

Mrs A Walker  
Graduate Gardeners  
Calfway Lane  
Bisley  
STROUD  
GL6 7AT

07 January 2021

Our Reference: 5952 / 64678

Dear Ann

**Re Climbing inspection of the Atlas Cedar (T911) and re-inspect the Deodar Cedar (T912) following removal of ivy**

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Report by Martin Jenkins Tech. Cert. (Arbor. A). I have been involved in the care of amenity trees since 1992 and I am an estimator, the head foreman and a consultant for Tree Maintenance Ltd. I hold the NCH in arboriculture and Technician's Certificate in Arboriculture (Arboricultural Association). I am also a qualified Professional Tree Inspector as assessed by the industry lead body Lantra.
- 1.2 In accordance with our quotation 5952/64433 dated the 9 November 2020, I have been instructed by Mrs Walker to carry out a detailed visual climbing inspection of one Atlas Cedar (designated T911) at The Court House, Main Street, Sibford Gower and to provide a condition assessment and safety report on suspected defects which could not be readily assessed from ground level as identified during the initial survey carried out by Ken Sheppard on 26 June 2018. I also inspected the Deodar Cedar (T912) following removal of ivy.
- 1.3 The inspections were completed 21 December 2020 and I was accompanied by my colleague Jonathan Usher.
- 1.4 The Atlas Cedar is located with falling distance of parking area, lawn and garage and therefore collapse or partial collapse could result in property damage or injury to neighbours or visitors to the site.

## 2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 A system of Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) has been used to assess both the physiological and structural condition of the trees.
- 2.2 Surface roots, buttress roots and lower trunk have been visually inspected from ground level. Of the Atlas Cedar, T911, the upper trunk (above 3 metres), branch unions, scaffold limbs and smaller branches were closely inspected by a competent and qualified arboriculturalist using rope access climbing equipment.
- 2.3 Wounds, decay pockets and structural weaknesses were subject to visual inspection and, where considered necessary, confirmed by non-invasive techniques such as sounding or gentle

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probing. At this stage, no invasive techniques have been used to map the extent of decay or defect; where this is considered necessary it will be detailed in the recommendations.

### **3.0 Observations and Recommendations**

#### **3.1 Tree 911 Atlas Cedar**

3.1.1 The main trunk split at approximately 6m when the top was lost or removed. A metal plate has been placed over the wound; there are only small signs of decay under the metal plate. The tree has a large, dense crown which has signs of historic branch loss. There are broken hanging branches in the canopy and major dead wood present.

3.1.2 My recommendation is to reduce end weight extremities by up to 3m where necessary to reduce wind loading. These works should be completed within 6 months.

#### **3.2 Tree 912 Deodar Cedar**

3.2.1 Following the removal of ivy and inspection of historic and recent storm damage, my recommendation is to reduce all extremities by 2-3m to help prevent further damage. These works should be completed within 6 months.

All tree work should be carried out to the highest standards, based on British Standard 3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree Work' and current best practice.

### **4.0 Planning Considerations**

4.1 I was not instructed to investigate if the site is located within a Conservation Area or if trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). I recommend that this is investigated with Cherwell District Council ([www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk)) before starting works. If the tree is protected a notification or application will need to be made to Cherwell District Council and written consent obtained before non-exempt works can be undertaken.

4.2 If trees are within a Conservation Area or if trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order, failure to obtain written consent/give notification is a criminal offence and could result in a fine of up to £20,000 on summary conviction, unlimited fine if indicted to crown court and/or 6 months in prison.

4.3 If Tree Maintenance Ltd is instructed to carry out the works, we can make all the relevant applications/ notifications on your behalf.

### **5.0 Wildlife Issues**

5.1 Bats. Under current legislation it is an offence to 'intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat' or 'damage, destroy or block access to the resting place of any bat' (Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2001 and further strengthened by other legislation). Where work is being carried out and bats are present, or if the tree is a known roost, consultation must be made with the Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation, Natural England, ([www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)). A European Protected Species Habitat Regulations Licence is likely to be required. Work to trees with the potential for roosting bats is best done from late August to early October. March through to April is also suitable although this may conflict with nesting birds (see below).

5.2 Birds. It is an offence under section 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to kill, injure or take any wild bird; intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. Therefore, work likely to disturb nesting birds should be avoided from late March to August.

5.3 All trees requiring work should be evaluated prior to work starting as part of a normal on-site risk assessment. If a bird or bat issue is suspected, then the tree works will be suspended and further advice from our office should be sought.

## 6.0 Limitations

6.1 Due to the changing nature of trees – and possibly other site circumstances – observations are valid only at the time of the inspection general information within the report and recommendations are limited to a two-year period subject to specified works being completed within the prescribed time limits. Similarly, this report could be invalidated if any alterations are made to the site that could change the conditions as seen at time of inspection.

6.2 Under certain circumstances, roots can affect foundations, drains and other underground services. These issues are beyond the scope of the instruction and have not been addressed by this report.

6.3 Trees are dynamic structures that can never be guaranteed 100% safe; even those in good condition can suffer occasional damage under only average weather conditions. Increased risk of failure relates to that which is beyond the risk of failure normally associated with a population of similar age and specie. A lack of recommended work does not imply that a tree will never suffer damage.

## 7.0 Arboricultural Methods

7.1 All tree work should be carried out to the highest standards, based on British Standard 3998:2010 '*Recommendations for Tree Work*' and current best practice.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Jenkins', written over a horizontal line.

**Martin Jenkins, NCH (Arb), Tech Cert (ArborA), Tech ArborA**

Arboricultural Consultant

DATE: 8 January 2021