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TREE REPORT

Relating to the Health and safety of 2 Beech trees growing on the east border of 74 Fleet Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.

Client: Mrs S Mason
74 Fleet Road
Holbeach
Lincolnshire
PE12 8LD

Date of Inspection: 27th August & 3rd October 2020

1. Instructions

a) The authority for a preliminary report was given by Mrs Sarah Mason.

b) The objectives of this report are as follows:
- To inspect the trees, above ground, in respect of its health, condition and safety.
- To identify any hazards and assess the level of risk associated with any hazards found.
- On the basis of the information gathered, to provide recommendations for any works required to reduce the level of risk to an acceptable level.
- To provide recommendations based on information gathered.

2. Report Limitations

a) As trees and shrubs are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly, conclusions and recommendations are only valid for one year. The health, condition and safety of trees should be checked regularly, preferably annually and following a weather 'event' such as gales.

b) I did not examine the soil or take samples for analysis, as this is a preliminary report. Should soil samples be required, this will be highlighted in the report.

c) The trees were examined from the ground and from a ladder to assess the stem union of the trunk. Should further, more detailed information be required, this will be highlighted in the report.

d) No electronic or boring equipment was used to determine the condition of the trees.

e) No tree can be guaranteed to be safe. So long as trees are retained, zero risk cannot be achieved. The recommendations in this report are based on a reasonable and proportionate response to risk.

3. Tree Inspection

a) I inspected and considered both the Beech trees on the Eastern boundary

b) A tree location plan has been attached with this report to indicate approximate locations for the trees that are referenced.

4. Statutory Protection

a) Trees and other vegetation can often provide nesting, roosting and feeding opportunities for protected species, including bats. More information and guidance on these issues can be found through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

b) Some of the trees on this site are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and permission will have to be granted by the Local Planning Authorities before work can commence.

5. Criteria for Risk Assessment

a) The species of trees can be significant in the following ways:
   - More prone to drop deadwood
   - Brittle wood
   - Short safe useful life
   - Undesirable qualities- prickly leaves, poisonous etc

b) Trees can often grow with two (or more) trunks called co-dominant stems. These stems are generally structurally solid. Sometimes however though, a fault will develop which may cause one or both of the trunks to collapse. These faults are internal and can be difficult to recognise although the main external symptoms can be identified by included bark. This may appear as a crack in the bark between the trunks and may be on one side or right through the trunk/ stem union. When included bark is found in between co- dominant stems or the branch unions, it usually is a strong indicator that the union will eventually split and a stem will fall.
   The risk can sometimes be less serious when pruning one stem but in the case of co- dominant trees removing one stem removes up to half the trees canopy which may be detrimental to the tree for several reasons:
   - Loss of too many leaves which produce food for the tree
   - Expose the remaining stem to high winds

c) Mature Beech trees can respond poorly to major crown reductions

d) Ivy is often thought to affect the health of the trees. This is incorrect. Ivy however, greatly increases the risk of structural damage to the tree through increased wind resistance; it also can prevent a proper inspection from taking place. Generally if controlled, ivy can be a good habitat for nesting or a late food source for bees.

e) The National Tree Safety Group have produced a document, 'Common sense Risk Management of Trees' in which it describes the actual risk posed by trees against public perception:- There were more cases treated in A&E due to accidents with wheelie bins(2200) than being struck by trees(55). However this is not mentioned to encourage complacency but to simply put the risk into some context.

f) There is a duty of care under the English Common Law to ensure neighbours and people entering their land (invited or not) are not at risk from dangers that could have been foreseen by a reasonable person.

6. Tree Inspection Findings

a) The age class of the Beech trees are mature specimens- near to the end of their safe useful life.

b) The tree is approx 24 metres high and 18metres from the family home, it also 5meters from the garage and shed.

c) The larger of the Beech trees has 3 main stems which fork at approx 2 meters and evidence of included bark on both sides of the trunk is visible.

d) The top of the stem union is found to be dry at the time of inspection which would suggest that water is seeping down into the union and further adding to internal decay.

e) The trees have a large amount of deadwood in the crown especially in the upper region that pose a risk of falling debris. This also indicates the tree is struggling and showing signs of decline/ stress.

f) The smaller of the Beech trees canopy is very one sided and has been sheltered/ shielded by its larger neighbour and is of low amenity value.

7. Recommendations

a) Both Beech trees be felled.

b) Tree work is skilled and potentially dangerous work, which must be carried out by trained and certificated staff working to BS3998 and working in accordance with the various regulations within the health and safety at work act 1974.

c) Contractors must have Public Liability (preferably 5 million) and Employer's Liability insurance (preferably 10 million).



