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JOHNSTON TREE
CONSULTANCY

SALTERNS BOATYARD
SALTERNS LANE
BURSELDON
HAMPSHIRE
SO31 8DH

DECEMBER 2022

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report was instructed by Mr. Foulkes with regard to the safety of a Common Ash within a small wooded area at the boatyard.

2.0 SITE VISIT

- 2.1 The site visit was undertaken on 1st December 2022. The tree was surveyed visually, externally and from ground level only. No samples or internal decay detection readings were taken for further analysis. All dimensions have been measured unless stated otherwise. Weather conditions at the time of the survey were overcast and still.

3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 The site is located within Salterns Boatyard on a private road. There is an old cabin beneath the tree which is currently being renovated.

4.0 TREE SURVEY DATA

The tree was inspected and the data collected is found in the tree data table following.



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031 8DH

Tree Number and Species	Height (m)	DBH (mm)	Branch Spread (m)				Age Class	Comments
			N	S	E	W		
T1 Common Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	18	1200	14		12		M	Stem trifurcates at 0.5m, branch unions appeared sound at time of inspection with no obvious defects. Historically a large limb has been lost at ground level leaving a very large cavity. The cavity extends halfway across the base of the trunk of the tree. Die back is evident in the crown, maybe a result of Ash Dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>).

Key to Terms

- Identification numbers have been used and correspond to the site plan shown at **Appendix 1**.
- Vegetation type has been categorized as one of the following: Tree (T), Hedge (H), Shrub (S), Group (G), Stump (ST)
- Species are listed by common and botanical name where appropriate.
- Where possible, measurements have been made in accordance with the conventions detailed below. Where this was not possible, due to site conditions or the vegetation being in third party ownership, dimensions have been estimated. * Indicates estimated measurement.
- Height has been recorded to the nearest half metre.
- Stem diameter has been measured at 1.5m and recorded in millimetres, except where forking or swelling has meant that this is not possible, stem diameter has then been recorded at the narrowest point below these features. Multi-stemmed trees have had individual stems measured at 1.5m. Where this was not possible the actual height where the diameter was measured is recorded. G.L. = Ground Level.
- Crown spread has been recorded to the nearest half metre. Rounded up for dimensions up to 10m and the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m.
- Age class has been recorded as follows:

Y	Young recently planted or establishing tree that could be transplanted without specialist equipment, i.e. up to 12-14cms-stem girth.
S/M	Semi mature. An established tree but one that has not reached its potential ultimate height and has significant growth potential.
E/M	Early mature. A tree reaching its ultimate potential height, whose growth rate is slowing down but will increase in stem diameter and crown spread, and has a safe life expectancy.
M	Mature. A mature specimen with limited potential for any significant increase in size but with a reasonable safe life expectancy.
O/M	Over mature. A senescent or moribund specimen with a limited safe life expectancy. Possibly also containing significant structural defects with attendant safety and/or duty of care implications.
- Physiological Condition has been recorded as Good, Fair or Poor.
- Recommendations for tree management have been based on current Arboricultural Best Practice as set out by the Arboricultural profession and all relevant publications.

5.0 LEGAL CONSTRAINTS

- 5.1 Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) has verbally confirmed that the tree is not the subject of a Tree Preservation Order. However, the site does fall within the Bursledon Conservation Area. Given this a Notification of Proposed Works will be submitted to EBC for removal of the tree.

6.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND REFERNECES USED

- 6.1 A Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) was undertaken looking at the roots, trunk, branch structure, buds and leaves to aid assessment of general tree health and vitality. The target, failure potential, size of part most likely to fail and site usage are all considered
- 6.2 The frequency of decay related failure is not considered high in this species as stated in Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management. (Lonsdale, David. 1^{ed} 1999. The Stationary Office). However, the extent of the decay, its location at the base of the tree, the very large heavy scaffold limbs it is considered that failure is highly likely and damage could be significant.
- 6.3 The area surrounding the cavity was 'tapped' with a nylon hammer to aid determination of the extent of any decay present. It appears the decay extends across half of the width of the truck as well as about 0.5m upwards.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The tree is mature with a sizeable trunk and scaffold limbs. It has significant decay at the base.
- 7.2 Currently the primary 'target' is a cabin, currently undergoing renovation and cannot be moved.
- 7.3 Once the cabin is renovated people will be using the site and although it is acknowledged the usage will be intermittent, the tree is still considered a threat to the safety of people.
- 7.4 If failure occurs the whole tree or at least one of the large scaffold limbs will fail and this could cause considerable damage to property and/or harm to site users.
- 7.5 It is advised that the tree is removed as soon as possible; given this a Notification of Intention will be submitted to Eastleigh Borough Council.

Important Notes

The comments made with regard to the health and stability of the trees within this report were correct at the time of inspection. It should be recognized that trees are dynamic structures that can never be completely predictable and may become unstable or partially unstable even in average weather conditions. Changes can occur not only to environmental triggers but also in response to biological or mechanical events.

Inspection Caveats

The inspection was carried out from ground level. Binoculars were used to observe features higher in the canopies.

Foliage, extension growth and/or bud proliferation were assessed visually.

No soil or tissue samples were taken during this inspection.

No invasive diagnostic equipment was used to detect decay.

A nylon hammer was used to test for possible decay and dead or loose bark around the lower stems and bases of the trees.

Ivy has been removed during the inspection process only where reasonable and practicable. Where this has not been possible it has been noted as a recommendation to be removed to allow detailed re-inspection.

No tree is ever absolutely safe due to the unpredictable laws and forces of nature.

CREDENTIALS OF THE AUTHOR

Sarah Johnston M. Arbor. A., B.Sc. Arboriculture has worked in the Arboricultural profession since 1998. Her experience has been gained from undertaking practical tree work as well as working as an Arboricultural Surveyor and Tree Officer for Eastleigh and Havant Borough Councils respectively. In addition Sarah worked as a consultant for Marishal Thompson for two years from 2005 when she became self-employed. Sarah is a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association and holds Professional Indemnity Insurance.