



# Arboricultural Report

## Tree Condition Assessment

Mundy Playing Fields and Poulterbrook

Kington Lane

Thornbury

**16th December 2022**

Compiled for:

**Jon Brain**

On behalf of

**Thornbury Town Council**

By

**Phil Dye**

BSc (hons) Arb, Cert Arb L4 (ABC), BA (Hons), MArborA

Ref: WTC\_1042.01

**Wotton Tree Consultancy Ltd**

24 Haw Street  
Wotton-under-Edge  
Gloucestershire  
GL12 7AQ  
[info@wtrec.co.uk](mailto:info@wtrec.co.uk)  
01453 520147  
07835 444 675



## Contents

1:0	INTRODUCTION .....	2
2:0	SCOPE .....	2
3:0	REPORT LIMITATIONS .....	3
4:0	SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS .....	4
4.1	Site visit .....	4
5:0	EXPLANATORY NOTES .....	4
5.1	Method .....	4
5.2	Table fields .....	4
5.3	Recommended works .....	6
6:0	TREE SURVEY DATA .....	7
7:0	IMMEDIATE CONCERNS .....	12
8:0	CONSIDERATIONS .....	12
8.1	Timing of works.....	12
8.2	Felling licence.....	12
8.3	Ivy control .....	13
8.4	Legal obligations .....	13
8.5	Common Law Right of Abatement.....	14
8.6	Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas .....	14
8.7	Tree Works.....	14
8.8	Future tree inspections.....	14
	Sources of Information .....	15
	APPENDIX A – Ash Dieback .....	16
	APPENDIX B – Map.....	20

### NOTE

This report is the property of Wotton Tree Consultancy Ltd and is issued on the condition it is not reproduced, retained or disclosed to any unauthorised person, either wholly or in part without the written consent of Wotton Tree Consultancy Ltd.

© Wotton Tree Consultancy Ltd 2022

## **1:0 INTRODUCTION**

I am a consulting arboriculturist with Wotton Tree Consultancy Ltd. I have a BSc (hons) Arboriculture and the AA Technicians Certificate in Arboriculture (Cert Arb L4 (ABC)). I am a LANTRA qualified Professional Tree Inspector. I am a licensed user of Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) - license no. 2278, a professional member of the Arboricultural Association and a professional member of the Consulting Arborists Society. I am trained in valuing amenity trees using the Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) system. I have been a consulting arboriculturist since 2006.

## **2:0 SCOPE**

I have been instructed by Jon Brain of Thornbury Town Council to undertake a health and safety survey of the trees within the curtilage of Mundy Playing Fields and Poulterbrook. The risk of harm has been calculated using Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA). Remedial tree works have been recommended only where appropriate to reduce risk of harm to an acceptable level in line with HSE's *Tolerability of Risk Framework* (HSE 2001).

### **3:0 REPORT LIMITATIONS**

- i. This report is an evaluation of the condition of the trees at the time of inspection. Due to the changing nature of trees and other site circumstances, predictions of their future condition can only be made using the visible signs present at the time of inspection.
- ii. Under certain conditions, roots can affect foundations, drains and other underground services. These issues have not been addressed in this report.
- iii. Trees are dynamic structures that can never be guaranteed 100% safe. Even those in good condition can suffer occasional damage under only average weather conditions. For this reason the contents of this report is valid for 12 months from the date of inspection.
- iv. The inspection was carried out from ground level only. There was no aerial inspection.
- v. No samples were taken away from site for analysis elsewhere.
- vi. Any alterations of or deletions from this report will invalidate it.
- vii. No responsibility is assumed by Wotton Tree Consultancy for legal matters that may arise from this report, and the consultant will not be required to give testimony or attend court unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made.
- viii. Any subsequent works undertaken to the surveyed tree as a result of this report is the responsibility of the land managers.
- ix. I have not contacted the Local Planning Authority to determine whether any Tree Preservation Order (TPO) covers any of the trees, nor to determine if the site is in a Conservation Area. Before undertaking any work to any of the trees, it would be advisable to check whether either of these planning controls are in operation; if they are, it would be necessary to obtain consent (or in the case of a Conservation area give six weeks notice of intent) before undertaking any such work.

