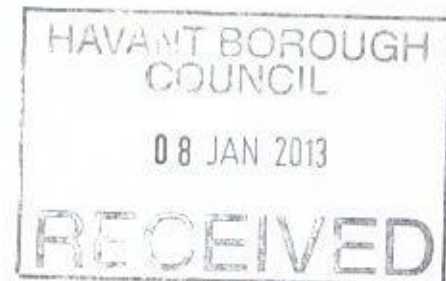


Tree Report for 1 Leigh Cottages, Petersfield Road, Havant.

Dr Rachel Benstead



TREES

There are only two megaphyte specimens on the property that can be formally regarded as trees (non-fruit); both are cultivars of the same species, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, or the Black Locust, or False Acacia tree (see photo SDC10546). The left-hand, larger (green-leaved) specimen is approximately 10.2m tall and the right-hand, smaller (golden-leaved) specimen is approximately 6.9m tall. Both were planted by the current owners approximately 10 years ago and neither have done well in their positions, with the larger tree showing notable trunk cracking on both sides (see photos SDC10548 and SDC10551), and requiring to have 1/3 of the crown removed in spring 2011).

This species is considered to be a non-native invasive species in Europe, and indeed the golden cultivar 'Frisia' is featured on the front cover of the DEFRA/FERA report entitled 'The Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain' (can be found at www.nonnativespecies.org). A factsheet from the GB Non-Native Secretariat on this species is provided as an attachment to this report.

While they are not considered to be a priority species for management in the UK, their removal will not pose any notable risk, either in terms of spread agents (they spread by means of suckering from the roots which are easily mowed out when the parent plant is removed) or in terms of loss of habitat, as the open branches do not facilitate bird nesting.

FRUIT TREES

There is a large edible cherry variety near the western boundary which is approximately 4.6m tall (see photo SDC10547). It crops heavily each year and is a valuable food resource for birds. There are no plans to remove this tree during any development of the site.

There are also sapling plum and quince trees on the same boundary that will also be unaffected.

FLOWERING SHRUBS

The largest specimen 'tree' on the site is actually the flowering shrub *Pittosporum tenuifolium* or New Zealand Kohuhu Tree, at approximately 10.9m tall (see photo SDC10549). This species does exceptionally well in the Southern-most areas of the UK only, being intolerant to severe cold spells. It is evergreen and provides good cover for bird nesting. There are no plans to remove this 'tree' during any development of the site.

In the same photograph, but barely visible beneath the *P. tenuifolium* is another flowering shrub of the genera *Ceanothus* (Californian Lilac; variety 'Autumnal Blue'), at approximately 2.9m tall. It may be necessary to remove this shrub, but a severe pruning may be sufficient.

The only other flowering shrub on the site to be removed is the now very unruly and end-of-life *Azara sp.* at approximately 5.1m tall (see photo SDC10550). Cuttings will be taken in order that the shrub may be re-established on the site post-development.

False Acacia, *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Overview

Short description of *Robinia pseudoacacia*, False Acacia

A spiny tree up to 29 m, with pinnate compound leaves, having 5-11 pairs of leaflets, and pendent racemes of numerous white, pea-like flowers giving rise to 3-10 seeded pods.

Description of *Robinia pseudoacacia*, False Acacia status in GB

False acacia is widely planted for ornament, reproducing by self-seeding and suckering, mainly in urban situations.

Impacts summary: *Robinia pseudoacacia*, False Acacia

Invasive in woodland and scrub in warmer parts of Western Europe, but not yet to the same extent in GB. Can cause damage to buildings in urban situations.

Habitat summary: *Robinia pseudoacacia*, False Acacia

Woodland and scrub in its native range as well as in southern Europe, less frequent in semi-natural habitats in GB, but colonises brownfield sites and urban waste ground.

Overview table

Environment:	Terrestrial
Species status:	Non-Native
Invasion pathway:	Ornamental Landscape
Functional type:	Land plant
Status in GB:	Established
Status in England:	Established
Status in Scotland:	Not established
Status in Wales:	Established
Location of first record:	South-west Yorkshire
Date of first record:	1888 (publication)

Invasion history: *Robinia pseudoacacia*, False Acacia

Origin

Eastern United States in the Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania southwards, with outliers from Kentucky to Georgia.

First Record

Introduced to GB in the 1630s, in the wild by 1888.

Pathway and Method

Planted as an ornamental tree in parks and streets, also in land reclamation schemes on brownfield sites. It is still available from suppliers, especially in the form of decorative cultivars.

