

**N J PACEY LANDSCAPING**

**Tree Safety Survey Report**

**William Stukeley Church of England Primary School**

**December 2020**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **Instruction** – N J Pacey Landscaping has been instructed by Diana Harlock of William Stukeley Primary School, to undertake a Tree Safety Survey of trees within the grounds of the School and provide recommendations for any action necessary to reduce risk to an acceptable level. This report has been requested as part of the Schools Duty of Care responsibilities.
- 1.2 **Qualifications and experience:** The survey was conducted by Adam Quant. I have based this report and recommendations on my site observations, experience and technical knowledge. Details of my qualifications and experience are listed in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 **Documents and information provided:** We were provided with a Map from the survey undertaken 5 years ago and a resurvey undertaken two years ago.
- 1.4 **Scope of this report:** This report is only concerned with the condition of trees within the area of the property as detailed on the plan. We have highlighted the areas surveyed and request that the map is scrutinised to ensure all areas have been included in the survey.

## 2 SITE INFORMATION

- 2.1 **Site visit:** The School was surveyed on the on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2020.
- 2.2 **Brief site description:** William Stukeley School is set in 42 acres of grounds in Holbeach. It opened in September 1993 and is set in the grounds of Stukely Hall. The grounds have the benefit of both young trees and mature specimens.
- 2.3 **Identification and location of the trees**  
Trees requiring works have been numbered to aid location using yellow tree tags. Their approximate location has then been marked onto a map.

## 3 THE TREE SURVEY

The survey was conducted from ground level with the aid of binoculars where necessary.

The trees were surveyed on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method expounded by Mattheck and Breloer in 'The Body Language of Trees', Department for Transport, Local government and the Regions book Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994).

Where trees have ivy cover, judgements have been made within the constraints imposed by this. In some cases, where ivy is particularly dense, recommendations have been made for ivy cutting and re-inspection.

No tissue samples were taken nor was any internal investigation of the subject trees undertaken.

No soil samples were taken.

All dimensions were estimated and are for guidance only.

Work recommended is that which is considered the minimum necessary to reduce risk to an acceptable level.

Trees are living organisms, readily affected by environmental changes, therefore, observations can only be considered as correct at the time of inspection. In the light of this, the report can only be considered valid for a maximum period of 2 years provided all factors remain unchanged.

It is recommended that, unless otherwise stated, all trees are re-inspected after TWO years or after high winds or other extreme weather conditions.

[The Tree Survey in tabulated form is attached in Appendix 3. A copy of the map(s) is attached in Appendix 2.]

## 4 APPRAISAL

### General

- 4.1 Some trees require work to mitigate risk of failure. This has been kept to the minimum necessary.
- 4.2 To reduce the financial cost of tree management, in some cases the decision has been made to fell trees rather than recommend more costly crown reductions. This course of action has only been taken where it would be acceptable within the landscape.
- 4.3 Trees were surveyed in winter and only defects that were significant and visible at the time were recorded.

## 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 **Present requirements:** The purpose of the recommendations is to reduce risk to acceptable levels. The works deemed necessary to establish such levels are listed in the tree inspection sheets.
- 5.2 **Future considerations:** Except where a shorter interval is recommended, a routine inspection every 2 years is suggested.

## 6 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 **Trees subject to statutory controls.** Trees may be subject to constraints such as Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas. Their status should be checked with the Local Authority before undertaking all but emergency work.
- 6.2 **Protected Species:** It is advised to check for protected species (most notably bats and nesting birds) before carrying out work on trees with likely habitats such as cavities and loose bark.

## Appendix 1

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### **Brief qualifications and experience of Mr. A. Quant**

I have been involved in practical arboriculture since 2001. This has included working with amenity trees on a golf course. Between 2006 and 2011, I worked for Nicholson's in Oxfordshire. This role involved amongst other tasks, undertaking the management of trees for clients from the surveying of trees to recommending appropriate works to current best practice. I continued my professional development whilst in this role to develop my knowledge of trees including tree safety.

