



Arboricultural Condition and Safety Survey:

Kingsclere Parish Council

Project name:	Kingsclere Parish Sites, Kingsclere, Newbury, Hampshire.		
Project Ref:	2474	Date of report:	22 September 22
Author:	Owen Allpress <i>Bsc (Hons) Arb</i> Working in the Arboricultural sector for over a decade I have achieved both an FdSc and a BSc (Hons) in arboriculture, am a LANTRA certified Professional Tree Inspector and a professional member of the Arboricultural Association. Starting out working as an arborist, I progressed into a management role running a large and successful tree surgery. I later moved into a consultant position with one of the largest tree consultancies in the south east before becoming an independent consultant.		



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1.0 Introduction and Legal

1.1 Client instruction: This tree condition survey has been instructed by Kingsclere Parish Council. The site visit was carried out on 5th September 2022. The weather conditions at the time were overcast with showers. Visibility was adequate to complete visual tree assessments of all trees within the red line boundary illustrated on the tree location plan within appendix 1.

1.2 Scope: The purpose of carrying out a tree condition survey in this context is to provide a written report identifying trees that may possess defects, describe their condition and specify any remedial tree works required on the grounds of safety or significant nuisance. This report is concerned only with trees at the site with defects that warrant remedial works and does not seek to provide general management recommendations. Remedial tree works are specified in the management section of the tree survey schedule in appendix 2. This tree report forms part of the duty of care the client has to those who, with reasonable consideration, may be affected by trees with defects at the site. All trees have the potential to fail given the correct conditions. Professional advice should be sought following any unusual physical injury or weather-related events involving trees at the site.

1.3 Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984: This Act bestows a duty of care upon the owner or occupier to take such care as is reasonable to ensure that visitors to their land shall be safe from harm. In the context of a tree condition survey, this applies to trees or vegetation of a size or position that may possess structural or biomechanical defects that under failure conditions present a hazard to a valid target such as third party property, public roads or visitors to the site.

1.4 Health and Safety Act 1974: The Health and Safety Act 1974 states that *"It shall be the duty of every employer to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in his employment who may be affected thereby are not exposed to risks to their health and safety."*

1.5 It must be understood that trees are living, growing organisms susceptible to infection, disease, physical damage and ultimately death. In some instances, where tree defects are such that the application of remedial works to mitigate defects are impractical, tree removal is specified. For this reason, this survey is limited in its scope to the period of re-survey covered in Section 5.0 of this report. It is not the goal of this report to declare any tree at the property “safe”, simply the purpose is to identify visible defects and specify remedial works. This report is part of an ongoing process of arboricultural management at the site and not finite in its scope.

1.6 Client documents: This is the second survey carried out by us the first being in 2019. Previous survey process remains unknown, It is however evident that tree surgery works have been carried out historically. In the absence of any formal assessment, this report acts as a first step in addressing and understanding of the risk tree can present.

1.7 Limitations and general conditions: Tree surveys are subject to the following limitations and conditions. Unless otherwise stated, this report is concerned only with above ground aspects of the trees surveyed. No below ground-level or penetrative tree inspections have occurred as part of this report. If such a study is required, it will be commissioned by the client as a separate process.

1.8 The accuracy and validity of the findings of this report are related directly to the information supplied prior to and during its undertaking. Unless otherwise stated, no checking of independent third-party data has been carried out.

1.9 Responsibility for the accuracy of supplied information taken into account as part of this report remains with the client. No responsibility can be accepted for errors or inaccuracies in third-party information supplied such as topographical surveys and proposed site layout drawings.

1.10 The author of the report reserves the right to render its contents, part or in whole, null and void based on any significant physical changes that occur to the site beyond those of expected use or day to day.



1.11 Other changes to the site that may require the report to be updated include:

- Physical damage, fire, vandalism or excavation.
- Construction work of any kind in proximity to trees recorded within this report including temporary parking surfaces.
- Changes in levels (including increases by deposition of material).
- Extreme or unusual weather conditions.

