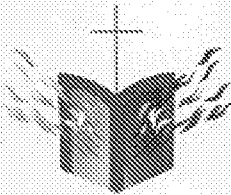


A/54/14/TC

St. Margaret's



ANGMERING

ADC Tree Officer
The Planning Department
Arun District Council
Arun Civic Centre
1 Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

24 April 2014

Dear Sirs

Re: St Margaret's Angmering, Tree works (Section 211 notification)

In accordance with Section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, I am writing to advise you of our intention to undertake works to trees in the churchyard of St Margaret's Church Angmering which lies within the Angmering Conservation Area.

As part of our ongoing maintenance programme we instructed Dr Martin Dobson, of Martin Dobson Associates Ltd (an arboricultural consultant) to undertake a tree safety inspection of all of the trees in the church yard. Dr Dobson's report has identified various issues with a number of the trees requiring action for safety reasons. I have attached his report for your information.

The works now proposed are as follows (numbering system as Dr Dobson's report):

- **G3:** Fell the four wild plum trees to the northern boundary with Fletchers Field. The trees are diseased and in the opinion of Dr Dobson have reached the end of their safe useful life.

For your information we propose to plant four new trees (2 no. Liquidambar Straciflua and 2 no. Acer Negundo, both of which have been suggested by Dr Dobson as growing to a similar size to the existing and having better resistance to honey-fungus).

- **T6:** Felling a single limb to a sycamore to the west of the churchyard –the limb has grown around the railings to a grave weakening the tree.
- **T8:** Cutting back one limb to a sycamore - this has become overly long with the risk it falling as its weight increases.
- **T9:** Felling a Western Red Cedar to the west boundary (adjacent to The Thatchway) – this is leaning at a dangerous angle over the road.

St Margaret's Church
Arundel Road, Angmering
West Sussex BN16 4J5

St Margaret's Community Church
St Margaret's School, Arundel Road, Angmering,
West Sussex BN16 4LP

RECTOR: Canon Mark Standen 01903 784979, standens@angmering.org.uk

CURATE: Revd Tom Robson 01903 369005, curate@angmering.org.uk

ST MARGARET'S COMMUNITY CHURCH TEAM LEADER: Revd Ben Redding 01903 786834, benredding@angmering.org.uk

YOUTH WORKER: Ben Martin 01903 786809 youth@angmering.org.uk

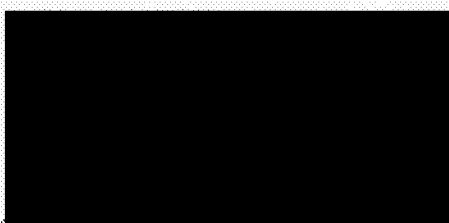
CHURCH OFFICE: Open weekdays 9.30-12.30 01903 784459, saintmargarets@angmering.org.uk

www.angmering.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1131362

I have provided photographs below to give you more of an idea of the setting in which the trees are and their context to the church and other buildings. In addition there is also a site plan in Martin's report showing the approximate location of the trees in question.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss the proposed works.

