

## B. J. UNWIN FORESTRY CONSULTANCY

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25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - BJU/mmi

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Dear Nigel,

### Tree inspection at Edwardstow Court Care Centre, Fosseway, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1FG.

#### 1. Instruction.

- 1.1 The Orders of St John Care Trust wishes to manage trees on its sites efficiently and safely
- 1.2 Therefore, by email exchange in April 2020, you have asked B.J. Unwin Forestry Consultancy to inspect trees at recently-built Edwardstow Court, and advise, subject to quote.

#### 2. Inspection.

- 2.1 I visited site on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020, spoke to Wayne, and made an unaccompanied inspection in good light conditions.
- 2.2 The survey was from ground level. It involved visual observation, estimating dimensions, and sounding with a hammer: and chisel and long steel rod if required (Visual Tree Assessment: Mattheck and Breloer 1994 and Lonsdale 1999).
- 2.3 The survey was by Jim Unwin, who has > forty years' experience working with trees (professional CV attached).

#### **Notes:**

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### **3. The Site.**

3.1 The site inspected is a triangular care home site about 105m east-west by 75m along its eastern boundary. The site is a new care home surrounded by recent landscaping, with a small copse on the eastern boundary, which has had paths cut through it in 2019.

3.2 The site is elevated on a broad ridge, so the site is a little exposed to wind. The whole plot appears well-drained.

3.3 Geology from BGS website:

**Superficial deposits:** No superficial deposits recorded

**Bedrock geology:** Salperton Limestone Formation - Limestone, ooidal. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 170.3 and 166.1 million years ago during the Jurassic period.

Therefore, we would expect soil to be clay-rich but shallow over brashy rock, providing good tree-rooting substrate.

3.4 Google Earth 2019 aerial below.





#### 4. Trees.

- 4.1 Most individual trees are recent (2018?) planting. Most were well planted as heavy standards, and are well-staked. Tree ties are now too restrictive, and some are girdling bark, see one I've cut below.



- 4.2 Ties should be cut now, leaving the posts and saddle in situ, just in case it's needed, for this summer, to be removed when trees are leafless next winter.
- 4.3 Outside the southern boundary is a well-established tree belt (on Tesco site?), which will become too overbearing and shading on the southern side of the care home. See photo below. In the short term the well-spaced beech trees at 6-8m centres should be crown lifted, and trees between cut away from the beech trees.

