

ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY REPORT

SITE: THE OLD VICARAGE, RG10 8DH
REPORT DATE: 21 AUGUST 2024
REFERENCE: 84/2020/8/21/2024
ON BEHALF OF: ALASTAIR BROOKER ANB GROUND CARE LTD.
AUTHOR: Mark Harrison, BSc(Hons), MarborA, NDarb



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1. INSTRUCTION

- 1.1 This tree survey and report was undertaken for and on behalf of Alastair Brooker of ANB Groundcare. It was commissioned to carry out a level 2 ground level visual tree assessment (VTA) and report on the health and safety of trees at The Old Vicarage, RG10 8DH.

2. DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION PROVIDED

- 2.1. The site address was provided and a digital map purchased under license © Crown Copyright and database rights 2018 OS number 100047474 to illustrate the position and approximate size of the tree to be inspected.
- 2.2. The site is The Old Vicarage, RG10 8DH at co-ordinates 51°29'55.0"N 0°52'16.0"W within the administrative area of Wokingham Borough Council.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 4.1. To undertake a level 2 - basic assessment (see assessment level at appendix 2) of the health and safety of trees under the ownership of The Old Vicarage, RG10 8DH in line with present industry best practice by way of a 360° ground level inspection, assessment and examination of external features only — described as the 'Visual Tree Assessment' (Mattheck and Breloer, 1994 and Tree Hazard Assessment (Lonsdale, 1999).
- 3.1. To provide management recommendations to maintain the trees at an acceptable risk level based on their health and condition at the time they were inspected and the type and frequency of site use as estimated on the day the trees were inspected and information provided.
- 3.2. It is recommended that the trees are formally re-inspected every three years unless otherwise stated and are informally surveyed (passive assessment) following extreme weather events to identify any obvious damage. Judgements have been made based on a 3 year interim period between scheduled inspections and management recommendations provided are for works considered necessary within this time period.

4. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF REPORT

- 4.2. The purpose of this report is to advise on the health and safety of trees within the boundary of as denoted on the survey plan to provide recommendations which address any risks identified considered unacceptable to comply with legal

requirements which establishes a duty of care owed to persons using the site (Occupiers' liability act 1984).

- 4.3. The site was visited on 14 August 2024.
- 4.4. This survey and report are concerned with arboricultural aspects only and report on the health and safety of the trees based on their external physiological and structural condition and information provided.
- 4.5. Some areas within the canopy cannot be identified by ground level inspections. Issues on the upper side of branches, areas obscured by dense foliage, the extent of cavities or wounds cannot be assessed from the ground and an aerial inspection by a tree climber or via a cherry picker may be required.
- 4.6. Trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) or situated within a conservation area are afforded statutory protection. Formal written consent is required from Wokingham Borough Council. for any trees covered by a TPO prior to any non-exempted work being undertaken. The council will require notification of works to trees within conservation areas. It is strongly suggested that if unknown, written confirmation from Wokingham Borough Council. is sought formally establishing the legal status of the trees prior to any non-exempted works being undertaken.
- 4.7. Where protected trees have been highlighted for works to be undertaken within 8 weeks the standard process may take too long to address the risks. What is known as a five day notice may be used to bypass the assessment period for those trees which are imminently dangerous. Harrison Arboriculture Ltd. do not deal with applications by default. This report may be provided as supporting evidence to the local planning authority, however where not included in the quotation, a specific commission is required if you wish Harrison Arboriculture Ltd. to submit an application.
- 4.8. No tissue samples were taken
- 4.9. Internal investigations were not carried out.
- 4.10. No soil samples were taken or soil analyses carried out and the risk of tree-related subsidence to structures has not been assessed.
- 4.11. No root collar excavations have been made.
- 4.12. Consideration should be given to the timing of the proposed tree works to avoid the active growing period of trees. Tree work should ideally be carried out during the dormant period from November through to February and then again from June to August.

- 4.13. Although considered and wildlife habitat potential highlighted, no specific wildlife assessment has been carried out. It should be noted that The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 and Conservation - Natural Habitats -Regulations 1994 provides statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees.
- 4.14. The official bird nesting season runs from 1st March through to the 31st July (Natural England) depending on weather conditions, consideration must also be given to the potential for nesting birds.
- 4.15. Because trees are dynamic, living organisms, changes in their environments will influence their health and safety. This report deals with what was visible at the time of inspection. It cannot account for extreme weather conditions or subsequent mechanical damage.

