Barwick in Elmet and Scholes Parish Council

Tree Condition Report

March 2021

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1 Scope of Report

Instruction

A Level 1 & 2 tree condition survey of trees was commissioned by Barwick in Elmet and Scholes Parish Council. I was asked to provide an arboricultural report on the general condition of the trees and to recommend works to manage tree risk. The report is concerned with significant trees in areas identified to me by the Clerk of the Parish Council.

Collection of Data

A site visit was undertaken by a Jo Ryan on 2 March 2021. All observations were carried out from ground level using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method[1]. Stem girths and key tree heights were measured, and all other tree dimensions were estimated.

Statement

Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly and all trees, even healthy ones, are at risk from unpredictable climatic and man-made events. The health, condition and safety of trees should be checked on a basis commensurate with the level of risk. This report remains valid for one year from the date of inspection, March 2021.

Sites

The trees are located within eight areas identified by the Parish Council and are listed in the Tree Schedule(Appendix A). All areas are open to and can be accessed by the public to some degree, for both formal and informal recreation.

[1] Mattheck, C and Breloer, H (1994) The Body Language of Trees. *Research for Amenity Trees No.4* Department of the Environment

2 Discussion

Pruning

Some pruning is recommended to reduce end loading and to increase height clearance over footpaths and roads. Removal of some damaged branches and basal shoots is also specified. Where pruning work is recommended in the Tree Schedule, I have indicated in brackets the approximate number and diameter of branches to be removed.

I recommend that where possible, branches are shortened by cutting from the outer tips back to a suitable side branch. This is preferable to 1) pruning internal side branches (which creates end loading on retained branches), and 2) to removing branches completely at the main stem (which can cause large wounds and lead to stem decay).

Deadwood

Deadwood greater than 25mm diameter has the potential to cause damage if it falls and should be considered for removal over areas that are regularly used (high target areas). However, the risk of injury or damage becomes much reduced where deadwood overhangs lower target areas. In these locations no work is recommended (such as fields and grass verges). Dying and deadwood habitats are important from a conservation viewpoint and should be maintained wherever possible, i.e. where the risk of injury or damage is acceptably low. Where branches or trees cannot be retained it may be possible to leave the pruned wood in large pieces on the ground, away from footpaths.

Ash dieback[2]

The disease is affecting small diameter branches of the surveyed ash trees. It is a chronic fungal disease of ash trees characterised by leaf loss and crown dieback in infected trees. While the disease can kill younger trees, older trees may initially develop dead wood within the crown. Unless a tree poses a risk to people or property, the Forestry Commission advises infected trees are retained to see if any show tolerance and begin to recover.

Tree Removals

Three trees have been identified which show advanced wood decay and/or structural problems. Pruning and possibly cordoning off target areas or removing targets could be undertaken to provide a short-term solution to reducing risk. It may also help to budget for eventual tree removal and replacement, which ultimately, all three trees are likely to require. As such, a management option is provided for these trees, prefixed by 'consider'.

Recommended Work	Tree	Location Area
Consider felling	Ash Cherry T3 Ash	1 3 5

[2] Ash dieback is caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*
See: https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/pest-and-disease-resources/ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/

Other Considerations

Survey periods

Trees are dynamic, living organisms and no tree can be guaranteed to be safe. As long as we retain trees, we cannot achieve zero risk. While it is important for owners and managers of trees to have them regularly inspected and to act on recommendations, there should be a reasonable and balanced approach to tree risk management where tree risk is considered alongside the benefits that trees provide.

Frequency of survey should be commensurate with frequency of site use. Unless stated otherwise in the Tree Schedule, I recommend that trees within failing distance of roads, footpaths or built structures are regularly surveyed (2-3 years) to assess their mechanical integrity. Following strong winds or adverse weather conditions, all trees should also be checked with a basic walk-over survey (either by a person with a good working knowledge of the trees or an arboriculturist) and arboricultural advice sought where there are any concerns or problems.

