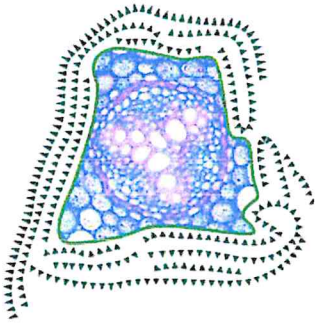
HILL-FORT TREE CARE



Arboricultural Survey Report

Pickards Park, Desford, Leics

Produced for: Desford Parish Council
Desford Library
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Report date: 02/10//2023

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Following the submission of a written proposal (Email), instructions were received from Pip Gould, Clerk and RFO to Desford Parish Council, to survey 3 trees at Pickards Park, Desford, Leics. The purpose of the survey is to assess the condition of the trees, identify any significant defects, symptoms of disease or other relevant problems liable to cause significant harm, and make recommendations for works considered appropriate either in the interests of safety or the long-term management of the tree stock.

1.1 The data recorded in the attached tree survey schedule is based upon that collected during a ground level survey undertaken by Mark Ashman Dip Arb (RFS) M. Arbor. A. on Thursday, 21 September, 2023.

2.0 SITE PLAN

2.1 The survey schedules at appendix 1 are referenced to the sketch plan at appendix 2. The plan, drawn by the surveyor, is not to scale and is to be used for tree identification purposes only.

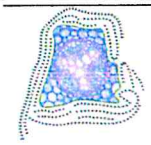
3.0 TREE SURVEY INFORMATION

3.1 Specific information on the 3 individual is recorded in the survey schedule at appendix 1 reference to the sketched location plan (DES.001) at appendix 2 to this report.

3.2 Species has been recorded by common and botanical name.

3.3 Age class has been categorised thus:

Y	-	Young:	Recently planted or established tree.
SM	-	Semi-Mature:	An established tree but one which has not reached its potential ultimate height or spread and has significant growth potential
E/M	-	Early Mature:	A tree approaching its ultimate potential height, whose growth rate is slowing down but will still increase in stem diameter and crown spread
M	-	Mature:	A mature specimen with limited potential for any significant increase in size



O/M	-	Over Mature:	A senescent or moribund specimen with a limited safe life expectancy. Possibly also containing significant structural defects with attendant safety and/or duty of care implications

3.4 Major defects or disease problems and other relevant comments are scheduled under the heading of Condition.

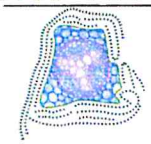
3.5 Recommendations for management works are included in the schedule at appendix 1 to this report. These have been prioritised according to their perceived level of urgency, based upon the location of the tree whether it is in an area of low or high usage, the likelihood of failure associated with it and the size of the part and thus significance of harm that it may cause. Recommended works have been prioritised thus:

Urgent	-	Urgent works required in the interests of safety, to be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.
High	-	Works that are generally safety related and should be undertaken as a matter of high priority, recommended within 1 year
Moderate	-	Works that are less urgent recommended be undertaken within the next 2 years if possible.
Low	-	Works to be undertaken in the interests of good long-term management of the tree population as and when resources permit.

3.6 Further to the information on the condition of the individual trees, it has been noted that several diseases are present:

Horse Chestnut leaf miner (Cameraria ohridella) (sourced from Forest Research) - moth larvae

Elongate patches on the leaves, starting white and turning brown, are a sign that horse chestnut leaf miner might be present in horse chestnut trees. These patches appear in the summer, sometimes as early as June, and begin in the lower canopy, eventually spreading upwards to cover the entire tree.



HCLM does not significantly impair the trees' overall health, and the effect is mostly aesthetic. Research has shown that HCLM can attack up to 75% of the total leaf area on the trees, but that the loss of subsequent photosynthetic leaf tissue only reduces the total carbon assimilation by, at most, an estimated 30-40 per cent over the growing season. The reduction is much less than the total leaf area affected, because the majority of damage caused by HCLM occurs late in the season, after the tree has completed most of its photosynthesis for the year. As such, the general tree condition and stem radial growth are not affected by HCLM, even over repeated annual attacks.

No Management recommendations are made for this disease

Horse Chestnut leaf blotch (Guignardia aesculi)

Leaf blotch of horse chestnut is caused by the fungus Guignardia aesculi. This is a common disease which causes browning of the leaves especially during years with wet springs. It is not of significant concern to the health of the tree.

Bleeding canker of horse chestnut (Pseudomonas syringae pv. aesculi)

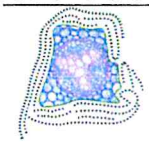
Bleeding canker of horse chestnut can affect trees of all ages. Some infections can last for years with little impact on the crown, while some spread rapidly and cause crown thinning, die-back, and sometimes death of part of or even the whole tree.

Symptoms include (sourced from Forest Research and Woodland Trust):

- Cracks in the bark which ooze dark or reddish-brown sticky liquid. These can dry out in winter, leaving a rusty-brown or black deposit.
- Discoloured wood under the bark. Healthy wood is a white or pinkish colour while an infected tree will have patches of brown or purple discolouration.
- On older cankers, the dead bark might fall away to expose the wood.

Recommended management options include:

- Monitor trees with light to moderate bleeding and vigorous crowns, unless there are immediate concerns for safety – some trees may recover
- Small trees are more likely to succumb to the disease because they can be girdled in less time than larger specimens, so the removal of young trees may be a justifiable precaution
- Avoid pruning or cutting out infected bark
- Do not disturb the soil around trees or apply fertilisers



- Always disinfect tools with methylated spirit, a solution of domestic bleach or a commercial product after working on affected trees and when moving from site to site
- Where practicable, hose off machinery and vehicles that have been on infected sites
- Avoid bringing in young horse chestnuts to plant especially if a site is disease-free; plant conkers from the same site instead

Honey fungus (Armillaria sp.)

Honey fungus is a pathogenic decay fungus that most often invades its host via the root system causing disease before decaying wood. If decay is extensive in a root system, there is a high chance of windthrow.

4.0 Statutory Protection

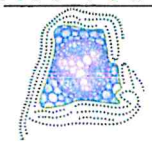
4.1 No contact has been made with the local planning authority to confirm the prospective status of the trees contained in this report. Nevertheless, your attention is drawn to Appendix 3 to this report.

4.2 All British Birds and their nesting sites are protected under the Wildlife and countryside Act 1981 (amended by the Countryside and rights of Way Act 2000) and the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994. The implications of which are that thorough inspection of trees prior to any works on trees must be undertaken to establish the presence or not of any nesting bird

4.3 All British bats are similarly protected. Although I saw no evidence of the presence of bats during my inspection, all bats use trees for shelter and protection. Therefore adequate surveying for the presence of bats or their roosts must be undertaken immediately prior to carrying out any tree works.

5.0 LIMITATIONS

5.1 Three trees only, on site, were surveyed and are numbered on the sketch plan at appendix 2 and referenced in the schedule at appendix 1.



5.2 The survey was undertaken from ground level, from the subject property, adjacent public roads and footpaths only. Further defects may be present within the trees' crowns that are not visible from these vantage points. It is recommended that the brief for any arboricultural contractors engaged to undertake the recommended works should include for undertaking an aerial inspection, to check for additional defects that are not visible from the ground.

5.3 Whilst every effort has been made to identify potentially hazardous specimens, trees are functioning biological systems subject to the unpredictable influences of the climate, and no specimen can ever be declared categorically safe. It is recommended that the condition of the trees in areas of regular usage be professionally reviewed on an annual basis or earlier in the event of a significant deterioration of their condition. In the intervening periods, regular visual checks of the trees overhanging the site boundaries, buildings, roads and paths should be undertaken by responsible persons, particularly after periods of windy weather.

5.4 This report in no way comments upon or discusses tree related subsidence or heave, nor does it infer or attempt a subsidence or heave risk assessment.

