



By Appointment to
Her Majesty The Queen
Landscape Maintenance Contractor
Gavin Jones Ltd
Surrey



Part of the Nurture Landscapes Group

Single Tree Report

Kingsmere Estate, Vendee Drive, Bicester

Prepared for:
Countryside Properties

Gavin Jones Ref: MT18-130a/RF/Vendee Drive, Bicester

Plan prepared by:

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Site inspection undertaken: 8th March 2018

Report prepared: 30th May 2018



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1. Introduction

Gavin Jones was commissioned to carry out a single tree report on behalf of Countryside Properties on a *Fraxinus excelsior* (common ash) adjacent to a public footpath off Vendee Drive, Bicester. The inspection was completed by Richard Forrow on behalf Gavin Jones Ltd in relation to tree health and management recommendations, safety to the general public, and outlining any proposed remedial works. The site visit was carried out on 8th March 2018 with the inspection of the tree being carried out from ground level only.

2. The Site

2.1 Description of the site

Kingsmere Estate is a large new housing development in Bicester, close to the outlet centre Bicester Village. The overall condition of the site is pleasant and well managed.

2.2 Weather conditions

The weather conditions during the visit date were clear and sunny.

3. The Tree

3.1 Unless expressed otherwise 1) information contained within this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the times of inspection; and 2) the inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible items. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the plant or property in question may not arise in the future.

3.2 Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly, the health, condition, and safety of trees should be checked on a regular basis, preferably at least once in an 18 month period. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are only valid for a period of 18 months from the date of this report. This period of validity may be reduced in the case of any change in conditions to or in proximity to the tree.

3.3 The tree has been assessed from ground level. All information was collected by carrying out a Visual Tree Assessment (VTA).

3.4 Tree Location

The tree is located to the south of Vendee Drive and north of public footpath (Figure 1).

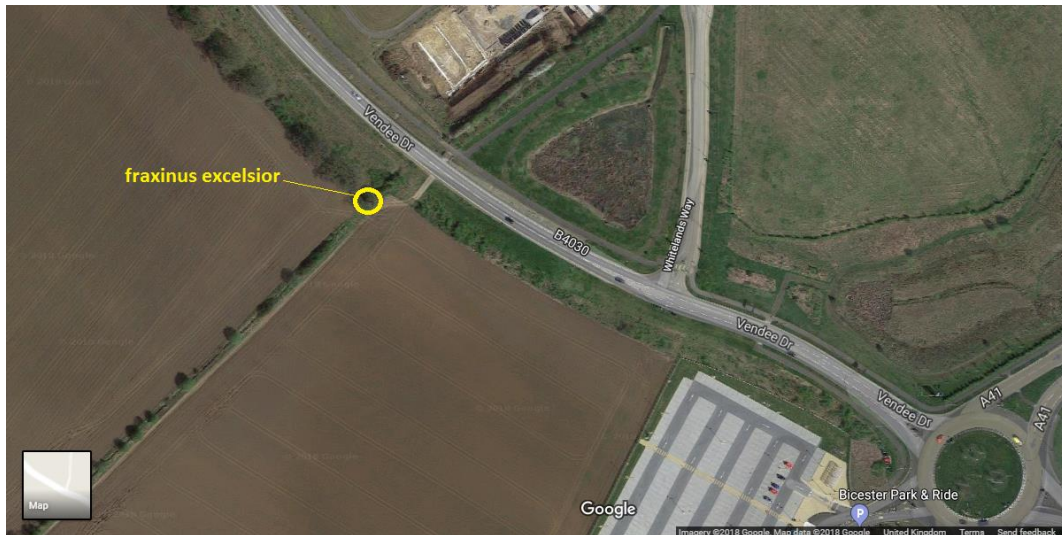




Figure 1. Location of the inspected tree.

3.5 Tree Surveyed

One common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) was inspected. The south side of the tree overhangs a public footpath. The tree height is 12m, stem diameter is 1200mm and radial crown spread to south is 6m. The overall structural condition and vitality of the tree is poor (Figure 2).

