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Arboricultural Report



ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

25 The Avenue, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 0NA

ARB_EXAMINER - TREE REPORT - V1

AUTHOR - PHIL GOWER - Dip Arb L4 (ABC) TecArbora

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Project Ref	Revision #	Date of Issue	Author
22001	v1	15/05/2022	Phil Gower

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DISCLAIMER:

Trees by nature pose a degree of hazard and risk and are subject to multiple external factors such as pest, diseases and environmental change including weather conditions. Recommendations that are made are intended to minimize or reduce hazardous conditions that may be associated with trees. It is impossible however to guarantee with any certainty, that all hazardous conditions have been detected, or that the efforts to correct unsafe conditions will prevent future breakage or failure of the trees included within this report.



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1. LIMITATIONS:

1.1. *Safety/Hazard Surveys:*

- 1.1.1. Whilst this report comments on the general observations of trees current physiological and structural conditions, trees are dynamic organisms and are subject to constant continual development/change. The comments and recommendations of this report will therefore remain valid for a period of twelve months from its completion.
- 1.1.2. Although trees have evolved to possess a certain degree of resilience to the forces in which they are routinely exposed, it must be remembered that wood is a heterogeneous material and given sufficient wind even the healthiest tree can fail, it is therefore not possible to suggest that any tree is safe or categorically without risk.
- 1.1.3. Changes in material to the Immediate environment of any trees mentioned within this survey, may invalidate the conclusions and recommendations made.
- 1.1.4. All conclusions and recommendations are based on visual observations from ground level only. This means further aerial observations may be recommended where it is believed necessary.
- 1.1.5. No internal investigations or decay detection equipment was used, and no samples of any material were taken away for analysis. This means further internal investigations and/or analysis may be recommended where it is believed necessary.
- 1.1.6. All comments, observations and recommendations made in this report relate specifically to the trees and the area in question at the time of inspection and should not be applied to any comparable trees on any other surrounding or similarly situated parcel of land.
- 1.1.7. It remains the client's responsibility to establish if any of the trees contained within this survey are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order or are located within a Conservation Area: If so, the necessary permissions or notifications will be



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required before any tree works are carried out. Under the Town and Country Planning (Tree preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 it is prohibited to cut down, top, lop, uproot, cause wilful damage or wilful destruction of any tree; or group of trees subject to a TPO or that is located within a Conservation area.

- 1.1.8. Where possible, every effort was made to spot potential indications relating to the presence of specific wildlife (for example bats) which are protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It is impossible however in such a survey to confirm or deny their presence with any certainty. The view of a suitably qualified person and a more specific ecological survey must be commissioned before any potentially damaging tree work or the removal of any ivy is carried out.
- 1.1.9. Where trees were clad in ivy (*Hedera helix*), or where dense epicormic growth and/or low-level vegetation obscured the main stem, this was recorded in the Tree Schedule. The inspection of such trees is impeded and as such further inspection will be required following the removal of the obstruction.

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2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Briefing:

2.1.1. Jasbir Dosanjh of 33 Coldharbour Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 8AF has commissioned ARB Examiner (Phil Gower) to carry out an arboricultural survey, reporting on the effects a group of trees are having on a boundary wall located at one of the clients rented properties.

2.1.2. The address of the property is 25 The Avenue, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 0NA.

2.1.3. The trees in question belong to the neighbouring property on the South West side of the property.

2.1.4. The trees consist of a medium sized Ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*); a small Bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*); a medium sized Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and small clumps of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

2.1.5. The reason for concern by the client and ultimately leading Mr Jasbir to seek arboricultural advice, is due to the visible cracks in the wall and extensive misalignment from its original path.

2.1.6. Confirmation to proceed with the report was received via phone call on 09/05/2022 by the client.

2.1.7. The site was visited at approximately 12pm the same day.

2.2. Objectives:

2.2.1. Following a detailed discussion with the client, it is requested that this report collects data and comment on the following subjects regarding the trees in question:

2.2.1.1. Identify the trees

2.2.1.2. Advise on the size and spread of the trees.



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- 2.2.1.3. Advise on any previous works and their current needs for pruning/management or future needs.
- 2.2.1.4. Advise on any current and/or future affects the trees are having on the wall.
- 2.2.1.5. Identify if there is encroaching roots into the client's property.
- 2.2.1.6. Identify any tree protection that may be applied to the trees in question.
- 2.2.1.7. Make recommendations based on the collected information and observations.

