Tree condition survey of trees

at

The Fairground, Stratfield Mortimer

Surveyed by
Ben Abbatt

Dip. Arb. (RFS), BA (Hons), MICFor, MRICS, CEnv
Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant

Client
Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
27 Victoria Road
Mortimer
Reading
RG7 3SH
www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

Report date
5th April 2023

Report reference
J719.05

Sapling Arboriculture Ltd

Holbache, Mount Pleasant Road, Alton, Hants, GU34 2RS

T: 01420 550 160
E: enquiries@saplingarboriculture.com
W: www.saplingarboriculture.com

Table of Contents

1. Instruction

1.1 I was instructed by Bernise O'Reilly, Assistant to the Clerk, Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council, to carry out a tree condition survey of trees at the Fairground, paying particular attention to any features that may pose a significant hazard to persons or property, and to produce a tree survey report including the provision of management recommendations with priorities.

1.2 The tree condition assessment is to be carried out in relation to the landowner's duty under the Occupier's Liability Act 1984 and common law. Presumption for tree management will be in favour of retention of the tree(s) where appropriate.

1.3 The client has raised concerns relating to the trees including their condition, proximity to the playground, structures, dwellings and highway.

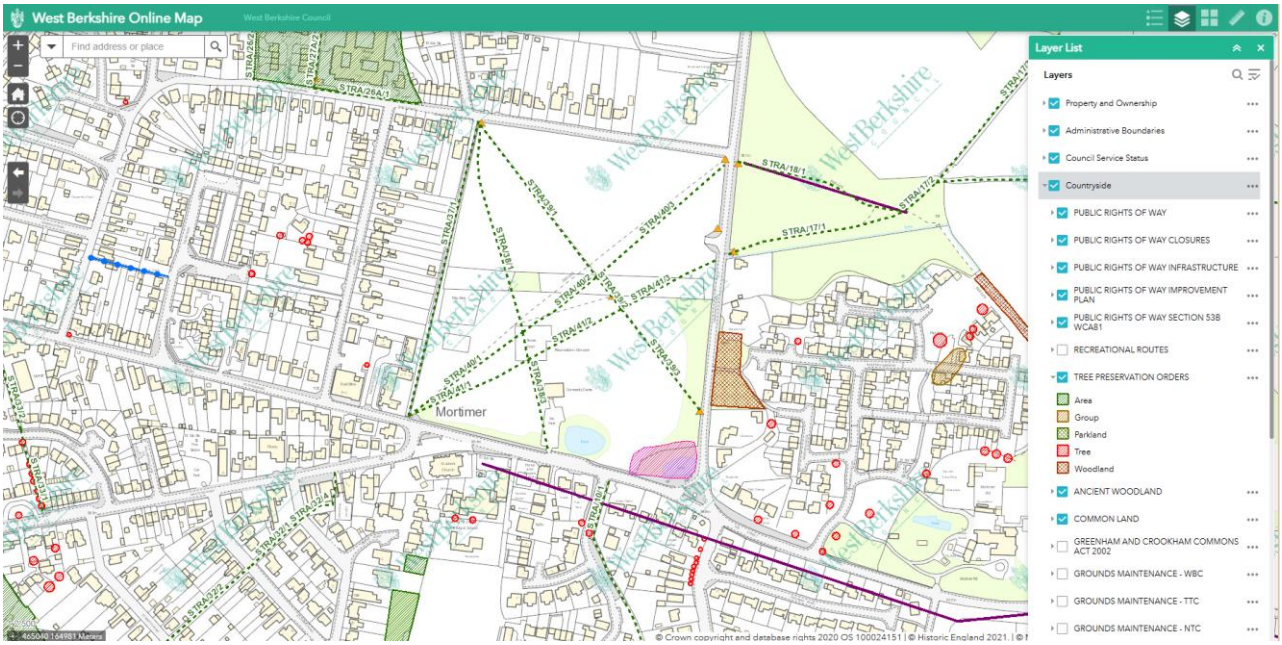
2. Introduction

2.1 The Fairground is an area of open space with Windmill Road to the north, Hammonds Heath to the east, The Street to the south and residential housing to the west of King Street. The area is effectively flat. There is a playground and multi use games area in the centre west, tennis courts in the centre, Mortimer Community centre and car parking accessed from the Street in the centre south, Mortimer cricket ground to the southeast, and informal open space to the north. There are a number of public rights of way across the public open space. The pond area to the southeast is registered as common land on the West Berkshire Council online mapping service.

2.2 The trees subject to the survey stand principally around the perimeter of the site with a band of young trees in the centre east to west.

3. Statutory controls

3.1 The online mapping tool provided by West Berkshire Council, accessed on 5th April 2023 identifies that the site is not subject to Conservation Area controls or Tree Preservation Order; see image SAL1:



SAL1 Data provided by the council website[1].

3.2 The Forestry Act 1967 does not apply as the trees grow on public open space (s9(2)(b)[2]).

3.3 As no statutory controls apply, the recommended works can be carried out without reference to the planning authority or forestry authority.

3.5 This document does not consider specific covenants.

[1] https://gis2.westberks.gov.uk/webapps/OnlineMap/?vln=TREE%20PRESERVATION%20ORDERS

[2] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1967/10/section/9

4. Limitations

