



CONSERVATION ARBORICULTURE

Consultant Arboriculturists & Tree Ecologists

Tree Hazard Assessment & Tree Work Recommendation Report

Brundall Cemetery
Allotments
and
Church Fen
Brundall
Norfolk

December 2024
Report number: CA/BPC.12.24.1

Report prepared by Conservation Arboriculture
for Brundall Parish Council



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Client: Brundall Parish Council

Client address: Brundall Parish Council Brundall Memorial Hall Links Avenue Brundall NR13 5LL

Report number: CA/BPC.12.24.

Site details / address: Brundall cemetery, Allotments at Brundall Countryside Park and Church Fen.
Brundall Norfolk

Dates of site inspections: 4th December 2024

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Proposal: Tree hazard assessment and tree work recommendations report

1.0 Instruction and the purpose of the report

1.1 Conservation Arboriculture have been instructed to inspect trees and prepare a tree hazard and risk evaluation and tree work recommendations report on all trees that are within the grounds of the above sites by Rachel Miller Deputy Clerk to Brundall Parish Council.

This survey and report is preceded by a tree survey carried out by Norfolk Wildlife Services dated 23/01/2020. Most of the tree tags are still in place and the same tree numbers and locations have been used in this report for clarity.

2.0 The scope of the report - methodology & limitations

2.1 The inspection process consisted of a ground-based visual inspection and an aerial tree inspection where deemed necessary after the ground based assessment. A visual Tree Assessment (VTA) of all trees within the boundaries as shown in the tree locations plans attached. All trees and tree groups were surveyed with work recommendations.

2.2 Any soil inspection consisted of an above-ground inspection only. No trial or test pits were dug.

2.3 Trees are living, dynamic organisms. Their health and overall condition changes as the trees grow and can be affected by external conditions such as severe weather conditions, the effects of diseases or pests and other factors. For this reason the condition survey and any recommendations given are valid for a period not exceeding 18 months from the date of issue of this report on condition that any works recommended in this report are carried out and within the time specified. **Date issue: December 2024**

2.4 No contact has been made with the local planning authority to determine the legal status of the trees on the sites.

2.5 All trees within the boundary on tree locations plan were surveyed and are subject of the report. 3rd Party boundary trees, smaller trees, hedges and shrubs are only included where relevant.

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3.0 Site location and description

The trees are located in well maintained cemetery grounds, allotments and unmanaged carr/ wet woodland / fen.

4.0 Description of the subject trees and survey results

4.1 The subject trees:

The results from tree survey shows the condition of the tree, any maintenance/work recommendations and any other relevant factors regarding the site.

The trees / tree groups have been numbered and identified by their common name.
Their position is easily identified in the location plan and tree tags have been attached only if needed.

4.2 Hazard Risk Assessment

Size of Hazard	Likelihood of failure Extremely Likely Probable Possible Unlikely/Remote															
Large																
Medium																
Small																
LOCATION	RED AMBER1 AMBER 2 GREEN															
SURVEY PRIORITY	☐ 0 = Immediate works required no further survey required 1= Re survey within 3-6 months during summer period 2 = Re survey All trees in 15-182 months as part of future survey regime 3 = Survey within next 3 years.															

The above coding will allow tree works to be assessed and prioritised upon a “Risk rating” basis against likelihood of failure/Size of hazard/Location Priority.

Risk Factor/ Work completed within:

L – Low; 18 months. M 2– medium; 6-12 months. M 1– medium; 3-6 months. H 2– High; 0-3 months, H1 - Urgent; Immediate action needed.

