TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

8th February 2024

Dear Councillor,

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of the Recreation Committee, on **Thursday, 15th February 2024** at 7.30pm. This meeting will be held at the Pavilion, Hunter Park.

Yours sincerely,

Jamie Matthews
Clerk to the Council

Meeting of the Recreation Committee

15th February 2024

AGENDA

Members of the public and press are invited to attend except for the specific items marked confidential on the agenda. The press and public may not speak when the Council is in session, but they can make points or ask questions in the allocated time during the questions from members of the public item on the agenda. Please contact the Clerk to the Council before 12 noon on the day of the meeting if you wish to register to speak.

1	**Chairman's Announcements**
2	**To receive and approve** apologies for absence.
3	**To consider** the granting of a dispensation under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to enable members to participate in and vote on an item of business on the agenda where they would otherwise have a disclosable pecuniary interest and to confirm how long this dispensation may have effect.
4	**To receive and record** Declarations of Interest. Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in an item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, members may not participate in any discussion, of or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. Councillors must withdraw from the room when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.
5	**To approve** as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on 15th November 2023.
6	**Public Representation –** Councillors to receive representation, including on agenda items, from members of the public provided they have given de notice of their intention to the Clerk no later than 12 noon of the day of the meeting. The maximum time limit allowed per person is 3 minutes and the maximum time designated for this agenda item is 15 minutes. Questions shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
7	**To receive** the Assistant Clerk's report

8	**To receive** the Maintenance list together with an update of completed jobs since the last meeting of the Recreation Committee.
9	**To receive and consider** a proposal regarding a “coffee pod” at Hunter Park.
10	**To receive** a written proposal from Twyford Cricket Club in relation to cricket at Hunter Park.
11	**To receive and consider** an update from Cllr Hoad on proposed new cricket nets, including a summary of ECB loan options available.
12	**To receive and consider** a report on existing cricket net maintenance.
13	**To receive and consider** a report on the provision of cycle racks at Hunter Park
14	**To receive** a report on the temporary toilet at Hunter Park
15	**To receive and consider** a report on the donation of a silver birch tree and its location within Hunter Park
16	**To receive** a verbal update on the 60 year celebrations event on 28th April 2024 at Hunter Park
17	**To receive and consider** a report on a proposed lease for the Hunter Park tennis courts.
18	**To receive** the Tree Surveyor’s reports for Hunter Park and Northfields
19	**To receive and consider** a report on the legionella implications at Hunter Park Allotments
20	**To consider** items for future meetings

Item 7

Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee 15th February 2024

Assistant Clerk's Report

Councillors are reminded that the items within this report are provided for information only and not available for debate. If it is considered that an item listed within the report should be debated fully by members, then it will be placed on the next appropriate committee or council agenda. Any member wanting clarification or further information on any aspect of items within the report please contact either of us in advance of the meeting.

General updates

1) Allotments.
    - One plot saw a change of tenancies at the end of November.
    - Plot 19 released a small 40sqm area, now known as Plot 18 for which a new tenant commenced at the end of December.
    - A Sunday in March will be allocated to tenants to hold a bonfire on the communal area. They hope that by holding a bonfire on a weekend will result in more volunteers coming forward. The date will avoid any sporting events at Hunter Park.
    - The Spring meeting for allotment users will be organised for April
    - An email was sent to residents on the waiting list to provide an update and to ascertain continued interest. The waiting list now has 15 residents, the longest waiting since June 2021.
    - One plot is recommended to terminate the tenancy due to continued breaches of the tenancy agreement. As with previous cases this matter will be considered by full council.

2) Hunter Park:
    - An additional bin was installed on the northern boundary between the allotments and the tennis courts at the location agreed by the Recreation Committee.
    - The new temporary car park sign was installed at the entrance to the park; however, it was removed 10 days later by unknown person(s). A replacement was installed by the Caretaker two weeks later.
    - The parking sign for disabled users was installed and it appears to be well utilised and respected.

- The disabled access toilet was removed at the request of the Recreation Committee at the end of the year and reinstated in February. Reported elsewhere on the agenda.
- Football: On 21st January the pitch was damaged due to fluctuating weather conditions (starting frozen and thawing out during play). The goals, when returned after a match, left deep grooves in the ground. Grounds maintenance could only take place once the ground had dried out, resulting in the following weekend's matches being cancelled. The £50 deposit was retained to contribute towards loss of income and additional maintenance.

3) Hunter Park Car Park:
   - On Wednesday 31st January 2024 it was noted a group of 16+ cars parked in the car park. The Clerk spoke to the group who said they were a rambling group from Waltham who have used the car park in the past. An email was later received apologising for the situation and that they would ask in the future.

4) Pavilion:
    - 6 emergency lights were replaced by the Caretaker.
    - CCTV cameras were installed during January, as agreed by the Recreation Committee at a meeting in October 2022 (R35/22).
    - During freezing weather conditions in January, the urinals flooded. The Caretaker has advised that 3 bottle traps and a new cistermiser is needed; a plumber will carry out the work.

5) Trees

    - A Visual Tree Assessment was carried out at the beginning of January, reported elsewhere on the agenda.
    - Hampshire Heartwood will be carrying out some tree works to the trees to the front and side of the Pavilion, car park edges and driveway, car park boundary with allotments, apple tree in allotment and tree in hedge between Park Lane and the allotments. They will also be carrying out some work to remove a tree from the field south of Hunter Park, 3 small-ish trees to be felled, also some ivy and deadwood work. Some of this work will take place during February.

6) Play areas

    Elite Playground Inspections have been instructed to carry out some minor maintenance work at both Hunter Park and Northfields at a cost of £845. Work scheduled to take place March/April 2024 and includes:

    - Hunter Park:
        - Remove excess chain links, replace shackles and bushes on 2 swings
        - Replace missing cap on cradle swing, relocate chain on swing seat termination point
    - Northfields:
        - Replace worn fitting to both springers - involves removing and replacing rubber mulch
        - Secure loose fixing on pedestrian gate

    The annual play area inspections for 2024 will take place in March by The Play Inspection Company, a company also used by Winchester City Council. This will also include an estimated life expectancy assessment.

Sue Nias, Assistant Clerk &
Jamie Matthews, Parish Clerk
7th February 2024

Item 8

Twyford Parish Council

Maintenance List

Outstanding maintenance list 8th February 2024.

JOB NO	LOCATION	DATE OF ISSUE	ISSUE/JOB	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	DATE SCHEDULED
1	Pavilion	17.05.2021	Legionella temperature and fire equipment checks	Caretaker	ONGOING monthly checks	ONGOING – once a month 6th March 2024
2	Pavilion	23.12.2021	Inside lights	Caretaker	Could we have either a main switch which would switch all lights off, or possibly a motion sensor to be installed? Lights often left on by hirers	
3	Pavilion	09.11.2022	Cladding	Caretaker	Replacement cladding	
4	Hunter Park	08.02.2023	Jubilee plaque	Caretaker	Reinstall Jubilee plaque in wildflower area	
5	Pavilion	16.02.2023	Remote lock	Caretaker/Clerk	Install new remote lock to Pavilion	
7	Hunter Park	19.04.2023	Old Pavilion electric	Caretaker	Install board to neaten electrics	
8	Hunter Park	04.05.2023	Signage on footpath/ handrail area	Caretaker	Installation of steep slope sign (when we have it)	21st February 2024 (if arrived)
9	Hunter Park play area	04.05.2023	Fencing	Caretaker	Repair/replace rotten timber where needed	
10	Hunter Park car park	24.05.2023	Manhole cover in car park	Caretaker	Requires surrounding surface to be levelled to manhole cover	
11	Hunter Park Allotments	30.08.2023	Wobbly dog bag dispenser	Caretaker	The dog bag dispenser has become wobbly and needs firming up.	
13	Northfields	05.12.2023	Climbing frame	Caretaker	The replacement timber slat needs the edges chamfering the same as the other slats.	
14	Pavilion	03.01.2024	Heat alarm	Caretaker	Install heat alarm in kitchen	
15	Pavilion	03.01.2024	Moss on roof	Caretaker	Brush moss off roof; wait till tree has been pruned	21st February 2024
17	Pavilion	19.01.2024	Leak in gents	Plumber	Repair work on urinals	
19	Hunter Park play area	25.01.2024	Top up sandpit		Top up sandpit before Easter holidays	
20	Hunter Park allotments	25.01.2024	Install sign	Caretaker	Replace removed sign re dogs	21st February 2024 (if arrived)
	Pavilion	08.02.2024	Rear door handleplate loose	Caretaker	Refix read door handleplate (loose)	21st February 2024

Completed jobs since last meeting:

Northfields: Plank on activity frame replaced

Hunter Park: Car park signage installed (twice due to unauthorised removal of first sign)
Cordoned off area at top of steps by allotment as muddy/slippery
Disabled parking signage installed
Rubber mats installed top of steps by beech hedge
New bin installed between allotments and tennis courts
Cricket nets lifted and tied up
Replace pegs in rubber matting at steps by allotments

Pavilion: Gutters cleaned
6 emergency lights replaced
CCTV installation work
Investigate work needed to urinals

Other: Packaging for SLR despatch

Item 9

Proposal to Twyford Parish Council for a Coffee Cart to be based in Hunter Park:

Proposal submitted by: Ruth O'Connor & Selina Graham-Campbell

Thank-you for taking the time to read this proposal. The aim of this document is to give you an understanding of our desire to bring a permanently-based coffee cart to Hunter Park. Firstly, a brief background on both of us! We are great friends who met by chance outside the Twyford village shop back in 2010 when our buggies and dog leads became entangled! We had similarly aged children and we went on to spend many hours in Hunter Park over the years, meeting for walks, picnics and playdates. We recall saying back then how amazing it would have been to have a little café in the park! We share a passion for coffee and over the years have regularly met in many local cafes, so this business idea feels like a great fit for us both and allows us the flexibility to still be present for our children. It also allows us to feel we are providing something really positive to the community in terms of offering nice products and also a social hub for many.

Late last year, the coffee cart (The Willow Tree) in Colden Common became available to be taken over and it sparked immediate interest in us both. We loved the idea of running a cart together, but for us, it made more sense to think about doing it a bit closer to home in the park we both love and have spent so much time in over the years. We approached the owner of the cart, however someone else was quicker than us! We didn't let that deter us and decided we really wanted to pursue this idea anyway. The Colden Common cart has been bought and remains operating in the same location, which is a great result for the community there.

We have spoken to many Twyford locals, who absolutely love the idea of being able to pick-up a drink and a pastry on their daily walks in Hunter Park. We chatted to the previous owner of the Colden Common cart and learnt about how it had become a really popular destination for locals within their community. It seemed that since the emergence of Covid, so many people were really appreciative of a friendly face, a little chat and a nice hot drink being available to them in their local park. The previous owner, Kate, also mentioned she had to really convince the Colden Common Parish Council initially that her idea was a good one, however once convinced, they came to love it and had even subsequently offered her space in the pavilion to expand. She told us she was able to work out an arrangement with them to use their electricity via an external cable and also their water supply. We are hoping to be able to come to some arrangement with Twyford Parish Council to access both water and electricity, perhaps via a meter to monitor and track our usage, so we can pay for all we use.

Image 1: The former owner, Kate, of 'The Willow Tree' in Colden Common with her coffee cart.

The type of coffee cart we would like to purchase, would be similar to the one in Colden Common and Flat Whites in Winchester (see Images 1 &2). It would need to be parked permanently in the carpark, as it would not be easily moved to either of our homes on a daily basis due to parking and access constraints. The coffee cart in Colden Common remains permanently in-situ in the carpark there. There is another well-known cart in Winchester named 'Flat Whites' (Image 2) which is positioned permanently on Market Street close to the cathedral. We have spoken to them and they have an arrangement with the council and get power via an external plug to a nearby building and pay via a metre. Their business is highly valued in the community and they say they have a lot of regulars who pass by often.

Image 2: ‘Flat Whites’ Coffee Cart in Winchester.

We really hope you all like the idea as much as we do, as we would love to have Twyford Parish Council on-board and excited about the idea also. If we gain your support, we plan to work cohesively with you to make sure that the impact of having our van in the carpark is minimal to the surrounding environment and that it blends in as much as possible. We plan to use sustainable products, to recycle and be very careful to keep our surrounding environment clean and tidy at all times.

In summary, our objectives are as follows:

1. Executive Summary: Our new coffee cart business aims to take up permanent residency in Hunter Park, close to the pavilion in a position that would be mutually agreed as best. We would love to share our love of coffee, pastries and other treats with all the locals who utilise Hunter Park. It would be great to work alongside the parish council and to consider the requests of park users to work out best opening hours and also to service the various sporting events that take place at different times throughout the year.

2. Business Description: We will run a coffee cart selling specialty coffee and plan to use ethically sourced products and coffee beans. We would also like to offer a small but

high-quality selection of pastries and possibly fresh breads. Perhaps even some dog treats would go down well! We plan to minimise our environmental impact and focus on sustainability. We hope to discuss location for the cart and find a location that is deemed most practical and suitable for use. We hope to come to an arrangement with you in relation to electricity supply and water supply. We would cover costs for any required set-up costs, for example, getting an electrician to fit an external plug for use.

3. Market Analysis: We are aware that there are various cafes and restaurants in the area, however, we believe this would service a different market. A coffee and pastry on a walk is a different experience than sitting in a café or restaurant. We believe there is room for this business, without detracting from the other brilliant options that are available locally. We envision some seasonal product diversification, like ice-cream in the warmer months. We believe this would be a lovely option to local families that spend time in the park and playground. Having seen the success of the cart in Colden Common and from surveying local friends, we believe there is a definite gap in the market.