4.1 The tree survey was carried out from ground level, with the aid of binoculars where appropriate, using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) process. The VTA process is used to identify significant tree features that may have significant bearing upon the condition (physiological and structural) and management of the tree.

4.2 Typical significant defects that are identified are referred to in Lonsdale, D., “Hazards from Trees, a general guide” (FCPG13) published in 2000 by the Forestry Commission, Lonsdale, D., “Principles of tree hazard assessment and management” published in 1999 and 2001 and reprinted in 2013 by the Forestry Commission, and Mattheck, C., “The body language of trees” published in 1994 by the Department of the Environment and 2015 by Karlsruhe Institute of Technology.

4.3 Reasonable access around the base of the trees is required to carry out a tree survey. Where this is not feasible, these parts of the tree may not be fully assessed. If a view of the entire structure of the tree(s) is limited, for instance by the properties in private ownership or obscured by vegetation, this is a limitation to the tree survey and some parts of the tree may not be able to be fully surveyed. In this instance, full access was not available on the west side of the site due to vegetation and the canopy overhanging adjacent properties was not able to be fully viewed, although views from within the site, with the benefit of binoculars, provided a reasonable view of the trees. A number of trees are subject to ivy growth, epicormic growth at the base, and / or vegetation impeding the survey of the tree(s).

4.4 Trees are dynamic structures and as such their condition and health may change in a short period of time, particularly in relation to changes in their immediate environment and circumstances, and as such the survey relates only to the visible condition found on the day of the survey. Tree(s) should be re-surveyed on a regular basis so that the change in condition can be identified. An appropriate time period between surveys may be up to 5 years depending upon the species, condition of the trees, their maturity / size and the context within which the tree(s) grow. Recommendations for the period between surveys are given.

4.6 No soil investigations have been carried out.

5. Tree survey findings

5.1 The survey was carried out on 28th March 2023. I was unaccompanied during the site visit. The weather on the day of the site visit was clear, dry with low wind speeds.

5.2 The table of findings of the tree survey can be found in Appendix 1.

5.3 I have plotted the approximate new tree positions on the council's Parish Online system to correlate between the tree condition survey (Appendix 1) and the specific trees surveyed on site. Position of the trees plotted is approximate and the specific trees will need to be identified through their approximate position shown on the tree survey plan, condition notes given in the tree survey text and the reference tag number given in the tree survey text.

6. Discussion

6.1 The majority of works relates to low branches requiring removal of low canopy branches (crown lifting) to allow the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles, leaning trees, proximity to buildings, mechanical damage to the base of trees, and ivy and vegetation clearance to allow survey. These types of issues fall within the normal routine annual management.

6.2 Some tree works, for instance removal of deadwood, proximity to footpaths, and increased potential for failure and / or harm requires the works to be implemented in a shorter timescale to reduce the potential for harm / damage.

6.3 The greater the amount of pruning work carried out, the greater the potential for undesirable physiological and structural impacts upon the retained trees (refer to British Standard 3998:2010 Recommendation for tree works paragraph 7.2.4 extent of pruning works). Therefore, works recommendations given seek to reasonably control the risks identified whilst minimising the potential impact upon retained trees to aid there retention in the landscape for as long as reasonably practicable. Additionally, tree works recommendations are kept to a minimum to minimise the potential aesthetic impacts that can occur through excessive tree works.

6.4 To conclude, in my consideration of the site, its location, use, frequency of occupation, the potential hazards that the trees present, the condition of the trees and potential for failure, and the potential size of the failure parts, I have provided tree works recommendations with priorities to aid the retention of the trees in the landscape where feasible and these works are detailed in section 7 and Appendix 1.

7. Recommendations

7.1 I have considered the findings of the tree survey within the context of the health and vitality of the trees and the circumstances within which they are located.

7.2 Recommended works are detailed in Appendix 1 for each tree with associated priorities. The priorities mean that the recommended works should be carried out within specified timescales detailed in Appendix 3 key to tree survey data.

7.3 Works are considered a ‘High’ priority and should be complete within 1 month from the date of this survey. The priority is considered based on the condition of the tree and its position and context. No trees were identified as being subject to a high priority.

7.4 Works are considered a ‘Moderate’ priority and should be complete within 3 months from the date of this survey. The priority is considered based on the condition of the tree and its position and context. Five trees were identified as being subject to a high priority.

7.5 Works are considered a ‘Low’ priority and should be complete within 12 months from the date of this survey. The priority is considered based on the condition of the tree and its position and context. Fifty-eight trees were identified as being subject to a high priority.

7.6 Tree works should be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Recommendations for Tree Works and in particular biosecurity / avoidance of transmission of disease and pathogens (4.3), extent of pruning works (7.2.4), and natural target pruning (7.2.5). A tree contractor ought to carry out works in accordance with this British Standard and be aware of these specific elements.

7.7 Tree works, except high priority and felling works, ideally to be carried out in the late summer (September) to aid the trees to respond to the pruning wounds in the most effective manner. The worst time to implement tree works to retained trees is in spring (and secondly around leaf fall) and, therefore, these time periods (spring and leaf fall) ought to be avoided where possible to reduce the physiological impact upon retained trees.

7.8 Resurvey of the trees ought to be complete by the 1st September 2026. Resurvey is important as the condition of trees alters over time.

Appendices

Appendix 1: tree survey data

Tree Condition Survey Data

Site	Fairground, Stratfield Mortimer
Date of survey	28th March 2023
Job reference	J719.05
Surveyor	Ben Abbatt
Resurvey	To be complete by the 1st September 2026

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	501	Whitebeam	Middle aged	Good	Fair	Slight lean towards car parking area.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	502	Willow	Middle aged	Good	Fair	Historic failed stem over the car parking area.	Crown reduction to a final height of 5m with a 2m horizontal radial branch spread.	Low
T	503	Hornbeam	Middle aged	Good	Good	Close to adjacent building.	Clear building by 2m retaining overhanging branches outside this distance.	Low
T	504	Sorbus	Middle aged	Good	Good	Close to adjacent building.	Clear building by 2m retaining overhanging branches outside this distance.	Low
T	505	Norway Maple	Middle aged	Good	Good		No works required at the time of the survey.	~

