10th January 2024

Robin Acton
10 The Halve
Warminster
BA12 8FW
[redacted]

Inspection findings of the oak tree following the last storm whereby the tree visibly moved from the base.

Dear Robin,

Thank you for inviting me to provide you with a tree report following the last storm. Just to be clear the oak tree in question is shown on the google earth image below:



Findings:
I inspected the tree this afternoon. It's a very mature oak at possibly 200 years old that has been pruned hard in the past but has responded well and currently has a full canopy. There are a number of cracks and cavities on major limbs which probably accounted for the harsh reduction.

The main stem from 4m to the buttress roots appears to have previously had a split which, over the years, has occluded over but the evidence of an indentation line remains.

The base is the most cause for concern where a combination of land sinkage and basal decay has led to large significant gap below the main stem and where the buttress roots have taken over, some out of reaction to the decay to form an 'Eiffel tower' type structure to hold up the tree. Whilst this is a sign of good structural reaction

- *Wherever practicable, please ensure the work area is clear, accessible and free from obstruction inc. fragile or breakable items.*
- *Supplementary works requested on the day of operation will incur an additional charge unless otherwise agreed. Confirmation of additional costs chargeable for supplementary works can be obtained from the Team Leader representing Acer Tree Surgeons Ltd.*

from the tree and in a less high risk area would be fine to leave, the tree has become compromised due to the proximity of nearby properties and the access road which runs close by.

Normally I'd like to keep such an old structure by 'monolithing' it to a 6-8m structure so it can continue to be an ecological feature but given its location, such harsh treatment would inevitably lead to further decay with the risk of the stem toppling into the road as the buttress roots retrenched.

For this reason, I would unfortunately recommend removal with the wish to plant a heavy standard oak further up the garden (away from the root plate of this one to avoid any possible fungal infection cross over).

Below I have included photos to show the tree as it was seen today:



Full tree image showing old occluded split.



Base of the tree showing the 'Eiffel Tower' effect & daylight gap beneath the main stem.

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Low sunlight not making it easy to photograph the basal decay.

If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to assist. If you wish to proceed with the works, please contact me via telephone or email.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Nick Cranston BA (Hons) | Tech Arbor A | NC (Arb) | IOSH Tech
Managing Director

[redacted]

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The Arboricultural Association (the Association) was founded in 1964 and is the largest body for amenity tree care professionals in the UK. A world-leading authority on arboricultural best practice, the Association delivers professional standards and guidance to ensure responsible tree management.

Acer Tree Surgeons Ltd (Acer) holds Approved Contractor status with the Arboricultural Association after being subject to the Association's rigorous assessment and approved as fully competent and compliant with the Association's standards.

The Association's assessment of an organisation includes confirmation of their:

- Knowledge of trees and tree maintenance
- Understanding and practical application of current arboricultural practice
- Compliance with the legislative requirements of arboricultural contracting
- Compliance with the health and safety requirements of arboricultural contracting (endorsed by the CHAS scheme)
- Customer service and business management.

The standards set out by the Association are very high and reflect contemporary arboricultural research findings, current legislation, health and safety requirements and best practice; Acer is regularly reassessed to ensure that the Company continues to meet the current standards.

As an AA Approved Contractor, Acer's clients can be assured that:

- Acer is fully insured (including Public Liability, Employers Liability and Professional Indemnity)
- Acer teams are properly trained and suitably qualified
- Tree works carried out by Acer are compliant with British Standard BS 3998:2010 unless otherwise stated
- Acer is endorsed by recognised industry bodies.

Privacy Notice.

Acer Tree Surgeons Ltd complies with the General Data Protection Act 2018. We shall only ask for contact details so that we may provide you with an estimate, undertake any works you instruct us to do, and to invoice you upon completion of the works. We will not advertise to you or share your information with anyone unrelated to the works you ask us to carry out.

Due to the nature of the services we offer and the relationship we have with our customers, we will assume that you are still a customer until you tell us that you no longer wish to be considered as a customer.

You can request:

- To obtain any personal data that we hold regarding yourself.
- To have any inaccuracies rectified.
- That we erase your personal data.

You can make requests verbally or in writing and we will respond within one month of receipt, we will use reasonable means to verify your identity.

If you have any queries regarding how we use your personal data, please feel free to get in touch with us.

You have the right to make a complaint about how we process your personal data to the Information Commissioners Office: Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. 0303 1231113. https:/ico.org.uk/concerns.