4. Product Line: We would love to offer a range of high-quality coffee options and also some specialty teas. We also believe you can't beat an amazing pastry to complement your coffee! Fresh bread could also be an option we could test! We could then offer further products, like cold drinks, ice-cream etc. and could also seek opinions from local clientele in relation to what they would like to see on offer.

For us this is a real passion project and not something that we expect to make a huge income from. We strongly believe that this would be a positive addition to Twyford and would enrich the park experience for many. We believe in community spirit and know there is plenty of it in Twyford!

Many thanks for taking the time to read and consider our proposal and we look forward to your questions and feedback.

Kind regards,

Ruth & Selina

Item 10

Twyford Cricket Club Proposal to Twyford Parish Council

February 2024

Executive Summary:

The cricket club has been a stalwart of village life in Twyford since 1892, and since the creation of Hunter Park in 1963 cricket has formed a core part of the park. We share the same aims and objectives of Twyford Parish Council, namely the enhancement of the lives of those living in the Parish, and the desire to provide services and facilities that foster a sense of community and pride within the village.

The club has had significant success recently with increasing participation from the village in cricket and wishes to ensure that cricket at Hunter Park not only meets the long term needs of those involved with the club, but of course meets the needs of the Parish Council and the wider village community that it represents.

However, it is clear that the club and Parish Council have some financial challenges to overcome if the cricket club is to continue to be successful in its role in the village. Firstly, the net facilities, essential for the training and development of all our teams from junior to seniors, are beyond the end of their life and need to be replaced to provide a safe training facility. Secondly, we understand the financial pressures of producing cricket pitches under the current arrangements, but there are alternatives which would avoid placing such a financial strain on the club and ultimately the members and families in the village.

Through this initial proposal and subsequent conversations, it is hoped the club can more deeply understand the views of the Parish Council and how we can work together to overcome the challenges we both face for the benefit of the village.

Introduction to Twyford Cricket Club

The club is thriving with 150 members. The club fields 2 adult men's teams, a ladies team with a squad of 25 regular players, and has around 120 junior players. All teams play home matches at Hunter Park and take great pride in the beautiful pitch and park, which always receives compliments from our visiting opposition teams. Unlike some clubs, we are first and foremost a social club who value playing in the right way above all else.

In addition to matches on Saturdays, Sundays and midweek evenings, in the spring and summer the men's and ladies teams train on a Thursday evening and all the juniors train on a Friday evening.

Our aims are to:

1. *Promote cricket in the village and develop a thriving juniors / "colts" section.* We have significantly increased the number of junior players over the last few years, and now have over 100 attending with their families on Friday nights at Hunter Park. The boys and girls in the junior section start at age 4 in the ECB All Stars programme and then progress into under 9s, under 11s, under 13s and this year for the first time in some years we will be playing an under 15 team. The club has 9 qualified volunteer

coaches from within the club and supplements this with professional coaches for the juniors and ladies.

2. *Be an inclusive club and in particular grow ladies and girls participation in cricket.* We established our ladies "W10" team in 2017 and they have gone from strength to strength, in 2023 becoming indoor winter county champions and semi-finalists in the Hampshire summer competition. For 2024, we are also starting a dedicated girls team in our junior section using the ECB's Dynamos programme to boost our retention of girls in cricket following the success of our All Stars programme.

3. *Encourage greater involvement in the senior game and foster a community feeling.* We have established a second Saturday XI in 2019, giving a great opportunity for our younger players to develop into senior cricket and ensuring cricket is at the park every Saturday. Our first XI secured promotion to Hampshire Cricket League County Division 2 for 2024, an amazing 3 promotions in 4 years. We also won the midweek Tichborne Trophy for the first time, beating some established bigger clubs in doing so. As a result, we are seeing more spectators enjoying our games, including an U11 Final in 2022 with over 150 people at the Park.

Proposal

The aim of these proposals is to stimulate debate to ensure a mutually beneficial approach, as such this is the first iteration and feedback and input would be greatly welcomed and appreciated in order to achieve the best outcome.

Current Situation

Net facilities

- Parish Council own and maintain the nets and are responsible for the safety of the facilities.
- The nets are past the end of their life and are not going to remain safe for much longer.
- Whilst we know the Parish Council has been considering options to replace them, the nets are essential to cricket training (for all teams) and if this issue is not resolved promptly the nets will be unusable causing a significant impact to the club and other users of the park.

Use of the Ground

- The Cricket Club books and rents the ground and pavilion from the Parish Council for matches and training.
- Other cricket clubs can also book and pay to use the ground via the Parish Council. For example, the Hampshire seniors team choose to play home matches at Hunter Park.
- Rent for Hunter Park obviously represents the club's largest outgoing.

Maintenance

- Maintenance for the cricket pitch is the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- This is contracted to Shorelands.
- Shorelands lease equipment owned by Twyford CC (mower, roller etc).
- Shorelands subcontract maintenance and materials to two ground staff, both from Twyford CC.
- Pitch Covers and sightscreens are owned, maintained and insured by the Parish Council.

Implications in maintaining the current approach

- Cost of preparing and maintaining the ground is higher than it needs to be, something which the Parish Council is trying to address in the recently proposed rental increases. Although this increase will go some way to addressing the balance and moving towards cost neutrality, it does not get to the

underlying issue of an inefficient model. It also puts all the onus on the club to remodel its entire pricing structure across all teams to ensure sustainability.

- Neither the Parish Council or Twyford CC are able to secure the funding desperately needed to replace the old cricket nets. Something which is vital to attract and retain players and provide an appropriate environment for new players to learn skills needed to play safely, something especially important for younger players.
- The Cricket Club is unable to assist in achieving grant funding for the Park as it is deemed ineligible by grant bodies due to the precarious position as long term 'renters'.

Proposed Solutions

The club committee understands the financial challenges of maintaining the park and would like to offer the following proposals that it believes would contribute to rental income exceeding expenditure with an identical level of ground maintenance and therefore move towards price neutrality. It would also allow for a funding solution for new cricket nets.

We have thought of two potential solutions but acknowledge there will be several other options or variations that the Parish Council may have in mind. We would be open to any other suggestions and simply wish to enter into a proper dialogue about how a mutually beneficial outcome can be reached.

	Option 1: TCC responsible for the running, maintenance and booking of the cricket square and nets	**Option 2: TCC set up a company to contract to the PC in return for a long term rental agreement / lease**
Overview	● Twyford CC take up a leaseholder agreement for the ground, pavilion during games and storage facilities. ● Lease length to be agreed but ideally 10 years, but could include a break clause of some kind to ensure the Parish Council maintains control if the situation changes in the future. ● Maintenance of the ground which would be undertaken by Twyford CC members without the need for Shorelands or any other external company, on a volunteer basis, reducing costs. ● Cricket club handles bookings for games, as well as other cricket clubs, and retains the fees for rental. ● Similar to the Tennis Club arrangement as well as other local cricket clubs, including Colden Common.	● Ground maintenance contract is transferred to Twyford CC who will set up a new company to service this contract for a period of time (ideally 10 years). ● In return, Twyford CC would hold a rental licence for the same period covering the typical use of the park by the Club. ● There would be guaranteed hire increases as agreed, 5% for example.
Nets	● Cricket Club would be able to apply for grant funding which could break the impasse between the funding available today and the cost of replacement.	● Grants would not be available, and therefore Twyford CC would still be unable to secure funding for cricket nets themselves. ● The Parish Council would need to agree a solution to provide safe

	● Would require the PC to agree to the location of new nets, which cannot remain in the same place for grant funding due to east/west orientation.	cricket nets. This could be achieved, for example, through an interest free loan from the ECB for replacement cricket nets, using the proceeds of this new contract.
Cost of cricket	● A more efficient maintenance structure leads to decreased costs. Based on costs from the last 5 years the savings on running to the Parish Council is believed to be circa £50k over a 10 year period. The desire here is to move cricket being a cost neutral activity for the Parish Council. ● The long term viability of Twyford CC is maintained.	● A more efficient maintenance structure leads to decreased costs, with the same benefits as Option 1. ● Twyford CC is better able to prepare longer term financial plans with greater certainty of cost.
Benefits to the Parish Council	● No longer holding the risk of recovering costs, with the efficiency saving of £50k over 10 years (based on the last 5 years). ● Can retain elements of control through lease terms and conditions.	● Retain control over non Twyford CC bookings. ● Reduced cost through a more efficient operating model and volunteer efforts from the Club. ● Guaranteed rental incomes and increases for the term of agreement.

We very much look forward to discussing these thoughts with you and working towards a solution together. If you have any questions, please contact the authors, contact details of which are in the covering email.

Twyford Cricket Club

February 2024

Item 12

Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee 15th February 2024

Cricket net maintenance

Recommendation:

That the committee approve the same maintenance regime used in 2023, as set out below, for the 2024 season.

Background

At a meeting of the Recreation Committee on 2nd March 2023, it was resolved to carry out routine periodic maintenance of the cricket nets using the existing grounds contractors. Following that meeting and after receiving quotes, the Clerk sent an email on 3rd March 2023 to the committee which set out the detailed items that had been agreed with the contractors. The maintenance items set out in the email were:

To be carried out by Greensmile:

Quantity	Item	Cost
6	Cut grass inside net enclosure monthly beginning April until September inclusive	Cost included in general grounds maintenance
1	Treat and remove moss and weeds from net surface 1st week April. Cut back grass encroachment to artificial surface	

To be carried out by Shoreland:

Quantity	Item	Unit cost	Total cost
1	Repair netting holes (with new netting and ties), peg netting to ground (40 tent pegs) and secure netting to posts with ties. To be carried out first week April.	£40.00	£40.00
1	Roll artificial surface once during first week April	£10.00	£10.00
1	Paint crease lines for all ages. U11, U13, Seniors	£20.00	£20.00
6	Monthly inspection, make minor repairs and report larger defects	£10.00	£60.00
	TOTAL COST FOR 2023		**£130.00**

Periodic photographs taken through the course of the year do not indicate there has been any significant movement, beyond what already exists, in the caged frame as shown in these example photographs:

Figure 1: Photograph taken 22nd May 2023

Figure 2: Photograph taken 19th January 2024

Sue Nias, Assistant Clerk &
Jamie Matthews, Parish Clerk
Assistant Clerk
7th February 2024

Item 13

Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee 15th February 2024

Hunter Park – Provision of Cycle Racks

Recommendation:

Officers have provided three options for the supply of a Sheffield cycle rack. Because of the relatively low cost of the equipment there is no requirement under Financial Regulations to obtain three quotes. The 3 quotations are for almost identical equipment, with only minor differences in technical specification and country of manufacturer. The Council has no procurement policies in place which would favour any of these differences.

Therefore, the Committee is recommended to select from one of the 3 cycle rack options listed below:

Option A: £332.00
Option B: £132.50
Option C: £246.99

Once a supplier is chosen, the equipment will be installed in a concrete base on the grass area between the temporary toilet and the noticeboard at Hunter Park.

Background

At the September meeting of the Recreation Committee, at R32/23, a report was received with 3 options of cycle racks for consideration. After debate, the committee resolved:

- To purchase a 6 Place Toast Rack and install it on the grass between the temporary toilet and the noticeboard.
- That Cllr Hoad would investigate a more cost-effective supplier and would pass the information to the Assistant Clerk

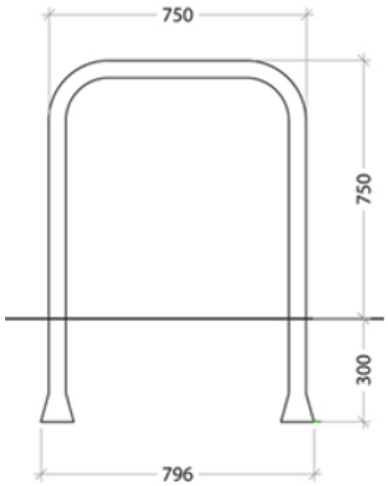
Cllr Hoad subsequently forwarded a quote for a Sheffield stand as well as a toast rack and requested that the committee revisit the decision to purchase a toast rack, suggesting that a Sheffield stand provides increased security.

The Clerk drew this information to member's attention and advised that information on technical design and costs would be brought to a future meeting of the committee for consideration.

Options for consideration

Below are 3 options of Sheffield bike stand, all options would be installed by the Caretaker into a concrete base between the temporary toilet and the noticeboard. In line with the decision made at September's meeting to provide 6 spaces, 3 hoops would be purchased.

