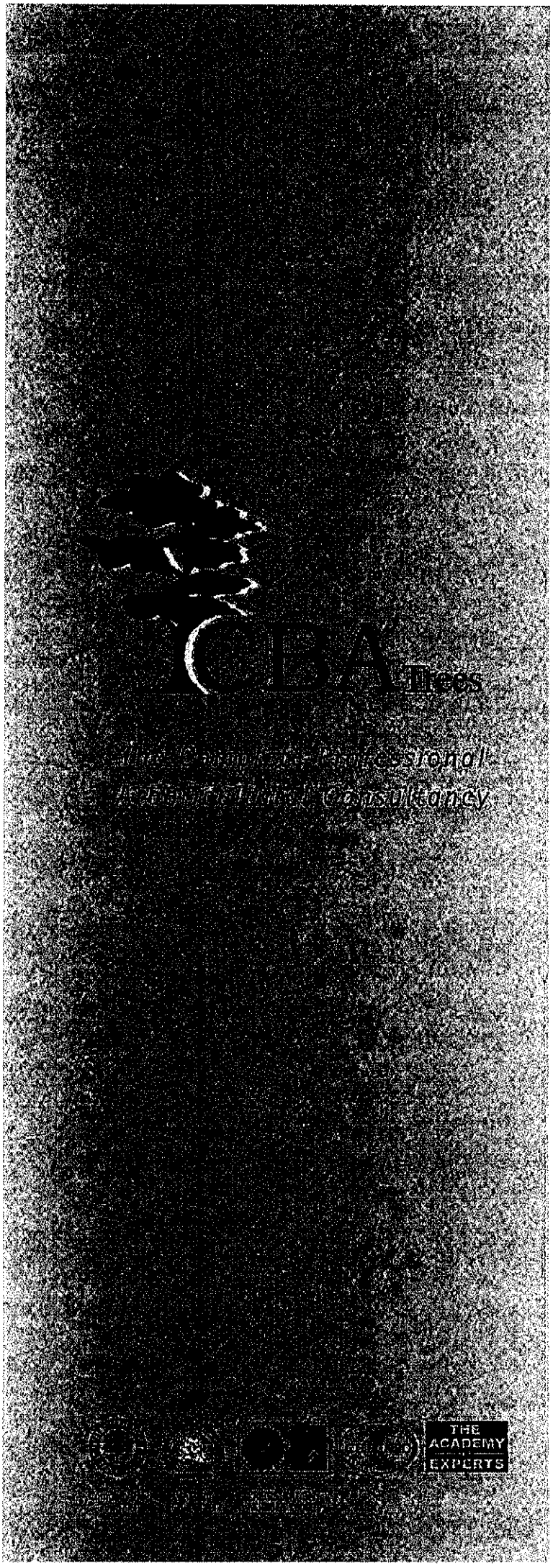


April 2011
CBA7674 v1

Mr Ian Bird

VISUAL TREE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site:
48 Broom Hill Way
Boyatt Wood
Eastleigh

CBA Trees, Apex House, Apex Centre,
Church Lane, Colden Common,
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CBA7674

VISUAL TREE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Client:	Mr I Bird
Site:	48 Broom Hill Way, Eastleigh
Arboricultural Consultant:	Dominic Gane *BSc (Hons), Cert.Arb (RFS), MIEEM, MArborA*
Date:	13th April 2011

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CBA Trees received verbal instructions from Mr Bird on 11th April 2011 to carry out a Visual Tree Assessment (VTA), from ground level, of an English Oak (*Quercus robur*) growing in the rear garden of 48 Broom Hill Way, Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh.

1.2 Mr Clarke raised concerns that the tree appeared to be in poor health and believed the tree may be unstable due to its position on top of an eroding bank.

1.3 CBA Trees was to provide initial verbal advice to Mr Bird in respect of the findings of the VTA and provide any management recommendations (if appropriate) with the provision of a written statement of the findings following the site visit.

2.0 FINDINGS

2.1 General

2.1.1 The tree inspected is a mature age class English oak (*Quercus robur*) approximately 16m tall with a diameter of approximately 730mm.

2.1.2 The tree is subject to an Eastleigh Borough Council 1973 area TPO.

2.1.3 The tree is situated atop a bank towards the rear south-eastern boundary hedge of the property.

2.1.4 The tree is within and surrounded by private gardens on a dedicated housing estate, however, due to its size and location its crown is visible above the roofline of the dwellings, and along with the several Oak trees in the adjoining properties, integrates the development into the wider landscape.

2.2 Basal Area

2.2.1 The tree is situated immediately on top of a steep bank between 1m and 1.5m high to the South and West aspects with level ground extending to the North and East aspects.

2.2.2 It appears that the gradient of this and adjoining sites was significantly changed some years ago, possibly at the time of the development, and that this bank was created at that time with the tree *in-situ*.

2.2.3 The soil of this bank appears to be eroding, and between the structural support roots significant voids are forming that extend below the trunk.

2.2.4 Approximately North of the tree and corresponding to a buttress, extends a pronounced hump in the soil indicative of major guy root formation.

2.2.5 On the site close to the Oak was found what appeared to be a short root section with white mycelia growing beneath the bark; the mycelia had a strong fungal smell. This may be indicative of *Armillaria* spp.

2.2.6 It was noted that a tree to the East, in the adjoining garden, appeared to be dead.

2.3 Trunk

2.3.1 There is ivy on the trunk and within the canopy that was sufficiently dense to limit the scope of the inspection.

2.3.2 The trunk displays pronounced expansion growth to the North-east sector which is absent from the South-west sector.

2.3.3 There is necrotic bark from the ground level to 700mm above ground, woundwood has formed below this; however, the area sounded hollow when tested with a polythene hammer.

2.4 Crown

2.4.1 The crown appears to be thinning and approximately 20% of the photosynthetic area of the canopy (estimated from the remaining branch structure) is dead.

2.4.2 There is evidence of unsympathetic historical pruning in the lower crown.

3.0 OPINION

3.1 From the visual inspection, it is my opinion that the tree is in decline. The symptoms observed on site may be consistent with root disturbance or due to a pathogen.

3.2 The regrading on site appears to be historic so it is considered unlikely that this is the cause of this tree's decline.

3.3 The presence of white mycelia on site, dead trees on adjoining land, and necrotic bark on the Oak point towards a pathogen, possibly *Armillaria* spp, although it was not possible to confirm or disprove this during the inspection.

3.4 It is my opinion that the eroding bank and formation of voids below the trunk, coupled with guy root development and adaptive growth to the North and East sector, indicate instability.

3.5 The tree currently has major deadwood within the canopy, presenting a hazard to recreational areas on this and adjoining land which it overhangs.

3.6 Given the potential problem of worsening stability and the decline, it is questionable on balance, whether investment in tree management, to secure what is most likely a short-term future, is appropriate in this instance.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

