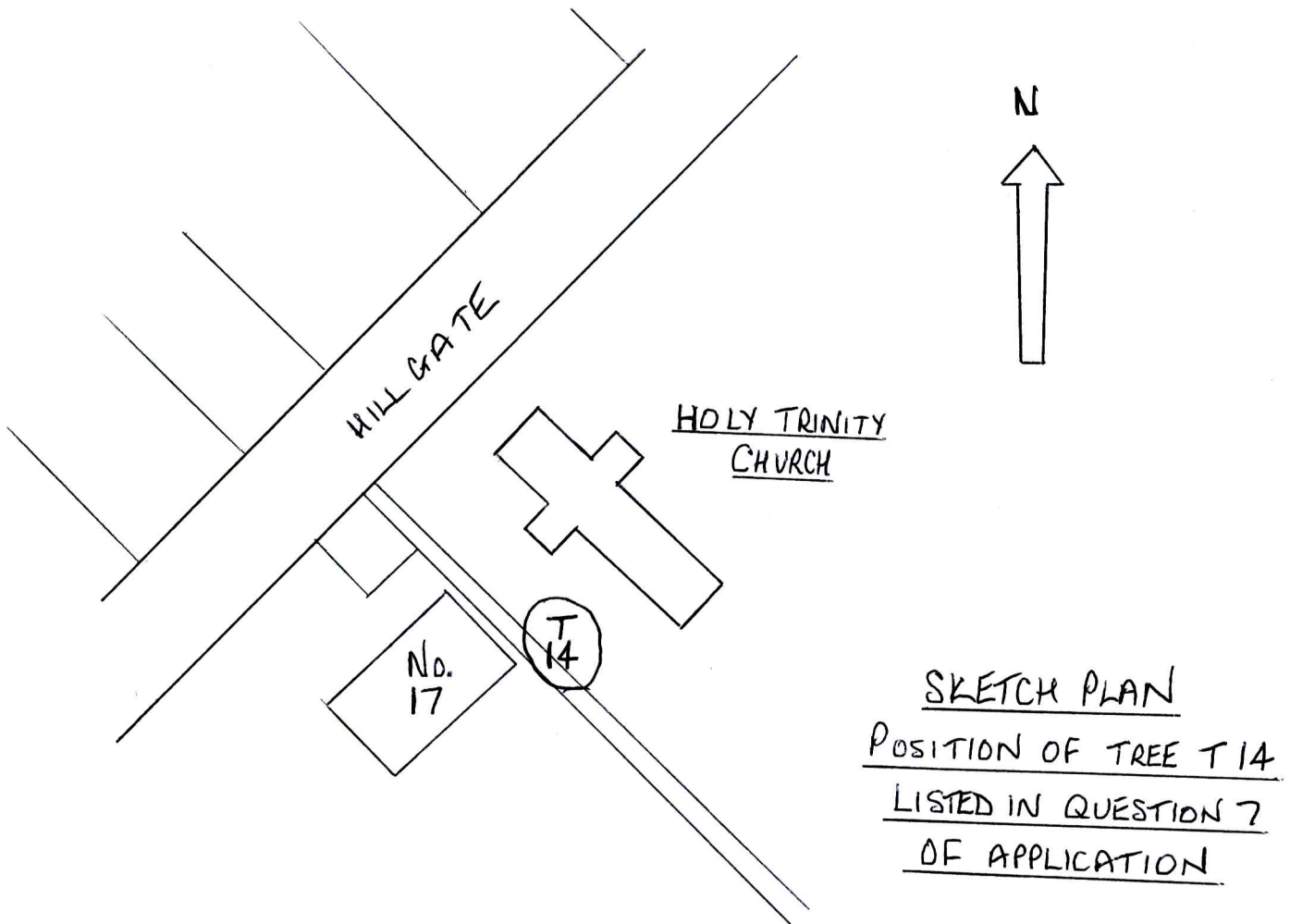


APPENDIX 1



ADVICE RECEIVED FROM MRS DIANE FARCHILD-FENTON, TREES
AND CONSERVATION OFFICER, SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL
TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR TREE WORKS.

