



# Tree Survey for Abbots Ann Parish Council

Health and Safety Tree Survey September 2023





**Position:** War Memorial Hall Front garden

by roadside

Species: Paulownia tomentosa (Foxglove

Tree)

**Grid Ref:** SU 32878 43661

**OS X/Y:** 432877.01, 143660.80

**Lat Long:** 51.191230, -1.530921

what3words: ///admire.fact.cotton

Notes: Age circa 40-50 years of age



TPO: No

Ash: No Veteran: No CA: Yes

Inspection Only: 28/09/2023

**Height:** 10.0 metres

Age: Middle aged

Trunk: 41 cm

**Spread:** 9.5 metres

**N:** 4.0

**S**: 6.0

**E:** 5.0

**W**: 4.0

**Visited By: Amelia Williams** 

Vigour: Low

Condition: Fair

**Live crown:** 75% - 50%

Failure: Potentially

Target: Medium

**Impact:** Minor damage



### **Features:**

Bench

Conservation area (CA) Fence within falling distance Footpath within falling distance

Footpath under canopy

Grass surround

Overhead services

Parking within falling distance -plus under canopy

Play area

Telephone line - plus telephone box information point

Underground services - Potential for historic root disturbance

### **Conditions:**

Bark damage - to branches rubbing on the overhead cables

Bleeding canker - on lower trunk to West with black new exudate

Die back - around 30% - 40% of the crown has died back and is dead with limited live growth

Epicormic growth - upright epicormic growth rafting along the branches on the Southern

side of the crown

Major dead wood >50mm

Minor dead wood <50mm

Roots strimmer damaged - root to the North West bark damaged and potential for infection

### Recommendations:

Remove dead wood (>50mm) - within 3 months for reasons of health and safety

Prune clear of overhead wires -prune clear of overhead wires, one limb rubbing so sensitive selective branches to be pruned to achieve 0.5m clearance from wires within 3 months to ensure clearance of the overhead power and phone lines and to prevent further bark damage by rubbing on the wires

**Priority:** Priority

Risk: Minimal (64)

Next Inspection: 05/2026







Roots strimmer damaged











**Position:** War Memorial Hall rear garden

play area

**Species:** Quercus robur (English Oak)

Grid Ref: SU 32900 43638

**OS X/Y:** 432899.43, 143637.12

**Lat Long:** 51.191016, -1.530602

what3words: ///ledge.suffer.hours

**Notes:** Veteran tree characteristics

include a large girth minimum of 25% of species age equating to around 177 - 216 years of age circa 1800's. With potential for internal heartwood decay, large quantities of deadwood, habitat

holes and epiphytic plants including Lichens and Ferns. This is an important tree locally as well as historically, culturally,

ecologically and environmentally.

TPO: No

Ash: No Veteran: Yes CA: Yes



Date: 28/09/2023

# Inspection Only: 28/09/2023

Height: 30.0 metres

Age: Veteran

Trunk: 126 cm

Spread: 23.5 metres

N: 12.0 **S**: 12.0

**E**: 11.0 **W**: 12.0 **Visited By: Amelia Williams** 

Vigour: Normal

Condition: Good

**Live crown:** 100% - 75%

Failure: Potentially

Target: High

Impact: Severe



Features:

Building within falling distance

Building within or touching canopy Conservation area (CA)

Grass surround

Parking within falling distance Play area

Shed

Wall within canopy distance Wall within falling distance

Wildlife Habitat

### **Conditions:**

Crown issues or observations - Overall good foliage colour of dark green, good end growth on branch tips and branch ends with good extension growth and even leaf size.

Epicormic growth on stems, along branches and starting to build a lower inner crown but in the early stages. Upper crown thinning internally allows for more light to the epicormic shoots.

Epiphytic plants (Ferns)

Epiphytic plants (Lichens) Epicormic growth

Fluted buttresses

Girdling roots

Ivy or climbing plants

Live epicormic growth

Live epicormic growth rafting -along branches

Major dead wood >50mm

Minor dead wood <50mm

Multiple old pruning wounds Occluded pruning wounds Occluding pruning wounds Stem issues or observations - Ring of bulge wood on the trunk at 1.6m above ground level showing adaptive growth (in response potentially to fibre buckling) on the main trunk aiding with the structural support of the tree.

Thinning crown - Inner crown thin, apical dominance on outer branches with dense foliage on branch tips

Veteran tree - A developmental stage of full to late maturity, growth to peak crown size, maximum pollination and seed capacity but starting to move into later stages with increased vegetative vitality in the lower crown.

**Priority:** Priority

Risk: Slight (200)

Next Inspection: 09/2024



**Species:** Quercus robur (English Oak)

### Recommendations:

**Lift canopy to 2.5m** - Crown lift over flat roof to West to achieve 1.5m clearance over the roof within 3 months to prevent any damage to the roof of the building

**Sever climbing plant** - This will prevent a build-up of ivy obscuring any potential defects in addition to reducing the build-up of ivy on the stem and in the crown adding additional weight.

Stabilise deadwood - within 3 months for reasons of health and safety over the children's play area

Management of the land around the tree - Over time look to convert the land underneath the crown of the Oak tree from grass over to wood chip mulch and leaf litter. Reduce the grass-cutting regime to avoid damage to surface roots. Add composted bark chips (ideally from an Oak tree) over the area evenly to a depth of 5-7cm in stages starting with the current areas used for the play equipment in year 1, then expand the area out to the second half in year 2. This will aid in providing a natural source of organic matter to the tree over a period of time while it breaks down aiding in maintaining a healthy rooting environment for the tree.

**Monitor (Annually)** - This can be carried out initially by the Parish Council performing a visual check for obvious signs that the tree's condition has changed from that set out within this tree survey and taking photographs throughout the year to document any changes in the tree's condition in each season. They can check for fungi, large volumes of deadwood, any branch damage etc. If they then have any concerns then it would be worth getting it reinspected by a qualified Arboriculturist. This will aid in monitoring for any health changes over time.

**Target management** - If possible seek to move the targets from underneath the canopy of the Oak tree. This would include the two sets of swings and the slide. If possible do not disturb the ground when moving the play equipment to avoid any further root damage and move them to a more suitable location away from underneath the canopy of the trees. This will reduce the risk as the fixed targets beneath the tree will be moved.











Girdling roots



Multiple old pruning wounds



Stem issues or observations



Occluding pruning wounds











**Position:** Webbs Lane sports field On bank

by public footpath

Species: Fraxinus excelsior (Common

Ash)

**Grid Ref:** SU 32657 43215

**OS X/Y:** 432656.10, 143214.33

**Lat Long:** 51.187228, -1.534122

what3words: /// divisions.fried.flags

**Notes:** Veteran tree characteristics

include a large girth minimum of 25% of the species age equating to around 200 - 300 years of age circa 1750 -1800. With potential for internal heartwood decay and hollowing, large quantities of deadwood, breakout wounds, habitat holes and epiphytic plants including Lichens. This is an important tree locally as well

as historically, culturally,

ecologically and environmentally. Outside the Conservation Area.

