Alderwood Consulting Limited

Mr C Bowler
Tandem Design
Eastgate Street
SOUTHAMPTON
SO14 3HB

My Ref: TRG1413L2

28th March 2017

Dear Mr Bowler

RE: GREYLADYES, OLD BURSLEDON - TREES

As part of the continuing arboricultural management of trees on the above site, I carried out a site visit on 9th March 2017 and carried out a walking ground-based visual assessment of the indicated trees. This letter is a brief report on the condition of the trees at the time of my inspection, with an appraisal and recommendations for management. Where appropriate, parts of earlier letters are included, to facilitate cross reference of tree and other information and to give background information so that this letter can be read on its own. The fundamental assumption is that trees are in normal health and condition and do not therefore warrant comment unless otherwise specifically identified in the following report.

The weather at the time of the inspection was overcast, still and dry with good visibility.

Site description

1. Greyladyes is a small estate of arable land and woodland, in all about 18 acres, lying between High Street, Church Lane and Station Hill in Bursledon. The woodland is predominantly to the south of St Leonard's Church where the land drops to a small stream, rising again to the south where the woodland becomes a narrowing strip along the west edge of the footpath, tapering away to a coppiced hedge along the metalled part of Station Hill. The woodland also extends in a narrowing marginal strip along the south side of the southern part of Church Lane. There is no formal public access to the site.

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AA Registered CONSULTANT trees.org.uk

Overview of tree safety management principles for this site

2 As private land with no formal public access, the tree safety issues predominantly relate to those trees within falling distance of adjacent land (private residences, roads). In managing trees for safety, the issue of what is reasonable should be considered. It is neither necessary nor reasonable to carry out a full safety inspection for all the trees in the wood. For trees within 'falling distance' of the adjacent sites, a reasonable safety inspection can be carried out as a walking inspection, looking for signs of tree problems such as thin crowns, late bud break, extensive dead wood and die-back, significant cavities and fungal fruiting bodies. Trees displaying any or all of these signs would warrant a more detailed assessment. The problem trees having been identified, the work proposed should be sufficient to bring the risk to an acceptable level. For example, a dead tree may not need to be felled to ground level if it can more easily and safely be felled to leave a stump of up to 5m. Arisings from felling and pruning (trunks and branches) do not have to be removed or cut up, but can be left to decay and break up naturally. Branches overhanging from the site might also be a problem if they cause damage e.g., branch ends brushing a roof and dislodging tiles. Although adjoining property owners may have rights under common law to remove overhanging branches back to the boundary (and if they do, they should offer the branches back to the owner who is not obliged to take them), they are not obliged to exercise those rights. If damage is caused by branches even where the common-law right could have been exercised, the tree owner is the liable party.

Tree assessment – condition overview

3 Winter i.e. before bud-break gives an opportunity to see the whole branch structure of the crown unobscured by foliage. Cavities, fractures and decay in the middle and upper crowns may also be visible. In any woodland tree population not intensively managed for forestry or public access a range of tree conditions would be expected and the tree population at Greyladyes is typical in this respect. Most trees appear to be in normal health and condition. There is dead wood and die-back in many trees but to a normal extent for the level of management to date.

Tree assessment – specific trees

4 **Oak opposite access to dwelling adjacent to Glebe House, Church Lane - T1 on attached plan:** This is a large mature oak which has had work to reduce large dead wood. There remains a large live branch to the south,

with some decay; and what remains of the rest of the middle trunk is deteriorating. In addition, a small cavity near the base of the trunk on the side towards Church Lane extends into the tree a distance nearly equal to the trunk diameter. The tree should be reduced overall to give a height of no more than 5m.

5 **Oaks T2 and T3 on attached plan:** These are oaks on the east side of Church Lane with crowns overhanging the highway. There is large dead wood over the carriageway, and this should be removed

6 **Oak adj detached garage - T4 on attached plan:** This is a large mature oak appearing to be uncharacteristically thin in the crown with occasional die-back and dead wood. There is no indication at the base of the trunk of instability, significant recent damage, insecure rooting or fungal fruiting bodies. In consideration of the size of the tree and its location, crown reduction overall is recommended. Photos 5 and 6 have been annotated to give an indication of the extent of reduction. The ideal outcome would be to have a crown reduced in extent, with the leverage of long branches reduced along with a reduction in the risk of branch damage and loss in severe weather; but retaining as far as possible a reasonable crown form. This may be a matter of discussion between the Local Planning Authority tree officer and the selected tree surgeon (and see paragraph 12 below).

Other Considerations

11 **The responsibility of tree owners:** Tree owners are under a duty of care by way of the Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984 to ensure that their premises, including trees, are kept safe for residents, visitors and neighbours. For most domestic tree owners, this duty may be addressed by employing a suitably experienced and qualified tree assessor, and being guided by their recommendations. A written record of tree inspections and assessments is prudent, together with a record of works proposed and carried out.

12 **Tree surgeons:** The quality and experience of tree surgeons is variable. The selection of well qualified, experienced and properly insured tree surgeons is important where work is near highways, structures and people on adjacent land, and near overhead cables. If you have your own tree surgeon and are satisfied with their work, by all means continue to instruct. Otherwise the Local Planning Authority may have a list of tree surgeons who operate in the Council area (but the Council cannot recommend). The Arboricultural Association (www.trees.org.uk) has a

list of tree surgeons who are approved through an assessment scheme. My personal recommendation is Josephine Hedger of Arbor Venture at Glenwood, Crabbswood Lane, Sway Hampshire SO41 6EQ, Tel: 01590 683540. Jo is a championship (tree) climber, and a provider of arboricultural training. As a tree surgeon, she is professional and conscientious, working to a high standard with care and skill. Please note that this is a professional recommendation; there is no financial or business connection between Arbor Venture and Alderwood Consulting Ltd, and you are of course free to choose your arboricultural contractor. All pruning shall be carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 *Recommendations for Tree Work*.

Please call me if you need any further clarification on any of these points.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Fulcher **DipArb FArborA**

APPENDIX 3
Photographs



Photo 1: Tree T1 from Church Lane looking south east

APPENDIX 3
Photographs



Photo 2: Tree T1 indicating basal cavity

APPENDIX 3
Photographs



Photo 3: Tree T2 from Church Lane looking north

APPENDIX 3
Photographs



Photo 4: Tree T3 from Church Lane looking north

APPENDIX 3
Photographs



Photo 5: Tree T4 from 5 Greyladyes looking east and indicating potential extent of crown reduction

APPENDIX 3
Photographs



Photo 6: Tree T4 from 5 Greyladyes looking south east and indicating potential extent of reduction

Google Maps


Alderwood
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Plan AC1
Indicative tree location plan
Based on Google Maps screen shot
GREYLADYES, OLD BURSLEDON
Report Ref: TRG1413L2
Key
T1
Indicative location of trees referred to in letter of report
The original of this drawing was produced in colour. A monochrome copy should not be relied upon.
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T2
T3
T4
Church Ln
Saint Leonard's Bursledon
School Rd
Station Rd
Station Hill
Bursledon
High St
The Ferry Resturant
Google