

**THE ARBORICULTURAL**  
CONSULTANCY LTD

# **ARBORICULTURAL CONDITION ASSESSMENT & RECOMMENDATIONS 2019**

**2 Willow Way, Bognor Regis  
Reference Number: 0423  
Version: One**

---

**Date: 18 March 2019**

**Client:  
Mr & Mrs J. Florencio  
2 Willow Way  
Aldwick Bay Estate  
Bognor Regis  
PO21 4NA**

**The Arboricultural Consultancy LTD  
3 Old Barn Way  
Southwick  
West Sussex  
BN42 4NS**

**[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]**

Director- Benjamin Tidey. Company Registered in England and Wales.  
Company Reg- 9562286

---

**1. Contents**

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction                     | 1.0 |
| Summary                          | 1.1 |
| Site details                     | 1.2 |
| Key Terms and Abbreviations      | 1.3 |
| Use of assessment                | 1.4 |
| Tree survey                      | 2.0 |
| Survey method                    | 2.1 |
| Legal Protection status of trees | 2.2 |
| Tree details                     | 2.3 |
| Conclusion                       | 3.0 |
| Future management                | 3.1 |
| Management considerations        | 3.2 |
| Notes from the author            | 3.3 |
| <b>Appendix</b>                  |     |
| Tree information table           | 1.0 |
| Tree location                    | 1.1 |
| Evidence and photos              | 1.2 |
| Key terms and abbreviations      | 1.3 |

| Author(s) Name     | Company                            | Position                  | Contact information                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ben Tidey FdSc arb | The Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd | Arboricultural Consultant | 3 Old Barn Way<br>Southwick<br>West Sussex<br>BN42 4NS<br> |

**Arboricultural Condition Assessment**

### **Purpose of the Assessment:**

The assessment is designed to highlight the health and structural condition of single Poplar tree - *Populus alba*, note any defects or failings and provide recommendations for management.

### **Included within the Contents of this Assessment are:**

- Summary of the assessment
- Tree details
- Recommended management actions

**Client:** Mrs Karin Florencio; Property Owner

**Date:** 14 arch 2019

**Report prepared By:** Ben Tidey FdSc (Arb)

**Email:** ben@thearbconsultant.co.uk

**Address:** The Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd

3 Old Barn Way

Southwick

West Sussex

BN42 4NS

## 1.0 Introduction:

Tree T1 *Populus alba*, White Poplar, hereafter known as T1, is located to the south west corner of the rear garden of 2 Willow Way. The tree is heavily clad in dense Ivy that spreads from the base to ends of the secondary scaffold.

The tree has previously been managed as a pollard with large branching being severed at circa 6m, the tree had routinely been pollarded with the formation of knuckles at pollarding points. The knuckles have overtime started to get damaged and decay has set in resulting in cavities and poor branch unions. This ultimately means that branching is now failing and snapping/ripping off at the union.

It is unlikely that the tree with its declining health and internal decay will recover suitably from a re-pollarding operation, the longevity of this tree and the suitability for retention should be considered.

The lower trunk was assessed and indicated the trunk is hollow or decayed, further up the trunk there are old pruning wounds with decay and cavities, full inspection of these was hindered by Ivy. There were no obvious fungal bodies on the trunk but this again was hindered by Ivy. The tree has a lean to the east with a prevailing wind from the south west.

## 1.1 Summary:

Inspection of the *P. alba* tree has highlighted issues, the primary issue that has given rise for concern is the establishment and extent of decay within the tree's stems. Further issues are associated with the decline in tree health that are inevitable with this level of decay ingress with the ultimate conclusion that there will be stem failure. The tree has a significant lean and there is garden and property within the target zones. Failure of a tree of this size will have risks and this needs to be managed, in this case the only reasonable management will be tree removal.

Trees in this condition can offer ecological benefits and should be considered for retention where possible, unfortunately with the location, stem lean and level of decay this is not possible. The remaining tree stump should be retained in situ for its ecological value as it decays. The surrounding area does have a mixture of trees of different types, ages and conditions that lessen the impact of tree removal.