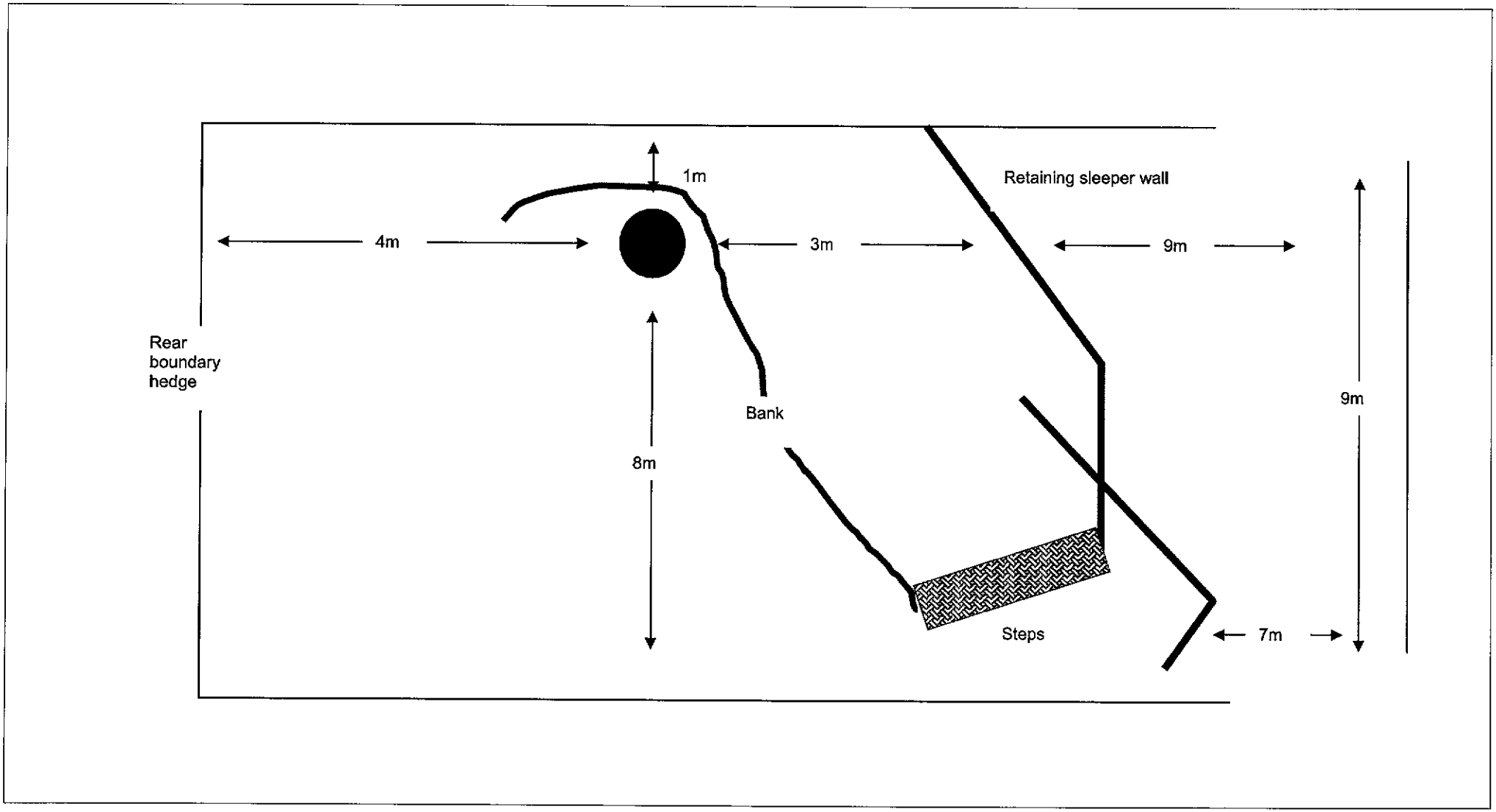
4.1 I recommend that consent be sought from Eastleigh Borough Council to fell this tree for the reasons given above and a replacement tree be established; the location and species to be agreed in writing by Eastleigh Borough Council.

CBA Trees.

HAZARD SAFETY AUDIT

Client:	Mr Ian Bird
Site	48 Broom Hill Way, Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh
Date of Survey:	13 April 2011
Arboricultural Consultant:	Dominic Gane BSc(Hons), Cert.Arb(RFS), MIEEM, M.Arbor A
Tagged:	No
Weather:	Overcast, dry, light breeze

Tree No	Species	Age Class	Height (m)	Trunk Diameter (mm)	Crown Spread (m)	Overall Condition	Defects and other Relevant Comments	Recommended Works
1	Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*	Mature	15-20	>600	10-15	Poor	Ivy on trunk limits survey Growing on bank Growing on slope Major deadwood in crown Old pruning wounds in crown with stubs Dieback in crown (approximately 20%) Bank eroding to South and West aspects Suspect major historic root disturbance Necrotic bark at 0.7m above ground level to NNW sounding hollow Noticable hump in soil to North approximately correlating to buttressing NE sector of trunk displays adaptive expansion growth Significant undermining of rootplate extending below trunk Broken root section found with white mycelia (heavy fungal smell) possibly *Armillaria spp*	Remove deadwood and ivy



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Drawing Title:	Job No:	Client:		Orientation:
Tree Location Sketch	CBA7674	Mr Ian Bird		N
	Drawing No: CBA7674.01HD	Date: 13th April 2011	Scale: Not to Scale	