TPO: No

Ash: Yes Veteran: Yes CA: No



Date: 28/09/2023

# Inspection Only: 28/09/2023

Height: 19.0 metres

Age: Veteran
Trunk: 125 cm

Spread: 25.5 metres

**N**: 12.0 **S**: 14.0

**E**: 12.0 **W**: 13.0

## Visited By: Amelia Williams

Vigour: Normal

Condition: Fair

**Live crown:** 100% - 75%

Failure: Potentially

Target: Low

**Impact:** Minor damage



**Features:** 

Bank - located on the top of the old bank

Fence within falling distance - old barb wire fence

Footpath within falling distance

Footpath under canopy

Play area - football pitches to the South and underneath the edge of the

canopy

### **Conditions:**

Ash dieback

Ash stage 1 = 76-100% canopy remaining

Ash stage 2 = 51-75% canopy remaining - In the upper crown Bat potential Branch

stubs present

Crown issues or observations -lapsed historic pollard

Compacted roots - bare earth for the route of the footpath with compacted

ground to the North and exposed bark-damaged surface roots visible

End weighted branches

Epiphytic plants (Lichens)

Epicormic growth

Historical branch loss

Ivy or climbing plants

Ivy covered tree

Live epicormic growth rafting

Low hanging branches

Major dead wood >50mm

Minor dead wood <50mm

Multiple old pruning wounds Occluded pruning wounds Occluding pruning wounds

Surface roots

Thinning crown

Veteran tree

Wildlife habitat

**Priority:** Priority

Risk: Insignificant (48)

Next Inspection: 01/2028



Species: Fraxinus excelsior (Common

Ash)

### Recommedations:

**Stabilise deadwood** - remove or stabilise major deadwood over the public footpath and over grass areas within 3 months for reasons of health and safety. Retain within the centre of the tree as habitat though as deadwood is valuable wildlife habitat.

### **Crown reduction specification**

- Lateral reduction of 2 3m to prune canopy back to edge of the football pitch to the South leaving 11 metre crown spread to the South.
- 2m end weight reduction of over-extended lower limbs to the East and West leaving 10 to 11 m crown spread in each direction.
- 1m height reduction to prune out dying tips down to around 18 metres.
- 2m reduction of lower limbs over the footpath to the North leaving an 11m spread.
- Works to be carried out during the dormant season and within 3 months.
- Check for bats prior to work.
- Works are to aid with the prevention of end-weighted branch failure and to aid with crown
  management in light of Ash dieback to aid with the overall retention of the Ash tree as an important
  wildlife habitat tree.

**Sever climbing plant** - to aid with further assessment at the next inspection of the main stem to assess for decay and fungi as currently limited observations are able to be made with the dense ivy present. Within 3 months allow it to die off naturally.

























Position: The Green Adjacent Manor Close

Species: Prunus avium "Plena" ( Double

Cherry)

Grid Ref: SU 33026 43352

**OS X/Y:** 433025.55, 143351.02

**Lat Long:** 51.188436, -1.528824

what3words: ///attend.solid.oldest

**Notes:** Outside the Conservation Area.



Date: 28/09/2023

TPO: No

Ash: No Veteran: No CA: No

Inspection Only: 28/09/2023

Height: 12.0 metres

Age: Mature

Trunk: 50 cm

Spread: 12.0 metres

N: 6.0 S: 7.0 E: 6.0 W: 5.0

**Features:** Building within falling distance

Fence within falling distance Footpath within falling distance

Footpath under canopy Fence under canopy

Parking within falling distance

Road under canopy

Road within falling distance

Visited By: Amelia Williams

Vigour: Low

**Condition:** Very poor **Live crown:** 25% - 0%

Failure: Likely

**Target:** Medium **Impact:** Moderate

Comments: trunk estimated dbh over ivy



Basal suckers Defoliation Die back

Ivy or climbing plants

Ivy covered tree - Clad with Virginia creeper as well as ivy

Major dead wood >50mm

Minor dead wood <50mm Wildlife habitat

Priority: 3\_Slight

Risk: Slight (240)

Next Inspection: 09/2024





### **Recommendations:**

Fell Broadleaves - within 3 months for reasons of health and safety as the tree is nearly dead.

**Stump - Grind out stump** - within 3 months to facilitate space for replacement tree planting in this location.

**Plant New Tree** - 8-10 -Recommend a Wild Service tree (Sorbus torminalis) as a replacement or a Whitebeam (Sorbus majestica) planted in Winter 2023/ 2024) to aid with maintaining the existing tree stock and canopy cover for the site.



**Position:** Ajdacent to The Green Private

tree

**Species:** Fagus sylvatica (Common Beech)

Grid Ref: SU 33031 43440

**OS X/Y:** 433030.77, 143439.34

**Lat Long:** 51.189230, -1.528741

what3words: /// pool.magic.ahead

Notes: Just inside the Conservation Area

and potentially subject to a tree preservation order as well (TPO).

Within the garden of the

property known as Edelweiss off

Church Close.

TPO: Yes

Ash: No Veteran: No CA: Yes



Date: 28/09/2023

Inspection Only: 28/09/2023

Height: 20.0 metres

Age: Mature

Trunk: 90 cm

Spread: 15.0 metres

N: 9.0 S: 7.0 E: 9.0 W: 5.0 Visited By: Amelia Williams

Vigour: Normal

Condition: Good

Live crown:

Failure: None apparent

**Target:** Medium **Impact:** Moderate

**Features:** 

Bench - Decaying wooden bench underneath the canopy on the side

of The Green

Building within falling distance

Conservation area (CA)

Dog bin

Fence within falling distance Footpath within falling distance

Footpath under canopy Fence under canopy Garden - play area



Crown shape distorted due to group pressure - unable to fully inspect as an off-site private tree with a private garden but the canopy overhangs the Parish Council land and public footpath and is currently causing low level obstruction to pedestrians Low hanging branches

**Priority:** Priority

Risk: Insignificant (0)

Next Inspection: 01/2028











### **Recommendations:**

**Lift canopy to 2.5m** - within 3 months over grass area footpath entrance to the East and South for reasons of health and safety.





**Position:** Churchyard of St Mary's Church

By gate and public footpath

**Species:** Taxus baccata (Common Yew)

**Grid Ref:** SU 33077 43597

**OS X/Y:** 433076.72, 143596.18

**Lat Long:** 51.190638, -1.528069

what3words: ///shack.clock.arrow

Notes: This is a Veteran Yew tree around

260 - 340 years of age. Yews are one of the longest-lived native trees and are ecologically valuable as well as historically, culturally and environmentally. They are associated with

immortality and the ability of the species to renew itself and they are evergreen. Yew is symbolic of everlasting life and rebirth as well as death and resurrection.

TPO: No

**Ash:** No **Veteran:** Yes **CA:** Yes



Date: 28/09/2023

Inspection Only: 28/09/2023

**Height:** 19.0 metres

Age: Mature

Trunk: 111 cm

Spread: 13.5 metres

**N**: 7.0 **S**: 11.0

**E**: 6.0 **W**: 3.0

**Features:** 

Conservation area (CA)
Fence within falling distance
Footpath within falling distance

Footpath under canopy

Gravestones

**Visited By: Amelia Williams** 

Vigour: Normal

Condition: Good

**Live crown:** 100% - 75%

Failure: Potentially

Target: Low

**Impact:** Minor damage



Branch stubs present

Crown shape distorted due to group pressure

Epicormic growth

Hanging broken branches - failed hazard beam

Ivy or climbing plants Low hanging branches Major dead wood >50mm Minor dead wood <50mm

**Priority:** Priority

Risk: Insignificant (48)

Next Inspection: 01/2028









Species: Taxus baccata (Common Yew)

### **Recommendations:**

Remove dead wood (>50mm) - within 1 month for reasons of health and safety

**Remove hanging/broken limb** -over footpath within the churchyard, snapped out hazard beam, browning foliage within 1 month for reasons of health and safety





Position: St Mary's Church Adjacent to

Church Road

Species: Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse

Chestnut)

**Grid Ref:** SU 33144 43565

**OS X/Y:** 433143.00, 143564.52

**Lat Long:** 51.190349, -1.527123

what3words: /// cares.clever.chips

Notes: Notable old pollard circa 115-120

years of age. Potential veteran, with Veteran tree characteristics including deadwood habitat, old large breakout wounds and cavities, decaying heartwood, water pools, bark loss, and the potential for fungi but none

currently observed.

