



AllAboutTrees

Arboricultural & Ecological Consultancy
Chartered Arboriculturalists & Environmentalists

Arboricultural Assessment Of Trees

At Great Whittington, Northumberland



For

Great Whittington Parish Council



Document Verification



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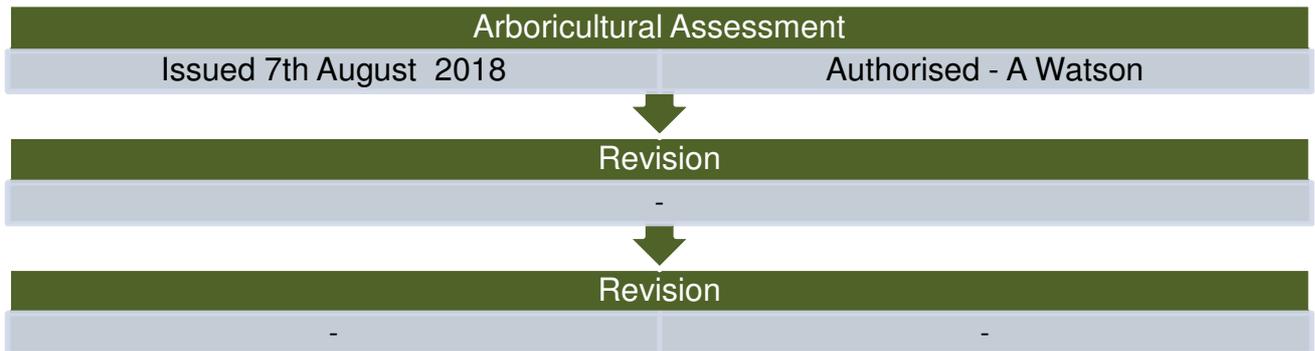


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1. Introduction

1.1 We are instructed by Great Whittington Parish Council to provide an arboricultural assessment of the trees under the management of the Parish Council.

This report has been produced to assist in the effective delivery of tree management with regard to public liability, personal safety and management requirements.

1.2 All the trees were inspected within the land ownership boundaries supplied by the client. Some areas did not have any trees present.

1.3 All observations were from ground level without detailed investigation.

1.4 Trees are living organisms whose health and condition may change rapidly and observations are based on the status of the trees at the time of inspection. Some pests, diseases and pathogens only exhibit signs and symptoms in a narrow time frame, therefore some signs may not be visible on the day of inspection.