Option A:

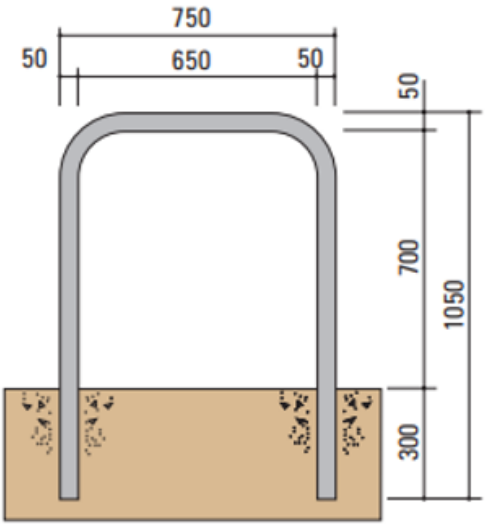


Galvanised	£45
Stainless steel	£100
Black nylon powder coated	£79
Delivery charge	£95
Tube diameter	48mm x 3mm galvanised steel 50mm x 2mm stainless steel

Manufactured in UK
Supplier to Local Authorities
2 year warranty

Total cost option A 3 hoops black nylon powder coated incl delivery: £332

Option B:

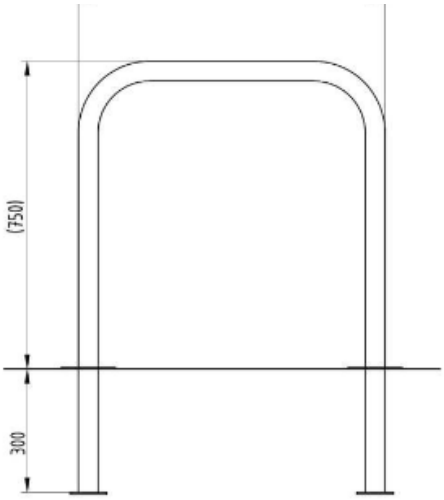


Armotec coated in anthracite grey	£40
Delivery charge	£12.50
Tube diameter	50mm x 2.5mm

Manufactured in Vietnam
Supplier to Local Authorities
1 year warranty

Total cost option B 3 hoops incl delivery: £132.50

Option C:



Galvanised	£59.91
Galvanised & Black	£82.33
Galvanised & colour of choice	£82.33 (see below for colours)
Stainless steel	£117.26
Delivery charge	£0.00
Tube diameter	48mm x 3mm galvanised 48mm x 2.5mm stainless steel

Manufactured in UK
Supplier to Local Authorities, BBC, Kew Gardens
Donors to Prince's Trust Enterprise
1 year warrantee

Total cost option C for 3 hoops with coating (black or other colour) incl delivery: £246.99

Sue Nias
Assistant Clerk
7th February 2024

Item 14

Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee 15th February 2024

Provision of temporary toilet at Hunter Park

Background

At the September meeting of the Recreation Committee, it was resolved to:

- Keep the toilet in place until the end of the year
- Investigate alternative suppliers to ensure cost effectiveness
- Reinstate the toilet from February 2024

A sign was displayed on the fenced screen advising park users that the toilet would return in February.

Quotes received

Supplier A:	£26.95 per week plus £20 delivery and £20 collection
Supplier B:	Only have one disabled access toilet which is not available for long term hire
Supplier C:	£50 per week
Supplier D:	Outside of coverage area
Supplier E:	£39 per week + VAT and transport (£289 First 4 weeks including VAT and transport)

In Summary

Supplier A (current supplier) is, therefore, the most cost effective, charges are:

Disabled access toilet	£26.95 per week
Delivery	£20.00
Collection	£20.00

The disabled access toilet was reinstated early February in time for the school half-term break.

Sue Nias
Assistant Clerk
24th January 2024

Item 15

Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee 15th February 2024

Silver Birch Tree

Recommendation

That the committee agree a location at Hunter Park for the planting of one Silver Birch tree.

Background

A resident has kindly offered a Silver Birch tree (Jacquemontii Snow Queen), which was surplus to their requirements, and have suggested that it could be planted at Hunter Park. The Hunter Park Masterplan does include the planting of additional trees in the part, so in principle, this would be acceptable.

Sue Nias
Assistant Clerk
8th February 2024

Item 17

Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee 15th February 2024

Tennis Courts

Recommendation

Committee approves the creation of a full repairing lease between the Council and Hunter Park Tennis Court Association, with a suitable licence for access and use of car park. Officers will instruct solicitors to create the lease. The lease shall contain appropriate conditions which enable public access to the tennis courts and limitations on the time-of-day use of the courts.

The lease would be subject to approval by Full Council.

Background

Hunter Park Tennis Court Association (HPTCA) was created in 1990 with the aim of raising funds to enable to creation of two tennis courts in Hunter Park on land previously used for golf pitch and putt. HPTCA manage the facilities on a day to day basis, including cleaning of the surfaces, with the fixtures belonging to the Parish Council.

HPTCA have also arranged for repairs to the court fencing and more recently in 2018, renewal of court surfaces. For large capital expenditure items this work would have been arranged and paid for by the Parish Council with HPTCA gifting the monies to the Parish Council. However, in the absence of any written agreement between the Parish Council and HPTCA, it was not clear whether this process now complies with HMRC rules in respect of VAT. As a result of the 2018 work the HPTCA were required to pay VAT on the work.

As an alternative to being a member of HPTCA, the courts are available to the general public through a pay and play option. Bookings are made online and can be made upto 1 week in advance.

The HPTCA and Parish Council cannot locate any written agreement, such as a licence or lease, that may exist which sets out how these arrangements, which it is accpeted have worked satisfcaorily for over 30 years, work for both parties.

In July 2013 the Recreation Committee agreed to the investigation of suitable licences or leases, however this work was not taken forward due to a change in the Clerk.

In 2011 the Council asked the HPTCA to make an annual contribution towards the general maintenance of Hunter Park. From April 2012 this amount has been set at £100. More recent records indicate that VAT has been added to sum and at various points the invoices refer to ‘rent’ or use of ‘tennis courts’.

The HPTCA have indicated their willingness to be a tenant with a full repairing lease.

Item 19

Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee 15th February 2024

Hunter Park Allotments – Legionella Concerns

Recommendation:

That Committee approve the removal of the two water butts on the allotment site for reasons as set out in the report.

Background

At the November meeting of the Recreation Committee, it was resolved that an investigation into the potential risks of legionella associated with water butts at the allotments would be conducted by the Assistant Clerk. There are currently two council owned water butts at the allotments which are fed by a mains water tap.

The provision of water butts poses a potential risk of legionella contamination. Legionnaires' disease can be contracted from stagnant water or water droplets, particularly in warm conditions. Given that water butts store stagnant water, the risk arises when the water becomes airborne, such as using a hose or a watering can. Recent studies indicate that 95% of water butts in the UK might be contaminated with Legionella bacteria, the pathogen responsible for Legionnaires' disease.

Scientists working on behalf of Public Health England operating at the Porton Down facility, conducted investigations by sampling 113 water butts to ascertain the presence of Legionella bacteria. Only 6 water butts were found to be devoid of the bacteria.

Continued use of water butts

To avoid legionnaire bacteria, it is recommended to keep water cold (below 20℃) or hot (above 60℃). Therefore, all water stored in water butts is a potential risk and appropriate precautions should be taken. Storing water for prolonged periods allows time for bacteria to multiply, and activities that lead to the diseases becoming airborne.

The water butts are a potential health risk that needs to be managed. There are two main options available to the council:

1) Quarterly draining of water butts and a thorough clean once a year involving the use of a suitable disinfectant. For the annual clean the water butts would need to be removed from the plot so that the disinfectant water can be disposed of in an appropriate drain. This cost is estimated at £150 per year.
2) Removal of water butts which removes the risk almost entirely.

Sue Nias
Assistant Clerk
7th February 2024

ITEM 18
TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL
RECREATION COMMITTEE
15TH FEBRUARY 2024

Arbor-Eco Consultancy

VISUAL TREE ASSESSMENT REPORT
(VTA)

At:

HUNTER PARK,
TWYFORD, HAMPSHIRE

For:

TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

This report was compiled by
Marco Bartolini
Arboricultural Consultant TechArborA (TE02501), PTI, FdScWM, Dip Mgmt

Arboricultural ASSOCIATION Technician Member

This report is the responsibility of Arbor-Eco Consultancy
It should be noted that whilst every effort is made to meet the client's brief,
no site investigation can ensure complete assessment
or prediction of the natural environment.

Report Number: MB231022-02

January 2024

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Brief

Arbor-Eco Consultancy was commissioned by Clerk to Twyford Parish Council (the Client), to undertake a ground level Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) and assess the health and safety of trees growing on land, as directed, at Hunter Park, within the administrative boundary of Winchester City Council in the county of Hampshire.

The purpose of the report was primarily to determine the condition and health and safety of all trees that were the responsibility of Twyford Parish Council to maintain. The survey produced a Negative Survey Report to further inform management recommendations.

The location of the trees identified by the client for inspection can be found on Arbor-Eco Consultancy survey drawing MB231022-02-01 in Section 8.

1.2 Site Description

The survey area, comprised of amenity grassland, cricket pitch, children's play area, football pitches and tennis courts. The trees were situated mainly towards the periphery of the site, with a few scattered trees internally within the generally rectangular shaped parcel of land. The site provided a good recreational activity for the local community. There was a strip of woodland that abutted the southern and western boundaries that provided good visual separation between neighbouring land.

Twyford is a village and civil parish in the Hampshire. Twyford village is located approximately 5 km south from the city of Winchester. The B3335 road runs north-south through the village, linking with Junction 11 of the M3 Motorway to the north and the neighbouring village of Colden Common to the south.

The site was bound to the north by the village allotments and properties off Park Lane, minor road. The eastern and southern boundaries were delineated by pastural fields. The western boundary was demarcated by the properties off B3555, major road.

The survey area is centred at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SU 48291 24227. The topography of the site is such that the ground was generally flat with a number of terraced sections that supported various sports activities.

1.3 Limitations and Constraints

The action of pedestrian traffic walking over the roots of trees and compacting the ground may have a longer-term impact as the roots require oxygen, nutrients and water to survive. The air pockets are squeezed out of the soil and this will encourage water run-off in favour of soaking the water. Planting additional trees, aerating the soil, adding mulch rings around the trees will all combat the effects of extreme weather events.

The unpredictability of the trees reactions to these vectors is becoming increasingly apparent. Drought can cause reactions in a tree that include branch drop or early wilt or even sudden death.

Trees growing with ivy on the stem and in the crown made the survey very difficult or impossible in parts. This led to a number of surveys of trees being carried out at a distance using binoculars where possible. It must be remembered that due to the difficulty in visibly seeing all of the tree means that some defects may have been obscured.

2. ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY

2.1 Methodology

A tree survey conducted by a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant will ensure that there will be an accountable process, available for scrutiny that would satisfy the courts that reasonable and practicable measures have been taken to reduce the risk of injury to person or property.

To determine the status of the trees within the site a full ground level visual tree assessment survey has been undertaken, assessing the species and status of the trees as directed by the client. This survey has been carried out in accordance with the guidance from the National Tree Safety Group – Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (2011).

Each tree was visually assessed whereby any tree identified with a defect requiring remedial work was placed within a schedule listing tree number, species, stem diameter at 1.5 m above ground level, tree height, crown spread (within a radius range), and age class. Any specific observations or recommendations with regard to management were also noted. All these observations and measurements are summarised in Table 4.1.

Each tree requiring remedial works was given a unique number (stamped on a corrosive resistant metal disc and nailed to the stem) and cross-referenced within the report. Where a cluster of trees have been recorded or it is particularly difficult to see a metal disc (due to ivy for example) then no tag has been applied but the work required is obvious; a dead tree for example. An example of the tree tag applied is shown at Plate 1.

Plate 1: Tree identification disc.

The emphasis of the report is predominantly that of tree management and preliminary recommendations for tree works as a result of a health and safety inspection. It identifies naturally occurring defects within the tree due to inhibited growth or naturally related vectors that have caused what would otherwise be a tree of good form and vitality as guided by current best practice.

The inspection was carried out with use of binoculars where necessary. No climbing inspection was conducted. No analysis of soil samples was undertaken and the condition of trees' root system was only investigated by way of a surface visual inspection, light excavation around the buttress and assessment of the trees' overall vitality. In addition, acoustic resonance impact testing utilising a Thor 710 nylon hammer was used, in conjunction with a metal probe, to determine the presence, depth and extent of decay found at the surface of the bark.

2.2 Weather Conditions

The survey was completed on the 3rd & 4th January 2024 by Marco Bartolini, Arboricultural Consultant. The average weather conditions at the time of the survey are shown in Table 2.1.

Conditions	Average Results
Temperature (C)	11
Cloud Cover (%)	100
Precipitation (%)	31
Wind Speed (Beaufort)	F5

Table 2.1: Weather Conditions at Time of Survey

2.3 Data Collection

Each tree was inspected from ground level with the use of binoculars where necessary to obtain a clearer view into the canopy of the tree. No other equipment has been used, other than stated, to determine the health and safety of the tree other than knowledge, experience and training. The data for each tree was collected on an electronic device that also registered the tree position using 12 GPS signals and this was entered on the hand-held device.

2.3.1 The tree stem circumference was measured at 1.5 m above ground level. If the stem had separated into two or more stems below 1.5 m above ground level, then the stem was measured either at ground level or at the branch break flare.

2.3.2 Crown spread was measured across the complete face of the crown and divided by two to provide an estimated radius.

2.3.3 Works required to be carried out are weighted in monthly timescales.

2.3.4 Trees are 'aged' through periods of their anticipated life subject to location, soil structure and other external influences compared to that of an open grown tree in ideal conditions for that species;

Young = tree within first third of average life expectancy;
Early or Semi-Mature = tree within second third of average life expectancy;
Mature = tree within final third of average life expectancy;
Over mature = tree beyond average life expectancy;
Veteran status (in decline and a historically or culturally valuable tree).
Dead.

2.4 Risk Zones

The Location of a tree should be categorised as High (Red), Medium (Orange), Low (Green) and be dependent on the accessibility to the general public and on-site frequency of use. If client has not provided risk zones maps specific to each site, then categorisation is based solely on the Arboriculturist/Surveyor's discretion from observations gained during the site visit only.

Guidelines for this subject come from Common Sense Risk Management of Trees - National Tree Safety Group (NTSG).