TPO: No

**Ash:** No **Veteran:** No **CA:** Yes



Date: 28/09/2023

Inspection Only: 28/09/2023

Height: 16.0 metres

Age: Mature

Trunk: 96 cm

Spread: 11.0 metres

**N**: 5.0 **S**: 6.0

**E**: 5.0 **W**: 6.0

**Features:** 

Conservation area (CA)
Fence within falling distance
Fence under canopy Gravestones

Grass surround

Road under canopy - Church Road Road within falling

distance

Visited By: Amelia Williams

Vigour: Normal

Condition: Fair

**Live crown:** 100% - 75%

Failure: Likely

Target: Medium

**Impact:** Moderate



Basal decay - decayed heartwood visible at bark wounds on lower trunk

Bird box - plus natural bird nest on trunk in ivy

Bleeding canker

Bat potential

**Basal suckers** 

Branch stubs present

Cankers on branches

Cankers on trunk

Cavities present - decay present in the old pollard heads

**Crossing branches** 

Crown issues or observations - Leaf blotch and leaf miner

Epicormic growth

Fluted buttresses

Ivy or climbing plants - around buttresses

Minor dead wood <50mm

Multiple old pruning wounds Occluded pruning wounds Occluding pruning wounds

Pollarded

Stem issues or observations -flaking and delamination bark

Veteran tree potential

Wildlife habitat

**Priority:** Priority

Risk: Slight (240)

Next Inspection: 09/2024







**Species:** Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse

Chestnut)

### **Recommendations:**

Reduce crown by 4m - Reduce crown down by 4m but not to the original pollard points.

- Retain a smaller crown above the pollard points.
- Thin out each pollard head to retain the smaller stems and remove the two largest diameter stems on each pollard head back to the pollard head at around 6m to reduce the weight on the pollard heads.
- Works to be carried out within 3 months during the dormant season and bat check prior to work.
- Works to prevent pollard head collapse under the weight of the new regrowth that has lapsed and to retain a smaller managed crown due to the proximity to the roadside.













**Position:** Churchyard of St Mary's Church

Adjacent the Church

**Species:** Tilia x europaea (Common Lime)

Grid Ref: SU 33066 43578

**OS X/Y:** 433065.41, 143577.67

**Lat Long:** 51.190472, -1.528232

what3words: ///cape.games.crazy

**Notes:** Veteran tree characteristics

include a large girth minimum of 25% of species age equating to around 140-170 years of age circa 1850's. With potential for internal heartwood decay, large quantities of deadwood, habitat holes and epiphytic plants including lichens. This is an important tree locally as well as

historically, culturally,

ecologically and environmentally.

TPO: No

**Ash:** No **Veteran:** Yes **CA:** Yes



Date: 28/09/2023

Inspection Only: 28/09/2023

**Height:** 26.0 metres

Age: Mature

Trunk: 133 cm

Spread: 13.0 metres

**N**: 8.0 **S**: 6.0

**E:** 6.0 **W:** 6.0

**Visited By: Amelia Williams** 

Vigour: Normal

Condition: Good

Live crown:

Failure: Potentially

Target: Medium

Impact: Minor damage

**Features:** 

Building within falling distance - St Mary's Church Conservation area (CA) Footpath within falling distance

Footpath under canopy Gravestones



Bat potential

**Basal suckers** 

Cavities present

Epicormic growth

Fluted buttresses

Ivy or climbing plants - starting up the trunk and around the buttresses

Live epicormic growth rafting

Major dead wood >50mm

Minor dead wood <50mm

Multiple old pruning wounds

Occluded pruning wounds

Occluding pruning wounds

Surface roots - lifting tarmac path and visible in the grass bank,

bark damage to some exposed roots and decay present

**Priority:** Priority

Risk: Minimal (64)

Next Inspection: 05/2026







**Species:** Tilia x europaea (Common Lime)

### **Recommendations:**

Remove dead wood (>50mm) - within 3 months for reasons of health and safety

Lift canopy to 3m - over the footpath within 3 months for reasons of health and safety











**Position:** Churchyard of St Mary's Church

By the Priest's door

Species: Taxus baccata "Fastigiata" (Irish

Yew)

Grid Ref: SU 33026 43576

**OS X/Y:** 433025.94, 143575.01

**Lat Long:** 51.190450, -1.528797

what3words: ///lies.invite.grow

Notes:



Date: 28/09/2023

TPO: No

Ash: No CA: Yes Veteran: No

Inspection Only: 28/09/2023

Height: 7.0 metres

Age: Middle aged

Trunk: 65 cm

Spread: 4.0 metres

**N**: 2.0

**S**: 2.0

**E**: 2.0

**W**: 2.0

**Visited By: Amelia Williams** 

Vigour: Normal

Condition: Good

**Live crown:** 100% - 75%

Failure: Potentially

Target: Medium

Impact: Fragile objects

**Features:** 

Building within falling distance - St Mary's Church

Conservation area (CA)

Footpath within falling distance

Footpath under canopy

Gravestones



Bark damage - from wire cutting into branches

Crown issues or observations -Branches collapsed out of the crown and are hanging down. Fastigiate form opening up. Previously supported by wire which in places is now imbedded wire cables which are now causing bark and branch damage.

Epicormic growth

**Priority:** Routine

Risk: Insignificant (16)

Next Inspection: 01/2028







Species: Taxus baccata "Fastigiata" (Irish

Yew)

### **Recommendations:**

**Crown support** - Re-apply structural support around the crown. Use a dark greenhouse hose pipe threaded with a steel cable tensioned to create support around the canopy at three or four separate levels up the crown set at around 1-1.5m intervals to bring the crown in to create a tighter form. Once the new supports are in place cut the old wire supports off.

Carry out the works within 6 months to aid with managing the crown and to retain a more compact form.





**Position:** Churchyard of St Mary's Church

**Species:** Ilex aquifolium (Common Holly)

Grid Ref: SU 33080 43578

**OS X/Y:** 433079.58, 143577.49

**Lat Long:** 51.190469, -1.528030

what3words: ///reward.flies.fund



Date: 28/09/2023

TPO: No

Ash: No Veteran: No CA: Yes

Inspection Only: 28/09/2023

Height: 11.0 metres

Age: Middle aged

Trunk: 53 cm

**Spread:** 7.8 metres

**N:** 3.5

**S**: 4.5

**E:** 4.0

**W**: 3.5

**Features:** Conservation area (CA)

Footpath within falling distance

Gravestones

**Visited By: Amelia Williams** 

Vigour: Low

Condition: Fair

**Live crown:** 75% - 50%

Failure: Potentially

Target: Low

Impact: Fragile objects

Comments: measured at below trifurcation just

above ground level



Basal suckers

Crown shape distorted due to group pressure

Die back

Epicormic growth
Ivy or climbing plants
Major dead wood >50mm
Minor dead wood <50mm

Trifurcated - just above ground level, one stem healthy, remaining two stems in

decline

**Priority:** Priority

Risk: Insignificant (12)

Next Inspection: 01/2028







**Seq No:** 10

Species: Ilex aquifolium (Common Holly)

#### **Recommendations:**

**Reduce crown by 3m** - reduce the two dying stems to the North and East down by 3 metres to reduce the risk of failure but allow the lower stems to regenerate. Within 3 months for reasons of health and safety.