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	506	Cherry	Mature	Fair	Fair	Resin bleeding from the lower stem. Lean of lower stem away from building. Close to adjacent building.	Clear building by 2m retaining overhanging branches outside this distance.	Low
T	507	Scots Pine	Mature	Good	Good	Low branches.	Crown lift to 3m. Clear fence by 1m.	Low
T	508	Scots Pine	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	Suppressed by adjacent trees. Ivy impedes survey.	Sever ivy at base and remove to 2m using hand tools only and taking care to avoid damage to the bark beneath.	Low
T	509	Scots Pine	Mature	Good	Good	Low branches.	Crown lift to 3m. Clear fence by 1m.	Low
T	510	Ash	Mature	Good	Good	Species suceptible to ash dieback https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/ [relates to all ash trees within the survey]. Close to adjacent building.	Clear building by 2m retaining overhanging branches outside this distance.	Low
T	511	Whitebeam	Middle aged	Good	Good	Close to adjacent building.	Clear building by 2m retaining overhanging branches outside this distance.	Low
T	512	Lime	Young	Good	Good	13no. Potential for mower and trimmer damage to base of trees. Low branches.	Formative prune to create single upright leader and form with good branch structure. Crown lift to 2m. Cut and remove turf to 50mm depth within 1m of the tree and replace with wood chip or bark mulch to a settled depth of 75mm within 1m of the tree. Reinstate mulch annually.	Low