4.2 Hazard Risk Assessment

In terms of Failure: -

- **Red 1**- Failure likelihood - Extremely Likely or Limb failure imminent. Very High Risk. Immediate/Urgent works/remedial action required. (Code **H1**)
- **Red 2** - Probable failure likely under normal conditions Medium-High risk works/remedial action required within 0-3 months (Code **H 2**)
- **Amber 1** – Possible failure likely under normal conditions Medium risk works/remedial action required within 3-6 months. (Code **M 1**).
- **Amber 2** – Possible failure could occur but is unlikely, requires planned works. Works required within 6-12 months. (Code **M 2**).
- **Green** – Failure Unlikely/remote. (Code **L**) - works within 18 months

In terms of size of hazard: -

- **Red** – Large limbs etc. above 10cm + likely to result in failure of tree and personal injury/damage to property (Code **H**)
- **Amber** – Medium limbs etc. 2.5cm – 10cm likely to cause serious injury and damage to property (Code **M**)
- **Green** – Small below 2.5cm small lightweight branches which might cause slight injury or damage to property (Code **L**)

In terms of Location: -

Location of the tree will determine level of risk and the urgency of remedial works as follows: -

- **Red** – High Use Zones. Trees within 10-15 metres of footpaths, desire lines, roads, property and property boundaries which are a risk to safety or substantially impact upon use or cause damage. (CODE **HU**)
- **Amber 1** – Medium Use Zones. Trees beyond 10-15 metres of footpaths etc.
Trees substantially encroaching beyond boundaries but not causing any damage to property but negatively impacting upon property use or enjoyment. (CODE **MU 1**)
- **Amber 2** – Medium-Low Use Zones.. (CODE **MU 2**).
- **Green** – Low use zone. (Code **LU**)

If the site use changes such as development or relocation of paths or activities, the target zones may need to be reclassified.

Survey Priority:

The default survey priority P2 requires trees re surveying within 15-18 months as part of future standard survey regime.

Note: Trees that are believed to be suffering from pest or disease which may recover or deteriorate should be assessed in terms of the recommended period to next survey as follows: -

- Survey Priority 0 – Immediate remedial works required no further survey required. (P0)
- Survey Priority 1 – Tree requires re surveying within 3-6 months during summer period. (P1)
- Survey Priority 2 – Requires trees re surveying within 12-18 months (P2)
- Survey Priority 3 - Trees requiring resurveying within next 3 years (immature trees etc.). (P3)

If high risk trees are found (H1 &H2) then contact will be made the same day with the land managers/ owners to take action to remove the risk.

4.2 Survey results: Cemetery.

Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	SD (mm)	Age	Condition -Survey findings - Comments.	Identified hazards	Size of hazard	Risk Factor	Target zone	Recommended Works	Priority	ERC	PRF Y/N
430	Oak	18	1600	V	Veteran oak, Laetiporus / Chicken of the woods at base to south	Branches	H	L	MU 2	Add to Ancient tre inventory (done) ATI number 269448. Within the next 5 years some 'halo' removal of conifers and cherry to allow space and light for the veteran.	P2	>40	Y
145	Lime	10	300		Dead tree. In tree belt.	Tree	M	L	MU 2	Fell at 2m if required.	P2 M1		N
134	Ash	12	400	M	Roadside ash, small diameter low branches over main road	Branches	L	L	HU	Crown lift to highway specification shown in appendix 1	P2 M1	>40	N
135	Ash	12	400	M	Roadside ash, small diameter low branches over main road	Branches	L	L	HU	Crown lift to highway specification shown in appendix 1	P2 M1	>40	N
137	Ash	12	400	M	Roadside ash, small diameter low branches over main road	Branches	L	L	HU	Crown lift to highway specification shown in appendix 1	P2 M1	>40	N

