


# St Swithun Wells Church
# Allington Lane, Fair Oak

# CLIMBING INSPECTIONS

**PREPARED BY**

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**Signed M. Cross** **Dated 28 October 2012**

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## 1 Brief

To carry out a climbing inspection of the major trees within the woodland areas as per your schedule and provide a written report in relation to:

1. Health and Safety

## 2 Report Limitations

This survey is of a preliminary nature. The trees were inspected from rope and harness using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method. Tree samples have not been taken for analysis.

Further inspection may be needed this will be recommended on the survey as required. Trees covered by ivy or within dense vegetation cannot be thoroughly inspected.

Trees in highly used areas should be inspected every 12 months.

Deadwood in mature trees occurs naturally and forms an important wild life habitat and I would only recommend its removal if it becomes a Health & Safety issue.

### 2.1 Tree Number

The trees are numbered as T1 etc or using existing tags if present as appropriate.

### 2.2 Species

All trees will be identified using their common names.

### 2.3 Age Class

The age of trees are estimated within the following classification:

Y = Young trees (age less than 1/3 life expectancy)
SM = Semi-mature (1/3 to 2/3 life expectancy)
M = Mature (last 1/3 of life expectancy)
OM = Over-mature (declining in size and health)

### 2.4 Tree Condition

The general condition of each tree will be shown as follows:

E = Excellent, healthy condition good form minimal defects.
G = Good, healthy condition some dead wood or minimal defects present.
A = Average, Reasonable health major dead wood and/or defects present.
P = Poor, suppressed, dead or dying, large areas of dead wood or major infection.

### 2.5 Comments / Suggested Works

Any comments about tree condition and recommendations for arboricultural work will be listed under this section.

This work should be carried out to BS3998 (1989) by a competent tree surgeon with Public and Employers Liability Insurance of £5 Million.

## 3 Conclusions

The trees in the woodlands and shelterbelts are in general of good health. Regular inspections and work schedules are important to maintain the trees in a healthy and safe condition due the high usage of the site and close proximity of the surrounding roads and footpaths I would recommend this is done on an annual basis.

T2 Oak, The fungus on this tree is thought to be Fomes fomentarius although it is very old and difficult to identify, this can cause decay and weaken the structure of the tree. As the tree is set back from the road and the weight predominantly on the field side I would place this as low risk. I recommend this is monitored and as a new fungal bracket appears please call me to investigate further.

3751 Ash, this tree has an old cavity on the main stem it is extensive and pollarding will reduce the weight and risk of failure whilst leaving the remaining tree as an important wildlife habitat. I would recommend this is repeated every 3 to 5 years.

3726 Pine, The decay on the trunk is extensive with heavy branching on the south side and is in great danger of failure. The target area is of high usage with staff and children of the adjacent school and church. I would recommend this tree is removed at the earliest opportunity.

**4 Tree Survey**

| Item | T No | Species | Age | Condition | Comments/ Suggested Works |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W1 | T1 | Oak | M | Good | Good health and vigour some deadwood present no action |
| W3 | T2 | Oak | M | Average | Situated back from the road, good health and vigour some deadwood present. There is evidence of fungal bracket at 1.8m on the southern side. Monitor |
| | 3993 | Lime | M | Average | Good health and vigour some deadwood present. The major forks are partially included these should be monitored regularly. |
| | 3994 | Lime | M | Good | Good health and vigour some deadwood present. There are 2 heavy limbs on the road side these should be reduced by 4m to reduce end loading. |
| | T3 | Oak | M | Average | Good health and vigour some deadwood present. There is a small wound on the field side hidden by the ivy it appears superficial. Monitor |
| W13 | 3726 | Pine | M | Poor | This tree has several wounds on the north side consistent with a previous lightning strike. There is some callus growth around the many large cavities. The cavity in the upper crown and mid crown are to a depth of 300mm, the lower cavity is hollow and passes through the trunk with decayed wood between the two cavities. All the cavities are extensive with further decayed wood sounding hollow around the trunk. Fell |
| W14 | 3751 | Ash | SM | Poor | There is a large cavity extending 300mm down the main stem and half the diameter of the trunk. Pollard to the main fork. |

**Appendix (i)**

**Photographs**



**3751 Ash**