Autumn 2011, I joined N J Pacey Landscaping and am still actively progressing my Arboriculture skills by keeping up to date with current literature and best practice.

My qualifications include:-

Bachelors of Science with Honours in Forestry (from the University of Wales, Bangor)  
National Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (from the University of Lincoln)  
Attended a course on Basic Tree Survey run by the Arboriculture Association in 2007  
Lantra Level 2, Professional Tree Inspection Award in 2008  
Professional Tree inspection Refresher Course 2014

## Appendix 2

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### Tree schedule and explanatory notes

- **Mathematical abbreviations:** > = Greater than; < = Less than.
- **Measurements/estimates:** All dimensions are estimates unless otherwise indicated.
- **Species:** Common names are given for species identified on site.
- **Height:** Height is an estimate height in metres as an aid to identification only.
- **Stem Diameter:** The diameters at 1.5m above ground level are estimated and recorded in centimetres.
- **Estimated Age:** Age is estimated from visual indicators and is shown in classes. Age estimates often need to be modified based on further information such as historical records. The age classes used are:-
  - Young - a tree normally less than 15 years old
  - Semi Mature – a tree normally 15 – 30 years old
  - Mature – A tree which has reached the full growth potential of its species
  - Late Mature – A tree which is beginning to decline
  - Veteran – A tree in decline with special habitat or landscape significance.

These age classes will vary according to species.

# N J Pacey Landscaping : DUTY OF CARE TREE SAFETY SURVEY

APPENDIX 2

| Site: William Stukeley Church of England Primary School |                            |           |           | Surveyor: Adam Quant |           |                                                                                                      |                                                       | December 2020     |                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Tree Number                                             | Species                    | DBH (cm)  | No. Stems | Height (m.)          | Age Class | Condition                                                                                            | Recommendations                                       | Priority (months) | Next Inspection |
| Tree 1<br>Tag 921                                       | Sycamore                   | 60<br>Est | 1         | 17                   | Mature    | Heavily ivy-covered preventing inspection of unions and stem, crossing rubbing branches within crown | Cut ivy and clear ivy from crown                      | 3                 | 12              |
| Tag 922                                                 | Plum                       | 24        | 2         | 4                    | Mature    | Heavily ivy covered, leaning dead hanging branch's                                                   | Cut ivy on all trees in group                         | 6                 | 12              |
| Tree 3<br>Tag 923                                       | Ivy covered tree near wall | 40        | 1         | 10                   | Mature    | Heavily ivy covered tree pushing on wall                                                             | Fell                                                  | 12                |                 |
| Tag 924                                                 | Apple                      | 40        | 3         | 8                    | Mature    | Dead branches throughout canopy, ivy covered                                                         | Cut ivy crown reduce to 5m and remove major dead wood | 6                 | 24              |
| Tag 925                                                 | Elder                      | 33        | 2         | 7                    | Mature    | Pushing against wall heavy lean over neighbours, ivy covered                                         | Fell                                                  | 3                 |                 |
| Tree 4<br>Tag 926                                       | Sycamore                   | 60        | 3         | 18                   | Mature    | Heavily ivy covered preventing inspection                                                            | Strip ivy and reinspect                               | 6                 | 6               |

