



---

**From:** Ian Wieck Surveying [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 July 2018 10:41  
**To:** Zac Denton  
**Subject:** A/73/18/tc Section 211 Notification - St Margaret's Church Angmering - Proposed Tree Works

Dear Zac

Please see attached an arboricultural report which we had undertaken by Dr Martin Dobson in 2016 regarding the western red cedar trees to the southern boundary subject to this Section 211 notification.

Kind regards

Ian Wieck

**Ian Wieck Surveying Ltd**  
28 Golden Avenue  
East Preston  
West Sussex  
BN16 1QY



---

**From:** Ian Wieck Surveying  
**Sent:** 21 May 2018 11:28  
**To:** 'planning@arun.gov.uk' <planning@arun.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** james nicholl [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Section 211 Notification - St Margaret's Church Angmering - Proposed Tree Works

Dear Sirs

Please see attached my letter dated 21/05/2018 to you regarding proposed tree works required in the churchyard of St Margaret's Angmering together with attachments referred to in the letter.

Thank you for your attention

Yours sincerely

Ian Wieck

Ian Wieck Surveying Ltd  
28 Golden Avenue  
East Preston  
West Sussex  
BN16 1QY



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

18 July 2016

Our ref: E70

Dear Ian

**Tree survey in churchyard at St Margaret's Church, Angmering.**

1. I refer to your instructions asking me to inspect a line of 41 western red cedars growing along the south eastern boundary of St Margaret's churchyard. I am instructed to provide an opinion as to their past management and current condition and give recommendations for their future management, including the potential for felling and replanting. I previously inspected all trees in the churchyard on 21 November 2013 and prepared a report dated 28 November 2013 with recommendations for various tree works, all of which appear to have been implemented.
2. I have been provided with a topographical survey which includes each tree within the churchyard and the western red cedars comprise 41 out of the 44 trees in the sequence T38 – T82 (Appendix MD1). The remainder within that group are elder and holly.
3. I attended the site on 13 June 2016 and all trees were briefly re-inspected but attention was focussed on the western red cedars.
4. The line of western red cedars (WRC) is located close to the south eastern boundary of the churchyard next to a steep 3 m high bank leading down to a small stream which divides the churchyard from properties on Station Road. The trees were historically topped at a height of about 10 m and are now in the region of 20 m tall. Their trunk diameters range in size from about 300 – 600 mm and their crowns extend over the churchyard by about 6 – 7 m, overhanging the first 2 – 3 lines of graves. The lowest branches sweep down to about 2 m above ground level.
5. In general, the WRC trees are regarded as being in good health (Figure 1) with no features that would make them hazardous. The exceptions are two trees which both lean towards Station Road at an angle of about 40 degrees, one leaning towards the village hall (Figure 2), which houses the Angmering Village Preschool, and one which leans toward the village hall car park.



6. Whilst it is probable that the leaning trees will not collapse in the short-term it is considered that they are not appropriate for retention since there are significant targets within falling distance. It is therefore recommended that both leaning trees are felled.