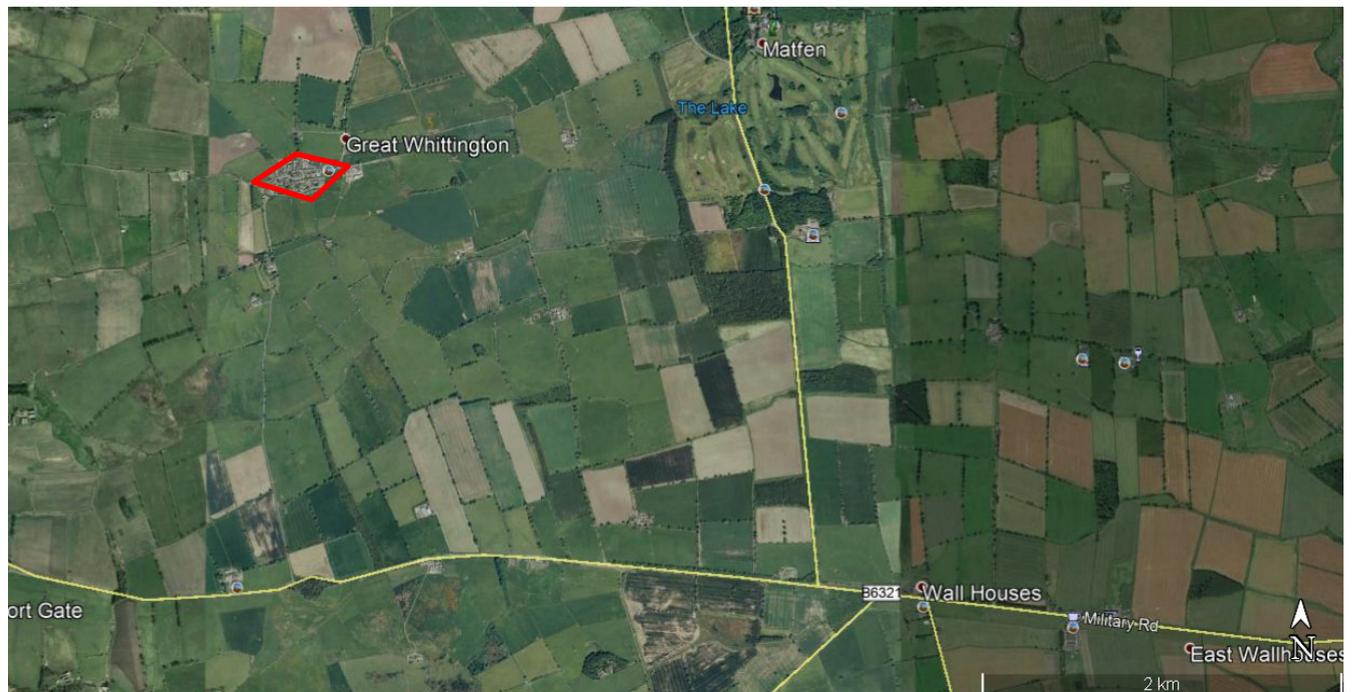


Figure 1 - Area inspected as denoted by the red line boundary

2. Protected Status Of Trees

2.1 Trees may be legally protected, this may either be in the form of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or that the trees are located within a Conservation area.

2.2 AllAboutTrees has been able to ascertain with Northumberland County Council (the Local Planning Authority) on 7th August 2018 that the trees are legally protected by virtue of their location in the Great Whittington Conservation area. Six weeks' notice must be supplied to the Local Planning Authority for any proposed tree work not otherwise approved by any existing relevant planning permission. It is an offence to carry out any tree work without giving the required notice.

3. Appraisal

3.1 A site visit was undertaken on 6th August 2018 by Rodger Lowe. The weather was generally fine without visibility constraints.

3.2.1 The study areas are typical village greens consisting of small parcels of land in the centre of the historic core of the village. The areas are mown grass or verges with one 'woodland' wildlife area.

Comments & Observations

3.2.2 The northern verges are populated by self sown ash at the base of drystone walls. Multi stemmed specimens have probably occurred as a result of rabbit grazing of young seedlings.

3.2.3 The planting scheme is reasonably diverse but with some rather odd species such as willow leaved pear and weeping birch.

3.2.4 It should be borne in mind that the prospects for ash are poor and we are extremely likely to see the loss of a significant majority of the species of the next 20 years due to ash dieback, a fungal disease presently making its effects felt across the north east.

3.2.5. Red horse chestnut is very susceptible to a disease called *Phytophthora* (Bleeding Canker) and due to the timber being weakly resistant to pathogens, decay in the stem is almost always the outcome. A programme of replacement is suggested.

4. Further Information

4.1 Tree Inspection Regime

4.1.1 As a landowner with a tree population, a duty of care must be fulfilled for the health and safety of those on, or near, the land and potential liabilities arising from the partial, or full, failure of the tree, under both civil and criminal law.

4.1.2 It would be prudent to vary the annual inspection throughout the seasons in following years. Different seasons have different advantages for surveying purposes. For example, autumn is considered the optimal time to look for most fungi, although it is better to look for morels and cup fungi in the spring. When the tree is in full leaf it may be hard to see structural defects. If trees are inspected in spring time a late bud flush may be more easily noticed which could be indicative of a decline in physiological function. By varying surveys throughout the seasons a more complete picture of woodland and tree health may be achieved.

4.1.3 The standard of inspection needed to fulfil duty of care has not been clearly defined further than the standard of 'the reasonable and prudent landowner'. It is recognised that this statement simplifies a more complicated situation, 'it postulates some degree of knowledge on the part of landowners which must necessarily fall short of the knowledge possessed by scientific Arboriculturalists but which must surely be greater than the knowledge possessed by the ordinary urban observer of trees or even of the countryman not practically concerned with their care.'

