

07 January 2026

To: The Trustees of The Free Gardens (Charity No. 203850)
c/o Mr Steve Mansfield, Chair
Tangles
Great Somerford
SN15 5EL
POC: Tracy Barker



Arboricultural inspection report for Great Somerford Free Gardens

1. Introduction

1.1 **Client:** Tracey Barker

1.2 **Contact No:** N/A

1.3 **Address:** As above

1.4 **Site Address:** As above

1.5 **Inspection Requested by:** Mrs Tracey Barker

1.6 **Inspected by:** Mr Adam Roberts

1.7 **Remit:** This Arboricultural report focuses on the health, condition, and potential hazards that the trees requested for inspection by Mrs Barker on 19/10/2025, may pose to local surroundings. The inspection takes into consideration safety factors that focus on the adjacent highway but may also involve infrastructure, walk ways, buildings, local conservation, site ecology, NVC classifications and LPA Tree Preservation Order (TPO) recommendations. Relevant management recommendations are to be made.

2. Site Description:

2.1 The Great Somerford Free Gardens were established in 1809 by Steven Demainbray and live to serve the local Parish of Great Somerford.

The Parish Councillors of Great Somerford are Trustees of the Free Gardens charity (203850) which is run independently and separately from the Parish Council.

The Free gardens are primarily vegetable gardens open for public use within the village. The site is located near a local watercourse, new development and existing residential property.

The tree stock onsite is densely located to the centre of the plot and is made up of a range of both deciduous and coniferous species. Roadside trees are located to the northern and western boundaries. Seating areas are located throughout the central plantation and are mainly memorial features.

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Registered No. 06247048

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3. Limitations

- 3.1 The Inspections were undertaken by foot, from ground level; therefore, only visible features of the trees in question are surveyed and reported on. If any features that come across as potentially dangerous and are hidden within canopy material or encroaching vegetation, further inspection can be recommended, arranged and undertaken.
- 3.2 As trees can be affected by many factors of environmental change including extreme weather conditions, human interferences and soil subsidence, tree health and condition may change without prior notice. To keep up to date records regarding the safety of your trees, a yearly inspection should be carried out.
- 3.3 Because tree conditions change over time, the inspection can only be valid for 12 months starting from when the report is handed back to the client. Any interference with the trees in question and the inspection and management recommendations become invalid. The times of year in which the inspections have been carried out do not always permit the surveyor to record accurate findings on fungal fruiting bodies and where doubt is placed, a re-inspection will always be recommended.
- 3.4 Relevant Legislation involved with the inspection and its results include:
- Occupiers Liability Act 1957 / 1984 – Outlining the importance of Duty of Care in relation to tree stocks.
 - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Outlining the importance of tree stocks in relation to conservation and ecology of the site.
 - Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Conservation Area's and TPO's) – Outlining the processes in which applications should be carried out.
 - Forestry Act 1967 – Outlining the processes for felling licenses.