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3. Methodology

- 3.1.1. The site was visited by Phil Gower who holds a level 4 Professional Diploma in Arboriculture and LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection.
- 3.1.2. The trees were visually inspected from ground level only. Some visual assessments (such as the base of the stems) could not be thoroughly undertaken due to lack of access. *
- 3.1.3. The data collected, method of collection and the purposes for which it has been collected are as followed:
- 3.1.3.1. Name/Species - for tree identification as requested by the client. Identification is done based on experience and where necessary with the use of a tree identification book.
 - 3.1.3.2. Height - As requested by the client (This also provides some contexts in regard to the size of the tree). This is calculated with the use of a clinometer, but where sufficient room is not available the height may be estimated (based on experience).
 - 3.1.3.3. Crown Spread - As requested by client (This also provides some contexts in regard to the size of the tree). This is estimated distances in the 4 cardinal directions (N, E, S, W).
 - 3.1.3.4. Stem diameter (@ 1.5m) - As requested by the client (This also provides some contexts in regard to the size of the tree). This is calculated using a diameter tape measure which converts circumference to diameter. Where this cannot be done the diameter will be estimated (based on experience).
 - 3.1.3.5. Root Protection Zone - This has been calculated using table D.1 from Annex D (BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations) It is used to provide indication of the minimum area in which sufficient rooting volume is present to sustain the trees viability when considering



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trees in relation to new developments. The use for this information it is to determine where it is reasonable to assume the presence of roots.

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4. Desk Top Study

- 4.1.1. A desktop survey has been carried out at request of the client to provide information on the protected status of the trees in question.
- 4.1.2. The property falls under Gravesham Council, which does not have an interactive mapping system.
- 4.1.3. A request (vis email) has been made to the local authority requesting the status of the protective measures on all trees and woody vegetation.
- 4.1.4. The results of this request will be forwarded on to the client as soon as they have been received.

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5. Site Visit

5.1. Initial Site Observations

- 5.1.1. As previously mentioned, the trees in question consist of; an Ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*); Bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*); Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and clumps of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).
- 5.1.2. The trees were only viewable from the client's side with no accesses being given to visit the neighbouring side. This prevented a full inspection of the base of the trees from being carried out.
- 5.1.3. A 'rough' visual of the Ash stem/base was possible however looking over the wall. This has still limited the amount of accurate information that could be collected and for this reason, any information or metrics provided within Appendix 1 with a * should be considered an estimate.
- 5.1.4. Full details of all collected metrics/details for the trees can be seen in Appendix 1. (Where trees were considered insignificant in size such as the Holly and Bay tree some metrics were not collected).
- 5.1.5. The damage to the wall in question is very obvious with multiple cracking and a clear 'bulge' which leans inwards on the client's garden.

5.2. T1 Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

- 5.2.1. This tree is visibly the closest tree to the damaged wall and is in line with the centre of the damage (see photo 1 & 4).
- 5.2.2. The tree has been previously pollarded at approximately 8-10 meters. Pollards require continual management on a 3-5-year cycle of which this tree in my opinion appears to be due.



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- 5.2.3. From the restricted view looking over the wall (see photo 4) the tree's root flare at the base of the stem appears to be making direct contact with the wall.
- 5.2.4. A visible root identified to belong to the Ash tree (see photo 6) was found within the client's garden. Approximately 2-3 meters from the wall and Ash stem
- 5.2.5. The trees estimated root protection zone (RPA) is approximately 3.6m* radius
- 5.3. *T2 Cherry (Prunus avium)*
 - 5.3.1. This tree is not located as close to the wall as the Ash tree, nor does it line up with the current damage.
 - 5.3.2. The tree does not show signs of any previous management having been undertaken other than a few wounds. These evidence small limbs having been removed which would have over hung the client's garden. The tree would benefit from some selective/formative pruning as part of good arboricultural practice.
 - 5.3.3. It wasn't possible to see the base of the tree.
 - 5.3.4. The estimated root protection zone is approximetly 3m radius*.

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6. Conclusions & Recommendations

- 6.1.1. It is evident that the Ash tree is directly causing the damage to the client's wall and its continued growth will only cause further damage, likely resulting in the eventual collapse of the wall.
- 6.1.2. It is reasonable given the visible root and an estimated 3.6m radius RPA that a large volume of roots belonging to the Ash are located within the client's garden.
- 6.1.3. It is also safe to assume the Cherry tree with an estimated RPA of 3m radius (despite being slightly further from the wall) will also have a reasonable number of roots within the client's garden.
- 6.1.4. It is important to mention that 80-90% of root mass of most tree species are located within the top 50cm of soil.
- 6.1.5. It would be my recommendation that to prevent further damage and possible collapse as well as facilitate the required repairs to the wall and to ensure future damage is avoided that the Ash tree be removed, and the stump ground out to a suitable depth (approximately 300-500mm below ground level).
- 6.1.6. It is also my opinion that if new foundations are required as part of the repairs, or if roots are directly found during excavation that the removal of the Cherry would also be advisable. This would help facilitate the repair works and reduce the risk of future issues caused from continued growth and/or from damage to the roots which may occur during construction.

