

Tree Survey

4 x Corsican Pine trees, Cemetery, Blockley



Prepared for: Blockley Parish Council

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The following report sets out the findings of a tree survey undertaken at The Cemetery in Blockley village.

The survey has been carried out by Crawshaw Environmental on behalf of Blockley Parish Council. The surveys are required to ascertain the viability and safety of the trees.

- 1.2 The site is situated within the rural village of Blockley. The 4 trees stand along the roadside, within the cemetery, either side of the entrance gate.





2.0 Legislation and Policy

If any of the trees are covered by a Tree Preservation Order or located in a Conservation Area it will be necessary to consult the local authority before any works other than certain exemptions can be carried out.

Any practical work should be carried out by a competent contractor with the relevant insurance and experience. The contractor should carry out all tree works to BS 3998 *Recommendations for Tree Work* (1991) as modified by research that is more recent.

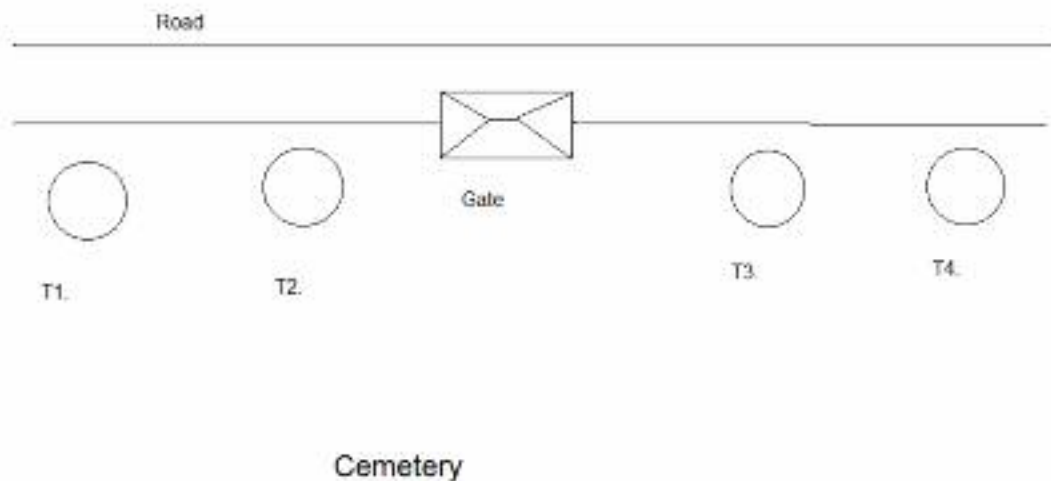
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3.0 Survey Methodology

We undertook a full arboricultural survey of each tree to determine their current health and stability. Each tree was assessed individually, and observations were made from the ground and by aerial inspection using ropes

and harnesses. Photographs were taken of key elements and these can be found towards the end of this report.



4.0 Tree assessment

T1. Corsican Pine *Pinus. Nigra var. maritima*

Girth 2.7m Height 25m Age. Mature Cable Braced

The root plate of this tree appears in good condition, with no signs of uplift/movement. The lower stem is solid with no visible signs of rot or fungus, there is evidence of tight Ivy growth, which has since been removed.

The main stem splits into 3 leaders, the union appears to be in good condition with no signs of included bark, strong reaction wood is present. A 4th leader extends on the Cemetery side from a fork higher up, this fork shows evidence of included bark and could be a weak point, it is also not cable braced. An old pruning wound on this stem is beginning to show signs of rot.

Previous crown lifting is evident and the old pruning cuts have crystallised sap/resin present, and some are showing signs of rot. Previous pruning in some cases has not been back to the branch collars and this has restricted callous growth.

There are signs of dieback in the upper canopy and there is minor deadwood throughout. A torn out limb is hanging but still partially attached and although not an immediate danger, should be removed.

Severe pruning cuts on the main stems suggest a past reduction in height. These cuts were left as 'step cuts' and are showing signs of rot in places. Stimulated and heavy regrowth extends from these points, which could become weak.

The stems have been cable braced and this system is showing signs of age, the tree is growing around the anchor points and the metal is beginning to rust. The bracing appears to be doing a useful job at this time and although deteriorating, is operating as a useful backup.

Overall the tree appears to be in reasonable health, but is showing signs of maturity, decline and adverse affects of past management. This tree should be retained but managed in accordance with the recommendations in this report.

T2. Corsican Pine *Pinus. Nigra var. maritima*

Girth 2.9m Height 35m Age. Mature

The rootplate of this tree appears in good condition, with no signs of uplift/movement. The lower stem is solid with no visible signs of rot or fungus, there is evidence of tight Ivy growth, which has since been removed. The lower stem is solid with no visible signs of rot or fungus, there is evidence of tight Ivy growth, which has since been removed. A solid single stem leans heavily out towards the road. There are no signs of movement and it appears that the tree has always had this habit and as a result had put on reaction wood growth to support it and does not appear to be a concert at this time.