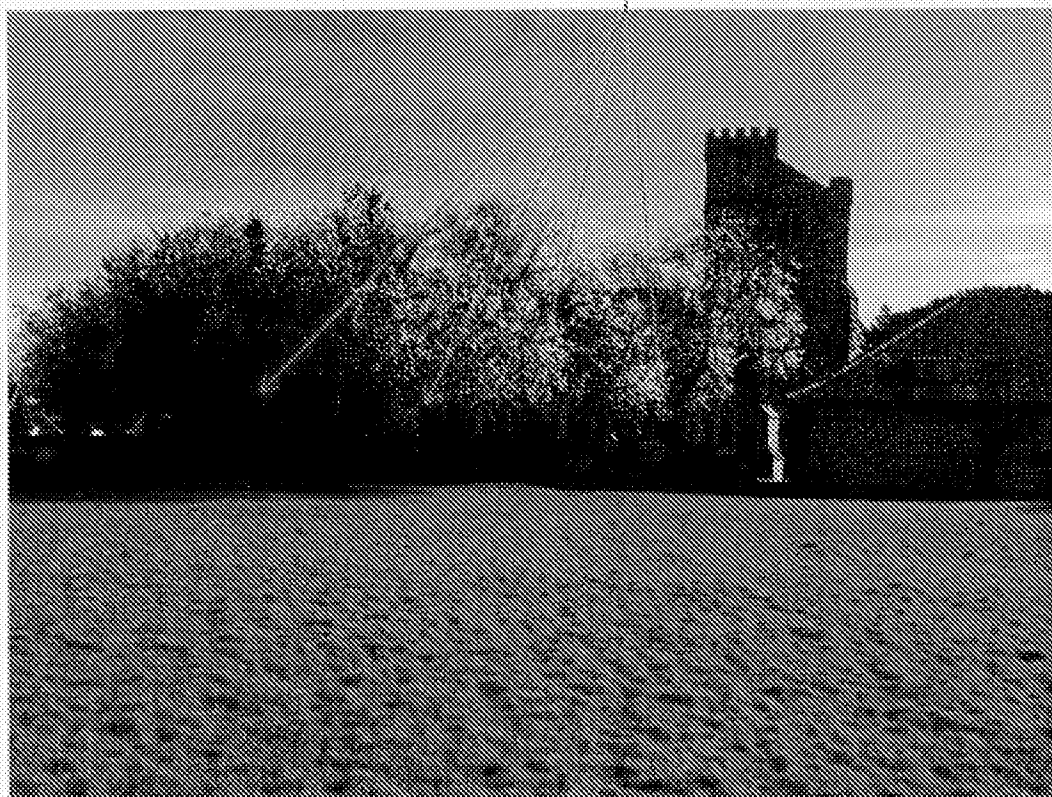


Ian Wileck

Chairman of St Margaret's Building Advisory and Action Group.



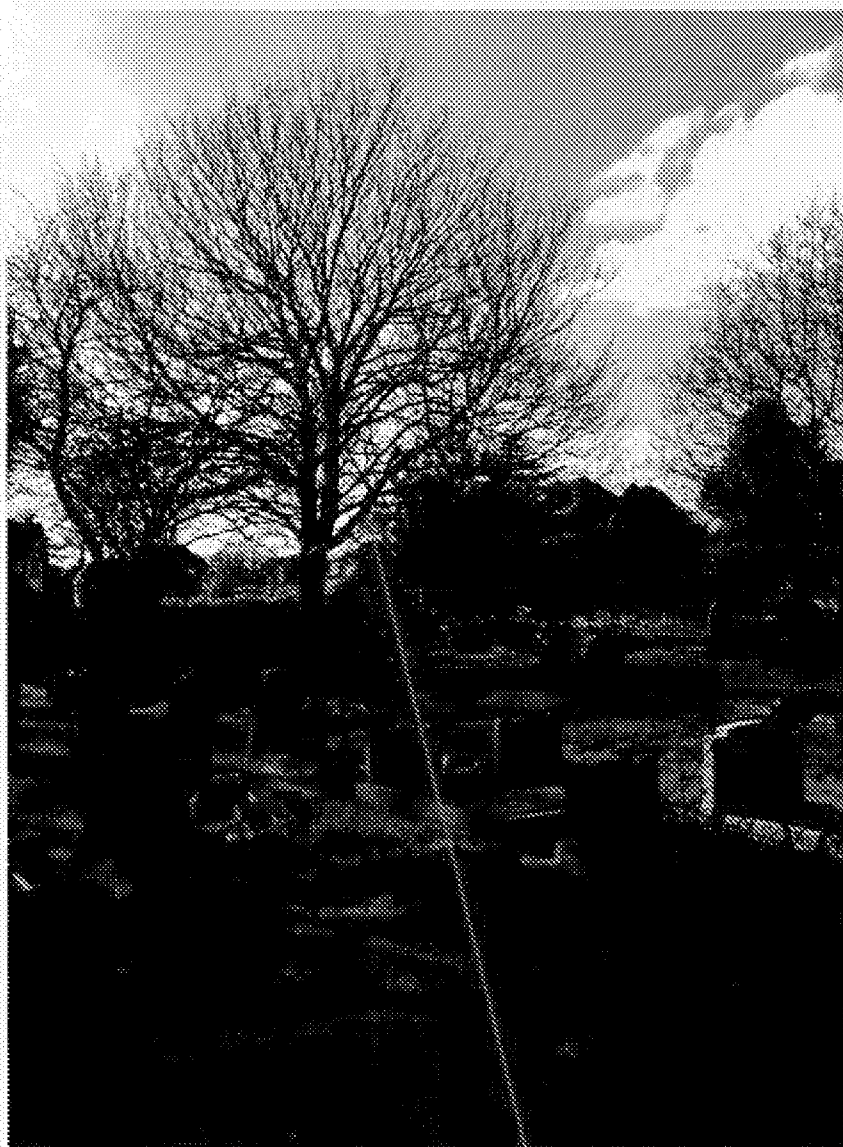
cc. Canon Mark Standen, Rector, St Margaret's Angmering
Mr Andrew Forbes, Churchwarden, St Margaret's Angmering