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|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----|---|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----|
| Tag 927 - Group                                         | Ash, horse chestnut, elder, apple & sycamore |     |   |                      | Semi mature | Ivy on some stems are some minor hanging branches, poorly cut pruning wounds from previous fallen dead apple stem                                                                                | Cut ivy on all trees remove hanging branches cutback old pruning wounds in line with best practice, remove elder stems | 6             | 24 |
| Tree 8 Tag 928                                          | Plum                                         | 43  | 2 | 6                    | Mature      | Identified red fungal fruiting body believed to be Ganoderma lucidium on stem at base. Structurally poor unions throughout crown. Previously lost limbs with associated tear wounds on main stem | Crown reduce by 50% and cut ivy                                                                                        | Six months    | 12 |
| Tree 9 Tag 929                                          | Horse Chestnut                               | 1.5 | 1 | 17                   | Mature      | Previously reduced neurotic bark on limb south east                                                                                                                                              | Monitor due to size                                                                                                    | 12            | 12 |
| Tag 930                                                 | Silver birch                                 | 33  | 1 | 17                   | Semi mature | Broken first limb hanging                                                                                                                                                                        | Remove hanging limb                                                                                                    | 12            | 24 |
| Tag 931                                                 | Silver birch                                 | 21  | 1 | 15                   | Semi mature | Phytophthora on stem, dieback in upper crown                                                                                                                                                     | Fell                                                                                                                   | 3             |    |
| Tag 932                                                 | Silver birch                                 | 55  | 1 | 17                   | Semi mature | Included union at 0.5m to 1.5 m seepage on stem                                                                                                                                                  | Fell                                                                                                                   | 3             |    |

# N J Pacey Landscaping : DUTY OF CARE TREE SAFETY SURVEY

## APPENDIX 2

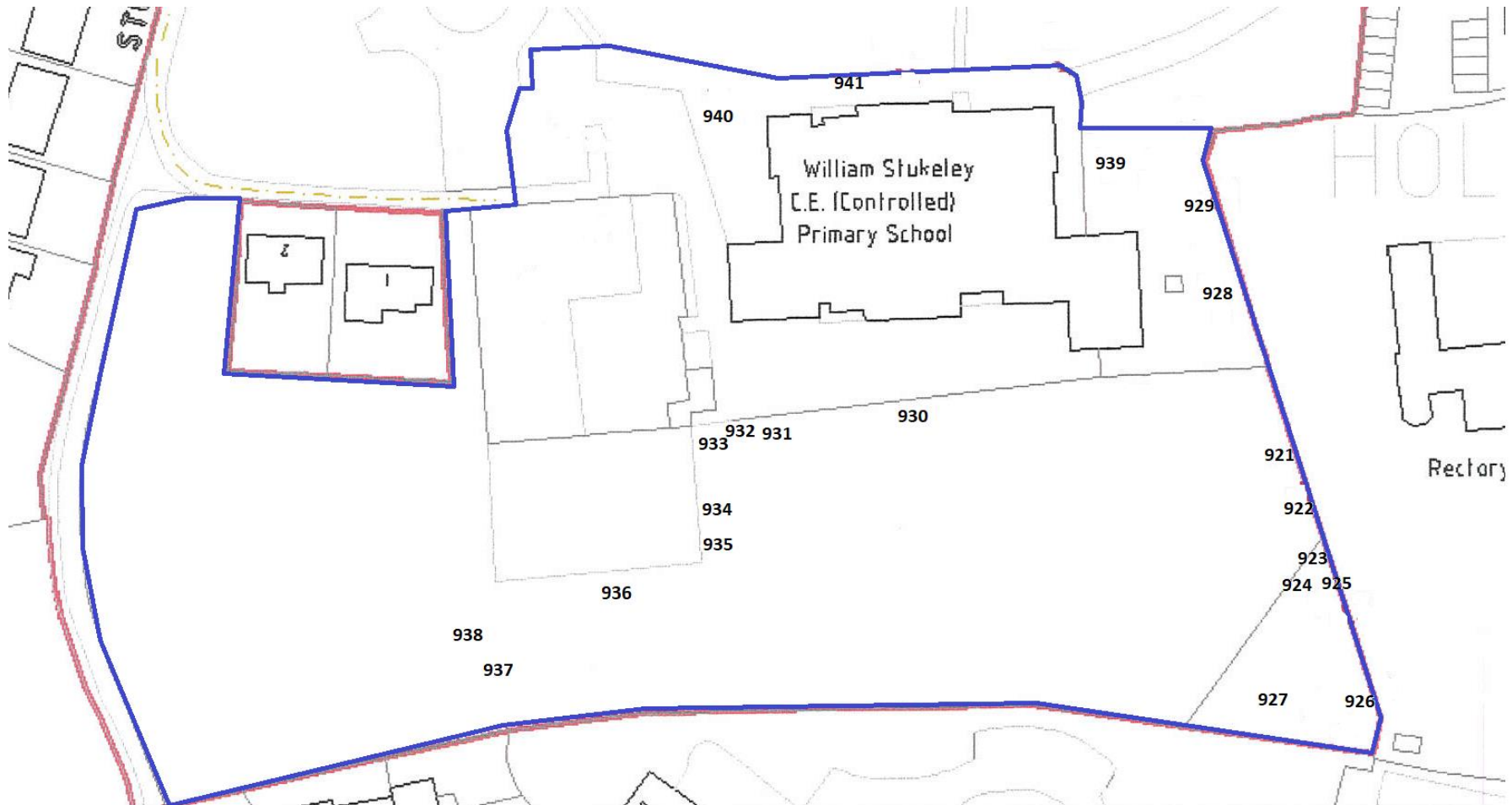
| Site: William Stukeley Church of England Primary School |       |     |   | Surveyor: Adam Quant |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | December 2020                                                                  |    |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|
| Tag 933                                                 | Ash   | 110 | 1 | 17                   | Mature/<br>Veteran | FFB Pholiota on buttresses at base on north side. Branch heading south has large wound on upper side of branch stretching 2 m from fork with signs of decay. inonotus hispidus on limb playground side with woodpecker holes beneath | Pollard at 8m to retain                                                        | 6  | 12 |