Implementation of works

I advise that all works are carried to BS 3998 *Tree Work - Recommendations* (2010).

Birds and bats

It is the responsibility of the tree owner and tree contractor carrying out the work to ensure that no wild birds or bats and their roosts will be affected by any works. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 protect all wild birds, their nests (whether in use or being built) and eggs and other wild animals including bats and their roosts. Further information can be obtained from Natural England [3]

Trees subject to statutory controls

If any of the surveyed trees are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order or are located within a Conservation Area, it will be necessary to consult with the local planning authority before any pruning work other than certain exemptions[4] can be carried out. A search of Leeds City Council interactive website[5] shows that TPOs and Conservation Areas apply to some of the survey areas.

Tree Preservation Orders	Conservation Area
Area 8 Beech Trees: TPO 1989/14 (G3)	Area 3: Barwick in Elmet Conservation Area No 34 Area 5: Barwick in Elmet Conservation Area No 34 Area 8: Scholes Conservation Area No 80

[3] www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england
[4] Permission is not required for the removal of deadwood
[5] https://leedscc.maps.arcgis.com

Figure 1
Map Showing Tree Locations Barwick in Elmet

Figure 2
Map Showing Tree Locations Scholes

Appendix A
Tree Schedule

SITE:	BARWICK IN ELMET AND SCHOLES PARISH	**SURVEYOR:**	JO RYAN
CLIENT:	BARWICK IN ELMET AND SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL	**ASSESSMENT DATE:**	MARCH 2021
BRIEF:	LEVEL 1/2 TREE SURVEY	**JOB REFERENCE:**	BARWICK AND SCHOLES/0321

AREA NO	SPECIES	AGE RANGE Young/ Semi-Mature/ Early-Mature/ Mature	STEM DIA (CM)	COMMENTS	MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (BRANCH NUMBER AND DIMENSIONS RECOMMENDED WORK PERIOD)
Area 1 Barwick Allotments	Ash Cypress Hedge: Ivy Elder Hawthorn	M SM	45 10	**Ash:** Ht. 12m Vitality moderate Structure poor Tree in SE corner. 2 co-dominant stems with debris stacked around base leaning to SE and NE. Ivy on stems. Ash dieback on branch ends - deadwood to 50mm dia. (25mm dia over shed). Advanced decay to root crown and roots on east, appears to continue through to SW side. Adaptive growth on north and SE. Stem to north – bark missing on NW buttress root. Stem overhangs shed and hedge. Branch 20cm dia recently removed. **Cypress:** Ht. 4m Vitality good Structure moderate Growing within hedge on southern boundary. 3 co-dominant stems. **Hedge:** Eastern boundary Ht 2m Shrubs becoming more open and taller to 6m towards north.	**Ash:** Tree presents a low risk as potential stem failure would be towards hedges and NE corner of shed. Decay will progress and tree structure will become increasingly compromised. **Options:** Retain tree and check again in 1-2 years (first removing basal debris) and possibly move shed if concerned about potential damage. OR Fell tree. (12 months)

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Area 2 Barwick Playing Fields/ Sports Ground	Sorbus Scots pine Sycamore Maple Whitebeam Birch Thorns Prunus Hedge: Ornamental shrubs Hawthorn Elder Sycamore Cypress	Y-SM SM EM SM EM SM EM	10-20 15-25 35-40 30-40 15-30	**<u>Western boundary and car park:</u>** **Scots pine:** Mutually suppressed group with ivy up middle tree. Lopped lower branches dead. **Sycamore:** Ht 10m. Co-dominant stems at 1m with included bark at junction. Third stem (Ash) cut at 0.5m. Crown reduced to 8m in past with 2m shoot re-growth. Dysfunctional sapwood at pruning wounds. Single stem sycamore leans to car park. **Maple:** Co-dominant stems at 1m with included bark at junction. Growing over garage to SW. **<u>Village Hall:</u>** Whitebeam & Birch: Ht 8-12m Vitality good Structure good Hedge on NW: Gaps in hedge - predominantly ivy and bramble with some hawthorn and elder. **<u>Southern boundary:</u>** **Thorns:** Ht 5m Vitality good Structure good. Basal suckers. **Prunus:** Ht 7m Vitality good Structure moderate-poor. Behind score board. Stems with included bark. Overhangs property to SE. 2 branches split at junction at 2m and 1 branch split out.	**Scots pine:** Keep ivy cut from stems. Crown lift over footpath if increased height required. (3 x 25mm dia lowest branches). (2 years) **Sycamore:** Check regrowth with a view to re-cutting. (1-2 years) **Thorns:** Remove basal suckers (2 years) **Prunus:** (Score board): Consider pruning back from property to SW. (2 years)

