



Sacha Barnes Ltd

Landscape Architecture · Landscape Planning · Arboriculture · Design · Management
Ecology · Horticulture · Recreation & Outdoor Play · Landscape Heritage

Tree Report

Trees at Yew Tree House, Main Street,
Sibford Gower, Oxfordshire.

Client: Mr & Mrs R. Mallows.

Sacha Barnes Limited
The Colin Sanders Innovation
Centre
Mewburn Road
Banbury
Oxfordshire, OX16 9PA

July 2015

Ref: SB/JS/411

Jeremy Sacha (Director) Dip LA MLI, Dip ISM · Miriam Sacha (Director)

Andrew Barnes (Consultant) FInst S.P.A.L., Dip PRA., Dip Rec. Man., Dip Hort Kew, M.I.Hort.

The Colin Sanders Innovation Centre · Mewburn Road · Banbury · Oxfordshire · OX16 9PA

Telephone (01295) 817640 · Fax 01295 817601 · Mobile Jeremy 0780 709 4350 · Andrew 07850 399166

Email enquiries@sachabarnes.com Web www.sachabarnes.com

Report on Trees at Yew Tree House, Main Street, Sibford Gower, Oxfordshire.

Application to fell one Holly tree and one Pear tree and carry out pruning work on two Yew trees, one Holly tree and one Silver Birch tree in the Sibford Gower Conservation Area.

1.0 Brief and Objectives

- 1.1 To inspect and report on the health and condition of two Yew trees T1 and T2, two Holly trees T3 and T4, one Silver Birch tree T5 and one Pear tree T6 in the front garden of Yew Tree House, Main Street, Sibford Gower.
- 1.2 Identify and carry out a visual assessment of the structural condition of the trees and give brief recommendations for management work. The trees are recorded on the enclosed plan Dwg. No. SB/JS/411/TS and the Tree Schedule. Photographs of the trees have been appended to help with identification.

2.0 Scope / Limitations

- 2.1 The assessment and recommendations made in this report are based on a visual assessment made at ground level only.
- 2.3 The report does not guarantee the safety of any trees on site and Sacha Barnes Limited does not take responsibility for subsequent or future damage or injury caused by trees on the site. No guarantee can be given to the structural integrity of trees when placed under extremes of weather, especially high winds.
- 2.4 All comments on the trees are based on observations made at the time of the site visit carried out on the 20th July 2015. The trees were inspected in mid-summer season conditions with good light and light winds.

3.0 Legislation - Notification of intention to carry out tree works.

- 3.1 It is understood that the mature trees in the garden are all within the Sibford Gower Conservation Area but none of the trees are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order. Before carrying out the recommended tree work the owner is required to give Cherwell District Council six weeks written notice of their intention to carry out these works.
- 3.2 The Tree Schedule within this report includes a recommendation to fell one Holly tree T3 and one Pear tree T6 and to carry out pruning works on two Yew trees T1 and T2, one Holly tree T4 and one Silver Birch tree T5. Further details of the management work are set out in the Tree Schedule. The submission of this report to the Local Planning Authority shall be regarded as the six week notification to carry out these works.

4.0 Assessment of Amenity Value

- 4.1 When considering trees for retention the British Standard 5837: 2012 requires an assessment to be made of their amenity value. These are normally categorised as A

of High Quality, B of Moderate Quality and C of Poor Quality. Trees that are dead or in a dangerous condition and should be felled are given a U rating. Yew tree T1 is given an A rating as a good specimen with historic association with the house. Yew tree T2 has been suppressed and is dominated by T1 and has been given a C rating. Holly tree T3 is a prominent specimen but the damage to the wall requires the tree to be felled, therefore it has been given a U rating. Holly tree T4 is a good specimen with a B rating. Silver Birch tree T5 has a pronounced lean but it is a fine and prominent feature with an A rating. Pear tree T6 is growing from the base of the adjacent wall and should be felled to protect the wall and is given a U rating.

5.0 Tree Schedule Description

- 5.1 Please refer to each of the paragraphs on the Tree Schedule. The Tag Number identifies each tree and refers to the number and location on the Tree Survey Drawing (Note: Trees have not been physically tagged or numbered on site). The Species column gives the common and botanical name of each tree. The Height column records the height of each tree measured as the overall height from ground level. The Stem Diameter is then measured at 1.5m above ground level for single stem trees, or a collective measurement of stems near to ground level in the case of multi stem trees. The ground clearance to canopy measures the height from ground level to the first significant branch / limb. The Tree Spread records the spread of the tree canopy as radius. The Age Class is normally given as either young, early mature, mature or over mature. The Physiological and Structural Condition is a record of certain factors that have been identified for attention, it is not a comprehensive diagnosis. The Management column lists the main and most urgent management works required to address any structural condition that could cause a hazard or problem on the site. The BS classification is taken from BS 5837: 2012 (see para 4.1 above). The Priority column gives a recommendation of whether the tree work is of High, Medium, or Low priority. Where the tree work is noted as urgent, arrangements to carry out the work should be organised immediately.