4 Methodology

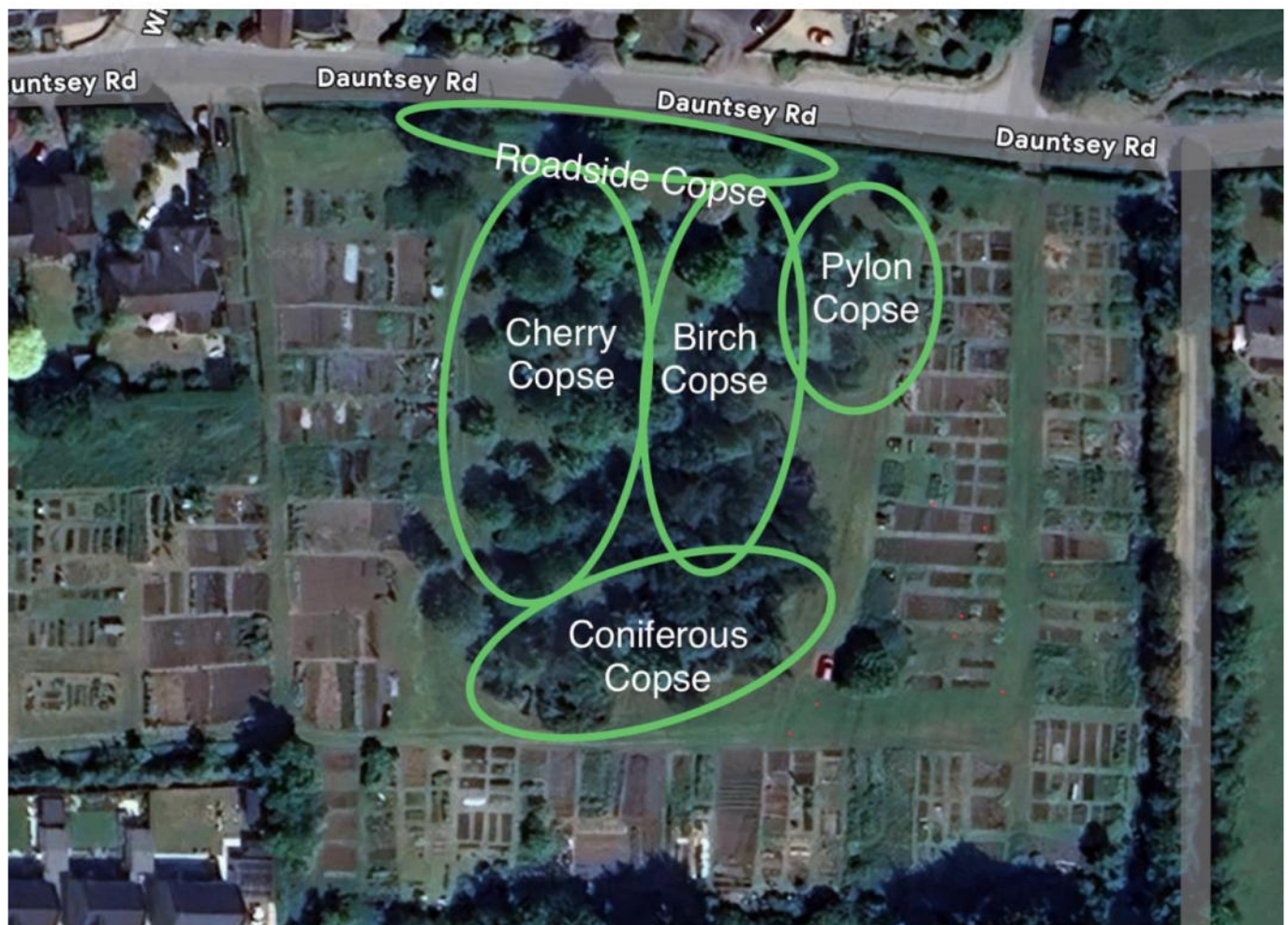
- 4.1 To carry out comprehensive inspections, specific classification techniques were required to be use.
- Species Identification
 - Age Class Identification
 - Physiological Analysis
 - Structural Analysis
 - VTA – (Visual Tree Assessment)



5 Plan

5.1 The tree stock that have been inspected and reported on within section 6 have been outlined on the below map for visual reference. GPS has not been used to accurately plot trees on the map and therefore is not to scale.

Figure 1: Site Plan





6 Findings

6.1 All the findings within this report are comprehensive descriptions of the data recorded within the Arboricultural Inspection carried out by Mr Adam Roberts on the 15/12/25 Great Somerford Free Gardens, Chippenham, requested by Mrs Barker. All onsite trees above 75mm at 1.5 metres above ground level have been inspected.

6.1.1 Only trees with notable and significant findings, that require recommendations have been included within section 6.2 > of the report.

Pylon Copse -

T1 *Salix fragilis* located by lower end of Pylon has good vigour. A single crossing branch is located within the lower canopy.

T2 *Salix fragilis* located adjacent T1 has good vigour. Minor deadwood is located throughout the canopy.

Birch Copse

T3 *Betula pendula* located central to the copse has good vigour. A single failed branch is located in the lower canopy.

Coniferous Copse

T4 *Larix decidua* located on the southern boundary to the copse has good vigour. A single failed branch is located in the lower canopy.

T5 *Pinus sylvestris* located on the eastern boundary of the copse has good vigour. Understory deadwood caused by suppression is located in the lower canopy.

Cherry Copse

T6 Commemorative *Prunus avium* located in the southern end of the copse has good vigour. The tree has old plant supports.

T7 *Juglans Regia* located central to the copse has good vigour and form. A failed branch is located at approximately 2 metres above ground level.

T8 *Malus sylvestris* located central to the copse has poor vigour and is colonised by *Podosphaera leucotricha* (Powdery Mildew).

T9 Commemorative *Fagus sylvatica* located on the eastern boundary of the copse has good vigour and form. The canopy is suppressing the seating area beneath.

T10 *Prunus avium* located on the western edge of the copse has poor vigour and has been subject to poor pruning practice.





T11 *Malus sylvestris* located central to the copse has poor vigour and is colonised by *Podosphaera leucotricha* (Powdery Mildew). A *Malus Sp.* is found growing within the root plate.

Cherry Copse Cont.

