# ARBORICULTURAL INSPECTION AND REPORT

Site: Sambourne Village

**Ref No:** Forestry Project 7247

Prepared for: Sambourne Parish Council

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## **Contents**

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Survey	4
3.	Recommendations	8
4.	General Tree Legalisation	8
5.	Glossary	9
6.	Qualifications and Experience of Author	9
7.	References	9
	e Green Tree Location Plan	• •
The	e Recreation Ground Tree Location Plan	Annendix B

WCC, Forestry Page 2 of 9

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Instruction and Brief

Gavin Callard, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has been instructed by Phil Jones on behalf of Sambourne Parish Council to arrange for the inspection of trees in Sambourne that the Parish Council has responsibility for.

To then provide a report of the findings, including an inventory of the tree stock along with details of any works that are necessary for safety reasons and/or any works necessary to address any legal nuisance issues. This, in turn, can then be used to action any works identified as being necessary. The report and the digital records will then provide Sambourne Parish Council with evidence showing they are acting reasonably in managing any liabilities associated with their tree stocks.

Tree positions and inventory data are to be recorded on Arbortrack, WCC's fully auditable tree management software.

## 1.2. Site specifics

The Green, Tree Location Plan is enclosed at Appendix A.

The Recreation Ground, Tree Location Plan is enclosed at Appendix B.

## 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.

WCC, Forestry Page 3 of 9

## 2. Survey

## 2.1. Survey Methodology

The field work, inspections and data collection, were carried out by Martin Hicks, (WCC Tree Inspector) who holds the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection certificate.

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 1995) was used to assess the condition of the trees.

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

## 2.2. Survey key

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

**Species**: Both the common and (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.

WCC. Forestry Page 4 of 9

**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 urgency of any recommended work and/or actions and 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

Eleven trees have been inspected.

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

Botanical Name	Common Name
Aesculus x carnea	Red Horse Chestnut
Carpinus betulus	Hornbeam
Crataegus x prunifolia	Broad-leafed Cockspur Thorn
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Quercus robur	Pendunculate Oak
Ulmus procera	English Elm

WCC, Forestry Page 5 of 9

		Good condition	Mature	Quercus robur	1FNN
		Good condition	Mature	Quercus robur	1FNL
		Good condition Previously extensively cut back laterally on south side. This work was not of a good standard and certainly didn't follow best arboricultural practice. Crown now asymmetric.	Mature	Quercus robur	1FNJ
Remove epicormic growth to break of crown	ΟΊ				
Formative prune	ഗ	Good condition	Young	Quercus robur	1FNH
		Good condition	Mature	Crataegus x prunifolia	1FNG
Remove epicormic growth to break of crown	5				
Crown lift to 5.5m over carriageway	Ŋ	Good condition	Early mature	Quercus robur	1FNF
		Good condition	Mature	Aesculus x carnea	1FNE
		Good condition Tip has either died back or been removed, resulting in poor form.	New Plant	Carpinus betulus	1FND
Recommended Works	Work Priority Code	Comments	Age Class	Species (Botanical Name)	Tree No

WCC, Forestry Page 6 of 9

Fell at ground level	4	Dead	Young	Ulmus procera	2CKY
Crown reduce (heavy) down to 8m to create monolith	4	Poor condition Significant crown dieback, little live crown remaining. Previous major limb failure, old fungal fruiting body (probably innonotus hispidus) hanging in ivy.	Early mature	Fraxinus excelsior	2CKX
		Reasonable condition Previously reduced in height with extensive regrowth, cavities and hollowing of scaffold limb. Exudation from wound on major scaffold limb.	Veteran	Fraxinus excelsior	1FNP
Recommended Works	Work Priority Code	Comments	Age Class	Species (Botanical Name)	Tree No

Tree Survey Results Table.

WCC, Forestry Page 7 of 9

## 3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The survey identified the following work requirements:
  - 2 x Priority 4 work items
  - 4 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 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 BS 3998:2010

## 4. General Tree Legalisation

- 4.1. The following legislation is not by any means exhaustive but does cover some of the main legislation that relates to tree work. <a href="www.legislation.gov.uk">www.legislation.gov.uk</a>
- 4.2. The <u>Town and Country Planning Act 1990</u> 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 <u>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</u> 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.

WCC, Forestry Page 8 of 9

## 5. Glossary

**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.

## 6. Qualifications and Experience of Author

## **Career History**

2000 - 2004 - Arborist team leader. Warwickshire County Council

2004 – 2008 - Tree Inspector. Warwickshire County Council

2008 – 2014 - Arboricultural Officer. Warwickshire County Council

2014 - Current - Arboricultural Manager (South). Warwickshire County Council

### **Education and Qualifications**

Foundation Degree Arboriculture (FdSc. Arb). University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) ongoing study.

Arboricultural Association Technicians Certificate Treelife (AA Tech Cert) (ABC) – 2007.

Royal Forestry Society (RFS) Certificate in Arboriculture (RFS Cert Arb) – 2005. LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection 2008 (refreshed 2016)

## **Professional Memberships**

Tech ArborA. Arboricultural Association. Municipal Tree Officers Association (MTOA).

## 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: HSMO.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. London: HSMO.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. London HSMO.

WCC, Forestry Page 9 of 9



