Beesmoor Road Playing Field, Frampton Cotterell, BS36 2NX
Arboricultural Report containing:-

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

On behalf of:
Frampton Cotterell Parish Council

***Prepared by*:**
Deb Randall BSc TechArborA
Arboricultural Consultant
December 2023

Content

1.0 Instructions/Scope

1.1 We have been instructed by Frampton Cotterell Parish Council to conduct a health and safety inspection of all trees within the grounds of Beesmoor Park Playing Fields, Beesmoor Road, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol, BS36 2NX. We have been 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 This report is based on a ground level assessment of the tree. 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 A site visit was undertaken by qualified arboriculturists Deb Randall BSc (Hons) TechArborA and Chris Wright M. Arbor.A, Tech. Cert. with 35 years combined experience and Lantra certified Professional Tree Inspectors**.** The site was visited on Thursday 30th November 2023. 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.

Work Priority: 0- No works, **1**- Urgent (same day), **2**- Essential (within 90 days), **3**- Recommended (within 1 year), **4**- Desirable (within 3 years)

Re-inspection Frequency: 1- 6 months, **2**- 12 months, **3**- 2 years, **4**- 4 years.

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. 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.

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 majority of the trees were mature specimens growing along the boundary of the site, either in groups growing out of hedgerows or standing individually. There are two trees are growing within the children's play park.

5.2 On inspection, evidence was found that all the surveyed Ash trees are infected by Ash dieback disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus)*. This was evident in the few remaining leaves in the canopies of the trees and the leaf litter around the base of the trees.

5.3 Ash dieback disease destroys the tree's phloem and xylem, which results in the tree being unable to move water and nutrients around its structure. This lack of water and nutrient movement will cause the branches of the tree to fail and the tree to 'die back'. The ongoing loss of nutrition and water plus the depletion of energy reserves due to the lack of foliage,

causes the tree to become brittle, lose branches, and make it susceptible to other pathogens such as Honey Fungus (*Armillaria spp.*).

5.4 It is currently estimated that Ash dieback has a mortality rate of 90% with few trees showing any signs of resistance. (ref: Tree Council Ash Dieback Action Plan Toolkit Summer 2019). The precise speed of decline of any individual tree is currently impossible to predict and will be influenced by other factors including soil type, soil moisture levels and topography. The Tree Council identifies four classes of Ash health which can be adopted to prioritise the worst affected cases and make management more practical:

- Ash Health Class 1 = 100% - 75% remaining canopy
- Ash Health Class 2 = 75% – 50% remaining canopy
- Ash Health Class 3 = 50% - 25% remaining canopy
- Ash Health Class 4 = 25% - 0% remaining canopy

5.5 The latest evidence nationwide and from local tree surgery teams, is that infected trees can decline rapidly becoming structurally unsound in a matter of months. It is therefore considered that the Ash trees have a very short useful life expectancy.

5.6 Thirteen trees, three groups of trees and one hedgerow were surveyed. One tree has essential works (**2**). Four trees have recommended works (**3**). One tree and one group of trees have desirable works (**4**). The remaining trees and groups of trees had no visible defects considered to require remedial works at the time of inspection.

6.0 Work Priority

0. No works. No significant defects or target in area.

1. Urgent work. Works are required immediately. The tree is considered to pose a significant risk and should be made safe **(same day).** Prior notification of such works will usually be given either verbally or by email on the day of discovery.

2. Essential. Tree is considered structurally unsound and/or with physiological issues which need to be addressed with nearby targets. Works are required within **90 days**.

3. Recommended. Beneficial for the future growth and structure of the tree and/or to monitor minor defects. Works are required within **1 year.**

4. Desirable. Works of lowest priority and can be undertaken when budget and desire allows. Works to be done within **3 years.**

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

All recommended works for each tree are contained within the survey sheets.

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 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.

7.4 In cases where removal of trees has been recommended, it is also an option to instead monolith the trees to a safe height and retain the main stem for aesthetic and ecological reasons.

7.5 In cases where tree planting has been recommended, it is ideal to replant new trees in a suitable location using native species.

7.6 All trees should be re-inspected biennially, unless otherwise stated, or following any major weather event such as high winds by a qualified arboriculturist. If any changes are noted within the trees between the inspections, it is recommended a qualified arboriculturist is contacted and the tree reassessed. Those identified as having Ash Dieback disease should be re-inspected annually, ideally within the summer months, to monitor their decline.