4.1.4 Landowners are expected to recognise, and act upon, an 'obvious defect'. An 'obvious defect' is not defined, although the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) suggests a 'reasonable and prudent landowner' may recognise the following as obvious, dependent upon the severity of the defect; a dead or hanging branch of the tree, decay, a significant split or crack, fungal growth, instability, discolouration of leaves, die back of branches, and dead or loose bark.

4.1.5 For more comprehensive information regarding tree safety, duty of care, and inspections the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) has written a document, 'Bringing Common Sense to Tree Management', which may be viewed online.

4.2 Wildlife Habitats

Bats

4.2.1 All UK bats and their roosts are protected by law. The legislation protecting bats are:

- The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA)
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

4.2.2 For all countries of the UK, the legal protection for bats and their roosts may be summarised as follows:

You will be committing a criminal offence if you:

- Deliberately* capture, injure or kill a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats
- Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time)
- Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat.
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost

**In a court, 'deliberately' will probably be interpreted as someone who, although not intending to capture/injure or kill a bat, performed the relevant action, being sufficiently informed and aware of the consequence his/her action will most likely have.).*

4.2.3 Penalties on conviction - the maximum fine is £5,000 per incident or per bat (some roosts contain several hundred bats), up to six months in prison, and forfeiture of items used to commit the offence, e.g. vehicles, plant, machinery.

4.2.4 No trees on the site are considered to have a high potential for bat roosts.

4.2.5 When carrying out tree works it is essential that the contractor or other competent person carries out a specific survey for bat roost potential'. If evidence of bats is found work must stop immediately and a licensed bat ecologist should be contacted for further advice (our in house ecologist would be available if required 01388 710481).

Birds

4.2.6 In the UK, all wild birds, their nests and their eggs are protected by law. Several active nest sites were seen on site.

4.2.7 In England, Scotland and Wales the legislation that protects wild birds is:

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- The Countryside (or CRoW) Act 2000

4.2.8 Active nests were observed on site. As with bats the contractor has an obligation to carry out visual checks prior to works. Where possible tree works should be carried out in the period from August to the end of February in order to avoid the bird nesting season.

5. Replanting

Root Type

5.1.1 Trees are supplied with three choices of root preparation. These are bareroot, rootballed and containerised/air pot. We can arrange planting if required.

5.1.2 The use of air pot/containerised root stock when possible is recommended.

Tree Planting

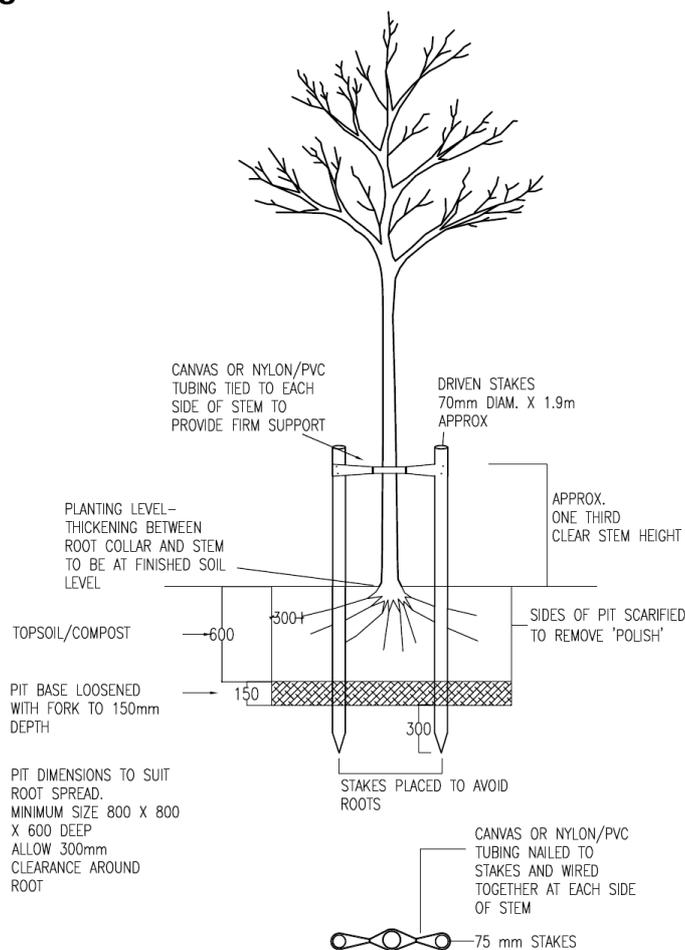


Figure 2 – Planting of trees

5.1.3 It is generally accepted that the planting season for trees runs from mid-November to mid-March, when deciduous trees remain dormant. Rootballing, cold storage and containerisation can, to some extent, extend this period. However any tree planted after early March will be on the verge of coming into leaf. Additional stress, through root damage or drought, at this critical period will lead to poor leaf and root development from which the tree may never recover. Death, though not inevitable, may occur some years later.