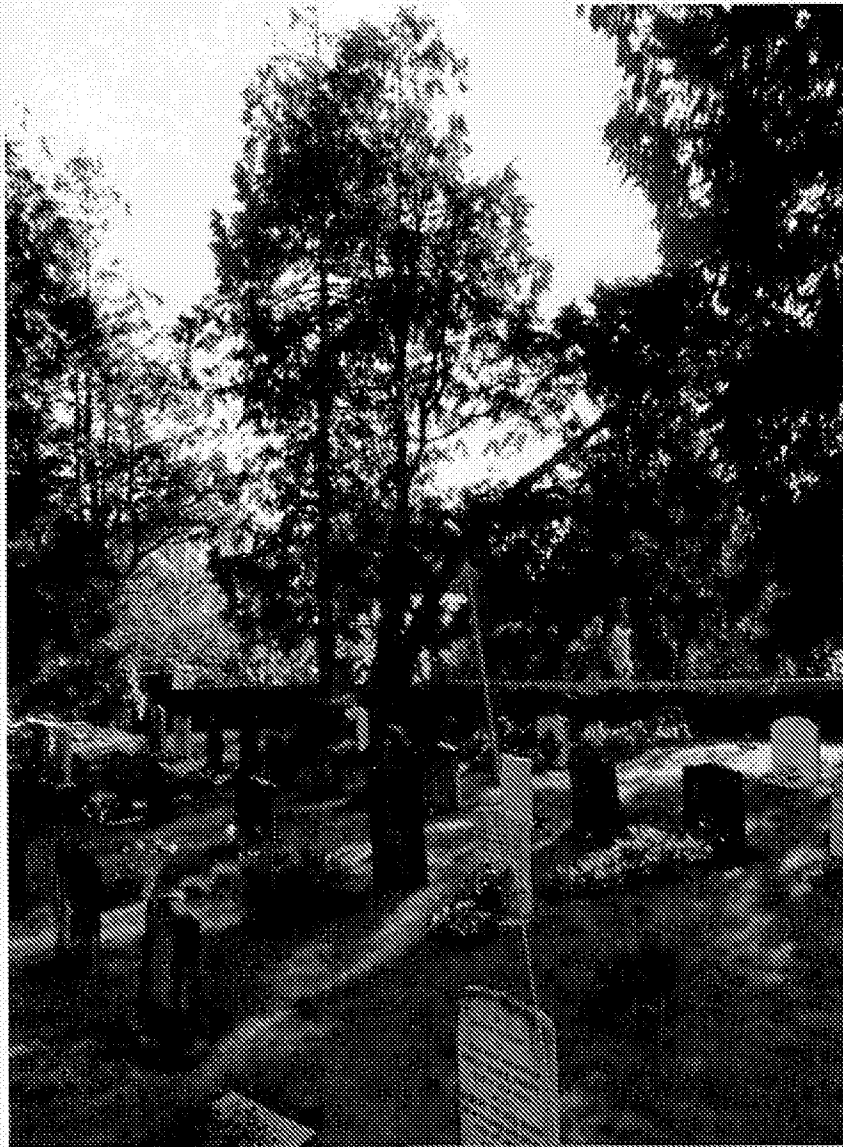
Trees to be felled (on safety grounds) , roots ground out and 4 new trees planted.
(2 no. Liquidambar Straciflua and 2 no. Acer Negundo)