4.2 Survey results: Allotments and Church Fen

Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	SD (mm)	Age	Condition -Survey findings - Comments.	Identified hazards	Size of hazard	Risk Factor	Target zone	Recommended Works	Priority	ERC	PRF Y/N
130	Sycamore	23	1200	FM	Decay at base on west side. Good reaction growth. Minor hollowing at base. Good branch structure throughout canopy. Bonfire site to north too close to tree. Sheds under canopy.	Tree / Branches	L	L	MU 2	No works to tree, recommend moving fire pit to >15 metres from base of tree. No additional structures beneath canopy of tree.	P3	>40	N
131	Sycamore	23	1200	FM	Good branch structure throughout canopy. Minor hollowing at base. Sheds under canopy.	Tree / Branches	L	L	MU 2	No additional structures beneath canopy of tree.	P3	>40	N
132	Oak	17	1100	FM/ V	Decay at base on west side. Good reaction growth. Minor hollowing at base. Good branch structure throughout canopy. Poly tunnel under canopy to north.	Tree / Branches	L	L	MU 2	No additional structures beneath canopy of tree.	P3	>40	Y
133	Oak	17	1100	FM/ V	Decay at base on west side. Good reaction growth. Minor hollowing at base. Good branch structure throughout canopy. Poly tunnel under canopy to north.	Tree / Branches	L	L	MU 2	No works to tree, recommend moving fire pit to >15 metres from base of tree. No additional structures beneath canopy of tree.	P3	>40	Y
-	Alder	22	1000	V	Nice veteran lapsed pollard alder. Church Fen - TC 32097 08096	Tree / Branches	L	L	LU	Add to Ancient tre inventory (done) ATI number 269450	P3	>40	Y

Explanations of tree survey schedule headings:

Age: NP- New Planting. Y- Young. YM - Young Mature. M - Mature. FM - Fully mature.

V – Veteran. A – Ancient.

PRF: Potential Bat Roost Features in line with BS8596: Surveying for Bats in trees and woodland. Ht – Estimated tree height. SD – Stem diameter. # - Estimated. ERC – Estimated Remaining Contribution in Years.

4.3 Works to trees have been calculated in priority order based on risk of harm to people, animals and damage to property, statutory duties or risk to tree itself.

4.4 Arisings from works: All cut wood is to be recycled on site. Firewood sized logs to be left by the entrance gate for parishioners, larger logs will be stacked in habitat piles in suitable areas.

5.0 Soil Assessment

5.1 No field assessments of the soil was carried out at the time of the survey. Any assessment is indicative only.

6. Summary and conclusions:

6.1 Brundall Cemetery

All trees have been inspected within the cemetery, Playing field & car park.

Recommendations for Brundall Cemetery & Playing Field have been made with consideration to the expected occupancy rates of the target areas, Roadways, paths, tracks and car park areas. Four trees within the Brundall Cemetery area have been identified as requiring further work or removal.

6.2 Brundall Allotments

The tree failure risk assessment for Brundall Allotments concludes a low risk within the target area for the four trees. No trees were identified as being of concern, no further work is required.

The target area the trees grow in indicates that they should be included in a regular inspection schedule every 2.5 -3 years. With inspections at different seasonal times to allow a full assessment of the trees' vitality.

6.3 Church Fen

The wet fen flooding zone at Church Fen is causing waterlogging to occur throughout the site, a typical mixed wet/carr woodland. It was not possible to inspect each tree due to the nature of the site. There is a large amount of standing deadwood and living phoenix and hung-up trees, despite this it is unnecessary and not appropriate to remove trees that are adjacent to the boardwalk or paths, standing deadwood and fallen hung up trees contribute to the biodiversity and conservation value of the site. The trees close to the river were inspected individually as access allowed and the targets, boats, boaters, anglers etc increase the target in this area slightly. 24Hour mooring is in place and the area gets busier in the summer months.

No trees within the Church Fen area have been identified as presently requiring further work or removal.

7.0 Legal constraints

7.1 Trees subject to statutory controls: The site may be subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). If this is the case then any works to trees covered by the TPO will need the consent of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), unless exempt. The site may also be within a Conservation Area. If this is the case it is necessary to give six weeks prior written notice of intent to the LPA before any tree works.

7.2 Statutory wildlife obligations: The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provide statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees. All tree work operations are covered by these provisions and advice from an ecologist should be obtained before undertaking any works that might constitute an offence.

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7.4 It is recommended that these trees be re-inspected by a suitably qualified arboriculturist 15-18 months from the date of this report, and checked by a competent person on a regular basis and after met office weather warning events & high winds etc. With concerns reported.