## **4:0 SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS**

### **4.1 Site visit**

The survey was carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022. All observations were from ground level. A nylon headed mallet was used to sound out decay in the trunks of the trees. A Tru-Pulse 360 laser rangefinder was used to accurately measure the height of the trees.

## **5:0 EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **5.1 Method**

All trees have been systematically inspected using Visual Tree Assessment (VTA). Where necessary, a nylon headed mallet has been utilised to sound out decay. Any tree works highlighted in the table and on the accompanied plans require works to abate any health and safety issues in the following 18 months.

### **5.2 Table fields**

#### **5.2.1 Tree number**

Each of these trees has been allotted a number so that the location on the plan and works recommendations on the table can be cross-referenced.

#### **5.2.2 Species**

The common name is recorded. Where the species is uncertain, only the genus is stated followed by the letters spp (species).

#### **5.2.3 Age class**

This has been recorded as:

- y = Young
- sm = Semi mature
- em = Early mature
- m = Mature
- om = Over mature
- v = Veteran

These are all relative to the life span of the species.

5.2.4 Diameter at 1.5m

Measured in mm, this is the diameter of the main stem taken at a height of 1.5m from ground level. These have been banded into the following groups:

<75, 75-150, 150-250, 250-350, 350-500, 500-750, 750-1m, 1m+

5.2.5 Ht range (m)

Height of tree measured in metres from the base to the highest part of vegetative growth. These are banded into 5 groups:

0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20 and 20+

5.2.6 Crown clearance

The distance from the ground to the lowest bough or canopy part.

5.2.7 Physiological condition

The condition of the trees' health, looking in particular at vitality and the presence of disease. These are categorised as follows:

**Poor** = in decline/dying and/or significant faults

**Fair** = some minor faults but good vitality.

**Good** = No apparent faults, high vitality, significant life expectancy

5.2.8 Structural condition

The condition of the trees stem and branch structure, looking in particular at branch unions, crossing branches and crown formation. These are categorised as follows:

**Poor** = structurally compromised showing significant defects beyond remedy

**Fair** = some minor defects which can be remedied through tree works.

**Good** = No significant defects.

5.2.9 Works recommendations

See section 5.3 below.

5.2.10 Comments

Observations about the tree or its environment where they are deemed noteworthy.

5.2.11 Safe useful life expectancy

An estimation in years of the remaining contribution the tree can offer, depending on its condition, age, location and size.

#### 5.2.15 Priority

To facilitate the management of tree works a priority is given to each recommendation depending upon its urgency.

**Priority 1** = Urgent – mitigate the identified problem as soon as possible

**Priority 2** = High risk - mitigate the identified problem as soon as the work schedule allows

**Priority 3** = Moderate risk - Retain and monitor the tree and / or mitigate the identified problem as necessary

**Priority 4** = Low priority - retain and monitor the tree. Mitigate the identified problem if desired.

### 5.3 **Recommended works**

The tree works recommended in this report are solely to abate any health and safety issues in the following 18 months. In some cases, advice has been given on general future tree management in the comments section. These have not been assigned a priority as they are not considered health and safety issues at the time of this survey

#### 5.3.1 Re-inspect in (n) months

Where a tree's condition requires monitoring to enable an informed management plan to be produced, a re-inspection is recommended to assess any changes in the tree's condition.

#### 5.3.2 Remove

Where it is considered that a tree is in such a poor condition that it either poses a danger to people or property, or that is unsuitable for its location or that it significantly reduces the amenity of the area by staying *in situ*, its removal is recommended.