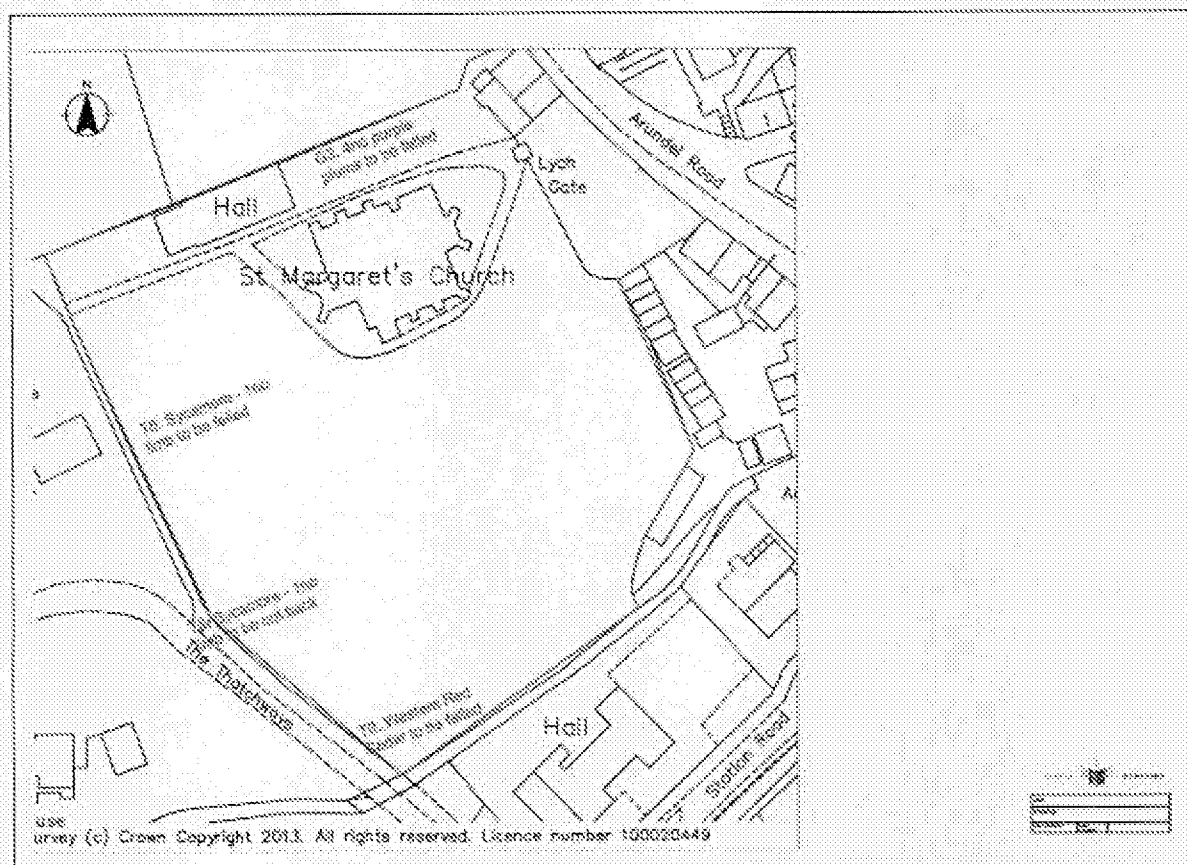
(T6) Sycamore to the west of the churchyard
One limb to be felled (on safety grounds) where it has grown around the railings to a grave
weakening the tree.