Species Status

Widely naturalised and invasive in mainland Europe, especially towards the south, locally persistent by suckering, but also sometimes self-seeding, especially in southern and eastern counties of England. Between 1970 and 1986 it was recorded in 143 10km squares in GB and from 1987 to 1999 from 491 squares.

Ecology & Habitat: *Robinia pseudoacacia*, False Acacia

Dispersal Mechanisms

Spreads by suckering where it has been planted. Produces prolific seed, though self-seeding is less frequently reported than

suckering, and mainly in southern GB.

Reproduction

The flowers are bisexual and pollinated by bees. They give rise to pods with 3-10 seeds.

Known Predators/Herbivores

A number of insects feed on False Acacia in its native range, but in GB and mainland Europe it is little affected.

Resistant Stages

The seeds have tough coats and germination rates are low.

Habitat Occupied in GB

Parks, gardens, streets, colliery tips and other sites where former industrial land is being restored. Self-sown on urban waste land and brownfield sites.

Distribution: *Robinia pseudoacacia*, False Acacia

Mainly in southern and eastern England on light and calcareous soils, scattered records from elsewhere in GB.

Impacts: *Robinia pseudoacacia*, False Acacia

Environmental Impact

Appreciable in central and southern Europe, where it invades semi-natural habitats, less serious at present in GB as it colonises mainly urban and brownfield sites. The presence of nitrogen-fixing root nodules leads to eutrophication of invaded sites.

Health and Social Impact

None known.

Economic Impact

False Acacia has been important in the reclamation of abandoned industrial sites and for soil stabilisation. In France it provides nectar for acacia honey. In urban situations it can damage structures. Where it has invaded vulnerable habitats it is difficult and costly to remove.

References & Links: *Robinia pseudoacacia*, False Acacia

Identification

Stace, C.A. (2010) *New flora of the British Isles*, Third Edition, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Biology, ecology, spread, vectors

Botanical Society of the British Isles (2011). *Vascular Plant Atlas Update Project* <http://www.bsbimaps.org.uk/atlas/> [March 2011].

Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe (DAISIE) http://www.europe-aliens.org/pdf/Robinia_pseudoacacia.pdf [March 2011].

Management and impact

Holyoak, G. (2010) *The control of Robinia in the Czech Republic* http://www.eucan.org.uk/docs/201009Cz/Graham_Holyoak.pdf [March 2011].

General

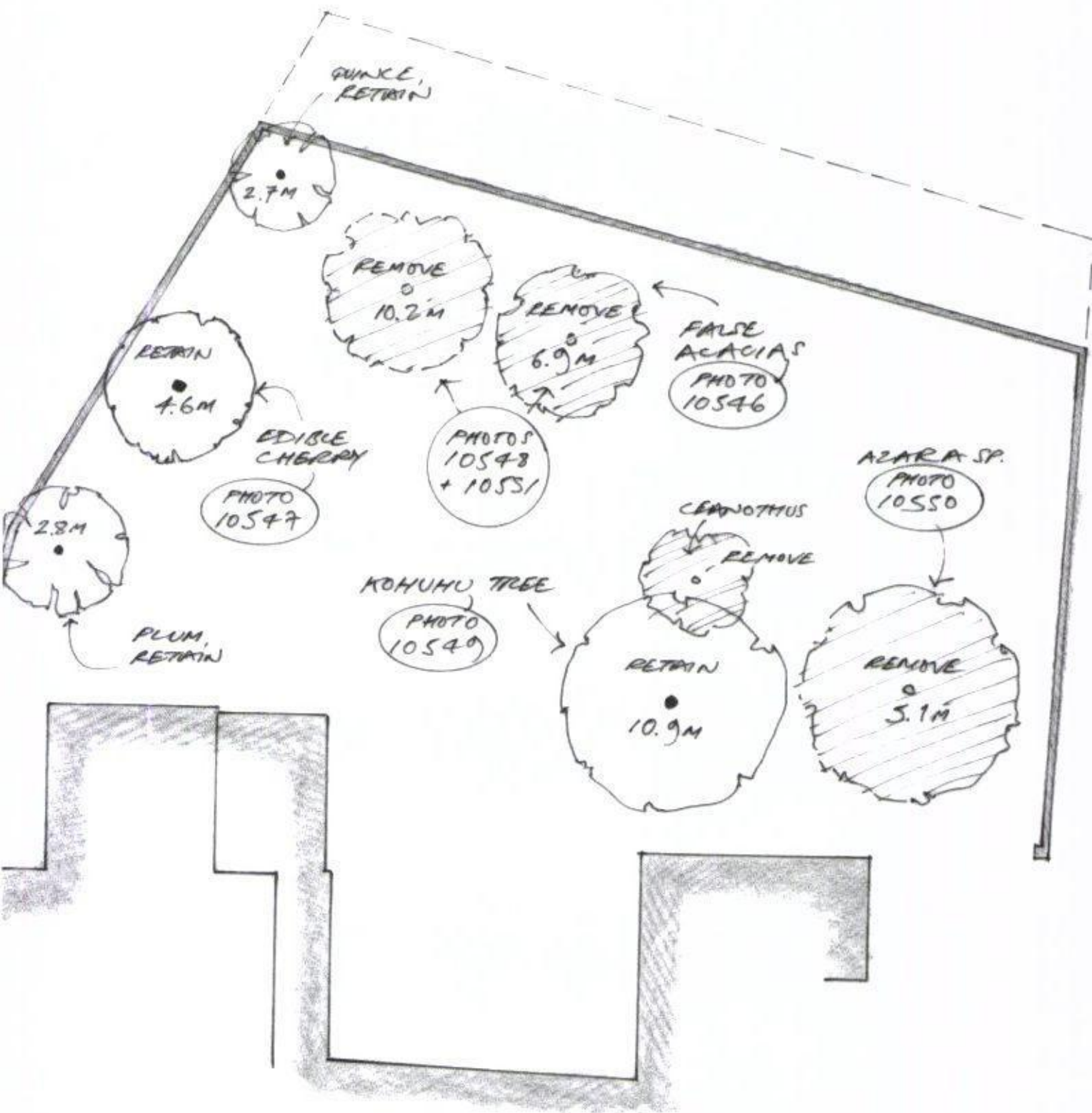
Bean, W.J. (1980) *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, 8th edn, Vol IV. John Murray, London.

