



**Parkfield Rank, Pucklechurch
Arboricultural Report containing:-**

- **Arboricultural survey**
- **Survey findings**
- **Work recommendations**



On behalf of:
Pucklechurch Parish Council

Prepared by:
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1.0 Instructions/Scope

- 1.1 We have been instructed to conduct a health and safety inspection of all trees belonging to Pucklechurch Parish Council at the play park at Parkfield Rank, Pucklechurch. We were instructed to assess the current condition of the trees and recommend remedial tree work necessary to address any health and safety issues identified during our inspection.
- 1.2 Any trees found which are considered to pose a health and safety risk to buildings or people are detailed within the survey sheets and remedial works recommended to address the issues identified. Details of trees not requiring remedial works have not been recorded.
- 1.3 This report is based on a ground level assessment of the tree. Except where stated, all dimensions are estimated. We were not presented with any information on the soil type and no soil samples have been taken. An arboricultural consultant visited the site on Tuesday 1st June 2021. The weather was bright and sunny.

2.0 Survey Methodology

- 2.1 The survey includes tree and shrubs with a stem diameter over 75mm at 1.5m height, located within the area shown on the plan included in this report.
- 2.2 All inspections were made from ground level with the use of binoculars, sounding hammer and metal probe where necessary, using the Visual Tree Assessment method (Mattheck & Breloer 1994). The presence and condition of bark and stem wounds, cavities, decay, fungal fruiting bodies and any structural defects that could affect the structural integrity of the trees have been noted. Should a more detailed inspection, by climbing or by elevated platform, be required then this will be highlighted within survey recommendations.
- 2.3 Tree numbers have been noted on the plan. The following details were recorded for each tree and are included in the tree schedule sheets accompanying this report:
Number: an identity number for each tree, prefixed with a 'T' which cross references locations shown on the plan with the tree survey sheets. Where a number of trees, normally of the same species, are located close together and are similar in character and requirements, they have been treated as a Group under a single Number, prefixed with a 'G'



Species: common name and botanical name in *italics*.

Tree Height: approximate height in metres.

Crown spread: approximate spread in metres taken at the four main compass points N, S, E, W

Age class: Young, Semi-Mature, Early Mature, Mature, Over-Mature, Veteran

Crown clearance: approximate height from ground to lowest part of canopy.

Structural condition: Good, Fair, Poor

Physiological condition: Good, Fair, Poor, Dead

Observations: observations noted during tree inspections

Recommendations: recommended action to ensure the health and safety of the tree.

Priority: 1-urgent, 2-essential, 3-recommended, 4-desirable.

- 2.4 Surveyed trees were sequentially numbered which correspond with the numbers on the survey schedule sheet (appendices 1) and the approximate tree locations plotted on the site plan (appendices 2).

3.0 Survey Limitations

- 3.1 Trees are living, dynamic organisms that can be affected by external conditions. It is therefore not possible to state with any certainty that a tree is safe.
- 3.2 No internal decay devices, or other invasive tools to assess tree condition, were used. No soil excavation or root inspection was undertaken.
- 3.3 This survey has not considered the effect that trees or vegetation may have on the structural integrity of adjacent buildings or structures.
- 3.4 The recommendations contained within this report are based on the condition of the tree at the time they were inspected. The content of the report could be invalidated by future changes in the condition of the tree or the surrounding area.



4.0 Legal duty

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the tree owner to ensure that their tree(s) is in a safe and stable condition, including the effects of root activity, through duty of care in the Occupiers Liability Act (1957 & 1984).
- 4.2 The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 makes it an offence to disturb a nesting bird or recklessly endanger a bat or its roost. Professional advice should be sought, where relevant, before undertaking any recommended works.
- 4.3 We were not made aware of any Tree Preservation Orders or other statutory constraints covering the trees on the site.

5.0 Findings (to be read in conjunction with the survey sheets)

When assessing any potential hazards the trees may pose, the tree positions in relation to the position of internal roads, areas of public access and adjacent public highways and footpaths, was considered.

- 5.1 It was found that the trees growing at this site are located in the southeast corner of the play area within an overgrown shrubby area. It was not possible to access the trees to inspect the stems. The trees and shrubs were growing to form a natural hedge and boundary for the site.
- 5.2 Five trees were surveyed. No trees were found to require urgent works (1). One tree has recommended works (3). One tree has desirable works (4). The remaining trees had no visible defects considered to require remedial works at the time of inspection.
- 5.3 T01 Italian alder has some major deadwood throughout the canopy. It has a poor structural condition due to being suppressed by neighbouring trees and the prolific ivy throughout the canopy. There is a snapped, hung up branch however it is not considered to be a risk to public as it is growing well within an inaccessible area.



