

Preliminary Arboricultural Assessment at Fern House 2023



Prepared by Timothy Garden Design

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The aim of this survey is to consider the health and condition of the trees and large shrubs at Fern House while thinking about a long-term plan for the future life of this garden. Noting in particular, trees that have the greatest possibility of travelling through the next chapter in the story of this landscape setting.

Site description.

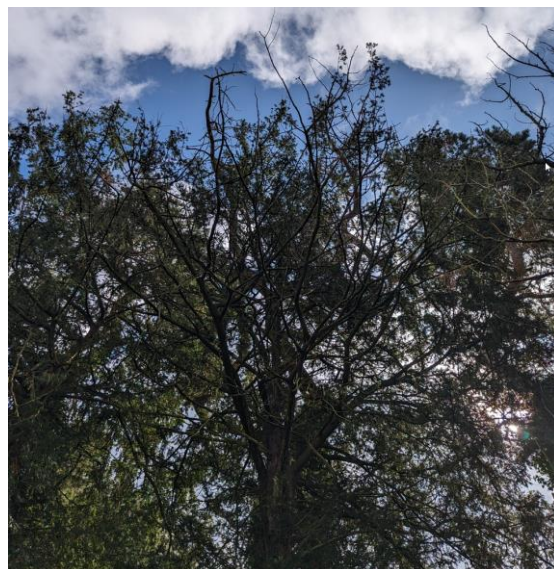
A private residence, central to Reepham, seen at a high level from many locations. One of the reasons Fern House makes a significant contribution is the green tree canopy. The garden unusually has some potentially mighty and majestic trees for the future. Some of which would appreciate more space to fully mature. This document continues the previous conversations with Mark Symonds to begin to identify possible future care and maintenance of the unusual trees, maximising their potential to mature and grow through many more decades. We are looking for healthy happy trees to maintain the biodiversity and enrich this environment.

Please see the annotated site plan with tree numbers.

Tree 1 entrance yew in very poor health, Mark and I have reviewed this together on site and feel if it is reduced by pollarding, removing all the dead wood, cutting into the live stems we will see a natural regeneration of shoots next year.



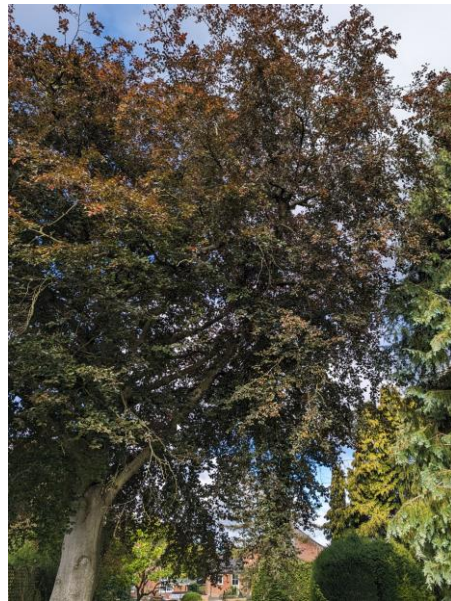
2 Entering the site to your right a group of pines and a yew tree, dead wood to remove because it is dangerous, extract dead from the pines, cut yew back by 1 meter into the live growth



Tree line 3 has probably at one time been a clipped yew hedge. It currently stands 8m tall and is beginning to see a thin canopy, too much head for the available root, crown reduce by 2m

Bush 4 Portugal laurel to be extracted for the garage build. New yews will replace it elsewhere in the garden.

5 Copper Beech, nice young tree unfortunately being encroached by the conifer, we will come to that next. To establish a majestic beech as a mature tree we would like to reduce slightly, 5% , the lateral extensions outside the main canopy, before they become more dominant than the central leader. Photograph shows the bottom branch to the right has managed to grow all the way to the top of the canopy forming a new leader. Extract a little weight from the end of this bough.



In the photograph below remove the bottom right horizontal branch to balance the tree and also within the canopy remove 5% for good air circulation.



Note that the future kitchen garden paths and raised beds are above the tree roots. No dig approach.