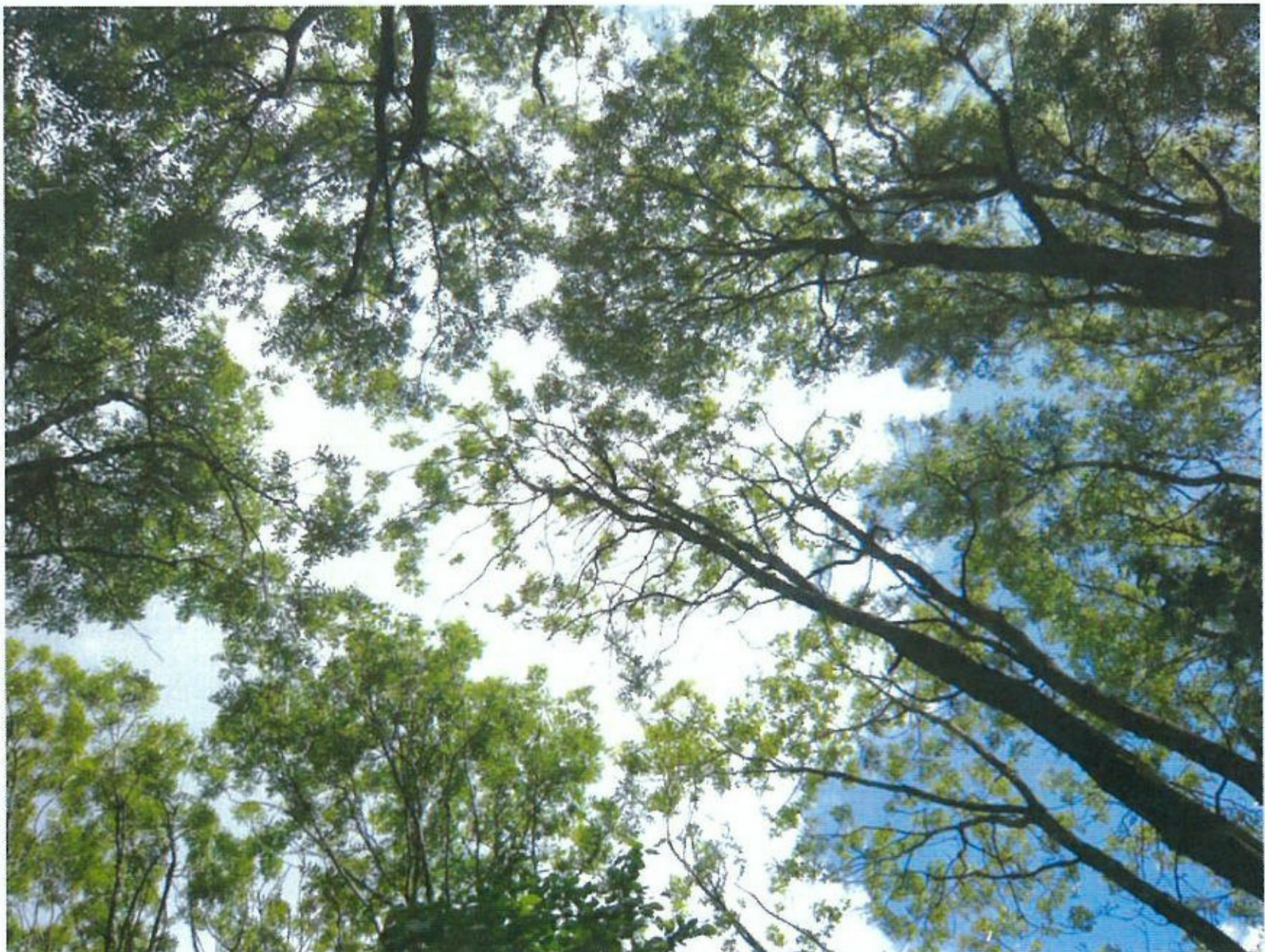




- 4.4 The eastern end of the site is a small planted copse, never thinned and now much too dense. Seen over old hedge HG23 below.



- 4.5 The over-storey ash are particularly poor, and some may be suffering ash dieback disease (ADB). See dead shoot tips in photo below, looking up through ash canopy.





- 4.6 The copse now contains a dense network of paths, and at least six benches (photo below). So the upper storey needs thinning to remove poor trees, and encourage understorey species such as field maple and yew. We have marked about 40 trees with red paint dots, to be felled. Firewood should be removed, and brash cut up small and heaped for habitat.



#### 4.7 Tree schedule.

Overleaf is tree schedule with prioritised recommended work.

##### Age class is described as:-

- Sap: Very young tree, or sapling, one-five years old.
- Y: Young tree less than fifteen years old and <1/3 fully grown.
- Sm: Semi-mature tree having attained 1/3 to 2/3 full stature and 1/3 to 1/2 estimated lifespan.
- Em: Early mature: tree at 2/3 to virtually full size, and halfway through its safe life.
- M: Mature: fully-grown tree with useful life expectancy.
- Lm: Late-mature: fully grown, of declining vigour, but still healthy.
- Om: Over-mature tree: fully grown and starting to decline in health (but may still have many years of safe life).
- Vet: Veteran: usually very old; of significant historic, habitat or cultural value.

##### Recommended work + Priority:-

- 0.5 = within 6 months, 1 = one year, 2 = 2-3yrs.
- S = Safety work - M = Management.

#### 4.8 Sketch plan

Tree locations are indicative on the attached sketch Tree Plan.





4.9 Edwardstow Court - Tree Inventory / Inspection - BJUFC – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

No. T=tree S= shrub H= hedge G= group	Species	Dbh (stem diam @ 1.5m ht) mm.	Height est. m.	Age class	Health	Structural Condition	SULE	Comment  (All are in average to good health and condition, unless stated otherwise.)	Recommended WORK  excluding development.	Priority Year Safety or Management TPO ?
T1	Beech	60	3	Sap	F	F	20+		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T2	Rowan	60	4	Sap	F	F	20+		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T3	Rowan	60	4	Sap	F	F	20+		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T4	Rowan	60	4	Sap	F	F	20+		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T5	Rowan	60	4	Sap	F	P	20+	Upper stem damage.	Prune out deadwood. Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T6	Wild cherry	70	4	Sap	F	F	20+		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M

T7	Wild cherry	70	4	Sap	F	F	20+		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T8	Field maple	70	4	Sap	F	F	40+		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T9	Field maple	70	4	Sap	F	F	40+		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T10	Goat willow	Basal 100	4	Sap	F	P	<5	Self-sown in shrubbery. No space to grow.	Coppice every 2 years. Or better: cut and poison stumps with strong Glyphosate.	1M
T11	Rowan	70	5	Sap	F	F	20-40		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T12	Rowan	70	5	Sap	F	F	20-40		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T13	Beech	50	2.1	Sap	F	F	>40		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T14 - T16	Rowan	60	4	Sap	F/P	F	20-40	Suppressed by roadside tree belt.	Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T17	Wild cherry	50	4	Y	F	F	20+		Remove tie now, and remove stakes winter 2020/21.	1M
T18	Holly	40	3.5	Sap	P	F	20+	Droughted.	Irrigate profusely and add 1.5m diameter of mulch.	ASAP