1.12 In the event of any of the above occurring within the period of validity of the report, the client is advised to get in touch to discuss potential implications.

1.13 By instruction to carry out this survey and report it shall be deemed acceptable by the client and their insurers that recommendations made within this report are, broadly speaking, guided by the following statements:

- Reports are provided in the interest of providing pragmatic guidance specific to the context and usage scenario of the site in relation to tree management.
- Advice is provided specific to the significance of defects and remedial action specified based on the practical application of remedial tree works to remove or mitigate the potential impact of tree failure.
- This report does not seek to eliminate all possible risk presented by trees but provide reporting as part of a structured approach to tree risk management. This is in order that the many widely accepted social, ecological and environmental benefits presented by trees may be allowed to occur for the maximum possible period whilst managing tree risk.



2.0 Visual Tree Assessment Methodology

2.1 All trees with viable targets, within the defined site boundary, (identified on site by physical boundary features and walked at the time of site survey with client), were visually inspected implementing the accepted Visual Tree Assessment methodologies, (VTA). The tree inspection methodology employed in this report is done so as defined by Dr David Lonsdale in '*Principals of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management*' whilst implementing personal experience and practical knowledge of trees.

2.2 Guidance available in the National Tree Safety Groups document '*Common Sense Risk Management of Trees*' is employed to illustrate how the frequency of use of target areas aids the quantification of tree defects in a balanced and rational sense. This is done, firstly by understanding the target area. If a defect is discovered within a tree and the defective component has no target, little or no management action is justifiable. Where the target changes so does the need for appropriate management. This is the theme throughout this report in the advice given.

2.3 Each tree with valid targets, subject to inspection was done so methodically beginning from ground level and working along each major component of the tree. Starting with stem base, main stem, primary canopy and finally foliage. See paragraph 2.5 for detailed description of data fields collected. The surrounding area around the tree is also inspected for fungal fruit bodies or earth movement that may be relevant to the scope of this survey. Where adequate visual assessments cannot be made, appropriate action is recommended.

2.4 The following tools and equipment were available for use during the survey, where appropriate, to assist in detailed inspection of trees at the site:

- Compass to confirm tree position and orientation.
- Laser measure for accurately measuring distances up to 50m.
- Steel probe (100cm) for depth probing of decay cavities and probing soil voids.
- Hand tools including small spade and debris hook to expose basal area of tree.
- Torch for illuminating internal cavities where relevant.



2.5 The following information was recorded for each tree and is located within the tree survey schedule in appendix 2. The survey schedule forms the main body of detail and should be supplied along with the Tree Location Plan for reference use by the client and any contractors seeking to tender for tree works. DBH, (Diameter at Breast Height) commonly applied as part of BS5837 tree assessments is not collected as this is deemed to be irrelevant to the scope of a tree condition survey.

- Tag Number: A four-digit number recorded from tree tag as they are applied to each tree requiring works.
- Tree Specie: Common and scientific name for recorded tree.
- Estimated height, (m): An estimate of tree height in metres.
- Age class: Broad categorisation of age in relation to specific life stages of trees. Consisting of - Juvenile, Semi-mature, Mature, Over mature, Veteran and Dead.
- Physiological condition: Description of vitality and growth habit
- Structural condition: Description of key structural component of the tree in broad terms.
- Defect notes: A more detailed description of specific defects and their significance.
- Action required: Remedial tree works recommendation.
- Frequency of targets: Estimated frequency of use of target areas beneath tree.
- Date surveyed: Date of visual tree inspection.
- Works priority: Works priority described using a traffic light system of Red, Amber and Green., (described in section 4.1 of this report).



2.6 Identification and location of trees: Trees recorded as part of this assessment were tagged with circular, metal numbered tree tags and their locations are marked on the Tree Location Plans in Appendix 1. Numbered tags do not run sequentially across all portions of the site although this may, on occasion, be the case dependant on the size of the site. Tree numbers reflect an individual identifying mark used to accurately locate trees and do not necessarily relate or share relevance with adjacent marked trees. Tree tags of any other design that may be present on the site hold no relevance to this report, no tags were removed from trees where they may exist.