5. SURVEY METHOD

- 5.1. Tree heights were estimated visually.
- 5.2. Tree canopies are rarely so defined that exact sizes can be provided. The approximate crown radii were measured using Leico Disto Laser Measure and estimated where access or visibility was hindered and provided as a guide to the size and shape of the canopy. Canopy measurements have been omitted from the tree schedule but can be provided on request.
- 5.3. The diameter at breast height (trunk measurement taken at 1.5 m above ground level) was taken using a diameter tape.

6. ASSESSMENT

Tree details, recommendations and suggested time period for works are listed in the tree schedule.

Tree Schedule Key

Type

Tree numbers are prefixed with the following indicating:

T – Tree

G – Group

W – Woodland

H – Hedge

S – Stump

R – Removed (typically used in repeat inspections, the trees which have been removed since the last inspection are indicated as such on the survey plan but omitted from the tree schedule. The schedule including those trees removed is available on request.

Tree Ref No:

This relates to the numbers on the plan. Normally the trees will follow site sequence numbers. Where trees have been tagged both the site sequence number and the tag number will be used as the tree reference number where room on the plan allows. Individual trees are not prefixed. Those prefixed with a G, W or H represent a group, woodland or hedge respectively.

Species:

Latin names are given by default. Where the 'common name' is given they are shown in parentheses.

Age:

Age assessment is based on growth stages rather than actual age in years and are recorded as follows

Young

Semi Mature – having reached up to 1/3 life expectancy

Early mature - having reached 1/3 of the expected life expectancy and is transitioning into maturity.

Mature - over 2/3 life expectancy

Over-mature - fully mature, past peak condition and beginning to decline

Veteran - trees of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of significant age.

Diameter:

This is the stem diameter at 1.5 metres ('breast height') above ground level, given in millimetres.

H (Height):

The height of the tree measured where possible or estimated and recorded in metres.

Occupancy (Usage)

An estimate of the amount of time traffic (pedestrian or vehicular) and or static property is present and/or threatened by potential risks posed by the tree. Based on VALID methodology.

Canopy Spread (Crown radius):

The average crown spread taken from the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches following the compass points North, East, South and West given in metres. The crown shapes and sizes have been provided as a guide only reflecting these measurements. Canopy measurements have been omitted from the tree schedule as the size and shape are illustrated on the survey plan. They can be provided on request.

Physiological condition:

The overall vitality of the tree recorded as good, fair, poor or dead

Structural condition:

An assessment of the health and vigour of the tree compared to what would normally be considered typical of a healthy tree of the species. Condition categories are given as good, fair, poor or dead.

Life Expectancy:

The expected survival and growth potential over the inspection period in the present setting given 'normal' circumstances, i.e. extreme weather events notwithstanding, provided in years (< = less than > = greater than).

In parentheses – An estimation of the overall potential worthwhile remaining contribution given current conditions i.e. the future life expectancy of the tree(s) in the present setting given 'normal' circumstances, given in years categorised <10 years, 10 – 20 years, 20 – 40 years and > 40 years. The overall life expectancy is provided to aid management decisions where trees may be considered to have sufficient vitality for the immediate future but their long term outlook may be poor.

Site Features

Aspects of the site which might be impacted by or have an impact on the tree.

Comments/Notes:

Any notable diseases, symptoms or conditions observed. Any notes considered relevant are recorded here including local features which may be affected by or affect the tree

Recommendations:

Recommendations for work.

Priority:

Provides an indication of the urgency of the works so that they can be organised within logistical constraints within the inspection period. A suggested time period has been provided as a guide but management decisions and timings will depend on resources and the judgement of the client relating to the usage of the area which might differ from the occupancy/usage assessed on the day the trees were inspected.

Assessments are based on their condition on the day of inspection and cannot account for future changes in circumstances.

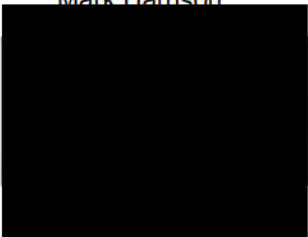
All tree pruning works should be carried out to BS 3998: 2010 Recommendations for Tree Works



