

Arboricultural Consultancy for Aviva - Commercial

Note: This report is intended for use between the client, Environmental Services and any parties detailed within the report. It is based on the understanding at the time of visiting the property that Engineers are satisfied that damage is attributable to clay shrinkage subsidence exacerbated by vegetation.

1. Case Details

Insured	Reading Spiritualist Church	Address	81 Baker Street, Reading, RG1 7XY		
Client	Subsidence Management Services	Contact	Jade Bailey-Brown	Claim No.	IFS-AVI-SUB-19-0084937
ES Ref	SA-245627	Consultant	Giles Mercer	Contact No.	0330 380 1036
Report Date	14/01/2020				

Scope of Report: To survey the property and determine significant vegetation contributing to subsidence damage, make recommendation for remedial action and assess initial mitigation and recovery prospects. The survey does not make an assessment for decay or hazard evaluation.

2. Property and Damage Description

The insured structure is a singlr storey church. The property occupies a level site with no adverse topographical features.

Damage relates to the front elevation of the insured dwelling and the rear elevation of the insured dwelling. Please refer to the engineers report for a full description of the claim history and damage.

3. Technical Reports

In preparing our report we have had the benefit of the following technical investigations:

Engineers Report ☒

4. Action Plan

Mitigation	
Insured involved?	Yes
Local Authority involved?	No
Other third party Mitigation involved?	No
Recovery	
Is there a potential recovery action?	No

Treeworks	
Local Authority	Reading Borough Council
TPO / Conservation Area / Planning Protection Searches	Insured: Conservation Area Adjacent & Adjoining properties: TPO and Conservation Area
Additional Comments	
Awaiting Further Instructions.	

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5. Technical Synopsis

This report is based upon our understanding at the time of visiting the property that engineers are satisfied that damage is due to clay shrinkage subsidence exacerbated by vegetation.

We have been instructed to advise on the causal vegetation and to deliver management proposals which will provide on-going and long term stability, thereby allowing repairs to be undertaken.

In assessing the potential drying influence of the vegetation on site, we have considered species profile, normally accepted influencing distance and the position of vegetation relative to the observed damage.

From our observations on site, the footings of the subject property fall within the anticipated rooting range of a quantity of vegetation located on/near the site, thereby indicating the potential for the observed damage to be the result of clay shrinkage subsidence exacerbated by the influence of vegetation.

In assessing the extent of damage, the potential drying influence of the vegetation on site and based on our site investigations, taking account of vegetation location, relative to the focal area of movement/ damage, it is our opinion that, the Beech (T1) is considered the dominant feature and accordingly we have identified it as the principal cause of the subsidence damage.

Considering engineers conclusions, results of site investigations and our observations on site, vegetation management is considered appropriate with a view to restoring stability.

Please refer to Section 6 for management prescriptions.

Vegetation management in the form of removal and appropriate stump treatment will help to promote the restoration of long-term stability to the insured property; pruning should not be considered as representing an effective or reliable long-term alternative solution given the size and proximity of the vegetation in this instance.

Whilst we have given consideration to pruning as a means of mitigating the vegetative influence of the above, this has been discounted. Pruning is generally ineffective and in the context of the current claim we consider the above vegetation is simply too large and/or close for pruning to be effective.

Removal of the Beech (T1) will offer the most certain and reliable arboricultural solution likely to restore long-term stability.

Replacement planting is considered appropriate however due consideration must be given to the ultimate size of the replacement and future management requirements. Species selection should be appropriate for the chosen site and ultimate tree height should not exceed 75% of the available distance to built structures.

We recommend the efficacy of the management recommendations be qualified by means of further monitoring to confirm stability.

Please note that the footing of the subject property fall within the likely rooting zone of a number of further trees. These trees are noted to present a theoretical future risk. In order to minimise the risk of future damage occurring we have made recommendations in respect of the future management of this vegetation.

Is vegetation likely to be a contributory factor in the current damage?	Yes
Is vegetation management likely to contribute to the future stability of the property?	Yes
Is replacement planting considered appropriate?	Yes
Would DNA profiling be of assistance in this case?	No

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6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Current Claim Requirements

These recommendations may be subject to review following additional site investigations.

Tree No.	Species	Age Cat	Approx. Height (m)	Distance to Building (m) *	Ownership	Action	Requirement
T1	Beech	3	15.6	4.6	C - Insured	Remove	Remove close to ground level and treat stumps to inhibit regrowth.
Age Cat: 1 = Younger than property; 2 = Similar age to the property; 3 = Significantly older than property							

* Estimated

6.2 Future Risk Recommendations

These recommendations may be subject to review following additional site investigations.