APPENDIX 2

TREE SURVEY AND RISK ASSESSMENT OF
CEDAR TREE AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY
TRINITY, GEDNEY HILL



Peace Arboriculture

Caroline Hall

Tree survey and risk assessment of Cedar Tree at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Gedney Hill

Site: Churchyard at the Church of the Holy Trinity, 17, Hillgate, Gedney Hill,
Spalding PE12 0NN

Commissioned by: Mr David Ingle, Church Warden

Date: June 2024





Contents

- 1. Instructions**
- 2. Limitations of this report**
- 3. Disclaimers**
- 4. Site description**
- 5. Findings and observations**
- 6. Conclusions and Recommendations**
- 7. References**

APPENDICES

Tree Schedule

Additional works identified during the survey



1.0 Instructions

- 1.1 Instructed by: Mr David Ingle, Church Warden
- To inspect 1 x Cedar Tree within: The Churchyard
- 1.2 To carry out an inspection of the tree, to assess the physiological and structural condition of the tree, to identify whether the tree is dangerous or potentially dangerous, and to make recommendations for remedial works that may be deemed necessary to alleviate or remove any problems that may exist.
- 1.3 To minimise the level of risk to users of the site, and minimise liability of the site owners by helping to reasonably discharge their responsibility under common law (duty of care) and statute law (Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984) to ensure that their trees do not pose an unreasonable threat to persons either on their property, persons on adjacent property and persons on adjacent public highways, footpaths or bridle ways.
- 1.4 Inspection date 24th June 2024
- 1.5 Inspected by Caroline Hall BSc (Hons), (Tech.Cert (Arbor.A)) – arboriculturalist.

2.0 Limitations

- 2.1 The tree was subject to a Level 2 inspection from ground level, using the Visual Tree Assessment method ((VTA) – (Mattheck, C and Breloer, H. The Body Language of Trees, London. 1994 (pp118ff))). This method of inspection seeks to evaluate both the physiological and structural condition of inspected trees by assessing the presence of buds, the condition of the foliage and bark, the presence of fungal activity and external signs of decay (where trees are not covered with ivy etc.), physical damage and growth related defects.
- 2.2 The risks from falling branches or whole tree failure were evaluated in accordance with the methodology within Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (Version 5, Mike Ellison, 2015) which seeks to evaluate land use (both people and property) against the probability of failure which could cause risk of harm. This in turn informs the levels of advisory risk acceptability.
- 2.3 Formal assessment of topography, drainage, service conduits or soil conditions are outside the scope of this report.
- 2.4 Other specialist arboricultural surveys (eg sonic tomography) have not been made and are outside the scope of this report.
- 2.5 It is understood that any risks associated with these limitations are accepted by the client.



3.0 Disclaimers

- 3.1 The report takes into account the site as laid out at the time of inspection. Any additional structures, alterations or extensions to buildings, altering of soil levels, trenching, trimming or felling of adjacent trees, without consultation, could render the report on the surveyed trees void.
- 3.2 *No tree should ever be regarded as completely safe or free from risk. Trees are dynamic, living organisms subject to change and the physical and environmental conditions that surround them.*

4.0 Site Description

- 4.1 The subject tree within this report stands at the southern boundary of the churchyard, adjacent to the parish footpath, and the surrounding landscape consists of grassed burial areas and memorials.
- 4.2 The tree is a mature Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*), having considerable stature and visibility to the wider area, and the species is in keeping with the local landscape.
- 4.3 It is understood that this tree and the surrounding trees within the churchyard are protected under a Tree Preservation Order.

5.0 Findings and observations

- 5.1 The tree stands approximately 18 metres tall and has reached full maturity. Although this species is non-native, originating from Morocco and Algeria, it is now commonly found in parks, gardens, and churchyards across the country. When not competing for shade or nutrients, the Atlas Cedar can live for around 150 years. In the UK, these trees are primarily threatened by fungal pests and diseases, such as Honey Fungus, which rots the roots, and a fungal needle blight, indicated by foliage discoloration and tip dieback. While the species is relatively well-adapted to the UK climate, it is occasionally susceptible to storm damage from high winds, rain, and snow. This particular tree is located within the memorial area near the site boundary, surrounded by grass and some deposited soil at its base.