Ecological Flora of the British Isles http://www.ecoflora.co.uk/search_species2.php?plant_no=810300010 [March 2011].

United States Department of Agriculture Plant Guide. http://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_rops.pdf [March 2011].



NO. 1 LEICAM COTTAGES, HAVANT -
LOCATION PLAN OF EXISTING TREES



NOV. 2012



10547



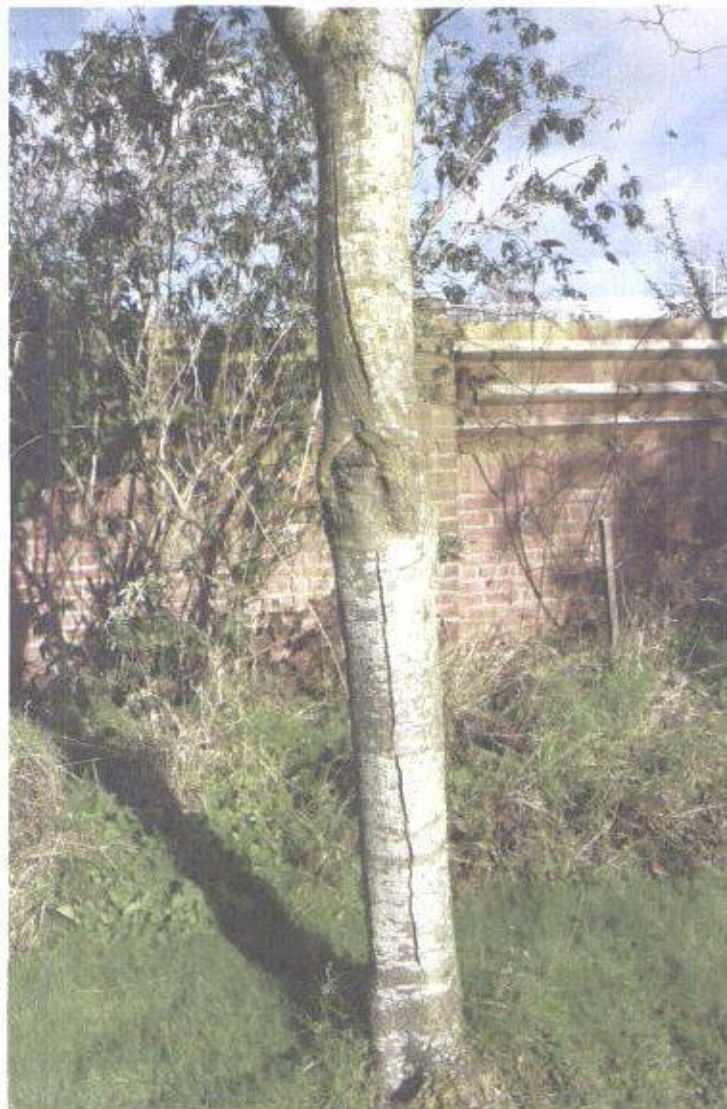
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