# RESULTS OF AERIAL INSPECTION

*Prepared by [redacted], Tech Cert (Arbor.A), Lantra Professional Tree Inspection Cert*
*Report dated 18 September 2024*

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SITE: ST GILES CHURCH, CHURCH STREET, HOLME PE7 3PB

CLIENT: HOLME PARISH COUNCIL

Carried out on 2 September 2024

*Acacia Tree Surgery, 63 Winfold Road, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB25 9PR*
*Tel: 01223 861698 ◦ E: info@acaciatreesurgery.co.uk*

*Company Registration No. 5914289 ° VAT Registration No. 385 9870 83*

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## Attached Appendices

1a – Tree Survey
1b – Survey Map

## 1 Instructions

1.1 We were instructed by [redacted], Parish Clerk to carry out aerial inspections and condition and hazard assessments of 2 Sycamores and 1 Lime within the grounds of St Giles Church as per our emailed quotation dated 29 May 2024.

1.2 These inspections are based on both aerial and ground level visual assessments to assess their physiological and structural condition in order to recommend both remedial works and future management to maintain the tree stock in a safe and healthy condition, as far as is reasonably practical and in accordance with your Duty of Care as the tree owner.

1.3 The inspections were carried out on 2 September 2024.

1.4 We gave included a "Work Undertaken" column in which to record progress of works, as well as an audit measure for future management.

## 2 Report Limitations

2.1 Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly. Assessment of their health, condition and subsequent safety should be checked on a regular basis with subsequent formal inspections every three years.

2.2 Our recommendations are valid for the periods denoted under the Priority column, however, these only remain valid if there are no changes in conditions (for example, construction or alteration of buildings in proximity, change in water levels, or changes in immediate surface or surround).

2.3 There is no guarantee for 100% safety of any tree, even following remedial and / or management work, due to the laws, forces and phenomenon of nature. Our recommendations will limit the possibility of whole or part failure in normal climatic conditions. However, severe weather extremes cannot be predicted and work specified to eliminate all eventualities would be impossible. Therefore, trees should be re-inspected after high winds or other weather extremes.

2.4 Statutory Protection: The Local Authority for this area is Huntingdonshire District Council. The trees are protected under TPO L/TPO/296 and any works require an application as detailed in The Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This is an 8-week process from receipt of notification.

2.5 Our recommendations are based on the sites as existing at the time of the inspection. Any future activity that causes alteration could void our recommendations, without prior consultation.

## 3 Methods of Assessment

3.1 Recommendations are based on Mr Freed's experience and qualification as an Arboriculturist of 39 years

3.2 We have not taken soil or root samples for analysis, neither have we carried out any soil testing. In the absence of any information advising of the structural integrity of the residences or drainage systems, we have assumed that both are in good condition. Advice concerting the structural condition of the property would require a structural engineers report.

## 4 Key to Survey Information

4.1 Tree species have been recorded in the common name within the survey schedule for ease of interpretation.

4.2 Each tree has been plotted onto individual site plans, denoted with an I.D. number which corresponds to the survey schedules within this report. Where it is appropriate, we have grouped trees, although within the groups each individual tree will have been inspected.

4.3 Approximate definitions for the "**Age Classes**" in a normal life span are:

**Young (Y):** trees in first 1/3 of typical life expectancy for species

**Semi-mature (SM):** trees in 2/3 of typical life expectancy for species

**Mature (M):** trees of 2/3 and over of typical life expectancy for species

4.4 General definitions of "**Condition Categories**" are:

**Good (G):** a tree with minimal or no structural or physiological defects. Typical foliage density, colour and size, and good structural form with no decay, damage or fungal activity present

**Fair (F):** a tree with minor to moderate structural defects or physiological issues, but not of significant contribution to overall health and safety of the tree, but which may warrant monitoring on a more regular basis than standard recommendation for assessment

**Poor (P):** a tree with structural defects or physiological issues which severely compromise the stability, health and safety of the tree

4.5 Where either a structural or physiological defect within a tree warrants an earlier inspection than the next full survey date in order to assess potential deterioration in either structural form or physiological condition **("Enhanced Monitoring, DN")**, this will be noted under recommendations under an advised timeframe and denoted under the Priority column with "DN".

4.6 **"No significant defects"** (under the Findings column) refers to both the absence of structural or physiological defects of any concern.

4.7 The definition of deadwood sizes are as follows:

MINOR: diameter of up to 25mm

MODERATE: diameter of 25mm to 50mm

MAJOR: diameter of 50mm and above

4.8 **"Priority":** this is an indication of recommended timescales for remedial works. For this brief, the timescale reflects an assessment of the structural or physiological hazard (*potential to cause harm*) measured against the risk (*potential consequence in the event of failure*), based on the location of the tree in relation to people and property.