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	513	Ash	Mature	Good	Good	Two stems from 2m. Typical moderate (25 to 100mm diameter) deadwood.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter.	Moderate
T	514	Ash	Mature	Good	Good	Two stems from 2m. Typical moderate (25 to 100mm diameter) deadwood.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter.	Moderate
T	515	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	c30mm diameter branch caught in the south western canopy adjacent to the footway and carriageway.	Remove branch caught in the canopy.	Low
T	516	Birch	Mature	Good	Good	3 stems from 1m with good ‘u’ shaped tension unions. Mower damage to surface roots.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	517	Maple	Middle aged	Good	Good	Two stems from 1.5m. Ivy obscures survey.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	518	Rowan	Mature	Good	Fair	Twin stems from near the base with tight union. Ivy impedes survey.	Sever ivy at base and remove to 2m using hand tools only and taking care to avoid damage to the bark beneath.	Low
T	519 / 0143 / 0753	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Minor deadwood.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	520					Tree position is between 522 and 523 and therefore data has been moved to between these two recorded data items. See below.	~	~
T	521	Oak	Middle aged	Good	Fair	Suppressed by adjacent trees. Previously tip reduced.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	522 / 0142	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Rubbing stems.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	520	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Two stems from 1.1m. Adjacent to the play area.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	523 / 139 / 752	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Suppressed by adjacent tree.Adjacent to the playarea.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	524 / 0138	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Ivy and vegetation impedes survey.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter. Sever ivy at base and remove to 2m using hand tools only and taking care to avoid damage to the bark beneath and maintain clear. Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	525	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Intermediate canopy.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	526	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Intermediate canopy. Vegetation impedes survey.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	527	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Intermediate canopy. Ivy and vegetation impedes survey.	Sever ivy at base and remove to 2m using hand tools only and taking care to avoid damage to the bark beneath. Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	528	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Ivy and vegetation impedes survey.	Crown lift to 3.5m. Sever ivy at base and remove to 2m using hand tools only and taking care to avoid damage to the bark beneath and maintain clear.	Moderate
T	529	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Intermediate canopy. Ivy impedes survey.	Crown lift to 3.5m. Sever ivy at base and remove to 2m using hand tools only and taking care to avoid damage to the bark beneath and maintain clear.	Low
T	530 / 0133 / 0745	Oak	Mature	Fair	Fair	Intermediate canopy. Sparse canopy. Ivy impedes survey.	Crown lift to 3.5m. Sever ivy at base and remove to 2m using hand tools only and taking care to avoid damage to the bark beneath and maintain clear.	Low
T	531 / 0132 / 0744	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Intermediate canopy. Low branches.	Crown lift to 3.5m.	Low
		Ash	Middle aged	Good	Fair	Inaccessible due to vegetation.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	532 / 0131 / 0743	Oak	Middle aged	Good	Fair	Suppressed canopy.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	533 / 0130 / 0742	Oak	Middle aged	Good	Fair	Suppressed canopy. Canopy reduced over adjacent garden.Cavity at base.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	534 / 0129 / 0741	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Typical occassional moderate deadwood. Two stems from near base. Vegetation impedes survey.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter. Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Moderate
T	535	Stump				Ivy covered.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	536 / 0128 / 0740	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Burr at base.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	537	Oak	Mature	Dead		Retained monlith adjacent to footpath and adjacent gardens.	Remove.	Low
T	0126 / 0737	Oak	Mature	Fair	Fair	Slightly sparse canopy. Access impeded by vegetation.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	538	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Suppressed canopy. Vegetation impedes survey.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	539 / 0124	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Recent crown reduction. Vegetation impedes survey.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	540	Oak	Mature	Dead		Retained monlith adjacent to footpath and adjacent gardens.	Remove.	Low
T	541	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Suppressed canopy. Vegetation impedes survey.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	542	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Intermediate canopy. Occassional moderate deadwood. Vegetation impedes survey.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter. Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	543	Oak	Mature	Fair	Fair	Intermediate canopy. Vegetation impedes survey.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	544	Oak	Mature	Fair	Fair	Intermediate canopy. Vegetation impedes survey.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	545	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Suppressed canopy. Vegetation impedes survey.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	546	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Suppressed canopy. Vegetation impedes survey.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	547 / 0116	Oak	Mature	Fair	Fair	Recent crown reduction and canopy over adjacent garden to the west cut back to near the boundary of the site. Two stems from near the base. Vegetation impedes survey.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	548 / 0115	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Recent crown reduction and canopy over adjacent garden to the west cut back to near the boundary of the site. Vegetation impedes survey.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	549 0114 / 0725	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Recent crown reduction and canopy over adjacent garden to the west cut back to near the boundary of the site.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	550	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Recent crown reduction and canopy over adjacent garden to the west cut back to near the boundary of the site.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	551	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Suppressed canopy. Excessive lean over the footway. Vegetation impedes survey.	Crown reduction to a horizontal radial branch length of 7m. Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	552 / 0722	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Intermediate canopy. Previously topped with mature regrowth. Vegetation impedes survey.	Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low
T	553	Oak	Mature	Poor	Poor	Removed.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	554	Sycamore	Young	Good	Poor	Poor growing position adjacent to a garage. Multiple stems from the base.	Remove. Treat stump to prevent regrowth.	Low
T	555	Oak	Middle aged	Good	Good	~	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	556	Oak	Middle aged	Good	Good	Low branches over the carriageway.	Crown lift to 5m over the carriageway.	Low
T	557	Oak	Middle aged	Good	Good	Low branches over the carriageway.	Crown lift to 5m over the carriageway.	Low
T	558	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Occasional moderate deadwood. Previously topped with mature regrowth. Low branches over the carriageway. Vegetation impedes survey.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter. Crown lift to 5m over the carriageway. Clear vegetation within 1.5m of the base of the tree and maintain clear.	Low

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
G	1	Poplar	Middle aged	Good	Good	Species susceptibility to sucker growth; evident on site. Group is within 10m of the northern boundary and runs adjacent to the boundary.	Remove and treat stump to prevent regrowth. Reason: to prevent the encroachment on the public open space by the sucker growth.	Low
T	559	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Cavity on top side of branch growing towards the public open space.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	560	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	~	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	561	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	~	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
G	562	Willow	Mature	Good	Fair	Coppiced.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
G	2	Oak and Willow	Middle aged	Good	Fair	Willow susceptible to structural failure. G2 is immediateley to the south of the vehicle entrance on the east side of the site and G562.	Coppice willow. Crown lift oak to 5m over carriageway and 2m height over the remainder.	Low
T	563	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Typical occassional moderate deadwood.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter.	Low