5.1.4 Any planting beyond the March deadline must only be carried out if a comprehensive and regular irrigation programme can be guaranteed.

5.1.5 After a suitable planting location has been selected and underground and over ground services identified, the pit may be dug. The pit size is dependent upon the root spread. When the tree is planted the roots should not be forced into an unnatural position, but allowed to sit as they grow. 300mm clearance should be provided around the roots.

5.1.6 The sides of the pit should be scarified with a fork to allow easier root penetration, only if a root barrier is not to be used in the pit. If a root barrier is to be used outside of the pit, then the sides should still be scarified.

5.1.7 The tree is lowered into the pit to check the planting depth. The planting depth must be measured against the tree, either by trial and error for a tree that is easily lifted or by measuring from the base of the rootball to the 'collar' at the base of the trunk where it starts to thicken out above the roots. A straight edge laid horizontally over the pit, edge to edge, will provide a gauge by which to judge the correct depth.

5.1.8 At this stage the tree stakes can also be installed. These should be driven firmly into the ground, avoiding the roots as much as possible.

5.1.9 When the tree is at the correct depth and the stakes installed the pit is backfilled. When working with bare rooted trees care must be taken to work soil around the roots to eliminate air pockets. Backfilling should be done in even 300mm layers, lightly firming (by treading gently) each layer after placing it.

5.1.10 When one third of the back filling is complete an irrigation/aeration pipe should be installed. The irrigation pipe ensures water reaches the deep root system in the hot summer months, with research showing it to be more effective than surface watering. Manufacturer's instructions should be followed with installation of an irrigation/aeration pipe.

5.1.11 Following the completion of back filling the pit, water should be applied to the base of the newly planted tree to help establishment.

Tree Staking

5.1.12 The purpose of staking and guying is to anchor the tree and stabilise the rootball until new roots are established into the surrounding soil. For this reason, support is required until the roots, damaged during the lifting process, have made sufficient new growth. In reasonable growing conditions this should be achieved within three growing seasons after planting.

5.1.13 Above ground supports must be removed as soon as the tree is growing strongly, an indication that the roots are re-established, thus allowing the main stem to bend and sway in the wind which leads to increased thickening of the trunk.

5.1.14 Staking usually consists of one, two or three untreated softwood timber stakes, 75-100 mm diameter, driven at least 300 mm into the base of the pit. A tree will establish anchor roots and increase stem girth more quickly if it is allowed to move with the wind (while remaining firmly fixed at ground level). This is best achieved by either using low stakes which are attached to the tree at approximately 600 mm above ground level or by a higher triple stake system which allows the tree a degree of movement between three ties.

5.1.15 The tree should be fixed to the stake using proprietary rubber ties or a material such as canvas hosing. Whatever product is used it is essential that it is firmly fixed and that a spacing device prevents the tree chafing against the stake.

Tree Guards

5.1.16 Tree guards are an essential part of protecting trees throughout their lives. A small 0.6m high plastic guard will protect against rabbits.

Aftercare & Maintenance

5.1.17 The aftercare of newly planted trees is often the most overlooked aspect of planting, and a regular cause of death. When the tree is newly planted it is at a vital stage. A lack of care may take the tree into a downward spiral from which it may not recover.

Watering

5.1.18 A minimum of 90 litres / tree should be applied at fortnightly intervals between the period 1st May to 30th September. If April is dry, newly planted trees should be watered during this month at the same frequency. If particularly wet weather occurs, supplementary watering may be unnecessary. The use of larger quantities of water at greater time intervals is not an adequate alternative and is not acceptable.

