

<b>B. J. UNWIN FORESTRY CONSULTANCY</b> Ltd.		Parsonage Farm Longdon Tewkesbury Glos. GL20 6BD UK T: 01684 833538 M: 07860 376527 E: <a href="mailto:Jim@bjunwin.co.uk">Jim@bjunwin.co.uk</a>
Jim Unwin <b>BScFor, MICFor, RCarborA, FArborA, CEnv.</b> Chartered Forester Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant Fellow of the Arboricultural Association Chartered Environmentalist.	 AA Registered CONSULTANT trees.org.uk	
 Registered Consultant		

Ref: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 - BJU/mmi

**George Wilson** Esq.,  
East Grove Limited,  
15 Barnwood Avenue, Gloucester, GL4 3DA  
M: +447528472447 E: [mailto:scotswean1@hotmail.com](mailto:mailto:scotswean1@hotmail.com)

Dear Mr Wilson,

**Inspection of Cedar at No.15 Barnwood Avenue.**

**1. Instruction.**

- 1.1 You wish to establish the health & safety of a large cedar on your drive.
- 1.2 Therefore, you have asked B.J. Unwin Forestry Consultancy to inspect the tree, and advise, subject to quote. You have had previous work done, permitted via the City Council.

**2. Inspection.**

- 2.1 I visited the site on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020, and made an accompanied site inspection with you. The inspection included only the cedar.
- 2.2 The survey was from ground level. It involved visual observation, and sounding with a hammer; and chisel and long steel rod if required (Visual Tree Assessment: Mattheck and Breloer 1994 and Lonsdale 1999).  
We have not checked, but we understand the cedar is protected by a Gloucester City Council TPO.
- 2.3 The survey was by Jim Unwin, who has >40 years' experience working with trees, and checked by Jim Unwin, (professional CV attached).

**Notes:**

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**Limitation of Report:** The statements made in this Report do not take account of the effects of extremes of climate, vandalism or accident, whether physical, chemical or fire. BJUFC cannot therefore accept any liability in connection with these factors, nor where prescribed work is not carried out in a correct and professional manner in accordance with current good practice. The authority of this Report ceases at any stated time limit within it, or if none stated after two years from the date of the survey or when any site conditions change, or pruning or other works unspecified in the Report are carried out to, or affecting, the Subject Tree(s), whichever is the sooner.

**Tree and Woodland Consultancy**  
**Woodland Valuation and Timber Sales**  
**Landscape Management**

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### **3. The Site.**

3.1 The site inspected is two parallel asphalt drives to No 15 and No.15A, with the house of No.13 immediately to the north, and No.17 immediately to the south.

3.2 Geology from BGS website for the site is:-

**Superficial deposits:** No superficial deposits recorded

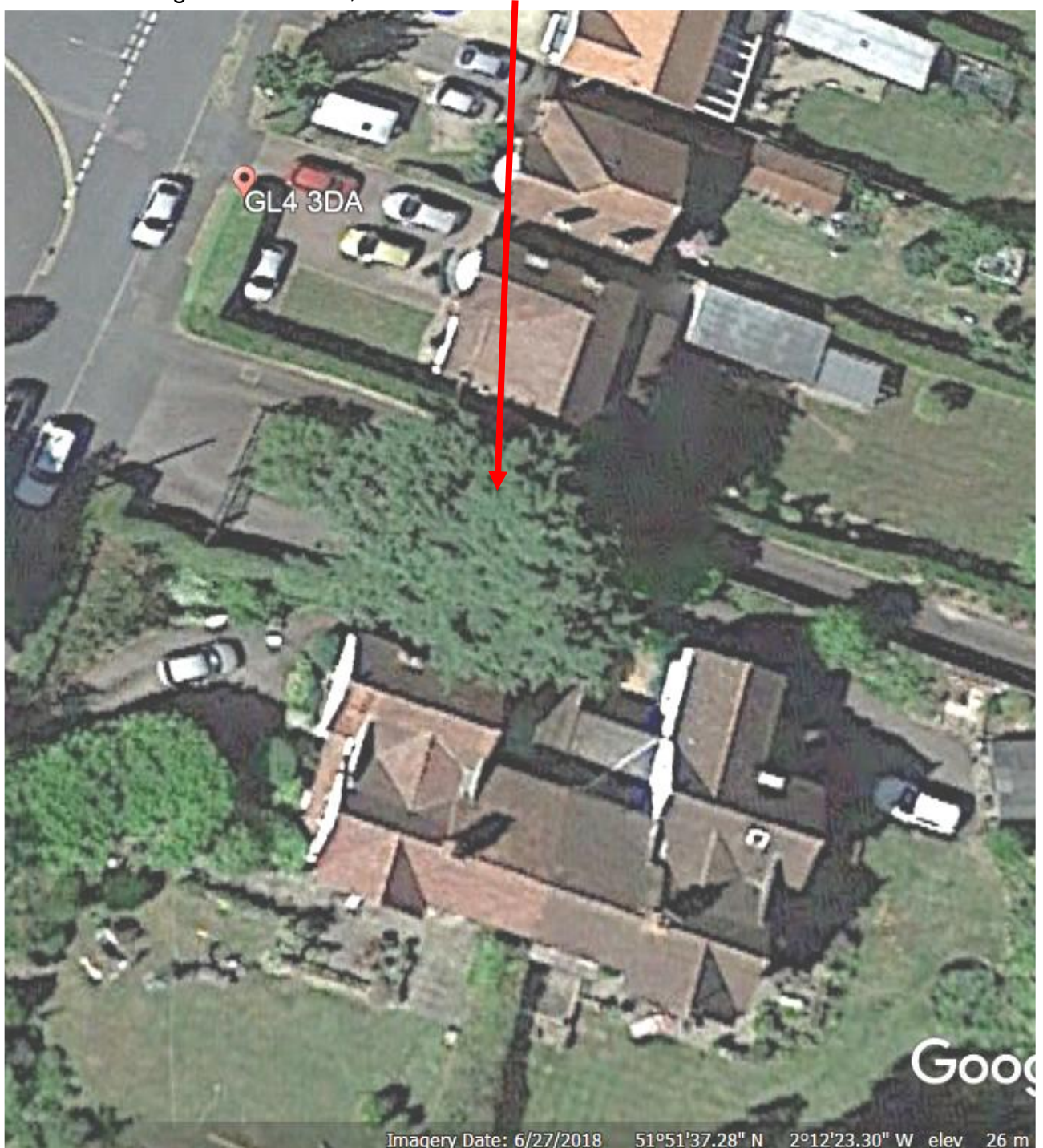
**Bedrock geology:** Charmouth Mudstone Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 199.3 and 182.7 million years ago during the Jurassic period.