Work Recommendations

	Essential works (2)	**Recommended works (3)**	**Desirable works (4)**
Reinspect tree		T09, T10, T12	
Replant tree			G05, T07
Repollard		T09, T10	
Monolith to 5m	T16	T13	

7.0 Appendices

- Survey schedule sheets
- Site plans

Deb Randall BSc TechArborA

Arboricultural Consultant

Silverback Arboricultural Consultancy

December 2023

Arboricultural Survey Beesmoor Park

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	Re-inspection Frequency
					N	E	S	W									
H01	Common Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	3	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	Mature	Good	Good	Boundary hedge predominantly Hawthorn, including Holly and Elder No significant defects visible at time of inspection	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0	2
T01	Common Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*	5	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	4	Early Mature	Fair	Poor	Growing in boundary hedge, unable to access stem to assess Tree appears to be in terminal decline Dieback in the canopy chlorotic, sparse foliage Minor deadwood in canopy	No action required at the time of inspection.	<10 years	0	2
T02	Common Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	Mature	Fair	Good	Prolific ivy throughout canopy Ivy growing up main stem Growing in boundary hedge	No action required at the time of inspection.	20+ Years	0	2
T03	Pedunculate Oak	*Quercus robur*	9	1	1	5	6	6	4	Mature	Fair	Good	Twin stemmed from 1m Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Major deadwood in canopy Growing in boundary hedge	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0	2
T04	Pedunculate Oak	*Quercus robur*	9	1	8	7	3	6	4	Mature	Fair	Good	Twin stemmed from 1m Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Growing in boundary hedge	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0	2
G05	English Elm	*Ulmus procera*											Trees removed	Replant trees		4	0
G06	Mixed Species	Mixed Species	7	1	5	2	2	1	0	Mature	Fair	Good	Group of Holly, Elder and coppiced Hazel forming single canopy and screen Multi- stemmed from base Previously coppiced Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown	No action required at the time of inspection.	20+ Years	0	2

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					N	E	S	W									
T07	English Elm	*Ulmus procera*											Tree removed	Replant trees		4	0
G08	Mixed Species	Mixed Species	7	1	2	4	2	2	0	Mature	Fair	Good	Mixed species group forming single canopy and boundary screen including Hawthorn, Field Maple and coppiced Hazel Multi- stemmed from base Suppressed by neighbouring trees Minor deadwood in canopy Lean to east	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0	2
T09	Common Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	11	1	4	5	1	3	2	Mature	Fair	Diseased	Included bark at branch union Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Major deadwood in canopy Evidence of Ash Dieback Disease in canopy AHC 1 (25%) Previously pollarded at 5m	Reinspect annually for Ash dieback disease Repollard tree	<10 years	3	2
T10	Common Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	11	1	2	5	5	3	2	Mature	Fair	Diseased	Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Major deadwood in canopy Evidence of Ash Dieback Disease in canopy AHC 1 (25%) Previously pollarded at 5m	Reinspect annually for Ash dieback disease Repollard tree	<10 years	3	2
T11	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	6	1	3	2	2	2	2	Early Mature	Fair	Good	Tree growing through metal railings, included in main stem Roots lifting pavement Twin stemmed from base Included bark at stem union Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown	No action required at the time of inspection.	20+ Years	0	2

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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	Re-inspection Frequency
					N	E	S	W									
T12	Common Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	7	1	0	1	2	2	1	Early Mature	Fair	Diseased	Lean to south Suppressed by neighbouring trees Asymmetric crown Growing into metal railings	Reinspect annually for Ash dieback disease	<10 years	3	2
T13	Common Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	11	1	6	6	6	6	2	Mature	Fair	Diseased	Previously crown reduced Major deadwood in canopy Evidence of Ash Dieback Disease in canopy	Monolith to 5m	<10 years	3	2
T14	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	10	1	4	4	4	4	2	Early Mature	Fair	Good	Twin stemmed from 1m Included bark at stem union	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0	2
T15	Horse Chestnut	*Aesculus hippocastanum*	10	1	4	4	4	4	2	Mature	Fair	Good	Growing in children's play area Twin stemmed from 1m Included bark at stem union Previously crown reduced	No action required at the time of inspection.	20-40 Years	0	2
T16	Common Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	10	1	4	4	4	4	2	Mature	Fair	Diseased	Growing in children's play area Previously crown reduced Major deadwood in canopy Evidence of Ash Dieback Disease in canopy AHC 2 (50%)	Monolith to 5m	<10 years	2	2


G05
G06
T07
G08
T09
T10
T04
T03
T02
H01
T01
T11
T12
T13
T14
T15
T16
Recreation Ground
Sports Pavilion
Play Area
THE SPINNEY
FOOTES LANE
ESS
150m
100m
50m
173
172
162
164
203
4
3
197
183
181
1
2
54
37
33
25
30
28
15
4
2
6