2.7 Where trees were not able to be tagged either due to access difficulties, third party trees or larger groups of works, the following naming convention is used: NTXXX, with the letters NT meaning 'No Tag' followed by a sequential number starting at 001. These tree groups are clearly marked on the Tree Location Plan and identified in the Tree Survey Schedule in Appendix 2. Within this report there are four entries made in this manner, NT001 – NT004. Details of the works specification and individual location of works can be found within appendix 1 and 2 respectively.



3.0 Site Observations

3.1 Kingsclere Holding Field and Bowles Club: Home to a number of mature trees predominantly on the southern boundary. Horse chestnut at the site are, as is the case across much of the UK at this time of year, infested with leaf miner. Bleeding canker is also present at the site again which is very common amongst mature trees of this specie. A mature lime tree (NT002) present at the site was unable to be inspected in detail due to the presence of very dense basal growth. It is advisable to remove this growth back to the stem of the tree in order that the stem base may be visually inspected at subsequent surveys. Vegetation on the southern boundary was noted to be blocking the public footpath at Basingstoke Road at the time of report, this is recorded as NT003.

3.2 St Mary's Church: The churchyard was surveyed up to the border with the open green space to the western boundary which is understood to not be part of the site. Trees within this area were not visually inspected. No tree works are recorded as required as part of this assessment. Trees in the church yard should be visually assessed by ground staff or equivalent individuals following periods of high wind in excess of 50mph to check for obvious damage.

3.3 Recreation Grounds: The recreation grounds are located atop high ground to the south of Kingsclere. Few mature trees are present within the site with the site boundary being clearly delineated by a chain-link fence. No tree works are recorded as required as part of this assessment. A number of ash on the southern boundary were noted to be in decline or exhibiting signs of ash dieback. The size and position of the trees does not warrant action at this time.

3.4 Cemetery: A number of mature trees are present at the cemetery site. The greater number of which are located around the periphery of each of the two sections of the site. Given the usage frequency at the site, although deadwood is present in a number of trees it is not of a size or diameter to warrant removal at this stage. A number of trees were noted to possess larger dia. deadwood that overhands an informal route of access across the top of a bank to the northern boundary. Presumably this track is used to access the sports field. Given the size

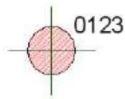
and position of the dead wood and obvious usage of the bank for access, deadwood should be removed.

3.5 Allotments: The allotments to the north of Kingclere possess few mature trees. Trees present at the site are typically outside of the site boundary which was obvious during the site survey. The largest trees in proximity to the allotments appear to be third party Willow located adjacent residents parking. As these trees do not present a significant issue for the allotments they were not surveyed in detail. A single tree is highlighted, (thought to be third party) located adjacent to parking at residential property to the south of the allotments. The tree in question is fully dead at the time of assessment. The land owner or managing agents should be alerted and appropriate remedial works undertaken.

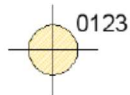
Further information regarding trees recorded as a part of this assessment are available in the survey sheets of this report. The survey sheets contain details of actions that should be passed to an arborist for quotation. Any questions regarding these recommendation can be discussed if required and your chosen arborist is encouraged to get in touch should they wish to discuss any matters in this regard.

4.0 Remedial Works Implementation

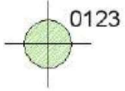
4.1 A traffic light system of works prioritisation has been used to aid in illustrating works' urgency in a meaningful way to the reader, this is also of use on larger sites when budgeting tree works. The following time scales apply to trees recorded within this report.



Trees categorised as **red** require remedial works to be carried out within 3 months or in severe instances, where advised so on site to do so, as soon as possible (via 5 day notice). **(None within this report).**



Trees categorised as **amber** require works are to be carried out within 6 months from the date of report.



