

TREE SURVEYS AND REPORTS
BS 5837
DECAY MAPPING
CONSULTANCY



Whittington Parish Arboricultural Management Report 2022

Produced for Whittington Parish Council
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Whittington Parish Council have commissioned this arboricultural management report to inform tree management requirements for Parish Council managed grounds.
- 1.2. The survey and resulting report have been to guide tree management operations over the next two-year period. The management operations offer a guide only and should be reviewed periodically. Regular re-assessment of trees within falling distances of high occupancy areas are recommended to check for changes in tree and site conditions.
- 1.3. Documentation used in preparation of this report. – N/A – No previous management reports maps or tree data were available.
- 1.4. All observations have been made from ground level without detailed inspection. Some measurements may have been estimated.
- 1.5. A tree location plan has been produced to accompany this report and tree locations should be referenced to this plan.

2. Site Details

2.1. Location: Whittington, Northumberland.

2.2. Site Description: The site consists of various parcels of land within Whittington Village.

2.3. Site Visit Details: The site was surveyed on the 24th of July 2022 during calm clear weather conditions.

2.4. There are six significant individual trees and ten tree groups within the site boundaries. Small trees within dense vegetation areas have not been surveyed as individuals and are within the tree groups.

2.5. The trees have had no significant recent management.

3. Statutory Tree Protection

- 3.1. Trees may be legally protected. Tree protection can include Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) or Conservation Area status. The felling of large quantities of timber may also require a felling licence.
- 3.2. A formal search into the statutory protection of the sites trees has not been carried out as part of this survey and report. Statutory protection of trees can include Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Conservation area status.
- 3.3. Large penalties may be enforced for illegally carrying out works on protected trees. It is therefore advised that clarification of protection status be sought from the local planning authority prior to any tree works being carried out on site. Where appropriate permission for works must be applied for.
- 3.4. Some exemptions to the above may apply such as the removal of trees where full planning permission has been granted where new buildings occupy the space where protected trees lie.

4. Summary of Findings

- 4.1. There are six significant individual trees and ten tree groups within the site boundaries. Small trees within dense vegetation areas have not been surveyed as individuals and are within the tree groups.
- 4.2. The trees have had no significant recent management.
- 4.3. Collectively the trees provide the site with good amenity and screening.
- 4.4. Some of the trees on site have significant structural defects or are in poor physiological condition. These trees require removal or remedial works to bring them into an acceptably safe condition in order to reduce the risk they pose to site visitors, residents and neighbouring areas.
- 4.5. Following the implementation of the initial recommendations all trees within falling distance of high occupancy areas (Buildings, Roads etc.) should be checked on a regular basis. Changes in tree or site conditions may lead to further management requirements.

5. Arboricultural Management Requirements

- 5.1. Some of the trees on site have significant structural defects or are in poor physiological condition. These trees require removal or remedial works to bring them into an acceptably safe condition in order to reduce the risk they pose to site visitors, residents and neighbouring areas.

- 5.2. Following the implementation of the initial recommendations all trees within falling distance of high occupancy areas (Buildings, Roads etc.) should be checked on a regular basis. Changes in tree or site conditions may lead to further management requirements.

- 5.3. Re-planting to mitigate for the loss of removed trees is recommended.

6. Arboricultural Method Statement

6.1. Tree Works

6.1.1. All tree pruning and removal works must conform strictly to BS3998 (*Recommendations for Tree Works*) and must use target pruning in accordance with best practice.

6.1.2. Schedule of Arboricultural Works

- Provide site managers with a copy of Arboricultural report.
- Check conservation status of trees and apply for works if required.
- Carry out all high priority works recommendations relating to safety.
- Carry out all lower priority works.
- Re-planting of removed trees – advised.
- Bi- Annual safety review – Autumn 2024

6.2. Arboricultural Supervision

Tree work recommendations on this site are relatively straightforward. Arboricultural supervision is therefore not considered necessary provided that the operations are carried out by suitably qualified and experience staff.

7. Other Arboricultural Site Factors

7.1. Hazard Trees

Some trees are in poor structural or physiological condition and require removal or remedial pruning in order to maintain them in an acceptable condition. Other hazardous trees are blocking footpath roads and lighting.

7.2. Recent Management

The trees have had no significant recent management.

7.3. Future Management

Following the implementation of the initial recommendations all trees within falling distance of high occupancy areas (Buildings, Roads etc.) should be checked on a regular basis. Changes in tree or site conditions may lead to further management requirements. It is advised that a walkover re-survey be carried out on an annual basis. The re-surveys should be carried out during different seasons to allow for different seasonal tree conditions being noted.

