

Barling Magna Parish Council Tree Condition Survey Report



Prepared for:
Barling Magna Parish
Council

Date:
17th July 2018





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1 Introduction

- 1.1 A site inspection was carried out by Meg Leslie (Place Services' Arboricultural Consultant, MArborA, BSc Hons) on 12th July 2018 at Barling Magna Wildlife Reserve, Mucking Hall Road, Barling Magna, Essex, SS3 0NW, to carry out a tree condition survey.
- 1.2 Unless otherwise stated, all trees were inspected visually from ground level. The nature of the survey was to assess the site for risks from tree-related hazards and to recommend any necessary work to control these risks.
- 1.3 The condition of each tree was inspected for defects and associated hazards. Recommendations for any necessary works required within 12 months have been detailed in this report.
- 1.4 In some cases, trees with defects that do not require work have been recorded where monitoring of the condition will be required on a more regular basis than every three years. Where it is foreseeable the trees' condition could deteriorate over time, a shorter inspection frequency will be recommended to monitor any changes to the tree's condition. Further investigation may also be necessary to determine the severity of a defect which may not be visible from ground level. This may include climbing inspections and decay detection, which will be carried out by Place Services if required.

2 Findings

- 2.1 The majority of the tree stock was found to be in good condition, but there are some trees throughout the site that are dead or dying.
- 2.2 There are a number of dead elm standing throughout the site. It is recommended that where these trees are within falling distance of a pathway, they are monolithed to a height of four metres to prevent wind throw. All trees that were identified as requiring a monolith have been included in this report, however it is anticipated that there will be a number of trees that do not need any action now, but may do before the next survey.
- 2.3 There are a number of conifer trees along the eastern boundary that are showing signs of decline. It was reported in the last inspection that the trees were suffering from Coryneum Canker (*Seiridium cardinale*), but they appear to have declined since the previous survey. At present these trees appear stable and do not pose a health and safety risk, however it is not anticipated that they will recover. It is likely that these trees will need to be removed as part of the next survey, however should the need be sooner than that, they should be felled.
- 2.4 Below is a list specifying any required remedial works from the survey. Please note that this report identifies only those trees requiring remedial work or monitoring.
- 2.5 Tree owners have a common law duty of care not to injure people on neighbouring land and can be found negligent if:
 - the tree falls or sheds a branch;
 - injury or harm is caused as a result;
 - the injury or harm was foreseeable;
 - the person who was injured, or whose property was harmed, is someone to whom the tree owner has a duty of care;
 - the injury or harm was caused by a breach of that duty.

3 Recommendations

Key to tree tables

Note: The below inspection frequency categorisation is used for trees on other ECC sites.

Work priority		
1	Urgent	Works required immediately to make tree safe.
2	Very high	Works required within 30 days.
3	High	Works required within 90 days.
4	Moderate	Works required as part of scheduled maintenance over 12 months from the relevant inspection date.
5	Low	Works required are of the lowest priority and may be done if the budget allows.