#### 5.3.3 Monolith and coronet cut

To remove the branches of a tree and reduce the height of the stem to a set height a monolith is created. This is an alternative to complete removal when located away from property roads or areas of high footfall, and creates valuable habitat, especially in wooded areas. Coronet cutting is a type of final cut to the monolith which emulates natural fracture. Instead of cutting flat along the plane, the cuts create multitude of long spikes.

#### 5.3.4 Cable brace

Where a weak union is noted it is possible to reduce the risk of failure without the need for pruning works - which can be detrimental to the long-term health of the tree and the amenity it offers.

Cable bracing entails the connecting of 2 or more upright stems together with a fabric strap or metal rod which will lessen the stresses on the weak union reducing the likelihood of failure in the future.

### 6:0 **TREE SURVEY DATA**

The following trees were inspected for structural integrity and health and safety. Management recommendations were prescribed only where health and safety concerns arose. It is recommended that the tree works are carried out within the following 18 months. A priority has been assigned where works are recommended to help gauge the urgency of the works (see 5.2.15).

Trees highlighted in **red** have been recommended for removal/monolithing.

**REMOVED/Monolithed**

= Tree has been removed/monolithed since the last survey



Tree No	Species	Age class	Diameter range at 1.5m (mm)	Height range (m)	Crown Clearance (m)	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Comments	Works recommendations	Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) years	Priority
G1	7 x rowan	Early-mature	150-250	0-5m	6	Good	Fair	Occasional bark damage.	-	20-40	-
G2	2 x ash	Early-mature	350-500	10-15m	3	Poor	Fair	Monolithed	-	<10	-
G3	Hazel x 1, fields maple x 2, goat willow x 1	Early-mature	350-500	10-15m	3	Fair	Fair	Growing from a bank.	-	40+	-
T1	Goat willow	Early-mature	350-500	10-15m	5	Fair	Poor	3 stems from base. Recently pollard	-	<10	-
T2	Ash	Mature	350-500	10-15m	4	Good	Good	Ash dieback present	Monolith to 4m, coronet cut and retain for habitat	<10	3
G4	Field maple x 6, oak x 2, hazel x 2	Early-mature	250-350	5-10m	2	Good	Fair	Growing from a bank. Southernmost 2 field maple have included bark union with no natural braces	Install cobra brace in both field maples at 2 thirds the clear stem height above the included union	40+	2
G5	Silver birch x 1, Field maple x 2, oak x 1, hazel x 1, dogwood x 1	Early-mature	250-350	5-10m	2	Good	Good	In top corner of playing field. Some tree removal and vandalism since previous survey. Oak tree has epicormic growth throughout canopy. Small dead tree in group.	Remove dead tree	20-40	4
T3	English oak	Young	150-250	5-10m	2	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
T4	Walnut	Young	75-150	5-10m	1	Fair	Fair	-	-	20-40	-
T5	English oak	Young	150-250	5-10m	1	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
T6	English oak	Young	150-250	5-10m	1	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
T7	English oak	Young	150-250	5-10m	1	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
T8	Lime	Young	150-250	5-10m	1	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
T9	Walnut	Semi-mature	250-350	5-10m	1	Good	Poor	Strip of necrotic bark from base to 2m (100mm wide). Wound wood forming. Full recovery possible given age and vitality.	-	10-20	-
T10	Walnut	Semi-mature	150-250	5-10m	3	Good	Fair	Minor strimmer damage at base.	Leave 0.5m radius clear when mowing/strimming.	20-40	4
T11	Ash	Semi-mature	150-250	5-10m	2	Poor	Fair	Monolithed	-	<10	-