Signed: Sheridan Sayer CertArb L4 (ABC). Tech ArborA. Vetcert – consulting level

CONSERVATION ARBORICULTURE

Dated: December 2024

8. References/Bibliography

Arboricultural Association: Aerial inspections; A guide to good practice. Guidance Note 11, 2017
Arboricultural Association: Fay N, Dowson D, Helliwell R -Tree Surveys A Guide to Good Practice, Guidance Note No.7, 2005.
Arboricultural Association: Branch Junctions: Dr David Slater. A Classification System for Arborists: Guidance Note No.14. 2022
Arboricultural Association: Bats in the context of tree work operations Guidance Note1.
European Arboricultural Standards - European cable bracing standard 2022
British Standards Institute - British Standard for Tree Works (BS 3998:2010).
British Standards Institute - Surveying for Bats in trees and woodland. BS8596.
Ancient and other veteran trees: Further guidance and management: Tree council, Ancient tree forum, woodland trust. editor: David Lonsdale
The Law of Trees, Forests and Hedges: Dr Charles Mynors.
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Dr D Lonsdale, *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management* (1999) HMSO
Strouts & Winter, *Diagnosis of ill-health in trees D.o.E* (1994) HMSO
Mattheck & Breloer *The body language of trees DTR* (1994) TSO
Weber & Mattheck *Manual of Wood Decays in Trees* (2001) Arboricultural Association
The National Tree Safety Group, Common sense risk management of trees: Full guidance Second Edition, 2024

9. Qualifications and experience.

Sheridan Sayer, is an arboricultural consultant, tree ecologist, veteran tree specialist, Local Authority & Forestry Commission tree inspector and former London Borough tree officer, with nearly 30 years of practical experience in the arboricultural, conservation and ecology sector with technical, academic and professional qualifications including the Arboricultural Associations Technicians Certificate. Arboricultural Association Technician Member and a VETcert - Certified Veteran Tree Specialist at consultant level with an extensive portfolio of Continued Professional Development.

10. Site Plan. The attached site plan/ Tree Location Plan (not to scale) has been compartmented into zones classified according to the perceived intensity of use/occupancy and the value of the property in the zone. If a site has trees with a variety of possible targets, zoning can aid decision making and prioritise inspection and maintenance programs.

10. Site / Tree Location Plans.

Cemetery & Playing field:



Allotments:



Church Fen:



11. Photos:

T1430 – Veteran Oak – No works but some ‘halo’ removal of cherry and lawsons cypress would be prudent within the next few years



T 134,135 &137 – Ash – Crown lift to Highways specification - Appendix 1.



T0130 – T0133 – Recommendation that no additional ‘targets’ - Buildings, sheds, poly tunnels etc. to be located within 15 metres of trees.



T0130 and 0133 – Fires located too close to the trees – minimum 15 metres distance to protect roots and branches is recommended.





Appendix 1

The owner/occupier of a property/land has a legal responsibility under the Highway Act 1980 S154 to ensure that the public highway is not obstructed by their vegetation. The local Highway Authority, has a legal duty to ensure that the owner/occupier understands their responsibilities to keep the public highway clear of their vegetation for the benefit of all highway users; this includes drivers of vehicles, cyclists, equestrians, pedestrians (including pushchair users), and those with mobility and visual impairments. The public highway is defined by law as consisting of any verge, footway, carriageway, bridleway, cycle track or footpath that is maintained at public expense and over which the public has a right of way. Traffic signals, street lights and road signs must also be kept clear and unobstructed.

Required clearance dimensions: The Highways Act 1980 specifies that the cause of the danger, obstruction or interference is removed. Although no dimensions are specified within the Act, we recommend the following:

Footway clearance - minimum headroom of 2.6m (8' 6") ideally back to the highway boundary or otherwise stated.

Road clearance - minimum headroom of 5.2m (17') and a minimum sideways clearance of 500mm (1' 8") In both cases, all vegetation should be cut back vertically. See the diagrams below for further clarification.