Date: 28/09/2023





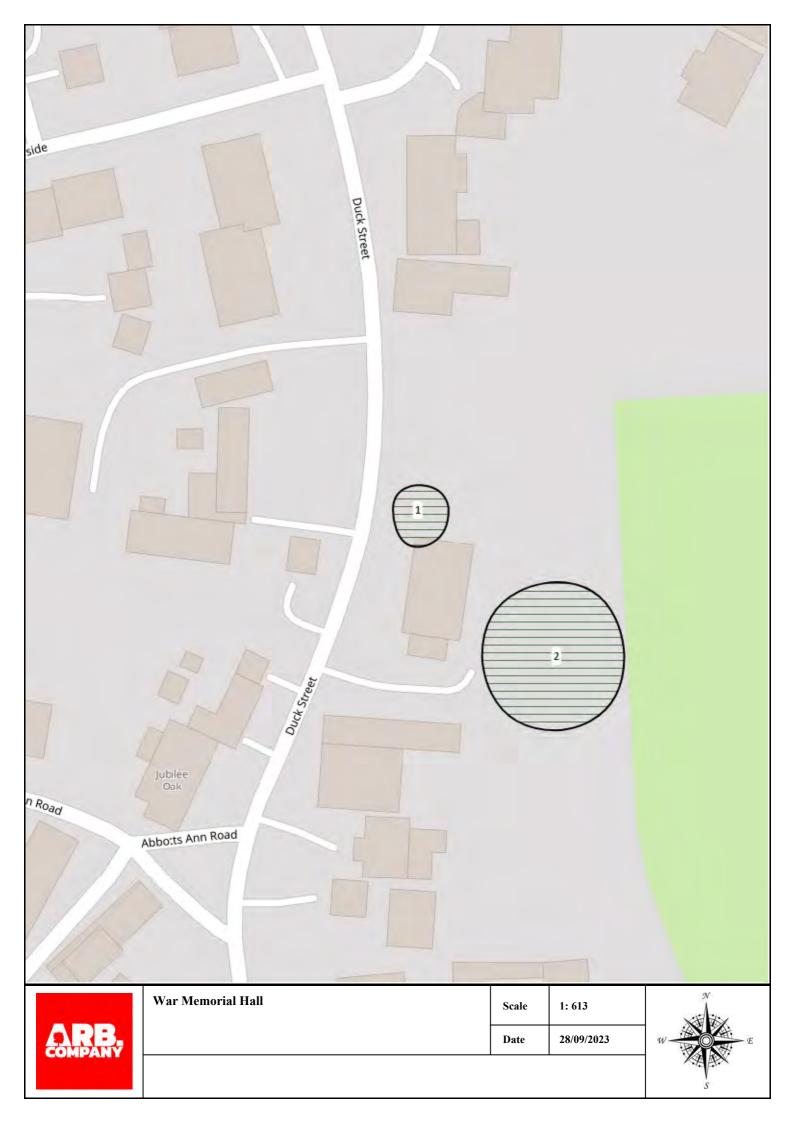
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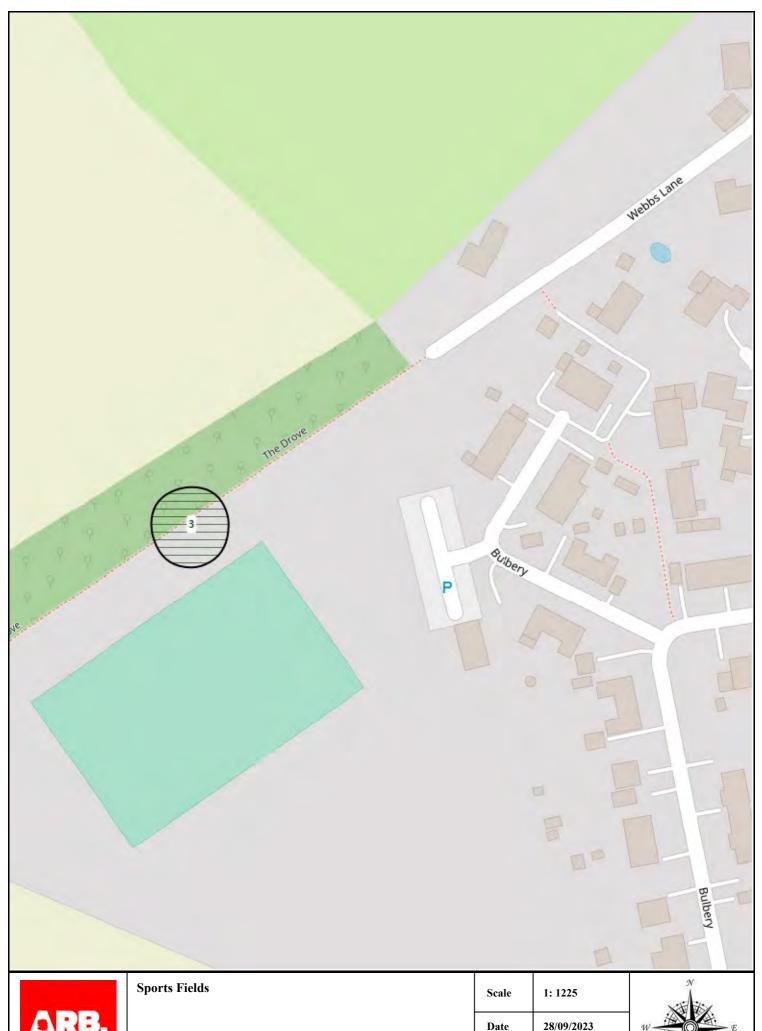




