N J PACEY LANDSCAPING

Tree Safety Survey Report

William Stukeley Church of England Primary School

17th June 2025

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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 when we surveyed the trees in December 2020.

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 17th July 2025.

2.2 **Brief site description:** William Stukeley School is set in 4.2 acres of grounds in Holbeach. It opened in September 1993 and is set in the grounds of Stukeley 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. When previous tags were still present these numbers have been used to try and keep continuity between surveys

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 late Spring 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 most of the 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. Due to recent reduced access because of the build the ivy has become more prevalent on the trees. We therefore recommend the cutting of ivy at the base of all trees on site.

5.3 **Neighbours Trees:** The trees not within the boundary have not been surveyed however we would strongly recommend you contact the adjacent landowner and recommend they inspect there trees. Notably there is a mature sycamore adjacent to tree 950 with a large cavity and a group of 3 yew and holly with heavy lean into your site that would benefit from an inspection by a professional.

5.4 **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:-

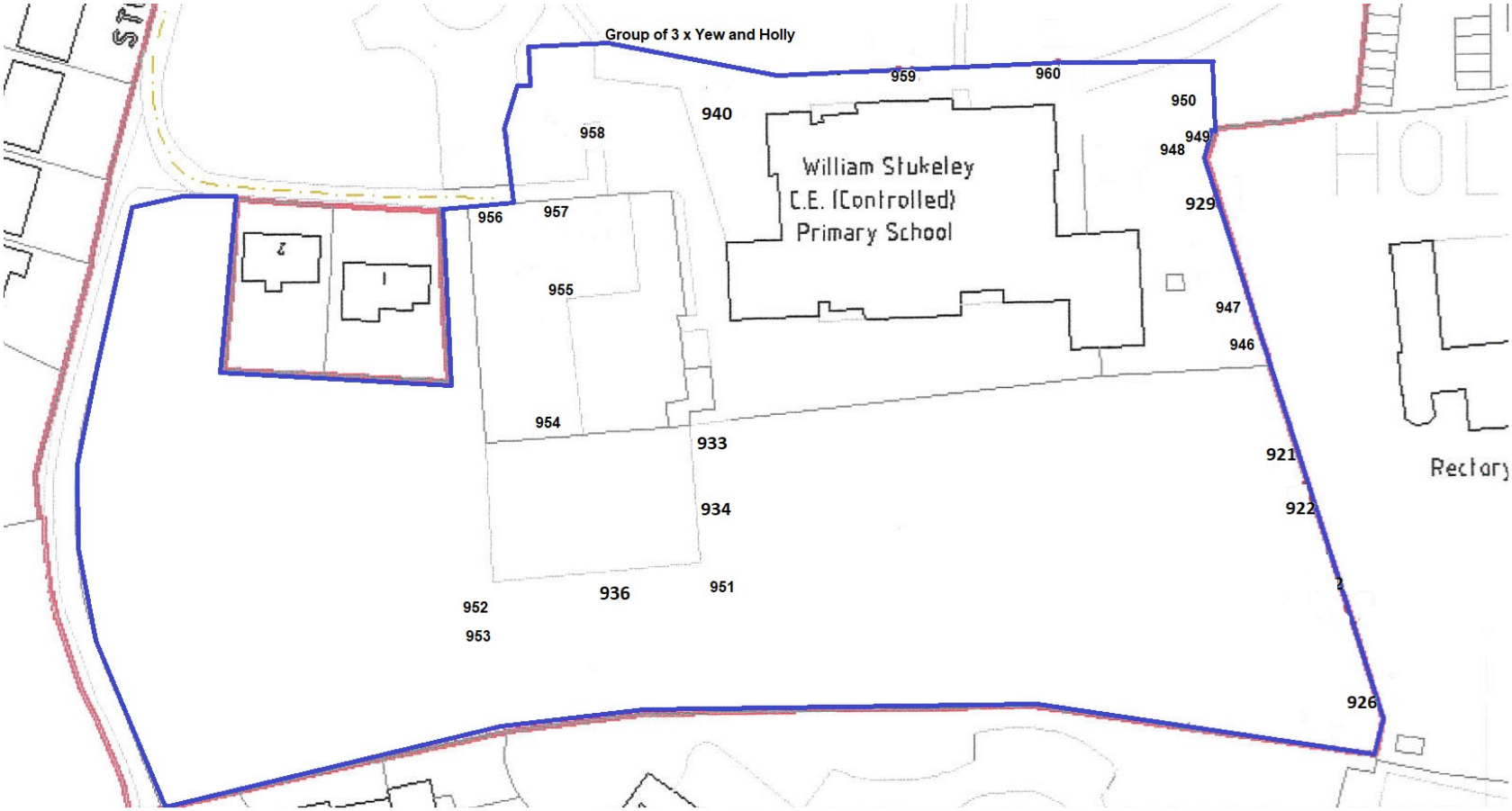
Bachelors of Science with Honours in Forestry (from the University of Wales, Bangor)
National Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (from the University of Lincoln)
Attended a course on Basic Tree Survey run by the Arboriculture Association in 2007
Lantra Level 2, Professional Tree Inspection Award in 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	
TREE SAFETY SURVEY LOCATION MAP	
Site	William Stukeley Primary School
Drawn By	Adam Quant
Date	**17th June 2025**
Survey Boundary	
Tree Location	**XXX**
Scale	Not to Scale



