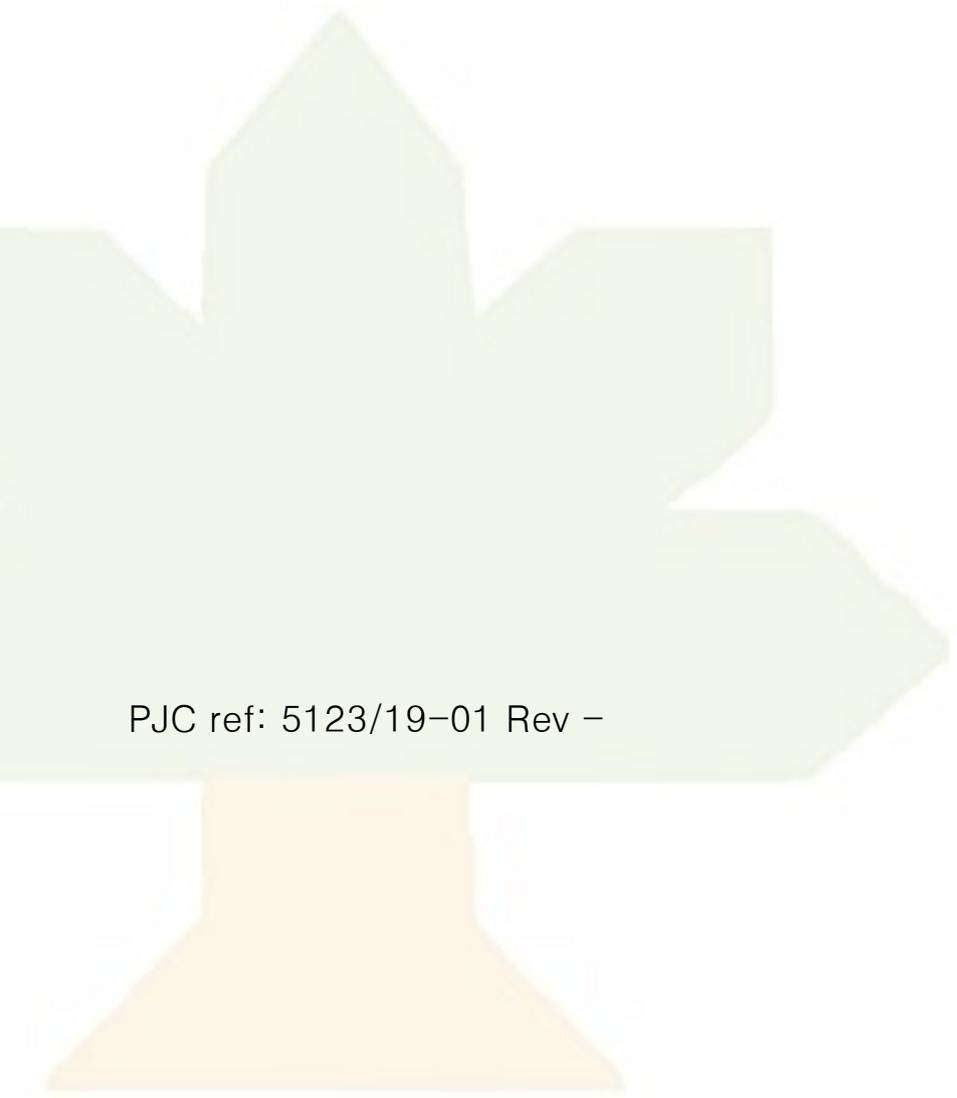


## **Tree Condition and Safety Survey**

The Wilderness and Tilley's Copse  
Hurstpierpoint  
Hassocks  
West Sussex  
BN6 9XB

5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

A large, stylized graphic of a tree with a light green canopy and a light orange trunk, positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

PJC ref: 5123/19-01 Rev –

This report has been prepared by  
PJC Consultancy Ltd  
on behalf of  
Hurstpierpoint Parish Council

Prepared  
by

**George Morris Dip. Arb. L4**

Beginning his career in 2012 studying the Level 3 extended diploma  
George went on to work abroad in Australia as a climber and  
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Back in the UK he went on to work as a climber for Kew Gardens at  
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Checked  
by

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Luke is an arboriculturist with over seven years experience working  
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## **CONTENTS**

1 Introduction

2 Site Visit and Observations

3 Survey Methodology

4 Appraisal

5 Recommendations

6 Conclusions

7 Implementation of Works

Appendices:

1. Tree Location Plans
2. Tree Survey Schedule

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Instruction:** PJC Consultancy has been instructed by Nick Sinclair of Hurstpierpoint Parish Council to provide a tree condition and safety survey for two newly acquired areas of woodland owned by the council “The Wilderness” and “Tilley’s Copse”.