(T8) Sycamore to the western boundary
Limb to be pruned back (on safety grounds) where it has become overly long with the risk it falling as its weight increases.



(T9) Western Red Cedar to the west boundary
Leaning limb to be felled (on safety grounds) where this is leaning at a dangerous angle over the road.



Martin Dobson Associates Ltd

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ARBOCULTURAL
CONSULTANCY



St Margaret's Church Angmering
c/o Ian Wieck
Church Office
Arundel Road
Angmering
West Sussex
BN16 4JS

28 November 2013

Dear Mr Wieck

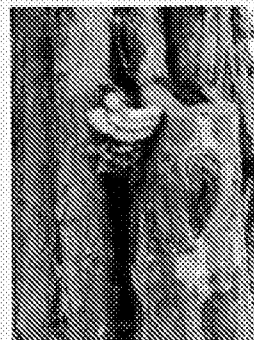
Tree safety inspection at St Margaret's churchyard, Angmering

I refer to your emailed instructions dated 8 November 2013 asking me to visit St Margaret's Church and carry out a tree safety inspection within the churchyard.

I visited the site on 21 November 2013 and made a visual tree assessment to detect visible defects that might affect the safety of people or property. I was accompanied by Ian Wieck on an initial assessment and then a more detailed inspection was carried out. My comments are restricted to trees with notable features and where works are considered necessary recommendations have been made (in bold). The approximate locations of the various trees are shown in the site plan at Figure 1.

T1 Birch – this tree had three main stems forking at low level and had a trunk diameter at ground level of approximately 500 mm. The tree has previously been cut back to enable better reception from the TV aerial of the nearby property. I understand that further pruning has been requested. The pruning so far has not affected the tree's health or safety but severe pruning is not advised for this species as large pruning cuts allow for colonisation by the wood rotting fungus *Piptoporus betulinus* which can rapidly lead to a tree becoming unsafe and ultimately dying. **I recommend that any pruning carried out should be restricted to pruning back to the previous reduction points. Cutting of branches larger than about 50 – 70 mm should be avoided.**