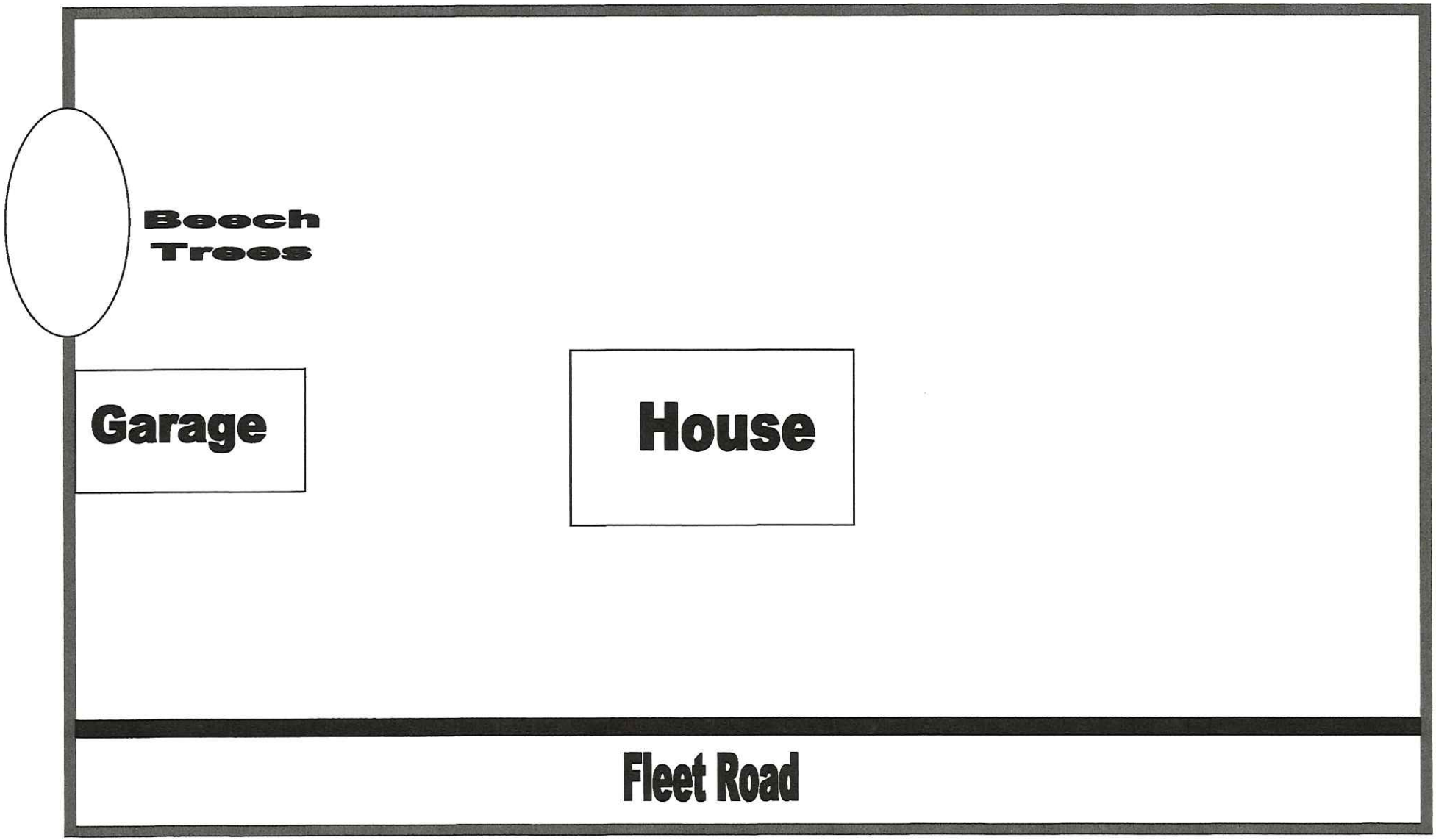
Included Bark on both sides of trunk.