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	Date	28/09/2023



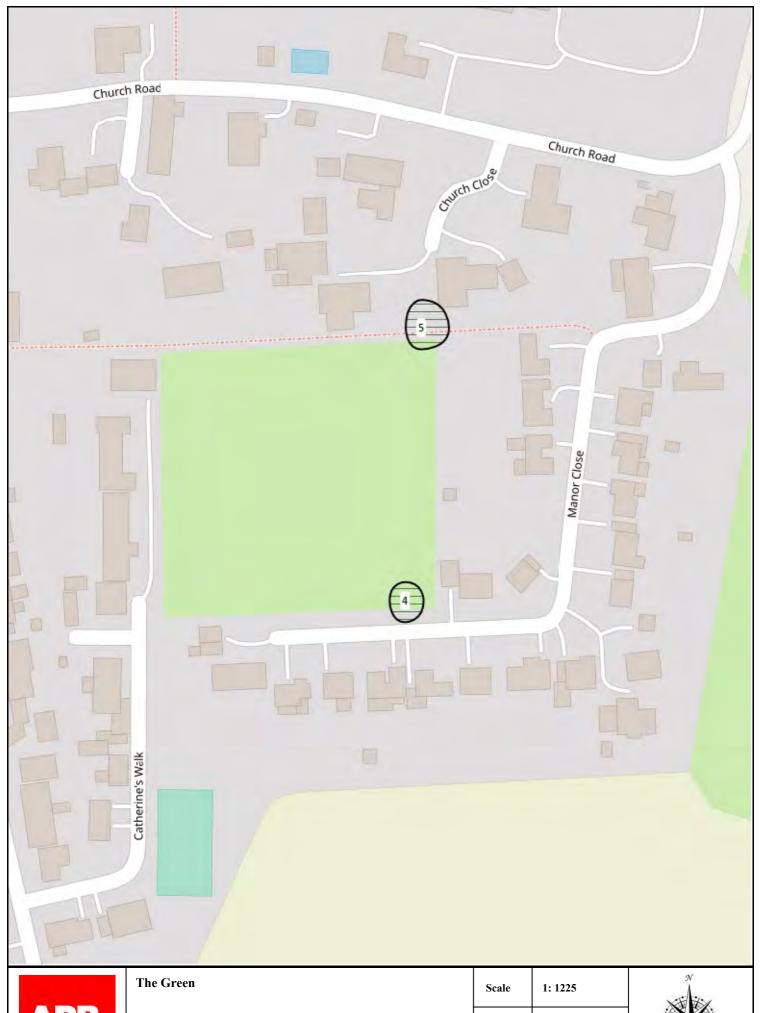






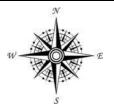
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	Date	28/09/2023
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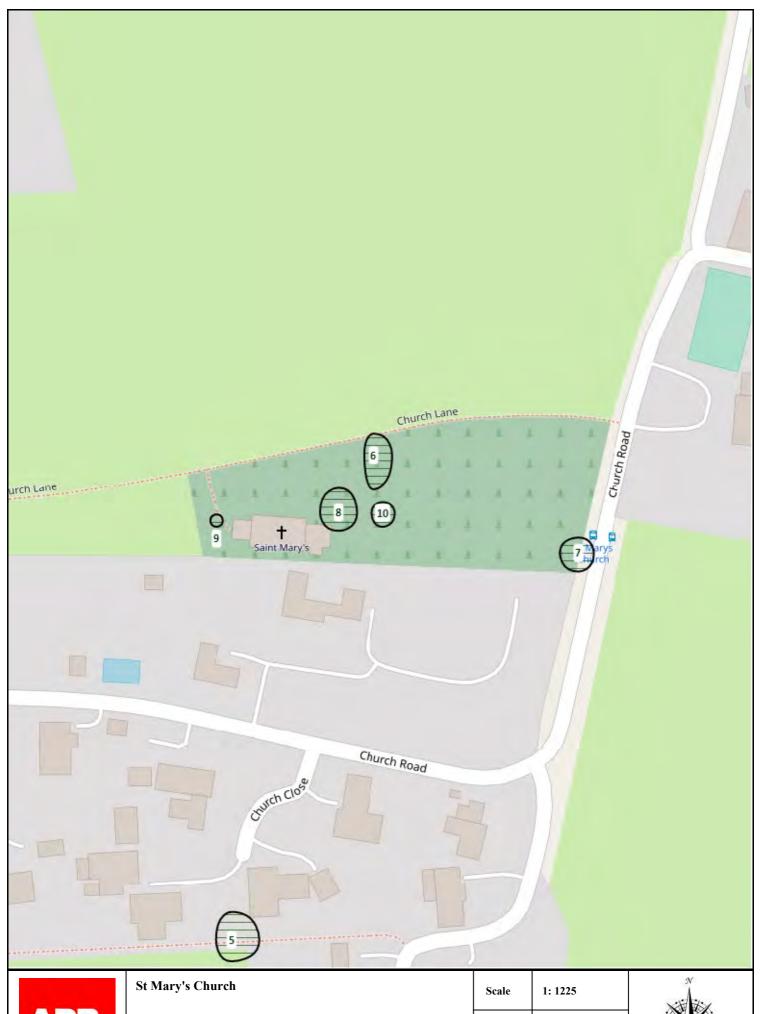






The Green	Scale	1: 1225
	Date	28/09/2023







Date 28/09/2023	St Mary's Church	Scale	1: 1225
		Date	28/09/2023



# COM

# Tree survey general guidance notes

#### Tree survey notes and guidance

The tree survey is a brief assessment of the trees at the time of the inspection from ground level for health and safety and to provide guidance on the short and long term management of the tree stock within the site. It is not intended to be a guarantee of tree safety in any form, as trees are living changing dynamic organisms. Estimates for dimensions were used where access was restricted. General descriptive details were noted about trees including tree works recommendations. All the data gathered is recorded on a tablet using Ezytreev tree management software.

#### Full code

Each tree, group, hedge or woodland surveyed will be assigned a **reference number** which will relate to its location on a tree survey plan e.g. trees are a numerical number, groups have **G** at the start, hedges have **H**, and woodlands have **W**.

#### Sequence number

This is a user defined sequence number applied to the tree survey order.

#### **Species**

Tree species will be in both **common name** and **botanical Latin** name.

### Tree position and additional position

This is the reference location for where the tree is located within a site with additional information on the exact location. The locations of the trees are also plotted against the mapping system on Ezytreev.

#### Height

The dimensions are taken using a clinometer or where this is not possible they will be estimated and are given in **metres**.

#### **Spread**

This is taken in **metres** as a diameter across the width of the whole canopy or calculated from the cardinal points based on pacing the distance on the ground.

#### Canopy spread

This is shown by measuring through pacing on the ground the **four cardinal points of a compass**, to achieve an accurate representation of the crown shape which will be recorded on the tree survey plan.

#### Trunk

Trunk/stem diameters are measured in **cm** at 1.5 metres above ground level for single stemmed trees, or immediately above the root flare for multi-stemmed trees, using a specialist tape for converting the girth to a diameter measurement. Where access to the stem is not feasible an estimate will be made.

#### No. of stems

The number of stems for a tree is recorded and also this relates to the number of trees or stems in a group, hedge or woodland.

#### **Notes**

Are general features of the site or tree not recorded in a specific field.

#### Age

An assessment of a tree's age classification is made in terms of its maturity within the site's landscape and recorded thus: **Sapling / Young / Middle Aged / Mature / Over Mature / Veteran.** 

#### **Group age**

Is recorded for all ages present.

#### **Vigour**

Is an assessment for the annual growth of the tree and the categories are low, normal, strong.

#### Condition

An assessment of a tree's overall condition is to be made as: Good, Fair, Poor, Dead.

Good	Generally in healthy condition and no structural defects observed
Fair	Condition satisfactory with minor structural defects that could be
	remediated with pruning or tree shows adaptation

**Poor** Tree in decline, of poor structural form or of low health

**Dead** Not alive

#### Live crown

Based on percentage of remaining live crown 100-75% is healthy, 75-50%, 50-25%, 25-0%.

#### **Status**

Relates to historical age based assessment of trees and the criteria are Ancient, Veteran, Notable, Heritage or Champion.

#### **Site features**

Are a description of the location of where the tree, group or woodland is situated.

#### **Tree conditions**

Tree attributes and observations are key descriptions of the tree, group or woodland including defects, problems and previous tree works.

#### **Recommendations**

Preliminary tree management recommendations are recommended based on the assessment of the tree and will have a **time scale** for when the works should be carried out or within a time period.

#### Statutory designations

Prior to proceeding with any of the recommendations made within the tree survey it is essential to carry out a check to see if any statutory designations apply. If the trees are within a Conservation Area or the subject of a Tree Preservation Order, the permission of the Local Authority will be required prior to carrying out any tree works. Furthermore, if the works exceed 5 cubic metres in timber volume within one calendar quarter this may require a felling licence. In addition it is important to note key ecological and wildlife considerations for example the potential for trees to be bat roots, or the nesting bird season and wildlife habit and only carry out works in the appropriate season unless the works are urgent.