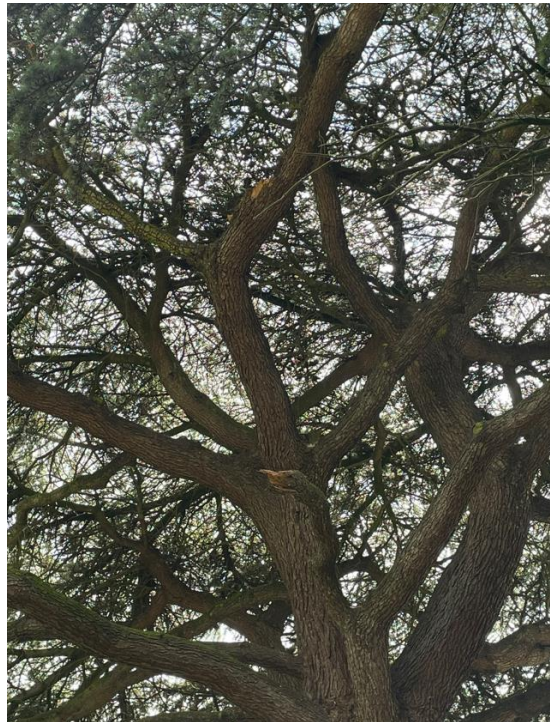




- 5.2 The survey was conducted in early summer, during the tree's growth period. The structural condition of the tree is easily observable from ground level, given its open crown form. As a conifer, the tree retains its foliage year-round, flowering in the autumn and producing new leaves and cones in the spring.
- 5.3 Overall, the tree appeared to be in fair health when assessing its stem, branches, and foliage, displaying the typical characteristics associated with this species.
- 5.4 Upon examining the basal area and root flare, the root buttresses were found to be in good condition, showing no visible signs typically associated with decayed wood. The changes in soil level at the base of the tree are due to deposits from graveyard operations. It is recommended that no additional soil be deposited at the base of the tree in the future to allow moisture, air, and nutrients to reach the soil surrounding the tree roots.
- 5.5 The stem of the tree has several historic pruning wounds and one tear-out wound, suggesting that the tree has been pruned for crown height clearance in the past or may have suffered from previous storm damage.



- 5.6 Dead wood is scattered throughout the tree's crown, particularly in the lower areas where access to light is limited. While dead wood is a natural by-product of a tree's life cycle and not necessarily a sign of ill health, it is prudent to remove it to prevent it from falling into the path of pedestrians or vehicles below. It is recommended to remove dead wood over 25mm in diameter.
- 5.7 During last winter, the tree lost a sizeable branch, which fell into the memorial area of the churchyard. Although the branch was not available for inspection, it is assumed that storm damage caused the branch to fail, rather than disease or decay. An open area in the crown indicates a small loss of canopy cover on the tree's north side where the branch was lost.



- 5.8 Following loss of this branch, concerns about the health and safety of the tree have arisen from neighbouring residential property. Branches from the tree overhang the property over the southerly boundary, though are not touching the property, and crown clearance is good. The branch nearest to the property is a secondary limb from one of the primary branches, and its angle appears to contribute to unnatural loading. While trees have evolved not to fail, the intuitive notion is that this branch may succumb to future storms and cause property damage. In order to discharge the tree owner's liabilities under Occupiers Liability, it is recommended to take some action upon the tree.



It is recommended to perform a clearance prune on the branches over this property by 2-3 metres, or nearest branching point, thus reducing branch loading, and reducing the chance of any potential failures landing upon the property.

An alternative, though more costly solution would be to secure this branch with a non-invasive flexible bracing system. It is possible to explore this option further on request.



Regarding overhanging branches:

When branches extend over neighbouring property and the tree owner has taken reasonable steps to ensure the tree's safety, there is generally no obligation to prune them back further, unless required for statutory reasons such as clearing from public highways or amenities.