**A** Remedial work to be implemented within 6 months of receipt of report, unless earlier time stated specifically

**B** Remedial work to be implement from 6 to 12 months

**C** Remedial work to be implements from 12 months onwards to next survey date

4.9 **"Target Area"** ~ the work recommendations are commensurate with harm to persons or property in the event of whole or part failure.

**High:** an area with high public usage, either pedestrian or vehicular with high potential of harm or damage

**Medium:** an area with medium public usage, either pedestrian or vehicular with medium potential of harm or damage

**Low:** an area with low public usage and minimal potential for harm

## 5 GENERAL

5.1 **Sooty Bark Disease *'Cryptostroma corticale'*** ~ this infection is becoming very prevalent with the country's Sycamores. The fungus can lay latent for many years causing no symptoms, but then exacerbated by long spells of dry hot weather as experienced during 2022 and 2023, it will spread quickly with fast decline in host trees indicative by the sooty coloured bark patches as well as wilting / browning foliage. Unfortunately, there are no control measures, other than to remove the infected trees to prevent the spores spreading. As the extent of decline can be fast, it is important to remove the trees soon after diagnosis before they become too unstable to climb. Where Sooty Bark Disease is only suspected, it is important to inspect the tree annually in late Spring and then again towards end of Summer.

**5.2 Overhead power lines** ~ the crowns of all three trees are within overhead power lines. Therefore, before any works can take place, UKPN should be advised so they can carry out site inspection and advise of precautionary measures of either a shutdown or supervision to ensure safe working within proximity to their lines. They can be contacted online or on 0800 029 4285.

**5.3** All work should be carried out to the standards recommended by *BSI 3998:2010 Recommendations for Tree Work* by skilled arborists with a minimum of £5,000,000 Public Liability Insurance cover. Timing of works should take account of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act* and the *Bat Protection Act* to avoid disturbance of nesting birds and bat habitat, unless deemed of an urgent nature. In the cases of possible bat habitat, advice should be sought from an Ecologist, although Mr Freed did not see any potential signs of bat activity.

## 6 References

- BSI 3998:2012 Recommendations for Tree Work
- BSI 5737:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction
- Diagnosis of Ill-health in Trees, RG Strouts and TG Winter
- Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management, David Lonsdale
- Manual of Wood Decays, K Weber and C Mattheck
- SULE (Safety Useful Life Expectancy), Jeremy Barrell 1993

Professional liability cover effected for £1,000,000 indemnity
Custodian ~ Policy No. 165509

**Please refer to the attached appendices:**
1a – Tree Survey
1b – Survey Map

APPENDIX 1a

**Acacia Tree Surgery Ltd**

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## Aerial inspections at St Giles Church, Holme

**CLIENT: Holme Parish Council**

**Date of Survey:** 2 September 2024

**Key**

**Age:** **Y** – Young, **SM** – Semi mature **M** – Mature

**Priority:** **A** – within 6 months, **B** – from 6 to 12 months, **C** – from 12 to 24 months **DN** – diary note

**Target Area:** **H** – high, **M** – medium, **L** - low

| Tree I.D. | Species | Age | Height *(in ms)* | Cond | Observations | Recommendations | Target Area | Priority | Budgetary Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T8 | LIME | M | 20 | F | Twin stem from 2.5ms. Moderate deadwood throughout crown. Cavity on west side but is superficial of minimal significance. Previously braced to support twin stem union using 2 ton system. Low crown over road. | Remove deadwood;<br>Replace 2 ton bracing with 8ms length of 4 ton bracing to ensure efficacy of support;<br>Raise limbs over road to 5ms to ensure vehicular clearance; | H | B | £ 850.00 |
| T9 | SYCAMORE | M | 14 | F | Twin stem. Decay in main stem west side which overhangs road with bark damage. Leaves are small and foliage density sparse, which is indicative of Sooty Bark Disease ~ see note 5.1. Decay throughout crown in old pruning wounds resulting from previous Utility Company facilitation pruning; Decay on east stem at 3.5ms but is superficial. Moderate deadwood throughout crown. | Reduce crown height by 4 to 4.5ms and reduce laterals all round by 2 to 2.5ms to alleviate overall weight on decayed twin stems; remove deadwood from remaining crown;<br><br>Inspect SUMMER 2025 to assess presence of Sooty Bark Disease. | H | B<br><br>DN | £1,000.00 |