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Area 3 Jack Heaps Field	Cherry Swedish whitebeam Beech Norway maple	EM-M M M EM	50-75 50 104 55	**<u>Clockwise from south</u>** **Cherry 1:** Ht 10m Vitality good Structure good Canopy clearance 3m over footpath SE. Upper branches extend to adjacent house. Branch snags and decay. Lowest branch to south resting on adjacent branch – appears dead. Crossing branches and deadwood to 25mm dia. **Cherry 2:** Deadwood internally to 50mm dia. Bark wound on end-loaded lowest branch to east with decayed exposed wood at base. Break-out wound 1m from junction on lowest branch SW over highway. **Cherry 3:** Structure poor. Deadwood and snags internally to 50mm dia. Included bark at 2 branch junctions on SE splitting apart – spread 10m to NE. Upright branch shows a crack and exposed deadwood down stem 1m. Target canker on a number of branches. **Swedish whitebeam:** Bark cracks on lower stem. (T1). Dead branch on north with bark cracking below. (T2) snapped branches and stubs resprouted.	**Cherry 1:** Remove dead lowest branch to south. (100mm dia) (12 months) **Cherry 2:** Consider reducing lowest branch to east – prune at 0.5m from junction. Remove lowest branch SW over highway or cut at 0.5-1m from junction. (150-200mm dia) (1-2 years). **Cherry 3:** Branches on SE likely to split out. Pruning to reduce loading on branches to north and support split branches in next 12 months may offer a short-term solution but may lead to further tree decay and decline. Possibly discourage access within falling distance of branches by installing a low roped of area and planting bulbs within. Consider felling tree (1-2 years) **Swedish whitebeam 1:** Remove dead branch on north prune at junction. (50mm dia) (12 months)

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Area 3 Cont.				**Beech:** Ht 16m Vitality good Structure good. Recent pruning created end loading on some lower branches. Two small cavities at 0.5m on stem. **Norway maple:** Ht 10m. Leans NE slightly. Circling root on north of root crown. Snags to 50mm dia on branch ends.	
Area 4 The Sycamores	Sorbus Oak Birch (Himalayan) Crab apple Maple	Y SM	5-15	Young/Semi mature trees ht. 3-6m within ornamental hedge. Vitality good Structure good **Oak:** Planted close to boundary wall and likely to cause damage as it grows.	**Oak:** Reposition tree 1-2m from boundary wall. Dormant season (12 months)

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Area 5 Hall Tower Hill	Ash Ash Sycamore Hedge Privet Cherry laurel	M EM EM	65 45 35-45	**Ash:** Ht 10m Vitality good Structure poor Topped at 6m with 4m branch regrowth around edges of pruning cuts. Cavity with advanced basal decay on north to 2m with strong ribs of wound wood around edges. Wood decay on buttress roots either side of decayed cavity. Three decay fungi species on buttress root on west illustrates active wood decaying process. **SE boundary:** **Ash and Sycamore:** Ht 13-15m. Vitality good Structure moderate Compacted soil and exposed roots around base (grazing sheep). Ivy covering stem of ash leaning east over vacant land. Ash dieback - minor deadwood on branch ends.	**Ash:** Despite the good vitality shown in shoot regrowth, the tree butt is being decayed, which increases the likelihood of tree failure northwards into the ditch. As this area is used by members of the public, the tree poses a risk. Management options would be: A. Cordon off to restrict public access into the ditch area B. Reduce the height of the tree further to 2m, cutting above the cavity and wound wood zone and allowing the decay process to continue with regular monitoring. (12 months) C. Fell the tree (12 months)