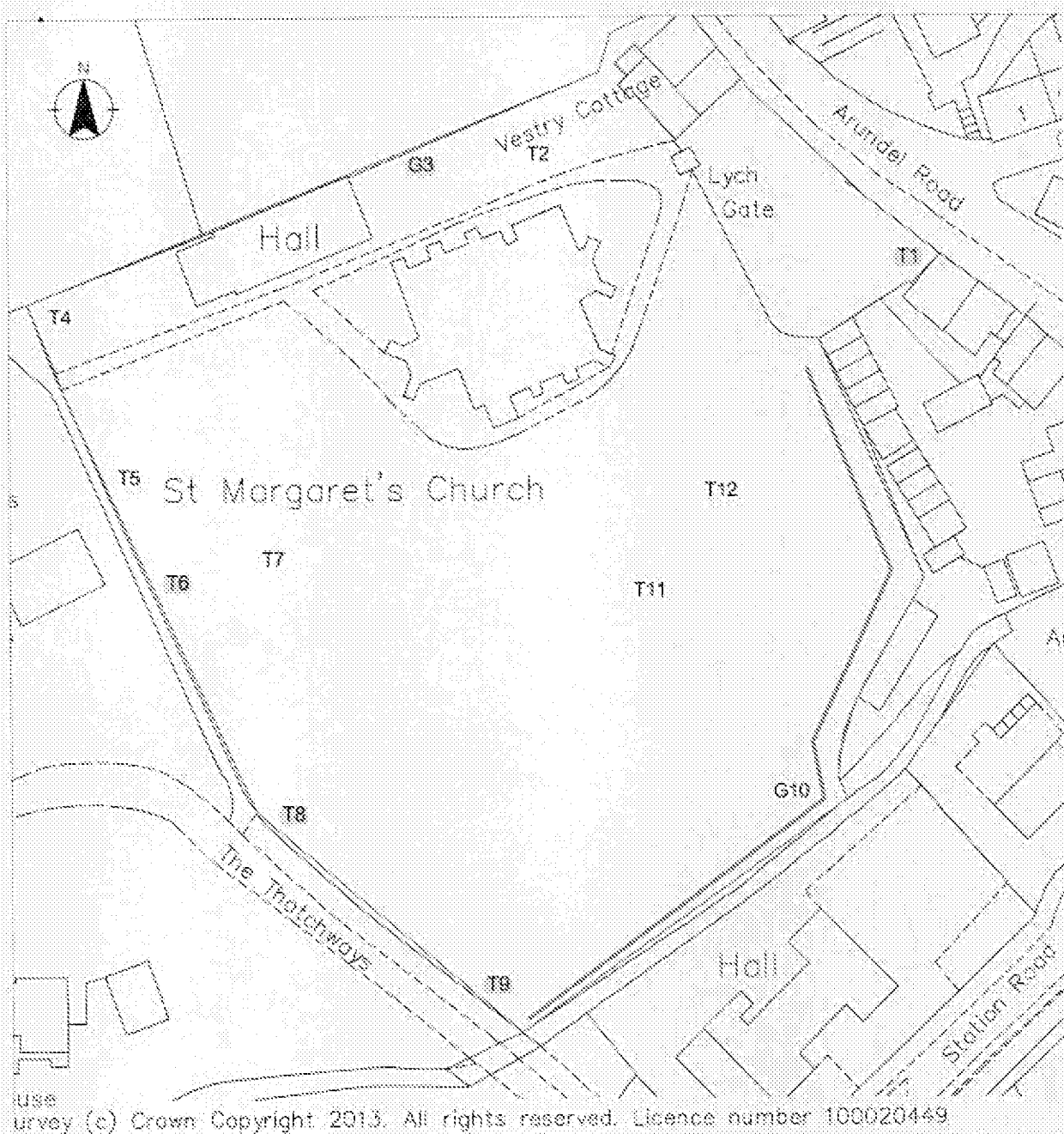
T2 Yew – this is a fairly large and old tree which has been reduced in size in the relatively recent past. A fungal fruiting body of the wood rotting fungus *Laetiporus sulphureus* (Chicken of the woods) was observed on the tree and tapping the trunk with a mallet indicated that decay was present. However, the decay appeared to be restricted to one dead limb and it is considered that the limb does not pose any undue risk to people or property. The decay is likely to spread however and the condition of the tree should be monitored. There is no treatment for this fungus (or indeed for any wood rotting fungus)



Martin Dobson Associates Ltd, Registered in England 7592860. Registered office: 49 Liphook Road, Whitehill, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 9DA. VAT registration 110 282270



Figure 1. Sketch showing the position and size of the Oak tree relative to adjacent buildings



G3 Purple plum x 4 – there is a row of overmature Purple plums (*Prunus*) adjacent to the boundary flint wall. Each of the trees is infected with the wood rotting fungus *Ganoderma*, some more obviously than others. Fruiting bodies were apparent on two of the trees at various positions. The implication of the presence of the fungus is that the trunk and branches are likely to fail in the foreseeable future. There is a risk that such damage may result in harm to the boundary wall which was being repointed at the time of my inspection. **In my opinion the trees have reached the end of their safe useful life and should be removed and replaced. Replacement planting should be at a distance of at least 1 m from the wall to minimise the potential for future disruption by tree roots.**





T4 Sycamore – it seems likely that this tree along with other Sycamores in the churchyard was self sown and has grown up with no management. The tree has a number of tightly congested stems with included bark between them. This arrangement represents a potential weakness and there is a risk of failure in the future. Whilst the danger is most likely not imminent consideration should be given to the possibility of replacing the tree as part of an ongoing management plan.