Signed

Mark Harrison

21/08/2024



TREE SCHEDULE

Site: THE OLD VICARAGE, RG10 8DH

Date: 24 August 2024

Type	Tree no.	Tag no.	Species	Age	Diameter / mm (no. of stems AGL)	Height / m	Occupancy (Estimated usage)	Condition		Estimated Life Exp (years)	Site Features	Comments	Recommendations	Priority
								Physiological	Structural					
T	1	5418	Castanea sativa (Sweet Chestnut)	Veteran	3000(1)	20	Low	Good	Fair	3+(10+)		Branch stubs. Previously crown reduced. Previously pollarded. Socket/tear wound. Tear wounds. Bark wounding on stem. Cavity on stem. Fungal brackets visible on stem. Stem divides above 1.5m. Cavity in scaffold limb. Historical branch loss. Major deadwood in crown. With a circumference at 1.2m above ground level of 11.15 m (3.5m diameter) additional sensors will be required. These can be obtained if required however, because of the stem to crown ratio complete tree failure is considered unlikely. A cable brace eye bolt has pulled out of stem. An investigation of the integrity of the scaffold branches is required to assess the likelihood of limb failure at the brace points and whether an overall crown reduction is required. Woodpecker holes in main limbs @ 16m)	Carry out internal inspection of the main limbs/stems to inform whether limbs are sufficiently sound to support a cable brace replacement and whether an overall crown reduction is required and to assess to what extent is necessary. Remove basal growth. Remove major deadwood.	3
T	2	5430	Buxus sempervirens (Box)	Mature	160, 220(2)	10		Poor	Fair	3+(5+)	Wall/fence within canopy spread.	Compaction. Foliage/bud density thin.	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
T	3	5429	Taxus baccata (Yew)	Mature	600(1)	12	High	Poor	Fair	3+(<5)	Wall/fence within canopy spread. Building within falling distance.	Branch stubs. Compaction. Low bud/leaf density. Minor deadwood. (little or no extension growth)	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
T	4	5428	Taxus baccata (Yew)	Mature	400, 350, 350(3)	13		Fair	Fair	3+(10+)	Road/track within falling distance. Wall/fence within canopy spread. Building within falling distance.	Previously crown reduced. Included bark present in fork. Stem divides below 1.5m. Low bud/leaf density. (in upper canopy. little or no extension growth)	None required at time of inspection.	No work required

Type	Tree no.	Tag no.	Species	Age	Diameter / mm (no. of stems AGL)	Height / m	Occupancy (Estimated usage)	Condition		Estimated Life Exp (years)	Site Features	Comments	Recommendations	Priority
								Physiological	Structural					
T	5	5427	Taxus baccata (Yew)	Mature	350, 300(2)	14		Fair	Fair	3+(5+)	Road/track within falling distance. Wall/fence within canopy spread.	Stem divides below 1.5m. Low bud/leaf density. (in upper canopy. Excavations in root area. Pos. wind thrown in past.)	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
T	6	5426	Ilex aquifolium (Holly)	Mature	400(1)	12		Fair	Fair	3+(10+)	Road/track within falling distance. Wall/fence within canopy spread. Building within falling distance.	No significant defects noted.	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
T	7	5425	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	Mature	900(1)	20	High	Fair	Fair	3+(10+)	Road/track within falling distance. Wall/fence within canopy spread. Building within falling distance.	Previously pollarded. Horse Chestnut leaf minor (Candelaria oridella). Chestnut leaf blotch (Guignardia aesculi). (boundary wall, historically pollard at around 6 m)	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
T	8	5424	Populus trichocarpa (Western Balsam Popl)	Mature	780(1)	27	High	Fair	Fair	3+(10+)	Road/track within falling distance. Wall/fence within canopy spread.	Surface roots. Major deadwood in crown. Minor deadwood. (narrow fork with included bark at 7 m - no reaction wood evident)	Remove all deadwood.	6
T	9	5423	Cedrus deodora (Deodar)	Mature	480(1)	15	Low	Fair	Fair	3+(10+)	Wall/fence within canopy spread.	Minor deadwood. (previously removed /lost leader)	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
T	10		Juglans nigra (Black Walnut)	Mature	1330(1)	24	Low	Fair	Poor	3+(5+)	Wall/fence within canopy spread.	Decay present on stem. Bark wounding on stem. Major deadwood in crown. Minor deadwood. (possibly historical lightning strike has resulted in the significant wound running up the main stem.)	Remove all deadwood. Crown reduce 30%. The internal integrity was investigated using sonic tomography indicating significant decay. Works have not been undertaken.	3
T	11	5422	Prunus avium (Wild Cherry)	Mature	420(1)	17	Low	Dead	Dead	0		Dead.	Remove.	3
T	12	5420	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	Early Mature	370(1)	20	Low	Fair	Fair	3+(10+)		Minor deadwood. Suppressed. Leaning South-East.	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
T	13	5419	Castanea sativa (Sweet Chestnut)	Early Mature	400(1)	15	Low	Fair	Poor	3+(10+)		Bark wounding on stem. Cavity on stem. Decay present on stem. Major deadwood in crown. (poor callous growth)	Remove all deadwood. Crown reduce 30%.	6
T	14	5417	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	Mature	350(1)	18	Low	Fair	Fair	3+(5+)		No significant defects noted.	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
T	15	5416	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	Mature	350(3)	25	Moderate	Fair	Fair	3+(5+)		Stem divides below 1.5m.	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
G	16	no tag	Taxus baccata (Yew)	Early Mature	200(3)	10		Fair	Fair	3+(10+)	Footpath/access within canopy spread. Wall/fence within canopy spread.	Previously crown reduced. Included bark present in fork. Stem divides below 1.5m. Low bud/leaf density. (in upper canopy.)	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
T	17	no tag	Taxus baccata (Yew)	Early Mature	250(3)	10		Fair	Fair	3+(10+)	Footpath/access within canopy spread. Wall/fence within canopy spread.	No significant defects noted.	None required at time of inspection.	No work required



