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TREE SURVEY - HEALTH & SAFETY

Proj. No **11207**	Old Dairy Cottage,19 Church End, Catworth, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 0PB
Client:	Ms Vanessa Girvan
Date of Report:	01/10/2024

Contact Details

Client – Vanessa Girvan			
Address Old Dairy Cottage 19 Church End Catworth Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE28 0PB	**Contact** Vanessa Girvan	**Tel:** **E-mail:**	[redacted]

Local Planning Authority – Huntingdonshire District Council			
Address Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN	**Tree Officer** [redacted]	**Tel:** **E-mail:**	[redacted]

Arboricultural Consultant – Hayden's Arboricultural Consultants Limited			
Address [redacted]	**Report Author:** [redacted]	**Tel:** **E-mail:**	[redacted]

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Terms of Reference

1.1.1 Hayden's Arboricultural Consultants Limited has been commissioned by Vanessa Girvan to prepare a Tree Survey for a single tree at Old Dairy Cottage,19 Church End, Catworth, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 0PB.

1.1.2 In accordance with instructions from Mrs Girvan, this report provides a detailed health and safety audit of the specified tree.

1.1.3 The site survey was carried out on the 25th September 2024. The relevant qualitative tree data was recorded in order to assess the condition of the existing tree, in relation to its environment and the risk it poses to persons and property in the immediate vicinity.

1.1.4 Information is given on condition, age, size and indicative positioning of the tree is in line with the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method as developed by Mattheck and Breloer (1994).

1.2 Scope of Works

1.2.1 The tree was inspected from ground level with no climbing inspection undertaken. No samples have been removed from the site for analysis. The survey does not cover the arrangements that may be required in connection with the removal of existing underground services.

1.2.2 Whilst this is an arboricultural report, comments relating to non arboricultural matters are given, such as built structures and soil data. Any opinion thus expressed should be viewed as provisional and confirmation from an appropriately qualified professional sought. Such points are clearly identified within the body of the report.

1.2.3 An intrinsic part of tree inspection is the assessment of risk associated with trees in close proximity to persons and property. Most human activities involve a degree of risk with such risks being commonly accepted, if the associated benefits are perceived to be commensurate. In general, risk relating to trees tends to increase with the age of the trees concerned, as do the benefits. It will be deemed to be accepted by the client that the formulation of the recommendations for all the management of the trees will be guided by the cost-benefit analysis (in terms of amenity), of the tree work that would remove all the risk of tree related damage.

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2.0 The Site

2.1 Site Description

2.1.1 The site is Old Dairy Cottage, 19 Church End, Catworth, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. It is a detached dwelling located on the northeastern side of Church End, and the tree in question is located in the rear garden. This is the second occasion in which Hayden's Arboricultural Consultants have visited the site to review the tree, the previous occasion being on 29th July 2020.

2.2 Soils

2.2.1 The soils type commonly associated with this site are lime rich loams and clays with impeded drainage. They are of high fertility and support base-rich pastures, and classic 'chalky boulder clay' ancient woodland type habitats. This soil type constitutes approximately 5.3% the total English land mass.

2.2.2 The data given was obtained from a desk top study which provides indications of likely soil types. By definition, this information is not comprehensive and therefore any decisions taken with regards the management, usage or construction on site should be based on a detailed soil analysis.

2.2.3 Further to item 2.2.2, this report provides no information on soil shrinkability. It may be necessary for practitioners in other disciplines (e.g. engineers considering foundation design) to obtain this data as required.

2.3 Statutory Tree Protection

2.3.1 Tree Preservation Order

The local planning authority Huntingdonshire District Council have deemed it appropriate to provide statutory protection to trees on this site through the serving of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), Ref no TPO 13.94. The effect of this on the owners, managers or any persons wishing to undertake work on preserved trees is to require them to obtain written permission from Huntingdonshire District Council prior to actioning any surgery or felling etc. The purpose of this process is to try to ensure that the works are appropriate, proportionate, and in keeping with the long-term aims of the TPO (as expressed in the original TPO statement) but, given that trees are living organisms, and the locality within which they are set is liable to change, it is often the case that local planning authority decisions relating to TPO applications require regular review to reflect the current situation rather than the historical perspective of the original date of protection.

There are certain circumstances where written permission from the local planning authority may not be necessary before undertaking works. These include;

- Making a tree safe if it is an imminent threat to people or property.
- Removing dead wood, or a dead tree.

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Owners, managers or any persons wishing to undertake work as an exemption to the written permission process **are required** to provide the local planning authority with 5 days' notice prior to attending to a tree which they deem as being dead or dangerous; unless such works are required in an emergency. It is the tree owner's responsibility to provide proof that the tree was indeed dead or dangerous should this exception be challenged; hence, it is advisable always to request an inspection by the Local Planning Authority prior to carrying out such operations.

