

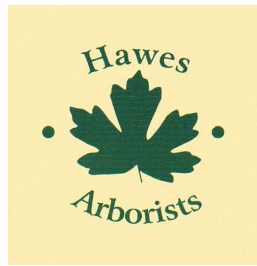
Tree Condition Report
Of Birch Tree
at
Deer Cottage
Ansty
Wiltshire
SP3 5QD

February 2026

Ref: 02/DC26

Unit 13 Chaldicott Barns, Semley, Shaftesbury, Wiltshire. SP7 9AW Telephone 01747 850253
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Hawes Arborists is a Limited Company Registered in England and Wales. Company number 3447785
VAT Registration No 184197184



APPOINTMENT

Hawes Arborists Ltd has been appointed by Mr J.May and Ms S.Frater to report on the mitigating factors of the potential removal of a birch tree as a part of step safety works at Deer Cottage. The site visit was undertaken on the 9th February 2026.

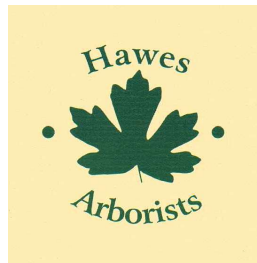
This report has been compiled by Mark Hawes NCH Arb. AA TECH CERT. Any management recommendations will be in accordance with British Standard (BS) 3998:2010 *British Standard Tree Work - Recommendations*.

This document has been prepared in accordance with the scope of **Hawes Arborists** appointment with its client and is subject to the terms and conditions of that appointment.

Hawes Arborists accepts no liability for any use of this document other than by its client and only for the purposes for which it was prepared and provided.

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ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL:

Photographs and *///w3w* tree location plan

Plans: 4746 S501 and 4746 D501 as supplied by PWCR Architects

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1.0 TREE SURVEY INTRODUCTION

1.1.1. This report is to assess the potential for a birch trees removal and the mitigating factors for that removal as part of works to make the approach steps to the house and greenhouse area safer to the side of this tree.

1.1.2 The site visit was undertaken the first week of February 2026 in fair weather conditions.

1.1.3 A site plan showing tree locations has been provided by the clients architect.

1.2 SURVEY LIMITATIONS

1.2.1 This survey was assessed from ground level using visual assessment techniques along. Physical assessment of suspected decay is limited to probing with metal rods or sounding with a hammer. No specialist decay equipment or internal investigation tools have been employed during the assessment. No soil samples have been taken in the course of this assessment as these methods are not within the normal remit of visual tree assessment and were not requested by the client.

1.2.2 The observations and recommendations presented are based on the knowledge, qualifications and experience of the surveyor.

1.3 CONSTRAINTS TO SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1.3.1 Under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 and Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), it is an offence to disturb any protected species including their habitat or nesting place. Expert advice must be sought if any works or recommendations are suspected to be in conflict with this legislation.

1.3.2 Trees with a preservation order (TPO) or those sited in a conservation area are protected under section 198 and 211 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and consent from the Local Planning Authority must be sought before any works are to be undertaken on such trees.

1.3.3 Any remedial works on trees to improve safety must be undertaken in accordance with BS 3998:2010 *British Standard Tree Work- Recommendations*. Work must be undertaken by qualified and experienced professionals.

2.0 SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 The birch tree in question is located on the top of the slope approx. 2 meters to the west of the proposed works to change the slope angle and steps leading down to the greenhouse and house area.

The tree is approximately 20-30 years old and would be classed as a mature specimen.

In terms of its amenity value, the tree is located behind the property with no immediate neighbours on that side. The tree has some visibility from the main highway, but in my opinion of no significance to the wider community

The works to grade the slope include reducing the angle of the steps from its current 52% to 33% (please refer to drawings. 4746 S501 and 4746 D501). This work is a safety measure to reduce the steep incline of the current steps.

In doing this the works will encroach significantly into the root plate of the birch tree to the point of making the whole tree potentially unstable.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. In my opinion the works to make the approach steps to the green house and house area a much safer gradient, the birch tree should be removed to facilitate these safety works.

3.2. In mitigation for the removal of this tree, Mr May and Ms Frater have been planting a considerable amount of trees with in the grounds of their property and are going to continue to do so.

APPENDIX 1. Tree Survey Key

Tree No. Showing reference number designated to tree, group or hedgerow used when describing features in written report denoted as T1, T2, etc.

Groups of trees of the same species and of similar age will be denoted as groups G1, G2 etc. Trees too numerous to individually survey or groups comprising of mainly trees of a stem diameter less than 150mm will be denoted as woodland groups W1, W2 etc. Hedgerows will also be shown as groups denoted as H1, H2 etc. Individual trees located in a group or hedge can still be assessed individually.

Tag No: Referring to metal tag numbers present on tree.

Species: using common and scientific name. If exact species or variant is not known genera may be suffixed by Spp. i.e. *Cupressus* Spp.

Height: Estimated and categorised as 0-5m, 5-10m, 10-20m, 20>m.

No. of Stems: trees with single stem at 1.5m from ground level marked as **1**. Trees with multiple stems at 1.5m marked noting the number of stems at this height.

Risk Category: **H**= high risk of failure to cause damage/injury **M**= moderate risk of failure to cause damage/injury **L**= low risk of failure to cause damage/injury.

Age Class: **Y**= a young tree in first third of life cycle.

EM = an early mature tree in second third of life cycle.

M= a tree in the last third of its life cycle.

OM= a tree in decline due to age.

Physiological Condition:

Good=tree appears to be in a satisfactory physiological condition showing no signs of poor health.

Fair=may be showing some minor signs of stress.

Poor= slightly compromised showing significant signs of stress i.e. crown retrenchment.

V. Poor= significantly compromised i.e. advanced retrenchment. **Dead**.

Structural Condition:

Good= tree appears to be in a satisfactory structural condition with no significant defects found.

Fair= some defects, but of low significance.

Poor= slightly compromised i.e. poor branch unions found or evidence of decay. **V.**

Poor= profoundly compromised and imminent failure likely.

Deadwood key: **D/W**= Deadwood **Minor**=<25mm at base. **Moderate**=25-50mm. **Major**=50mm> at base.

Action priority: Suggested works must be undertaken within. **V/Urgent**= 24hrs. **Urgent**= 7 days.

High= 3 months. **Medium**= 6 months. **Low**= 1 year.

Re-inspect: Stating length of time before a re-inspection of the tree is required.

Date: 18-02-26

Tree no:	What3words:	Species:	Height (m):	No. of Stems:	Risk Category:	Age class:	Physiological condition:	Structural condition:	Comments:	Actions/ Recommendations:
T1	///apple.beards.reset	Birch	15	1	L	M	G	G	This tree is in general good condition	Due to the location of the tree to the proposed safety works to the slope and steps leading down to the greenhouse and house area and the comprise to the root plate remove.