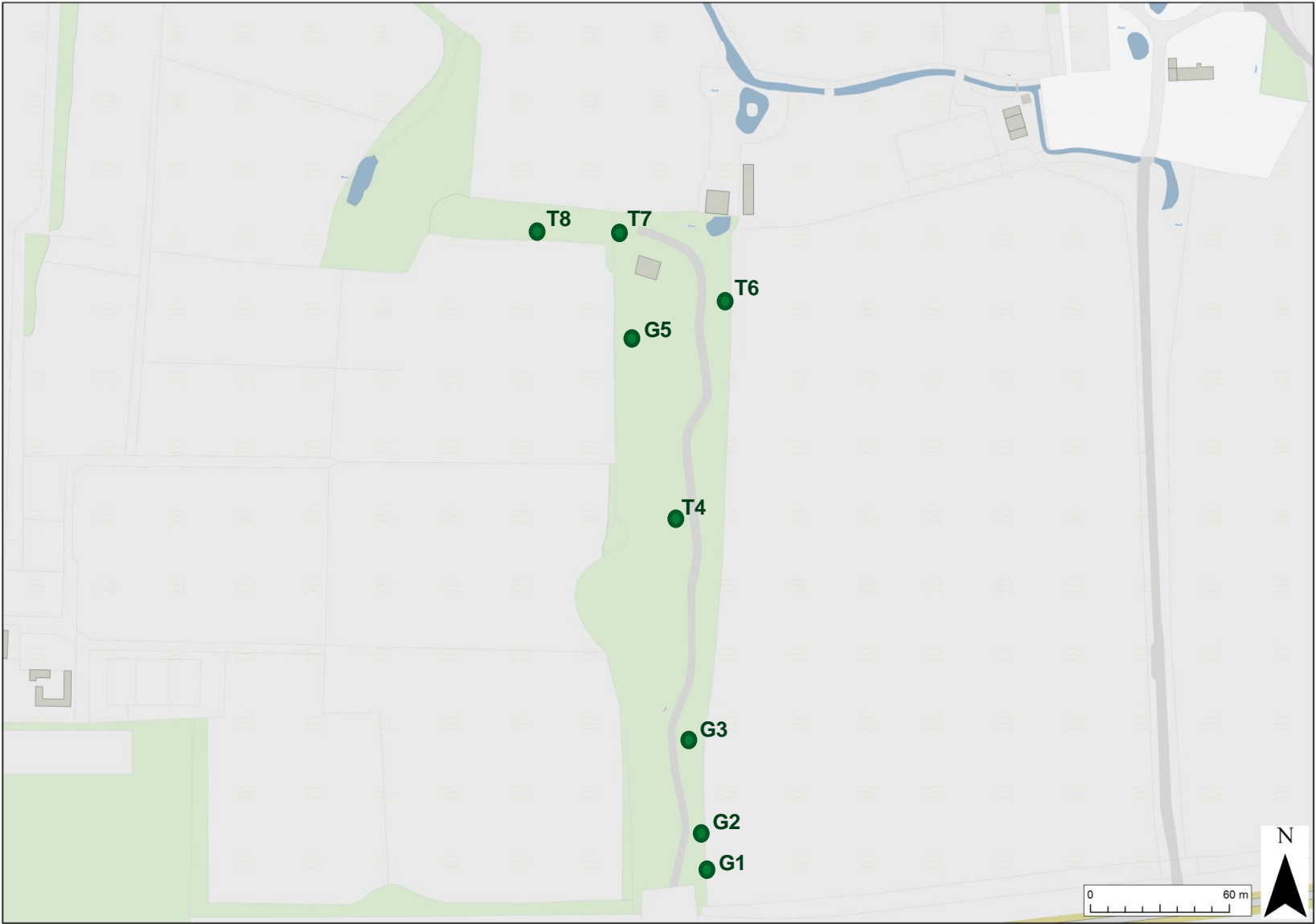
Inspection Frequency		
1	Urgent	Carry out an aerial inspection and/or use decay detection equipment as soon as can be arranged
2	Very high	6 month inspection
3	High	12 month inspection
4	Moderate	18 month inspection
5	Low	3 year inspection
0	Target removed	Target either doesn't exist, or has been removed

Tree ages	
D	Dead
M	Mature
SM	Semi mature
Y	Young

3 Remedial Work

Tree ref.	Species	Height (m)	Age	Comments	Recommendations	Work priority	Inspection frequency
G1	Elm and Poplar <i>Ulmus</i> sp. and <i>Populus</i> sp.	10	Y/D	One dead stem east of conifer and one stem in decline.	Fell both stems to ground level.	4	N/A
G2	Elm <i>Ulmus</i> sp.	9	SM	One dead stem and one tree in decline.	Monolith both stems to 4m to reduce sail area and to prevent failure over footpath.	5	N/A
G3	Elm <i>Ulmus</i> sp.	7	SM	Five dead stems and one tree in decline.	Monolith all stems to 4m to reduce sail area and to prevent failure over footpath.	5	N/A
T4	Willow <i>Salix</i> sp.	12	SM	Early leaf wilting, minor at present, possibly as a result of lack of water. Historic snap out wound visible on south at 4m, no sign of further decay at present. Low branches overhanging footpath.	Crown lift to 2.5m over footpath.	4	5
G5	Elm <i>Ulmus</i> sp.	7	D	Three dead stems overhanging footpath.	Monolith two biggest stems to 4m to reduce sail area and to prevent failure over footpath.	4	5
T6	Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	14	M	Historical pollard in very good condition. Leaf miner present throughout crown. Early basal decay evident on south-west. Probe could not be inserted and sound test did not reveal any hollowing. Appears to be slow decay.	Monitor on next inspection.	N/A	5
T7	Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	10	M	Woodpecker holes within crown on main stem, potential bat roost features. Significant basal cavity to 1.25m, extensive hollowing within. Leaning towards footpath, early dieback in upper crown.	Reduce whole tree in by up to 4m to reduce weight on cavity, retaining ecological features.	4	5
T8	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	12	SM	Large cavity forming between unions in base. Sufficient supporting wood present, feature of species so no concern at present.	Monitor on next inspection.	N/A	5