### **Priority**

Timescale for carrying out any recommended works.

#### Works due date

Date recommended works are due to be carried out by or within.

#### Risk assessment

Basis of the risk assessment is THREATS - Tree Hazard Risk Evaluation and Treatment System developed by Julian Forbes-Laird.

#### Failure score

Consideration of identified defects in relation to species / clone history, established failure criteria & time of year based on likelihood of failure rating of None apparent (0)/ Potentially with time (0.8) / Likely, foreseeable (2) / Probable, Soon (8) / Imminent, Immediate (50).

#### **Target score**

Consideration of impact radius identified defect against potential targets.

Consideration of forward visibility available to drivers (Poor Forward Visibility / Good Forward Visibility) & whether vehicles are likely to be stationary e.g at junctions. If targets liable to include unsupervised children &/or the elderly or infirm, upgrade target category by one category. For railway targets use THREATS NR. Target score based on None (0) / Very low (7) / Low (15) / Medium (20) / High (25) / Very High (40).

#### **Impact score**

Consideration of height of fall / momentum & whether e.g lower branches would impeded agent's descent based on degree of harm and consequence. Scores outlined below.

- 1 = Fragile objects destroyed, superficial or recoverable injury to pedestrians
- **4** = Minor damage, probable disabling, hospitalising injury to pedestrians
- **6**= Moderate structural severe vehicle damage, fatal disabling injuries likely
- **10** = Severe structural damage, vehicle crushed, passenger fatalities very probable.

#### **Risk evaluation**

This is the total score from the **Failure score X Target score X Impact score** which then is put against one of the following score ranges 0-49 / 50-159 / 160-329 / 330 - 999 / 1000-2000 / 2001 - 3999 / 4000+

# Risk / Threat category

This is based on where the score sits within the score ranges

0-49 = **1 - Insignificant** (Re-inspect within 5 years if general public access or 3

years if child specific access & TS>20)

50-159 = **2-Minimal** (Reinspect within 3 years if public access, schedule work as

required)

160-329 = **3 - Slight** (Reinspect annually / after storms (Force 10+), expect to schedule

work within 2 years)

- 330 999 = **4-Moderate** (Reinspect within 13 weeks, reinspect after SWE meantime (inc glad to Force 7+)
- 1000-2000 = **5 Significant** (Arrange for work to be completed within four weeks maximum)
- 2001 3999 = **6-Serious** (Close site if practical; arrange for work to be completed within 7 days)
- **7 Extreme** (Evacuate / prevent access to site, emergency call out of contractors).

#### **Timescale**

**Inspection frequency** based on the outcome of risk and recommendations ie within set time period of months, annual, 3 years and up to 5 years.

## Works already completed

Where works recommended have been completed whilst on site.

# **Next inspection date**

**Date for next inspection** scheduled per tree based on the assessment of requirements and risk factors.

#### **Photographs**

A photo where possible will be taken of each tree at the time of the tree survey or site visit including any additional photographs of specific defects.

#### Ivy as a tree survey limitation on site

Where ivy is present it is not possible at the time of the survey to fully assess the condition of the stem or stems and when ivy covers the tree the same applies. A follow up re-inspection would be recommended following the severance or removal of ivy to enable a further assessment.

# Brief guide to tree work terminology

- **Coppicing** Cutting trees close to ground level with the intention of encouraging regrowth of multiple shoots.
- **Crown lifting** Removal of lower branches to achieve a stated vertical clearance above ground level or other surface ie crown lift to achieve 4 metres above ground level clearance. This is usually limited to the secondary and tertiary branches unless specified.
- **Crown reductio**n Operation that results in an overall reduction in the height and/or spread of the crown of a tree by means of general shortening of twigs and/or branches, whilst retaining the main framework of the crown usually specified in metres to be applied across the whole canopy and height or to cardinal points.
- **Crown thinning** Removal of a proportion of small, live branches from throughout the crown to achieve an even density of foliage around a well-spaced and balanced crown structure. This is specified usually as a percentage ie crown thin by up to 10%.
- **Deadwooding (Crown clean)** the removal of dead or damaged branches from a tree for reasons of health and safety and usually limited to the major dead wood in excess of 50mm in diameter. Where possible it is preferable to stabilise dead wood by reducing it to retain within the crown for habitat and wildlife purposes where it is safe to do so.
- **Felling** the removal of a tree from dismantling the crown and stem to ground level or clear felling the whole tree.
- **Pollarding** Cutting a tree so as to encourage formation of numerous branches arising from the same height on a main stem or principal branches. Pollard heads can be created at any height and ideally a tree should be placed in a pollard regime from an early age.
- **Retrenchment pruning** Form of crown reduction, intended to encourage development of the lower crown, which emulates the natural process whereby the crown of an ageing tree retains its overall biomechanical integrity by becoming smaller through the progressive shedding of small branches.
- **Stump grinding** the removal of the stump to just below ground level
- **Stump treatment** the chemical treatment of cut stumps to stop any regrowth from the cut stump to kill the root system of the felled tree. A method of this is using Eco plugs.

- **Veteranisation** Controlled infliction of damage on a tree to achieve a specific habitat objective.
- **Monolith creation** retaining a standing stem for wildlife habitat or nature conservation at any given height. The height a monolith is left at is often determined by the proximity to any given target to be less than the falling distance to that target. It can also be to retain a specific defect or detail in the tree stem like just above a cavity or fork for example.
- **Formative pruning** pruning young newly planted and establishing trees to improve their form and correct defects in the crown or to set lower branch heights. Pruning out crossing branches, damaged branches, forming a new leader can all form part of a formative prune.
- **Sever ivy** -to cut or sever the ivy from around the entire stem or trunk of a tree to allow the ivy to die back over a period of time. A section of ivy in a band is removed around 0.5 metres above ground level to a width of around 0.5 metres. Care should be taken not to damage the bark of the tree whilst this is being carried out. If the ivy is just starting it can be pulled off or cut back. This only needs to be done when it is restricting access for inspection as ivy is an important part of the natural ecosystem for wildlife.
- **Remove ivy** -to strip or cut the ivy from the entire tree to reduce the weight in the crown and allow the trees branches to not have to support the weight of the ivy as well as have more light. This only needs to be done when there is a requirement to retain the host tree on which the ivy is growing, to prevent tree failure or to enable a closer inspection of the tree for health and safety reasons.

For more details refer to BS3998:2010 Tree works recommendations

#### Wildlife and trees

The purpose of this guidance is to advise you of your responsibilities under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 if you are planning to carry out tree work.

These Acts and Regulations protect ALL wild birds, their nests (whether in use or being built) and eggs and other wild animals including bats and their roosts in or adjacent to trees.

In simple terms, you should make sure that there are no wild birds nesting in or bats roosting in or adjacent to the tree[s] that you are proposing to work on. It is a criminal offence to recklessly or intentionally destroy any bird, its nest or its eggs or any bat or its roost (even if the roost is not occupied at the time).

Please note that if your trees are protected (either subject to a tree preservation order or by virtue of growing in a conservation area), obtaining consent from the council will not override your responsibilities under the above wildlife acts.

There are many ecological considerations on sites with and without trees and the main focus of this brief guidance relates to sites with trees and species that may be found living in trees and woodlands.

