

ARBORICULTURAL INSPECTION AND REPORT

Site: Sambourne Village

Ref No: Forestry Project 8406

Prepared for: Sambourne Parish Council

Surveyed by: Alex Plummer

Prepared by: Alex Plummer

Date of Inspection: August 2023

Date of Report: November 2023

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1. Introduction

1.1. Instruction and Brief

Alex Plummer of Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has been instructed by Cllr Adam Quinney on behalf of Sambourne Parish Council to arrange for the inspection of trees growing in Sambourne that the Parish Council has responsibility for.

The instruction was also to provide a report of the findings, including an inventory of the tree stock, with details of any works that are necessary for safety reasons and/or any works necessary to address any legal nuisance issues recorded. This can then be used to action any works identified as being necessary.

Tree positions and inventory data are to be recorded on Arbortrack, WCC's fully auditable tree management software and a copy of the tree plan enclosed is from the Arbortrack system.

1.2. Site description

The Tree Location Plans are enclosed at Appendix A.

1.3. Report limitations

Trees are living dynamic organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly; the health and safety of trees should be checked on a regular basis, and after any extreme weather.

It is not possible to guarantee the absolute safety of a tree. Even trees with no defects can fail. It is a natural occurrence for trees to shed small branches and twigs during their life span and it is therefore not practicable to predict when this may occur.

The conclusions and recommendations in this report relate to conditions found at the time of inspection and are valid for a period of 12 months only. The period of validity may be reduced in the case of any changes in the condition of the tree, or in the proximity of the tree.

This report is for the sole use of the client and must be kept together in its entirety. Any alteration or deletion from this report will invalidate it as a whole.

2. Survey

2.1. Survey Methodology

The field work, inspections, and data collection were carried out by Alex Plummer, (WCC Arboricultural Manager) who holds the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection certificate.

The survey was carried out on the 22 August 2023.

Tree data was digitally captured/recorded on Arbortrack tree management software.

Where trees are individually recorded, each was inspected from ground level.

Where trees are recorded as groups, the group was inspected but not necessarily every single stem individually.

The Visual Tree Assessment method (VTA) (Mattheck and Breloer 1994) was used to assess the condition of the trees. Should a further, more detailed inspection be required, this will be highlighted in the recommendations.

Binoculars were used to aid inspection where it was deemed necessary.

2.2. Survey key

Tree No: Tree number relating to the numbering on Tree Location Plan at Appendix A.

Species: The botanical name of each tree is recorded.

Age Class: This relates to the age class that each tree best fits within. As below:

New Plant (NP): a recently planted standard tree.

Young (Y): tree within first third of the estimated life expectancy.

Early Mature (EM): tree within second third of the estimated life expectancy.

Mature (M): tree within final third of the estimated life expectancy

Over-mature (OM): tree showing obvious signs of senescence.

Veteran (V): A tree living beyond usual life expectancy whose age, size or condition gives it exceptional value culturally, in the landscape or for wildlife.

Stem Diameter: Given in centimetres at 1.5m above adjacent ground level (taken on the up-slope side of the tree base where on sloping ground).

Spread: Overall diameter of crown measured in metres (m) at widest point.

Height: Overall height estimated to 2 metre bandings, recorded in meters (m).

Comments: Observations made including overall condition as descriptions below:

Good: A tree of good vitality & vigour and/or with no significant structural defects identified.

Fair: A tree of fair vitality & vigour and/or with minor or remediable structural defects identified.

Poor: A tree of poor vitality & vigour and/or with significant structural defects identified.

Dead: A tree that has died.

Work Priority Code: A priority coding to inform of the level of urgency of any recommended work and/or actions with suggested timescales for this based on the descriptions below:

1. *Immediate action (suggested timescale - within 48hrs).*
2. *Urgent action (suggested timescale – within 14 days).*
3. *Priority works (suggested timescale - within 3 months).*
4. *Routine (within 1 year).*
5. *Beneficial/aspirational works that could be considered (as and when budget is available).*

Recommended Works: Specifics of any recommended works or action points.

2.3 Survey Results

Twelve trees and six groups of trees have been inspected.

Tree species recorded during the survey are listed in the below table:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>	Red Horse Chestnut
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Crataegus x persimilis</i>	Broad-leafed Cockspur
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pendunculate Oak

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Tree Survey Results Table.

