Title:	Date:
Tree Hazard Assessment Report	15 March 2023

Site Address:	Ref:
Cerne Abbas 46 The Avenue Poole Dorset BH13 6HF	TS/64723/SC

Client:
Cerne Abbas Residents Association

22 Lacey Crescent
Poole, BH15 3NZ
T: 01202 462602
E: info@treecall.co.uk
W: www.treecall.co.uk

Company Number: 6582263 VAT Registration Number: 854530524

Contents

		Page
1.0	Terms of Reference	1
2.0	Report Limitations	1
3.0	Introduction	1
4.0	Recommendations	3

Appendices

A	Qualifications and Experience	5
B	Plan TC1	6
C	Tree Work Schedule and Key	7
D	Photographs	13
E	Bibliography	19

1.0 Terms of Reference

1.1 Treecall Consulting is instructed by Ian Melhuish (CARA committee member) to inspect the trees at Cerne Abbas, 46 The Avenue, Poole and provide a preliminary report which recommends appropriate work to reduce risks to people and property.

2.0 Report Limitations

2.1 This report is based on arboricultural findings made at the time of the site visit. Details of my qualifications and experience in arboriculture are included in Appendix A.

2.2 The report is for the sole use of the client and was produced in line with the above terms of reference. It should not be used for any other purposes or by any other parties.

2.3 All trees within and immediately adjacent to the site were inspected from ground level, as far as access allowed, and no internal investigations were carried out. Only trees requiring work for health and safety purposes were recorded. Trees not shown on plan TC1, Appendix B, and not included in the tree work schedule, Appendix C, did not appear to have any major defects and were not identified as being a significant safety risk at the time of inspection.

3.0 Introduction

3.1 Context

3.1.1 The Occupiers Liability Acts (1957 and 1984) require that premises, including the trees, are kept reasonably safe for residents, employees, guests and visitors.

3.1.2 The responsibility for the safety of trees rests with the site owner or the person who has control of tree management. A prudent approach to this issue can be demonstrated by routine inspections of all significant trees, carrying out all recommendations relating to safety of people and property.

3.2 Tree Inspection History

3.2.1 According to our records, the trees on site have been inspected by Treecall Consulting on numerous previous occasions; the last one being in September 2020 (reference TS/41120/AL).

3.3 Brief Site Description

3.3.1 Cerne Abbas comprises town houses arranged in two open squares, with tree and shrub plantings in the centres and an access driveway around the outside. Around the periphery of the site there are numerous trees of various ages and species. The site is on generally level ground and is surrounded on three sides by public roads and on the fourth by similar large properties.

3.4 Statutory Tree Protection

3.4.1 According to the BCP Council website, which was checked on 27 August 2020, the trees within the site are protected by two area tree preservation orders (TPOs); No.2/1951 and No.4a/1982, both issued by the Borough of Poole. Both TPOs only protect trees that were present at the time of issue. This means that any tree that established or were planted on the site before the issue of the latest TPO, in 1982, is protected. A more recent TPO, No.42/1996, was issued in 1996 but was not confirmed and so is not in force.

3.4.2 Proposed work to any tree which is protected by a TPO must be submitted as an application to the local planning authority (LPA). The application process takes up to eight weeks and the LPA then issue a decision granting or refusing consent as they consider appropriate.

3.4.3 If the tree protection situation changes at any time the LPA will issue new documentation. If this happens please notify Treecall Consulting so that we can update our records and provide appropriate advice.

3.4.4 Since the last tree survey Treecall Consulting have been requested to assist with tree issues on the site as follows:

- 22 March 2022 (SV/29222/SC). Report recommending pruning to one Monterey cypress, T22. This report was submitted to BCP Council and consent was granted for the work.
- 28 October 2022 (TS/52922/SC). Response to an overhanging branch from one Monterey cypress, T122, which was noted to be cracked.
- 29 November 2022 (TP/56722/SC). Work to T122 notified to BCP Council via a Section 14 Notice (this allows emergency work to be done with 5 days' notice).
- 1 December 2022 (SN/57022/SC). Inspection of trenches opened around a wetern red cedar, T123, to investigate if surrounding mushrooms were an indication of a loss of stability of the tree.
- 10 February 2023 (no Treecall reference number). Notification to BCP Council of emergency work to one branch on T123.