Pruning

5.1.19 At the time of planting any damaged branches must be cut back to a main junction or stem. At the end of the first season of growth, any branches showing signs of dieback must be cut back to live wood. Pruning must take place during the dormant period.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The benefits of tree cover, both tangible and intangible are well documented. Management recommendations have been made to ensure the continuity of tree cover in the area while allowing those who live adjacent, to do so in a safe environment.

6.2 All tree works must conform rigorously to BS 3998 (2010) 'Recommendations for Tree Work'. Tree stumps should be ground out with a stump grinding machine.

6.3 We recommend that the next inspection takes place in five years' time during 2023.

For and on behalf of
AllAboutTrees Ltd

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-Chartered Arboriculturalist & Registered Consultant

Appendix 1 & Photographs

Tree No.	Species Common Name <i>Latin Name</i>	Height (M)	Trunk Dia (MM)	Age	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Root Prot Area Radii (M)	Estimated Remaining Contribution (Years)	Tree Quality Assessment	Comments	Maintenance	Bat Roost Potential	Ultimate Size For Species (M)		Priority
													Height	Spread	
T1	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	8	260	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	3.12	20+	C-Low	Cables through canopy Sparse crown	No works required at this time	Low	23	16	-
T2	Tilia petiolaris (Silver Pendent Lime)	8	460	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	5.52	40+	A-High	Multiple stems above 1.5m. Included bark present in fork.	Crown lift to 3m.	Low	20	16	C
T3	Aesculus carnea (Red Horse Chestnut)	5	450	Middle aged	Poor	Hazardous	5.4	0	U-Unsuitable for retention	Decay present on stem. Fungal brackets visible on stem. Multiple stems above 1.5m.	Remove tree and root. Replant with Rowan	Low	15	12	B
T4	Aesculus carnea (Red Horse Chestnut)	6	390	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	4.68	10+	C-Low	Decay present on stem. Multiple stems above 1.5m. Usual canker wounds but canopy not yet significantly affected	Remove tree and root. Replant with Rowan	Low	15	12	C
T5	Aesculus carnea (Red Horse Chestnut)	6	340	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	4.08	10+	C-Low	Decay present on stem. Multiple stems above 1.5m. Usual canker wounds but canopy not yet significantly affected	Remove tree and root. Replant with Rowan	Low	15	12	C
T6	Tilia petiolaris (Silver Pendent Lime)	8	480	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	5.76	40+	A-High	Stem divides above 1.5m. Included bark present in fork.	Crown lift to 3m.	Low	20	16	C
T7	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	12	300, 300, 300, 300	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	7.2	20+	B-Moderate	Suckers around stem base. Multiple stems at ground level. Included bark present in fork. Stems against dry stone wall	Crown lift to 3m. Unsightly tree consider removal and replacement with Scots Pine	Low	22	16	C
T8	Crataegus spp (Hawthorn)	5	120	Middle aged	Poor	Fair	Error	<10	C-Low	Low vitality. Drought stress Thornless	No works required at this time	Low	10	10	-
T9	Crataegus spp (Hawthorn)	5	100	Middle aged	Poor	Fair	Error	<10	C-Low	Low vitality. Drought stress Thornless	No works required at this time	Low	10	10	-
T10	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	10	450	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	5.4	20+	B-Moderate	Suckers around stem base. Stem divides above	No works required at this time	Low	23	16	-