Furthermore, and even in the event of an emergency situation, there is still a duty to notify the local planning authority that work has been completed including supplying an explanation of the necessity. Failure to comply with the requirements of TPO legislation can lead to a maximum fine of up to £20,000 per tree in the Magistrates Court. Fines in the Crown Court are unlimited.

3.0 Tree Survey

3.1 One tree has been surveyed as directed by Mrs Girvan. This has been designated as T001 within this report and is located as shown on the attached drawing 11207-D-TS (this nomenclature is consistent with the original report dated 10th August 2020).

3.2 **T001 - Assessment**

3.2.1 T001 is an early mature specimen of walnut (Juglans regia). It is located within the rear garden slightly towards the northwestern boundary with the neighbouring property. The emergence point is 9.3 metres from the house at the nearest point.

3.2.2 At the time of the 2020 assessment, the tree had a stem diameter (DBH) of 690 mm and an average crown spread of 6 metre radius. The full height of the tree was approximately 11 metres, and the crown base (distance between ground level and the lowest branch) was 2 metres.

3.2.3 A recommendation for tree surgery was made in the 2020 assessment to reduce the crown laterally by 2 metres in all directions, reduce the height by of the tree by 1 metre, and crown lift the canopy to 3 metres. This work was approved by Huntingdonshire District Council as part of a routine Tree Preservation Order application and completed shortly thereafter by tree surgeons acting under the direction of Mrs Girvan.

3.2.4 As a result of the tree surgery and subsequent responsive growth, the tree now has a DBH of 700 mm, an average crown spread of 5.5 metres radius, whilst the total height has regained to approximately 11 metres. The crown base is now 2.5 metres.

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3.2.5 When T001 was viewed in the summer of 2020 it was showing clear signs of dieback and declining vigour. The tree surgery recommended (and subsequently carried out as specified at item 3.2.3) was proposed for three reasons:

(i) to create a more compact form that did not dominate and overbear the garden,

(ii) to ensure structural damage did not occur to the dwelling given the clay soil type identified at item 2.2.1 above,

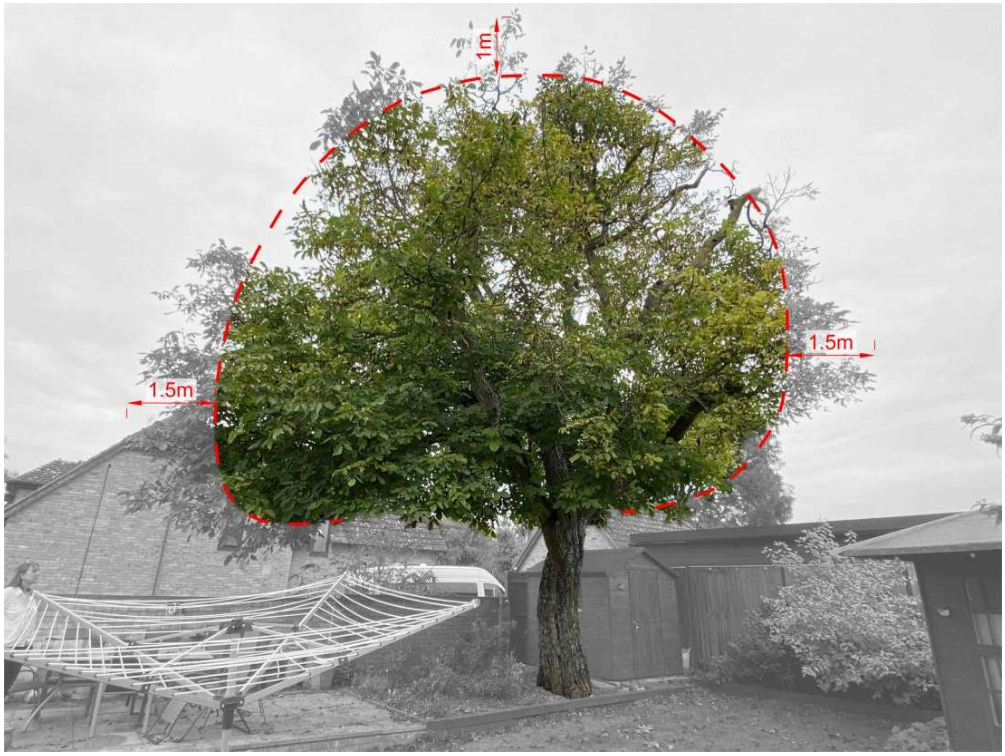
(iii) to attempt to reinvigorate the canopy.