## 1.2 Site Details:

The tree is located to the southwest corner of the rear garden of the property 2 Willow Way.

Site Address:

2 Willow Way  
Aldwick Bay Estate  
Bognor Regis  
PO21 4NA

## 1.3 Key Terms and Abbreviations:

A list of the key terms and abbreviations have been included to help explain some of the terminology, found in appendix 1.3.

## 1.4 Use of Assessment:

This assessment is designed to be used as a tree management guide and may be a submission to the local planning authority as evidence for tree works application for trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or within a conservation area.

## 2.0 Tree Survey

The trees were inspected from ground level using widely accepted Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) as defined in Research for Amenity Tree Series books. Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management by David Lonsdale research for Amenity Trees No.7. Published 21/07/1999. No climbing inspections were undertaken. No samples of soil, tree tissue or suspected pests, diseases and pathogens were taken. Heights of trees were estimated by eye and crown spreads by physical pacing. Diameters were measured in mm using a diameter tape measure. Trees were measured at 1.5m from ground level if they consisted of a single stem. Trees present with more than one stem below 1.5m were measured in accordance with BS 5837:2012. Any photographs taken on site are done so using a digital camera. Tools used for tree inspection were a metric diameter tape, binoculars, hand lens and where appropriate, metal probe, trowel, and engineers mallet. See appendix 1.0 for tree survey record.

## 2.1 Survey Method:

The trees were surveyed on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 by Ben Tidey FdSc (Arb). Mr Tidey was joined by Jorge Florencio for the duration of the inspection. The tree was assessed from ground level with no climbing inspection, full access around the tree trunk was available to assess the stem and basal area. Notes and photographic evidence was taken during assessment.

## 2.2 Legal Protection Status of Trees:

The information below was obtained from the local authority of Arun District Council online service at <https://www1.arun.gov.uk/webapps/wml/> this indicated that;

- Tree T1 of this report is protected under Tree Preservation Order (TPO) BOGNOR No.8 & BOGNOR NO.2
- The property and the tree does not fall within a Conservation Area

## 2.3 Tree Details:

The information gathered during the tree survey is recorded and can be found in Appendix 1.0 along with any recommendations. The tree surveyed has been broken down into categories as set out in BS5837 2012 for ease of understanding.

## 3.0 Conclusion:

The tree T1 *P. alba* is located within the suburban garden environment with other trees developing around the location, the tree is of a mature age and has a major ivy infestation that is most likely now adding support to the trunk. The tree has declined in health over several years and branching has now started to break out and fall, the tree is in need of re-pollarding, unfortunately, the tree is in such poor condition that these pruning works will further reduce tree health. The tree should be managed in such a way as to mitigate from damage or harm from tree failure.

## 3.1 Future management:

The findings of this report have established that action is needed to mitigate against harm or damage, therefore the recommendation for the tree is as follows:

T1 *P. alba* should be felled to ground level, leaving the stump to naturally decay offering ecological benefits.

### 3.2 Management Considerations:

At the time of assessment the tree had no obvious signs of nesting birds or bats, the limitations associated with assessment from the ground require that a more in-depth inspection of the tree crown is undertaken before any work is started as this type of assessment is beyond the scope of this report.

