



**Tree Condition Survey and Report carried out by:**

Howe Tree Surgery Ltd

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**Tree Condition Survey and Management Work  
Recommendations**

**Date – 22nd January 2024**

**Site – Cloakham House, Willhay Lane, Axminster, EX13 5RP**

**Client: Nigel Bell**

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### Disclaimer-

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## 1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to give a tree condition assessment of the trees in the grounds of Cloakham House in an area where there is a proposed plan for the construction of a summer house.

The findings of this report provide management work recommendations and priority of work will be given to any potentially hazardous trees.

High priority work will be highlighted in red with a suggestion for work to be carried out as soon as practicable. Medium priority work will be highlighted in yellow with a suggestion for the work to be carried out within an agreed time period. Low priority work will be highlighted in green.

All tree work should be carried out in accordance with the *British Standard BS3998: 2010 Tree Work - Recommendations*

## 2.0 The Tree Condition Survey

This tree condition survey was conducted by Craig Howe of Howe Tree Surgery Ltd on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

Tree inspections were carried out from ground level with the use of an acoustic sounding hammer and probe. No invasive decay detection instruments were used.

All tree inspections were carried out in accordance with current best practice to give a systematic, consistent and transparent evaluation method of tree inspection, easily accessible for both customer and professional arborist.

### Limitations-

*Whilst every effort is made to ensure an accurate assessment of the trees condition is made during survey no responsibility can be taken for resultant damage or injury occurred by a failing tree. The survey only gives a snap shot of what is visible, not obscured or accessible on the day of survey. Please note that the findings of this report are only valid for 12 months from the date of the tree inspection. This report does not constitute to a full tree safety policy for the study area nor does it take into account any underground geological activity that may affected the structural condition of the trees.*

### 3.0 Tree Inspection Scope

The main scope of this tree inspection is to identify hazardous trees in a poor physiological or structural condition and the required work management recommendations to reduce the risk of these hazardous trees to an acceptable level as detailed by the Health and Safety Executive in Management of the risk from falling trees or branches -

[http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag\\_food/010705.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag_food/010705.htm).

The trees close to the area of proposed construction were identified and the potential impact (if any) was assessed.

### 4.0 The Trees

#### 4.1 Tree Data

All data regarding the trees inspected for this report can be found in Appendix 2

#### 4.2 Tree Management Work Recommendations

Within Appendix 2 the Tree Management Work Recommendations are colour coded for work priority. Other works may be suggested within the report to ensure desired management objectives are achieved within a reasonable timeframe.

#### 4.3 Legal Constraints

##### **TPO (Tree Preservation Orders)/Conservation Areas –**

The Tree Preservation Officer from the Local Planning Authority should be consulted before any work is carried out on site.

##### **Protected Wildlife –**

Before any tree work is carried out on site the trees should be inspected and written records taken of the activity of any protected species on site. This is to prevent the damage to any wildlife. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to destroy or disturb nesting birds, if nesting birds are discovered or suspected no works can proceed and the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Local Wildlife Trust must be notified for advice as to how to proceed. Further to this wildlife such as Bats are protected under European legislation (Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Habitat Regulation 2009) it is an offence to recklessly, or intentionally, kill, injure or capture bats, to disturb them, or destroy, obstruct or damage any bat roosts found. If any bat activity is found then the bat conservation trust should be contacted as soon as possible (<http://www.bats.org.uk/> or 0845 1300 228). Further guidance relating to the protection of wildlife within development design is given in Welsh

Assembly Government Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009).

### **Tree Felling Licence –**

Depending on the designation of the land where the trees are located, a Tree Felling Licence may be required if more than 5 cubic metres of timber are being extracted per one quarter a felling license must be obtained from Natural Resources Wales.

<https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/tree-felling-and-other-regulations/tree-felling-licences/?lang=en>

## **5.0 Recommendations**

The detailed Tree Management Work Recommendations as found in Appendix 2 should be conducted as the priority states and by a professional arborist team in accordance with the current best practice.