Trees categorised as **green** require works to be carried out within 12 months or before next survey date.

4.2 It remains the client's responsibility to appoint a suitable contractor to carry out tree work recommendations made within this report. Guidance on contractor selection can be provided if required.

4.3 It is not the goal nor purpose of this report to circumvent safety checks made by the appointed arboricultural contractor prior to works. This includes, but is not limited to, safe access, Working At Height assessments, method statements, (where relevant and on site where contractor co-operation is essential to maintain a safe working site) and risk assessments specific to the site, the task at hand and the machinery and equipment used.

4.4 It remains the appointed contractor's responsibility to carry out the relevant checks for nesting birds, bats and any other European Protected species that may, with reasonable contemplation, be affected by the proposed arboricultural operations.



4.5 Only trees with significant defects that pose a hazard to third party property, members of the public and visitors to the various sites have been recorded and included within the survey schedule in Appendix 2. This survey is not a full inventory and forms part of an on-going effort to provide appropriate risk management measures which is not a finite process.

4.6 Where deadwood is recommended for removal, this may only apply to deadwood overhanging a viable target such as a footpath, road or residential property. Deadwood is ecologically valuable as part of a complex network that tree forms part of. If appropriate, stack deadwood removed from within woodland blocks or individual trees as habitat piles.

4.7 The appointed arboricultural contractors should carry out all tree works to *BS3998 Recommendations for Tree Works (2010)*. They should also carry relevant, adequate and up to date insurance. It is not a requirement to be certified by the Arboricultural Association to carry out tree works to BS3998. Although desirable, this is a good guide for contractor selection however does not mean that non-certified contractors are less capable. Certified contractors are audited and are proven to conform to required levels of professional conduct.



5.0 Final Considerations:

5.1 Re-inspection frequency: It is recommended that trees at the site are inspected on an approximate three-year cycle, alternating by an appropriate margin in order to ensure, across several surveys, trees are surveyed in all seasons. The next survey following this one must be conducted in mid-winter to allow a fully unimpeded visual assessment of upper canopies of deciduous trees.

5.2 Protected trees: The appointed contractor must check with the local authority planning department to check the trees at the site for any tree related designations such as TPOs and whether the site is within a conservation area. In the instance that protected trees have been recommended for remedial works, the contractor will normally apply to the local authority on behalf of the client. The application must include relevant information from this report to support the request. This report may be submitted, (In its entirety), to the local authority as part of this process. The local authority may take legal action including financial penalties and prosecution in the execution of tree work without permission.

5.3 Trees at the site were inspected for their condition taking into account the average range of weather conditions for the region. Storms or periods of sustained high wind exceeding 50mph can cause otherwise healthy trees to fail un-expectantly and so are not considered as part of this report. An informal walk over of the site may be recommended by grounds staff, following periods of high wind, to identify any obvious damage to trees, however it is always advisable to contact a professional in such situations, be this a tree surgeon or arboricultural consultant.

5.4 If the reader wishes to get in touch please use the contact details on the following page or visit my website www.owenallpress.com.



Contact details:

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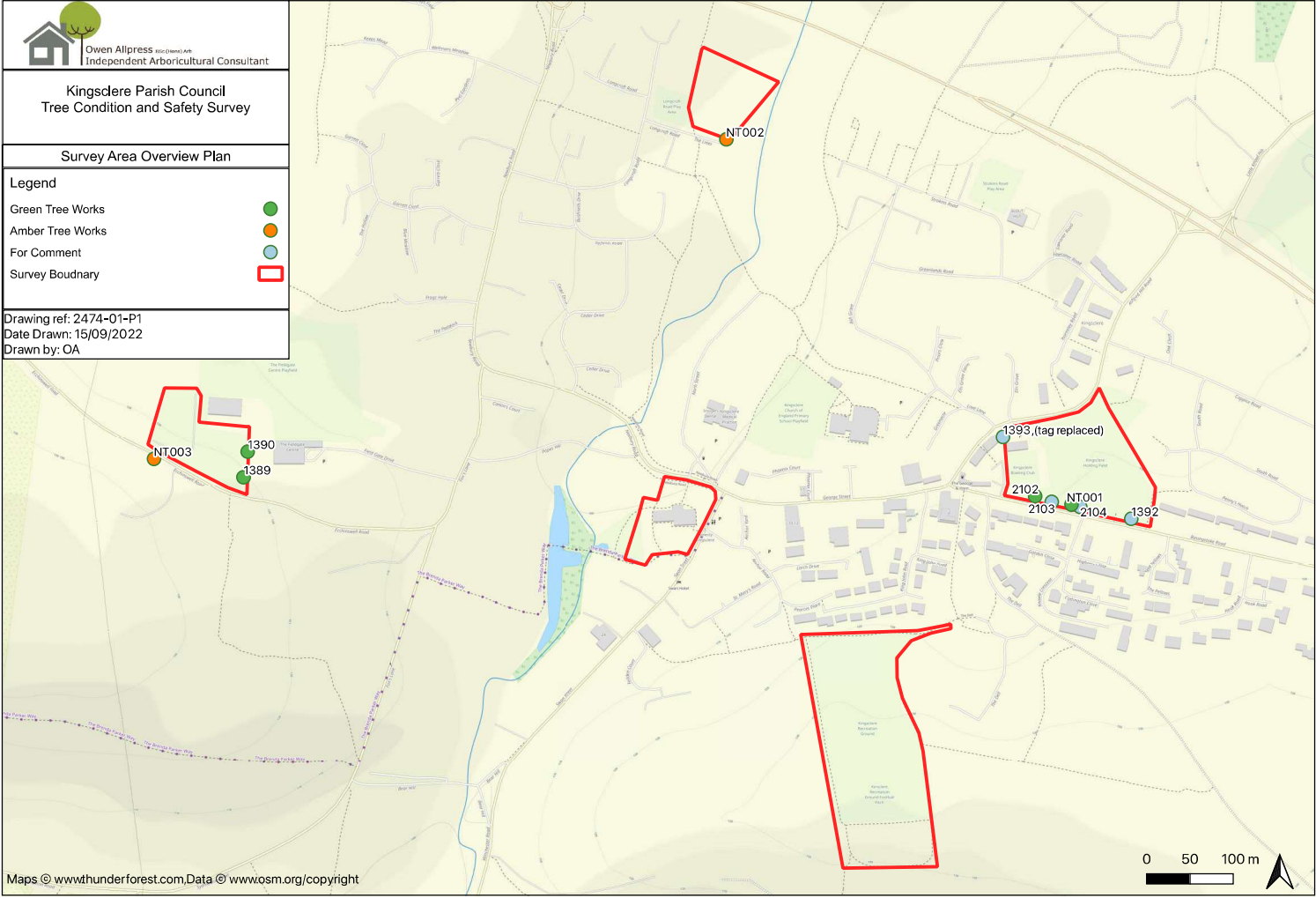
Web: www.owenallpress.com

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Owen Allpress BSc (Hons) Arb
Independent Arboricultural Consultant

