

## Recreation Ground, Pucklechurch Arboricultural Report containing:-

- Arboricultural survey
- Survey findings
- Work recommendations



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

*Prepared by:*  
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**Arboricultural Consultant**  
**September 2022**

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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.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. The weather was bright with good visibility.

## 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, E, S, 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 Searches of South Gloucestershire Council's website show the site is within a Conservation Area. Written consent will be required from South Gloucestershire Council prior to any works to the trees.

#### 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). Two trees have recommended works (3). The remaining trees had no visible defects considered to require remedial works at the time of inspection.
- 5.3 T02 Cherry Plum is growing as a shrub with multiple stems. There is major dieback and deadwood in the upper canopy from a stem failure. It is recommended to remove the dead wood.
- 5.4 T05 Wild Cherry contains branches which are overhanging and making contact with the adjacent building to the north. It is recommended to cut back the branches from the building.



5.5 T20 Horse Chestnut is a Veteran tree which contains a split branch overhanging the neighbouring property to the north of the tree. It is essential to remove the split branch from the tree.

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

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.

### Work Recommendations

	Essential works (2)	Recommended works (3)
<b>Remove dead wood</b>		T02
<b>Remedial pruning</b> (see survey sheets for details)	T20	T05

## 7.0 Appendices

- Survey schedule sheets
- Site plans

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September 2022



## 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	Usefull Life Expectancy	Work Priority
					N	E	S	W								
T01	Common Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	4	1	0.5	1	1	1	1	Semi Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T02	Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	5	1	5	1	3	3	0	Mature	Poor	Fair	Tree growing as shrub with main branches growing close to ground Multi- stemmed from base Stem hollow, decayed, cracked Dieback in the upper canopy chlorotic, sparse foliage Major deadwood in upper canopy	Remove dead wood (major greater than 25mm).	10+ Years	3
T03	Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	7	1	3	3	3	3	2	Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T04	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	8	1	4	5	5	5	2	Mature	Fair	Fair	Wound of west side of stem, well calloused. No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
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	Cut back from building	20-40 Years	3
T06	Swedish Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	5	1	2	2	3	1	2	Early Mature	Fair	Fair	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Previously crown reduced due to electric cable running above canopy	No action required at the time of inspection.	20+ Years	0
T07	Leyland Cypress	<i>Cupressocyparis leylandii X</i>	13	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



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					N	E	S	W								
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	Common Birch	<i>Betula alba</i>	6	1	1	1	2	1	1	Semi Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	40+ Years	0
T10	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	14	1	4	8	8	6	2	Mature	Good	Good	No significant defects visible at time of inspection Minor deadwood in canopy Ivy growing up main stem	No action required at the time of inspection.	40+ Years	0
T11	Common Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	14	1	7	7	4	6	2.5	Mature	Good	Good	Previously crown reduced Suppressed by neighbouring trees No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	40+ Years	0
T12	Robinia	<i>Robinia sp.</i>	14	1	6	2	4	6	1	Over Mature	Fair	Fair	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Ivy growing up main stem No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T13	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	8	1	3	3	3	3	0.5	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