### 3.3 Notes from the author

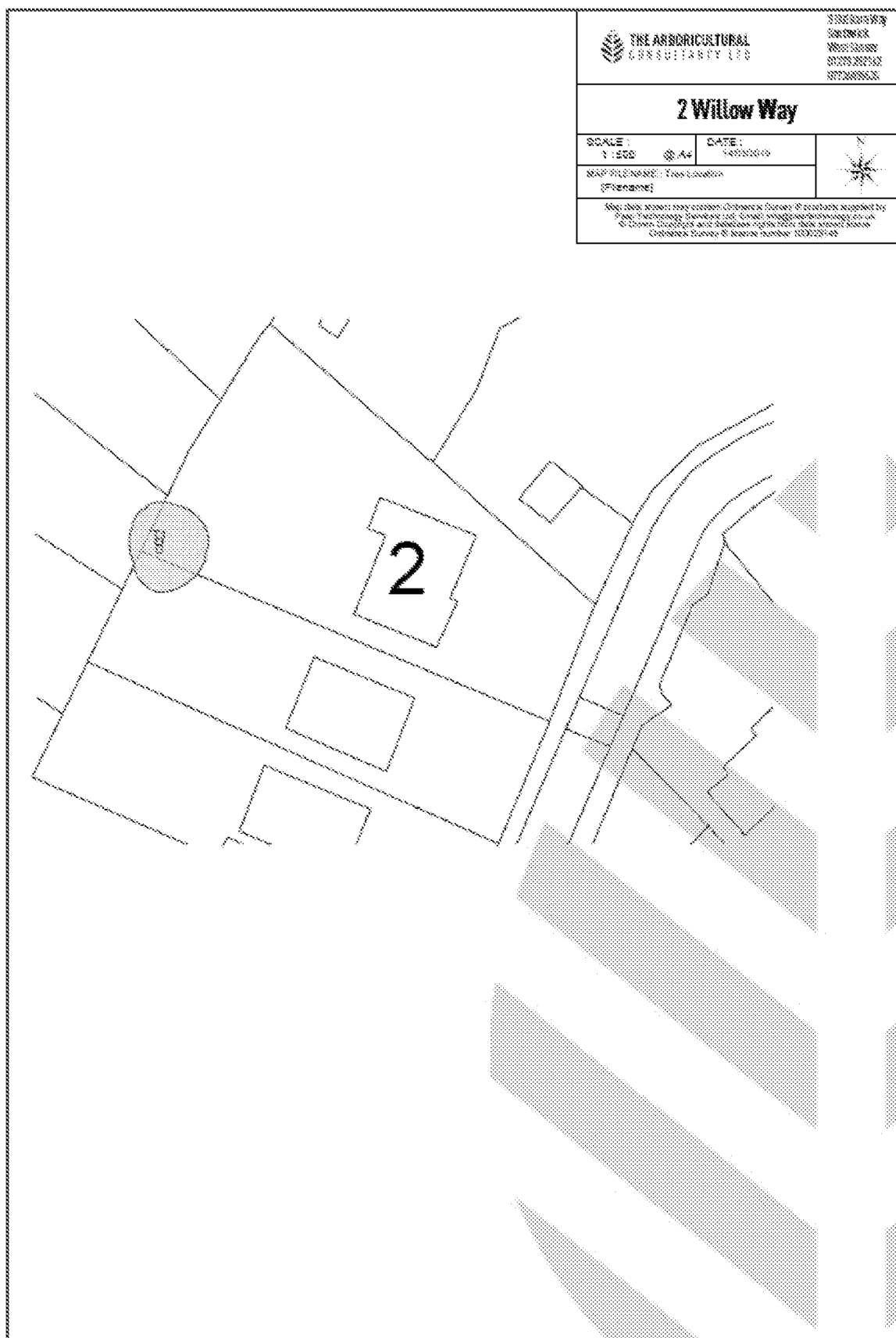
There are many things trees give to us, these can be obvious such as shade and aesthetics but some less obvious such as pollution reduction and ecological factors such as wildlife. A holistic view that covers many generations of people and trees needs to be applied with respect to the trees location, being in an area of regular use also with the potential for the trees in question to cause damage and harm. We must remember that trees are living growing organisms and they will grow and will at some point decline in health and finally die we should offer them the dignity to do this, but in a safe and manageable way. To maintain the best possible tree scape we need trees of differing ages but these trees need to be safe to live with, and often it is not possible to make the tree safe or keep people out of the way of dangerous specimens so the tree inevitably must go. We have a responsibility to the future generations to give them trees that they can enjoy as our forefathers have done. Good tree management is to be sensible and realistic with the consideration to the time scale trees grow in and not reckless and short sighted.