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	564	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Typical occassional moderate deadwood.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter.	Low
T	565	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	Typical occassional moderate deadwood.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter.	Low
T	566	Oak	Mature	Fair	Good	Open canopy indicating lower than normal vitality. Typical occassional moderate deadwood.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter.	Low
T	567	Oak	Mature	Fair	Poor	Recent crown reduction. Series of branch failures and large branch removals. Potential for coalesced decay.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	568	Oak	Middle aged	Poor	Poor	Declining canopy on west side. Remaining part leans towards the carriageway.	Remove.	Low
T	569	Ash	Mature	Good	Fair	Two competing stems from 3m. Species susceptibility to ash dieback.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	570	Birch	Middle aged	Good	Fair	Broken and hanging branch over the footway. Lean towards footway.	Remove.	Moderate

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	571	Lime	Mature	Good	Fair	Two competing stems from 3m. Mower damage to structural roots.	Infill topsoil at base to prevent continuing damage to roots.	Low
T	572	Willow	Mature	Good	Poor	Old coppice adjacent to pond. Species susceptibility to structural failure.	Coppice.	Low
T	573	Ash	Mature	Good	Fair	Two competing stems from 1.5m. Species susceptibility to ash dieback.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	574	Willow	Mature	Good	Poor	Previously topped. Pholiota squarrosa at base..	Coppice.	Low
T	575	Ash	Middle aged	Good	Good	On edge of pond.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	576	Willow	Mature	Good	Poor	Coppiced. On edge of pond. Species susceptibility to structural failure.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	577	Oak	Middle aged	Good	Poor	Suppressed canopy. Lean towards footway.	Remove.	Low

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	578	Field Maple	Middle aged	Good	Poor	Poor form.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	579	Willow	Middle aged	Good	Good	Species susceptibility to structural failure.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	580	Norway Maple	Middle aged	Good	Good	~	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	581	Whitebeam	Middle aged	Good	Good	~	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	582	Siberian Elm	Mature	Good	Fair	Species susceptibility to structural failure. Recent crown reduction with moderate regrowth. Mower damage to surface roots.	Infill topsoil adjacent to surfaceroots to reduce the potential for future mower damage.	Low
T	583	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	~	Move bench to outside canopy spread to reduce the potential for harm.	Low
T	584	Oak	Middle aged	Good	Good	~	No works required at the time of the survey.	~

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	585	Lime	Young	Good	Good	13no. Potential for mower and trimmer damage to base of trees. Low branches.	Formative prune to create single upright leader and form with good branch structure. Crown lift to 2m. Cut and remove turf to 50mm depth within 1m of the tree and replace with wood chip or bark mulch to a settled depth of 75mm within 1m of the tree. Reinstate mulch annually.	Low
T	586	Whitebeam	Middle aged	Good	Good	~	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	587	Field Maple	Middle aged	Good	Good	~	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	588	Whitebeam	Middle aged	Good	Good	~	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	589	Willow	Mature	Good	Fair	Recent crown reducution. Ivy impedes survey.	Sever ivy at base and remove to 4m using hand tools only and taking care to avoid damage to the bark beneath and maintain clear.	Low
G	590	Willow	Mature	Good	Poor	Group of fallen and broaden stems on edge of pond.	Coppice.	Low
T	591	Willow	Middle aged			Removed.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	592	Ash	Mature	Good	Good	Species susceptibility to ash dieback.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	593	Oak	Middle aged	Good	Good	Adjacent to the pond.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	594	Oak	Middle aged	Good	Fair	Suppressed canopy with lean over the pond.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	595	Horse Chestnut	Mature	Good	Fair	Dark exudate and bark cracks on the lower stem commensurate with Horse Chestnut bleeding canker.	Crown lift to 4m over the car parking area.	Low
G	596	Oak, birch and occasional lime	Middle aged	Good	Good	Close grown. Understorey of gorse impedes survey.	Thin group by 20% every 5 years to achieve a final spacing of 10m between trees. Trees of poor form, structure or vitality to be removed preferentially.	Low
T	597	Oak	Mature	Good	Good	~	Remove bench to outside the canopy to reduce the potential for harm. Remove holly at base of the tree to allow future surveys.	Low
T	598	Whitebeam	Mature	Good	Good	~	No works required at the time of the survey.	~