If the neighbour wishes to prune the tree back to their boundary, they are legally permitted to do so. However, they must take full responsibility for their actions, including:

- *Applying to the local authority for permission if the tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).*
- *Ensuring the tree's health and safety after pruning.*
- *Following recommended arboricultural practices for pruning maintenance according to British Standard BS3998.*

Regarding leaves, seeds, and fruit falling from trees onto neighbouring property:

This is a natural part of the seasonal cycle of plants and trees and is generally not considered a nuisance. Laws related to "nuisance" typically concern personal or financial harm, and falling leaves from trees do not usually fall into this category.

6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended to carry out a dead wood removal to the whole crown of the tree, to include all dead wood with a stem diameter of 25mm or more. This may be carried out any time of year within the recommended time frame of 6-12 months, however, an assessment should be made with regard to the presence of any nesting birds prior to works taking place.
- 6.2 It is recommended to prune branches back from the neighbouring property by 2-3 metres, or to the nearest branching point possible for executing the works.
- 6.3 It is recommended to retain soil levels around the base of the tree, and not to deposit any further soil in the vicinity of the tree or underneath the dripline of the canopy.
- 6.4 Following completion of the recommended works, and within the framework of "Broadly Acceptable", "Tolerable" or "Unacceptable", the surveyed tree should pose a "Broadly Acceptable" level of risk. In other words the risks from falling branches or whole tree failure will be considered as **low as reasonably practicable**.
- 6.5 The risks from other seasonal nuisance factors such as falling leaves, seeds or fruit, or obstruction of satellite or CCTV are deemed to be Broadly Acceptable.
- 6.6 Remedial works have been recommended to the trees according to the condition assessed, and the area upon which the tree stands. The recommendations are laid out in the enclosed schedule (see Appendix at the end of this report).



- 6.7 Recommended works have been given a timescale within which they should be carried out and a re-inspection time of 36 months.
- 6.8 Works should be carried out to the recommendations within the standard BS3998:2010 *Tree Works – Recommendations*. During any aerial work to the trees' crown it is recommended to inspect branches for any areas of decay, defective branches or significant amounts of dead wood not visible from the ground.
- 6.9 For removal of dead wood, a Tree Works Application to the local planning authority is not normally required, but will be for any other pruning work mentioned within this report.

7.0 References

BS3998:2010 - *Tree work Recommendations*

BS5837:2012 - *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations*

European Tree Pruning Guide 1999

The Body Language of Trees – Claus Mattheck and Helge Breloer

Manual of Wood Decays in Trees – C Mattheck and K Weber

Fungal Strategies of Wood Decay in Trees – F.W.M.R. Schwarze, J. Engels and C. Mattheck

Quantified Tree Risk Assessment USER MANUAL version 5 – QTRA Ltd, Mike Ellison

www.forestry.gov.uk



APPENDICES

Tree survey schedule

Additional trees identified for hazard reduction pruning during this survey

TREE SCHEDULE



Species	Height (estimated)	Age Class	Condition			Overall Condition	Recommendations	Work priority	Inspection Frequency
			Roots	Stem	Crown				
Atlas Cedar <i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	18	MATURE	Within grass, soil levels raised on north side, no visible features associated with decay	Vertical stem, ribs, pruning wounds throughout stem, tear out wound	High crown, dead wood scattered within lower crown, tear out wounds, large branch lost recently	FAIR	Remove dead wood over 25mm in diameter, prune back from neighbouring property by 2-3 metres or nearest branching point. During aerial works to the crown, please inspect branch unions and report back any signs of decay or weakness	6-12 months	3 years

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, GEDNEY HILL

ADDITIONAL TREES IDENTIFIED FOR HAZARD REDUCTION PRUNING – JUNE 2024

OAK TREE NEAR SOUTH PORCH

REMOVE DEAD WOOD OVER 25MM IN DIAMETER AS THIS IS SITUATED OVER THE PATH
PRUNE OVER THE PORCH AND MEMORIAL TO GIVE 1-2 METRES CLEARANCE



FAILED TREE

REMOVE CHERRY TREE NEAR TO FRONT
BOUNDARY AS IT IS IN SEVERE DECLINE



STATUTORY HIGHWAYS CLEARANCE

LIFT THE CROWNS OF 3 X LIME AND 1 X
CHESTNUT TO GIVE CLEARANCE OF 2.4
METRES FROM GROUND LEVEL OVER THE
PAVEMENT