As a result of the completion of the works, which in fact were a repetition of a lapsed previous maintenance regime (as informed by the form of the tree and old pruning wounds – both visible in 2020), the vigour, and by extension, the health of the tree has improved. Time will tell if this will be a consistent trend of improvement.

3.2.6 Given the welcome recovery growth of the tree, but in recognition of the confined location, a slight variation of the previously completed tree surgery is now recommended at item 3.3 below.

3.3 **T001 – Work Recommendations**

3.3.1 It is recommended that T001 be laterally reduced by 1.5 metres on all aspects of the crown to create a more compact form that does not dominate and overbear the garden, but instead provides an attractive feature in balance with its surroundings. The height should be reduced by 1 metre to provide a more complementary shape and the remaining crown (i.e. after the reduction operation has been completed) should be lifted to 3 metres so as to allow unimpeded passage in the garden and create a sense of space below the canopy.



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3.3.2 There is no urgency to complete the above works from a health and safety perspective, though realistically they should be completed within 12 months of the date of this report so that that the reasoning's remain valid. Walnut trees are susceptible to both bleed and frost damage. Therefore, the ideal period to complete this work is September and October, when the sap pressure is falling, but the wounds less likely to be affected by severe cold.

3.3.3 Provided that the condition of the tree does not notably alter from that observed at the time of inspection the above reductive surgery should be undertaken on an approximately 5 yearly cycle. The most recently completed work has created a datum point for the specification detailed at item 3.31 to be cut back to. It should be noted that the crown lifting operation may be required on a more frequent basis as the tolerance margin is smaller, but neither of these regimes should be considered a matter of concern to the local planning authority (given the TPO status of T001).

4.0 Tree Works

4.1 All tree works should be carried out in line with British Standard 3998:2010 – "British Standard Recommendations for Tree Works".

4.2 As T001 is covered by a TPO as detailed at item 2.3 (and other than for specified exceptions) no intervention will take place until written permission has been obtained from the relevant authority.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 Given all of the above it is considered that T001 is an attractive visual amenity which provides a variety of benefits including individual aesthetic quality, screening and wildlife habitat. It is located within a domestic garden and therefore has the potential to cause a serious incident if it suffers sudden or catastrophic structural failure. No such failure is predicted at present, but T001 does require regular maintenance to ensure it is not problematical in its setting, overbearing, or liable to cause structural damage.

5.2 The works proposed have been identified to mitigate the concerns and issues raised in this report and have been specifically prepared to provide a foundation for regular future maintenance.

5.3 The tree surgery works proposed as part of the Survey are recommended to mitigate any identified health and safety problems, to promote longevity in retained trees, and to consider long-term landscaping implications. To this end, should these recommendations be overruled, this Survey stands as the opinion of Hayden's Arboricultural Consultants Limited and therefore any damage or injury caused by trees recommended by this practice for felling or tree surgery works, to which the proposed schedule of works has been altered or the tree has been requested to be retained by the Local Planning Authority, cannot be the responsibility of this practice.

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6.0 Limitations & Qualifications

Tree inspection reports are subject to the following limitations and qualifications.

General exclusions

Unless specifically mentioned, the report will only be concerned with above ground inspections. No below ground inspections will be carried out without the prior confirmation from the client that such works should be undertaken.

The validity, accuracy and findings of this report will be directly related to the accuracy of the information made available prior to and during its production. No checking of independent third-party data will be undertaken. Hayden's Arboricultural Consultants Limited will not be responsible for the recommendations within this report where essential data is not made available or is inaccurate.

This report will remain valid for one year from the date of inspection subject to the recommendations specified within being adhered to. It must also be appreciated that recommendations proposed within this report may be superseded by extreme weather, or any other unreasonably foreseeable events.

However, if any additional alterations to the property or soil levels are carried out and/or further tree works undertaken other than specified within the report, it will become invalid and a new tree inspection strongly recommended.

It will be appreciated, and deemed to be accepted by the client and their insurers, that the formulation of the recommendations for the management of trees will be guided by the following: -

1. The need to avoid reasonably foreseeable damage.
2. The arboricultural considerations - tree safety, good arboricultural practice (tree work) and aesthetics.

The client and their insurers are deemed to have accepted the limitations placed on the recommendations by the sources quoted in this report. Where sources are limited by time constraints or the client, this may lead to an incomplete quantification of the risk.

Signed:



September 2024……..
For and on Behalf of Hayden's Arboricultural Consultants Limited

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7.0 References

British Standards Institute. (2010). *Recommendations for Tree Work BS 3998:2010* BSI, London.