Tree No	Species	Age Class	Stem Dia. (cm)	Spread (m)	Height (m)	Comments	Work Priority Code	Recommended works
1FND	Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)	New plant	7.5 - 15	02 - 04	00 - 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good condition. • No visual defects. 		
1FNE	Aesculus x carnea (Red Horsechestnut)	Mature	55 - 65	12 - 14	12 - 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair condition. • Minor dieback noted in centre of crown to east, less vigour in this area. • Bark peeling off in unions, no decay present, possibly indicative of species. • Bark splits throughout stem, spiralling, indicative of species. 		
1FNF	Quercus robur (Pendunculate/ English Oak)	Early Mature	55 - 65	14 - 16	14 - 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good condition. • Minor deadwood in crown, low use area. 	4 5	Crown lift to 5.5m over carriageway. Remove epicormic growth to 4m.
1FNG	Crataegus x persimilis (Broadleaf Cockspur Thorn)	Mature	25 - 35	06 - 08	00 - 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good condition. • No visual defects. 		
1FNH	Quercus robur (Pendunculate/ English Oak)	Young	15 - 25	04 - 06	08 - 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good condition. • No visual defects. 	5	Remove epicormic growth to break of crown.

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Tree No	Species	Age Class	Stem Dia. (cm)	Spread (m)	Height (m)	Comments	Work Priority Code	Recommended works
1FNL	Quercus robur (Pendunculate/ English Oak)	Mature	85 - 100	16 - 18	18 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good condition. • Large deadwood present in crown, mostly over scrub, low target area both sides of fence. 		
1FNN	Quercus robur (Pendunculate/ English Oak)	Mature	110 - 120	18 - 20	14 - 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good condition. • Old wound on main stem to west at 1.5m from ground level. Tree occluding well. 		
1FNP	Fraxinus excelsior (Common Ash)	Veteran	85 - 100	16 - 18	18 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair condition. • Previously reduced in height with extensive regrowth, cavities and hollowing of scaffold limb, exudation from wound on major scaffold limb. • Unable to access tree due to understory. • Low target area. • Tree showing average vigour. • No significant dieback present. 		

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Tree No	Species	Age Class	Stem Dia. (cm)	Spread (m)	Height (m)	Comments	Work Priority Code	Recommended works
2KJL	Mixed Broadleaf species	Young			12 - 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good condition. • Group of Ash, Oak and Birch, young to early mature trees in good condition. 		
2KJM	Quercus robur (Pendunculate/ English Oak)	Young	35 - 45	08 - 10	12 - 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair condition. • Pronounced pointy-nose rib at 3m from ground level. • Extensive adaptive growth, tree beginning to fuse together between stems. • Low use area, monitor. 		
2KJN	Quercus robur (Pendunculate/ English Oak)	Early Mature	45 - 55	10 - 12	16 - 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good condition. • Asymmetrical from adjacent dominant tree. 		
2KJQ	Quercus robur (Pendunculate/ English Oak)	Early Mature	110 - 120	12 - 14	18 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair condition. • Tree growing out of ditch embankment. • Large supporting buttress root to north. • Unclear as to ownership of this tree. 		

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Tree No	Species	Age Class	Stem Dia. (cm)	Spread (m)	Height (m)	Comments	Work Priority Code	Recommended works
2KJR	Quercus robur (Pendunculate/ English Oak)	Early Mature	100 - 110	12 - 14	18 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair condition. Tree has a slight lean to east. Ivy clad, unable to thoroughly inspected base. Unclear as to ownership of this tree. 		
2KJS	Mixed tree species	Early Mature			08 - 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group of mixed species. Fair condition Small dead trees dotted throughout, mostly dead Elms. Small dead trees seem to pose low risk to play area due to small target of low observed human traffic. 	4 4	Fell all dead trees within falling distance of private property. Fell all dead trees within falling distance of play area.

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Tree No	Species	Age Class	Stem Dia. (cm)	Spread (m)	Height (m)	Comments	Work Priority Code	Recommended works
2KJT	Mixed Broadleaf species	Early Mature				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair condition • Group of mixed species; Elm, Ash, and Oak. • Multiple dead Elms in this area. • Low use area. • Small dead trees seem to pose low risk to play area due to small target of low observed human traffic. 	4	Fell all dead trees within falling distance of play area.
2KJV	Mixed Broadleaf species	Early Mature				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good condition. • Dumping of construction spoil has taken place to the north of this group at the base of an early mature Pine, not possible to ascertain boundary or condition of base of tree. • Canopy of Pine in good vigour. 		
2KJW	Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)	Early Mature			0 - 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good condition. • No visual defects. 		