1.2 **Scope of this report:** This report is only concerned with the trees situated within that are adjacent to footpaths and third-party property highlighted on the survey location and site overview drawings supplied by Hurstpierpoint Parish Council.

1.3 **Purpose of report:** This tree condition and safety survey has been commissioned as part of Hurstpierpoint Parish Council’s on-going arboricultural management strategy. The purpose of this report is to visually inspect all trees located within impact distance of the supplied areas and record defects that may be/become hazardous to the general public within a period of two years.

1.4 **Legal framework:** Tree owners/managers owe a duty of care to those who, should have been reasonably contemplated, could be affected by a dangerous tree. Under the duty of care, the person or organisation responsible for the tree must take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions, that could reasonably be foreseen, would be likely to cause harm to persons or property. Failure to meet this standard of care could mean the tree’s owner is found negligent in Common Law and may result in a claim for damages.

1.5 Under the Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984 there is a duty upon the occupier to take such care as is reasonable to ensure that visitors to their land shall be safe from harm. The duty extends also to unlawful trespassers, but only in so far as risks of which the occupier is aware.

1.6 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 also states “It shall be the duty of every employer to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in his employment who may be affected thereby are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.”

1.7 **Documents and information provided:** The following documents were provided by the client to produce this report:

- Site plan with highlighted survey locations (*supplied by the client*).

## 2 SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS

2.1 **Site visit:** The survey was undertaken on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The weather conditions at the time were overcast with moderate winds.

2.2 **Identification and location of trees:** Trees were tagged with yellow plastic sequentially numbered tree tags, and their locations are marked on the Tree Location Plans in Appendix 1. Tree positions were recorded using GPS equipment.

2.3 **Tree observations:** The trees were visually inspected from the ground from within the publicly accessible areas. The survey methodology was restricted to a visual assessment from the ground.

2.4 **Limitations of site visit:** The survey methodology was restricted to a visual tree assessment from ground level. No tree climbing or ground investigation was carried out for this report. Where existing site constraints are present such as ivy covered trees, a very dense under-storey, or where trees are located on third party land to which access was not granted, tree dimensions were estimated by eye as accurately as possible. No invasive decay detection or specialist decay detection methodologies were utilised as part of this survey.

2.5 **Re-inspection frequency:** It is recommended that all trees within the highlighted survey area be resurveyed within two years of this report unless specified within the survey schedule in Appendix 2.

### **3 SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

3.1 All trees located within impact distance of footpaths and third party properties (depicted in the supplied drawings) were visually inspected from ground level by a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant. Each site was methodically walked to ensure all trees were inspected. Only trees possessing significant defects that pose a hazard to the public were recorded as part of this survey. Significant deadwood is categorised as anything over 75mm diameter and/or 1000mm length that has the potential to impact areas of public access.

3.2 Tree inspection methodology is based on the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) practices as defined in the publication Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management by Dr David Lonsdale. This method has been applied to an area of land containing a significant population of trees and has been adopted accordingly.

3.3 The guidance as set out in the National Tree Safety Groups publication 'Common Sense Risk Management of Trees,' has been used to inform the risk management strategy behind the tree survey methodology. Frequency of use, size and location of tree or defective part of tree, and likely users within target area have been assessed and used to judge the priority of works.

3.4 Tree works are listed in the Tree Survey Schedule in Appendix 2. Discussion of each tree's defect is not viable due to the number of trees identified as requiring works. Identified defects are listed in the defects column of the schedule. Where several defects are identified, the most severe defect is listed.

## 4 APPRAISEL

4.1 The three areas of surveyed woodland are predominantly formed of Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and wild cherry (*Prunus avium*). A large majority of the species within the woodland are of mature age and exhibit a wide variety of features typical of trees growing within dense woodlands; including minor to moderate deadwood, dense ivy cover, dense understory of natural regeneration and is considered to have excellent habitat potential.

4.1 The Wilderness is a linear strip of woodland located to the west of numerous residential cul de sacs located off of Cuckfield road, Hurstpierpoint. This area borders numerous third-party properties along the length of its western boundary and trees in this area were the focus of the survey due to their proximity to static, high value targets (structures, private gardens). A number of individuals were recorded on this boundary including standing dead trees, ivy covered trees and trees with moderately sized deadwood evident within the crown. The eastern boundary of this area was also thoroughly inspected as a new housing development is currently under construction and this was taken into account when assessing trees with defects which could impact within this new habited area. This section of the woodland had one main footpath with multiple desire lines having been created by pedestrians due to fallen trees, waterlogged footpaths and steep topography. The main footpath that runs along the western boundary of this section is in close proximity to third party properties and subsequently was subject to thorough inspection. Trees within five meters of the footpath and striking distance have been inspected.