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. (2014). *Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas.* London: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

Mattheck & Breloer H. (1994). *Research for Amenity Trees No.4: The Body Language of Trees*, HMSO, London.

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8.0 Appendices

Appendix	**A**	Schedule of Trees
Appendix	**B**	Schedule of Works
Appendix	**C**	Explanatory Notes
Appendix	**D**	Advisory Information
	1.	European Protected Species and Woodland Operations Checklist (v.4)
Appendix	**E**	Drawing No 11207-D-TS

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Appendix A

Schedule of Trees

TREE SCHEDULE H&S Old Dairy Cottage, 19 Church End, Catworth, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire Surveyed By [redacted] Date: 25/09/2024
Managed By

TreeNo	Species	DBH	Height	Age	Crown Spread	Problems / Comments	Work Required	Priority
		On site	Crown Base	SULE				
T001	Walnut	700	11	EM	N5.5, E5.0, S5.5, W6.0	September 2024 Reinspection in September 2024 shows that the specimen has responded well to previous surgery with notably improved vigour and good quality leaf cover. The previous reductive work included the removal of upper canopy dieback, and the progression of this has now greatly reduced, thus showing further evidence of increased vitality. Approved reductive work completed in 2020 requires repetition to ensure appropriate scale within the garden, but to a slightly lesser extent. July 2020 Early mature specimen that has previously been reduced, presumably to ensure appropriate scale within the garden. Operation requires repetition owing to lateral dominance and low branching. Some notable upper canopy dieback.	Reduce crown laterally by 1.5 metres in all directions and reduce height by 1 metre. Crown lift to 3 metres remaining canopy.	3
		Yes	2.5	10+ years				

Appendix B

Schedule of Works

SCHEDULE OF WORK

Old Dairy Cottage, 19 Church End, Catworth, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

Surveyed By [redacted]
Surveyed: 25/09/2024
Managed By: [redacted]

Tree No.	Species	Work required	Priority
T001	Walnut	Reduce crown laterally by 1.5 metres in all directions and reduce height by 1 metre. Crown lift to 3 metres remaining canopy.	**3**

Appendix C

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

Categories

Below is an explanation of the categories used in the attached Tree Survey.

No Identifies the tree on the drawing.

Species Common names are given to aid understanding for the wider audience.

DBH (mm) Diameter of main stem in millimetres at 1.5 metres from ground level. Where the tree is a multi-stem, the diameter is calculated in accordance with item 4.6.1 of BS 5837:2012.

Age Recorded as one of seven categories:

Y Young. Recently planted or establishing tree that could be transplanted without specialist equipment, i.e. less than 150 mm DBH.

S/M Semi-mature. An established tree, but one which has not reached its prospective ultimate height.

E/M Early-mature. A tree that is reaching its ultimate potential height, whose growth rate is slowing down but if healthy, will still increase in stem diameter and crown spread.

M Mature. A mature specimen with limited potential for any significant increase in size, even if healthy.

O/M Over-mature. A senescent or moribund specimen with a limited safe useful life expectancy. Possibly also containing sufficient structural defects with attendant safety and/or duty of care implications.

D Dead.

Height Recorded in metres, measured from the base of the tree.

Crown Base Recorded in metres, the distance from ground and aspect of the lowest branch material.

Lowest Branch Recorded in metres, the distance from ground and aspect of the emergence point of the lowest significant branch.

Life Expectancy Relates to the prospective life expectancy of the tree and is given as 4 categories:

40 years+;

20 years+;

10 years+;

less than 10 years.

Crown Spread Indicates the radius of the crown from the base of the tree, recorded in metres, in each of the northern, eastern, southern and western aspects.

Water Demand This gives the water demand of the species of tree when mature, as given in the NHBC Standards Chapter 4.2 “Building Near Trees”.

Visual Amenity

Concerns the planning and landscape contribution to the development site made by the tree, hedge or tree group, in terms of its amenity value and prominence on the skyline along with functional criteria such as the screening value, shelter provision and wildlife significance. The usual definitions are as follows:

Low	An inconsequential landscape feature.
Moderate	Of some note within the immediate vicinity, but not significant in the wider context.
High	Item of high visual importance.

Problems/ Comments

May include general comments about growth characteristic, how it is affected by other trees and any previous surgery work; also, specific problems such as deadwood, pests, diseases, broken limbs, etc.

Work Required (TS)

Identifies the necessary tree work to mitigate anticipated problems and deal with existing problems identified in the “Problems/comments” category.

Priority

This gives a priority rating to each tree allowing the client to prioritise necessary tree works identified within the Tree Survey.