APPENDIX 1a

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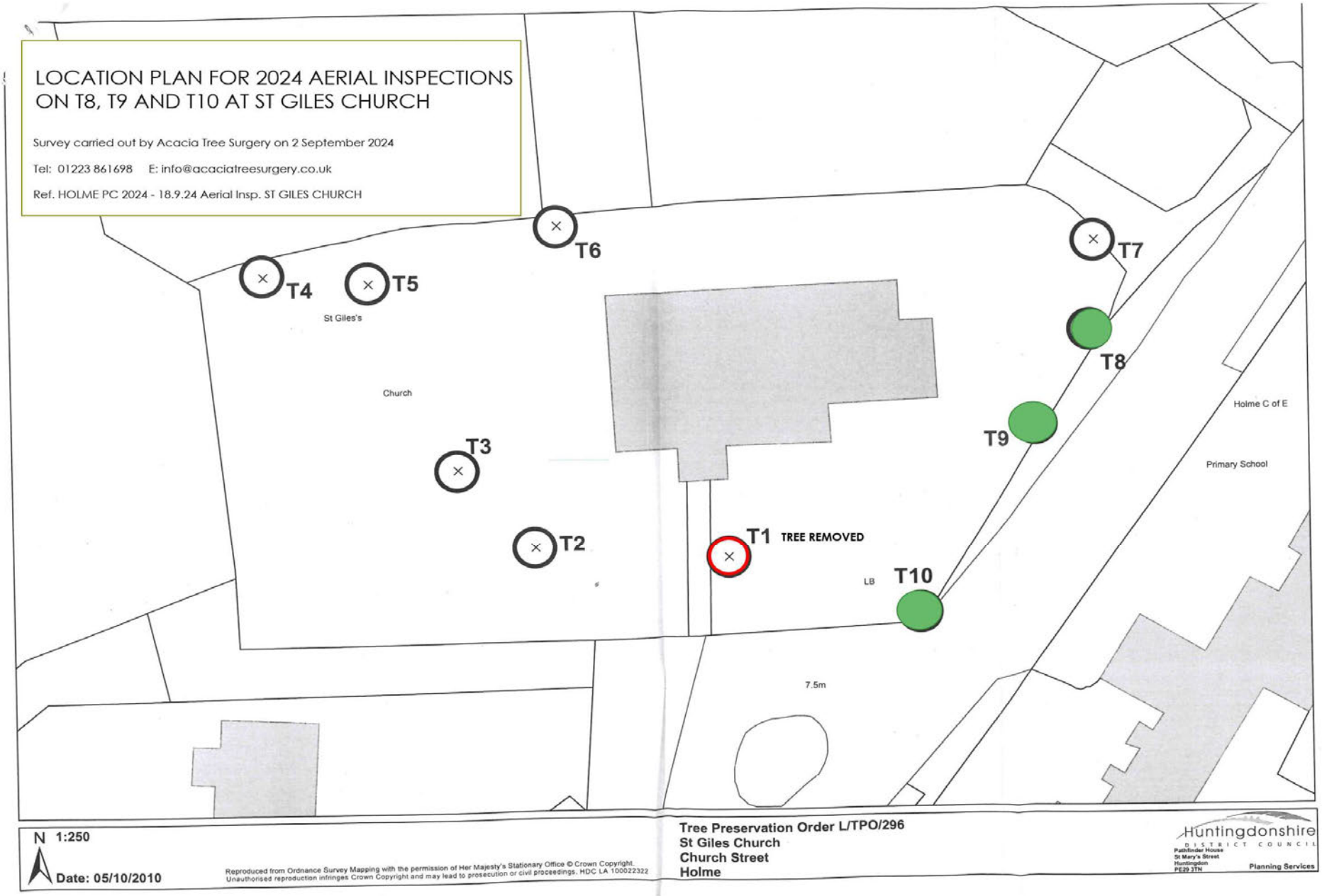
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**Target Area:** **H** – high, **M** – medium, **L** - low

| Tree I.D. | Species | Age | Height *(in ms)* | Cond | Observations | Recommendations | Target Area | Priority | Budgetary Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T10 | SYCAMORE | M | 14 | F | Leaf size and colour normal for species. Decay cavity at 2.5ms extending 1m down into main stem, but reaction growth (callousing) is forming all around. Decay cavity north at 3.5ms but is superficial. Low crown over path and road. | Raise crown 5ms all round to ensure vehicular and pedestrian clearance. No further work required at present. | H | B | £250.00 |


LOCATION PLAN FOR 2024 AERIAL INSPECTIONS ON T8, T9 AND T10 AT ST GILES CHURCH
Survey carried out by Acacia Tree Surgery on 2 September 2024
Tel: 01223 861698 E: info@acaciatreesurgery.co.uk
Ref. HOLME PC 2024 - 18.9.24 Aerial Insp. ST GILES CHURCH
T6
T7
T4
T5
St Giles's
Church
T8
T9
Holme C of E
Primary School
T3
T2
T1
TREE REMOVED
LB
T10
7.5m
N
1:250
Date: 05/10/2010
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Tree Preservation Order L/TPO/296
St Giles Church
Church Street
Holme
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DISTRICT COUNCIL
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PE29 3TN
Planning Services

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