**Only 25m north are superficial deposits:** Cheltenham Sand and Gravel - Sand and gravel. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

Subsoil under the tree is likely to be fine-textured, and the underlying silty beds are likely to have volume-change potential.

3.3 There is no suggestion of subsidence in the houses, so we need consider it no further. Drive surfaces are being lifted, see below.

3.4 2018 Google Earth below, shows the cedar's constrained location.





#### **4. Trees.**

- 4.1 The subject tree is a fully-mature deodar cedar, 7m from No.17, 8m from No.13, and overhanging two drives and gardens. Photo below.



- 4.2 DBH is 99cm, height is about 20m, and radial crown spread is 8m north to No.13, 8.7m east, 9m south over No.17, and 8m west.
- 4.3 The crown is broad and healthy. But the tree suffers from regular breakages of branches and limbs: typical of cedars, but here worsened by long limbs. Photo below shows a typical large-branch breakage.





- 4.4 Photo below shows typical smaller branches, which have fallen off and damaged parked vehicles.



- 4.5 Both drives have been slightly lifted by cedar roots, example below.





#### 4.6 Discussion:-

- 4.6.1 The cedar is a large tree providing local amenity value. However, it has outgrown its constrained location, overhangs two houses, and two drives, and sheds branches which are large enough to pose a significant safety threat to persons underneath.
- 4.6.2 Although the tree is growing in a small elevated island surrounded by asphalt, there is limited evidence of a significant windthrow risk.
- 4.6.3 Previous removal of dead wood is not sufficient to remove the threat of future branch failure, because the architecture of the tree includes numerous long, end-heavy, limbs and branches.
- 4.6.4 As well as any objective threat, the tree poses a significant over-bearing impact on three properties underneath.

#### 4.7 Recommendation:-

- 4.7.1 The cedar has sufficient inner foliage that branch tips could be pruned to significantly reduce the risk of branch breakage.
- 4.7.2 We would recommend about 1.5m off the outer canopy all around the tree, reducing to nothing off the upper tip. This would be best done with external access via a MEWP, with a good groundsman on the other side of the road guiding cut locations. Indicative post-pruning shape below.
- 4.7.3 An independent spire developing on the NW side needs reducing by 2-3m off height, as does one long limb to west over the drive.
- 4.7.4 At the same time all dead > 25mm diameter should be pruned out.



#### 4.7 Treework informatives, included for general information:-

##### 4.7.1 Disturbance to wildlife.

It is essential to check for nesting birds, bat roosts, badgers and hibernating animals such as hedgehogs under trees, before pruning or removing trees, as negligent disturbance is an offence under the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & C) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 make **any** damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place of a European Protected species (mainly bats in a tree context) an offence.