3.5 Site Visit

3.5.1 I visited the site on 9 March 2023. The weather was cloudy, wet and calm. Visibility was reasonable.

3.5.2 The trees were assessed from ground level using Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment principles. Both methodologies of tree assessment are recognised and used worldwide. VTA interprets the body language of trees by linking internal defects to biological tree repair-structures. This, used in conjunction with the ISA Tree Risk Assessment, allows an assessment of the failure potential of trees or parts of trees and from this, measures can be identified that encourage subsequent tree growth or reduce existing hazards to acceptable levels. The VTA method was originally developed by Professor Doctor C Mattheck of the Karlsruhe Research Centre and has been in use for over 20 years.

3.5.3 The location of all the trees requiring attention are marked on the location plan TC1, Appendix B. The observations recorded during the site visit are included in the tree schedule in Appendix C.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Tree Work

4.1.1 The tree work schedule in Appendix C includes all the work, identified by the current inspection, which needs to be addressed before the next recommended inspection. All of the work identified requires consent from the LPA and Treecall Consulting can submit the necessary application on behalf of the client, if requested.

4.1.2 The legal Duty of Care requires that all works specified in this report should be carried out by qualified, arboricultural contractors working according to Health & Safety Executive guidelines. All work must be carried out to arboricultural industry best practice and in accordance with BS 3998:2010 ‘Tree work – Recommendations’. All tree management work must take account of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This legislation makes it a criminal offence to disturb the nests and to injure or kill nesting birds or bats.

4.2 Monitoring & Re-inspection

4.2.1 Tree health and condition can change over time and be affected by the environment; therefore, regular periodic inspections are needed to ensure any changes are identified and appropriate, timely action taken.

4.2.2 The trees within the site are recommended to be re-inspected in autumn 2024.

4.2.3 It is recommended that the trees are monitored following extreme climatic events such as floods or storms. Changes to the trees should be noted, including uplifted roots, raised soil around the tree base and cracked or broken branches that are suspended in the crown. Monitoring should also

look out for fungi on or at the base of trees, the presence of pests or disease on stems, branches or foliage or any other changes that suggest the current situation needs reassessing. Monitoring can be done, in the first instance, by workers and staff on site and does not, necessarily, need to involve a professional arboriculturist.

4.2.4 Where damage, instability or other issues arise and cannot be fully assessed or dealt with by staff then Treecall Consulting should be contacted, and we can visit and provide appropriate advice.

Steve Cox
MSc (Oxon), BSc (Hons) For, Dip Arb (RFS), MICFor, RCArborA, MArborA

Arboricultural Consultant

Appendix A: Qualifications and Experience

Steve Cox MSc (Oxon), BSc (Hons) For, Dip Arb (RFS), MICFor, RCArborA, MArborA is the principal consultant with Treecall Consulting and has over 40 years' experience of dealing with trees.

He has worked as an arboricultural officer for the Borough of Poole, in Dorset, where he was leader of its arboricultural team for five years. Prior to this he worked as a forest manager in Africa and the Pacific. He has successfully completed the LANTRA professional tree inspection certificate.

Steve is a professional member of the Institute for Chartered Foresters and the Arboricultural Association and is a registered consultant with both organisations. He has an honours degree in forestry from Aberdeen University and a master's degree in forestry and land-use Oxford University. He also holds the Professional Diploma in Arboriculture, from the Royal Forestry Society.

The information presented in this report is based on the information provided and site observations. Conclusions and recommendations are the result of experience within the arboricultural industry.

Appendix B: Plan TC1

Title: **Plan TC1, Tree Location Plan**

Date: **15 March 2023**

Scale: **Not produced to scale**

Appendix C: Tree Schedule and Key

Key:

- **Tree No.** – Refer to plan TC1 for tree locations.
- **Species** – Identifies the tree as clearly as possible according to common or botanical name
- **Life Stage** – Estimated age of the tree, chosen from the following categories;
  - **Young:** Tree only recently planted or established.
  - **Semi Mature:** Tree, still young and in the first phase of its safe useful life.
  - **Early Mature:** Tree in the second phase of its safe useful life, still with significant capacity for future growth.
  - **Mature:** Tree in the final phase of its safe useful life, with no significant capacity for future growth.
  - **Over Mature:** Tree nearing the end of its safe useful life expectancy.
- **Observations** – Arboricultural observations of roots, trunk and crown.
- **Defect of Concern & Size –** Identification of the main defect of concern and its size in millimetres (trunk or branch diameter) or metres (branch length or tree height).
- **Target Description –** A description of the targets that could be affected by the defect of concern if failure were to occur.
- **Occupancy Rates:**
  - **Constant:** Target present nearly all the time (24 hours/7 days a week) E.g. buildings, car parks, high volume traffic along a footpath or highway or town centres.
  - **Frequent:** Target occupied for a large portion of the day or week. Streets with moderate traffic volume.
  - **Occasional:** Site occupied by people infrequently or irregularly. E.g. low-use footpaths, sections of parks and cemeteries.
  - **Rare:** Site not commonly used by people or property or mobile movable targets. Country roads and footpaths, remote parts of country estates**.**
- **Likelihood of Failure:**
  - **Imminent:** Failure has started or is most likely to occur in the near future, even if there is no significant wind or increased load.
  - **Probable:** Failure may be expected under normal weather conditions and before the next tree inspection.
  - **Possible:** Failure may be expected in extreme weather conditions, but it is unlikely to occur during normal weather conditions and before the next tree inspection.
  - **Improbable:** The tree or tree part is not likely to fail during normal weather conditions and may not fail in extreme weather conditions before the next tree inspection.
- **Likelihood of Impact:**
  - **High:** The failed tree or tree part is likely to impact the target**.**
  - **Medium:** The failed tree or tree part could impact the target but is not expected to do so.
  - **Low:** There is a slight chance that the failed tree or tree part will impact the target.
  - **Very low:** The chance of the failed tree or tree part impacting the specified target is remote.

- **Likelihood of Failure & Impact** – combination of likelihood of failure and likelihood of impact taken from the matrix below:

Likelihood of failure	Likelihood of impact			
	Very low	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
Imminent	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely	Very likely
Probable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely
Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely
Improbable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely

- **Consequences of Failure:**
  - **Severe:** Serious personal injury or death, high-value property damage, or major disruption of important activities**.**
  - **Significant:** Substantial personal injury, moderate-to high-value property damage, or considerable disruption of activities.
  - **Minor:** Minor personal injury, low- to moderate-value property damage, or small disruption of activities.
  - **Negligible:** No personal injury, low-value property damage, or disruptions that can be replaced or repaired.

- **Risk Rating –** combination of consequences of failure and likelihood of failure and impact taken from the matrix below:

Likelihood of Failure & Impact	Consequences of Failure			
	Negligible	**Minor**	**Significant**	**Severe**
Very likely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High
Somewhat likely	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low

- **Appraisal -** Assessment of the significance of issues observed.

- **Recommendations** – Tree works identified as needed to reduce risks to people and property or for developmental reasons.

- **Work Priority** – Assessed using size of defects, likelihood of failure and likelihood of injury/damage if failure occurs. The following categories are used;
  - **Urgent:** Work which should be carried out immediately
  - **Very High:** Work which should be carried out within 1 week
  - **High:** Work which should be carried out within 1 month
  - **Moderate 1:** Work which should be carried out within 6 months
  - **Moderate 2:** Work which should be carried out within 12 months
  - **Low:** Work identified for reasons other than safety. Can be carried out when convenient but delays can lead to other problems.

- **Site Visit:** 9 March 2023.

- **Weather:** Clear, dry and calm. Visibility reasonable.

Tree Work Schedule

Tree No.	Species	Life stage	Observations	Appraisal	Recommendations	Work priority
6	Western red cedar	Early mature	Low branches overhang drive near entrance at 2m above ground level.	Low branches over driveway may obscure visibility or obstruct vehicles.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 4m over driveway.	Moderate 1
11	Beech	Semi mature	Overhangs footpath and road edge. Subdominant stem extends farthest and is becoming codominant.	The subdominant stem could reduce the dominance of the existing main stem. It is better to maintain a single dominant stem by pruning back the subdominant one by 2m to slow its growth rate.	Prune back subdominant stem by 2m.	Moderate 2
19	Strawberry tree	Early mature	Low branches overhang drive at 3m above ground level.	Low branches over driveway may obscure visibility or obstruct vehicles.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 4m over driveway.	Moderate 2
22	Monterey cypress	Early mature	Large wound on upper stem. Tree recently pruned above this point. Some dieback visible and little regrowth from pruning cuts. Wound does not appear to have deteriorated.	The foliage around the recent pruning wounds appears to be dying back in some parts. The wound does not appear to be deteriorating. The die back may need further pruning if it continues, but no work needed at present.	Monitor	-
23	Deodar	Early mature	Low primary branch 3m above drive.	Low branches over driveway may obscure visibility or obstruct vehicles.	Prune low branch back to remove low sub branches. Retain sub branches just proximal to 90 degree elbow.	Moderate 1
25	Western red cedar	Semi mature	Low branches overhang drive near entrance at 2m above ground level.	Low branches over driveway may obscure visibility or obstruct vehicles.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 4m over driveway.	Moderate 2
26	Monterey pine	Mature	Large diameter deadwood in crown over path and road.	The dead branches could fall and cause damage or injury to site users or passers-by.	Remove deadwood of diameter greater than 50mm and over 1m in length.	Moderate 1
28	Monterey pine	Mature	Small diameter deadwood in crown.	If T26 is treated, it is reasonable to carry out the same work to T28, although less deadwood was noted.	Remove deadwood of diameter greater than 50mm and over 1m in length.	Moderate 2