Due consideration will be given to the principles set out below:

- Public impact - Numbers of public using site
- Site usage - Location of roads, footpaths, buildings
- Business Risk - Risk of damage to property

Risk Zone/Hazard Class	**Work Priority**	**Time Limits (as detailed on survey schedule)**	Details
HIGH Adjacent property including gardens, parks or schools, public roads and footpaths, car parks. Buildings, infrastructure or plant. Any internal access roads or footpaths leading to buildings or infrastructure used on a regular basis	High	Immediate/Urgent Within 1- 3 months Within 3-6 months	Covers trees likely to cause an immediate nuisance, imminent failure, hanging deadwood or major deadwood in a place of high frequency use or a public space. Additionally, infrastructure, public property or a public health is a consideration. Weighted in timescales appropriate for the risk and target.
MEDIUM Open Areas such as tree groups or grassland with limited usage	Medium	Within 6 months Within 12-18 months	Covers trees within target distance of High-Risk Zone likely to cause an inconvenience such as pruning to clear buildings or phone lines. Covers trees within target distance of Medium Risk Zone likely to cause injury or damage.
LOW Woodlands or areas where there is no access and would not require any work	Low	Within 2-7 Years	Covers trees within target distance of High or Med Risk Zones with regard to tree works that are necessary to be programmed to promote the future health and well-being of tree stock, such as re-reductions whereby higher categories aren't necessary.

Table 2.2: Risk Zone Table

Due to the location of the trees to property, footpath, footway, highway, public access and private properties, the following has been considered based on frequency of use for all trees requiring remedial works to be carried out as shown in Section 4;

- Adjacent to public property, public access and access roads; HIGH-RISK zone.
- Internal (dense) sections of woodland, or fields; MEDIUM RISK to LOW-RISK zone.

3. STATUTORY LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

3.1 Protected Trees

Examination of the Winchester Council interactive Planning Mapping System (http://winch.maps.arcgis.com/apps/) accessed on 4th January 2024 indicates, that at the time of the survey, none of the trees surveyed are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order.

Further examination of the Winchester Council interactive Planning Mapping System (http://winch.maps.arcgis.com/apps) accessed on 4th January 2024 indicates, that at the time of the survey, none of the trees are situated within a Conservation Area.

It is noteworthy that the northern and western boundary of Hunter Park abutted Twyford Conservation Area. Therefore, any vegetation overhanging the site that requires remedial work will be required to submit a Section 211 Notice to the Local Authority.

3.2 Legislation

The tree health and safety audit has been carried out with consideration to the following guidelines and current legislation;

- *Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 & 1984*
- *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the associated ACoP (guidance is contained in HSG 65 Successful health and safety management and INDG 163 Five steps to risk assessment)*
- *HSE's "Reducing Risks Protecting People" 2001*
- *National Tree Safety Group - Common sense risk management of trees 2011*
- *The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) (decision –making framework, known as the Tolerability of Risk (ToR) framework)*
- *Section 41(1) of the Highways act 1980, a duty "to maintain the highways"*
- *Section 154 (2) of the Highways Act 1980*
- National Planning Policy Framework*, Trees and Forestry Commission, Crown or local authority land, churchyards, aerodromes and scheduled monuments*, Government Planning Practice Guidance.

3.3 Protected Species

Bats: A bat survey must be performed on the relevant roost potential prior to demolition. If bats are found to be present, a Natural England licence will be required prior to demolition. Bats and the places they use for shelter or protection (i.e., roosts) receive European protection under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended (Habitats Regulations 2017, as amended). They receive further legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981, as amended. This protection means that bats, and the places they use for shelter or protection, are capable of being a material consideration in the planning process. As bats re-use the same roosts (breeding site or resting place) after periods of vacancy, legal opinion is that roosts are protected whether or not bats are present. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a duty on public bodies to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity and maintains lists of species and habitats which are of principal importance for the purposes of conserving biodiversity in England and Wales. A number of bat species are listed on Section 41 (England) and Section 42 (Wales) of the NERC Act 2006.

Nesting Birds: The removal of relevant features must be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (this generally extends between March and August but is weather dependent). If this is not possible the area concerned should be checked immediately prior to removal by a suitably qualified ecologist. Nesting and nest building birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act WCA 1981 (as amended). Some species (listed in Schedule 1 of the WCA) are protected by special penalties.

3.4 Common Law

There are a number of trees overhanging the curtilage of the site and in particular trees growing within third party land. It is the landowner's responsibility to manage the overhanging vegetation unless a safety issue arises.

The following relates to common laws regarding trees only;
Under common law, a person may cut back any branch (or root) from a neighbour's tree that overhangs or encroaches onto their property. In cutting back any overhanging branches (or encroaching roots) the following must be observed:

- The person must not trespass onto the land on which the trees are growing.
- Branches or roots must not be cut back beyond the boundary in anticipation of them overhanging.
- Any branches, fruit or roots that are removed must be carefully returned to the tree owner unless they agree otherwise.
- All work must be carried out carefully. For example, avoid damaging property or carrying out work that would leave the tree unsafe or dangerous to avoid any complaint from the tree owner.
- The person must not alter the height of trees or hedges on neighbouring land. While not required under common law, it would be courteous to notify the tree owner of your intentions to help allay any misunderstanding.
- Common law rights are intended to allow the person to carry out the minimum amount of work.
- If extensive works are carried out and in so doing make the tree unsafe, the tree owner may have a case for criminal damage. The person should be especially careful if pruning roots. Obtain qualified arboricultural advice before carrying out any such work. If the tree owner agrees to works that are in addition to your common law rights, or if they give permission to enter their land to undertake the work, it would be prudent to obtain their written consent. If the trees in question are subject to a tree preservation order or are growing in a conservation area then an application (in the case of tree preservation orders) or 'Notice of Intent' (in the case of trees growing in a conservation area) may be required and the following points will apply.
    - The person intending to submit an application or notice must inform the owner of the land on which the trees are growing that an application or notice is to be made.
    - The granting of consent in the case of a tree preservation order or the raising of no objection in the case of trees in a conservation area means that the tree work applied for is acceptable in arboricultural and planning terms only. It does not give the person submitting the application or notice an automatic legal right to carry out the work. The question of ownership is a civil rather than a planning issue and the landowner's permission must be obtained in addition to any planning approval.

3.5 Occupiers' Liabilities Act 1957 and 1984

An occupier of premises owes the same duty, the "common duty of care", to all his visitors whether by invite or otherwise. The common duty of care is a duty to take such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that the 'visitor' will be reasonably safe in using the premises for the purposes for which he is invited or permitted by the occupier to be there or for purposes other than that which they have been invited (trespassers).

4. TREE STOCK ASSESSMENT

4.1 Tree Condition

All of the trees and been inspected and remedial works recorded in accordance with National Tree Safety Group Guidelines (2011).

4.1.1 It must be noted that many of the trees are subject to compacted rooting areas as the trees were within the boundary of highway verges, play areas, open spaces and adjacent to residential properties. In addition, heavy equipment and machinery would pass across the rooting zones of a number of trees to cut grass, manage trees and maintain the sports pitches and cricket pitch with associated pavilion.

4.1.2 The client is reminded that all trees and vegetation that overhang the highway should be crown-lifted to at least 5.2 m to allow safe passage of high sided vehicles as well as being cut back sufficiently from the edge of the carriageway to allow clearance for wing mirrors.

Trees and vegetation that overhang footways and footpaths should be crown-lifted to at least 2.5 m and cut back to ensure the footpath/way is at least 1.2 m in width. This is to allow safe passage for all footpath/way users including wheelchairs, mobility scooters, etc.

These heights have been selected as an acceptable standard and any vegetation below this may be deemed to be an obstruction. Local Authorities may enforce Section 154 of the Highways Act (1980) which allows them to serve notice upon the owner of the trees/ vegetation informing them that they need to clear any obstructions safely.

4.1.3 Wildlife

The site was well-managed and the peripheral meadow grass had been retained in favour of flailing. With respect to ground nesting birds, pollinators, mammals, snakes and bats, maintaining high grasses and short scrub is beneficial to wildlife. It is recommended that the meadow grass is cut to the edge of the tree canopy (in favour of beneath it). This will discourage people to encroach into the area (perceived threat) and also to encourage the abundance of wildlife to the area. Furthermore, the wildlife benefits of retaining such meadow species is well documented.

Management of the trees has been carried out; however, it is scientifically recorded that deadwood, hollows, cavities, splits (stem and branches) provide habitat that can support hundreds of species of invertebrates, birds, reptiles and mammals. Retaining cut wood in piles of approximately 500 mm tall, and bound with a length of rope to avoid collapse will provide habitat in favour of complete removal. The woodland edge to the south of the site is a location identified to encourage wildlife. The matter of keeping the public out is an additional issue that requires investigation beyond this survey report.

Managing the site with the use of an interpretation board and involving the local community will certainly enhance the site.

4.1.4 Ash Dieback

There is strong evidence of Ash Dieback throughout Twyford village. It is apparent that a number of young Ash trees within the village have been subjected to this pathogen and died already. The Ash trees within the parish boundary require annual monitoring. Latest government guidelines promote the retention of Ash trees where practical to encourage resistance to the disease in young and older trees. It is therefore a decision ultimately by the parish (due to financial constraints) to fell or retain certain trees.

First confirmed in Britain in 2012, Chalara dieback of ash, also known as 'Chalara', ash dieback or Chalara ash dieback, is a disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. Chalara causes leaf loss, crown dieback and bark lesions in affected trees. Once a tree is infected the disease is usually fatal,

either directly, or indirectly by weakening the tree to the point where it succumbs more readily to attacks by other pests or pathogens, especially *Armillaria* sp., or honey fungus.

Government guidelines are to remove dead or dying Ash trees where public health is at risk from falling branches or failure of the tree. The arisings are then burnt to prevent further infection. All arborist tools should be cleaned under the bio-security guidelines published by Forestry Commission England and the Plant Health Authority.

It is becoming apparent that Ash trees can die within two years of becoming infected, yet other hybrids are beginning to withstand the disease. Without knowing which trees are becoming more tolerant it is advised that all Ash trees, whether individual or within groups, should be monitored annually but permitting the survey to be conducted across all seasons so a 10-month or 14-month cycle is advised.

4.1.5 It was noted that benches were placed beneath trees. See Plate 2. To prevent accidental injury to person or damage to property it is recommended that these items are relocated. During the survey it became apparent that the first point of refuge and cover was beneath a tree. It is therefore important that all trees are managed and there are no areas considered less than a high-risk zone. Users of this site shading from the weather (sun, wind or rain) will be beneath a tree at some point during the day (as was observed during the survey). It is recommended that benches are positioned away from mature trees and would be better placed alongside a hedgerow if shade was a requirement.

Plate 2: Benches beneath trees.

4.1.6 Many of the trees across the site were recorded to have had ivy (*Hedera helix*) growing on the stem and in the crown (see Plate 3). The wildlife benefits of ivy out-weigh its' removal however, where trees are growing in close proximity to a hazard (footpath, highway or building) it is advisable to maintain a clear stem for survey and inspection access. Ivy does not directly harm a tree as it uses the tree stem to gain height in order to maximise photosynthetic opportunity. Once growing within a crown of a tree it can shade out the parent tree leaves causing dieback. In addition to this, the ivy creates and additional sail that catches the wind and the weight of this is not compensated for by the tree and it can cause branch failure.

Ivy is a relatively simple plant to eradicate on tree. It can be done cutting a ring from the stem of the ivy plant leaving a gap between broken or cut parts of about 100 mm. These ivy rings will prevent water and nutrients from reaching the leaves and the leaves and stems will eventually fall from the tree from where they were attached. It is recommended that the mature trees are free from ivy to facilitate future inspections.

Plate 3: Trees collapsed due to weight of ivy.

4.1.7 A number of trees, especially Lime species, are renown for growing epicormic suckers or growth around the base of the tree. Whilst this is a response to the trees additional 'food' requirements or taking advantage of additional sunlight they do pose a problem for the surveyor. It is accepted that the surveyor would remove part of the ivy, suckers or understorey, when the accumulation is so high, this proves a physical obstruction and the health and safety can not be verified.

Plate 4: Suckers and understorey prevented a full survey.

4.1.8 It is widely accepted by arboriculturists and arborists that the deadwood within the crown of an Oak tree can remain intact for many years, slowly decaying and not causing a nuisance. Naturally, there are such species with the same trait such as many conifers and other hardwoods such as Beech trees. It is therefore recommended that where deadwood overhangs a place of general public access, such as dedicated footpaths, then it should be conservation pruned.

Conservation pruning is a method of pruning leaving a long and supported stub attached to the stem of the tree. Deadwood habitat is vitally important for detritivores, woodpeckers and other foraging animals. Bats will take up residence in the smallest of cracks in the bark plate of a tree. Retaining monolith trees in favour of felling is also advised.

4.1.9 Retention of a monolith far outweighs its removal due to the biodiversity it can improve. Many detritivores rely on rotting and dying wood and in turn birds such as Nuthatch, Tree Creeper and Woodpecker will benefit from feeding on such animals. Where a short monolith of standing deadwood can be retained then it is favourable over a fell. These trees can then be inspected along with the living trees during the routine inspection periods.

4.1.10 Extreme Weather Events

The confirmed heatwave and drought of 2018 combined with the hottest year on record for the month of July in 2019 and 2022, has meant that the ground has been baked, water has evaporated and the water table lowered. This has meant that many trees have been left with little or no water to survive through (at least) three growing years. Tropical nights in 2020 and 2022 added to an already water starved ground. A record number of frosts over the month of April, 2021, killed emerging buds and reduced the photosynthetic opportunity to many trees and plants. In addition, the early on-set of spring 2019 and 2021 meant that trees were already rooted in warm soils with little water. The hottest year on record was also announced for 2022. Autumn of 2022 has already experienced Storm Claudio in the south and so weather patterns are changing constantly. A number of heatwaves for 2023 have been confirmed.