T19 - T21	Beech	50	3	Sap	D-F	P-F	0->40	Three beech planted by carpark, T19 dead.	Replace T19. Mulch 1.2m diameter circle around each tree.	1M
HG 22	Ash and hawthorn	100- 400	3- 12	Sm - Em	F	P	20+	Old field hedge, not cut for decades. Ash stools dominant, have ash dieback and suppressing hawthorns.	Restore habitat: Re-coppice ALL ash in hedge.	2M
HG 23	Hawthorn, ash, and ivy	200- 300	5- 10	Em - M	P-F	P-F	20+	Old ivy-covered hedge. A few ash. Good habitat.	Retain as habitat.	2M
WG 24	Ash, field maple, yew, and beech	50-250	2- 12	Y/ Sm	P-F	F	<5->40	Mixed planting. Ash forming an upper canopy: too dense, suppressing each other and suppressing trees under. Some ash exhibit dieback. Suspect ash dieback disease.  This area subject to retention under S106 agreement.	Thin out 20 ash in northern half, 19 ash and 1 field maple in southern half. Remove cordwood as firewood. Pile brash and cut up brash into short lengths to create habitat heaps (for hedgehogs etc). If too much brash, then chip some. Leave stumps to re-shoot.  A felling licence not needed if two parts done in different calendar quarters. Northern September-December and southern half January -February.	2M
G25	Beech, field maple, hazel, and hawthorn	100- 400	3- 12	Y- Em	F	F	>40	Beech at 6-8m centres in hedge of other species. Trees will grow too tall and overhanging into care home.	Discuss with trees' owner. Ideally crown lift beech removing low limbs and competing stems, to give clean beech trunks up to half tree height. Cut away other trees, from beech.  Hedge species (hazel and hawthorn) could be coppiced.	2M

End of table.



## 4.10 Treework informatives

### 4.10.1 Disturbance to wildlife.

It is essential to check for nesting birds, bat roosts, badgers and hibernating animals such as hedgehogs under trees, before pruning or removing trees, as negligent disturbance is an offence under the EC Habitat Directive 1992 as amended and strengthened 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007 to protect European Protected Species (bats are most relevant concerning trees) and CROW Act 2000.

In general, autumn tree work: **September, October and November** is least disruptive to bats and birds. However, with appropriate risk assessment work can proceed at any time.

### 4.10.2 Permission.

Trees may be protected by a TPO, or lie within a Conservation Area. Either are possible here (but unlikely) and should be checked with the local planning authority.

A Felling Licence may be required for felling or thinning > 5 tonnes of wood in any calendar quarter.

As part of a felling licence, European Protected Species must be considered.

Therefore, a contractor must satisfy himself that all necessary permissions are in place before touching trees.

### 4.10.3 Contractor.

All off-ground tree work should be done by insured tree surgeon with certificates in aerial chainsaw use (new designations:- NPTC 020-04, 0020-05, 0020-07, 0021-01, 0021-07; LANTRA 600/5703/8, 600/5717/8, 600/5715/5, 600/5704/X, 600/5714/2), and working to BS3998:2010, and "*Treework at Height*", the Arboricultural Association's ICoP.

(Stumps can be left to shoot again, ground out, or grubbed out, or poisoned depending on location.)

Thinning work can be done by a competent woodland contractor.

## 5.0 Re-inspection:-

5.1 We would recommend a regular walk-over inspection of the public-access areas, by a competent person: gardener or site manager. This should be recorded.

Either annually (easy to diarise), or if done at 15-month intervals, trees would be seen at different times of the year.

5.2 We would recommend an arboriculturalist inspection every five years, unless gross changes (e.g. dieback) raised concerns.

This report may be submitted to local council for permission (if needed), and to contractors for quotes.

Please contact us if you have any queries, or require further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



B J Unwin Forestry Consultancy.

#### References:

"*The Body Language of Trees*". Claus Mattheck and Helge Breloer. HMSO 1994.  
"Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management". David Lonsdale. HMSO 1999.  
BS 3998: 2010 "*British Standard Recommendations for Treework*".

#### Attached:

- **Sketch plan.** Plan may be separate pdf document.
- **BJUFC professional CV.**