Tree No.	Species	Life stage	Observations	Appraisal	Recommendations	Work priority
37	Holm oak	Early mature	Low crown over road.	Low branches over road may obscure visibility or obstruct vehicles and pedestrians.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 2.3m above the footpath and 5.2m above the road.	Moderate 1
42	Douglas fir	Early mature	Large subdominant stem at 6m. Low branches to 3m above drive.	Low branches over driveway may obscure visibility or obstruct vehicles.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 4m over driveway.	Moderate 1
58	Maritime pine	Early mature	Outside No 33. Bifurcates at 8m. Tensile fork. Main stem wounded 1.5m above fork. Yellow exudate.	The exudate may indicate decay or dysfunction in the stem. It needs to be checked to determine if it represents a raised risk of failure.	Investigate further by carrying out a climbing inspection.	High
115	Sweet chestnut	Early mature	Corner tree. Low branches over road and entangled with overhead cables.	Branches may affect function of the overhead cables or be damaged by abrasion as they sway. Low branches may obstruct footpath or road.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 2.3m above the footpath and 5.2m above the road. Prune to give 0.5m clearance around overhead cables.	Moderate 1
121	Laburnum	Early mature	At edge of drive, opposite No 53. Damage primary branch overhanging drive.	The damaged branch could suffer more damage from vehicles or damage them as they pass.	Remove damaged branch.	Moderate 2
Unnumbered	Monterey cypress	Early mature	On adjacent land at Evesham Court. No access to base. Low small primary branch droops low over shrubs and lamp column. Close to trees T121 and T122.	The drooping branch is affecting the growth of shrubs beneath and is too close to the lamp column, affecting its function. Removal of the branch will not affect the health or public amenity value of the tree.	Remove drooping branch.	Moderate 2
123	Western red cedar	Early mature	Low primary branch split near stem. Distal part pruned.	The recent pruning appears to have taken pressure off the branch. It may deteriorate over time, but no work is needed at present.	Monitor	-
125-127	Western red cedar, bay	Early mature	Low branches to 3m over drive.	Low branches over driveway may obscure visibility or obstruct vehicles.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 4m over driveway.	Moderate 2
128	Wellingtonia	Early mature	Large diameter deadwood in crown on north side.	The dead branches could fall and cause damage or injury.	Remove deadwood of diameter greater than 50mm and over 1m in length.	Moderate 1

Tree No.	Species	Life stage	Observations	Appraisal	Recommendations	Work priority
133	Lime	Early mature	Low branches over the entrance.	Low branches over entrance may obstruct vehicles.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 4m over driveway.	Moderate 2
141	Holm oak	Early mature	At corner of site (Junction of The Avenue and Tower Rd West). Crown 2m above footpath and obscuring give way sign.	Low branches over road may obscure visibility of the sign or obstruct vehicles or pedestrians.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 2.3m above the footpath and 5.2m above the road.	Moderate 1
148	Beech	Early mature	In western square. Low branches to 2m above ground level, without foliage. There is lawn and shrubs beneath the tree and patios and rear windows near the crown tip.	Minor pruning and a general crown lift to give 3m clearance above the garden in summer will be beneficial for residents, maintenance staff and the plants growing beneath the tree. This work, if BS3998 is followed, won't affect the health of the tree and is not visible from any public place as it is only to low branches. There is, therefore, no impact on public amenity from this work.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 3m in summer and prune back one low primary limb by 2m.	Moderate 2
149	Beech	Early mature	In western square. Low branches to 2m above ground level, without foliage. One low primary limb extends far over lawn towards patio. Minor pruning to low primary limb will not affect the tree and a general crown lift to give 3m clearance above ground in summer will be beneficial for residents, maintenance staff and the plants growing beneath the tree.	Minor pruning, including pruning back one low branch by approx. 2m and a general crown lift to give 3m clearance above the garden in summer will be beneficial for residents, maintenance staff and the plants growing beneath the tree. This work, if BS3998 is followed, won't affect the health of the tree and is not visible from any public place as it is only to low branches. There is, therefore, no impact on public amenity from this work.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 3m in summer and prune back one low primary limb by 2m. Ref BS3998, work won't affect health of tree and is not visible from any public place.	Moderate 2