Tree No	Species	Age class	Diameter range at 1.5m (mm)	Height range (m)	Crown Clearance (m)	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Comments	Works recommendations	Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) years	Priority
T12	Sweet chestnut	Semi-mature	150-250	5-10m	2	Good	Fair	Basal bark damage on the south side.	-	20-40	-
T13	Holm oak	Semi-mature	75-150	0-5m	0	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
T14	Ash	Early-mature	350-500	10-15m	3	Poor	Fair	Ash dieback suspected	Reassess in summer 2023	10-20	3
G6	Goat willow x 15, ash x 3, hawthorn x 1, salix spp x 1	Early-mature	250-350	10-15m	4	Good	Fair	Group of trees growing along watercourse. Ash dieback present. Low risk of harm.	-	40+	-
G7	Willow x 3	Mature	750-1000	5-10m	4	Good	Fair	Managed as pollards.	-	20-40	-
G8	Crack willow x 12, hazel x 3, ash x 3	Early-mature	250-350	5-10m	2	Fair	Fair	Extension of G6. Mixture of semi-mature to mature, including old pollarded trees.	-	40+	-
G9	Sycamore x 7	Mature	500-750	15-20m	4	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
G10	Hawthorn, ash and field maple.	Mature	350-500	15-20m	3	Good	Fair	Hawthorn hedge with occasional ash and field maple standards. Ash dieback present. Low risk of harm	Reassess ash in summer 2023	10-20	3
T15	Ash	Early-mature	350-500	10-15m	3	Fair	Fair	Monolithed	-	<10	-
T16	Sycamore	Early-mature	250-350	5-10m	3	Poor	Fair	Declining tree. Apical dieback noted	Monolith to 4m, coronet cut and retain for habitat	<10	3
G11	Hawthorn, ash, field maple, hazel	Mature	250-350	10-15m	2	Good	Good	Either side of watercourse. Ash dieback present. Ash trees monolithed.	-	40+	-
G12	Ash x 3, field maple x 3, holly x 1	Early-mature	250-350	10-15m	3	Fair	Fair	Hedgerow trees. Ash dieback present.	Monolith ash to 4m, coronet cut and retain for habitat	40+	3
T17	Ash	Semi-mature	250-350	10-15m	3	Fair	Fair	-	Reassess in summer 2023	10-20	3

Tree No	Species	Age class	Diameter range at 1.5m (mm)	Height range (m)	Crown Clearance (m)	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Comments	Works recommendations	Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) years	Priority
T18	Oak	Mature	1000+	10-15m	5	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
T19	Ash	Mature	750-1000	10-15m	3	Poor	Fair	Monolithed	-	<10	-
T20	Rowan	Mature	150-250	5-10m	2	Good	Fair	-	-	40+	-
T21	English oak	Young	150-250	5-10m	1	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
T22	Cherry	Mature	350-500	5-10m	2	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
T23	Field maple	Mature	350-500	5-10m	2	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
T24	Ash	Mature	1000+	0-5m	3	Dead	Dead	Monolithed to 5m	-	0	-
T25	Ash	Semi-mature	150-250	5-10m	3	Fair	Fair	-	Reassess in June 2023 for signs of ash dieback. If noted then remove.	10-20	3
T26	Ash	Semi-mature	150-250	5-10m	3	Dead	Dead	REMOVED	-	0	-
T27	Hawthorn	Mature	150-250	5-10m	1	Good	Fair	-	-	20-40	-
H1	Lawson cypress hedge	Semi-mature	75-150	0-5m	0	Good	Good	Shelter belt hedge	-	40+	-
G13	2 x Norway maple, 1 x oak	Early-mature	250-350	10-15m	3	Good	Good	Formerly within an outgrown hedge, now removed	-	40+	-
T28	Ash	Mature	1000	5-10m	3	Fair	Poor	Tree has been heavily pruned leaving large surface wounds and stubs.	-	20-40	-
T29	Hornbeam	Semi-mature	150-250	5-10m	3	Good	Good	Standard tree growing from hedge.	-	40+	-
T30	Ash	Mature	750-1000	15-20m	6	Poor	Fair	Twin stemmed from base. Poor pruning in form of flush cuts. Half the canopy has been removed. Ash dieback present.	Monolith to 4m, coronet cut and retain for habitat	<10	3
T31	Hornbeam	Semi-mature	150-250	5-10m	3	Good	Good	Standard tree growing from hedge. Twin stemmed from base. Poor pruning in form of flush cuts.	-	40+	-
T32	Sycamore	Semi-mature	250-350	5-10m	3	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-