1 Urgent – works required immediately;

2 Works required within 6 months;

3 Works required within 1 year;

4 Re-inspect in 12 months,

Terms and Definitions

Arboriculturalist	Person who has, through relevant education, training and experience, gained expertise in the field of trees in relation to construction.
Competent Person	Person who has training and experience relevant to the matter being addressed and an understanding of the requirements of the particular task being approached. *NOTE - a competent person is expected to be able to advise on the best means by which the recommendations of this British Standard may be implemented.*
Services	Any above or below ground structure or apparatus required for utility provision. **NOTE -** examples include drainage, gas supplies, ground source heat pumps, CCTV and satellite communications.
Stem	Principal above ground structural component(s) of a tree that supports its branches.
Structure	Manufactured object, such as a building, carriageway, path, wall, service run, and built or excavated earthwork.
Veteran Tree	Tree that, by recognized criteria, shows features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of, but not exclusive to, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species concerned. **NOTE -** these characteristics might typically include a large girth, signs of crown retrenchment and hollowing of the stem.

Appendix D

Advisory Information

1.

European Protected Species and woodland operations. (V4)

Complete all sections of the Checklist

✔

Checklist

1 **Are you within, or close to, the known mapped range of any of the protected species OTHER THAN BATS which are potentially everywhere? Tick any that apply.**
See distribution maps in the Good Practice Guidance for each species -

- ☐ Dormice
- ☐ Otters
- ☐ Great crested newts
- ☐ Sand lizards
- ☐ Smooth snakes

YES / NO

2 **Does your wood contain any of the following habitats? Tick any that apply.**

- ☐ Old trees with holes and crevices which might be used bats
- ☐ Species rich scrub/coppice, early growth stage plantations and forest interfaces
- ☐ Rivers on which otters might be found
- ☐ Ponds which might be occupied by great crested newts
- ☐ Open areas on heathy soils

YES / NO

3 **Have any of the protected species been recorded in this wood or on adjoining sites? Tick any that apply.**
Indicate which sources of information you have checked:

- ☐ National Biodiversity Network (www.nbn.org.uk)
- ☐ Local Biological Records Centre
- ☐ Local Wildlife Trust
- ☐ Other

Specify Other:

YES / NO

4 **Have your inspections or any expert surveys found any of the following signs or evidence? Tick any that apply.**

- ☐ Signs (e.g. otter spraint, nuts gnawed by dormice, leaves folded by newts)
- ☐ Sightings (or echo-location)
- ☐ Potential breeding or roosting sites (e.g. veteran trees, old trees with crevices, riverside hollow trees, ponds, timber stacks, large fallen deadwood)
- ☐ Confirmed breeding or roosting sites (i.e. evidence of sites actually being used)

Details:

YES / NO

CHECK POINT

If you have answered NO to ALL of the above then only bats need to be considered in your operations.

If you have answered YES to any of the above then the species concerned must be considered as well as bats.

5 **Do the operations comply with Good Practice for bats and any other species found (or likely to be found in your wood) or can the operations be modified to do so?**
Details: Use reverse of form to expand as required:

YES / NO

6 **Whether or not a licence is required...**
Has the information been communicated to operators (including the location of breeding sites and sensitive areas)? Tick any that apply.

- ☐ Included in documentation (e.g. contract, letter of instruction, site assessment or other management plan)
- ☐ Shown to operators and/or their supervisor
- ☐ Marked with paint or hazard tape
- ☐ Shown on the site plan

Other means:

YES / NO

7 **Have arrangements for supervision been made to ensure Good Practice guidance is complied with during the operations?**
Details:

YES / NO

Details

Name of Wood:

Grid Reference: ☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐☐

Area: (ha) ☐☐☐☐.☐☐

Date of Assessment: ☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Name of Assessor:

Notes

A licence is not required but continue to sections 6 and 7 below

You will need to obtain a licence BEFORE carrying out the work (see EPS Licence Application Forms and Notes)

You may commit an offence if you do not tell your operators about the protected species in your wood.

You may commit an offence if you do not take steps to ensure that your operators comply with the Good Practice guidance.

Appendix E

Hayden’s Drawing

- Arboricultural Impact Assessments
- Arboricultural Method Statements
- Tree Constraints Plans
- Arboricultural Feasibility Studies
- Shade Analysis
- Picus Tomography
- Arboricultural Consultancy for Local Planning Authority
- Quantified Tree Risk Assessment
- Health & Safety Audits for Tree Stocks
- Tree Stock Survey and Management
- Mortgage and Insurance Reports
- Subsidence Reports
- Woodland Management Plans
- Project Management
- Ecological Surveys