6.0 Tree Felling / Pruning / Management Operations and replanting. (Refer to Tree Schedule).

All tree works are to be carried out by a qualified, experienced and insured Arboricultural contractor, in accordance with BS:3998 (2010) 'Recommendations for Tree Work' and in compliance with current industry best practice.

- 6.1 Two trees are to be felled. Pear tree T6 has very little amenity value and its loss is not considered significant. Holly tree T3 is more prominent in the Conservation Area and therefore it is recommended that a replacement Holly tree should be planted in a position where its future growth will not cause damage to the boundary wall. The recommended pruning work on the other trees will not result in any significant change to the appearance of the trees and will have no detrimental impact on the character of the Conservation Area. The tree contractor must select the points of severance carefully to maintain a balanced and 'natural' shape. The contractor shall also inspect each of the main forks and former pruning points to make sure that major limbs and branches are structurally sound.
- 6.2 The owners of Yew tree House have been given notice by Western Power Distribution of their intention to carry out certain tree works on trees within their front garden to clear power lines. A copy of the notification is attached. The trees affected are referred to as trees T2 and T3 in this report. Depending on the extent of the work they carry out on Yew tree T2 very little further pruning may be required.

- 6.3 Responsibility for instructing this work and the future management of the trees remains with the owner of the property.

7.0 Ecology / Wildlife Interest

- 7.1 The arboricultural brief did not require a detailed survey of fauna and flora within the site. There are no records of any of the trees on the site being used by bats for roosting and it is very unlikely that the scheduled tree works will be of detriment to wildlife. All tree works must be carried out and completed during daylight hours when bats are not in flight or active. If possible, non urgent tree works should be carried out before or after the main bird nesting season, between the end of March and the middle of August.

Tree Schedule – Yew Tree House, Sibford Gower

Tag No.	Species	Height [m]	Stem Dia. [mm]	Ground Clearance to Canopy	Tree spread (m)				Age Class	Life Exp (Y)	Physiological and structural condition	Management	BS 5837 - 2012 classification	Priority
					N	E	S	W						
T1	Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i>	15	1030	3.0	6.0				Mature	>50	Good form. On top of stone retaining wall and close to adjacent dwelling. Concern for wall structure. Cables through edge of canopy.	Prune to clear cables. Minor pruning to clear back from adjacent dwelling. Obtain structural survey of wall.	A	High
T2	Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i>	9	450	3.0	6.0				Mature	>50	Crown suppressed by T1 and leaning to north east. Foliage sweeps low to 1.5m over garden. Electric cables pass through canopy.	Prune to clear cables. Crown lift to 3m over garden and reduce crown spread by 2m on north east side.	C	High
T3	Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	7	600	1.8	4.0				Mature	>30	Fair form. Forks at 1.8m with minor included bark in fork. Roots have damaged retaining wall pushing it out and narrowing passage up steps to house. Not possible to set wall back and re build without felling the tree.	Fell.	B/U	Medium
T4	Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	8.5	300	2.0	4.0				Mature	>50	Good form. Pruned to shape in past. Now growing over boundary wall.	Crown lift to 2.5m above wall and reduce spread of lower crown by 15% to shape.	B	Medium

Tree Schedule – Yew Tree House, Sibford Gower

Tag No.	Species	Height [m]	Stem Dia. [mm]	Ground Clearance to Canopy	Tree spread (m)				Age Class	Life Exp (Y)	Physiological and structural condition	Management	BS 5837 - 2012 classification	Priority
					N	E	S	W						
T5	Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	20	630	1.8	7.0				Mature	>15	Good form but stem leans to east with branches spreading over adjacent house roof.	Crown lift on east side to clear adjacent house roof by 2.0m. Monitor lean and root plate of the east side of the tree.	A	High
T6	Pear <i>Pyrus domestica</i> var	8	270	3.5	3.5				Mature	<10	Stem leans away from base of 3m high stone wall. Likely damage to base of wall. Several dead branches throughout canopy	Fell to protect wall.	C	Medium