

4 Kymer gardens/Clerks Acre: VTA Analysis of 2 trees

A site visit was made upon request from the property owners of 4, Kymer Gardens, Alan & Dorothy Young, as they have concerns over the risk posed by 2 trees overhanging their property, (see image below of the 2 trees). I was met by their builder, Alan Maysey, who identified the trees for me & stated that one of them was in poor health, having historically dropped limbs.

The 2 trees were assessed by VTA methodology from ground level. The larger tree was difficult to identify, but it is my conclusion that most likely it is an Elm. The difficulty in identification arises due to its poor state of health. It is in serious decline, with much of it having no foliar cover whatsoever, & with large parts of it appearing dead or dying. Most likely this has succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease. The other tree is a mature Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*. Historically this has been pruned unsympathetically. Its branches are close to the rear elevation of 4 Kymer Gardens & generally it negatively affects usage of the rear garden, overshadowing it significantly in an oppressive manner. Both trees are statutorily protected by being located within the boundary of an area TPO, no. KY/01/TPO/73.

My recommendation is that the 'Elm' be felled as soon as is possible, as it represent a significant hazard to both person & property; & the risk of failure, in whole or in part, is very high. In order to alleviate the issues posed by the Ash, my recommendation is prune it; a 3m crown reduction would be appropriate, (with contractors performing the works adhering to BS:3998)



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