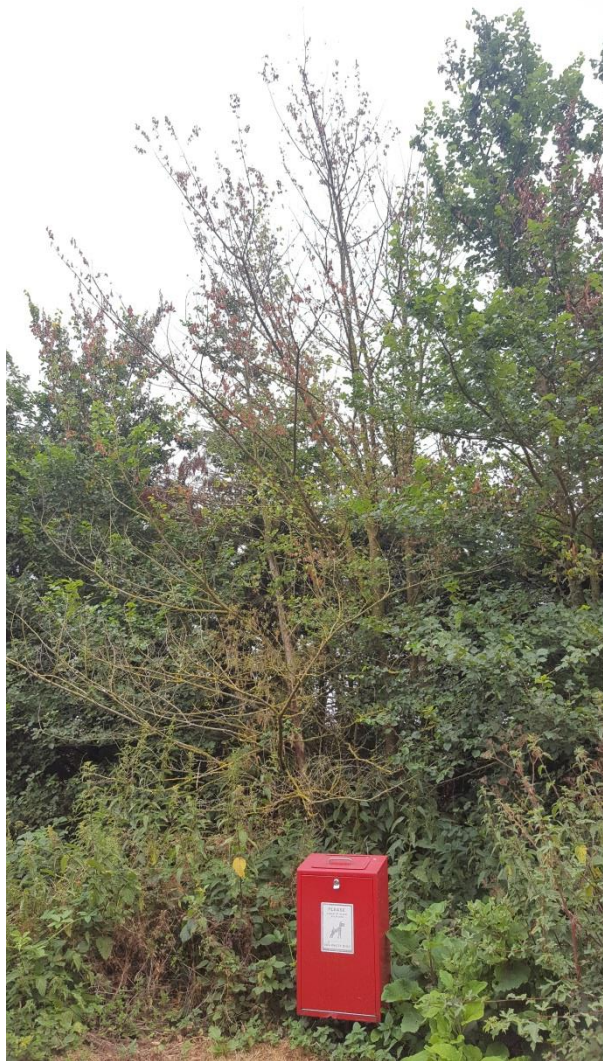
4 Site Plan



5 Photographs



G1. Elm and Poplar that require felling.



G2. Elm that require a monolith.



G3. Elm that require a monolith.



T4. Willow that requires a crown lift over the footpath.



G5. Elm that require a monolith.



T6. Horse Chestnut that has a basal cavity that requires monitoring.



T6. Basal cavity.



T7. Horse Chestnut that requires a crown reduction.



T7. Basal cavity.



T8. Ash with a basal cavity that requires monitoring.



T8. Basal cavity.

Notes for contractors

Guidance

- 5.1 Traffic management must comply with “**Safety at Street Works and Road Works: A Code of Practice**” (The Stationery Office 2001).
- 5.2 Work must be carried out in compliance with **BS3998: 2010 “Tree work – Recommendations**”, plus all relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practices.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

- 5.3 All wild birds, their eggs and nests are protected by law. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. Some birds known as Schedule 1 birds, have extra legal protection and it is also an offence to intentionally or by not taking enough care, to disturb them while they are nesting, building a nest in or near a nest that contains their young. Please therefore check for the presence of nesting birds both in vegetation including on the ground before commencing work and record the details. Where nesting birds are found to be present, the contractor must stop work immediately and seek the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist, who will be able to advise on next steps. Work in close proximity of the nest will need to be postponed until further notice.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

- 5.4 This applies to European Protected Species that, regarding trees, refers primarily to bats. A person is guilty of an offence if he/she:
- deliberately captures, injures or kills a protected species
 - deliberately disturbs a protected species
 - damages or disturbs a breeding site or resting place
- 5.5 When bats are found to be present, the contractor must stop work immediately and call the National Bat Helpline on 0345 1300 228. Work will need to be postponed until further notice.

Work at Height Regulations 2005

- 5.6 Contractors must use the right work equipment and measures to prevent falls i.e. mobile elevating work platforms, before other measures which may only provide protection from a fall e.g. rope & harness.
- 5.7 As per Schedule 5, Part 1, a personal fall protection system shall be used only, if –
- A risk assessment has demonstrated that: the work can so far as is reasonably practicable be performed safely while using that system; and the use of other, safer work equipment is reasonably practicable: and
 - The user and a sufficient number of available persons have received adequate training specific to the operations envisaged, including rescue procedures.

Cross-contamination

- 5.8 Where there is a risk of transferring pathogens to vegetation at other sites, felling and pruning equipment must be disinfected after use (possible disinfectants include Propellar). Also consider brushing mud and debris from soles of boots, and spraying boots and vehicle tyres before leaving the site (possible disinfectants include CleanKill, Virkon, ethanol and industrial methylated spirits). All disinfectants should be

used in accordance with the recommended safety precautions (refer to the material data safety sheet for each product).

Pests and Diseases

- 5.9 It is essential to keep up to date on pests and diseases entering the country that could pose a threat to the long term health to our tree stock, especially through cross contamination. Up to date information can be found on the Forestry Commission website <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases>

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