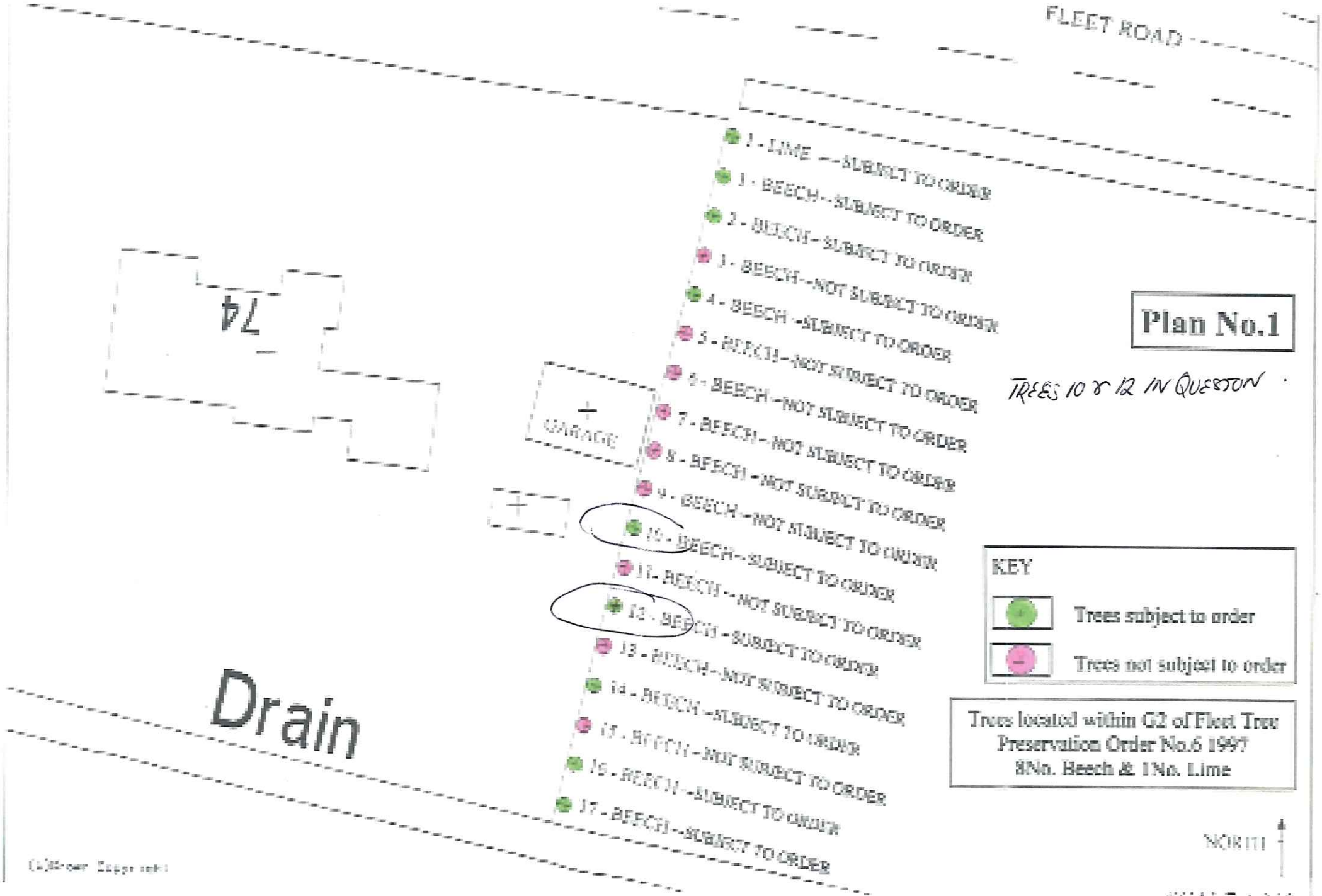


Stem Union



Beech Trees


Beech
Trees
Garage
House
Fleet Road


FLEET ROAD
74
GARAGE
Drain
1 - LIME - SUBJECT TO ORDER
1 - BEECH - SUBJECT TO ORDER
2 - BEECH - SUBJECT TO ORDER
3 - BEECH - NOT SUBJECT TO ORDER
4 - BEECH - SUBJECT TO ORDER
5 - BEECH - NOT SUBJECT TO ORDER
6 - BEECH - NOT SUBJECT TO ORDER
7 - BEECH - NOT SUBJECT TO ORDER
8 - BEECH - NOT SUBJECT TO ORDER
9 - BEECH - NOT SUBJECT TO ORDER
10 - BEECH - SUBJECT TO ORDER
11 - BEECH - NOT SUBJECT TO ORDER
12 - BEECH - SUBJECT TO ORDER
13 - BEECH - NOT SUBJECT TO ORDER
14 - BEECH - SUBJECT TO ORDER
15 - BEECH - NOT SUBJECT TO ORDER
16 - BEECH - SUBJECT TO ORDER
17 - BEECH - SUBJECT TO ORDER
Plan No.1
TREES 10 & 12 IN QUESTION
KEY
Trees subject to order
Trees not subject to order
Trees located within G2 of Fleet Tree Preservation Order No.6 1997
8No. Beech & 1No. Lime
NORTH
SCALE 1:250