T12 Juvenile *Prunus avium* located on the southern edge of the copse has poor vigour and damage caused by strumming to the lower stem.

Roadside Copse

T13 *Betula pendula* located roadside on the northern boundary to the site has good vigour. Adjacent overhead utilities are within 2 metres of the canopy structure.

T14 *Tilia cordata* located roadside on the northern boundary to the site has good vigour. Adjacent overhead utilities are within 2 metres of the canopy structure.

T15 *Salix fragilis* located on the southern edge of the roadside copse has good vigour. The lower canopy is congested with dense canopy material.

T16 *Carpinus betulus* located roadside on the northern boundary to the site has good vigour. Adjacent overhead utilities are within 2 metres of the canopy structure

Remaining trees approx 6 – 11 metres in height, located across the site are showing good vigour, a high level of structural integrity and don't require further management at this time.

Species Table

Common Name	Latin Name	Location
Crack Willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Roadside & Pylon Copse
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Roadside Copse
Common Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Roadside Copse
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Cherry Copse
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Cherry Copse
Common Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Cherry Copse
Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Cherry Copse
Apple	<i>Malus Sp.</i>	Cherry Copse
European Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	Coniferous Copse
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Coniferous Copse
Blue Atlas Cedar	<i>Cedrus atlantica 'glauca'</i>	Coniferous Copse

Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Coniferous Copse
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7 Recommendations

7.1 The recommendations provided in this report are all relevant to site health and safety, focusing on the adjacent highways, and public access areas on site. For the report, only recommendations to be made are in relation to the onsite tree stock at Great Somerford Free Gardens, and the targets surrounding the tree's.

7.2 Trees are put into low, medium, and high (L, M, H) priorities in relation to priority; this is implemented to ensure that no unwanted failures or accidents occur throughout the site before works are carried out. Only trees that require works have been included in the table below.

7.3 Recommended Works:

Tree No.	Species	Works Recommendations	Works Priority
1	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Remove crossing branch in lower canopy.	L
2	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crown clean canopy by removing all deadwood.	M
3	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Remove lower canopy branch failure.	L
4	<i>Larix decidua</i>	Formative prune lower canopy.	L
5	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Crown clean lower canopy by removing all deadwood.	L
6	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Remove Stake and Tie. Replace with structural timber caged protection.	L
7	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Remove failed branch.	M
8	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Prune canopy to mitigate spread of <i>Podosphaera leucotrich.</i>	H
9	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Crown raise to 3 metres above ground level.	M
10	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Formative prune lower canopy.	L
11	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Prune canopy to mitigate spread of <i>Podosphaera leucotrich.</i>	H
12	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Remove to ground level.	L
13	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Prune canopy away from adjacent overhead to cables, leaving a 2 metre clearance.	M
14	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Prune canopy away from adjacent overhead to cables, leaving a 2 metre clearance.	M
15	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crown raise lower canopy to 3 metres above ground level.	L
16	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Prune canopy away from adjacent overhead to cables, leaving a 2 metre clearance.	M

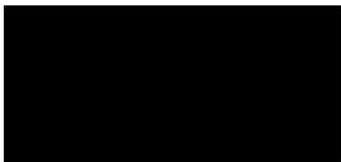


8. Tree Inspection Schedule

- Tree species are noted in the survey with botanical and common names.
- All age classes of trees were estimated by trained personnel that conducted works using British Standard Guidance. Juvunle (J) Semi Mature (SM) Mature (M), Veteran (V).
- All structural conditions of the inspected trees have been surveyed using techniques that give the best assessment in that specific location. The inspections were taken from ground level.
- Tree priority in relation to operational recommendations is as follows:
High - Operations need to be carried out immediately.
Medium - Operations need to be carried out within a time limit of 6 months.
Low - Operations need to be carried out within a time limit of 10 months.

9. Disclaimer

- 9.1 Although staffs carrying out the survey on this site have relevant arboricultural experience and education, the report is off personal trained opinion.



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COVID-19 Company Status

To coincide with government guidelines outlined on Monday 11th May 2020, our current policy is to start a phased return to the working schedule.

This means we will now start to get in touch with our clients, start to schedule all elements of work and slowly return to a normal schedule over the coming months.

Our first phase of return will include the incremental return of employees, this will mean a reduced diary schedule is still in place.

We understand that a number of our valued customers may be self-isolating still or come under a "High Risk" category, and for these individuals we do not want to put them at risk or others.