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Tree No	Species	Age Class	Stem Dia. (cm)	Spread (m)	Height (m)	Comments	Work Priority Code	Recommended works
2KKY	Mixed tree species	Early Mature			08 - 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair condition. • Group of mixed species. • Small dead trees dotted throughout, mostly dead Elms. 	4	Fell all dead trees within falling distance of play area.

3. Recommendations, Considerations and Observations

3.1. The survey identified the following work requirements:

5 x Priority 4 work items

2 x Priority 5 work items

N.B. These are the numbers of work items identified. These figures should not be taken as the number of trees requiring work; some trees may have more than one work requirement.

3.2. All works should be undertaken in accordance with best arboricultural practice and in line with the British Standard for tree work BS3998:2010.

3.3. The boundary to the south of the play area seems ambiguous. Using our ordnance survey (OS) mapping database the ditch appears to run well within the private boundary (See Appendix A). In the most part, the centre of a ditch such as this would usually denote the private boundary edge, however this does not appear to be the case. Using OS mapping, the parish boundary could sit further back from the stream. This is not to say that this OS map is an accurate representation of boundary ownership, only that an observation has been made. With that in mind, two mature trees on the parish boundary side of the ditch have been added, based on conversation had previously in relation to where responsibility lies. If the trees on the very edge of the brook turn out not to fall within Parish ownership, these trees (2KJQ and 2KJR) can be disregarded.

4. General Tree Legislation

4.1. The following legislation is not by any means exhaustive but does cover some of the main legislation that relates to tree work. www.legislation.gov.uk

4.2. The [Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) provides protection to trees in the form of Tree Preservation Orders and also provides protection to trees within a designated Conservation Area. In both cases your Local Planning Authority will be able to advise you on whether you need consent to carry out any works.

- 4.3. The [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#) makes it an offence to deliberately disturb, injure or kill wild birds and bats, or wilfully damage, destroy or obstruct access to bird nests and/or bat roosts. Please check all trees for nesting birds and bat roosts before carrying out any work.
- 4.4. [The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017](#) provides protection to certain wild animals listed under Schedule 2 making a person guilty of an offence who: deliberately captures, injures or kills any wild animal of a European protected species, deliberately disturbs wild animals of any such species, deliberately takes or destroys the eggs of such an animal or damages or destroys a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

5. Glossary of terms

Adaptive growth - increased wood production in localised areas stabilising the tree structurally, due to either a weakness or excessive loading.

Canopy - of a single tree, its crown, emphasizing its spreading and enclosing character. Of a forest, the crowns of the larger trees considered collectively.

Crown lift - the pruning or removal of lower branches to provide a specified clearance above ground level or other feature for example, a roof or street light.

Occluding - combination of wood, cambium and bark that forms around the site of an old wound to prevent decay.

Pointy-nose Rib - A sometimes narrow, elongated protrusion along the grain on a woody stem in response to a structural weakness such as a crack or a weak union.

Buttress - Roots at the base of the trunk/trunk flare indicative of support.

Epicormic growth - a branch/bud or shoot derived from a dormant or adventitious bud on a mature woody stem or branch.

Scaffold limb - primary limb that forms the canopy.

Union - a point where the origin of a branch meets the main trunk or that of another branch.

6. Qualifications and Experience of Author

Career History

2007

2008 – 2011 Apprentice/Trainee Arborist Warwickshire County Council Forestry.
2011 – 2012 Climber Bernd Okunek Baumpflege - Wuppertal
Germany.

Andreas Schneider Garten und Baum
GmbH - Wuppertal, Germany.

2012 – 2021 Lead Arborist Warwickshire County Council Forestry

2021 – present Arboricultural Area Manager Warwickshire County Council Forestry

Education and Qualifications

Foundation Degree Arboriculture (FdSc. Arb). - Moreton Morrell College 2008

Lantra Certification - Professional Tree Inspection 2021

Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) Certification 2022

Memberships

Arboricultural Association (Technician Member).

7. References

British Standard (2010) 3998 *Tree Work* (Recommendations). British Standards Institute.

Mattheck, C, & Breloer, H, (1995). *The Body Language of Trees: A Handbook for Failure Analysis* (Research for Amenity Trees 4). London: HMSO

The Town and Country Planning Act 1980. London: HMSO.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. London: HMSO.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. London: HMSO.

Appendix A: Sambourne The Green