### **5.1 Summary**

The root plate of all three trees was investigated by probing only. Using this method, no evidence of the root plate of these trees was found near the existing foundation.

T1 (Sycamore) has a small dead branch in the centre of the crown, recommendation is to remove this as well as sever the ivy at the base of the tree.

T2 (Beech) has a weak fork union. At the time of the report the tree is likely to have longevity as one of the affected branches (on the southern side) has a small stem diameter and height. Recommendation is to reduce the sail area by way of a light tip reduction to ensure its longevity.

T3 (Hawthorn) has a wound at 20cm above the base, at the time of the report there was more then one third retaining wood.

T1-T3 are all young, small trees and are suitably far enough from the proposed building, therefore they do not encroach the area, also the prevailing wind direction is South-Westerly which is unlikely to cause an issue if they were to fail in high winds in South-Westerly conditions.

## **6.0 Further Information and Qualifications**

Craig Howe has been involved in Arboriculture within the Southwest for twenty years, running his own company and working with many other Arborists in the area during that time. He has a good working knowledge of the practical side of Arboriculture both in the commercial and domestic markets. He has always been

keen to innovate and diversify as well as keep up to date with the current research, practices and developments.

Qualifications-

Lantra Award in Basic Tree Survey & Inspection

Foundation Degree in Environmental Management

NPTC and LANTRA qualifications in arboricultural and land based operations

## 7.0 Web Information and Bibliography

### Web Information

Health and Safety

Executive - [http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag\\_food/010705.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag_food/010705.htm)

Arboricultural Association – <http://www.trees.org.uk/index.php>

### Bibliography

Rushforth, K (1981) The Mitchell Beazley pocket guide to Trees. Mitchell Beazley Publishers Limited, London

Watson, G (2022) Tree Pests and Disease. The Arboricultural Association, Stonehouse

## 8.0 Appendices

### Appendix 1 Tree Survey Key

T- Individual Tree

G- Group of Trees (similar trees of similar condition)

SA- Survey Area Completed

NS- Area Not Surveyed

R- Row of Trees

H- Hedgerow

S- Stump

W- Woodland

ID# -

Identifies each tree or group of trees with a unique identification number.

Tree Name –

Common tree name.

Age –

Y – Young trees within the first 10 years of growth

MA – Mid aged trees between 1/5 and 2/5 of life completed.

M – Trees with 2/5 to 5/5 of life completed

OM – Trees with more than 5/5 of life completed and declining.

V – No precise definition but are considered to be of biological aesthetic or ecological value because of their age.

**Condition –**

**G** – Good; Healthy, full crown, long life expectancy, no significant defects

**F**- Fair; Generally healthy, some thinning of crown, some defects of low significance, limited life expectancy

**P**- Poor; Lacking vigour, short life expectancy, sparse leaf cover, significant defects

**D- Dangerous/ Dead; Urgent removal required**

**Priority –**

**High** – A tree in poor condition or with significant defects adjacent a high value target, or a tree in moderate condition adjacent a very high target value needing action soon.

**Medium** – A tree with defects adjacent a medium value target, needing a planned and reasonable response.

**Low** – A tree with limited defects adjacent a low value target.



**Appendix 2 Tree Survey**

<b>Site:</b>	Cloakham House, Willhay Lane, Axminster, EX13 5RP	<b>Client:</b>	Nigel Bell	<b>Surveyor:</b>	Craig Howe
				<b>Date:</b>	22/01/2024
<b>Tree No</b>	<b>Species- Height</b>	<b>Age &amp; Condition</b>	<b>Observations</b>	<b>Recommended action</b>	<b>Priority</b>
T1	Sycamore 10m	Y/F	Dead branch in center of crown	Remove deadwood, sever ivy	Low
T2	Beech 12m	Y/F	Weak fork union at base, rubbing branches, deadwood, ivy	Tip reduce branches on western side by 1-2 m, Reduce height by 1-2m, Remove rubbing branches and deadwood, sever ivy	Low
T3	Hawthorn 8m	Y/F	Wound at 20 cm above base, adequate retaining wood.	None	None