



## **Recreation Ground, Pucklechurch Arboricultural Report containing:-**

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



***On behalf of:***  
**Pucklechurch Parish Council**

***Prepared by:***  
**Deb Randall**  
**Arboricultural Consultant**  
**June 2021**

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## 1.0 Instructions/Scope

- 1.1 We have been instructed to conduct a health and safety inspection of all trees within the recreation ground, 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 Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021. The weather was warm and overcast.

## 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 survey schedule sheets (appendices 1) and the approximate tree locations plotted on 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) are 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 majority of trees were mature or early mature trees growing along the boundary of the site in a row or as individual specimens. There is a graveyard in the southwest of the site where there is a denser proportion of trees.
- 5.2 Twenty-seven trees and one group of trees were surveyed. No trees were found to require urgent works (1). One tree has essential works (2). Five trees have recommended works (3). The remaining trees had no visible defects considered to require remedial works at the time of inspection.
- 5.3 T04 Wild Cherry is growing next to a driveway and storage container. It has low, overhanging branches obstructing access to the storage garage and over the end of the road where residents park. A large branch on the south side of the tree appears to have been ring barked which may potentially result in limb failure.
- 5.4 T10 Sycamore is a larger mature tree growing in the northeast corner of the graveyard. It has low overhanging branches that extend over the graves.



- 5.5 T11 Common Beech is growing adjacent to the large Sycamore on the other side of the hedge that borders the graveyard and recreation ground. The south side of the canopy is slightly suppressed by the Sycamore and there is major deadwood within the canopy.
- 5.6 T12 Robinia is an over mature tree in the north of the graveyard site. It has been suppressed by the neighbouring trees and contains sparse foliage and major deadwood in the canopy.
- 5.7 T19 Common Walnut is growing in the west of the site adjacent to residential properties. It appears to have been previously crown reduced and contains major deadwood in the canopy.
- 5.8 T21 Turkey Oak is growing well within the grounds of the park. There is a metal seat surrounding the entire stem of the tree. This tree requires essential works as there is major deadwood in the canopy of the tree and people are encouraged to sit under it. Furthermore, the fungus Ganoderma was found on a buttress root at the base of the stem on the west side.

## 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 pose 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 **T04** requires works to lift the canopy to allow residents access under the tree.  
**Recommendation:- Crown lift to 5.2m to allow vehicular access.**
- 6.8 **T10** is growing in the graveyard and has a low canopy that may partially obstruct visitors to the graveyard. It is desirable to crown lift the tree for access.  
**Recommendation:- Crown lift to 3m for pedestrian access.**



6.9 **T12**, and **T19** have recommended works to remove the major deadwood within the canopies.

**Recommendation:- Remove major deadwood.**

6.10 **T21** requires essential works to remove the deadwood in the canopy. It is essential because there is a metal bench surrounding the base of the tree which encourages people to sit under the tree.

**Recommendation:- Remove major deadwood.**

## 7.0 Appendices

- Survey schedule sheets
- Site plans

### Deb Randall

Arboricultural Consultant

Silverback Arboricultural Consultancy

June 2021



Arboricultural  
ASSOCIATION  
Professional Member



Arboricultural Survey Recreation Ground, 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	Midland Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	4	1	0.5	1	1	1	1	Young	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T02	Purple Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera 'Pissardi'</i>	5	1	4	2	3	3	0	Mature	Fair	Good	Multi- stemmed from base Minor deadwood in canopy	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T03	Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	6	1	2	3	3	2	2	Early Mature	Good	Good	Minor deadwood in canopy	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T04	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	7	1	4	5	5	5	1	Mature	Fair	Fair	Major deadwood in canopy Low canopy obstructing driveway Branch on south side of tree has been ring barked Wound of west side of stem, well calloused.	Crown lift to 5.2 metres for vehicle access.	20+ Years	3
T05	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	11	1	6	6	6	6	2	Mature	Fair	Good	Included bark at branch union Branches touching building to north of tree	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T06	Swedish Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	5	1	2	2	3	1	2	Early Mature	Fair	Poor	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Major deadwood in canopy Tree appears in terminal decline Previously crown reduced due to electric cable running above canopy	No action required at the time of inspection.	<10 years	0
T07	Leyland Cypress	<i>Cupressocyparis leylandii X</i>	12	1	4	4	4	4	3	Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
G08	Mixed Species Group	Group, mixed species	8	1	2	4	1	4	1	Early Mature	Fair	Good	Group of two Beech and one Lawson Cypress forming single canopy row of trees Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T09	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	Semi Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection Growing in boundary hedge	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0

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					N	E	S	W								
T10	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	14	1	4	8	8	6	1	Mature	Good	Good	Low hanging branches over graveyard Ivy growing up main stem	Crown lift to 3 metres for pedestrian access.	40+ Years	3
T11	Common Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	14	1	7	7	3	6	1.5	Mature	Good	Good	Minor deadwood in canopy Previously crown reduced Suppressed by neighbouring trees	Crown lift to 3 metres for pedestrian access.	40+ Years	3
T12	Robinia	<i>Robinia sp.</i>	14	1	6	2	4	6	1	Over Mature	Fair	Fair	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Dieback in the canopy, sparse foliage Ivy growing up main stem	Remove dead wood (major greater than 25mm).	20+ Years	3
T13	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	7	1	3	3	3	3	1	Early Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection Ivy growing up main stem	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T14	Common Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	6	1	3	3	2	2	0	Semi Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	40+ Years	0
T15	Common Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	4	1	1	1	1	1	0	Semi Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T16	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	8	1	3	3	3	3	1.5	Early Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T17	Common Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	4	1	1	2	2	2	0	Semi Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T18	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	9	1	3	3	3	3	1	Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection.	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T19	Common Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i>	10	1	6	6	6	5	2	Mature	Good	Good	Dieback in the canopy, sparse foliage Major deadwood in canopy	Remove dead wood (major greater than 25mm).	20-40 Years	3

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					N	E	S	W								
T20	Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	16	1	8	8	8	6	2	Mature	Fair	Good	Included bark at branch union Previously pollarded at 4m	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T21	Turkey Oak	<i>Quercus cerris</i>	13	1	9	9	9	9	2	Mature	Good	Good	Previously crown reduced Major deadwood in canopy Ganoderma at base of buttress root on west side of stem	Remove dead wood (major greater than 25mm).	20-40 Years	2
T22	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	9	1	3	2	4	4	1	Mature	Fair	Good	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T23	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	9	1	3	1	4	2	2	Mature	Fair	Good	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Slight lean to north	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T24	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	8	1	3	3	3	2	2	Mature	Fair	Good	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Minor deadwood in canopy	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T25	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	9	1	3	3	3	4	2	Mature	Fair	Good	Slight lean to north No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T26	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	8	1	3	4	4	3	2	Mature	Fair	Good	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T27	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	10	1	5	5	5	5	2	Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T28	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	12	1	7	7	7	7	2	Mature	Good	Good	Small cavity at base of main stem between north buttresses	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0