In general, autumn tree work: **September, October and November** is least disruptive to bats and birds. Work on very ivy-clad trees may need a formal pre-start bat assessment by a trained bat worker.

##### 4.7.2 Permission

Trees may be protected by a TPO, and could lie within a Conservation Area.

Trees may be owned by third-parties.

Trees may be protected by planning conditions.

Felling trees > 8cm dbh or 10cm dbh for thinning may need a Felling Licence.

Therefore, a contractor must satisfy himself that all necessary permissions from the local planning authority or tree owners are in place before touching trees.

##### 4.7.3 Quality of Tree Work

All off-ground tree work should be done by insured tree surgeon with certificates in aerial chainsaw use (new designations:- NPTC 020-04, 0020-05, 0020-07, 0021-01, 0021-07; LANTRA 600/5703/8, 600/5717/8, 600/5715/5, 600/5704/X, 600/5714/2), and working to BS3998:2010 and working to BS3998:2010, and "*Treework at Height*", the Arboricultural Association's ICoP.

(Stumps can be left to shoot again, ground out, or grubbed out, or poisoned depending on location.)

This report may be submitted to local authority for permission, and to a contractor for quote.

Please contact us if you have any queries, or require further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



For: **B J Unwin Forestry Consultancy.**

#### References:

"*The Body Language of Trees*". Claus Mattheck and Helge Breloer. HMSO 1994.  
"*Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management*". David Lonsdale. HMSO 1999.  
BS 3998: 2010 "*British Standard Recommendations for Treework*".

#### Attached:

- **BJUFC professional CV.**

## - B J UNWIN FORESTRY CONSULTANCY -

Head office: **Parsonage Farm, Longdon, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. GL20 6BD.**

Tel / Fax: 01684 833538. Home Tel: 01684 833795. Mob: 07860376527. E-mail: [Jim@bjunwin.co.uk](mailto:Jim@bjunwin.co.uk)

Satellite Offices: - Haley Ridge, Highcliffe, **Nr. Wadebridge, Cornwall**, PL27 6TN.

-105 Charfield Court, 2 Shirland Road, **London**, W9 2JR.

Associate office: - 1 Market Place Mews, **Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire**, RG9 2AH.

Principal: **Jim Unwin BScFor, MICFor, FARborA, RCArborA, CEnv.**

**Chartered Forester - ICF Registered Consultant - Fellow of the Arboricultural Association -  
Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant - Chartered Environmentalist.**

<b>From:</b>	<b>Jim Unwin</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Prospective Client</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Sept2019</b>	<b>No. of pages:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Professional CV</b>		

Below are set out **B J Unwin Forestry Consultancy's** competences and experience.

### **Insurance:-**

**£5m Public Liability & £2m Professional Indemnity (renewed June).**

### **Personnel:-**

B J Unwin (born 1956) started his forestry career as a tree surgeon and landscape contractor in 1975. He studied forestry at Aberdeen University from 1977 to 1981, worked for Unilever as a Forestry Manager in the Solomon Islands from 1981 to 1983. Since then he has been based in Gloucestershire assisting clients to manage their woodland, trees and vegetation throughout Southern Britain, and occasionally in northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In the mid-1980s to mid-1990s for a period of about ten years he taught chainsaw, tree felling and tree surgery courses at Worcestershire Agricultural College on a part-time basis. He was assessed and passed as a LANTRA assessor in these skills, and held NPTC certificates of competence in chainsaw use on the ground and up trees.

He now works as a tree consultant / manager / contract manager to a range of clients listed below.

For tree decay testing we have a **PICUS II ULTRASOUND** tomograph with electronic callipers and **RESISTOGRAPH-R400** drill.

He works with two self-employed arboriculturalists of >20 years' combined experience:-

**Jasper Fulford-Dobson** Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant - Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters - Professional member of the International Society of Arboriculture - Technicians Certificate (ArborA) 2005, now regarded as NQF "level 4" - Professional Tree Inspection Certificate (LANTRA) 2013,

**Owen Hutchison** BSc(Hons) Agriculture & Estate Management, Level 4 Diploma Arboriculture, LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection & working with trees since 2007, &

**Alex Collier** who achieved in July 2018 Level 5 Arboriculture Foundation Degree with a Distinction. In June 2016 achieved Pershore College Level 3 Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture, completing the course with a Distinction grade (+SC30).

Plus a secretary/ plan technician; calling in extra help as required (eg ecologist or arboricultural assistant). On bigger projects he regularly works as a part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Current BJUFC qualifications are:-

BSc Forestry Hons 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Aberdeen 1981.

**Chartered Forester No. 0330064, 1986.**

**Fellow of the Arboricultural Association, 1995.**

Licensed Subsidence Risk Assessor, 1997-2001 (scheme closed in 2001).

Completed Training in September 2002 to Prepare Native Woodland Plans for CCW and FC in Wales.

**Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant No. 42, 2004.**

LANTRA certificate for Arboriculture and Bats, BJU in 2005.

Examined and approved to submit Welsh WGS as Management Planner and PAWS Assessor, 2006.

Joined Utilities Vendor DataBase, Supplier No: 88101 in Feb 2006 (left 2010).

Training and Certification in basic CAD operation 2006.

**Chartered Environmentalist April 2008.**

Woodfuel Production and Supply : LANTRA Certificate of Training Dec 2008.

Training in CAVAT amenity tree asset valuation October 2010.

**Company Safety Policy:-** We have been successfully assessed by Safety Management Advisory Services (SMAS) as meeting CDM Regs 2015 Core Criteria Stage 1, as a **Worksafe Consultant No. 90180**. expiry 27/09/2020.

CITB *Health, Safety & Environment Test for Managers & Professionals* passed 22/01/2015.

First-aid at work June 2013.

**Current clients and typical work include:-**

English Heritage	Tree safety inspection contract 2007-2013 for East Midlands, East Anglia, London and SE England. Tree safety inspection contract for West of England & Midlands 2013-2019.
Planning Inspectorate (PINS) & Dept for Communities and Local Government. 2000-2017.	<b>Arboricultural Inspecting Officer</b> in South-West England, South East England, West Midlands and East Midlands; advising the First Secretary of State on TPO appeals since 2000. Contract with DCLG expired April 2008 when transferred to PINS. Contract continued with PINS, as Non-Salaried <b>Arboricultural Inspector, determining TPO appeals and High Hedge appeals. All non-salaried inspectors released in 2017.</b>
Architects / Developers / Planning Appeals	Complete Tree Constraints, Impact Assessment & Tree Protection advice for planning, working with other professionals to input arboriculture into more complex development schemes. Recent assignments in Liverpool to Dorset, Kent, Norfolk & London. All using BS5837:2012. FULL CAD CAPABILITY.
Amey Mouchel Ltd	Overseeing Amey Tree Officer on motorway and trunkroad tree inspections throughout Midlands and Marches to 2012. Amey Mouchel are agents for Highways Agency.
CRH Tarmac Ltd, + Midland Quarry Products + Quarryplan (in Northern Ireland).	Since 1990 working with Estates staff, quarry managers and Landscape / ecological consultancies organising and managing contracts for tree and woodland planting both pre- and post- quarrying. Also preparing landscape restoration schemes for straightforward sites plus landscape management on sites throughout southern England, East Anglia and south and south-west Wales. (Commendations for Land Restoration and Environmental improvements from Spelthorne Borough Council 2003.) Also in England & Northern Ireland ongoing tree consultancy for Quarryplan.
Land Agents	Assisting Bruton Knowles clients' with woodland management and other tree issues since 1984. We also assist clients of Fisher German and Savills on a regular basis.
Tarmac Central now CRH Tarmac Ltd.	Since 1988 woodland management of Hopwas Hays Wood, Tamworth.
Rural estates in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, plus private woodland owners in southern England and Wales.	Since 1983 woodland management, tree management, hedgerow management. Many are Ancient woodlands and SSSI's requiring detailed ecological management plans produced in consultation with ecologists. About forty Farm Woodland Premium Schemes and about twenty Native Woodland Plans prepared to date in England and Wales. On-going EWGS grant applications. Input into Tir Gofal (and its successor) and Stewardship schemes. Better Woods for Wales (BWW) applications.
British Waterways	Ten-year Tree and Vegetation Management Plans along canals and around reservoirs in London, Hertfordshire, Berkshire, Birmingham, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, Llangollen Canal, etc: plus help in dispute with riparian owners. This work ceased around 2011.
Stroud District Council	Management of 49Ha woodland since 1989 on FC schemes plus grassland on DEFRA Stewardship Schemes, including HLS. Retired Nov07.
One-off clients	Since 1983 assisting tree owners, developers, lawyers etc throughout southern or midland Britain, including Wales, on a wide range of tree-related issues including planning, planning appeals, subsidence, health & safety, disputes, vegetation control, expert witness, valuation of woodlands, standing and felled timber, Christmas trees etc, and tree and landscape planting schemes. Recently High Hedge issues and BS5837 are hot topics.
Malvern Hills District Council. South Oxfordshire District Council	BJU Stand-in part-time Consultant Tree Officer Summer 2003.  JF-D stand in Consultant Tree Officer summer 2009 to spring 2010.
Golf course & leisure facilities	Assistance with development of Carden Park golf course in Cheshire. Management advice for trees on other golf courses: Eg Ross Golf Club, Swindon Golf Club .
Farm management	Management of own 95Ha farmland since 1985.

Please do not hesitate to ask for further information. B J Unwin END.