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	599	Hornbeam	Middle aged	Good	Fair	Poor form.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
T	600	Whitebeam	Middle aged			Removed.	No works required at the time of the survey.	~
G	3	Oak, birch, Scots pine, ash	Middle aged	Good	Fair	Close grown. Understorey of gorse impedes survey. G3 is the group of trees that run east to west across the centre of the site.	Thin group by 20% every 5 years to achieve a final spacing of 10m between trees. Trees of poor form, structure or vitality to be removed preferentially.	Low

Appendix 2: tree survey plan

Refer to Parish Online data held by Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council.

Appendix 3: general notes

The tree survey can only be an assessment of the tree at the time of the survey and the tree(s) should be re-surveyed on a regular basis. An appropriate time period between surveys may be up to 5 years depending upon the condition of the trees, their maturity and the target(s). Recommendations for the period between surveys will be given.

As trees are dynamic structures their condition and health may change in a short period of time, particularly in relation to changes in their immediate environment and circumstances. Therefore, the survey is an assessment of the trees at the time of the survey only. If there is a significant change in the immediate environment and circumstances, then this should be brought to the attention of the arboriculturalist so that they may advise accordingly.

I have not specifically checked with the planning authority whether the site is within a Conservation Area or whether the trees are under Tree Preservation Order (TPO), but I have relied upon their published map information. Prior to any tree works confirmation of whether these legal restrictions apply to the site or trees ought to be sought from the planning authority. If the trees stand within a Conservation Area designated under the Town and Country Planning Act the LPA will normally require 6 weeks notice of intention to carry out any tree works as detailed in the survey. If the trees are under TPO then the planning authority will normally require an application for any tree works. Some tree works are exempt, for instance if the trees are dead or dangerous, and certain works can be carried out without application. It is necessary to give the planning authority at least five days notice prior to carrying out any of these tree works under these exemptions. This survey, with recommendations, can be used to support any such application or notice.

Wildlife issues are of significant concern to the general public. A balance has to be found between the protection of wildlife and the need for safety when managing trees. The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1980) and Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000) give statutory protection to wild birds, bats, mammals, some invertebrates and plants. It is important to ensure that this legislation is properly considered when carrying out any works to trees.

Bird nests were not identified whilst on site. However, any Arborist carrying out the tree works should ensure that there is no disturbance to nesting birds prior to the works being carried out. Further guidance upon the appropriate timing of the works can be sought from DEFRA, if necessary. Where nesting birds are found, further information should be sought from DEFRA 08459 33 55 77 or helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Prior to any works being implemented the tree contractor must identify whether there are any bats or birds using the tree as roost or nest. If such habitation is identified, then the tree contractor must obtain the necessary licence from Natural England (0845 601 4523 www.naturalengland.org.uk) to carry out the works.

A bat survey prior to tree works is not recommended, except where there is a high potential for habitat. During the tree works, the contractor should carry out the tree works with bats as an active consideration and follow the current industry best practice, e.g. Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 1 Bats in the context of tree work operations 2011, BS8596 Micro guide to surveying for bats in trees and woodland https://shop.bsigroup.com/upload/273444/BSI-Bat-Microguide-UK-EN.pdf which a competent tree contractor should be familiar with.