Tree No	Species	Age class	Diameter range at 1.5m (mm)	Height range (m)	Crown Clearance (m)	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Comments	Works recommendations	Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) years	Priority
G14	Ash x 1, cherry x 1, poplar x 1, field maple x 1, walnut x 1, hawthorn x 2	Early-mature	250-350	10-15m	3	Good	Good	On grassed area outside tennis club house. Ash dieback present.	Monolith single ash to 4m, coronet cut and retain for habitat	40+	3
G15	Blackthorn, goat willow, budleja, elm, viburnum tinus	Semi-mature	150-250	5-10m	0	Fair	Fair	Dead elms in group.	Remove dead trees	40+	3
H2	Cherry laurel	Early-mature	<75	0-5m	0	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
G16	2 x lawson cypress	Early-mature	250-350	5-10m	2	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
G17	3 x lawson cypress	Early-mature	350-500	10-15m	2	Good	Good	-	-	40+	-
G18	Ash x 1, willow x 6, alder x 3, poplar x 3	Mature	500-750	15-20m	2	Good	Good	Either side of watercourse. Ash dieback suspected .	Reassess in June 2023 for signs of ash dieback. If noted then remove.	40+	3

## 7:0 IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

The survey identified no immediate (priority 1) health and safety works to the trees within the curtilage of Mundy Playing Fields and Poulterbrook.

## 8:0 CONSIDERATIONS

### 8.1 Timing of works

The optimum time to undertake tree works are when the tree is in full leaf. At this point the tree has produced enough energy to react positively to the pruning, and will be able to produce more energy before dormancy in winter for bud burst in the following spring.

A full inspection of the tree for birds and bats should be undertaken prior to works. The table below gives an indication of the best times to prune for the tree, the birds and the bats.

Table 1. Phenology of tree pruning

Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Trees	√	√	x	x	x	√	√	√	√	x	x	√
Bats	x	x	√	√	√	x	x	x	√	√	√	x
Birds	√	√	x	x	x	x	√	√	√	√	√	√

√ = Optimum time to prune

**Note 1:** The limitations on tree health are only relevant if the tree is being retained. Time of year is not important for felling. An Ecologist could provide further information about birds and bats.

**Note 2:** The optimum time to prune a tree is midsummer. If pruning is to be carried in the winter months, then it is important that it is during a period of mild temperatures.

### 8.2 Felling licence

Licences from the Forestry Commission are required when felling more than 5 m<sup>3</sup> of timber in one calendar quarter. Works to dead or dangerous trees are exempt from this licence as are any tree surgery works. This covers all the works that I have recommended. Permission might be required for any additional works.

### 8.3 Ivy control

Ivy is a native creeper that has many ecological benefits. It provides shelter for bats, birds and a variety of invertebrates, but can sometimes cause problems for trees and structures. Ivy growth on a tree can hide defects within the tree during tree inspections. Dense ivy within the crown can increase the sail area of the tree, making it more prone to failure in high winds. On the walls of buildings, the adventitious roots of ivy can find their way into existing defects such as holes, cracks or gaps in the mortar, and through circumferential growth of woody tissue, exacerbate these defects. If left to grow to the roof they can dislodge tiles.

Should it be necessary to remove ivy, it is recommended that the ivy is severed at the base of the tree or structure and left to die off before removing. This allows any nesting birds or roosting bats to alight the ivy (it is an offence to disturb nesting birds or roosting bats under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), and it allows the adventitious roots to release their grip of loose mortar on a structure or bark on a tree, thus reducing damage as the ivy is removed.

### 8.4 Legal obligations

Tree owners have a legal duty of care to maintain their trees to an acceptable level of safety to ensure that no harm is caused by them to third parties or their property.