Arboricultural Survey Recreation Ground, Pucklechurch



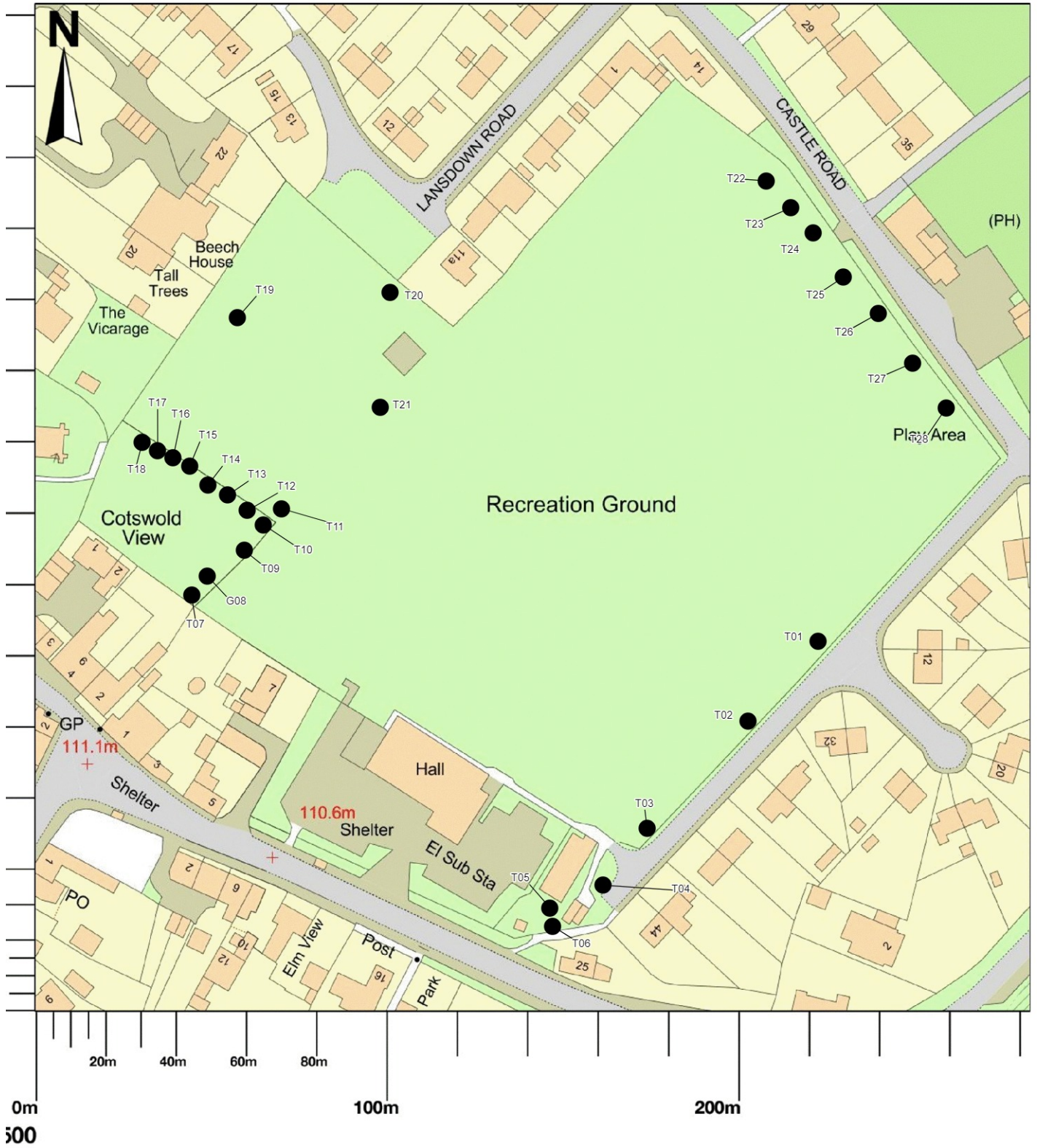
Tree Number	Common name	Botanical name	Height (m)	Number of stems	Crown Spread (m)				Crown Clearance (m)	Life Stage	Structural Condition	Physiological Condition	Observations	Work Recommendations	Usefull Life Expectancy	Work Priority
					N	E	S	W								
T16	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	10	1	3	3	3	3	0.5	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	Early 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>	12	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	No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T20	Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	16	1	8	8	8	6	2	Veteran	Fair	Good	Historically pollarded at 4m Major split in branch north side over neighbouring property Fractured limbs - storm damage Decay showing in branch stems from historic limb loss	Remove split branch	20-40 Years	2
T21	Turkey Oak	<i>Quercus cerris</i>	13	1	9	9	9	9	2	Mature	Good	Good	Previously crown reduced Ganoderma spp bracket at base of stem north side inside buttress root Metal bench surrounding stem	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T22	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	10	1	3	2	4	4	1	Mature	Fair	Good	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0

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					N	E	S	W								
T23	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	9	1	3	2	4	2	1	Mature	Fair	Good	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown No significant defects visible at time of inspection	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	1	Mature	Fair	Fair	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Minor deadwood in canopy Dieback in the canopy chlorotic, sparse foliage	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0
T25	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	9	1	3	4	3	4	1	Mature	Fair	Good	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>	7	1	3	4	4	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
T27	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	8	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	No significant defects visible at time of inspection Minor deadwood in canopy	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0

# Pucklechurch Recreation Ground



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