| Tag 934                                                 | Oak   | 48  | 1 | 15                   | Semi<br>mature     | Minor deadwood throughout crown, low branches over field and football area                                                                                                                                                           | Remove deadwood crown lift to give 4m clearance                                | 24 | 24 |
| Tag 935                                                 | Oak   | 38  | 1 | 15                   | Semi<br>mature     | Minor deadwood throughout crown low branches over field and football area included union with potential bark to bark contact at 4 m                                                                                                  | Crown reduce by 50% or fell to favour adjacent oak and walnut tree             | 6  | 24 |
| Tag 936                                                 | Oak   | 120 | 1 | 15                   | Mature/<br>veteran | Large limb removed on east side, Ganoderma on main stem associated with the limb removal. Decay evident when sounded on eastern side. Previously reduced with extensive regrowth all weighted west side                              | Continue veteranisation by reducing further 6m below previous reduction points | 6  | 24 |
| Tag 937                                                 | Apple | 12  | 5 | 4                    | Mature             | One dead stem                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Remove dead stem                                                               | 24 | 24 |
| Tag 938                                                 | Pear  | 30  | 2 | 4                    | Mature             | One stem fell when touched, remaining stems sound compromised when hit with hammer. Ivy covered                                                                                                                                      | Fell                                                                           | 3  |    |

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|---------------------------------------------------------|------------|----|---|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|---------------|--|
| Tag 939                                                 | Scots pine | 38 | 1 | 15                   | Semi mature | Minor deadwood                                                                | Remove deadwood                                                                     | 12 | 24 |               |  |
| Tag 940                                                 | Sycamore   | 68 | 1 | 18                   | Mature      | Hanging branch over path lower limbs over path with extensive decay at unions | Remove first two lower limbs over pathwidth open cavity's and remove hanging branch | 3  | 24 |               |  |
| Tag 941                                                 | Sycamore   | 24 | 1 | 8                    | Young       | Branch from neighbouring tree causing large rubbing wound                     | Fell to prevent future issues with wound fence and building                         | 24 | 24 |               |  |

N J Pacey Landscaping: William Stukeley Church of England Primary School - Tree Safety Survey Report, December 2020



| N J Pacey Landscaping           |                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TREE SAFETY SURVEY LOCATION MAP |                                                                                     |
| Site                            | William Stukeley Primary School                                                     |
| Drawn By                        | Adam Quant                                                                          |
| Date                            | December 2020                                                                       |
| Survey Boundary                 |  |
| Tree Location                   | <b>XXX</b>                                                                          |
| Scale                           | Not to Scale                                                                        |