Tree No.	Species Common Name <i>Latin Name</i>	Height (M)	Trunk Dia (MM)	Age	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Root Prot Area Rarii (M)	Estimated Remaining Contribution (Years)	Tree Quality Assessment	Comments	Maintenance	Bat Roost Potential	Ultimate Size For Species (M)		Priority
													Height	Spread	
										1.5m. Canker on stem. Part of hedgerow					
T11	Betula pendula 'Fastigiata' (Silver Birch)	9	160	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	1.92	10+	C-Low	Significant strimmer damage at base	No works required at this time	Low	18	8	-
T12	Betula pendula 'Fastigiata' (Silver Birch)	11	150	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	1.8	10+	C-Low	Significant strimmer damage at base	No works required at this time	Low	18	8	-
T13	Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)	10	430	Middle aged	Good	Good	5.16	40+	A-High	Multiple stems above 1.5m. Several rubbing branches	No works required at this time	Low	15	16	
T14	Betula pendula 'Fastigiata' (Silver Birch)	8	130	Middle aged	Dead	Dead	1.56	0	U-Unsuitable for retention	Significant strimmer damage at base. Shaded by hornbeams	Remove tree and root	Low	18	8	B
T15	Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)	10	600	Middle aged	Good	Good	7.2	40+	A-High	Multiple stems below 1.5m. Several rubbing branches	No works required at this time	Low	15	16	-
T16	Betula pendula Youngii (Silver Birch)	5	160	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	1.92	20+	B-Moderate	Stem divides above 1.5m. Canopy to ground. Drought stress	No works required at this time	Low	10	8	-
T17	Betula pendula Youngii (Silver Birch)	6	220	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	2.64	20+	A-High	Stem divides above 1.5m. Canopy to ground	No works required at this time	Low	10	8	-
T18	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	10	400, 240, 360	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	7.07	20+	B-Moderate	Ivy on tree. Suckers around stem base. Multiple stems at ground level. Growing out of stone wall	No works required at this time	Low	23	16	-
T19	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	10	300, 260, 320	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	6.12	20+	B-Moderate	Ivy on tree. Suckers around stem base. Multiple stems at ground level. Growing out of stone wall	No works required at this time	Low	23	16	-
T20	Betula pendula Youngii (Silver Birch)	2.5	220	Young	Fair	Poor	2.64	<10	U-Unsuitable for retention	Poor shape & form. Decay present on stem. Canopy to ground. Strimmer damage and associated decay. Obscures 30 mph sign	Remove tree and root.	Low	10	8	C

Tree No.	Species Common Name Latin Name	Height (M)	Trunk Dia (MM)	Age	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Root Prot Area Rarii (M)	Estimated Remaining Contribution (Years)	Tree Quality Assessment	Comments	Maintenance	Bat Roost Potential	Ultimate Size For Species (M)		Priority
													Height	Spread	
T21	Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea' (Copper Beech)	10	460	Middle aged	Good	Good	5.52	40+	A-High	Multiple stems above 1.5m.	Crown lift to 3m.	Low	20	20	B
T22	Tilia petiolaris (Silver Pendent Lime)	11	490	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	5.88	40+	A-High	Surface roots	Crown lift to 3m.	Low	20	16	B
T23	Cotoneaster frigidus (Cotoneaster)	5	100, 100, 100, 100	Mature	Fair	Fair	2.69	40+	C-Low	Multiple stems at ground level.	No works required at this time	Low	5	8	-
T24	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	11	280	Young	Fair	Fair	3.36	40+	A-High	Drought stress	No works required at this time	Low	18	12	-
T25	Tilia petiolaris (Silver Pendent Lime)	11	450	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	5.4	40+	A-High	Nest in canopy. Low branches over road/footpath.	Crown lift to 3m.	Low	20	16	B
T26	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	13	410	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	4.92	40+	A-High	Drought stress. Decayed limb over road	Crown lift to 4m	Low	18	12	B
T27	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	13	460	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	5.52	40+	A-High	Drought stress	No works required at this time	Low	18	12	-
T28	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	8	640	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	7.68	40+	A-High	Stem divides above 1.5m. Included bark present in fork. Queen Elizabeth 2 Coronation tree planted 1953. Recovering from Bleeding Canker infection	Crown lift to 3m.	Low	20	20	B
T29	Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	6	320	Middle aged	Poor	Fair	3.84	<10	C-Low	Low vitality. Declining. Likely root decay due to Pholiota spp	No works required at this time Monitor for fungal fruiting bodies in the autumn	Low	12	12	-
T30	Malus (Apple)	2.5	50	Young	Fair	Fair	0.6	10+	C-Low	Poor shape & form.	No works required at this time	Low	10	8	-
T31	Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	8	300	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	3.6	40+	A-High	Suckers around stem base. Stem divides above 1.5m. Branches encroaching upon building.	Remove ground suckers. Prune clear of building.	Low	12	12	C