When rain has fallen, the ground is so hard that the water cannot percolate to lower depths, or even soak the upper soil levels, but has run-off towards rivers, land-drains and water courses that collect the rain-water. Shallow rooted trees such as Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Scots Pine (*Pinus Sylvestris*) and Ornamental Cherry (*Prunus* spp.) have suffered from wilt and consequently been unable to recover meaning that within two years the trees have been killed by lack of water. This is a common theme throughout the areas surveyed in the south of UK and according to Kew Gardens, the effects will be felt for the following 10 years.

4.1.10 Environmental Benefits of Trees

It is worthwhile noting that the trees can intercept many of the hostile elements humans and animals need shelter from. Trees provide shading and offer significant humidity regulation and a cooling effect felt at ground level. All trees will consume a considerable amount of ground water that will regulate the local hydrology and may assist with the removal of local flooding issues. A mature tree will consume tens of thousands of litres of water during a year. A group of trees can provide an element of acoustic dampening effect at ground level and growing next to a road many tree species have been linked with the sequestration of impurities from the atmosphere. Finally, the trees will provide some shelter from prevailing winds and inclement weather. Trees provide excellent wildlife habitat as is shown within the report. Therefore, it can be seen that the trees will benefit, rather than hinder, the landscape in which they are growing.

4.1.11 Cladoptosis

Cladoptosis is a process in which trees shed their branches or “self-prune” as part of their normal physiology or in response to stress through the formation of an abscission layer at the branch base. Sources of stress which may contribute to this shedding include drought, soil and root compaction, or presence of disease. In the case of certain tree species, however, none of these factors need be present in order for Cladoptosis to occur. For some tree species, including Larch, Pine, Poplar, Willow, Maple, Walnut, Ash, and Oak, shedding of branches is normal, often occurring annually in the autumn, similar to the shedding of leaves from deciduous trees. Additionally, as trees get older, the number of branches which will be “self-pruned” often increases. Research aimed at gaining an understanding of the advantage to the tree that this process would offer has yielded a wide range of results which suggest that it depends greatly upon the tree species. There is evidence that cladoptosis may occur due to a need to remove less vigorous foliage or foliage which is disadvantaged in its resource availability, and these issues are likely more prominent in mature, older trees and in trees under stress. In other cases, cladoptosis may have a reproductive benefit or promote a more advantageous growth habit.

The results if the tree survey inspection is detailed within Table 4.1.

4.2 Table 4.1 - Tree Survey Schedule

Twyford Parish Council
Parish Clerk
Twyford
Hampshire

Arbor-Eco Consultancy
Daisy Lane
Locks Heath
Hampshire
SO31 6RA
Mobile: 07542093882
arborecoconsultancy@gmail.com

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: G1 A Group
- -

Tag: -
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Work from previous inspection outstanding. Collapsed trees due to weight of ivy overhanging neighbouring land. Deadwood in crown. Carry out ivy and deadwood management to avoid a nuisance.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
8 m	3 m	1	120 mm	Mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Varied	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Damage to buttress roots	Leaning	Damage / wounding	25% dead / absent
Competition from growth	Weak fork	Minor dead wood	
Sucker growth	Epicormic growths	Major dead wood	
	Stubs	Low hanging branches	
	Ivy covered	Epicormic growths	
		Stubs	
		Ivy in crown	
		Tight union	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Ivy	Remove ivy from crown only	3 Months	No
See Comment	See Comment	By Next Insp.	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: 1

Common Beech
Fagus sylvatica

Tag: 713
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Relocate bench to reduce risk. Remove major deadwood overhanging accessible areas. Manage ivy.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
22 m	6 m	1	800 mm	Mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Good	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Stubs	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Ivy covered	Minor dead wood	
Competition from growth		Major dead wood	
		Old pruning wounds	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Remove	Major dead wood	3 Months	No
See Comment	See Comment	By Next Insp.	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: 4 Common Beech *Fagus sylvatica*

Tag: 2270
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Unable to verify health and safety due to restricted access by ivy. Remove faulted branches and confirm branch union attachment when climbing. Investigate depth of decay at fungal infection site to further inform management recommendations.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
29 m	9 m	1	1900 mm	Over Mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Good	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Fungus or decay	Fungus or decay	Apical die back	Normal
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Damage / wounding	
Soil erosion	Cracked / included bark	Minor dead wood	
Trenching / excavations	Old pruning wounds	Major dead wood	
Damage to buttress roots	Cavities	Cavities	
Competition from growth	Weak fork	Weak fork	
	Jagged wound	Low hanging branches	
	Epicormic growths	Epicormic growths	
	Stubs	Stubs	
	Ivy covered	Ivy in crown	
	Major cavities	Tight union	
		Major cavities	
		Minor cavities	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Further inspection	Climb and inspect	1 Month	No
Ivy	Sever/remove ivy	By Next Insp.	No
Remove	Major dead wood	3 Months	No
See Comment	See Comment	By Next Insp.	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: 5 Common Lime *Tilia europaea*

Tag: 2569
TPO: NA
Tree Comment:
Survey Comment: Remove major deadwood in crown. Remove suckers around base of stem.

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
30 m	8 m	1	1250 mm	Mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Good	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Old pruning wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Jagged wound	Minor dead wood	
Competition from growth	Epicormic growths	Major dead wood	
Sucker growth	Stubs	Old pruning wounds	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Remove	Sucker Growth	By Next Insp.	No
	Major dead wood	1 Month	No

Tree ID: 6 Common Lime *Tilia europaea*

Tag: 701
TPO: NA
Tree Comment:
Survey Comment: Remove major deadwood in crown. Remove suckers around base of stem.

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
30 m	8 m	1	1350 mm	Mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Good	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Old pruning wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Jagged wound	Minor dead wood	
Competition from growth	Epicormic growths	Major dead wood	
Sucker growth	Stubs	Old pruning wounds	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Remove	Sucker Growth	By Next Insp.	No
	Major dead wood	1 Month	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: G2 A Group

- -

Tag: -

TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini

Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Two trees collapsed due to weight of ivy. Further trees in group suppressed. As a ground maintenance task, the ivy should be controlled. Unable to verify health and safety due to restricted access by ivy or accumulated suckers.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
8 m	2 m	1	180 mm	Mature		No	N/A	03-Apr-25	Varied	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Fungus or decay	Fungus or decay	Apical die back	50% dead / absent
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Damage / wounding	25% dead / absent
Soil heave	Leaning	Minor dead wood	Small / sparse
Soil erosion	Epicormic growths	Major dead wood	
Damage to buttress roots	Stubs	Ivy in crown	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered		
Sucker growth			

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Fell	Fell to ground level	1 Month	No

Tree ID: 2 Blackthorn

Prunus spinosa

Tag: 200

TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini

Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Tree has collapsed due to fungal infection to all stems. To reduce risk, coppice tree to approximately 0.5 m tall.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
7 m	5 m	5	1200 mm	Over Mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Dangerous	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Fungus or decay	Fungus or decay	Apical die back	50% dead / absent
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Damage / wounding	
Competition from growth	Cracked / included bark	Minor dead wood	
Sucker growth	Leaning	Major dead wood	
	Old pruning wounds		
	Cavities		
	Weak fork		
	Jagged wound		
	Multi stemmed		

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Coppice	To 0.5m stumps	1 Month	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: 3 Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Tag: 45
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Remove major deadwood overhanging accessible areas. Accumulation of deadwood evident. Manage ivy.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
26 m	12 m	1	1100 mm	Mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Good	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Leaning	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Old pruning wounds	Damage / wounding	
Trenching / excavations	Epicormic growths	Minor dead wood	
Damage to buttress roots	Stubs	Major dead wood	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered		
Sucker growth			

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Remove	Major dead wood	3 Months	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Report selection criteria.

Projects.

Hunter Park

---> By Next Insp.
---> 1 Month
---> 3 Months

Date Range.

Any Date

Work types.

-----> Coppice :: To 0.5m stumps
-----> Fell :: Fell to ground level
-----> Further inspection :: Climb and inspect
-----> Ivy :: Remove ivy from crown only
-----> Ivy :: Sever/remove ivy
-----> Remove :: Major dead wood
-----> Remove :: Sucker Growth
-----> See Comment :: See Comment

Latest Survey.

All surveys for the selected trees.
---> Last survey for each selected tree.

Work Completed.

---> Work Completed
---> Work Not Completed

Number of trees in selected Project(s)	**8**
Number of trees in Report selection	**8**

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Carry out the recommended works within Section 4.
- Carry out all tree works as recommended within Table 4.1.
- Remove ivy from trees to facilitate the next inspection.
- Organise tree planting throughout the village to compensate for the loss of trees in the future.
- All tree works should be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 Tree works - Recommendations.
- This Arboricultural Survey is valid for a period of 12 months. If works are not commenced within this time period, then it is advised that the trees are re-inspected to ensure no significant defects have developed since the original survey.

6. INSPECTION PERIOD

Due to the trees' location in the landscape and risk to public and property the resurvey period for the trees growing at this location is noted in Table 4.1 or recommended as 22-26 months. This staggered approach will permit a tree survey to be carried out across all four seasons. Ash trees shall be monitored annually for further decline in vitality and vigour to further inform management recommendations.

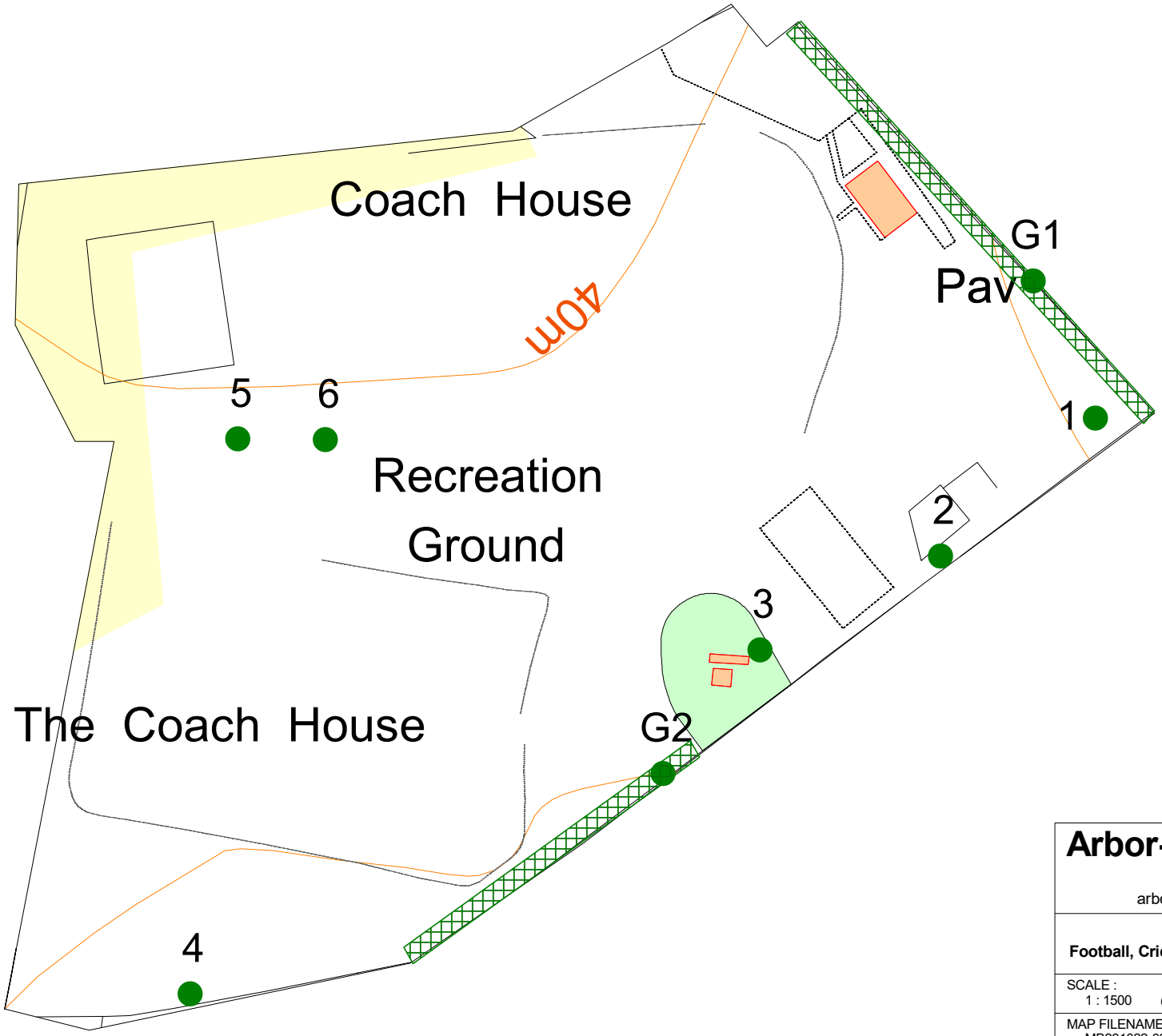
7. DISCLAIMER

Arbor-Eco Consultancy accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the client for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared. This report has not been compiled as part of an insurance claim and should not be used in conjunction with any such activity.

It should be noted that trees are dynamic living organisms that are subject to natural changes as they age or are influenced by changes in their environment. As such following any significant meteorological event or changes in the growing environment of the trees they should be re-assessed by a suitably qualified and experienced arboriculturist.

8. DRAWINGS

MB231022-02-01 Tree Location Plan



Arbor-Eco Consultancy

Arbor-Eco Consultancy

arborecoconsultancy@gmail.com

Hunter Park
Football, Cricket, Tennis & Children's Playground

SCALE :	DATE :
1 : 1500 @ A4	04/01/2024

MAP FILENAME :
MB231022-02-01 Tree Location Plan

N

REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions (2024) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions accessed on 04/01/24.

