



# Forbes-Laird Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd

• Planning • TPO • Safety Inspection • Subsidence • Expert Witness • Design

Principal Consultant:

**Julian Forbes-Laird**

BA(Hons), MICFor, MEWI, M.Arbor.A, Dip.Arb.(RFS)

## JULIAN FORBES-LAIRD

### QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

Julian Forbes-Laird is Director and Principal Consultant of Forbes-Laird Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd (FLAC), a small but nationally reputed practice. He has over eighteen years' experience of undertaking a variety of arboricultural assessments for a wide range of public, corporate and private clients.

JFL started his career in arboriculture on the practical side of the profession, before completing a gradual transition to consultancy in 2000. After two years spent working as an independent consultant, he spent a further two years as Senior Consultant at CBA Trees, before establishing FLAC in 2004.

FLAC provides an efficient and approachable service to Expert Witness level, geared to securing our clients' objectives within the required timeframe in whatever area of arboriculture they may instruct us, though we specialise in planning and litigation matters. Notes on specific areas of the practice follow.

Having developed and lectured widely on a respected and peer-reviewed method designed to quantify the risk posed by defective trees (THREATS), JFL is a recognised authority on tree hazard assessment. He has undertaken several forensic accident investigations, including in relation to fatalities caused by trees.

He has published a number of articles in the arboricultural and landscape press, variously covering tree risk assessment, legal aspects of liability for hazard trees, subsidence, and the arboricultural significance of certain wood decay fungi on trees. In addition, JFL is a well-known figure on the arboricultural lecture circuit.

FLAC has undertaken several projects concerning the assessment, management and preservation of veteran trees. Particular specialisations in this field are determining crown restoration needs, and the management/restoration of historic avenues and landscapes

FLAC has advised various landscape design projects focussing on the selection and establishment of woody plants. These include both amenity woodlands and rural and urban planting schemes in the United Kingdom and also abroad.

JFL is regularly instructed in the area of tree root damage to buildings, frequently acting as an expert witness in this demanding area of arboriculture.

A significant proportion of our work relates to Tree Preservation Orders. JFL has been instructed as an expert witness on several occasions to assist local authorities with prosecutions for offences under the relevant legislation. Additionally, he is author of the TEMPO system (and its cousin, Woodland TEMPO) for assessing whether trees merit TPO protection. TEMPO is used by over 60 local authorities and dozens of consultants.

Many of our instructions derive from the planning process, such that we are very frequently asked to assist with all tree-related aspects of site development. As a natural consequence of this, JFL regularly contributes to all types of planning Appeals, representing both local authorities and also developers. JFL also undertakes advocacy at Public Local Inquiries on behalf of third party objectors, being the only arboricultural consultant in the UK to offer this service.

JFL was a technical editor of BS5837:2005, and is now technical editor of the emerging BS5837:2010. For the 2005 edition, he was specifically responsible for preparing drafts of the sections relating to tree survey methodology, and demolition and construction in proximity to trees.



[www.flac.uk.com](http://www.flac.uk.com)



JFL is senior technical editor for a new British Standard, BS8516 'Recommendations for Tree Safety Inspection'. He is also a member of the BSI technical committee on trees, B/213.

Julian Forbes-Laird is a Chartered Arboriculturist and a member of the RICS Dispute Resolution Panel 'Expert Advisers in Planning Service', formed principally to advise the Planning Inspectorate. He is a member and Registered Consultant of the Arboricultural Association, a Member and Registered Consultant of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, through examination at Masters level, a member of the Expert Witness Institute, and a Sweet & Maxwell Checked Expert Witness'. He is a member of the Royal Forestry Society and holds its 'Professional Diploma in Arboriculture', a degree-level professional qualification, and is also a member of the Arboricultural Journal peer referee panel.

JFL and FLAC have recently undertaken or have ongoing work on projects for/with the following:

*Local Authorities*

East Dorset District Council (*Subsidence*)  
Forest Heath District Council (*PLI*)  
Hart District Council (*PLI*)  
King's Lynn & West Norfolk District Council (*Advice*)  
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs NPA (*TPO review*)  
London Borough of Camden (*Advice*)  
Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (*PLI*)  
St Albans City & District Council (*PLI*)  
St Edmundsbury Borough Council (*TPO prosecution*)  
Welwyn & Hatfield District Council (*Tree assessment*)  
West Lindsey District Council (*TPO prosecution*)  
Wokingham Unitary (*Accident investigation*)  
Wycombe District Council (*Development*)

*Solicitors*

ASB Law (*Subsidence*)  
Ellisons (*Litigation*)  
Fields Fisher Waterhouse (*Litigation*)  
Forsters (*PLI & Litigation*)  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (*Litigation*)  
Howes Percival (*Litigation*)  
Masons (*Litigation*)  
Taylor Wessing (*Planning*)  
Wedlake Bell (*TPO Appeal & Litigation*)

*Architects*

Foster + Partners  
Hamiltons  
Hopkins  
Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands  
Stanton Williams  
Wilkinson Eyre Associates

*Landscape Architects*

Barton Willmore Design  
Capita Lovejoy  
Christopher Bradley-Hole  
Cooper Partnership  
Hankinson Duckett Associates  
The Terra Firma Consultancy

*Planning Consultants*

Barton Willmore  
Broadway Malyan  
Cluttons  
Cushman & Wakefield  
Drivers Jonas  
Hepher Dixon  
Hives  
RPS  
Tyler Parkes

*Developers*

Anderson Group  
Barratt  
Bellway  
Catesby Property Group  
David Wilson  
Durkan  
Fairview New Homes  
Gladedale Group  
Laing O'Rourke  
Marriott Construction  
Martin Grant  
Persimmon  
Taylor Wimpey

*Government, Infrastructure & Education*

Cambridge University  
Cranfield University  
Department of Children Schools & Families  
East & North Herts PCT  
Itchen College  
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust  
Network Rail  
Oxford University  
Transport for London  
University of Reading  
West Kent College  
Westonbirt School

*And*

The Crown Estate  
The Diocese of Westminster  
The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn