



# TREE SURVEY & RISK ASSESSMENT

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All Saints Parochial Church Council

**Jack Foskett / Robert C Yates**

January 2023

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## 1.0 Terms of Reference

- 1.1 As instructed by Liz Allan (PCC member responsible for the churchyard), we have carried out a routine tree survey and risk assessment at All Saints Parish Church, Shillington. The primary purpose of the survey being to satisfy statutory Duty of Care obligations on behalf of the Church Council.

## 2.0 Caveats

- 2.1 This survey was carried out by Jack Foskett (arboricultural surveyor), who holds the formal qualification ND Arb (L3), and the LANTRA Certificate in Professional Tree Inspection; he has over seven years' relevant survey experience.
- 2.2 All trees have been inspected from ground level only. Any further, more detailed inspection will be detailed in the recommendations section of the attached schedule. All conclusions and subsequent recommendations are based on the trees at the time of inspection. When assessing the risk posed by individual trees we have taken into account both the proximity of neighbouring properties and the estimated volume of pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic within the target range of the tree/s; for each tree a notional risk category has been allocated, for general indication of target value. Should there be a change of usage of any part of the site between inspections, this could affect the level of risk posed by any particular tree or group of trees.
- 2.3 It should be noted that any tree, irrespective of its current health and condition, can be subject to a catastrophic failure, given sufficiently severe weather conditions.

## 3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 All trees have been assessed for general condition and health & safety issues, using the recognised system known as VTA (Visual Tree Assessment), as devised by Mattheck & Breloer and popularised by eminent arboriculturists such as Dr. David Lonsdale *et al* (Ref. *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment & Management 1999*).

Individual trees have been affixed with a numbered tag (these numbers are used herein to identify the trees).

- 3.2 The indicative location of each recorded tree, or group of trees, is shown on the plan at appendix 2. Management recommendations have been given for each tree as required, and the recommended works have been prioritised as Urgent, High, Medium or Low as follows:

- **Urgent** – Imminent risk to persons or property – Recommended works to be actioned as soon as practicably possible, whilst access to the target area should be prevented until works can be completed!
- **High Priority** – Those trees which in their current condition represent a high risk to persons or property – Recommended works to be actioned within 3 months
- **Medium Priority** – Those trees which in their current condition represent a moderate risk to persons or property – Recommended works to be actioned within 6 months
- **Low Priority** – Those trees whose current condition represents a very low risk to persons or property, but which could in the future result in a higher level of risk – Recommended works should ideally be actioned within 18 months

#### 4.0 Findings & Recommendations

- 4.1 Details of all trees, as well as recommended remedial works are included in the survey schedule which forms appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.2 All recommended works should only be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced contractors, and must conform to industry guidelines and best practice (Ref. British Standard 3998 : 2010 'Tree Work - Recommendations').

#### 5.0 Re-inspection Procedure

- 5.1 As regards re-inspection of the trees, we would recommend a default period of **three years**. Between scheduled inspections (by a professional arboriculturist), impromptu risk assessments should be undertaken by an appropriate person (i.e. Parish Tree Warden); these should immediately follow periods of extreme weather e.g. high winds, heavy rain or snow falls (should there be any doubt regarding the condition of any tree a professional arboriculturist should be consulted immediately).
- 5.2 Should any part of the site or adjacent land undergo a change of use during the period between routine inspections this could affect the level of risk, and hence, an unscheduled inspection may be required.

## 6.0 Statutory Obligations

6.1 Any works to trees which are covered by Tree Preservation Orders [TPOs] or are within a Conservation Area [CA] require permission or consent from your Local Planning Authority [LPA]. It is necessary to gain confirmation from the LPA of any TPOs or CAs on the site, and to follow the formal application procedure if tree surgery or felling, is required in respect of protected trees. ***We understand that a number of trees in the Churchyard are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order.***

6.2 It is a criminal offence under normal circumstances to disturb or destroy - whether intentional or unintentional - the nesting sites of wild birds or the roost sites of bats, under the 'Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, the 'Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000' and the 'Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017'. *We would thus recommend that the tree works are, if possible, undertaken outside of the normal bird nesting season (Mid-March to end of August). Furthermore, a thorough inspection of each tree for the presence of bats and/or their roost sites is to be undertaken by a competent arborist prior to commencing works...further advice from Natural England or any qualified ecologist must be obtained before proceeding with the works if evidence of bats is found.*