4.2 Between the Wilderness and Tilley's Copse is a small area of woodland that joins the two land parcels. There is one main footpath/desire line that runs through this area with a broken barbed wire fence with multiple gaps to permit access to pedestrians. A high number of over mature Pedunculate oak were present in this area. Typical for the species, moderately size deadwood was present throughout their crowns both overhanging footpaths and third party properties. Due to the vast quantity of trees requiring works in this area marking individual trees was deemed unfeasible and subsequently a group has been created. All Pedunculate oak within this area should be subject to deadwood removal as per the Survey Schedule in Appendix 2.

4.3 Tilley's Copse is a triangular shaped area of woodland with numerous footpaths running through it. It is likely that this section of woodland will have the highest footfall of the three. In this area there was a significant presence of aerial deadwood, situated within impact distance of footpaths. This hazard is typical for woodland containing mature Pedunculate oak and requires regular management and assessment. Trees containing aerial deadwood within their crowns have been recorded where the deadwood size, height and rate of decay is such that failure may occur. Aerial deadwood is a valuable woodland habitat for a vast array of species and should only be removed when within impact distance of target areas.

## 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The trees have been surveyed using a traffic light system for urgency of works. The classification for the coding is detailed below:

- Red – Works of high priority that should be carried out within 90 days.
- Amber – Works to be carried out as part of scheduled maintenance or within 6 months which ever is sooner.
- Green – Works required are of the lowest priority and may be done if budget allows.

5.2 Only trees with significant defects that pose a hazard to the public have been recorded and included within the survey schedule in Appendix 2. Further information regarding tree defects and remedial tree works is included in the Tree Survey Schedule in Appendix 2.

5.3 The surrounding features, and thus potential targets, have been noted on the tree survey schedule. This is to show that the surveyor has taken into account the land use when assessing works priority and therefore severity of risk.

5.4 Where deadwood is recommended for removal, this only applies to deadwood overhanging a footpath, road or residential property. Deadwood is ecologically valuable to a range of species. It may also be appropriate to stack deadwood removed from within woodland blocks or individual trees as habitat piles.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 It is recommended that trees at sites included within this report be re-surveyed within two years from the date of this report (unless stated otherwise within the tree survey schedule). This is to discharge the duty of care bestowed on the tree owner.

6.2 A program of sound arboricultural management should be implemented to ensure the trees continued contribution to the landscape.

6.3 Prior to works being undertaken, the Hurstpierpoint Parish Council planning department should be consulted to ensure that the trees are not covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO,) or fall within a conservation area.

6.4 Financial penalties and/or criminal proceedings can result if tree works are carried out without consent. The entirety of the tree is protected, both above and below ground.

6.5 Trees should be checked for protected species before works are undertaken. It is against the law to disturb bats or their roosts under the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations. Nesting birds are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If protected species are discovered, Natural England should be contacted for advice.

6.6 The trees at this site were assessed for their condition and safety in relation to the average range of weather conditions that the region experiences. Any weather events that exceed the average norm cannot be predicted, and so their effects are not considered within this report.

6.7 The views and opinions contained within this report are entirely those of the author.

## 7 IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKS

7.1 The contractors should carry out all tree works to BS 3998 *Recommendations for Tree Works* (2010) as modified by research that is more recent. They should also carry relevant, adequate and up to date insurance.

7.2 It is also recommended that all tree works are carried out by an Arboricultural Association approved contractor. Approved contractors are expected to work to industry best standards, and the Arboricultural Association website ([www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)) contains contact details and information on engaging a suitable contractor.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### Tree Location Plans



- Key:**
- ⊗ GREEN PRIORITY TREE
  - ⊗ AMBER PRIORITY TREE
  - ⊗ RED PRIORITY TREE

Appendix 2, (Tree Survey Schedule) contained within the arboricultural report ref. no. PJC/5123/19 contains further information for each tree.