Arboricultural Advisory Information Services. (2007) 'Practice Note 12. Through Trees to Development'.

Arboricultural Association. (2009) Guidance Note 7. *Tree Surveys: A guide to Good Practice*. The Arboricultural Association, Stonehouse.

British Standards Institution. (2010) *British Standard 3998:2010; Tree work – Recommendations.* British Standards Institution, London.

British Standards Institution. (2012) *British Standard 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.* British Standards Institution, London.

British Standard Institution. (2014) *British Standard 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations.* British Standards Institution, London.

Johnson & More **(**2004) *Tree Guide, Collins*. London.

Lonsdale, D. (1999) Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management. DETR, London.

Magic Mapping (2024) https://magic.defra.gov.uk/ accessed on 04/01/24.

Mattheck, C., Breloer, H. (1994) *The Body Language of Trees: A Handbook for Failure Analysis*. Department of the Environment; Lonsdale, D. (Ed) Research for Amenity Trees. HMSO, England.

National House Builders Council (NHBC) (2017) Standards Part 4.2, Building Near Trees. Milton Keynes.

National Planning Policy Framework (2024). https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/. Department for Communities and Local Government. Accessed 04/01/24.

National Joint Utilities Group. (2007). Volume 4: NJUG Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Services in Proximity to Trees. NJUG, London.

Planning Practice Guidance. (2024). Tree Preservation Orders and trees in Conservation Areas. http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk. accessed on 04/01/24.

Phillips, R. (2006) *Mushrooms. A Comprehensive Guide*. MacMillan Publishers Ltd, London.

Roberts *et al.* (2013) *Tree Roots in the Built Environment. Research for Amenity Trees No.8*. Arboricultural Association, Stonehouse.

Slater, D. (2018) *Natural bracing in trees: management recommendations*. The Arboricultural Journal.

Strouts, R.G., Winter, T.G., (2004) *Diagnosis of Ill Health in Trees*. Forestry Commission, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; Research for Amenity Trees. TSO, England.

Tree Council (2024) https://treecouncil.org.uk/science-and-research/ash-dieback/ accessed on 04/01/24.

Winchester Council interactive Planning Mapping System (http://winch.maps.arcgis.com) accessed on 04/01/24.

ITEM 18
TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL
RECREATION COMMITTEE
15TH FEBRUARY 2024

Arbor-Eco Consultancy

VISUAL TREE ASSESSMENT REPORT (VTA)

At:

NORTHFIELDS CHILDRENS PLAY AREA,
SHIPLEY ROAD, TWYFORD,
HAMPSHIRE

For:

TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

This report was compiled by
Marco Bartolini
Arboricultural Consultant TechArborA (TE02501), PTI, FdScWM, Dip Mgmt

Arboricultural ASSOCIATION Technician Member

This report is the responsibility of Arbor-Eco Consultancy
It should be noted that whilst every effort is made to meet the client's brief,
no site investigation can ensure complete assessment
or prediction of the natural environment.

Report Number: MB231022-01

January 2024

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Brief

Arbor-Eco Consultancy was commissioned by the Clerk to Twyford Parish Council (the Client), to undertake a ground level Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) and assess the health and safety of trees growing on land, as directed, at Northfields Park off Shipley Road, within the administrative boundary of Winchester City Council in the county of Hampshire.

The purpose of the report was primarily to determine the condition and health and safety of all trees that were the responsibility of Twyford Parish Council to maintain. The survey produced a Negative Survey Report to further inform management recommendations.

The location of the trees identified by the client for inspection can be found on Arbor-Eco Consultancy survey drawing MB231022-01-01 in Section 8.

1.2 Site Description

The survey area, comprised of amenity grassland, reduce-sized football pitch, children's play area and parkland. The site also included a woodland area that was partially accessible to the public. The trees were situated towards the periphery of the site and within a triangular shaped parcel of land. The site provided a good recreational activity for the local community. There was a narrow section of woodland that abutted the B3335, The High Street, major road, and provided good visual separation between neighbouring land.

Twyford is a village and civil parish in the Hampshire. Twyford village is located approximately 5 km south from the city of Winchester. The B3335, major road, navigates north to south through the village, linking with Junction 11 of the M3 Motorway to the north and the neighbouring village of Colden Common to the south.

The survey area was demarcated to the north by arable fields. The eastern boundary tapered to a point with the southern boundary and met at the cul-de-sac and turning head of Coles Close, minor road. The southern boundary was delineated by Coles Lane, minor road and Shipley Road turning head. The western boundary abutted a woodland shelterbelt that separated the site from the B3335, Coxs Hill, major road.

The survey area is centred at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SU 48340 25437. The topography of the site is such that the ground was terraced and a slope from west to east was prevalent. This included a steep drop-off from the site to a decline that met with Coxs Hill, B3335, major road.

The sites historical history is such that it was a sewage plant prior to becoming a play area.

1.3 Limitations and Constraints

The action of pedestrian traffic walking over the roots of trees and compacting the ground may have a longer-term impact as the roots require oxygen, nutrients and water to survive. The air pockets are squeezed out of the soil and this will encourage water run-off in favour of soaking the water. Planting additional trees, aerating the soil, adding mulch rings around the trees will all combat the effects of extreme weather events.

The unpredictability of the trees reactions to these vectors is becoming increasingly apparent. Drought can cause reactions in a tree that include branch drop or early wilt or even sudden death.

Trees growing upon the embankment made the survey very difficult or impossible in parts. This led to a number of surveys of trees being carried out at a distance using binoculars where possible. It must be remembered that due to the difficulty in visibly seeing all of the tree means that some defects may have been obscured.

2. ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY

2.1 Methodology

A tree survey conducted by a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant will ensure that there will be an accountable process, available for scrutiny that would satisfy the courts that reasonable and practicable measures have been taken to reduce the risk of injury to person or property.

To determine the status of the trees within the site a full ground level visual tree assessment survey has been undertaken, assessing the species and status of the trees as directed by the client. This survey has been carried out in accordance with the guidance from the National Tree Safety Group – Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (2011).

Each tree was visually assessed whereby any tree identified with a defect requiring remedial work was placed within a schedule listing tree number, species, stem diameter at 1.5 m above ground level, tree height, crown spread (within a radius range), and age class. Any specific observations or recommendations with regard to management were also noted. All these observations and measurements are summarised in Table 4.1.

Each tree requiring remedial works was given a unique number (stamped on a corrosive resistant metal disc and nailed to the stem) and cross-referenced within the report. Where a cluster of trees have been recorded or it is particularly difficult to see a metal disc (due to ivy for example) then no tag has been applied but the work required is obvious; a dead tree for example. An example of the tree tag applied is shown at Plate 1.

Plate 1: Tree identification disc.

The emphasis of the report is predominantly that of tree management and preliminary recommendations for tree works as a result of a health and safety inspection. It identifies naturally occurring defects within the tree due to inhibited growth or naturally related vectors that have caused what would otherwise be a tree of good form and vitality as guided by current best practice.

The inspection was carried out with use of binoculars where necessary. No climbing inspection was conducted. No analysis of soil samples was undertaken and the condition of trees' root system was only investigated by way of a surface visual inspection, light excavation around the buttress and assessment of the trees' overall vitality. In addition, acoustic resonance impact testing utilising a Thor 710 nylon hammer was used, in conjunction with a metal probe, to determine the presence, depth and extent of decay found at the surface of the bark.

2.2 Weather Conditions

The survey was completed on the 3rd & 4th January 2024 by Marco Bartolini, Arboricultural Consultant. The average weather conditions at the time of the survey are shown in Table 2.1.

Conditions	Average Results
Temperature (C)	11
Cloud Cover (%)	100
Precipitation (%)	31
Wind Speed (Beaufort)	F5

Table 2.1: Weather Conditions at Time of Survey

2.3 Data Collection

Each tree was inspected from ground level with the use of binoculars where necessary to obtain a clearer view into the canopy of the tree. No other equipment has been used, other than stated, to determine the health and safety of the tree other than knowledge, experience and training. The data for each tree was collected on an electronic device that also registered the tree position using 12 GPS signals and this was entered on the hand-held device.

2.3.1 The tree stem circumference was measured at 1.5 m above ground level. If the stem had separated into two or more stems below 1.5 m above ground level, then the stem was measured either at ground level or at the branch break flare.

2.3.2 Crown spread was measured across the complete face of the crown and divided by two to provide an estimated radius. Height was measured optically from ground level.

2.3.3 Works required to be carried out are weighted in monthly timescales.

2.3.4 Trees are 'aged' through periods of their anticipated life subject to location, soil structure and other external influences compared to that of an open grown tree in ideal conditions for that species;

Young = tree within first third of average life expectancy;
Early or Semi-Mature = tree within second third of average life expectancy;
Mature = tree within final third of average life expectancy;
Over mature = tree beyond average life expectancy;
Veteran status (in decline and a historically or culturally valuable tree).
Dead.

2.4 Risk Zones

The Location of a tree should be categorised as High (Red), Medium (Orange), Low (Green) and be dependent on the accessibility to the general public and on-site frequency of use. If client has not provided risk zones maps specific to each site, then categorisation is based solely on the Arboriculturist/Surveyor's discretion from observations gained during the site visit only.

Guidelines for this subject come from Common Sense Risk Management of Trees - National Tree Safety Group (NTSG).

Due consideration will be given to the principles set out below:

- Public impact - Numbers of public using site
- Site usage - Location of roads, footpaths, buildings
- Business Risk - Risk of damage to property

Risk Zone/Hazard Class	Work Priority	Time Limits (as detailed on survey schedule)	Details
HIGH Adjacent property including gardens, parks or schools, public roads and footpaths, car parks. Buildings, infrastructure or plant. Any internal access roads or footpaths leading to buildings or infrastructure used on a regular basis	High	Immediate/Urgent Within 1- 3 months Within 3-6 months	Covers trees likely to cause an immediate nuisance, imminent failure, hanging deadwood or major deadwood in a place of high frequency use or a public space. Additionally, infrastructure, public property or a public health is a consideration. Weighted in timescales appropriate for the risk and target.
MEDIUM Open Areas such as tree groups or grassland with limited usage	Medium	Within 6 months Within 12-18 months	Covers trees within target distance of High-Risk Zone likely to cause an inconvenience such as pruning to clear buildings or phone lines. Covers trees within target distance of Medium Risk Zone likely to cause injury or damage.
LOW Woodlands or areas where there is no access and would not require any work	Low	Within 2-7 Years	Covers trees within target distance of High or Med Risk Zones with regard to tree works that are necessary to be programmed to promote the future health and well-being of tree stock, such as re-reductions whereby higher categories aren't necessary.

Table 2.2: Risk Zone Table

Due to the location of the trees to property, footpath, footway, highway, public access and private properties, the following has been considered based on frequency of use for all trees requiring remedial works to be carried out as shown in Section 4;

- Adjacent to public property, public access and access roads; HIGH-RISK zone.
- Internal (dense) sections of woodland, or fields; MEDIUM RISK to LOW-RISK zone.

3. STATUTORY LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

3.1 Protected Trees

Examination of the Winchester Council interactive Planning Mapping System (http://winch.maps.arcgis.com/apps/) accessed on 4th January 2024 indicates, that at the time of the survey, none of the trees surveyed are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order.

Further examination of the Winchester Council interactive Planning Mapping System (http://winch.maps.arcgis.com/apps) accessed on 4th January 2024 indicates, that at the time of the survey, none of the trees are situated within a Conservation Area.

3.2 Legislation

The tree health and safety audit has been carried out with consideration to the following guidelines and current legislation;

- *Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 & 1984*
- *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the associated ACoP (guidance is contained in HSG 65 Successful health and safety management and INDG 163 Five steps to risk assessment)*
- *HSE's "Reducing Risks Protecting People" 2001*
- *National Tree Safety Group - Common sense risk management of trees 2011*
- *The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) (decision –making framework, known as the Tolerability of Risk (ToR) framework)*
- *Section 41(1) of the Highways act 1980, a duty "to maintain the highways"*
- *Section 154 (2) of the Highways Act 1980*
- National Planning Policy Framework*, Trees and Forestry Commission, Crown or local authority land, churchyards, aerodromes and scheduled monuments*, Government Planning Practice Guidance.

3.3 Protected Species

Bats: A bat survey must be performed on the relevant roost potential prior to demolition. If bats are found to be present, a Natural England licence will be required prior to demolition. Bats and the places they use for shelter or protection (i.e., roosts) receive European protection under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended (Habitats Regulations 2017, as amended). They receive further legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981, as amended. This protection means that bats, and the places they use for shelter or protection, are capable of being a material consideration in the planning process. As bats re-use the same roosts (breeding site or resting place) after periods of vacancy, legal opinion is that roosts are protected whether or not bats are present. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a duty on public bodies to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity and maintains lists of species and habitats which are of principal importance for the purposes of conserving biodiversity in England and Wales. A number of bat species are listed on Section 41 (England) and Section 42 (Wales) of the NERC Act 2006.

Nesting Birds: The removal of relevant features must be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (this generally extends between March and August but is weather dependent). If this is not possible the area concerned should be checked immediately prior to removal by a suitably qualified ecologist. Nesting and nest building birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act WCA 1981 (as amended). Some species (listed in Schedule 1 of the WCA) are protected by special penalties.

3.4 Common Law

There are a number of trees overhanging the curtilage of the site and in particular trees growing within third party land. It is the landowner's responsibility to manage the overhanging vegetation unless a safety issue arises.