Appendix 1 (Tree schedule)

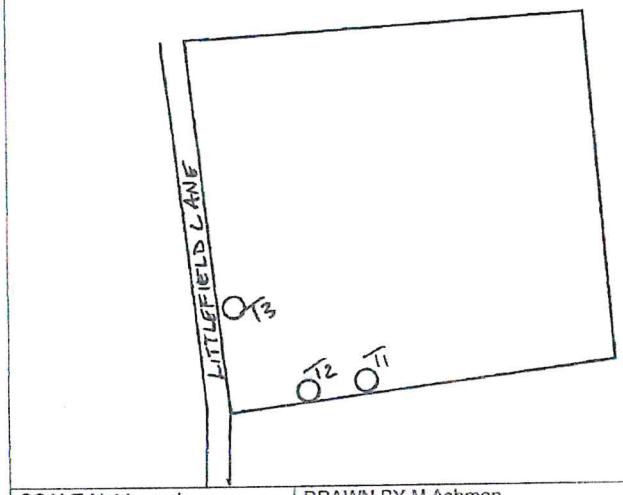
Tree No on plan	Species	Age class	Condition P: Physiological health S: Structural health	Recommendations	Work Priority
T1 (Tag 1222)	Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)	Mat	P: Good S: Good Approximately 20m tall, average 10m spread • Trifurcates at approximately 3m • Pruning wounds to main stem to approximately 6m • Moderate deadwood throughout the crown • History of heavy pruning to south side of tree • Over extended secondary branch – south • Wound to low branch – south	1. Remove deadwood > 25mm Ø 2. Tip back over extended branch (south) by up to 2m	Low

T2 Tag (1223)	Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)	Mat	P: Fair S: Fair • Approximately 21m tall, average 8m spread • Extensive defoliation by Horse Chestnut leaf miner (*Cameraria ohridella*) • Minor incidence of Horse Chestnut leaf blotch (*Guignardia aesculi*) • Occluding wound – north at approximately 3m • Trifurcates at approximately 4m • Moderate deadwood throughout the crown • Rhyzomorphs of Honey fungus (Armillaria sp.) at the base associated with dead bark between buttresses (north) • Minor historic incidence of Bleeding canker of horse chestnut (*Pseudomonas syringae pv. aesculi*) • Rib formation reaction-wood at low (approximately 4.5m) primary limb, close to main stem, south	1. Aerial inspect rib wound at 4.5m (south) on primary limb to assess if associated with an internal fracture/shorten limb as appropriate to findings 2. Remove deadwood > 25mm Ø	Mod Low

T3 (Tag 1226)	Horse chestnut	Mat	P: Good S: Good • Approximately 18m tall, average 9m spread • Extensive defoliation by Horse Chestnut leaf miner (Cameraria ohridella) • Minor incidence of Horse Chestnut leaf blotch (Guignardia aesculi) • Buttress root (east) found to be dead and extensively decayed • Rhyzomorphs Honey fungus Armillaria sp.) associated with dead bark on buttress (east) • Strip canker associated with dead buttress root extending up main stem, extent not fully investigated • Extensive incidence of Bleeding canker of horse chestnut *(Pseudomonas syringae pv. aesculi)* throughout the main and primary stems and extensive dead bark from historic infections	Reduce in height by approximately 4m and in spread and proportionately (approximately 3m in spread)	High

Appendix 2 (Sketch plan)

Site: Pickards Park, Desford, Leics	CLIENT Desford Parish Council	REFERENCE DES.001



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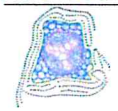

Appendix 3 (Tree Protection)

Tree preservation Orders

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is and order made by the local planning authority (LPA) to protect individual, groups, areas of trees and woodlands. The legislation on TPO'sis in *Part VIII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.* **Written consent from the Local Planning Authority must be obtained before any work can take place on protected trees**. Failure to acquire consent from the LPA may result in prosecution. In some cases exceptions may apply, you should contact your LPA for more details

Conservation Areas

The Law relating to conservation areas is in *Part II of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.* Conservation area are areas of special architectural or historical interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to enhance or preserve. **Anyone proposing to undertake work to trees within a Conservation Area is required to give the Local Planning Authority 6 weeks prior notice** to enable the tree to be considered for protection by a Tree Preservation Order. Failure to give the LPA 6 weeks notice may result in prosecution. In some case exceptions may apply, you should contact your LPA for more details.