



ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANT

5th March 2014

Dear Chris Firth,

Tree – St Matthews Close, Holbeach

Thank you for asking me to look at the above tree and advise on its condition and management.

I inspected the tree on 26th February 2014.

The tree in question is a mature Norway maple, *Acer platanoides*, growing on an area of public amenity mown grass.

It is approx. 17m high, DBH 55cm.

The tree was effectively pollarded or 'topped' several years ago.

The crown appears to be in good health, with extension growth to be expected for a tree of this age and species evident. Overall the crown is sound and well balanced, although the shape suggests there have been neighbouring trees which have been removed.

There is a large cavity at 3m on the western side of the main stem, probably as a result of poor pruning 20+ years ago.

There are two areas of decay with open cavities on the butt. See attached photos and sketch. Some small brackets of decay fungi are present in the cavities. (possibly *Phellinus* sp.)

The current pockets of decay and the size of the cavities on the stem are not extensive enough to warrant condemning the tree. The majority of the stem wood is sound.

In addition the structure of the tree has been very well tested in the extreme weather of this winter.

As the tree is such a beautiful and significant feature of the close I would suggest that some remedial tree work is justified in order to safely retain the tree as a valuable natural asset.

I recommend a crown reduction of between 25 – 30%. See the attached photographs for detail of this work recommendation. The actual branches to be removed will have to be decided by the tree surgeon in the tree.

The work should be carried out by a competent and insured tree surgeon.

As with any tree there cannot be any guarantee that the tree will not fail in the event of exceptional conditions, e.g. a violent storm.

Do contact me again if you have any queries as a result of my visit or report.

Please find enclosed my invoice for the consultation and report.

Yours sincerely,

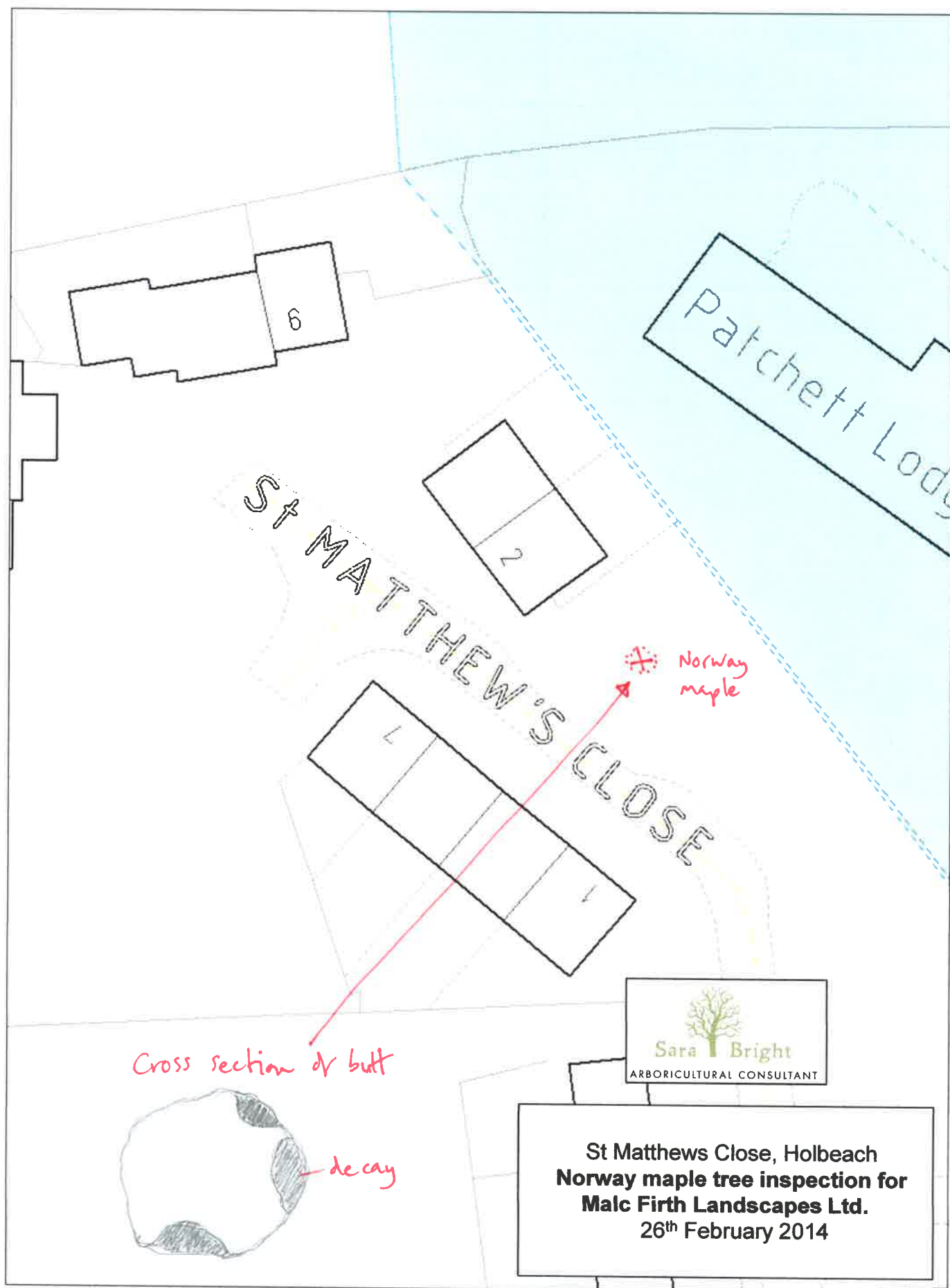
Sara Bright TechArborA

SARA BRIGHT

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

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Remove branches at
points (approx.)
indicated by red
arrows

Norway maple –
looking from the
road



Remove branches
at points (approx)
indicated
by red arrows



Norway maple –
looking from the
parking bay