5.4 T05 Field Maple is a mature tree growing within the overgrown area with the lower branches forming a natural screening barrier. There are some overextended branches growing over the road on the south side of the tree.

6.0 Recommendations (to be read in conjunction with survey schedule sheet)

A number of trees require more than one type of remedial work. These trees have been categorised by their highest priority work. All recommended works for each tree are contained within the survey sheets.

6.1 *Urgent* work (1) recommendations are intended to address issues where the trees pose an immediate danger and should be undertaken as soon as possible. Prior notification of such works will usually be given either verbally or by email on the day of discovery. Such works would include recently up- rooted trees, trees or branches in danger of imminent failure hazardous trees/branches over public highways.

6.2 The trees deemed to require *essential* works (2) could be dead, structurally unsound or containing major deadwood which is overhanging areas which could potentially be used by the public. Essential works also include the crown lifting or cutting back of trees which encroach over footpaths or the public highway.

6.3 Works prioritised as *recommended* (3) are considered to be beneficial for the future growth and structure of the tree. These works could include follow-on inspections to monitor a potential defect highlighted in a previous survey, removal of minor deadwood, formative pruning. Desirable works (4) include any potential works observed during the inspection which do not address safety issues with the tree but if implemented would enhance the tree and potentially reduce future management.

6.4 Deadwood within the canopy of trees, whilst offering ecological advantages, can poses a health and safety risk in areas of public access. The size, species of tree, target area and monetary cost of deadwood removal should be considered when assessing any potential works. Where dead branches or major deadwood was found in the tree canopies and there is public access around the tree, removal of the deadwood has been recommended.



- 6.5 Minor deadwood with a stem diameter of less than 50mm is commonly found within the canopy of mature trees. This is caused by the outer canopy shading the inner resulting in twigs, small branches dying back. This deadwood is usually blown from the tree in high winds and poses little risk to the public or property near the tree. To remove all the minor deadwood from mature trees would be a labour intensive, expensive operation which is considered unnecessary when assessed against the risk it poses. Subsequently the recommendations within this report only state the removal of minor deadwood as part of another arboricultural operation. The presence of any minor deadwood in the trees is however noted in the schedule sheets.
- 6.6 Low branches restrict access for people under the canopies or around the base of the trees. Crown lifting will allow clear access under and around the tree, whilst not affecting the overall visual amenity.
- 6.7 **T01** contains some major deadwood, however it is considered this does not pose a health and safety threat to public due to the tree's location. There is a snapped hung up branch that is considered a threat if it falls or is blown into an area used by public.
Recommendation:- Remove snapped, hung up branches.
- 6.8 **T05** contains some minor deadwood not considered to be a threat. The branches on the south side of the tree are growing over the road. It is recommended to cut these limbs back for vehicular access and prevent limb failure over road.
Recommendation:- Crown reduce by 25%.



7.0 Appendices

- Survey schedule sheet
- Site plan

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June 2021



Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION
Professional Member

Arboricultural Survey Parkfield Rank, Pucklechurch

Tree Number	Common name	Botanical name	Height (m)	Number of stems	Crown Spread (m)				Crown Clearance (m)	Life Stage	Structural Condition	Physiological Condition	Observations	Work Recommendations	Useful Life Expectancy	Work Priority
					N	E	S	W								
T01	Italian Alder	<i>Alnus cordata</i>	4	1	2	1	1	2	1	Semi Mature	Poor	Fair	Growing in overgrown shrubby area, unable to access stem to inspect. Hung up snapped branch Suppressed by neighbouring trees Major deadwood in canopy Prolific ivy throughout canopy	Remove hangers and snapped branches	10+ Years	4
T02	Italian Alder	<i>Alnus cordata</i>	8	2	4	5	5	4	1	Mature	Fair	Good	Growing in overgrown shrubby area, unable to access stem to inspect. Twin stemmed from base Included bark at stem union Major deadwood in canopy	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T03	Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	Early Mature	Fair	Good	Growing in overgrown shrubby area, unable to access stem to inspect. Multi- stemmed from base Suppressed by neighbouring trees Major deadwood in canopy	No action required at the time of inspection.	20+ Years	0
T04	Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>	6	1	4	2	0	3	1	Mature	Poor	Good	Growing in overgrown shrubby area, unable to access stem to inspect. Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Minor deadwood in canopy	No action required at the time of inspection.	20+ Years	0
T05	Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	6	1	4	3	5	5	1	Mature	Fair	Good	Growing in overgrown shrubby area, unable to access stem to inspect. Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Minor deadwood in canopy Overextended limbs on south side over road	Crown reduction by 25%	20-40 Years	3