Being a high risk industry, it's important to maintain high levels of health and safety within our policies, and if an incident were to happen, this could put further strain on the NHS, contribute to the virus spread, and infect our staff and others. Therefore we will require absolute compliance with all government guidelines on safe distancing and sanitation throughout this period, from both staff and customers. I hope you understand our stance. We're really looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Keep Safe, Stay Alert, Help Beat the Virus. Keep safe and see you soon.



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Arboricultural Association Approved Contractor

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.

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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. Tel: 0303 1231113. Web: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns>

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Guide to Working with Acer Tree Surgeons Ltd

1. We are very keen to provide a quality service and a high level of customer satisfaction. Please take a few minutes to read the information below as this forms the terms and conditions of our contract. Further information about the company is available on our website acertreesurgeons.co.uk.
2. Acer Tree Surgeons Ltd are committed to perform the work in a competent manner in compliance to the specification and price contained in our quotation.
3. **Acceptance of the contract and programming of the work:** When you accept the quotation we will start the work planning process which may include dealing with permissions from the Local Authority (see the clause below in respect of 'do I need permission'). We will advise you of the estimated completion date for your work. All customers are entitled to a 14 day cooling off period following acceptance of the quotation.

Amendments to the contract must be made in writing and any complaints, which may arise from work performed under any contract must be made within 7 days from the date of invoice, unless agreed in writing to the contrary.

4. **When do I pay?** When the job is completed, the team leader will ask you to sign the job sheet to confirm your satisfaction. Please only sign this when you are satisfied that all items are completed. Please raise any queries with the team leader or the office before signing the job off. The office will invoice 'signed off' jobs within 7 days. All contracts and instructions are accepted on the basis of full payment of invoiced price on immediate receipt of invoice. Value added tax (VAT) shall be charged at the current rate.
5. **Standard of work:** All work shall be completed in line with BS3998 (Recommendations for Tree Work) where appropriate unless instructed otherwise by the customer.

We will carry out the work as agreed in the quote but often we are asked to do more or to carry out tasks differently or less than originally agreed. If there is a large deviation to the work content, please let us know in advance as may need more or less manpower and time allocated which may also impact other customers. We will endeavor to fit in any extra works required on the day and will invoice this on an hourly basis or it can be agreed before we start on the day. Please speak to the team leader who will call the office to confirm current time rates.

6. **The Unexpected:** Sometimes we may uncover an old metal or concrete fence or trees with stones and nails imbedded within them, and in these circumstances we may not be able to remove these objects as our equipment isn't suitable. Quotations for tree works are based upon the educated and realistic assumption of trees being free from metal, stone or other hidden obstructions. In the event of a tree being impossible to work on using industry approved techniques, Acer Tree Surgeons Ltd reserves the right to re-quote accordingly. The Contract price is based on the site conditions existing at the time of the quotation being submitted.





7. **Disposal of waste:** The majority of our customers require removal of all waste material from site and this will normally be specified in the quotation. However wood-chips make useful garden mulch and we are increasingly finding clients requesting that this is left onsite in designated areas for their own use. Timber may also be left for firewood, please specify what lengths you would like it left. The price does not include us splitting it ready for your fireplace unless specifically stated in the quote.

The quotation for the tree/hedge work will include removal of the waste from the specific task, where specified. We are unable to process and remove compost, gravel, rocks, metal or any other foreign material that does not come from the specific task. Only recently processed woody perennial material will be put through our chippers. Unfortunately we are not licensed to carry any other material other than wood chip and timber.

Unless the wood chip is being left with you, it will be taken back to our yard to be stock piled, and then supplied to Stobart Bio-mass. This is then supplied to the UK's power stations for it to be recycled as domestic electricity.

8. **Stump grinding:** Stump grinding is normally carried out within a few days of removing the tree, rather than on the same day, as it is a dangerous process to have the machines on site with our team. We will call or email you to arrange a convenient time to undertake this work. For larger open access sites we are able to use our own machine for stump grinding operations, but for most properties access is limited and therefore we will either hire one or use a stump grinding specialist contractor who will be vetted, and supply the best price (we have 3 on our books and always use the one that can provide the best price for the job).

The stumps are usually ground down to 200mm below ground level and the grindings are normally backfilled into the resulting hole as they decompose rapidly. Removing them creates a dip as they rot down. Please specify if you would like the roots removed too. This is not normally undertaken as root removal can cause a lot of damage to the lawn as roots can spread to a much wider circumference..

The arisings from the stump grinding operations can be removed from site but this would incur an additional cost from the grinding company.