*The Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984* places a legal duty on the occupier of the house to keep visitors, invited or not, from suffering injury on the premises from a 'concerned danger'. This duty of care is satisfied if the occupier takes reasonable steps to ensure that anyone they might reasonably expect to enter their land is kept reasonably safe from danger whilst on their premises. A tree survey, such as this document is considered a reasonable step, and as long as the tree works that have been prescribed as health and safety have been undertaken, the duty of care has been discharged. Please see section 8.6 for recommended re-inspections.

*The Highways Act 1980* places a duty on tree owners to ensure their vegetation does not impede the public highway, which includes footpaths and streetlights. In order to comply with this, a clearance of 2.5m over a footpath, and 5.4m over a road is usually stipulated by the Highway Authority. Actual heights of clearance are not stated within the Act, and the Highway Authority reserve the right to set these clearances depending on use of the road. Under *section 154* of the Act the Highway Authority can serve a notice on the tree owner to undertake any necessary tree works.

*The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* and its amendments in *The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000* makes it an offence to disturb a birds nest which is in use, which is normally

taken to mean under construction, or with eggs, chicks or birds using it regularly - even if they are not actually in it at the time. For this reason, it is prudent to wait until the bird nesting season has finished before undertaking hedge works. A thorough inspection of the hedge for nesting birds should be undertaken prior to any works commencing. Similar checks should be carried out for tree works.

## 8.5 Common Law Right of Abatement

In English common law a right to abate a legal nuisance exists, enabling a property owner or tenant to prune any overhanging vegetation or trespassing roots entering their land from trees on neighbouring land up to but not beyond, their boundary line. This does not give rights to trespass onto the neighbouring land and so permissions from the land owner must be sought if access to their land is needed to carry out the pruning works. Any arisings from this work must be disposed of responsibly.

## 8.6 Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas

It is necessary to contact South Gloucestershire Council's Planning Dept to ascertain the presence of any Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) or Conservation Areas (CAs). Relevant permissions will be required. South Gloucestershire Council will advise further.

## 8.7 Tree Works

All tree works must be carried out to BS 3998:2010 *Tree work - Recommendations* standards by competent arborists who can show proof of relevant insurances and qualifications.

## 8.8 Future tree inspections

It is recommended that the trees are **reinspected every two years** for health and safety. These inspections should be carried out by a competent arboriculturist who can show proof of relevant insurances and qualifications.

## Sources of Information

BSI Standards Publication (2010) BS3998 *Tree Works – Recommendations* BSI: London

BSI Standards Publication (2012) BS5837 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* BSI: London

Lonsdale, D (1999) *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management*, TSO: London

Matheny, N.P & Clark, J.R (1994) *Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas* 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed ISA Illinois

Mattheck, C & Breloer, H (2003) *The Body language of Trees*, TSO: London

Read, H (2000) *Veteran Trees: A guide to good management*, English Nature: London

Strouts, R.G & Winter, T.G (2004) *Diagnosis of Ill-Health in Trees*, TSO: London



## APPENDIX A – Ash Dieback

### Introduction

Ash Dieback Disease (ADD) is caused by the fungus, *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. *H. fraxineus* blocks the trees' vascular system preventing water and nutrients from reaching the extremities of the branches.

Wilting of leaves and dieback of twigs are early signs of the disease, as are diamond-shaped lesions on the trunk at the base of infected branches. As the lesions slowly girdle the branch further dieback of shoots and branches in the upper crown occurs.

As the disease progresses, a profusion of live shoots (epicormic shoots) is often noticed below the dying branches. This is a reaction to stress in which the tree attempts to increase its leaf cover to aid photosynthesis.

### **Distribution and significance**

The disease has swept through Central and Western Europe with the first confirmed finding in the UK in 2012, although it is believed to have been in this country since 2004. In 2012, cases of the disease were noted in nurseries in the West of England. Since 2017, symptoms of the disease have been found more frequently and mature trees are now declining.