A large cavity with extensive decay was found at the base facing south. The cavity entrance is approximately 300mm width, 300mm height, and the depth is at least 400mm to the centre of the stem (Figure 3). Above the cavity, there is a large bark wound with visible decay to at least 1m above the cavity entrance (Figure 4). There is a large amount of dead wood, including large limbs of approx. 300mm diameter and overall the tree is approximately 40% dead, mostly to the north-east side. Two bat boxes are installed in the tree, both of them were inspected on 14th May 2018 using an endoscope, and signs of use were not found.

Photograph	Description
	<p>Figure 2: Location and overall condition of the ash tree.</p>
	<p>Figure 3 (left). Cavity with extensive decay.</p> <p>Figure 4 (right). Bark wound with decay.</p>

3.6 Work Recommendations

Due to health and safety, it is advised that the tree should be removed to ground level within 3 months from the date of inspection.

4. Other Supporting Information

4.1 Insurance Details

Gavin Jones Limited holds professional indemnity insurance for £10,000,000, public and products liability to a value of £25,000,000.

4.5 Qualification, experience and professional membership: Richard Forrow

Richard holds a BTEC Level 3 National Award in Forestry and Arboriculture and has completed the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection course. Richard has gained valuable experience across a range of arboriculture, forestry and tree management during his 10 year career within the industry.

5. References Material

A companion to British Arboriculture 2016 <http://www.treeterms.co.uk/>

Johnson, O. & More, D. (2006). Tree Guide. Harper Collins Publishers

Mattheck, C. (2007). Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment. Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH.

Royal Horticultural Society 2016 www.rhs.org.uk

London Bridge City 2018 <https://londonbridgecity.co.uk>

Slater, Dr D. (2016). Assessment of Tree Forks Course Notes– Assessment of Junctions for Risk Management. Arboricultural Association.

Watson, G. (2013). Tree Pest and Diseases, an Arborist's Field Guide. Arboricultural Association.

Watson, G. & Green, T. (2011). Fungi on Trees, an Arborist's Field Guide. Arboricultural Association.

6. Revision & Review Record

Revision details

Rev	Date	Amendment	Creator	Checked
01	30/05/2018	Proof read	RF	MDA

7. Disclaimers

- 7.1 This tree condition survey has been undertaken by visual inspection from ground level at Vendee Drive, Bicester in order to individually assess one tree adjacent to a public footpath, under the jurisdiction of Countryside Properties. These are purely visual assessments of these trees.
- 7.2 No technical survey equipment was utilised, in order to carry out the assessments except a diameter tape, hypsometer, mallet and probe. The same methodology was applied to all the trees (i.e. an assessment was made starting at the base of each tree and moving up the stem into the crown, along with an assessment of the canopy being made via viewing the tree at distance and from underneath the canopy).
- 7.3 All assessments were carried out from ground level. Decay detection tests have not been undertaken as this fell outside the scope of this report.
- 7.4 This report, based on the survey, contains a suggested timescale for remedial works to be undertaken from the date of the survey at Vendee Drive, Bicester. In the expert opinion of the author these times scales should be adhered to.
- 7.5 Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, the surveyor can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.
- 7.6 This report is for the sole use of the above named client and refers to only those trees identified within; alteration or use by any other(s) in attempting to apply its contents for any other purpose renders the report null and void.

- 7.7 Any legal description provided to the consultant is assumed to be correct. Any titles and ownership to any property are assumed to be good and marketable. No responsibility is assumed in character.
- 7.8 Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any purpose by any other person to whom it is addressed, without prior expressed written or verbal consent of the consultant.
- 7.9 The local planning authority (LPA) have not been contacted to determine whether any Tree Preservation Order (TPO) covers the tree, nor to determine if the site is a Conservation Area. Before undertaking any work to the tree, it would be advisable to check whether either of these planning controls are in operation; if they are, it would be necessary to obtain consent (or in case of a Conservation Area give six weeks' notice of intent) before undertaking any such work.

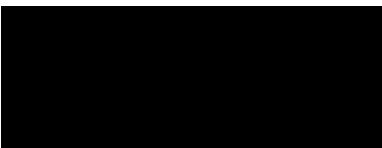
8. Declaration

I hereby confirm that this tree survey and report was undertaken and completed by,

Richard Forrow

Employed by: Gavin Jones Ltd

Signed:



Date: 30/05/2018