#### **Bats**

All native species of bat in the UK are afforded full legal protection via Schedules 5 and 6 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations, 1994 (The Habitats Regulations), which implements the EC Directive 92/43/EEC.

In summary, these legislative instruments make it an offence, with certain exceptions, to carry out the following:

- Intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture bats · Deliberately disturb bats (whether in a roost or not)
- · Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats while occupying a bat roost
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a bat roost Therefore it is advised that prior to any tree works being carried out that a bat survey is carried out to identify if bats may be roosting within the tree(s).

## **Badgers**

Under the Protection of Badgers Act, 1992 it is currently illegal to:

- · Wilfully kill, injure or take any Badger or attempt to do any of these things
- · Cruelly ill-treat Badgers, or to dig for them
- Have in your possession any dead Badger or part of one, or an object derived from one
- Have in your possession or control a living, healthy Badger or sell one or offer one for sale

- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any part of a Badger sett, to cause a dog to enter a sett or to disturb a Badger while it is in a sett.
- Badgers are also protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended), which prohibits them being killed or taken by certain methods. Therefore it is advised that all works are carried out in compliance with the legislation that protects Badgers if they are present on or adjacent to the site.

## **Birds**

The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) provides protection to birds, from intentional killing, injuring or taking of any wild bird or taking, damaging or destroying the nest or eggs of any wild bird. All bird species, their nests and eggs are protected. Under Section 1 it is an offence to intentionally:

- · Kill, injure or take any wild bird
- · Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built
- · Take or destroy the eggs of any wild bird

Therefore it is advised that all trees, vegetation and buildings to be cleared outside the breeding bird season, which is March to August, but can continue into September.

#### **Great Crested Newt**

Great Crested Newt are protected under Schedules 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) and within the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations, 1994, which protects Great Crested Newts from harm, injury and deliberate capture, killing, disturbance, damage and destruction of eggs, breeding sites or resting places. This includes deliberate or reckless damage or disturbance.

# **Reptiles**

All of the reptile species native to Britain are protected by the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended). This means that it is illegal to deliberately kill or injure a reptile, although their habitat is not protected. Therefore, there is a legal obligation to make a reasonable effort in removing reptiles from a site where there is considered a risk of causing harm to them.

#### **Dormice**

Dormice are protected by inclusion on Schedules 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations, 1994.

#### Veteran trees

These are trees of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of their age, size and condition. Trees in the ancient stage of their lives or that are old relative to others of the same species. They are particularly important wildlife habitats and support many species that cannot live anywhere else. They are often home to small fascinating species of fungi, beetles and mosses too.

#### For more information

www.woodland-trust.org. uk www.naturalengland.org.uk www.ancienttreeforum.co.uk





# Who has a duty of care for trees?

Tree owners have a legal duty of care under the owner's liabilities for injury to others caused by the fall of a tree or branch. The formal duties come from the Occupiers Liability Acts of 1957 and 1984.

#### What does this mean?

It means that as a tree owner, it is important to understand how healthy your tree is and whether it poses any obvious defects that would be a risk to others and could cause them harm.

# Risk, hazards and defects

The level of risk is relative to the number people and the presence of valuable property that could be harmed or damaged in the event of root, branch or tree failure. The hazard is the potential to cause harm from a branch, trunk or crown failing structurally on a person or property causing injury or damage. Obvious defects would be those defects that pose risks only where there is likelihood of harm.

# How do I tell the health of my tree?

Initially a quick visual check for obvious signs that the tree is likely looking healthy and stable is a good start and could be carried out by a tree owner. If they then had any concerns then it would be worth getting it looked at by a person with working knowledge of trees and their defects to assess if it is unstable or requires action.

#### What sorts of defects should I look out for?

- Broken, snapped or hanging branches
- Dead branches or dead tree
- Lightning strike to trunk
- Defoliation of leaves in summer
- Discolouration of leaves of wilting leaves
- Dark staining or patches on bark
- Cavities or holes in the trunk or branches
- Leaning tree
- Root plate movement
- Fungal fruiting bodies
- Bark damage
- Swellings or bulges on the trunk or branches
- Woodpecker activity on branches or the main trunk

# How often should I get my tree inspected?

A tree owner should have their tree inspected by a qualified professional on a periodic basis. There is no set timescale but a tree owner should do what is reasonable and prudent as a landowner. It is recommended that trees are inspected as a minimum every 5 years.

# Who can I get to assess my tree for health and safety?

- Tree surgeon
- Arborist
- Arboriculturlist
- Arboricultural Consultant

It is important to ensure that whoever you engage to inspect your tree has the appropriate competence, experience and knowledge including insurances and for more details visit <a href="https://www.trees.org.uk">www.trees.org.uk</a> for further guidance

# Can I have work done to my tree?

You can carry out tree works to your tree as the tree owner but are advised to check for any legal protection on the tree prior to carrying out the works. Trees can be protected by nature of being within a Conservation Area or the subject of a Tree Preservation Order. Check first with your Local Authority to determine the status of any protection.

If you are looking to work on a few trees then review the requirements under a felling licence also, as you can coppice or fell up to 5 cubic metres per calendar quarter without a felling licence. It is also important to ensure that the timing of any tree works does not affected protected species particularly nesting birds or bats so appropriate checks should be carried out for ecological purposes prior to the works commencing.

# **Tree management**

It is also worth considering the future of your tree as part of its management, as trees grow and can outgrow the available space if left unmanaged.

Consider setting your tree into a tree pruning regime if it is appropriate for the tree species and also ensure to get approval first if it is protected. Consider the on going costs of maintenance though prior to this to ensure you can continue to fund the maintenance requirements.

# Summary of tree management actions

- Check your tree regularly and keep your own records which could include a photograph your tree each year and in each season to keep a record of any changes
- Check your tree(s) after storms and periods of extreme weather including winds, dry or heat spells and take action if any changes or issues are observed.
- Have periodic tree inspections carried out by a competent tree person and retain the inspections
- Carry out a risk assessment to identify the risks, hazards and any obvious defects
- Commission more detailed tree inspections if any concerns arise out of your own observations by a suitably qualified and competent person
- Take action to address the risks, hazards and defects through tree work and proactive tree management



# **Engaging a tree work contractor**

There are many terms used by companies offering tree works. The majority operate as 'Tree Surgeons', 'Arborists' or 'Arboriculturists'. All should be experienced to carry out works to a specification or advise on individual cases, many will provide written tree work specifications or surveys if required.

Before employing a tree work contractor, you should check that the trees are not covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), Planning Condition or within a Conservation Area. If they are you will require written consent from the Local Planning Authority prior to carrying out any works. A reputable contractor will normally do this on your behalf if required although you must always check that this has been done before allowing work to proceed.

Also, it is important to check that you do not require a felling licence for the works and that the total timber volume to be removed is below 5 cubic metres within the calendar quarter for the period of tree works. Check with the tree contractor for confirmation of this prior to authorising any tree works.

To ensure that you select well trained, experienced and competent Arborists to work on your trees the following should provide guidance to help you in your selection.

