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ARBORICULTURALIST'S REPORT

August 2021

SITE : Offa House, Offchurch, Warwickshire

CLIENT : Louise Hartog

ARBORICULTURALIST'S REPORT

Terms of Reference

- . 1.1 - This report was requested by Louise Hartog of Offa house, offchurch, Warwickshire.
- . 1.2 - The instruction to inspect trees at Offa House was received by phone call and text message from Louise.
- . 1.3 - The purpose of my inspection and report is to:
 - . 1.3.1 - make a visual appraisal of the overall condition of the trees
 - . 1.3.2 - identify potential hazards and establish severity
 - . 1.3.3 - make recommendations for remedial work
 - . 1.3.4 - ensure, the 'duty of care' is observed by the trees owners and to provide recommendations for any work deemed necessary to prevent failure.

Limitations

- . 2.1 - The content of this report is valid for a period of three years from the date shown above.
- . 2.2 - The report is for the sole use of the client and its reproduction or use by anyone else is forbidden unless written consent is given by the author.
- . 2.3 - This is an arboricultural report and as such, no reliance should be placed on comments relating to buildings or soil data.
- . 2.4 - This is not a full arboricultural survey. This can be supplied but will be subject to a further fee. Any safety implications identified during the inspection are of course noted within this report.
- . 2.5 - My observations and comments are based upon experience with previous cases. I have no formal engineering qualifications.
- . 2.6 - The inspection was undertaken from ground level by Geoff Peters on 27th August 2021, in accordance with the principles of Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) – a methodology devised and popularised by Mattheck & Breloer, and now generally adopted as the industry standard for preliminary tree inspections. The weather at the time was dry, overcast, but with good visibility.

- . 2.7 - It should be noted that any tree, irrespective of its current condition, can be subject to a major failure, given sufficiently severe weather conditions e.g. storm force winds, heavy rain or snow falls.
- . 2.8 – Geoff Peters holds the formal qualification Level 2 and 4 diploma in arboriculture and has gained the LANTRA Certificate in Tree Inspection and also a professional member of the Arboricultural Association.

The Site

- . 3.1 - The grounds of Offa House, include a car parking area, main access road to the house, extensive lawns and paving. There are a range of trees within the site from newly planted to large, mature specimens. The property is surrounded by pasture land hedgerows and wooded areas. A neighboring property to the Southern boundary and a Church to the Eastern boundary.
- . 3.2 - I carried out my site visit on 27th August 2021 to inspect the trees, during which time the weather was dry, overcast with good visibility.
- . 3.3 - The attached tree schedule gives tree number, species, dimensions, comments, recommendations and urgency category.
- . 3.4 - The urgency categories are:
 - . 1 - Requires immediate action to fulfill liability under duty of care within 0-3 months
 - . 2 - Requires action with 6 months to fulfill duty of care obligations
 - . 3 - Requires action for aesthetic purposes and good tree management within 12 months
- . 3.5 - To aid the establishment of recently planted trees, attention should be paid to staking and support systems as part of a regular maintenance routine.
- . 3.6 - Prior to commencing any arboricultural work to the trees, it is essential to liaise with the Local Planning Authority as they may be protected by Tree Preservation Orders or within a Conservation Area.
- . 3.7 - All wild birds, their young, eggs and active nests are protected under law and it is an offence to damage a nest intentionally while it is in use or being built. Non-urgent tree work or hedge cutting should not be undertaken during the bird nesting or breeding season (March to July, but depending on seasonal temperatures, some birds continue breeding into August and September).
- . 3.8 - All bats and their roosts are strictly protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Natural Habitats and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Where bats are suspected to be present, seek

advice from a licensed bat specialist before carrying out any major tree work or hedge cutting.

- . 3.9 - The work recommendations within the survey should ideally be completed by a suitably qualified and experienced professional, in accordance with British Standard 3998 (2010) 'Tree Work - Recommendations'.

- . 4.0 - As regard to routine re-inspection, we would recommend that this is professionally undertaken every 3 years.

Should you have any questions or require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Peters.