The following relates to common laws regarding trees only;
Under common law, a person may cut back any branch (or root) from a neighbour's tree that overhangs or encroaches onto their property. In cutting back any overhanging branches (or encroaching roots) the following must be observed:

- The person must not trespass onto the land on which the trees are growing.
- Branches or roots must not be cut back beyond the boundary in anticipation of them overhanging.
- Any branches, fruit or roots that are removed must be carefully returned to the tree owner unless they agree otherwise.
- All work must be carried out carefully. For example, avoid damaging property or carrying out work that would leave the tree unsafe or dangerous to avoid any complaint from the tree owner.
- The person must not alter the height of trees or hedges on neighbouring land. While not required under common law, it would be courteous to notify the tree owner of your intentions to help allay any misunderstanding.
- Common law rights are intended to allow the person to carry out the minimum amount of work.
- If extensive works are carried out and in so doing make the tree unsafe, the tree owner may have a case for criminal damage. The person should be especially careful if pruning roots. Obtain qualified arboricultural advice before carrying out any such work. If the tree owner agrees to works that are in addition to your common law rights, or if they give permission to enter their land to undertake the work, it would be prudent to obtain their written consent. If the trees in question are subject to a tree preservation order or are growing in a conservation area then an application (in the case of tree preservation orders) or 'Notice of Intent' (in the case of trees growing in a conservation area) may be required and the following points will apply.
    - The person intending to submit an application or notice must inform the owner of the land on which the trees are growing that an application or notice is to be made.
    - The granting of consent in the case of a tree preservation order or the raising of no objection in the case of trees in a conservation area means that the tree work applied for is acceptable in arboricultural and planning terms only. It does not give the person submitting the application or notice an automatic legal right to carry out the work. The question of ownership is a civil rather than a planning issue and the landowner's permission must be obtained in addition to any planning approval.

3.5 Occupiers' Liabilities Act 1957 and 1984

An occupier of premises owes the same duty, the "common duty of care", to all his visitors whether by invite or otherwise. The common duty of care is a duty to take such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that the 'visitor' will be reasonably safe in using the premises for the purposes for which he is invited or permitted by the occupier to be there or for purposes other than that which they have been invited (trespassers).

4. TREE STOCK ASSESSMENT

4.1 Tree Condition

All of the trees and been inspected and remedial works recorded in accordance with National Tree Safety Group Guidelines (2011).

4.1.1 It must be noted that many of the trees are subject to compacted rooting areas as the trees were within the boundary of play areas, open spaces and adjacent to residential properties. In addition, heavy equipment and machinery would pass across the rooting zones of a number of trees to cut grass, manage trees and maintain the grassed sections of land.

4.1.2 The client is reminded that all trees and vegetation that overhang the highway should be crown-lifted to at least 5.2 m to allow safe passage of high sided vehicles as well as being cut back sufficiently from the edge of the carriageway to allow clearance for wing mirrors. Trees and vegetation that overhang footways and footpaths should be crown-lifted to at least 2.5 m and cut back to ensure the footpath/way is at least 1.2 m in width. This is to allow safe passage for all footpath/way users including wheelchairs, mobility scooters, etc.

These heights have been selected as an acceptable standard and any vegetation below this may be deemed to be an obstruction. Local Authorities may enforce Section 154 of the Highways Act (1980) which allows them to serve notice upon the owner of the trees/ vegetation informing them that they need to clear any obstructions safely.

4.1.3 Wildlife

The site was obviously well-managed and the peripheral meadow grass had been recently cut. With respect to ground nesting birds, pollinators, mammals, snakes and bats, maintaining high grasses and short scrub is beneficial to wildlife. It is recommended that the meadow grass is cut to the edge of the tree canopy (in favour of beneath it). This will discourage people to encroach into the area (perceived threat) and also to encourage the abundance of wildlife to the area. It would be helpful if people were discouraged from using the wooded section as a short cut and also from attaching items to the stems of the trees.

Management of the trees has been carried out; however, it is scientifically recorded that deadwood, hollows, cavities, splits (stem and branches) provide habitat that can support hundreds of species of invertebrates, birds, reptiles and mammals. Therefore, whilst it is acknowledged that human activity does take place, localising it away from mature trees will, over time, benefit a wider range of animals and flora to establish.

Retention of cut wood in piles of approximately 500 mm tall, and bound with a length of wire-rope to avoid collapse will provide habitat in favour of complete removal. The woodland edge to the west of the site and adjacent to Coxs Hill is an ideal site to encourage wildlife. The matter of keeping the public out is an additional issue that requires investigation beyond this survey report.

4.1.4 Ash Dieback

There is strong evidence of Ash Dieback throughout Twyford village. The Ash trees within the parish boundary require annual monitoring. Latest government guidelines promote the retention of Ash trees where practical to encourage resistance to the disease in young and older trees. It is therefore a decision ultimately by the parish (due to financial constraints) to fell or retain certain trees.

A number of mature Ash trees are growing towards the northern and western boundaries of the site all have significant ash dieback symptoms. The trees exhibit major deadwood in the crown, however, those adjacent to the northern boundary have been recommended to be crown cleaned. The ash dieback situation may change and then further management recommendations will be required.

Plate 2: Ash dieback is evident.

First confirmed in Britain in 2012, Chalara dieback of ash, also known as 'Chalara', ash dieback or Chalara ash dieback, is a disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. Chalara causes leaf loss, crown dieback and bark lesions in affected trees. Once a tree is infected the disease is usually fatal, either directly, or indirectly by weakening the tree to the point where it succumbs more readily to attacks by other pests or pathogens, especially *Armillaria* sp., or honey fungus.

Government guidelines are to remove dead or dying Ash trees where public health is at risk from falling branches or failure of the tree. The arisings are then burnt to prevent further infection. All arborist tools should be cleaned under the bio-security guidelines published by Forestry Commission England and the Plant Health Authority.

It is becoming apparent that Ash trees can die within two years of becoming infected, yet other hybrids are beginning to withstand the disease. Without knowing which trees are becoming more tolerant it is advised that all Ash trees, whether individual or within groups, should be monitored annually but permitting the survey to be conducted across all seasons so a 10-month or 14-month cycle is advised.

4.1.5 Many of the trees across the site were recorded to have had ivy (*Hedera helix*) growing on the stem and in the crown (see Plate 3). The wildlife benefits of ivy out-weigh its' removal however, where trees are growing in close proximity to a hazard (footpath, highway or building) it is advisable to maintain a clear stem for survey and inspection access. Ivy does not directly harm a tree as it uses the tree stem to gain height in order to maximise photosynthetic opportunity. Once growing within a crown of a tree it can shade out the parent tree leaves causing dieback. In addition to this, the ivy creates and additional sail that catches the wind and the weight of this is not compensated for by the tree and it can cause branch failure.

Ivy is a relatively simple plant to eradicate on tree. It can be done cutting a ring from the stem of the ivy plant leaving a gap between broken or cut parts of about 100 mm. These ivy rings will prevent water and nutrients from reaching the leaves and the leaves and stems will eventually fall from the tree from where they were attached. It is recommended that the mature trees are free from ivy to facilitate future inspections.

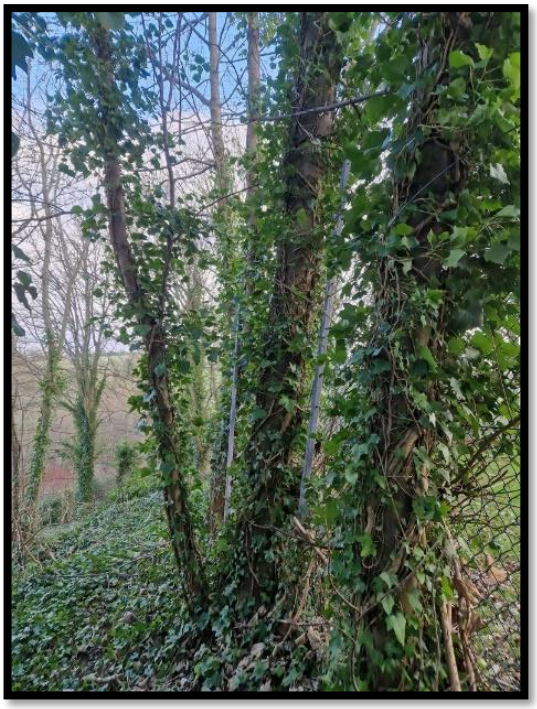


Plate 3: Ivy clad trees.

4.1.6 There were a number of rope swings observed across this site. It is strongly advised that they are removed. Rope swings are a contentious matter for tree owners and the public that see them as a 'fun item'. There is a more sinister side to a rope swing and there are incidents of misadventure and death from the rope swing.

The court opinions described herein, a rope swing hanging from a tree in a public park would not normally constitute the type of unreasonable risk of harm necessary to establish landowner liability for negligence. Moreover, applicable statutory or governmental immunity may preclude liability for ordinary negligence. The mere existence of a rope swing hanging from a tree does not make the land itself unreasonably dangerous, providing a basis for landowner liability. On the contrary, the danger associated with one's choosing to use a rope swing installed on the land by unknown third parties would present an open and obvious risk of serious injury. While rope swings pose an obvious and easily avoidable risk of harm, under limited circumstances, a public body may still have a general legal duty to discover and remove known or readily discoverable hazardous debris from the premises within a reasonable time.

In 2009 Seminar Proceedings of the Countryside Recreation Network produced a paper after examining the effects of children playing outside and the risk involved if certain activities were not 'policed' effectively. The content can be found at this link https://www.outdoorrecreation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/old-downloads/2009%20-%20Seminar%20-%20Taking%20a%20Chance%20Outdoors%20-%20Is%20Fear%20of%20Risk%20Damaging%20Our%20Children%20.pdf.

4.1.7 Extreme Weather Events

The confirmed heatwave and drought of 2018 combined with the hottest year on record for the month of July in 2019 and 2022, has meant that the ground has been baked, water has evaporated and the water table lowered. This has meant that many trees have been left with little or no water to survive through (at least) three growing years. Tropical nights in 2020 and 2022 added to an already water starved ground. A record number of frosts over the month of April, 2021, killed emerging buds and reduced the photosynthetic opportunity to many trees and plants. In addition, the early on-set of spring 2019 and 2021 meant that trees were already rooted in warm soils with little water. The hottest year on record was also announced for 2022.

Autumn of 2022 has already experienced Storm Claudio in the south and so weather patterns are changing constantly. A number of heatwaves for 2023 have been confirmed.

When rain has fallen, the ground is so hard that the water cannot percolate to lower depths, or even soak the upper soil levels, but has run-off towards rivers, land-drains and water courses that collect the rain-water. Shallow rooted trees such as Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Scots Pine (*Pinus Sylvestris*) and Ornamental Cherry (*Prunus* spp.) have suffered from wilt and consequently been unable to recover meaning that within two years the trees have been killed by lack of water. This is a common theme throughout the areas surveyed in the south of UK and according to Kew Gardens, the effects will be felt for the following 10 years.

4.1.8 Environmental Benefits of Trees

It is worthwhile noting that the trees can intercept many of the hostile elements humans and animals need shelter from. Trees provide shading and offer significant humidity regulation and a cooling effect felt at ground level. All trees will consume a considerable amount of ground water that will regulate the local hydrology and may assist with the removal of local flooding issues. A mature tree will consume tens of thousands of litres of water during a year. A group of trees can provide an element of acoustic dampening effect at ground level and growing next to a road many tree species have been linked with the sequestration of impurities from the atmosphere. Finally, the trees will provide some shelter from prevailing winds and inclement weather. Trees provide excellent wildlife habitat as is shown within the report. Therefore, it can be seen that the trees will benefit, rather than hinder, the landscape in which they are growing.

4.1.9 Damage to Fencing

A number of self-set Sycamore trees have grown adjacent to the boundary fencing of the football pitch. They have caused and are causing considerable damage to the structure and they should either be removed or the fencing relocated. See Plate 4.

Plate 4: Fence damage.

4.1.10 Cladoptosis

Cladoptosis is a process in which trees shed their branches or “self-prune” as part of their normal physiology or in response to stress through the formation of an abscission layer at the branch base. Sources of stress which may contribute to this shedding include drought, soil and root compaction, or presence of disease. In the case of certain tree species, however, none of these factors need be present in order for Cladoptosis to occur. For some tree species, including Larch, Pine, Poplar, Willow, Maple, Walnut, Ash, and Oak, shedding of branches is normal, often occurring annually in the autumn, similar to the shedding of leaves from deciduous trees. Additionally, as trees get older, the number of branches which will be “self-pruned” often increases. Research aimed at gaining an understanding of the advantage to the tree that this process would offer has yielded a wide range of results which suggest that it depends greatly upon the tree species. There is evidence that cladoptosis may occur due to a need to remove less vigorous foliage or foliage which is disadvantaged in its resource availability, and these issues are likely more prominent in mature, older trees and in trees under stress. In other cases, cladoptosis may have a reproductive benefit or promote a more advantageous growth habit.

The results if the tree survey inspection is detailed within Table 4.1.