# Step 1 A tree contractor should be

- **Insured** which includes Public Liability & Employers Liability of at least £5 million pounds
- Qualified i.e. they hold National Proficiency Test Council (NPTC) certificates for chainsaw use, tree climbing or machine use. Including tree knowledge demonstrated by them having National Certificates, Diplomas, NVQ or other qualifications
- A Member of a trade association or professional organisation such as the Arboricultural Association (AA) <u>www.trees.org.uk</u> or International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) <u>www.isa-arboriculture.org</u>. A list of approved tree contractors can be found on these websites.
- Be able to provide a written quotation
- · Should be professional and presentable
- Work to a British Standard which should be BS3998:2010 Tree works
   -Recommendations
- · Provide details of a referee who can show you some of their work

## Step 2 What to ask for in a quote

Ask an Arborist for a quote, but consider the following points to ensure they provide you with a quote for what you require.

- What works do you want to be done and consider what is the end result you are looking for
- · What trees to do want work on and by when
- Is the tree owned by yourself or a neighbour and have you got permission from your neighbour?
- · Do you want dead wood from the tree removal or retained for wildlife

- · Do you want the logs stacked on-site or taken away
- · Do you want the debris chipped and taken away or left on site
- · Do you want the stump treated or ground out or left in situ
- · Are there any special requirements i.e. access restrictions or services to avoid
- Pre-book date for works so ask them when are they available to carry out the works
- Time proposed for the work i.e. how long will it take
- · Are the trees protected and who will be responsible for obtaining permission

# Step 3 Get a minimum of 3 quotes

- · This allows you choice
- · You get to select the contractors and avoid 'door knockers'
- · It also provides a good way of checking for competitive pricing
- The lowest may not necessarily be the cheapest in the long term
- · Always get a written quote
- A chance to meet the Contractors and judge if they are reputable and professional in appearance

If in any doubt ask the contractor for examples of recently completed tree works so you can have a look at their work. Any reputable contractor should have nothing to hide and should be pleased to answer any queries you may have.

# Step 4 What to look for in a quote

- · Look for references like BS3998 2010 Tree Work Recommendations
- Quotes should have clear and full details of the work to be undertaken e.g. 15-20% Thinning
- · A plan should be provided of which trees and where they are located
- · Check whether VAT is included
- Have they included putting in a Tree works application or Conservation Area notification or obtaining a felling licence otherwise who will be responsible for obtaining the necessary permissions and observing any wildlife considerations?
- · How are they proposing to dispose of the debris?
- · Are there any additional charges to consider for example stump grinding?
- Is any special equipment proposed like a mobile elevated work platform (MEWP / tree shears)?
- Avoid quotes with terms like 'lopping and topping' as these are not standard arboricultural practices and the end result may be unsightly or even hazardous
- Copy of risk assessment or method statement to show what steps will be taken to protect you and your property

- Provide a timescale for works as to how long it may take and lead-in time and if this is not, then ask
- The quote should state clearly a price for all the works specified and if it is not clear ask for clarification
- · Be aware that there may be a limit to the quote validity period

# **Step 5 Engaging the Tree Contractor of your choice**

Prior to engaging your chosen tree contractor, you can ask to see their qualifications and insurance if you want to check this first including a risk assessment.

A competent tree contractor should be able to demonstrate they have the required competency for the work to be carried out. Competent arborists will be able to show you their certificates or ID cards if requested. They should also be able to provide copies of their health and safety policies, method statements and environmental and wildlife policies.

# **Step 6 Consumer protection**

If problems arise you can get help and advice from industry bodies such as the Arboricultural Association (AA), the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) or Trustmark.



# **MISS AMELIA WILLIAMS**

MICFor, CEnv, MArborA, Dip Arb L6 (ABC) Cert Ed.F.E, Cert Arb L4 (ABC) BSc (Hons) **Arboricultural Consultant, Chartered Arboriculturist and Company Director** 

Amelia is the Principal Arboricultural Consultant and Company Director of The Arboricultural Company which she founded in February 2020. She has over 20 years of experience in Arboriculture and has previously run her own tree consultancy company earlier in her career and has gained a wide range of knowledge and experience in all her previous roles. She is also an assessor for the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) as well as an active member of various strategy task and finish groups of the ICF.

She holds the following accreditations, memberships and qualifications relevant to arboriculture:

#### **Chartered status**

- · Chartered Arboriculturist (MICFor)
- · Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)

# **Professional memberships**

- · Professional Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters
- · Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association

# Qualifications

- BSc Degree in Geography and Environmental Management (Royal Holloway University of London)
- · Professional Diploma in Arboriculture (Royal Forestry Society) (Dip Arb L6)
- · Technicians Certificate in Arboriculture (Arboricultural Association) (Dip Arb L4 ABC)
- Certificate in Arboriculture (Royal Forestry Society)
- · Aspire To Excellence leadership and management training NCFE (Level 5) Certificate
- · Safety, Health and Environmental Management (Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH))
- · City and Guilds Certificate in Further Education Stage 3 (Level 4) (Cert Ed. F.E)

Before then she was the Arboricultural Officer for Test Valley Borough Council for over four years within Community and Leisure Services. She was responsible for the tree management of all trees and woodlands on council-owned land including reactive enquiries of around 700 per annum. The tree survey programme includes visual tree assessments, and health and safety monitoring with a recent focus on Ash dieback and Oak processionary moth and tree planting. She used Ezytreev tree management software to enable the holistic tree management of around 21,000 assets equating to around 66,000 trees with an annual target of 6,000 assets on a resurvey programme. She was responsible for the delivery of all the tree works and the tree contractor management focused on the health and safety of the delivery, with annual budget responsibility of around £400k for tree works and replacement tree planting.

Her role previously for ten years was the Pan Garrison Trees, Grounds and Gardens Manager for Aspire Defence Services Limited, managing their tree and woodland management and maintenance plus the grounds maintenance and garden service delivery across seven Garrisons on behalf of the Ministry of Defence. The main focus of her role involved managing the £2.3 million evergreen contract for all three-service areas and ensuring that this was delivered in accordance with the specifications and service level agreements.

Prior to that, she was an Arboricultural Consultant based in Hampshire and Director of Amelia Williams Ltd alongside her role initially and prior to that the Director of Arborsphere Ltd since 2007.

Prior to starting her first company, she was working as a Senior Consultant for CBA trees in Twyford in Hampshire from 2004 to 2007 assessing a wide range of arboricultural issues for projects across the UK and reached Associate level partnership. The main focus is related to carrying out tree surveys in accordance with BS5837:2005 and development sites.

Before becoming an Arboricultural Consultant she was a Lecturer in Arboriculture at Moulton College in Northampton for two years teaching both the theory and practical of the RFS Certificate in Arboriculture, the Higher National Diploma in Urban Forestry, National Diploma and National Certificate in Arboriculture and the National Diploma in Horticulture.

Amelia started her arboricultural career in 2000 as a Tree Surveyor / Tree Officer for Test Valley Borough Council where she undertook the task of reviewing the status of all Tree Preservation Orders, including converting the paper-based system to that of a computerised system on a GIS package. She also designed the access database to manage existing and new Tree Preservation Orders.

# Range of arboricultural specialisms

- · Arboricultural consultancy
- Tree management for small (single tree) up to large tree collections (over 40,000 trees)
- · Tree survey work (street trees, development projects, individual private sites)
- Tree Inspections and hazard risk assessments including health and safety issues around risk management
- · Tree contract management and tree work compliance monitoring
- Tree Preservation Order advice and trees in Conservation Areas
- · Arboricultural constraints and implications assessments and method statements
- · Arboricultural site and project management including arboricultural supervision
- · Arboricultural design including tree planting projects on both small and large scale
- $\cdot$  Leadership and management including running own consultancy business
- · Arboricultural Lectures and Presentations and general training and guidance

#### **Contact details**

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