

N J PACEY LANDSCAPING

Tree Safety Survey Report

**Small Saints Pre School
The Chase, Holbeach**

24th November 2020



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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **Instruction** – N J Pacey Landscaping has been instructed by Mr M Griffin from the Farmer Educational Foundation, to undertake a Tree Safety Survey of 1 number Copper Beech Tree within the grounds of Small Saints Pre School and provide recommendations for any action necessary to reduce risk to an acceptable level. This report has been requested as part of the Foundations 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 instructed to contact Mrs Jayne Britton to gain access and identify the tree.
- 1.4 **Scope of this report:** This report is only concerned with the condition of this one tree. There are other trees on site but these have not been assessed and are not included in the survey.

2 SITE INFORMATION

- 2.1 **Site visit:** Small Saints Pre School was visited on the 24th of November and the tree was inspected whilst in the presence of Mrs Jayne Britton.
- 2.2 **Brief site description:** The Pre School is set within the centre of Holbeach and has within its grounds some mature trees. To access the school you go through an archway from the High Street which leads down the Chase to the school.

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).

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.

5.1 OBSERVATIONS

Species: Copper Beech - *Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'*

Stems : 1

Crown Spread East: 14m

Crown Spread South: 11m

Crown Spread West: 11m

Crown Spread North: 14m

Diameter at 1.5m: 170cm

Height: 25m approximately

Condition: The tree has good, flared buttress at base. There is no signs of root plate movement.

We located fungal fruiting bodies of suspected ganoderma between the buttresses on both the north east and west sides of the stem.

The tree has very large limbs from where it forks at 4m. There are old pruning points through the canopy. FFB of *Polyporus squamosus*, commonly referred to as Dryad's Saddle on an old pruning wound at 5m West

Recent pruning wounds evident from cutting back from neighbour's property south.

Rubbing limb on branch heading South West towards neighbour's property causing significant concern.

Play area and play equipment beneath all the crown. The area is used heavily by the Pre School children.

Please consider Beech is also susceptible to summer branch drop which would be a concern with all the play equipment beneath the tree regardless of condition.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Having FFBs on both sides would indicate that the fungi has significant spread across the cross section of the main stem.

We recommend that the tree is felled and the stump removed.

Priority: 3 months





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