9. **What time will the team arrive?** Most jobs are completed efficiently and on time. However, occasionally a job will over-run or the weather will prevent us from working. The earliest time the team will arrive is 8.20 but generally it will be between 8:30 and 9:20am. This means that we are not making noise at unsociable hours. However, in the case of smaller contracts, we are not able to estimate an exact arrival time, just advise either am or pm arrival which we will do at the time of booking. We will of course make every effort to please clients who particularly require a morning or afternoon visit.
10. **Do I need to protect my walls or lawns?** Whilst our staff will operate with care and diligence, often our work entails the transportation of woody material over lawns and past the house. Please make sure that vulnerable surfaces (such as white walls) are adequately protected (builders polythene is a good method), and that fragile objects are moved (such as pots etc). Our staff will be more than happy to move heavier objects. Lawns tend to recover rapidly but very wet weather can give rise to very muddy conditions. We are able to provide boards to protect the lawn. However, this is not a standard procedure and may incur an additional cost. If in doubt, please discuss with our office.





We may need to use a tracked chipper and track across the lawn. If requested by the client, due to ground conditions we will use boarding to prevent damage to vulnerable areas. Otherwise, whilst it does not damage lawns when driving straight during frosty and wet conditions, it will make a temporary imprint on the grass, this recovers very quickly.

11. **Will my neighbours be affected?** Sometimes it is necessary to have access to a neighbouring property, particularly when branches overhang. It would be very helpful if you could inform them of your intention to carry out work and the date on which it will take place. Our vehicle and chipper takes up around 5 car spaces of room in a street and maneuvering can be tricky sometimes in narrow access areas. Our work is also noisy, so please do warn neighbours (especially night workers!)

Damages caused to any property other than the clients, does not give the client the right to withhold payment. A process and agreement will be put in place, only with those who own the damaged property, to rectify any damage caused.

You may need to gain permission from a neighbour to access their land or their tree. Please could you provide written permission. An email to our office would be ideal, prior to the day of the works.

12. **Do I need permission?** The trees within this contract specification may be in a Conservation Area or be subject to a Tree Preservation Order. Upon acceptance of our quotation, we shall check for the presence of legislative protection. We would be happy to make an application on your behalf once the quote has been accepted without any further cost.
13. **Investigation of Private Covenants:** Shall be the responsibility of the Owner and no liability shall attach to Acer Tree Surgeons Ltd for a breach of any such Covenant.
14. **Do you replace trees/shrubs that die?** We endeavor to obtain good quality plants that comply to BS3936 (Nursery Stock – Specification for Trees and Shrubs) which are handled with care and planted to industry standard. It is important however that you look after your new plantings and ensure that they are regularly watered and maintained. Trees and shrubs that fail due to circumstances beyond our control shall not be replaced by us. Please ask our staff for guidance on how to look after new trees if in doubt.
15. **Do I need to treat the stump after removal?** The majority of coniferous trees will cease to grow following felling and will decay naturally. Some deciduous species will send up shoots. We try to avoid the use of chemicals but on request, can supply and install eco plugs (this would be at an additional cost and a standard 1ft diameter stump would cost approximately (£5 + VAT). Eco plugs contain glyphosate which translocates through the remaining stump and roots preventing regrowth. Further treatments (if required) will attract additional cost. Alternatively we can provide advice on products that can be bought from garden centres that can be used to treat stumps to prevent regrowth. No guarantee can be given as to the efficiency of a pesticide after application, due to conditions beyond our control.





16. **Underground and overhead services:** Although every reasonable effort shall be made to locate the presence of underground services, unless a plan showing the exact location of underground pipes, wires or cables has been forwarded to us by the landowner or an agent prior to the formation of the quotation/contract; we shall be under no liability for any damage caused as a result of work performed under the contract/quotation to such pipes, wires or cables, or for any damage to property resulting there from. The landowner or an agent shall be solely liable for any such damage. Any charge for the removal of power lines or telephone cables shall be the responsibility of the landowner unless otherwise agreed in writing with us.
17. **Measurements:** All measurements mentioned in any correspondence are approximate.
18. **Insurance:** All work carried out by Acer Tree Surgeons Ltd is covered by £5,000,000 third party & public liability insurance and £10,000,000 employers liability. Paid reports and investigations are covered by a £1,000,000 indemnity insurance. Details will be provided on request. The teams all carry copies of insurance.
19. **General:** Acer Tree Surgeons Ltd shall not be liable for damages or otherwise because of non-performance of a contract arising on account of adverse weather conditions, strikes, lock-outs, war and civil commotion; or lack of adequately skilled labour due to causes beyond our control. Further, we retain the right in such circumstances to cancel the contract in whole or in part. Completion dates shall be contingent upon weather conditions.

Twelve months after the submission of the quotation, we reserve the right to withdraw and re-price work, unless otherwise agreed in writing on acceptance of instructions from the Owner.