Tree No.	Species	Life stage	Observations	Appraisal	Recommendations	Work priority
41, 42, 45, 48, 50, 54g, 56, 57, 61	Beech, Douglas fir, Monterey cypress, beech, Douglas fir, deodar, arb, Scots pine.	Early mature	Low branches over Tower Road West.	Low branches over road may obscure visibility or obstruct vehicles.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 2.3m above the footpath and 5.2m above the road.	Moderate 1
67, 73, 87, 89, 80, 92, 96, 83	Norway maple, holm oak, 2 Scots pines, cedar, 2 Monterey cypresses, Monterey pine.	Early mature	Low branches over Forest Road	Low branches over road may obscure visibility or obstruct vehicles.	Prune lower secondary branches to give a clearance of 2.3m above the footpath and 5.2m above the road.	Moderate 1

Appendix D: Photographs

T10, beech. Branch to be pruned is arrowed.

T22, Monterey cypress.

T26, Monterey pine

T28, Monterey pine.

T141, holm oak

T141, Junction of Tower Rd West and The Avenue.

T6, western red cedar

T23, Cedar. The red arrow shows the recommended pruning point.

T42, Douglas fir.

T19, strawberry tree.

T58, maritime pine.

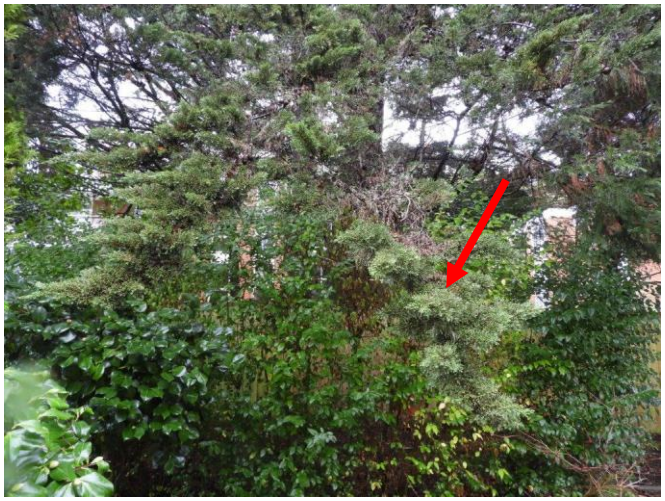
T58. Close up of exudate.

T148, beech.

T149, beech. Long branch arrowed.
Pruning line of lowest primary branch shown.

T121, laburnum.

T125-7, western red cedar.



Monterey cypress at Evesham Court.

Monterey cypress. Drooping branch arrowed.

T123, western red cedar

T123.

Tower Rd West, overhanging branches.

Tower Rd West.

Forest Rd, overhanging branches.

T133, lime. Low branches over entrance.

Appendix E: Bibliography

British Standards Institute, 2010, *BS 3998:2010 'Tree work – Recommendations'*. BSI, London.

Dunster J (Principal Author), 2017, *Tree Risk Assessment Manual Second Edition*. International Society of Arboriculture, Illinois.

Lonsdale D, 1999, *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management* (Research for Amenity Trees No.7). TSO, London.

Mattheck C, 2003, *Manual of Wood Decays*. Arboricultural Association, Cheltenham.

Mattheck C, 2007, *Updated Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment.* Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe Gmbh, Karlsruhe.

Mattheck C and Breloer H, 1994, *The body language of trees* (Research for Amenity Trees No.4). TSO, London.

National Tree Safety Group, 2011, *Common Sense Risk Management of Trees*. Forestry Commission, Edinburgh.

Schwarze FWMR, Engels J and Mattheck C, 2000, *Fungal Strategies of Wood Decay in Trees*. Springer, Berlin.

Strouts RG and Winter TG, 1994, *Diagnosis of ill-health in trees* (Research for Amenity Trees No.2). HMSO, London.

Watson G and Green T, 2011, *Fungi on Trees – An Arborists' Field Guide*. Arboricultural Association, Cheltenham.

Watson G, 2013, *Tree Pest and Diseases – An Arborists' Field Guide*. Arboricultural Association, Stonehouse.

22 Lacey Crescent
Poole BH15 3NZ
T: 01202 462602
E: info@treecall.co.uk
W: www.treecall.co.uk