7.4. Ivy Cover

Heavy Ivy or vegetation cover on trees can obscure views and effective assessment of structural conditions. Severance of ivy or removal of other vegetation can allow for proper assessment of structural conditions following dieback of the vegetation. This must be balanced with the ecological value of the habitat that Ivy and other vegetation can offer.

7.5. Ash Dieback

Ash dieback is a highly destructive disease of ash trees (*Fraxinus* species), especially the United Kingdom's native ash species, common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). It is caused by a fungus named *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (*H. fraxineus*), which is of eastern Asian origin. The current spread of the disease is estimated to kill 95% of our native Ash trees. Trees showing signs of the

disease should be removed at the soonest opportunity before severe dieback occurs making tree removal operations more hazardous. The presence of the disease in the region de-values the retention value of Ash trees as their expected useful life expectancy is greatly reduced.

7.6. Protected Wildlife

7.6.1. It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA and amendments) and the EU Habitats Directive to disturb and or destroy the nests of bats, birds and other protected wildlife. Birds are protected by; The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and The Countryside (or CROW) Act 2000. Bats are protected by; The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

7.6.2. No visual signs were found to indicate the presence of bats in the surveyed trees although several trees within the study area display characteristics found favourable to bats and as such caution must be exercised.

7.6.3. For birds as with bats there is an obligation to carry out visual checks prior to works commencing. Where possible tree works should be carried out in order to avoid the bird nesting season during the period from August to the end of February.

Appendices

I. Tree Details

Tree Table Details

- **Tree number:** An individual identifying number – usually relating to tree tag.
- **TPO:** Detail of Tree Preservation Order tree or group number
- **Common Name (Botanical Name)** Species identification is based on visual field observations. (Botanical name in brackets)
- **Age Category:** Either an estimate (or statement if accurately known) of the age of the tree, classified as:
 - **Y** = Young tree, established tree usually up to one third of expected ultimate height & spread
 - **MA** = middle aged, usually between one third and two thirds of ultimate height & spread
 - **M** = Mature, more or less at full height but still increasing in girth & spread
 - **OM** = Over mature, grown to full size and becoming senescent,
 - **V** = Veteran tree, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species
- **Stem Diameter:** Trunk diameter measured at 1.5 metres from ground level and recorded in millimetres. (Number of stems – MS = Multi stemmed)
- **Height:** Height estimated in metres. (Lower crown height - Height in metres of crown clearance above adjacent ground level)
- **Crown Spread:** Measurement of canopy from the trunk in metres - North, South, East, and West
- **Useful Life Expectancy:** Estimated Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE). Short: 0 – 10years Medium: 10– 20 Years, Intermediate: 20-40, Long: 40 + years.
- **Condition:** Physiological Condition;
 - Good = Healthy tree with good vitality.
 - Fair = Moderate health and vitality normal or slightly less for species and age,

- Poor = Poor shape or form - signs of decline in crown, may have structural weakness.
 - Dead = dead or dying tree.
- **Comments:** Notes on tree condition and other points of interest.
 - **Recommendations:** Management recommendations – actions required.
- **Works Priority:**
 - Urgent – Requiring immediate urgent attention.
 - High – Works relating to high risk trees potential to cause significant harm.
 - Medium – Works relating to significant potential harm.
 - Low – Works to improve tree health amenity or reduce long term risk.
 - Very-Low – Long term management or aesthetic works.
- **Bat Roost Potential:**
 - None – No significant bat roost features.
 - Low – Only minor significant bat roost features.
 - Moderate – Some notable bat roost features.
 - High – Significant or multiple bat roost features.
 - Confirmed – Confirmed bat roost.
- **Pruning:** Removal of living or dead parts of a tree.
 - **Crown Cleaning:** The removal of dead, dying or diseased branch-wood, broken or crossing branches or stubs left from previous tree surgery operations unwanted objects, ivy, other climbing plants and general debris/rubbish.
 - **Deadwood Removal:** Removal of significant dead and dying branches and limbs from the tree.
 - **Crown Lifting:** Removal of all growth and branches below the height specified.
 - **Crown Reduction:** Reduction of the complete outline of the canopy, pruning to appropriate growth points and leaving a natural silhouette.