APPENDIX 1: Schedule

Ref	Species	Height	Crown Spread	Stem Diameter (@1.5m)	Root protection Zone (Radius)
T1	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	15-20m*	N = 3* E = 3* S = 3* W = 3*	300mm*	3.6m*
T2	Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	15-20m*	N = 3* E = 2* S = 1* W = 2*	250mm*	3m*
T3	Bay <i>Laurus nobilis</i>	0-5m*	N/A	N/A	N/A
T4	Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	0-5m*	N/A	N/A	N/A

APPENDIX 2: Photos

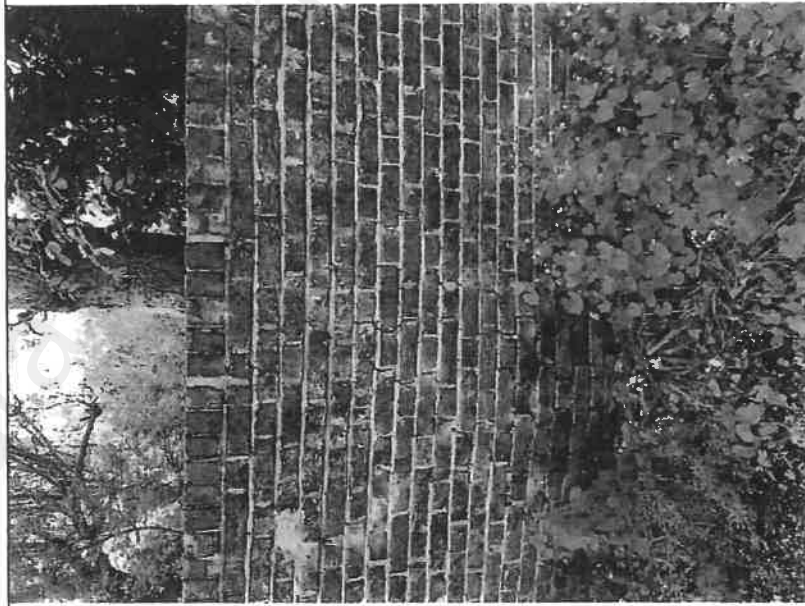


Photo 1 (Wall Damage)



Photo 2 (Wall Damage)



Photo 3 (Wall Damage)



Photo 4 (T1 Stem / Wall lean)

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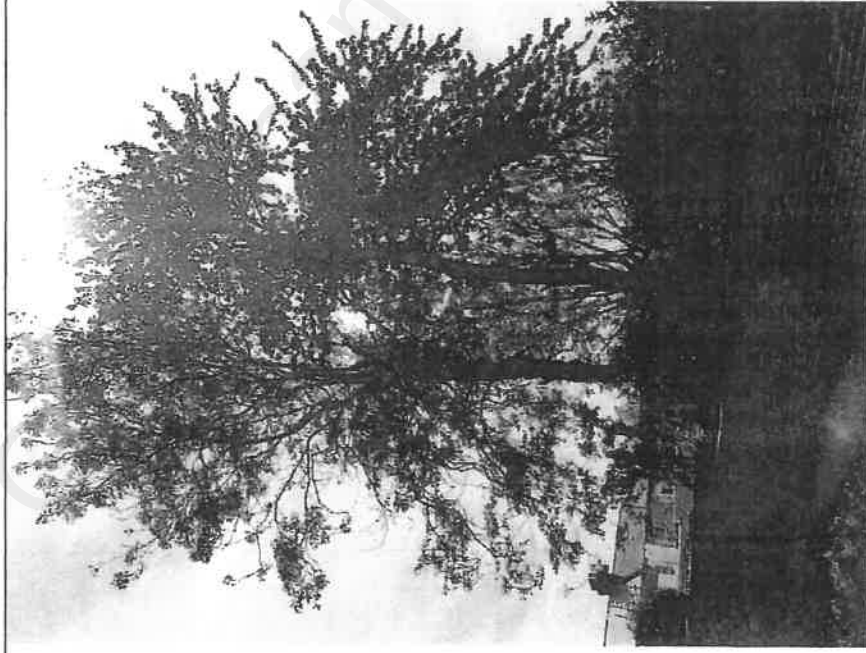


Photo 5



Photo 6 (Exposed Ash Root)

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