N J Pacey Landscaping : DUTY OF CARE TREE SAFETY SURVEY							APPENDIX 3		
Site: William Stukeley Primary School				Surveyor: Adam Quant			17th June 2025		
Tree Number	**Species**	**DBH (cm)**	**No. Stems**	**Height (m.)**	**Age Class**	**Condition**	**Recommendations**	**Priority (months)**	**Next Inspection**
921	Sycamore	61	1	15	Semi mature	Heavy ivy covering on main stem	Cut ivy of stem at the base and where it is bridging from the wall and reinspect stem once ivy has died	3	12
933	Ash	111	1	12	Mature	Fungal fruiting body at south between buttress. Due to condition of FFB we are not confident on the species. Daldinia concenttrica on large timer below pollard points. Previously pollarded at 8m with vigorous regrowth	Resistograph at base to monitor extent of decay from FFB, reduce tree regrowth to previous pollard points	6	18
934	Oak	58	1		Semi Mature	Minor deadwood minor hanging dead branch, low canopy	Raise crown to give 2.5m clearance. Remove minor hanging dead branch	3	18
936	Oak	118	1	8	Veteran	Dieback on main stem possibly a historic lightning strike as runs from ground up. Ganoderma species on area of necrotic bark, hollow in areas when sounded with a mallet. Large dead fork. Vigorous regrowth following recent retrenchment pruning	Targeted reduction of thicker limbs with poor attachment unions in upper canopy promoting the smaller regrowth which should be retained. Inspection of main fork using climber to load the dead stem. Limit the use of the area beneath the tree by allowing wildflower to grow. This will also reduce compaction strain on the root system of the tree. Resistograph main stem to determine extent of decay	3	18
940	Sycamore	70	1	15	Mature	Good growth since 2020, cracking of raised planter , deadwood on mainstem over grass area	Remove deadwood over grass area	12	24
946	Ash	29	1	7	Young	Growing on edge of planter, significant decline in foliage in upper canopy, with low vigor	Fell and replace	12	
947	Ornamental Plum	45	1	4	Mature	Included unions with potential bark to bark contact, previously felled stem with significant decay in raised planter, lean towards old wall, previously reduced	Fell and replace	12	
948	Ornamental plum	40	1	7	Mature	Exposed and damage root system growing in raised planter, poor unions @ 2m with potential included bark, heavy lean towards EYFS area	Fell and replace	6	

N J Pacey Landscaping : DUTY OF CARE TREE SAFETY SURVEY							APPENDIX 3		
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Tree Number	**Species**	**DBH (cm)**	**No. Stems**	**Height (m.)**	**Age Class**	**Condition**	**Recommendations**	**Priority (months)**	**Next Inspection**
949	Yew	44	1	8	Mature	Low hanging branches	Crown raise to give 2.5m clearance of ground	12	18
950	Yew	52	1	10	mature	Low hanging branches, long extended laterals	Crown raise to give 2.5m clearance of ground and crown reduce by 30% to improve shape	12	18
951	Walnut	47	1		Semi mature	Low canopy	Crown raise to give 2.5m clearance	18	18
952	Apple	25cm estimated	1	5	Mature	Heavily ivy covered with very low vigour	Fell	3	
953	Apple	19	3	5	Semi mature	Decay at base and open cavity, cavities on main stem from old pruning wounds	Reduce to 2 meters to retain	6	12
954	Contorted willow		2	5	Sem mature	Heavy limb over playground	Remove heavy limb over playground	12	18
955	Oak	60	1	10	Semi mature	Minor deadwood, low canopy	Raise crown by lifting secondary branches beneath, crown clean	24	18
956	Contorted Willow	34	1	6	Young	Over path entering school with poor union from previous branch removal	Manage as a pollard at 2.5m	24	18
957	Silver Birch	14	1	7	Young	Growing out of base of wall, potential future damage to wall of walled garden	Fell	24	18

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958	Oak	92	1	15	Mature	Ganoderma FFB on stem @ ground level west. Previously reduced , major deadwood in upper canopy, good vigour large cavity on main stem east from previous branch failure. Good reactive growth. Limb heading west with what appears to be a large dead end with dead bark on the top of the limb	Remove major deadwood, Internal decay detection at base and report on findings, reduce limb heading east with dead bark by removing dead stub by approximately 1.5m to suitable growth point	12	18
959	Sycamore	32	1	10	Young	Forks at 3 meters fence starting to impede on main stem, low crown towards building	Crown raise to 4.5m to give more light to footpath and clear away from building	24	18
960	Silver Birch	47	1	14	Semi Mature	Ivy impeding visual inspection of main stem and forks	Cut Ivy and reinspect	3	6
Group	Yew x3 Holy x1	35 Est	4	8	Semi Mature	Low hanging branches over footpath with heavy weight school side	Crown raise to give 3.5m clearance of path	3	18