Type - ID Number	Name	Age	Height	Diameter mm (No stems)	Canopy Spread (m)	Condition	Life Expectancy	Comments	Recommendations	Works Priority	Growth Potential	Bat Occupancy	Resurvey Years
T1	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	13	600(1)	7	Fair	20+	Low branches over road/footpath.	Crown lift to 5m over road.	Low	M	1 Low	5
T2	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	M	15	400(3)	7	Fair	20+	Previously crown raised. Multiple stems at ground level.		No Works	M	0 None	5
T3	Tilia X europaea (Common Lime)	EM	11	650(1)	6	Fair	20+	Stem divides above 1.5m.		No Works	H	0 None	5
T4	Tilia X europaea (Common Lime)	EM	10	600(1)	6	Fair	20+	Previously crown raised. Stem divides above 1.5m. Surface roots.		No Works	H	0 None	5
T5	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	M	11	600(1)	7	Good	20+	Previously crown raised. Surface roots. Coronation Tree		No Works	M	1 Low	5
T6	Prunus sp (Cherry Species/Variety)	EM	8	350(1)	4	Fair	20+	Previously crown raised. Decay present on stem.		No Works	M	0 None	5
G1	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	M	12	600(2)	9	Fair	20+	Previously crown raised. Fungal brackets visible on stem. Stem divides below 1.5m. Surface roots. Mower/trimmer damage to surface roots. Minor deadwood in crown	Remove deadwood	Low	M	0 None	5

Type - ID Number	Name	Age	Height	Diameter mm (No stems)	Canopy Spread (m)	Condition	Life Expectancy	Comments	Recommendations	Works Priority	Growth Potential	Bat Occupancy	Resurvey Years
G2	Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)	EM	11	450(2)	6	Good	20+	Stem divides below 1.5m. Low branches over road/footpath. Dense crown.	Crown lift to 5m over road.	Low	M	0 None	5
G3	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	SM	12	200(2)	2	Fair	20+	Decay present on stem. Major bark wounding on stem.		No Works	H	0 None	2
G4	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash), Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan), Prunus sp (Cherry Species/Variety), Sambucus nigra (Elder)	EM	19	400(24)	8	Poor	<10	Ash dieback evident. Stem divides below 1.5m. Mixed aged woodland/group. Mixed species woodland/group.	Remove Ash.	High	M	1 Low	2
G5	Betula pendula Youngii (Silver Birch)	EM	6	200(2)	5	Fair	20+	Decay present on stem.		No Works	M	0 None	5
G6	Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	M	8	300(3)	4	Good	20+	Minor bark damage		No Works	M	0 None	5
G7	Betula pendula (Silver Birch), Tilia X europaea (Common Lime)	M	12	500(3)	6	Fair	20+	Previously crown raised. Decay present on stem.		No Works	M	0 None	5
G8	Tilia X europaea (Common Lime), Fraxinus excelsior (Ash), Prunus domestica (Damson), Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)	M	14	300(11)	8	Fair	10+	Ash dieback evident. Even aged woodland/group. Mixed species woodland/group. + Willow leaf pear	Remove Ash.	High	H	1 Low	5
G9	Tilia X europaea (Common Lime), Betula pendula (Silver Birch), Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea' (Copper Beech), Sambucus nigra (Elder)	M	14	500(4)	7	Fair	20+	Broken branches in crown. Low branches over road/footpath.	Crown lift to 5m over road.	Medium	M	0 None	5
G10	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	M	13	450(3)	6	Poor	<10	Ash dieback evident.	Remove tree and root.	High	M	0 None	2

II. Tree Location Plan



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III. Scope of Report

The survey and resulting report have been produced in order to guide tree management operations over the next two-year period. The management operations offer a guide only and should be reviewed periodically. Regular re-assessment of trees within falling distances of high occupancy areas are recommended in order to check for changes in tree and site conditions.

a. Limitations

This report has not been designed as a hazard assessment or safety report and should not be used as such. As such only major visual tree defects are commented upon where appropriate.

This report makes no comment on any trees ability to cause either direct or indirect damage to buildings, walkways and other utilities other than where direct pressure damage is immediately and obviously foreseeable.

Trees are dynamic and changing structures and this report comments on tree condition as assessed on the day of surveying.

Further to this report it is recommended that all trees in areas where failure may result in significant risk of damage to people or property be assessed for hazard on an annual basis in order to fulfil the owner's duty of care.

b. Survey Methodology

All trees were assessed from ground level only using visual assessment techniques. Heights and crown spreads have been measured using a laser hypsometer and tree diameters have been measured using a girth tape at 1.5m.