



**Arboricultural Assessment of a tree growing
on former Westbury Hospital site, Westbury.**



On behalf of:
Backhouse Housing Limited

Prepared by:
Chris Wright M.Arbor.A
Arboricultural Consultant
May 2025

1.0 Instructions/Scope

- 1.1 We have been instructed to conduct an arboricultural assessment of a Cedar tree growing within an area of public open space at the entry to a new residential development on the site of the former Westbury Hospital.
- 1.2 We have been asked to assess the current condition of the tree and recommend any remedial tree work considered necessary to address any health and safety issues identified during our inspection.
- 1.3 This report was compiled by Chris Wright M.Arbor.A. a professional member of the Arboricultural Association and certified Lantra Professional Tree Inspector with over 30 years' experience in the industry. The report is based on a ground level assessment of the tree. Except where stated, all dimensions are estimated. We were not presented with any information on the soil type and no soil samples have been taken. An arboricultural consultant visited the site Tuesday 20th May 2025. The weather was bright with good visibility.

2.0 Survey Limitations

- 2.1 Trees are living, dynamic organisms that can be affected by external conditions. It is therefore not possible to state with any certainty that a tree is safe.
- 2.2 No internal decay devices, or other invasive tools to assess tree condition, were used. No soil excavation or root inspection was undertaken.
- 2.3 The recommendations contained within this report are based on the condition of the tree at the time they were inspected. The content of the report could be invalidated by future changes in the condition of the tree or the surrounding area.

3.0 Legal duty

- 3.1 It is the responsibility of the tree owner to ensure that their tree(s) is in a safe and stable condition, including the effects of root activity, through duty of care in the Occupiers Liability Act (1957 & 1984).

- 3.2 The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 makes it an offence to disturb a nesting bird or recklessly endanger a bat or its roost. Professional advice should be sought, where relevant, before undertaking any recommended works.

4.0 Assessment of Tree

The tree is a mature Cedar approximately 14m tall with an average crown spread of 10m. The stem diameter was measured at 1240mm creating a Root Protection Area of 15m in accordance with BS5837:2012. The tree was categorised A1,2 in a previous survey and considered worthy of the A1,2 categorisation at the time of our inspection.

- 4.1 At the time of our inspection there were no significant defects noted within the stem or canopy of the tree. Minor dieback was evident within the canopy and on the tips of a few branches, as would be expected with a mature tree, probably a result of canopy shading rather than dieback. The canopy was a good colour with healthy extension growth of the tips of the branches. Overall, the tree appeared to be in a good structural and physiological condition.
- 4.2 There were evident the tree has suffered some wind damage during the winter months with a number of snapped branches hung up in the canopy and spurs where the branches have failed. (photo 1, 2 & 3)



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

- 4.3 It is considered that these wounds and damage bark could potentially offer entry points for pathogens which could impact on the health of the tree. Remedial works should be undertaken to tidy the snapped branches. There are also a several snapped branches hung up in the canopy which could potentially pose a health and safety risk to people using the open space area.

5.0 Conclusions

At the time of our inspection there was no sign of dieback or ill health evident within the canopy of the tree. The tree appeared to be in a good condition with extensive extension on the tips of branches.

- 5.1 Evident of previous wind damage was visible in the canopy which has caused snapped and fractured branches. It is considered that these wounds could potentially offer entry points for pathogens. There are also a few snapped branches hung up in the canopy which could pose a health and safety risk.

6.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that a crown clean is undertaken to remove any hung-up branches and cut back snapped branches to a suitable growth point, in accordance with BS3998:2010

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30th May 2025