

TREE CONDITION ASSESSMENT

No.30 LINDRIDGE LANE, DESFORD, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE9 9GN



6th March 2025

Dear Mr. Jack Woods

I am writing to you to inform you of my findings from the inspection of the trees owned by your client at No.30 Lindridge Lane, Desford, Leicestershire, LE9 9GN that was carried out on the 28th of February 2025. As agreed from our previous correspondence I have enclosed my inspection findings within this letter to act as evidence for your planning application.

The inspected trees belonging to No.30 Lindridge are located within the front garden and overhang Lindridge Road. The trees appear to have originally been located in a hedgerow prior to the construction of the properties. There are three Ash trees remaining of the original hedgerow. The third Ash tree belonging to the neighbouring property No.22 (Blossom Hill) was not inspected.

I have included my findings below:

ID	SPECIES	CONDITION	COLLECTED DATA	WORK PRIORITY
T1	Common Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	POOR: The main stem of this tree is Ivy Clad from ground level to beyond the first main union at 2m, to around 4.5m. The crown is borne from 3 main stems. There is significant deadwood and dieback within the crown with only 5-10% of the crown remaining live. Large diameter dead limbs and branches are overhanging the highway and phone cables. It is very likely that this tree has succumbed to Ash dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>). Another contributing factor may be the negative impact of the construction of No.30 Lindridge Lane and its driveway on the tree's roots	Age Class: Mature Diameter : <700mm Height: 18m Crown Spread: 15m – 20m	Urgent (within 30 Days)
	RECOMMENDATIONS Either: Take down to ground level or Monolith to 3.5m and retain as habitat potential.			

I would also recommend that the tree be replaced in the next planting season with an English Oak (*Quercus Robur*) Bareroot, Standard, 200/250cm.

ID	SPECIES	CONDITION	COLLECTED DATA	WORK PRIORITY
	Common Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	FAIR: The main stem of this tree is also Ivy Clad to approximately 4m. The tree's main bifurcation is located at 2m. Significant deadwood is present throughout the crown. A large diameter, dead, hanging branch is present over the driveway on the East side at 7m. The removal of T1 will increase wind exposure to the crown of this tree and will also increase the risk of branch failure. Branch tips exhibit signs of Ash dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>), through retained keys, moderate epicormic growth, and clustered growth of branch tips. It is estimated that this tree will have a remaining lifespan of up to 5 years, possibly longer depending on the tree's resilience to the disease.	Age Class: Mature Diameter : <700mm Height: 18m Crown Spread: 11m – 20m	High Priority (within 6 months)
RECOMENDATIONS				
T2	Two options are available Either: With the remaining lifespan in mind, and also the increase exposure from the removal of T1: • Reduce the crown of the tree by approximately 5 – 6m in height and lateral spread to reduce the risk of branch wind-snap. Cuts should not exceed 180mm. This will essentially pollard/top the tree however it will also retain the tree and minimise the risk of branch failures from increased wind exposure. Deadwood should also be removed. • Regrowth should be inspected annually to determine the vitality of the crown. • Regrowth should be thinned out in year 2 or 3 (after initial works) to retain favourable branches. • If the tree responds favourably to the pruning and does not succumb to Ash Dieback, a crown reduction should be undertaken in year 5 or 6 (after initial works). Or: Take down to ground level Or: Monolith to 3.5m and retain as habitat potential.			

Although T2 shows signs of Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), retention is possible (and preferable) at this stage of infection, although removal may be an inevitability. It should also be noted that reducing the crown will result in repeat tree surgery costs. Should T2 be removed I would again recommend that the tree be replaced in the next planting season with an English Oak (*Quercus Robur*) Bareroot, Standard, 200/250cm.

As a land owner, your client has a legal duty of care to those who your trees may harm, property or persons, if failure should occur. with this in mind I would recommend that the remaining Ash tree be inspected every annually to assess its physiological and structural condition. In the case of severe weather and storms however it is advised that trees be re-inspected due to the unpredictable damage that can be caused.

If you have any queries, please contact me at severnarboricultural@gmail.com .

Edward Severn

(DipArb L4 (ABC), Tech Arbor A)