Biosecurity measures: To minimise to potential for contamination of the tree from other tree works it is appropriate to sterilise tools to be used before and after the works are implemented. Appropriate disinfectant includes Propellar or Cleankill Sanitizing spray. Loose debris is to be brushed off prior to treating with disinfectant to ensure appropriate application. See http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCMS028-guidance.pdf/$file/FCMS028-guidance.pdf for further information on Biosecurity and http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-9fjd2d for disinfectant information.

Appendix 4: key to tree survey data

Desig	Designation (T is Tree, G is Group, H is Hedge, W is woodland, S is Stump)	
No	Tree number.	
Species	Species of tree.	
Height	Height measured in metres.	
Canopy spread	Canopy spread in metres is taken at the four cardinal points to derive an accurate representation of the crown.	
Height of crown	Height in metres of crown clearance above adjacent ground level.	
Age Class	**Young**	A tree considered to be less than approximately 20 years old.
	Middle aged	A tree in approximately the first 1/5th of its normal life span with apical dominance (rapidly growing with a clear main leader) and not yet fully at its environmental potential full height.
	Mature	A tree in its 2/5ths to 5/5ths of its normal life span with apical dominance lost and at its environmental potential full height.
Condition (Physiological and Structural)	**Good**	A tree of typical physiological and structural condition that requires only general tree works to facilitate its retention in the landscape.
	Fair	A tree of impaired physiological and / or structural condition that may require remedial and general tree works to facilitate its retention in the landscape.
	Poor	A tree of significantly impaired physiological and / or structural condition that will require remedial and general tree works to facilitate its retention in the landscape if feasible.
Recommendations	As per BS3998: 2010 Recommendations for Tree Works.	
Priority	**Immediate**	Works should be carried out immediately as the probability of harm or damage occurring is likely.
	High	These works are important to carry out as soon as reasonably possible and any budget available for tree management should be spent upon these trees before the moderate and low categories. Works in this category usually will relate to abatement of risk for harm and or damage to occur. Ideally works in this category are anticipated to be carried out within 1 month.
	Moderate	These works are important to carry out as soon as reasonably possible and any budget available for tree management should be spent upon these trees before the low categories. Works in this category usually will relate to abatement of risk for harm and or damage to occur and for the good arboricultural management of the trees. Ideally works in this category are anticipated to be carried out within 3 months.
	Low	Works in this category usually will relate to the good arboricultural management of the trees. Ideally works in this category are anticipated to be carried out within 12 months.
Re-survey	This is the time period in which it is recommended that the tree is surveyed again. This is based upon the condition of the tree, its location, previous, current and future management. It is normally expressed at a time period from the date of the report / survey, whichever is the sooner. If no time period is noted then the default period is one year.	

Appendix 5: surveyor qualifications and experience

Ben Abbatt has been involved in the arboricultural industry since the mid 1990s and has worked in a variety of roles within the industry, starting as a forestry contractor, progressing to the surveying and management of forestry and arboricultural contracts for a national forestry company and running the arboricultural section of a horticultural business overseas. Additionally, Ben has worked in local Government at Borough and County levels, providing planning related advice and managing Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas, as well as managing highways trees and contracts.

Since 2006, Ben has been the Director and Principal Consultant of Sapling Arboriculture Ltd.

Ben is a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF), Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Society for the Environment (SocEnv) and the Arboricultural Association (AA), having been an Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant since 2006. He is also a member of the International Society of Arboriculture and the Royal Forestry Society.

He holds many arboricultural and forestry qualifications including the Professional Diploma in Arboriculture awarded by the Royal Forestry Society, the Technicians' Certificate awarded by the Arboricultural Association and an HNC in Forestry.

Ben is also a freelance trainer for LANTRA, delivering courses in Basic Tree Survey and Inspection and Professional Tree Inspection.

© 2023