*This drawing should be viewed in colour.*



Drawing no: PJC/5123/19 Rev: Sheet number: 1 of 1

Site:  
 Hurstpierpoint Parish Council  
 The Wilderness and Tilley's Copse  
 Hurstpierpoint  
 Hassocks  
 West Sussex

Drawing title: Tree Location Plan

Date drawn: 05/02/2019

Scale: NTS at A3

Drawn by: GM Checked by: LW



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## **APPENDIX 2**

### Tree Survey Schedule

Client: Hurstpierpoint Parish Council  
 Site: The Wilderness & Tilley's Copse  
 Survey date: Thursday 31st January 2019  
 Surveyor: George Morris



Tree no.	Species	Age class	Defect	Recommendation	Urgency
T00002	Field Maple ( <i>Acer campestre</i> )	Mature	Dense ivy cover obscures crown. Comprehensive inspection is not feasible.	Sever ivy to allow comprehensive future inspections.	Green
T00003	Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> )	Mature	Evidence of <i>kretzchmaria deusta</i> . Stem leaning towards 3rd party garden.	Fell tree to ground level.	Amber
T00004	Common Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	Mature	Moderate sized snapped limb is hung up in adjacent field maple and overhanging footpath.	Remove snapped limb and dead stem of field maple.	Amber
T00005	Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> )	Mature	Large portion of the tree has failed and is hung up in adjacent ash tree.	Remove failed section and remove deadwood over 75mm and/or 1 meter in length from adjacent ash tree.	Amber
T00006	Field Maple ( <i>Acer campestre</i> )	Over mature	Standing dead tree with dense understory of yew. Neighbouring field maple has large deadwood within crown.	Fell tagged tree and remove deadwood from large neighbouring field maple.	Amber

T00007	Common Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	Early mature	Tree is in poor condition, crown is overhanging garages and sheds. Moderate sized deadwood in crown.	Remove deadwood over 75mm and/or 1 meter in length. tree.	Amber
T00008	Wild Cherry ( <i>Prunus avium</i> )	Dead	Standing dead stem, leaning towards path.	Fell tree to ground level.	Amber
T00009	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Over mature	Large deadwood within crown. Ganoderma fruiting bodies growing in multiple locations on buttresses.	Reduce deadwood to habitat stubs and monitor condition of tree.	Green
T0010	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Over mature	Large tree with deadwood throughout crown some over footpath.	Remove deadwood over 75mm and/or 1 meter in length.	Amber
T00011	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Over mature	Large deadwood throughout crown and over footpath.	Remove deadwood over 75mm and/or 1 meter in length.	Amber
T00012	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Over mature	Deadwood overhanging footpath.	Remove deadwood over 75mm and/or 1 meter in length.	Green
T00013	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Over mature	Deadwood overhanging footpath. Adjacent oak has significant deadwood in crown and is in physiological decline.	Remove deadwood over 75mm and/or 1 meter in length over footpath. Reduce adjacent oak to 10 meters to form a monolith.	Amber
T00014	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Over mature	Large deadwood overhanging footpath.	Remove deadwood over 75mm and/or 1 meter in length.	Amber

T00015	Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> )	Mature	Large multistem specimen. One stem has died and evidence of <i>Kretzschmaria deusta</i> in remaining stems.	Fell all stems to ground.	Amber
T00016	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Mature	Large deadwood overhanging footpath.	Remove deadwood over 75mm and/or 1 meter in length.	Amber
T00017	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Dead	Two standing dead trees.	Fell trees to ground level.	Amber
T00018	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Mature	Significant limb over footpath is partially failed and compromised.	Remove compromised limb back to source with main stem.	Amber
T00019	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Over mature	Large longitudinal wound on main stem. Moderate sized deadwood overhanging footpath.	Remove deadwood over 75mm and/or 1 meter in length. Monitor tree condition in subsequent surveys.	Amber
T00020	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Over mature	Significant deadwood overhanging lawn area of new housing development.	Remove deadwood over 75mm and/or 1 meter in length.	Amber
T00021	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Over mature	Dominant leader has failed.	Remove dominant leader.	Amber
T00022	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Dead	Standing dead tree leaning on juvenile ash.	Monolith to 5 meters and retain as habitat.	Green
T00023	Common Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	Early mature	Mature <i>Ganoderma</i> fruting body observed at the base. Juvenile fruting body on stem.	Fell tree to ground level.	Amber
T00024	Common Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	Mature	Large limb has historically failed leaving large wounds.	Fell tree to ground level.	Amber

T00025	Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> )	Mature	Part of multistem tree has failed. Evidence of <i>Kretzchmaria deusta</i> at base of tree.	Monitor condition of tree in subsequent surveys.	Green
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G1	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Over mature	Multiple trees running adjacent footpaths and third party properties with significant deadwood in crown.	Remove deadwood over 75mm and/or 1 meter in length.	Amber
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