N J PACEY LANDSCAPING

Tree Safety Survey Report

William Stukeley Church of England Primary School

6th March 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
1	**INTRODUCTION**	2
2	**SITE INFORMATION**	2
3	**TREE SURVEY**	2
4	**APPRAISAL**	3
5	**RECOMMENDATIONS**	3
6	**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**	3

APPENDICES

1	**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**	4
2	**TREE SCHEDULE AND EXPLANATORY NOTES**	5-9
3	**SITE MAP**	10

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 when we surveyed the trees in December 2020 from the survey undertaken 5 years previously.

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 6th March 2023.

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. There 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 18 months provided all factors remain unchanged.

It is recommended that, unless otherwise stated, all trees are re-inspected after 18 months 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 **Ivy within the woodland:** Ivy is growing on the woodland floor and some trees are covered in ivy. Although complete removal of all ivy is extremely difficult we do need to be controlling its growth up trees as assessing the structural condition which is often not possible on trees covered in ivy. Ivy does offer great habitat and this is recognised however we need to ensure we have a safe tree stock. We therefore recommend the cutting of ivy at the base of all trees on site.

5.3 **Future considerations:** Except where a shorter interval is recommended, a routine inspection every 18 months 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

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

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

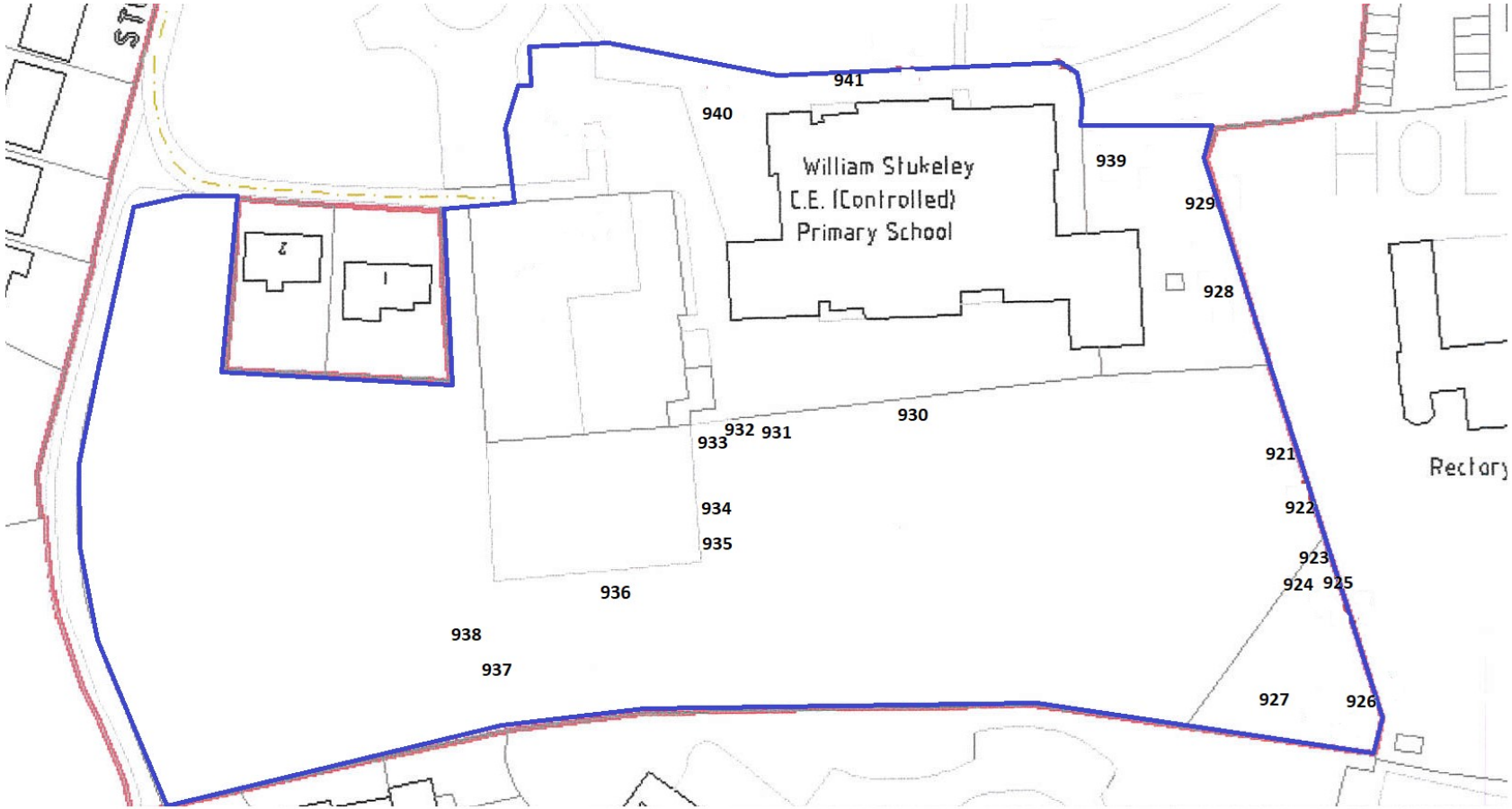
APPENDIX 2

Site: William Stukeley Church of England Primary School

Surveyor: Adam Quant

6th March 2023

Tree Number	Species	DBH (cm)	No. Stems	Height (m.)	Age Class	Condition	Recommendations	Priority (months)	Next Inspection
Tag 922	Plum	24	1	4	Mature	Cracks in main stem with failed top, adjacent plum heavily ivy covered and leaning	Make safe by reducing to 2 meters this and the adjacent two trees	6	18
Tree 4 Tag 926	Sycamore	60	3	20	Mature	Ivy has been stripped since the last inspection, The lower limb over the historic wall has a poor union with potential bark to bark contact and included union.	Reduce limb over wall by 4 meters	18	18
Tree 9 Tag 929	Horse Chestnut	1.5	1	17	Mature	Necrotic bark on rear stem towards wall, two heavy lateral limbs over EYFS area with high target	Prune two lateral limbs back in upper crown by 2.5m and lower limb by 2 meters, crown raise first two lower limbs over EYFS. Monitor due to size and target – See Figure 1	6	12
Tag 937	Apple	14	4	3.5	Mature	Bark wounds and cambium death on 3 stems over benches	Reduce to 1.5 meters	18	18
Tag 939	Scots pine	38	1	15	Semi mature	Significantly low needle quantity	Fell	18	



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TREE SAFETY SURVEY LOCATION MAP	
Site	William Stukeley Primary School
Drawn By	Adam Quant
Date	6th March 2023
Survey Boundary	
Tree Location	XXX
Scale	Not to Scale





Figure 1 - position of cuts on 929