1 I carried out a visual tree assessment exercise at this site on Wednesday 30th March 2022.
- 2.2 The conifer tree was inspected 'by eye' from ground level and was not climbed.
- 2.3 The tools used for the purposes of this inspection were a rubber headed 'sounding hammer' and a metal 600mm long auger probe.
- 2.4 In addition to this a series of digital photographs were taken at the time to record the findings of the inspection and some have been used in this report to identify and illustrate key points (see at Appendix BIII).

2.5 Tree Safety Audit Schedule

TREE SAFETY AUDIT NOTES

N.B. ~ Tree Safety Audits will comprise all of the following items :-

These Tree Safety Audit Notes have been prepared in accordance with current industry guidelines, utilising my fifty (50) years of experience in the arboricultural industry and applying common sense and a pragmatic approach, whilst at the same time recognising that safety is the paramount consideration.

- * Each tree or group has been allocated a unique number *but no tags have been applied* ~ the numbering system is repeated on the site sketch plan which accompanies the safety audit schedule and the colour coding system applied to each grade will be repeated on the plans for ease of management. The sketch plan which normally accompanies a Tree Safety Audit Schedule will indicate the approximate location of each surveyed tree/group on site and also have the trunk circle colour coded, with a unique number positioned beside each one.
- * Tree species are identified in both English Common Name and Latin Botanical Name.
- * An assessment of a tree or groups age is made in terms of its site specific maturity as part of the surrounding landscape, taking into account its overall shape and form in that setting, and is recorded thus :-
 - Y ~ Young tree or group
 - SM ~ Semi Mature tree or group
 - EM ~ Early Mature tree or group
 - M ~ Mature tree or group
 - OM ~ Over mature tree or group
 - V ~ Veteran tree or group
- * Height assessments are estimated and dimensions are provided in metres.
- * The trunk diameter is recorded in millimetres.
- * The average crown spread is recorded in metres.
- * Condition comments are included to describe the key features of a tree and any noted defects and health and safety issues ~ divided into distinct areas of the tree i.e. base; trunk and crown.
- * The anticipated life expectancy of each tree is recorded in bands as follows :- <10; 10-20; 20-30; 30-40 and >40.
- * The category grading for each tree/group is assessed according to a simple A, B, C, D and V grading system.
 - A ~ (Green) Trees of high amenity value of good shape and form and in a sound and healthy condition with a long life expectancy.
The only exceptions to this might be rare tree species or historical value which might also merit an A grade.
 - B ~ (Blue) Trees of high amenity value but which are slightly misshapen or suppressed or have some other minor defect which prevents it being categorized as an A.
 - C ~ (Orange) Trees which are in good overall order but have limited amenity value with no special or outstanding features.
 - D ~ (Red) Trees which are dead, dying, diseased, dysfunctional or dangerous and will require urgent attention.
- * Advice on the most appropriate course of management to render the tree(s) safe is given under the heading of Management Recommendations.

2.6 Tree Assessment

Tree No	Species	Tree Works Recommended
1 Height ~ 15m Age ~ Mature Radial Crown Spreads ~ N 5m E 5m S 10m W 8m Diameter ~ 800mm Life Expectancy ~ >40yrs Grading ~ B	Monterey Pine <i>Pinus radiata</i>	Basal Area: - The basal area was 'sounded' but revealed no irregular sound resonance that might indicate possible internal decay or hollowing of the trunk. - Probing of the fissures around the basal area of the trunk at ground level revealed no evidence of any openings or cavities or areas of soft tissue or decay. - I asked the owners if they had seen any fungal fruiting bodies appearing around the base of the tree or within 1m of the trunk and they advised me that none had been observed. - Outside the property in the grass verge to the north side I noted that roots were exposed on the surface and had over time been repeatedly damaged by current mowing practices. Trunk: - A short single trunk to 4m from ground level where it then becomes a multi branched crown. Crown: - Overall, this tree has a wind pruned and squat appearance. - There is one elongated and attenuated branch to the north side which is out of character with the remainder of the crown. - Suppressed by the mature Ash tree to the east side. - Some dieback noted in the central areas of the crown. - Large diameter pieces of deadwood noted throughout the crown, with some dead branches retaining heavy cones. - For the most part there is good extension growth and healthy new needle flush from last years terminal shoots -- however, the central leader shows Chlorosis and yellowing needles and significant dieback as well as having a dead tip.

3.0 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 There is currently a significant content of large diameter deadwood within the crown which represents a high risk both to the owners using their garden and road users and pedestrians, given the overlap of the main road and footpath. This is further exacerbated by the presence of retained seed cones along the length of these dead branches, which add weight and make failure an even higher probability.
- 3.2 The dead tip of the central leader represents a high risk to the owners using their garden. It is not possible at this time to determine the reason for this dieback and yellowing and this will need to be further investigated by the Tree Contractors when they climb the tree to carry out the other essential works and appropriate action taken.
- 3.3 The long contorted limb to the north side is of concern as it is out of character with the remaining crown form and given its additional heavy 'lion tail' end weighting make failure a high probability and safety risk to road users and pedestrians accessing Kingsway.
- 3.4 The exposed and mower damaged roots in the grass verge outside are a concern, because repeated damage and opening of old wounds exposes them to the risk of infection by the airborne spores of fungal pathogens.
- 3.5 There is an ongoing risk from the old seed cones arising from along the main branch network throughout the tree --- these are weighty items and represent a high risk both to the owners using their garden and road users and pedestrians, given the overlap of the main road and footpath.

4.0 Tree Management Strategy Recommendations

- 4.1 I advise the removal of all major dead branchwork throughout the crown – technically this does not require Council approval under the TPO but for completeness should be included in the formal application.
- 4.2 I advise the removal of the dead top of the central leader as well as a section of chlorotic and yellowing needles amounting to a 2m reduction in the overall height of this limb. I also advise that a reputable and experienced Tree Contractor is used for this work as the climber needs to have a sound knowledge of arboricultural matters in order to be able to assess the possible reasons for the yellowing and dieback.
- 4.3 I advise the shortening back of the long contorted limb to the north side by 2m to 3m [dependant on an available living growth point to cut to] to make safe and bring it back in line with the general canopy outline of the remainder of the trees crown.
- 4.4 I advise the removal of the majority of the old cones that are attached to the main branch network.
- 4.5 I advise that the damaged roots in the grass verge outside are either covered over with topsoil and then re-seeded or new turf is laid to raise the levels and stop the repeated root damage.