Type	Tree no.	Tag no.	Species	Age	Diameter / mm (no. of stems AGL)	Height / m	Occupancy (Estimated usage)	Condition		Estimated Life Exp (years)	Site Features	Comments	Recommendations	Priority
								Physiological	Structural					
G	18	no tag	Taxus baccata (Yew), Prunus laurocerasus (Cherry Laurel), Castanea sativa (Sweet Chestnut), Laburnum anagyroides (Laburnum), Laurus nobilis (Bay)	Mature	900(1)	20	High	Fair	Fair	3+(10+)	Road/track within falling distance. Wall/fence within canopy spread. Building within falling distance.	No significant defects noted.	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
T	19	no tag	Castanea sativa (Sweet Chestnut)	Early Mature	250(3)	17		Fair	Fair	3+(10+)	Footpath/access within canopy spread. Wall/fence within canopy spread.	Hanging broken branch. Historical branch loss. Major deadwood in crown.	Remove major deadwood.	6
T	20	5423	Cedrus deodora (Deodar)	Semi - Early Mature	200(1)	14	Low	Fair	Fair	3+(10+)	Wall/fence within canopy spread.	Minor deadwood. (previously removed /lost leader)	None required at time of inspection.	No work required
T	21	no tag	Ilex aquifolium (Holly)	Early Mature	300(1)	12		Fair	Fair	3+(10+)	Road/track within falling distance. Wall/fence within canopy spread. Building within falling distance.	No significant defects noted.	None required at time of inspection.	No work required

APPENDIX 1 – Qualifications and Experience

Brief qualifications and experience of Mark Harrison

After having gained a national diploma in arboriculture from Merrist Wood Agricultural College in 1986 Mark has been employed by various Borough and District councils having been awarded the post of arboricultural officer. He has also provided officer support and consultation services to further councils as well as private companies and individuals.

He is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association, Consulting Arborists Society and the International Society of Arboriculture as well as an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

Qualifications include:

BSc (Hons) (Natural Science) (Environmental Science)

OND Arboriculture

VALID Tree risk – Benefit Assessment

International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment Qualification

Professional Tree Inspection (Lantra)

Professional Tree Valuation (Lantra)

Bats in Trees

Bats and Fiberscopes.

Bat Awareness (Surveying to BS 8596 Surveying for Bats and Trees in Woodland. Guide).

APPENDIX 2 - INSPECTION LEVELS

Level 1: Limited Visual Assessment

The Level 1 assessments provide a visual assessment from a specified perspective of an individual or population of trees near specified targets. A limited visual assessment typically focuses on identifying trees with an *imminent* and/or *probable* likelihood of failure identifying obvious defects or specified conditions. Limited visual assessments are the fastest but least thorough means of assessment and are intended primarily for large populations of trees.

Level 2: Basic Assessment

A Level 2 or basic assessment is a detailed visual inspection of a tree and surrounding site. A basic assessment includes complete inspection of the tree from ground level using of simple measuring tools and those specified in the Scope of Work to gain additional information about the tree or defects. Basic is the standard assessment performed by arborists in response to a client's request for tree risk assessment.

Level 3: Advanced Assessment

Advanced assessments are performed to provide detailed information about specific tree parts, defects, targets, or site conditions. They are usually conducted in conjunction with or after a basic assessment if the tree risk assessor needs additional information and the client approves the additional service. Specialized equipment, data collection and analysis, and/or expertise are usually required for advanced assessments and are therefore generally more time intensive and expensive.