All unions on this tree appear solid although some of the past reduction and lifting cuts, as T1. are showing signs of rot. Again substantial regrowth extends from these points up and over the road which contain a significant amount of weight.

There are some minor signs of decline in the upper canopy and minor dead wood throughout. No cable bracing is evident.

Overall, this tree looks to be in a stable condition (in terms) of the lean, however, the stimulated heavy regrowth and adverse affects of past management suggest some remedial pruning works, see below.

T3. Corsican Pine *Pinus. Nigra var. maritima*

Girth 3.35m Height 30m Age. Mature Cable braced

The rootplate of this tree appears in good condition, with no signs of uplift/movement. The lower stem is solid with no visible signs of rot or fungus, there is evidence of tight Ivy growth, which has since been removed. The lower fork has evidence of included bark and could be a weak point. Previous



crown lifting is evident and the old pruning cuts have crystallised sap/resin present, and some are showing signs of rot. Previous pruning in some cases has not been back to the branch collars and this has restricted callous growth.

There are signs of dieback in the upper canopy and there is minor deadwood throughout. It should be mentioned that this tree appears to have a much sparser canopy with fewer needles than the other trees; this may be a symptom of further decline and should be monitored on a regular basis.

The existing cable bracing is broken and serves no purpose at this time, although should be replaced with a more modern durable system, which are now available.

Overall, this tree looks to be in decline, past management again has had an effect and the cable bracing is due for renewal.

T4. Corsican Pine *Pinus. Nigra var. maritima*

Girth 2.8m

Height 30m

Age. Mature

The rootplate of this tree appears in good condition, with no signs of uplift/movement. The lower stem is solid with no visible signs of rot or fungus, there is evidence of tight Ivy growth, which has since been removed. The main stem splits into 3 leaders, one union at 3m and one at 10m. The union at 3m has rot present and the leader which extends over the cemetery has had a significant limb shed out recently, this could be evidence of an unknown pathogen not picked up on in this report or just heavy weight bearing.

The union at 10m is not good. Included bark is present and the stems are being pushed apart with some splitting. This is of serious concern.

Previous crown lifting is evident and the old pruning cuts have crystallised sap/resin present, and some are showing signs of rot. Previous pruning in some cases has not been back to the branch collars and this has restricted callous growth.

There are signs of dieback in the upper canopy and there is major and minor deadwood throughout. A large torn out limb is hanging and wedged into other limbs and although not an immediate danger, should be removed with some urgency.

Severe pruning cuts on the main stems suggest a past reduction in height. These cuts were left as 'step cuts' and are showing signs of rot in places. Stimulated and heavy regrowth extends from these points, which could become weak.



Overall, this tree has multiple problems and is in decline, is shedding significant limbs. The main fork is potentially weak and the chances of these cleaving apart are high. This tree should be considered for removal for health & safety reasons.

5.0 Conclusion

The trees are considered to be of high value in terms of landscape character, public amenity and arboricultural/wildlife value. It is for these reasons that the trees should be retained and protected where possible. However, the safety of the general public should also be taken into consideration. Each tree has its own individual potential health & safety issues and these have been examined and recorded. The recommendations below are a guide to what might be prudent in terms of retaining the trees whilst maintaining public safety. It is also recommended that the trees are inspected on an annual basis to monitor any decline.

6.0 Recommendations

T1. Corsican Pine *Pinus. Nigra var. maritime*

- Crown reduction to just below original pruning cuts to eliminate any rot
- Remove deadwood
- Possible removal of back limb over cemetery
- 15% reduction of most weighted limbs over the road to reduce weight
- Monitor

T2. Corsican Pine *Pinus. Nigra var. maritime*

- Crown reduction to just below original pruning cuts to eliminate any rot (40%)
- Remove deadwood
- 15% reduction of most weighted limbs over the road to reduce weight
- Monitor

T3. Corsican Pine *Pinus. Nigra var. maritime*

- Crown reduction to just below original pruning cuts to eliminate any rot
- Remove deadwood
- 15% reduction of most weighted limbs over the road to reduce weight
- Monitor decline
- Renew cable bracing

T4. Corsican Pine *Pinus. Nigra var. maritime*

- Remove tree



7.0 Photos



T4.

T3.

T2.

T1.





T1 root plate and base



T2 root plate and base





T3 root plate and base



T4 root plate and base



T1 3 way fork



T2 lean toward the road



Crystallised resin

T4. Shed limb



T2. Some rot present



T4. Rot present





Old reduction cuts, rot present



Cable bracing



Dieback in upper canopies





Regrowth from previous cuts



Bracing attachments aging