Tree No.	Species	Age Cat	Approx. Height (m)	Distance to Building (m) *	Ownership	Action	Requirement
H1	Snowberry	1	2	0.5	C - Insured	Action to avoid future risk	Remove section of hedge to achieve a minimum clearance of 2 m to the property. Balance to be maintained on a regular basis to ensure that current dimensions and influence are not exceeded.
S1	Buddleia	1	1.2	0.4	C - Insured	Action to avoid future risk	Do not allow to exceed current dimensions by way of regular pruning.
ST1	Stump	1	0.2	0.2	C - Insured	No action	No works.
STG1	Stump	1	1.8	0.2	C - Insured	Action to avoid future risk	Treat stump to inhibit regrowth.
T2	Strawberry Tree	1	2.2	0.5	C - Insured	Action to avoid future risk	Do not allow to exceed current dimensions by way of regular pruning.
T3	Sycamore	1	16.5	10.4	C - Insured	Action to avoid future risk	Do not allow to exceed current dimensions by way of regular pruning.
TG1	Cherry	1	9.2	8.2	C - Insured	Action to avoid future risk	Do not allow to exceed current dimensions by way of regular pruning.
TG2	Cypress	1	3.8	2.8	C - Insured	Action to avoid future risk	Remove nearest tree (to building) . Do not allow remainder to exceed current dimensions by way of regular pruning.
TG3	Cypress	1	10	9.9	C - Insured	Action to avoid future risk	Do not allow to exceed current dimensions by way of regular pruning.
Age Cat: 1 = Younger than property; 2 = Similar age to the property; 3 = Significantly older than property							

* Estimated

Third party property addresses should be treated as indicative only, should precise detail be required then Environmental Services can undertake Land Registry Searches

7. Site Plan



Please note that this plan is not to scale. OS Licence No. 100043218

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8. Photographs



ST1 - Other



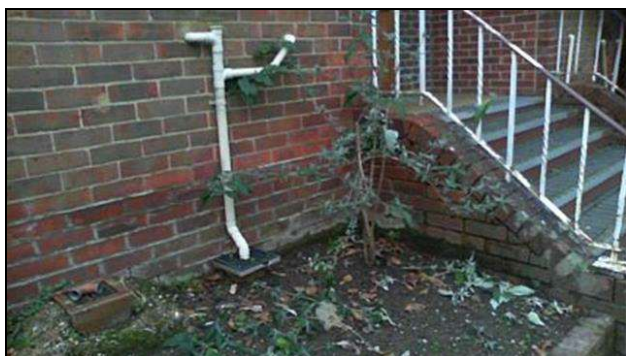
T3 - Sycamore



TG3 - Cypress



TG3 - Cypress



S1 - Buddleia



H1 - Snowberry

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STG1 - Mixed species group



TG1 - Cherry



TG2 - Cypress



T1 - Beech

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T1 - Beech



T1 - Beech

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Date: 14/01/2020

Property: 81 Baker Street, Reading, RG1 7XY

9. Tree Works Reserve - Does not include recommendations for future risk.

Insured Property Tree Works	£2800.00
Third Party Tree Works	£0.00
Provisional Sum	£0.00

- The above prices are based on works being performed as separate operations.
- The above is a reserve estimate only.
- Ownerships are assumed to be correct and as per Section 6.
- A fixed charge is made for Tree Preservation Order/Conservation Area searches unless charged by the Local Authority in which case it is cost plus 25%.
- Should tree works be prevented due to statutory protection then we will automatically proceed to seek consent for the works and Appeal to the Secretary of State if appropriate.
- All prices will be subject to V.A.T., which will be charged at the rate applying when the invoice is raised.
- Trees are removed as near as possible to ground level, stump and associated roots are not removed or included in the price.
- Where chemical application is made to stumps it cannot always be guaranteed that this will prevent future regrowth. Should this occur we would be pleased to provide advice to the insured on the best course of action available to them at that time. Where there is a risk to other trees of the same species due to root fusion, chemical control may not be appropriate.

10. Limitations

This report is an appraisal of vegetation influence on the property and is made on the understanding that that engineers suspect or have confirmed that vegetation is contributing to clay shrinkage subsidence, which is impacting upon the building. Recommendations for remedial tree works and future management are made to meet the primary objective of assisting in the restoration of stability to the property. In achieving this, it should be appreciated that recommendations may in some cases be contrary to best Arboricultural practice for tree pruning/management and is a necessary compromise between competing objectives.

Following tree surgery we recommended that the building be monitored to establish the effectiveness of the works in restoring stability.

The influence of trees on soils and building is dynamic and vegetation in close proximity to vulnerable structure should be inspected annually.

The statutory tree protection status as notified by the Local Authority was correct at the time of reporting. It should be noted however that this may be subject to change and we therefore advise that further checks with the Local Authority MUST be carried out prior to implementation of any tree works. Failure to do so can result in fines in excess of £20,000.

Our flagging of a possible recovery action is based on a broad approach that assume all third parties with vegetation contributing to the current claim have the potential for a recovery action (including domestic third parties). This way opportunities do not "fall through the net"; it is understood that domestic third parties with no prior knowledge may be difficult to recover against but that decision will be fully determined by the client.

A legal Duty of Care requires that all works specified in this report should be performed by qualified, arboricultural contractors who have been competency tested to determine their suitability for such works in line with Health & Safety Executive Guidelines. Additionally all works should be carried out according to British Standard 3998:2010 "Tree Work. Recommendations".