## Appendix

## Appendix 1.0 Tree information table

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                          |        |      |                    |           |                    |      |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|------|----|
| Tree Number                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | T1                                                                                                                                                       | Height | 10m  | DBH                | 750 (Ivy) | Crown break height | 7.5m |    |
| Species                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Populus alba, White Poplar                                                                                                                               |        |      |                    |           |                    |      |    |
| Crown spread                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | North                                                                                                                                                    | 4m     | East | 4m                 | South     | 4m                 | West | 4m |
| Tree category rating (BS5837)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | U - Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years |        |      | Age class          |           | Mature             |      |    |
| Physiological condition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Poor                                                                                                                                                     |        |      | Physical condition |           | Poor               |      |    |
| <b>Comments:</b><br>Tree with major Ivy on base trunk and into crown inhibiting full visual inspection of all parts.<br>The tree is currently managed as a pollarded with re-growth that is overdue for reinstatement. The pollard knuckles are large and have areas of substantial decay and cavities with regrowth located around these.<br>Where the lower trunk is accessible there was obvious acoustic feedback that the stem is either hollow or has significant internal decay; this was assessed with an acoustic mallet test. At a height of circa 1.5-3m there are deformity cavities and decay pockets on the main stem; this full assessment is hindered by the Ivy.<br><br>There has been, over the last year, an increase in the amount of branching that has broken out from the pollard points, and a decrease in tree vigor. The tree is located on a boundary and will, should it fail, cause substantial damage to property.<br>The tree was part of a group of 3 Poplar trees at this address that had the same management over there lifetime, 2 of these trees where felled in 2015 and they had significant internal decay that left less than 10% of the trunk diameter intact, this being well outside of the recommended safety margins.<br><br>With the tree's health in decline, the excessive Ivy and internal decay compromising the trees stability, re pollarding will have a detrimental effect on the tree as there is a decreased amount of energy for the tree to recover fully. This will exacerbate the issues and will further the trees decline and safety. |                                                                                                                                                          |        |      |                    |           |                    |      |    |
| <b>Recommended actions:</b><br>Tree should be removed to ground level.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                          |        |      |                    |           |                    |      |    |

## Appendix 1.1 Tree location



## Appendix 1.2 Evidence and photos



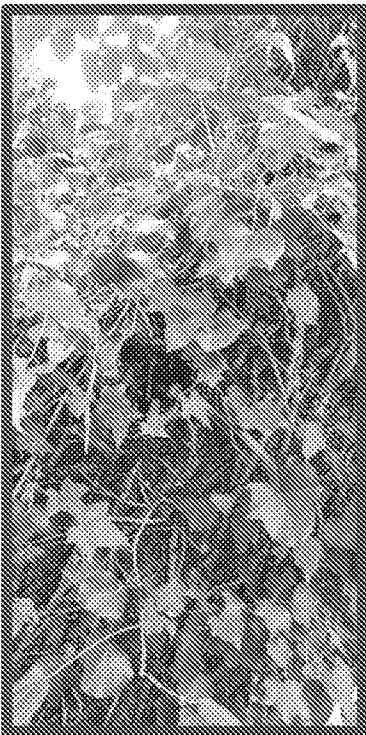
Picture 1 – T1 overview, dense Ivy on trunk and secondary scaffold



Picture 2 – T1 stem leaning to east



Picture 3 – T1 base of tree stem with cavity



Picture 3 – T1 pocket of decay c.2m up trunk

## Appendix 1.3 Key Terms and Abbreviations

### **Arboriculturalist:**

Person who has relevant education and training, gained expertise in the field of trees.

### **British Standard 5837: 2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition, and Construction - Recommendations (BS 5837):**

British Standard document outlining best practice and guidelines for the impact of arboriculture on the construction industry.

### **British Standard 3998 2012 Tree Work Recommendations (BS 3998):**

British Standard document outlining best practice for Tree Works.

### **Competent Person:**

Person who has training and experience relevant to the matter being addressed and an understanding of the requirements of the particular task being approached.

### **Stem:**

Principle above ground structural component(s) of a tree that supports the branches/crown.

### **Pathogen:**

A micro-organism which causes disease in another organism.