T5 Sycamore – as above

T6 Sycamore – as above. The situation with this tree is worse than for T4 and T5 because it has grown immediately adjacent to graves with stone capping and railings. The graves have already been damaged and that will only worsen with time. Further, the railing on the N side of the tree has constricted the growth of one limb suggesting that it may soon become dangerous and need to be removed. **It is recommended that the limb constricted by the metal railing should be removed.**

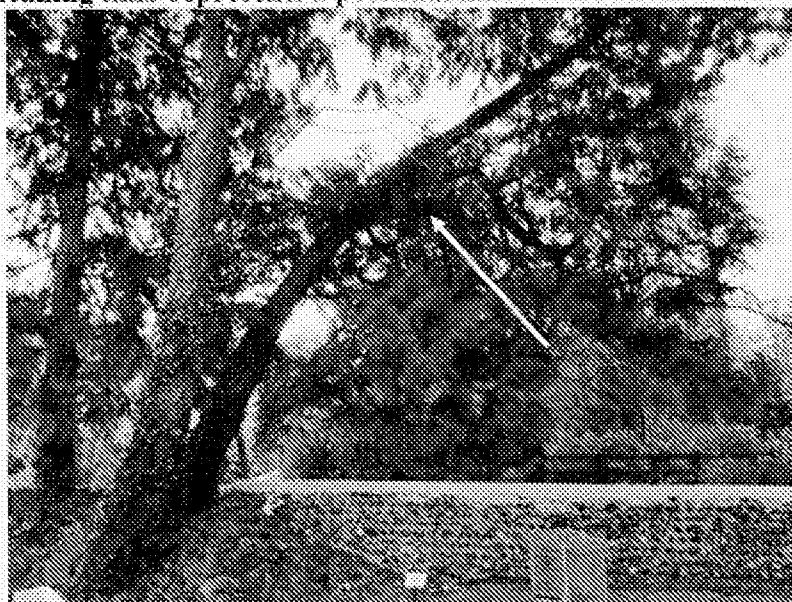


T7 Monterey pine – the tree appears to be structurally sound but there is unusual and significant needle death which is likely to indicate the involvement of a pest or pathogen. The condition of the tree should be monitored but no action needs to be taken unless there is a significant deterioration in the tree's condition.

T8 Sycamore – the tree grows outside the boundary of the churchyard but there is a long heavy horizontal branch growing over the churchyard which may be a problem in the future as its weight increases. **It is recommended that a small degree of shortening should be undertaken to reduce the leverage on the branch. The branch should therefore be reduced by a contractor working to BS3998: 2010 *Tree works. Recommendations* by approximately 2 – 3 m cutting back to a suitable growth point.**



T9 Western red cedar – the tree has two main limbs, one of which leans over the adjacent road at a steep angle. **The leaning limb represents a potential hazard and should be removed.**



G10 Western red cedars – there is a line of Western red cedars along the south and eastern boundaries. These seem to have been planted as a hedge or screen but have not been managed and have now become very large. I did not identify any features that would cause me concern regarding their safety but I would advise that consideration should be given to bringing the trees back into a system of management. That management could involve reducing the trees in size and carrying out

periodic reduction on a cyclical basis or it could involve removal and replacement, with replacement trees being much easier to maintain at a reasonable size. Western red cedars will tolerate moderate reduction but care should be taken by tree surgeons as far as possible to maintain a reasonable shape and retain sufficient green growth that the screen continues to function as such.

I noted that some reduction had already taken place to trees overhanging gardens/garages on the eastern boundary. Some of the reduction appears overzealous leaving the trees in a poor visual condition. For others there is still scope to lift low branches which overhang garages.

T11 Monterey pine – comments as for T8



T12 Yew – the centre of this tree has become decayed and the tree is in the process of splitting into two sections. In the fullness of time it is possible that one or both sections will collapse. Consideration will need to be given to the best way to manage the tree in the future which may involve some crown reduction to reduce weight bearing on the weakened stem or it may involve reinforcing the tree, perhaps with rods, to keep the tree from collapsing outwards. A detailed prescription would require further investigation and discussion.

I trust this report is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Dr Martin Dobson
BSc DPhil FArborA MEWI
Registered Consultant of the Arboricultural Association