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Area 6 Scholes Playing Fields	Oak Mixed spp. Ornamental Willow Sorbus Cherry Whitebeam Spruce Lawsons Cypress Ash Hedge: Mixed spp. Ornamental Elder Hawthorn Holly Cypress	Y-SM SM SM SM SM SM EM SM		**Scout area fence line:** Mixed ornamental shrubs and young-semi mature trees in wooden tree crates. **Willow:** Multi-stemmed coppice growing onto wooden fence. Couple of branches split out. **Sorbus spp & Whitebeam:** Ht 5-8m Basal suckers/shoots **Lawsons Cypress:** Ht 8m Line (15m long) of multi-stemmed trees growing through fence. One branch (25mm dia) snapped out. **Northern Boundary:** **Ash near pavilion:** Ht 8m Vitality good Structure good Ash dieback - minor dead wood on branch ends. **Hedges:** SW corner - shrubs to 3m with gaps. Other perimeter boundaries: mature hawthorn ht 2-4m. East of bowling green – brambles extend to 4m into field.	**Scout area fence line:** **Willow:** Re-coppice whole tree or cut branches which are split and growing to fence. (25-50mm dia) (12 months) **Sorbus & Whitebeam:** Remove all basal suckers. (25mm dia) (1-2 years)

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Area 7 Scholes Lodge Farm Fields	Oak Beech Lime Hedge Hawthorn Elder Ivy	SM	20-30	**Oak, Beech, Lime:** Ht. 4-6m Vitality good Structure good Recently planted within fields. **Hedge western boundary:** Ht 5m Vitality moderate Structure moderate-poor. Unmanaged hedge with tall shrubs/trees collapsing in places with many gaps. New line of transplants planted to east of existing hedge. Existing hedge leaning east and overgrowing young plants and bug hotel. **Hedge southern boundary:** Bramble boundary along south then hawthorn hedge maintained at 1.5m.	**Hedge western boundary:** Consider reducing hedge height to 2.5-3m to help rejuvenate hedge and allow more light to reach new plants. **All young/semi-mature trees:** Competition for light, water, and nutrients from existing vegetation, including grass, will be great. Regularly water young plants from April-September and maintain a weed-free area around each stem.

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Area 8 Land 1 Crossland Mews and 37 Main street	Rowan Beech	SM EM	15 75-90	**1 Crossland Mews:** **Rowan:** Ht 4-5m Vitality good Structure good 2 trees planted in paved area. Tree stakes and ties still attached. **37 Main Street:** **Beech:** Ht. 12m Vitality moderate Structure moderate 2 trees in land between Main Street and Scholes Lodge Lane. Tel wires beneath canopy on roadside tree to north. Decayed stump on east of this tree. Tree to south reduced in past has developed multiple branches at 4m. Both trees have been recently 'topped' (injudicious crown reduction pruning), pruned to small diameter side branches. Pruning caused end loading on branches in lower crowns. Some wound wood formed around smaller diameter pruning wounds and dysfunctional sapwood visible at larger diameter wounds. Topsoil beneath trees recently disturbed/scraped back. Small diameter roots exposed on surface of soil.	**1 Crossland Mews:** Remove tree stakes and ties completely. (6 months) Consider crown lifting trees to 2m clearance (while lower branches are small diameter =small pruning wounds which will occlude quicker). (12 months) (<25mm dia) **37 Main Street:** Relace soil or mulch the rooting area of trees. Ideally apply a biochar and compost mix but any well composted material (such as woodchips) would be helpful (apply mulch 5-10cm deep, leaving a 0.5m gap around each tree stem). Check condition of beech trees, particularly extent of dieback at recent pruning wounds. (1-2 years)