Tree No.	Species Common Name Latin Name	Height (M)	Trunk Dia (MM)	Age	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Root Prot Area Rarii (M)	Estimated Remaining Contribution (Years)	Tree Quality Assessment	Comments	Maintenance	Bat Roost Potential	Ultimate Size For Species (M)		Priority
													Height	Spread	
T32	Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	8	310	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	3.72	40+	A-High	Stem divides above 1.5m.	No works required at this time	Low	12	12	-
T33	Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	8	300	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	3.6	40+	A-High	Stem divides above 1.5m.	No works required at this time	Low	12	12	-
T34	Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	8	280	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	3.36	40+	A-High	Stem divides above 1.5m.	No works required at this time	Low	12	12	-
T35	Malus (Apple)	4	180	Young	Fair	Poor	2.16	<10	U-Unsuitable for retention	Major canker wound on stem	Remove tree and root.	Low	10	10	C
T36	Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)	11	100, 200, 150	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	3.23	40+	B-Moderate	Multiple stems at ground level. Included bark present in fork.	No works required at this time	Low	15	16	-
T37	Malus (Apple)	2.5	50	Young	Fair	Fair	0.6	10+	C-Low	Poor shape & form.	No works required at this time	Low	10	10	-
T38	Pyrus salicifolia (Willow leaved Pear)	2.5	130	Young	Fair	Fair	1.56	10+	C-Low	Low vitality. Weeping habit	No works required at this time	Low	8	8	-
T39	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	14	500, 200, 350	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	7.7	20+	B-Moderate	Ivy on tree. Suckers around stem base. Multiple stems at ground level. Phone cables through canopy.	Crown lift to 5m over road. Prune tree clear of service wires.	Low	23	16	B
T40	Malus (Apple)	4.5	220	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	2.64	20+	B-Moderate	Unbalanced crown shape.	No works required at this time	Low	10	10	-
T41	Tilia euchlora (Caucasian Lime)	10	350	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	4.2	40+	A-High	Epicormics on stem. Dense suckers and epicormics growth. Pendulous branches	Crown lift to 3m.	Low	20	16	C
T42	Malus (Apple)	4.5	210	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	2.52	20+	B-Moderate	Unbalanced crown shape.	No works required at this time	Low	10	10	-
T43	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	4	110	Young	Poor	Fair	1.32	<10	C-Low	Poor shape & form.	No works required at this time	Low	18	12	-
T44	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	10	90, 110	Young	Fair	Fair	1.7	20+	C-Low	Stem divides at ground level. Included bark	Remove tree and root.	Low	23	16	C

Tree No.	Species Common Name <i>Latin Name</i>	Height (M)	Trunk Dia (MM)	Age	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Root Prot Area Radii (M)	Estimated Remaining Contribution (Years)	Tree Quality Assessment	Comments	Maintenance	Bat Roost Potential	Ultimate Size For Species (M)		Priority
													Height	Spread	
										present in fork. Growing on boundary fence					
T45	Malus sylvestris (Crab Apple)	4.5	180	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	2.16	20+	B-Moderate	Unbalanced crown shape.	No works required at this time	Low	10	10	-
T46	Pyrus salicifolia (Willow leaved Pear)	4.5	230	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	2.76	20+	B-Moderate	Unbalanced crown shape. Weeping habit	No works required at this time	Low	8	8	-
G1	5 x Fraxinus excelsior (Ash), Sambucus nigra (Elder), Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	9	200	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	2.4	20+	C-Low	Nest in canopy. Power cable and pole in group.	No works required at this time	Low	23	16	-
G2	2 x Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), 2 x Fraxinus excelsior (Ash), 1 x Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	8	150	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	1.8	20+	C-Low	Multiple stems below 1.5m. Included bark present in fork.	No works required at this time	Low	23	16	-
G3	Taxus baccata (Yew), Ilex aquifolium (Holly), Sambucus nigra (Elder)	5	200	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	2.4	40+	C-Low	On boundary with East View. Check ownership	Remove holly closest building and prune to create hedge of 3m height.	Low	15	20	B
G4	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore), Fraxinus excelsior (Ash), Sambucus nigra (Elder)	11	200	Young	Fair	Fair	2.4	20+	B-Moderate	Multiple stems at ground level. Included bark present in fork. Mostly ash with occasional sycamore and elder	No works required at this time	Low	23	16	-



Photo 1 – T3 showing Bleeding Canker infection and serious dieback with shed limbs



Photo 2 – T7, multi stemmed sycamore



Photo 3- T20



Photo 4 – Group 3



Photo 5 – T29 on the right with healthy specimen of same species and age on left.



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