Bibliography

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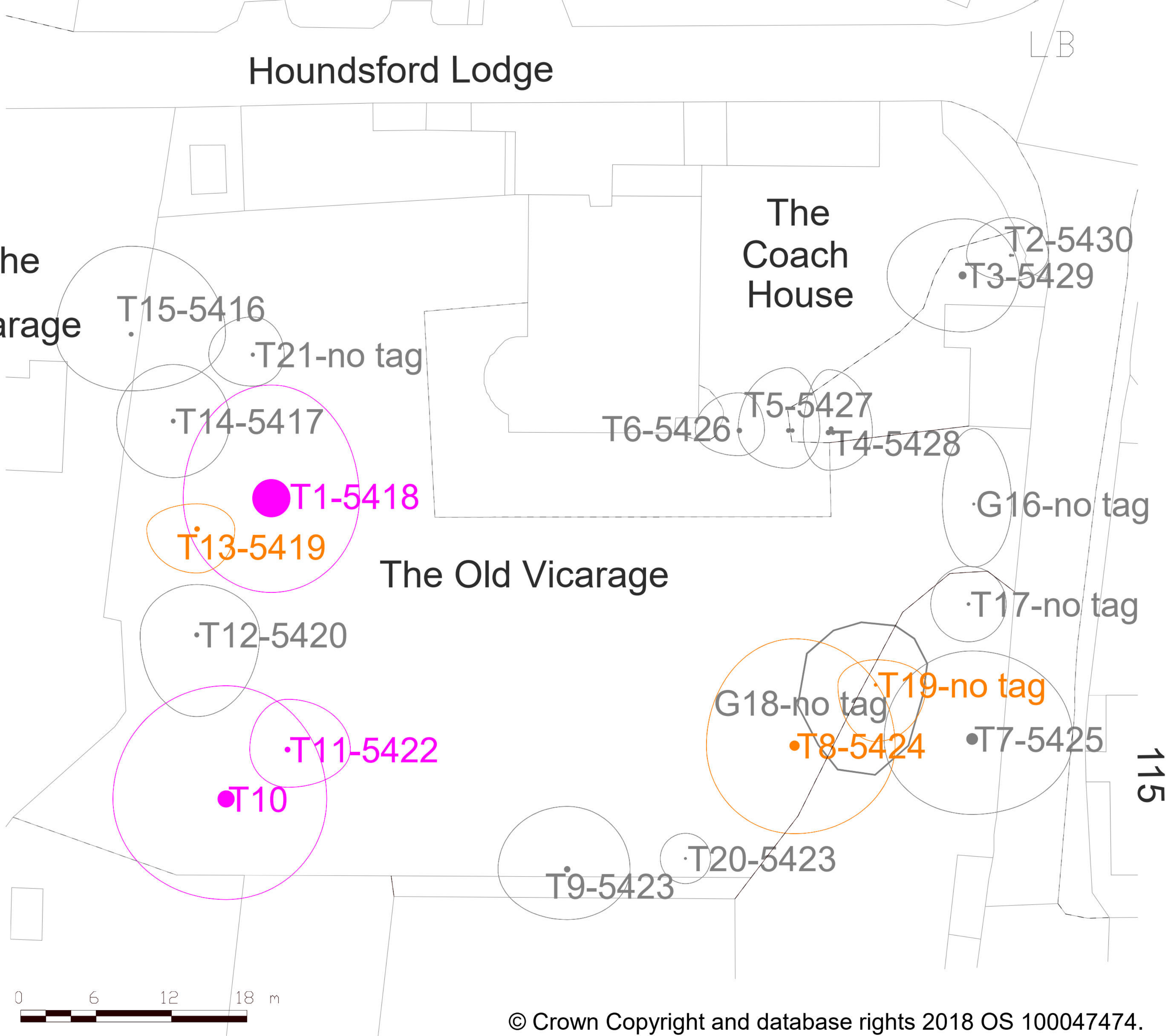
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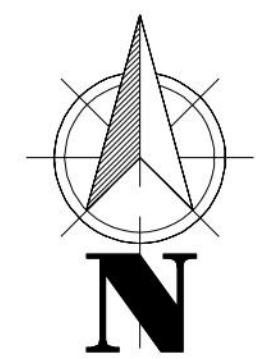
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- Legend
- Recommended priority
- 1 month
 - 3 months
 - 6 months
 - 12 months
 - 24 Months
 - Prior to next inspection
 - No work Required
- 65 Tree ID number (colour as per priority)
- T – Tree
G – Group
W – Woodland
H – Hedge
S – Stump
R – Removed



SITE	The Old Vicarage, Wargrave
DRAWING	Tree condition survey
DRAWING NO.	84/2020/8/21/2024
SCALE	1:500 @ A3
DATE	21 August 2024
DRAWN BY	M.Harrison