**Figure 1.** View of western red cedars taken facing south west.



**Figure 2.** Trunk of leaning western red cedar.

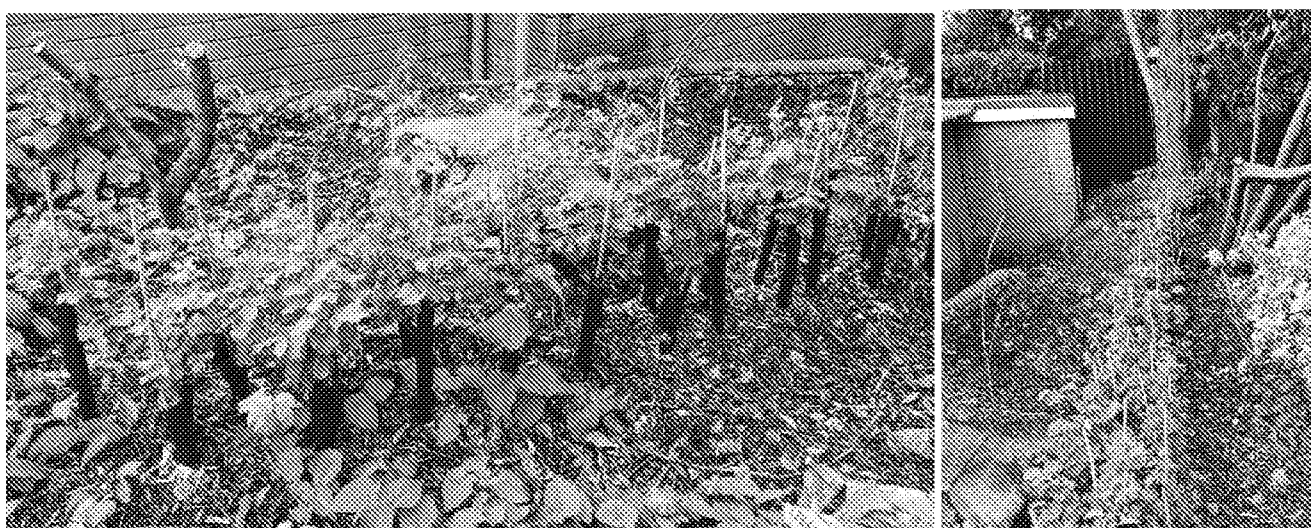


7. The foliage of all the trees in the line is held mainly on the branch ends and therefore options for meaningful pruning are extremely limited. In order to reduce branches sufficiently so that they do not unduly overhang the graves it would be necessary to remove almost all foliage leaving the trees looking skeletal. Similarly, reduction in height back to about 10 m, which is

desirable to reduce wind resistance and shading, would remove a significant number of the branches which currently make up the crown. In view of the limited options for pruning and the fact that the trees have become overly dominant, I believe that felling and replacing the entire row of trees would be a suitable management choice.

8. During my previous site visit I was asked to assess options for management of a continuation of the line of western red cedars along the eastern boundary, due to them overhanging neighbouring garages. These trees have since been removed and have been replaced by an attractive young mixed hawthorn/hazel hedge interspersed with occasional pre-existing bay. The hedge has established well and will in a short time produce a manageable screen between the church yard and garages. If the remaining WRCs are felled, as I believe is appropriate, then a similar replanting scheme should be undertaken.

**Figure 3.** Native hedge comprising hawthorn, hazel and bay which has replaced the former western red cedar



9. The implications of removing the WRC trees are that views of the church would be opened up from Station Road since the green screen would largely be removed. However, in the short term there would be continued low level screening comprised of elder and willow, which would allow views of the church at the same time as providing a green backdrop to the village hall and car park. In addition, a mixed row of trees has been planted in the verge of the car park which will become significant trees in the medium term (Figure 5) and a line of cherry trees in the car park verge close to Station Road provides visual interest in the foreground (Figure 6).
10. Thus, whilst felling the WRC will remove a dominant landscape feature it is desirable to do so due to the trees having become unmanageable. The appearance of the Conservation Area will, on balance, be enhanced as views of the church will be opened up but existing low level trees and the planting of a new native hedgerow will provide continuity of low level screening.
11. It is considered that removal of the WRC will have no negative implications for bank stability as woody roots will remain intact for a number of years before they begin to rot and in the meantime a new hedgerow will have been planted and its roots will colonise the bank in a short space of time.
12. My brief examination of the remainder of the trees in the churchyard revealed no immediate safety concerns. I noted that the large Monterey cypress T72 was showing signs of dieback in the lower crown but the upper crown appeared to be healthy (Figure 7). Removal of dead

wood will be necessary in due course. I also noted that a similar sized Monterey cypress in the grounds of the village hall had snapped and fallen across The Thatchway. The reason for failure was infection with a wood rotting fungus, most likely *Phaeolus schweinitzii*. There is a possibility that the dieback in T72 may be partially caused by root/wood decay, although any infection would be unconnected with the nearby failed tree. It is recommended that the tree should be re-inspected in autumn to confirm whether or not any fungal fruit bodies appear.

**Figure 4.** View towards the churchyard from Station Road. There is a significant understorey of elder and willow below the western red cedar.



**Figure 5.** New tree planting in verge of car park



**Figure 6.** Line of cherry trees in car park verge beside Station Road.



13. The yew T1 which was previously reported to be infected with the fungus 'chicken of the woods' (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) has produced new fungal fruit bodies and decay in the trunk of the tree will be continuing (Figure 8). The weight of the crown will need to be controlled by reduction from time to time.

**Figure 8.** Fruit body of *Laetiporus sulphureus* on yew T1



## Conclusions and recommendations

14. The line of western red cedars along the south eastern boundary of St Margaret's churchyard has outgrown its usefulness. The trees are large and are now unmanageable as there are no realistic options for significant pruning.
15. It is recommended that all 41 trees should be removed and replaced with native hedging that can be controlled by regular pruning.
16. No immediate safety concerns were noted with regards to the trees in the rest of the churchyard but it is recommended that the Monterey cypress should be re-inspected in the autumn to confirm whether fungal fruit bodies appear. This should be combined with a percussion test (sounding with a mallet). If this reveals probable decay then further testing will be needed.
17. It is recommended that trees should be re-inspected annually.

I trust that this report will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



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

APPENDIX MD1

Topographical survey of site showing tree locations and tree numbers.

