



**Arboricultural Assessment of a tree growing at
40, Guinea Street, Bristol.**



On behalf of:
Hugh

Prepared by:
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Arboricultural Consultant
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1.0 Instructions/Scope

- 1.1 We have been instructed to conduct an arboricultural assessment of a tree growing within an area to the rear of 40, Guinea Street, Bristol, BS1 6SX.
- 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.
- 1.4 The report is based on a ground on a ground level assessment of the tree undertaken from the adjacent road. We were not able to access the base of the tree to fully inspect the basal area and rooting zone. 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 Friday 24th June 2022. 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.
- 3.3 Searches of Bristol City Council online mapping system showed the tree is covered by a Tree Preservation Order. Written consent will be required for Bristol City Council prior to the commencement of any works to the trees.
- 3.4 Under the Tree Preservation Order regulations 2012 the removal of deadwood within living trees is exempt from the requirement to obtain prior written consent from the local planning authority (LPA). Five days' notice must be submitted to the LPA, in writing, prior to the removal of any dead trees or works to dangerous trees, except where the works must be done without delay to ensure public safety.

4.0 Assessment of Site and Existing Tree

The tree is growing to the west 40 Guinea Street against a brick wall which extending along the southern boundary of the property, adjacent to Guinea Street. To the north is Redcliffe Railway cutting which appears to be used for car parking.

- 4.1 The tree is a mature Ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*) currently approximately 12m tall with an average crown spread of 6m. The tree has a multi-stemmed structure from approximately 0.5m with evidence of included bark at the stem union.
- 4.2 The southern canopy of the tree extends over the adjacent public footpath and highway with two main stems leaning to the south from the base. A section of the northern canopy overhangs Redcliffe Railway cutting.
- 4.2 The canopy of the tree contained significant amounts of major deadwood and minor dieback. Extensive epicormic growth was present on the main branches throughout the canopy which is considered to be stress a reaction from the tree. We were informed that the foliage of the tree was sparse last year.



- 4.3 Due to the extent of dieback and epicormic growth it is considered that the tree is infected by Ash dieback disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) Ash dieback disease destroys the tree's phloem and xylem, which results in the tree being unable to move water and nutrients around its structure. This lack of water and nutrient movement will cause the branches of the tree to fail and the tree to 'die back'. The ongoing loss of nutrition and water plus the depletion of energy reserves due to the lack of foliage, causes the tree to become brittle, lose branches and make it susceptible to other pathogens such as Honey Fungus (*Armillaria*).
- 4.4 It is currently estimated that Ash dieback has a mortality rate of 90% with few trees showing any signs of resistance. (ref: Tree Council Ash Dieback Action Plan Toolkit Summer 2019). The precise speed of decline of any individual tree is currently impossible to predict and will be influenced by other factors including soil type, soil moisture levels and topography. The latest evidence nationwide and from local tree surgery teams, is that infected trees can decline rapidly becoming structurally unsound in a matter of months.

5.0 Conclusions

The tree is a mature tree with major limbs extending over the adjacent public highway, footpath, parking areas in Redcliffe Railway cutting and neighbouring property. It is considered that the dieback and epicormic growth throughout the canopy is a result of Ash Dieback Disease. The presence of this disease will compromise the structural integrity of the branches and main structure of the tree potentially resulting in catastrophic failure.

Due to the potential threat to the public highway, footpath, parking area and neighbouring property it is considered that the tree poses a major health and safety risk.

6.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Ash tree is removed.

As the tree is covered by a Tree Preservation Order prior written consent will be required from Bristol City Council for the removal of the tree. There is a legal requirement for a replacement tree to be planted on completion of the works. The replacement tree will then be covered by the existing Tree Preservation Order.

It is recommended that following the removal of the ash tree, the stump is ground out and a European Lime (*Tilia x europea*) is planted as a replacement. The replacement tree should be planted as Heavy Standards with a girth of 12-14cm at 1m, approximately 3.5m tall, which should be sourced from a local tree nursery as a root-balled tree.

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26th January 2024



Tree Location Plan