6 Extract Chamaecyparis conifer growing through Mulberry and Beech. Replace with Taxodium



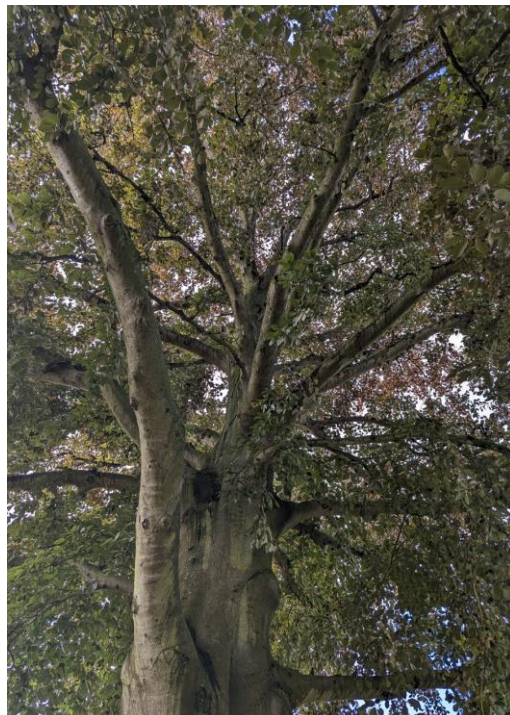
7 is another conifer extraction, nearing the end of its natural life. Replace with Ginkgo



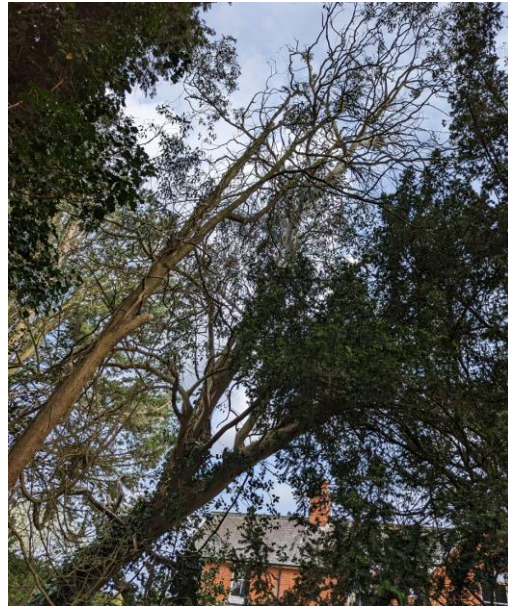
8 Multi-stem Thuja, 12m leaning conifer, leans out over the north lawn where at some future date it will fall, also of concern though is its impact the leaning conifer has in the rear of the Cedar of Lebanon. They have grown together so reduction of the Thuja making available space for the Cedar will need to be in stages over a number of years. At this time the proposal is to remove about 12% of the Thuja first to reduce the weight in the leaning bough, secondly to provide some light and space to the Cedar.



9 is another lovely **Beech**, looking inside we can see previous management to maintain an open centre, future care and maintenance to continue in the same way to maintain this beautiful head.



10 Fallen Eucalyptus that needs to be carefully removed from where it has fallen on the neighbouring trees. Replace with *Acer freemanii* Autumn Blaze



11 Leaning Gleditsia growing away from the magnificent oak, remove by careful selection ends of the lateral branch, marked by the arrow, to reduce weight and risk of this large lateral branch tearing at the main stem.



12 Walnut rather one-sided and with some enormous lever branches, Mark and I agree next year intervention to reduce the levers by up to 12% and encourage a more balanced growth.



13 Front garden much older Copper Beech, not in the best of health. We can see Dryads Saddle fruit has dropped from the canopy. On the ground this October we also saw Meripilus fruit. One half of the tree illustrates poor growth, symptoms of the fungal problems as well as other stresses like those from extreme weather as seen with the summer heat of 2022. Initial thoughts are to encourage healthy soil, dress with Biochar and simply extract any dead wood in danger of falling.



14 Road side hollies also suffering to find moisture and nutrient



Propose a 20% crown reduction, pruning to stimulate growth, feed with bonemeal to encourage more root growth. 5m tall reduced to 4m

For the proposed alterations to the house there are only two other trees of significance:

15 Magnolia & **16 Sequoia**. Both in good health; these should have a tree protection Harris fence for the duration of the build.

Acer freemanii Autumn blaze
Acer buergerianum
Amelanchier Ballerina
Cercidiphyllum japonicum
Cercis
Cladrastis Sinensis
Corylus
Picrasma quassioides
Ginkgo biloba
Magnolia Kobus
Ostrya carpinifolia
Taxodium distichum.
Taxus baccata

This report considers the trees in a future landscape setting at Fern House, developing garden plans that include the proposal for new tree planting, a large wildlife pond, water harvesting, a kitchen garden to produce for the family, an orchard, a bee and butterfly-friendly meadow, a nuts and berries scheme and generally to enrich and enhance the biodiversity of this fabulous green location.

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