

ARBORICULTURAL STATEMENT – 13 HERON AVENUE, BRANDON, IP27 0TD

21st December 2022

Dear Julie Hurst,

This statement has been prepared subsequently from my site visit on the 6th December 2022 to assess the tree situated in the rear of 13 Heron Avenue, Brandon, IP27 0TD.

Client Concerns and Statement Brief

The tree is one of the few remaining trees that formed a row of mature trees. The tree is of significant proportions and situated amongst residential dwellings. There is a concern amongst the local residents regarding the health of the tree and the risk of falling branches. The purpose of this statement is to comment on the safety of the tree and recommend any safety works, and timescales if required.

TPO, Conservation Area and wildlife protection

The tree is protected by a preservation order (TPO). The tree is listed as T12 as part of TPO/2001/02

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the European Habitats Directive 1992 / Nesting Birds Directive requires that all parties involved in the management and/or development of a site must actively avoid causing disturbance and disruption to nesting birds.

Officially, the 'Bird Nesting Season' is between February and August (Natural England). During this time, it is recommended that vegetation works (tree or hedge cutting), or site clearance is avoided if there is a reasonable potential for the disruption of nesting birds.

Tree/s

Reference – T1 (T12 – TPO/2001/02)		Species – <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (Beech)	
Life Stage – Late Mature	Est. Height – 15-20m	Av. Crown radius – 8m	Dia. At 1.5m (DBH) – 109cm
Observations – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The crown contained a small volume of moderate sized deadwood. This is normal for a specimen of this species and age and does not indicate poor health. - The foliage was of the expected size, but due to the season I am unable to comment on its colour or density. - Historically the main stem appears to have been subjected to minor works, predominantly the removal small branches from the main stem, from the lower canopy. The wounds have occluded, and there were no outward signs of decay. - The lower main stem displayed two tight branch unions, these have the potential to have included bark. Both unions appear to be developing natural braces higher within the crown, and do not possess the visible thickening around the union associated with internal structural stress. As such I am not concerned for their structural integrity. - Buttresses and key points on the lower main stem were tested with a sounding mallet, this raised no concerns. 			

- No fungal fruiting bodies were found on or near to T1.
<p>Conclusion – T1 did not display any features that could be considered indicators of poor health or raise any safety concerns.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">T1 has a good vitality and is considered to have a good structure.</p>
<p>Safety Rating – Broadly Acceptable - No significant hazards - No safety works required.</p>
Priority/Safety Works – N/a
<p>Optional Works (IBA) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove deadwood. - Reduce tree by up to 1.5m from the horizontal growth and the vertical growth to increase daylight and reduce the perceived threat to adjacent properties.

Please note, due to the TPO any work that involves cutting into live wood will require permission from the local council planning department / Tree officer. Whilst the removal of deadwood does not require permission, we would always recommend you advise the local council planning department / Tree officer of your intentions and the date of works.

General Recommendations

When appointing your chosen contractor for any work we would recommend you obtain copies of Liability insurance and that you satisfy yourself that they are competent to undertake work of this nature.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or clarification on any of the points discussed above.

Yours Faithfully,

Paul Goldsmith Lantra PTI, MArborA.
Arboricultural Consultant, Ligna Consultancy Ltd
paul@lignaconsultancy.co.uk

Paul Goldsmith has been involved in arboriculture since 2002, working as an arborist for most of this time. He is a professional member of the Arb Association (MArborA), has completed LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection training, and has also received advanced training in tree related subsidence. His work has included the practical elements of arboriculture and supervisory roles, working on commercial projects, domestic settings, and street trees. Paul has a keen and active interest in tree issues including fungi and has always kept up to date with current developments and research. A full CV and list of experience and CPD is available on request.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Indicative Location Plan
Appendix 2	Photos
Appendix 3	Limitations of Statement
Appendix 4	Important Considerations for Undertaking Tree Works

APPENDIX 1 – INDICATIVE LOCATION PLAN



Figure 1. Indicative location plan.

APPENDIX 2 – PHOTOS



Figure 2. T1. Fagus sylvatica (Beech).



Figure 3. The main stem including two tight unions.

APPENDIX 3 – LIMITATIONS OF STATEMENT

All observations were from ground level without detailed or invasive investigations, unless otherwise stated.

Where appropriate, measurements were taken using a laser clinometer. Where this was not necessary, possible, or reasonably practical, measurements were estimated by eye.

Only defects and features which were considered to pose a notable risk to the safety of people and property within the site were noted.

The trees were surveyed and assessed impartially.

Information provided by third parties, considered in the creation of this report, is assumed to be correct.

Trees are dynamic structures that can never be guaranteed as 100% safe; even those in good condition can suffer damage under average conditions.

This report considers the risks posed by the presence of the tree/trees in their current condition, only. Any impacts of tree retention or removal on soil heave/subsidence should be considered by an expert in soil shrinkage and its impact on structures.

APPENDIX 4 – IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR UNDERTAKING TREE WORKS

NESTING BIRDS / BATS

Officially, the 'Bird Nesting Season' is between February and August (Natural England). During this time, it is recommended that vegetation works (tree or hedge cutting) or site clearance is avoided if there is a reasonable potential for the disruption of nesting birds.

All parties involved in the management and/or development of a site must actively avoid causing disturbance and disruption to nesting birds. Failure to do this may result in an infringement of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the European Habitats Directive 1992 / Nesting Birds Directive.

When tree or vegetation clearance work has to be undertaken during the nesting season, a pre works survey needs to be carried out by a suitably competent person