



**Arboricultural Assessment of a tree growing at 46,
Church Road, Wick**



On behalf of:
Mrs Myles

Prepared by:
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Arboricultural Consultant
March 2024

1.0 Instructions/Scope

- 1.1 We have been instructed to conduct an arboricultural assessment of a tree growing within the front garden of 46, Church Road, Wick
- 1.2 We have been asked to assess the current condition of the tree and recommend any remedial tree work considered necessary to address any health and safety issues identified during our inspection.
- 1.3 This report was compiled by Chris Wright M.Arbor.A. a professional member of the Arboricultural Association and certified Lantra Professional Tree Inspector with over 30 years' experience in the industry.
- 1.4 The report is based on a ground on a ground level assessment of the tree. Except where stated, all dimensions are estimated. We were not presented with any information on the soil type and no soil samples have been taken. An arboricultural consultant visited the site Thursday 29th February 2024. The weather was bright with good visibility.

2.0 Survey Limitations

- 2.1 Trees are living, dynamic organisms that can be affected by external conditions. It is therefore not possible to state with any certainty that a tree is safe.
- 2.2 No internal decay devices, or other invasive tools to assess tree condition, were used. No soil excavation or root inspection was undertaken.
- 2.3 The recommendations contained within this report are based on the condition of the tree at the time they were inspected. The content of the report could be invalidated by future changes in the condition of the tree or the surrounding area.

3.0 Legal duty

- 3.1 It is the responsibility of the tree owner to ensure that their tree(s) is in a safe and stable condition, including the effects of root activity, through duty of care in the Occupiers Liability Act (1957 & 1984).



- 3.2 The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 makes it an offence to disturb a nesting bird or recklessly endanger a bat or its roost. Professional advice should be sought, where relevant, before undertaking any recommended works.
- 3.3 We were informed the tree is covered by a Tree Preservation Order. Written consent will be required for South Gloucestershire Council prior to the commencement of any works to the trees.
- 3.4 Under the Tree Preservation Order regulations 2012 the removal of deadwood within living trees is exempt from the requirement to obtain prior written consent from the local planning authority (LPA). Five days' notice must be submitted to the LPA, in writing, prior to the removal of any dead trees or works to dangerous trees, except where the works must be done without delay to ensure public safety.

4.0 Assessment of Site and Existing Tree

The property is situated within a residential area with Church Road extending along the southern boundary and other residential dwellings to the north, east and west. The tree is growing on in the front garden, adjacent to the property driveway, overhanging the public footpath alongside Church Road.

- 4.1 The tree is a mature Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) currently approximately 12m tall. The crown spread is asymmetric and has been suppressed on the northern side by other trees. The average crown spread is 4 m with only 1.5m to the north. There is evidence in the canopy of previous crown reduction works.
- 4.2 We were informed the tree was originally part of a group of three trees which together formed a single canopy. The other two trees have both uprooted/ failed and been removed leaving the one tree.



- 4.3 On inspection it was found the canopy of the tree contained significant amounts of dieback primarily at the end of branches with minor deadwood throughout canopy and large dead branches on the northern side. (Pic 1). We were informed by the resident that the tree has been shedding limbs for some time including a major 1m+ limb last month. It is considered that the tree is in major decline.



Pic 1



- 4.4 A large surface root extends to the south from the base of the tree. There are fungal fruiting bodies growing on the base of the stem and along the root which were identified as Turkey tail (*Trametes versicolor*) (Pic 2). This is a saprophytic fungi which breaks down deadwood. It is therefore fair to assume that there is deadwood present within the base of the tree and the root. There is a column of deadwood within the main stem extending downwards from the wound.



Pic 2



5.0 Conclusions

The tree is adjacent to a major highway with the canopy overhanging the public footpath which is regularly used by children attending the neighbouring school. There is extensive dieback within the canopy with areas of major deadwood on the northern side. Fungal bodies are growing around the base of the tree and along a major structural root extending to the south. It is considered that this is evidence of deadwood within the stem and root which could potentially make the tree unsafe and liable to failure.

5.1 The resident is an elderly lady who is worried and concerned regarding the state of the tree and it potentially shedding a branch or falling across the adjacent footpath. Concerns regarding the condition of the trees are impacting on the resident quality of life. Her household insurer has now refused to cover the tree and any potential damage it may cause adding to her concerns.

5.2 In conclusion, the tree is a poor specimen with a suppressed asymmetric canopy, limited useful life expectancy and offers little visual amenity to the area. It is considered that the tree is in terminal decline and poses a health and safety threat to the adjacent public. If the tree were removed a new tree will be planted to mitigate the loss and enhance the area.

6.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Birch tree is removed.

As the tree is covered by a Tree Preservation Order prior written consent will be required from South Gloucestershire for the removal of the tree.

There is a legal requirement for a replacement tree to be planted on completion of the works.

The replacement tree will then be covered by the existing Tree Preservation Order.

Chris Wright. M.Arbor.A.

Arboricultural Consultant

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6th March 2024



Tree Location