Appendix 1 – Tree Location Plan





Owen Allpress
Independent Arboricultural Consultant

Kingsclere Parish Council
Tree Condition and Safety Survey

Tree Position Detail Plan

Legend

Green Tree Works

Amber Tree Works

For Comment

Survey Boundary

Drawing ref: 2474-01-P2
Date Drawn: 15/09/2022
Drawn by: OA





Owen Allpress ASSOCIATES ARB
Independent Arboricultural Consultant

Kingsclere Parish Council
Tree Condition and Safety Survey

Tree Position Detail Plan

Legend

Green Tree Works

Amber Tree Works

For Comment

Survey Boudnary










Drawing ref: 2474-01-P3
Date Drawn: 15/09/2022
Drawn by: OA

Map Data ©2022 Google









Owen Allpress ARB (Arboriculturist)
Independent Arboricultural Consultant

Kingsclere Parish Council
Tree Condition and Safety Survey

Tree Position Detail Plan

Legend

Green Tree Works	
Amber Tree Works	
For Comment	
Survey Boundary	


Drawing ref: 2474-01-P4
Date Drawn: 15/09/2022
Drawn by: OA





Owen Allpress BSc (Hons) Arb
Independent Arboricultural Consultant

Appendix 2 – Tree Survey Schedule

Client:	Kingsdore Parish Council						 Owen Allpress <small>FRS 1000 1018</small> Independent Arboricultural Consultant			
Site:	Various									
Survey Date:	5th Sept 2022									
Surveyor:	O.Allpress									
Condition and Safety Tree Survey Schedule										
Tag no.	Species	Est height (m)	Age class	Physiologic al condition	Structural condition	Defect notes	Action required	Target Notes	Frequency of target	Works priority
1393, (lag replaced)	Sycamore, (<u><i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i></u>)	15	Mature	Fair	Assessment obscured	Multi stem tree on boundary. Presumed third party. History of limb loss, limited access to assess stem base. Upper crown vitality appears sparse.	Monitor vitality at subsequent assessments.	Third party property and parking area.	High	No work req
1392	Horse chestnut, (<u><i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i></u>)	15	Mature	Fair	Fair	Tip dieback (minor) at apex of crown. Scar strips throughout tree particularly at stem base.	Monitor vitality at subsequent assessments.	Road and footpath.	High	No work req
2104	Elm, (<u><i>Ulmus spp</i></u>)	14	Mature	Poor	Fair	Significant portion of canopy appears deceased. Likely Dutch Elm Disease.	Confirm extent of canopy dieback at subsequent growth season. Specify remedial works at this time.	Footpath and road	Medium	No work req
NT001	Lime, (<u><i>Tilia spp</i></u>)	14	Mature	Fair	Assessment obscured	Upper crown dieback indicates some form of decline occurring. Stem base heavily overgrown.	Clear basal growth and provide images of stem base to arboriculturist for comment.	Footpath and road	Medium	Green
2103	Horse chestnut, (<u><i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i></u>)	15	Mature	Fair	Fair	Tip dieback (minor) at apex of crown. Scar strips throughout tree particularly at stem base. Large necrotic strip from canker to northern stem face.	Monitor vitality at subsequent assessments.	Footpath and road	Medium	No work req
2102	Hombeam, (<u><i>Carpinus betulus</i></u>)	11	Mature	Fair	Fair	Significant lean to north, shear crack on western side stem at ground level to +0.5m. Increment growth at stem base suggests high internal stresses.	Reduce central leader back into surrounding crown by 2.5m, reduce remainder tree to balance. (works appear to be outstanding from 2019)	Informal pedestrian access to rear of tennis courts on Basingstoke road.	Medium	Green
NT002	Willow, (<u><i>Salix spp</i></u>)	18	Dead	Poor	Assessment obscured	Dead tree in verge. Ownership unclear. Possibly third party.	Recommend tree is removed due to its proximity to parking and allotment.	Parking and allotment	High	Amber
1390	Hombeam, (<u><i>Carpinus betulus</i></u>)	15	Mature	Fair	Fair	Large dia deadwood over informal footpath along boundary.	Remove large dia deadwood over path.	Informal pedestrian access route along top of bank.	Low	Green
1389	Hombeam, (<u><i>Carpinus betulus</i></u>)	16	Mature	Fair	Fair	Large dia deadwood over informal footpath along boundary.	Remove large dia deadwood over path.	Informal pedestrian access route along top of bank.	Low	Green
NT003	Unknown, (<u><i>Acer</i></u>)	12	Mature	Poor	Poor	Third party tree opposite entrance to site. largely dead.	Advise land owner if known removal of dead portions or felling advised.	Foxes lane.	High	Amber