4.2 Table 4.1 - Tree Survey Schedule

Twyford Parish Council
Parish Clerk
Twyford
Hampshire

Arbor-Eco Consultancy
Daisy Lane
Locks Heath
Hampshire
SO31 6RA
Mobile: 07542093882
arborecoconsultancy@gmail.com

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: G1 A Group
- -

Tag: -
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Inaccessible due to gradient and loose soil. New area brought on to account. Make dead trees safe. Sever ivy to facilitate next inspection. Remove major deadwood overhanging accessible areas and highway.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
16 m	5 m	1	350 mm	Mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Varied	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Leaning	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Epicormic growths	Damage / wounding	
Damage to buttress roots	Stubs	Minor dead wood	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered	Major dead wood	
Sucker growth		Epicormic growths	
		Stubs	
		Ivy in crown	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Fell	Fell to ground level	1 Month	No
Ivy	Sever only	By Next Insp.	No
Remove	Major dead wood	3 Months	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: 5 Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus

Tag: 98
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Tree is self set and growing at edge of football pitch and play area. Stem pressing on boundary fence and causing structural damage. Advise removal of tree or relocate boundary fence.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
9 m	4 m	1	200 mm	Semi-mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Fair	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Stubs	Damage / wounding	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered	Minor dead wood	
		Epicormic growths	
		Ivy in crown	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
See Comment	See Comment	By Next Insp.	No

Tree ID: 6 Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus

Tag: 65
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Tree is self set and growing at edge of football pitch and play area. Stem pressing on boundary fence and causing structural damage. Advise removal of tree or relocate boundary fence.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
10 m	3 m	1	170 mm	Semi-mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Fair	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Stubs	Damage / wounding	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered	Minor dead wood	
		Epicormic growths	
		Ivy in crown	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
See Comment	See Comment	By Next Insp.	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: 7 Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus

Tag: 46
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Tree is self set and growing at edge of football pitch and play area. Stem pressing on boundary fence and causing structural damage. Advise removal of tree or relocate boundary fence.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
11 m	4 m	1	260 mm	Semi-mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Fair	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Stubs	Damage / wounding	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered	Minor dead wood	
		Epicormic growths	
		Ivy in crown	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
See Comment	See Comment	By Next Insp.	No

Tree ID: 8 Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus

Tag: 100
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Tree is self set and growing at edge of football pitch and play area. Stem pressing on boundary fence and causing structural damage. Advise removal of tree or relocate boundary fence.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
11 m	4 m	2	520 mm	Semi-mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Fair	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Stubs	Damage / wounding	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered	Minor dead wood	
		Epicormic growths	
		Ivy in crown	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
See Comment	See Comment	By Next Insp.	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: 9 Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus

Tag: 88
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Tree is self set and growing at edge of football pitch and play area. Stem pressing on boundary fence and causing structural damage. Advise removal of tree or relocate boundary fence.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
9 m	3 m	1	160 mm	Semi-mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Fair	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Stubs	Damage / wounding	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered	Minor dead wood	
		Epicormic growths	
		Ivy in crown	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
See Comment	See Comment	By Next Insp.	No

Tree ID: 10 Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus

Tag: 66
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Tree is self set and growing at edge of football pitch and play area. Stem pressing on boundary fence and causing structural damage. Advise removal of tree or relocate boundary fence.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
11 m	4 m	1	280 mm	Semi-mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Fair	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Stubs	Damage / wounding	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered	Minor dead wood	
		Epicormic growths	
		Ivy in crown	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
See Comment	See Comment	By Next Insp.	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: 11

Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus

Tag: 83
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Tree is self set and growing at edge of football pitch and play area. Stem pressing on boundary fence and causing structural damage. Advise removal of tree or relocate boundary fence.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
11 m	4 m	2	360 mm	Semi-mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Fair	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Stubs	Damage / wounding	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered	Minor dead wood	
		Epicormic growths	
		Ivy in crown	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
See Comment	See Comment	By Next Insp.	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: 4

Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus

Tag: 1095
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Hazard beam overhanging highway. Major deadwood in crown. Ivy on stem restricted access to survey. Rope swings attacked to various branches. Remove suspended branches and deadwood. Remove ropes. Sever and remove ivy from stem along with all suckers.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
24 m	11 m	1	1200 mm	Over Mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Fair	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Bark wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Old pruning wounds	Damage / wounding	
Competition from growth	Epicormic growths	Minor dead wood	
Sucker growth	Stubs	Major dead wood	
	Ivy covered	Old pruning wounds	
		Weak fork	
		Low hanging branches	
		Epicormic growths	
		Stubs	
		Tight union	
		Minor cavities	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Remove	Faulted branch/limbs	1 Month	No
	Major dead wood	3 Months	No
See Comment	See Comment	3 Months	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: 1 Common Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*

Tag: 1098
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Reduce crown radially by 3m. Significant ash dieback with major deadwood overhanging accessible areas.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
18 m	5 m	1	400 mm	Mature	No	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Fair	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Old pruning wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Epicormic growths	Minor dead wood	25% dead / absent
Damage to buttress roots	Stubs	Major dead wood	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered	Epicormic growths	
		Stubs	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Reduce crown(s)	By 15%	3 Months	No

Tree ID: 2 Common Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*

Tag: 1097
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Reduce crown radially by 5m. Significant ash dieback with major deadwood overhanging accessible areas. Branch failure evident.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
22 m	6 m	2	880 mm	Mature	Yes	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Fair	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Old pruning wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Epicormic growths	Minor dead wood	25% dead / absent
Damage to buttress roots	Stubs	Major dead wood	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered	Epicormic growths	
		Stubs	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Reduce crown(s)	By 20%	3 Months	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Tree ID: 3

Common Ash
Fraxinus excelsior

Tag: 2267
TPO: NA

Assessor: Marco Bartolini
Date: 03-Jan-24

Tree Comment:

Survey Comment: Overhanging football pitch. Branch drop evident. Reduce crown radially by 3m. Significant ash dieback with major deadwood overhanging accessible areas.

Details

Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition	QTRA Score
17 m	6 m	1	750 mm	Mature	No	No	N/A	03-Jan-26	Fair	N/A

Observations

Root	Stem	Branch	Leaf/Bud
Soil compaction	Old pruning wounds	Apical die back	Normal
Soil erosion	Epicormic growths	Minor dead wood	25% dead / absent
Damage to buttress roots	Stubs	Major dead wood	
Competition from growth	Ivy covered	Epicormic growths	
		Stubs	

Work

Category	Action	Priority	Done
Reduce crown(s)	By 15%	3 Months	No

General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

Report selection criteria.

Projects.

Northfields Childrens Play Area

---> By Next Insp.
---> 1 Month
---> 3 Months

Date Range.

Any Date

Work types.

-----> Fell :: Fell to ground level
-----> Ivy :: Sever only
-----> Reduce crown(s) :: By 15%
-----> Reduce crown(s) :: By 20%
-----> Remove :: Faulted branch/limbs
-----> Remove :: Major dead wood
-----> See Comment :: See Comment

Latest Survey.

All surveys for the selected trees.
---> Last survey for each selected tree.

Work Completed.

---> Work Completed
---> Work Not Completed

Number of trees in selected Project(s)	**12**
Number of trees in Report selection	**12**

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Carry out the recommended works within Section 4.
- Carry out all tree works as recommended within Table 4.1.
- All tree works should be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 Tree works - Recommendations.
- This Arboricultural Survey is valid for a period of 12 months. If works are not commenced within this time period, then it is advised that the trees are re-inspected to ensure no significant defects have developed since the original survey.

6. INSPECTION PERIOD

Due to the trees' location in the landscape and risk to public and property the resurvey period for the trees growing at this location is noted in Table 4.1 or recommended as 22-26 months. This staggered approach will permit a tree survey to be carried out across all four seasons. Ash trees shall be monitored annually for further decline in vitality and vigour to further inform management recommendations.

7. DISCLAIMER

Arbor-Eco Consultancy accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the client for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared. This report has not been compiled as part of an insurance claim and should not be used in conjunction with any such activity.

It should be noted that trees are dynamic living organisms that are subject to natural changes as they age or are influenced by changes in their environment. As such following any significant meteorological event or changes in the growing environment of the trees they should be re-assessed by a suitably qualified and experienced arboriculturist.

8. DRAWINGS

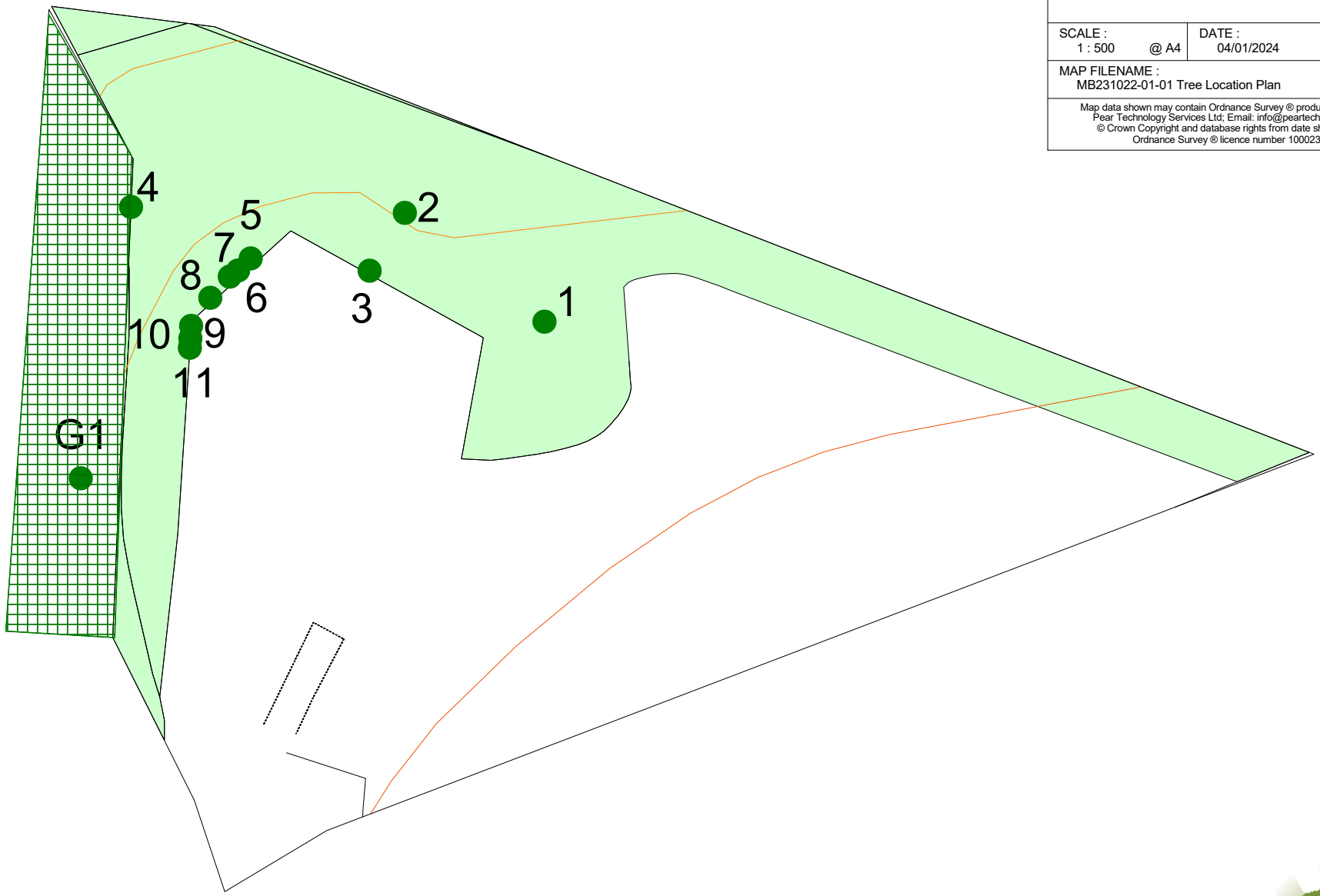
MB231022-01-01 Tree Location Plan

Arbor-Eco Consultancy

arborecoconsultancy@gmail.com

Northfields Childrens Play Area

SCALE :	DATE :	N
1 : 500 @ A4	04/01/2024	
MAP FILENAME : MB231022-01-01 Tree Location Plan		



Arbor-Eco Consultancy

REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions (2024) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions accessed on 04/01/24.

Arboricultural Advisory Information Services. (2007) 'Practice Note 12. Through Trees to Development'.

Arboricultural Association. (2009) Guidance Note 7. *Tree Surveys: A guide to Good Practice*. The Arboricultural Association, Stonehouse.

British Standards Institution. (2010) *British Standard 3998:2010; Tree work – Recommendations.* British Standards Institution, London.

British Standards Institution. (2012) *British Standard 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.* British Standards Institution, London.

British Standard Institution. (2014) *British Standard 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations.* British Standards Institution, London.

Johnson & More **(**2004) *Tree Guide, Collins*. London.

Lonsdale, D. (1999) Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management. DETR, London.

Magic Mapping (2024) https://magic.defra.gov.uk/ accessed on 04/01/24.

Mattheck, C., Breloer, H. (1994) *The Body Language of Trees: A Handbook for Failure Analysis*. Department of the Environment; Lonsdale, D. (Ed) Research for Amenity Trees. HMSO, England.

National House Builders Council (NHBC) (2017) Standards Part 4.2, Building Near Trees. Milton Keynes.

National Planning Policy Framework (2024). https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/. Department for Communities and Local Government. Accessed 04/01/24.

National Joint Utilities Group. (2007). Volume 4: NJUG Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Services in Proximity to Trees. NJUG, London.

Planning Practice Guidance. (2024). Tree Preservation Orders and trees in Conservation Areas. http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk. accessed on 04/01/24.

Phillips, R. (2006) *Mushrooms. A Comprehensive Guide*. MacMillan Publishers Ltd, London.

Roberts *et al.* (2013) *Tree Roots in the Built Environment. Research for Amenity Trees No.8*. Arboricultural Association, Stonehouse.

Slater, D. (2018) *Natural bracing in trees: management recommendations*. The Arboricultural Journal.

Strouts, R.G., Winter, T.G., (2004) *Diagnosis of Ill Health in Trees*. Forestry Commission, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; Research for Amenity Trees. TSO, England.

Tree Council (2024) https://treecouncil.org.uk/science-and-research/ash-dieback/ accessed on 04/01/24.

Winchester Council interactive Planning Mapping System (http://winch.maps.arcgis.com) accessed on 04/01/24.