**APPENDIX 1 : SCHEDULE OF TREES – January 2023 (Page 1 of 3)**

Tree ID/tag	Species (common name)	Age class	Height (m)	Stem dia. (cm)	Vigour	Structural Condition	Risk Zone	Comments	Recommendations	Work Priority	Re-inspect	
Shillington Parish Church	T1	Plum	m/aged	4	m/s	normal	good	low	Heavily Ivy clad	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	G1	Plum, Elder, Box + 1no. Yew	mature	5 - 8	n/a	normal	good	low	Dense group of unmanaged small trees & shrubs, Yew is of good form	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	G2	1no. Yew, 3no. Plum	young to mature	3.5 – 5.5	avg. 20	normal to low	good to fair	low	1x Central Plum tree is very heavily Ivy clad. Ivy on all other stems	Sever Ivy at base of Plum trees	Low	3yrs
	G3	6no. Lawson Cypress	mature	avg. 9	avg. 30	normal	fair	low	Tagged Group #661-666	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	G4	2no. Sycamore 1no. Field Maple + Hawthorn	mature	<12	m/s	normal	good/fair	medium	Linear tagged group (#667-669) of multi-stemmed trees, some heavily Ivy clad	Sever Ivy at base where possible	Low	3yrs
	G5	21no. Lawson Cypress	mature	avg. 10	m/s	normal	fair	medium	Double avenue (un-tagged), some trees are Ivy clad	Sever Ivy at base where possible	Low	3yrs
	651	small leaved Lime	mature	19	65	normal	good/fair	high	Lapsed pollard. Recently reduced upper crown	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	652	small leaved Lime	mature	19	50	normal	good/fair	high	Lapsed pollard. Recently reduced upper crown	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	653	Sycamore	mature	20	110	normal	good	high	Lapsed pollard. Significant deadwood over footpath to east	Remove all significant deadwood	Medium	3yrs

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Tree ID/tag	Species (common name)	Age class	Height (m)	Stem dia. (cm)	Vigour	Structural Condition	Risk Zone	Comments	Recommendations	Work Priority	Re-inspect	
Shillington Parish Church	654	Common Lime	mature	5.5	80	normal	fair	medium	Recently pollarded to 5.5m	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	655	Horse Chestnut	mature	13	50	normal	good	medium	Co-dominant stems from 3m	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	656	Horse Chestnut	mature	11	65	normal	good	medium	Biased crown to west	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	657	Small leaved Lime	mature	12	70	normal	fair	medium	Lapsed pollard, small cavity at 1.5m south (not significant), slight lean to east but stable	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	658	Yew	mature	10	m/s	normal	good	high	No observations / comments	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	659	Sycamore	m/aged	10	m/s	normal	good	low	No observations / comments	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	660	Irish Yew	mature	5	m/s	low	fair	low	Crown die-back/in decline, heavily lvy clad	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	670	Ash	m/aged	9	3x 25	normal	good/fair	low	3 stems	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	671	Sycamore	young	8	30	normal	good	low	No observations / comments	No action required	n/a	3yrs

Tree ID/tag	Species (common name)	Age class	Height (m)	Stem dia. (cm)	Vigour	Structural Condition	Risk Zone	Comments	Recommendations	Work Priority	Re-inspect	
Shillington Parish Church	672	Field Maple	mature	11	m/s	normal	good	low	No observations / comments	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	673	Ash	m/aged	9	m/s	normal	good	low	No observations / comments	No action required	n/a	3yrs
	674	Yew	mature	9	m/s	normal	good	medium	Prominent heritage tree. Wide spreading crown. Low hanging crown over headstones. 1x Stem is Ivy clad	Sever Ivy at base of 1x stem	Low	3yrs

**NOTE:** Where removal of ‘all significant deadwood’ has been recommended, this should be taken to mean that which is in excess of 50mm dia. and/or 900mm in length



APPENDIX 2 : Tree Location Plan (Not to Scale)