Lessons learned from mainland Europe is that decline in the tree is often rapid once the disease takes hold. Figures of up to 80% of ash trees are thought to have declined or died in Poland and an estimated 1.95 billion ash trees are predicted to be lost in the UK. (1.8 billion sapling and young trees and 150 million mature trees)<sup>1</sup>.

### **Assessment and management**

Although decline in affected trees is thought to be swift, not all trees showing symptoms necessarily require removal. The wholesale removal of infected ash trees would have a profound effect on both the local landscape and the eco structure of our woodlands. A more measured target-led approach will provide a good balance between managing the trees for health and safety and retaining trees where possible and monitoring their progress. Some dead trees can be retained for valuable habitat purposes while others may show signs of resistance to ADD.

For ease of assessment, we have identified 3 stages of ADD which are shown below:

---

<sup>1</sup> Forestry Commission Pest Alert – Ash Dieback Disease 2013

**Stage 1** – This is onset ADD, where bare twigs are present yet the remaining crown appears healthy with no other symptoms yet visible. Approximately 10% of the crown is affected.

**These trees can be generally be monitored and reassessed in 12 months time.**



**Plate 1: Stage 1 ADD showing bare twigs with no reaction growth present. Often localised with remaining crown healthy.**

**Stage 2** – The dieback becomes more pronounced and epicormic growth begins to appear below the deadwood on the affected branch. Approximately anything up to 50% of the crown is affected.

**Where the target is considered high, tree surgery works should be undertaken in the form of either pruning or removal.**



**Plate 2: Stage 2 ADD – epicormic growth below areas of dieback**

Stage 3 – Epicormic growth has spread throughout the crown and dieback exceeds approximately 50%-75% of the crown is affected.

**Tree removal would normally be required if the target level deems it necessary. A mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) would be needed due to the brittle deadwood preventing access to the tree via rope and harness.**

**Tree removal may be avoided if:**

- a) The target level is low and tree can be retained for deadwood**
- b) Other management options are preferred, i.e. pruning or removal of the target**

The above management strategy will be reviewed annually.

**NOTE:** In areas of densely planted ash trees, the higher concentration of fungal spores from the previous year's leaf litter can cause **basal lesions** in the trunk. Secondary pathogens, such as honey fungus (*Armillaria* spp.) may then enter the tree and cause basal or root rot. When lesions are discovered and a target exists, **felling of the tree should be undertaken** as soon as is practicable.<sup>2</sup>



**Plate 3: Stage 3 – Significant leaf loss. Epicormic growth is the only crown cover**



**Plate 4: Stage 3 – Tree is too structurally compromised to access with rope and harness.**

---

<sup>2</sup> Observatree (2016) Field Identification Guide – Chalara ash dieback

## The need for restocking

The impact of ADD on the UK landscape is likely to be significant. Further to this, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommends between 30,000-50,000 hectares of woodland needs to be planted annually in the UK to achieve national carbon reduction targets of net zero emissions by 2050. This is notwithstanding tree losses projected as a result of ADD. It is therefore important to factor in a considered and effective tree replacement plan which should, where possible include both native and non-native trees that in maturity would offer large crowns, as these sequester greater amounts of carbon and support a wider array of wildlife.

In order to increase resilience of woodlands, a wide variety of species should be planted, making the woodland less vulnerable to disease.<sup>3</sup>

A full site assessment should inform the choice of species and number of replacement trees.

---

<sup>3</sup> FC ON046 - *Managing ash (Fraxinus excelsior) in woodlands in light of ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus)*

## **APPENDIX B – Map**

WTC\_1042.02

Phil Dye - BSc (hons) Arboriculture, Cert Arb L4 (ABC) , MArborA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Dye', written over a horizontal line.

Principal Arboriculturist  
Wotton Tree Consultancy Ltd

Date: 16th December 2022

[End of report]