

**TREE SAFETY SURVEYING LAND AT
COALPIT ROAD, BATHEASTON, BATH BA1 7NR**

**ON BEHALF OF BATHEASTON LEISURE ASSOCIATION REGISTERED CHARITY NO:
1000436**



Viewed facing southwest from Coalpit Road towards the Rhymes Pavilion, note the approximated recommended height reduction positions of H1 & H2, in order to manage them in good condition and improve the growing conditions for the pitch.

UNDERTAKEN BY

Alan Engley

**M.Arb. (R.F.S), F.Arbor.A. M.I.Hort., M.I.C.For. AARC
Registered Consultant of the Arboricultural Association and Chartered Forester**

December 2014

TREE SAFETY SURVEYING LAND AT COALPIT ROAD, BATHEASTON, BATH BA1 7NR

1. Date – 18th November 2014

1.1 Site Inspection Date – 17th November 2014.

1.2 Carried out, in part, in the presence of Rob Mimmack.

2. Instruction/Scope

2.1 I have been instructed by Mr Rob Mimmack, on behalf of Batheaston Leisure Association, to carry out a Tree Safety Inspection at the above in respect of:

- Trees growing shown inside the dotted boundary line of the supplied plans showing the leisure grounds, football pitch, multi sports pitch, floodplain area and children's playground.

2.2 The VTA (Visual Tree Assessment) was carried out from ground level by a person experienced in arboriculture. Where thought necessary a visual magnification aid was used to view the upper crown limbs.

3. Risk/Hazard/Target

3.1 I have assessed the risk failure, hazards and targets within range of a complete or partial collapse of the trees.

4. The Trees and Surroundings

4.1 The leisure grounds are on fairly level land with the football pitch constructed on 'made' ground. To the west of the pitch the land slopes down to the floodplain of St Catherine's Brook. The easterly boundary is the chain link fence to Coalpit Road. The grassed sloping playground area is within the northerly portion of the site, just beyond the municipal garages.

- 4.2 The trees are a mix of evergreen and deciduous specimens that grow around the football pitch. H1 and H2 (**Page one picture**) are two tall, vigorously growing, Leylandii hedges with heights of circa 14-15m. They have been previously 'crown lifted' to about 3-4m but the upper growth is disproportionate, wide and heavily weighted and prone to failure. In addition, it unacceptably shades the pitch, reduces light levels and results in poor quality turf. It is best heavily reduced, followed by periodic height reduction and clipping. The work should be carried out using a MEWP, a Mobile Elevated Work Platform.
- 4.3 G3 consists of a poor self sown seedling Sycamore which grows to the easterly end of the football pitch and is damaging the garage building fabric. It is a poor self sown seedling specimen. G3, are a mix of ornamental shrubs and Elderberry, which could be pruned and controlled to reduce the damage they cause to the boundary fence.
- 4.4 G4 is a large Crack Willow and a companion Ash. The Crack Willow is best heavily reduced. It has a tight primary fork and a history of branch shedding. However the Ash is a better formed specimen and has an acceptable shape.
- 4.5 G5 is a dense, heavy row of mature Crack Willow, interspersed with young Ash growing above Hazel. The Willow trees have an increased risk of failure therefore they are best heavily reduced to about half height, (**Picture 2**) where they will rapidly resprout. Safety is a key issue here, as they overhang the children's play area. The interspaced Ash trees are good long term prospects?
- 4.6 G6 consists of 3 Alder and 1 Ash that grow both sides of St Catherine's Brook. They are fine riparian species.
- 4.7 G7, are trees within the floodplain, principally mature Alder and Willow that are good riverside species and excellent wildlife cover. Tree 7 is an early mature Lime. It has a circa 12m height and a very fine appearance. It is a good shape and healthy.



Picture 2 viewed facing northwest from within the garage complex. **G5** trees grow alongside the children's play area; note the approximated height reduction positions (Yellow dash), relates to the Willow trees only and is needed to significantly reduce the risk of Willow tree failure.

4.8 G8 is a group of self-sown seedling Sycamore, Ash and Hazel that grow along the chain link fence and boundary with neighbouring property. There is dense ivy cover which should be removed to expose the trunks to determine their safety conditions.

5. Legal Constraints

5.1 Unless otherwise stated, at least an annual inspection of the tree should be carried out, or sooner following exceptional weather conditions such as high winds.

5.2 I understand that the trees do not grow within a Conservation Area and are not covered by a Tree Preservation Order therefore no consent for the proposed works is necessary from the Local Planning Authority prior to the works commencing.

5.3 It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act to disturb a nesting bird or roosting/breeding bat. Work to trees with the potential for roosting bats is best carried out from mid September to late October. This assumes that young bats are weaned and independent, and is before hibernation. Mid-March to the

end of April is also a suitable time, after hibernation and before young are born, although due account should be taken of nesting birds, which also (with few exceptions) enjoy statutory protection.

5.4 The Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984 require that premises, including trees, are kept safe for residents, employers, guest and visitors. A prudent approach to this issue can be demonstrated by routine inspections of all significant trees and carrying out all recommendations made, relating to safety of people and property.

5.5 The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 places a duty on employers to take all reasonable steps to ensure that employees and visitors are not exposed to unacceptable risks to their health and safety.

6. Reference/Further Information

British Standard 3998 (2010) 'Recommendations for Tree Works'

Department of the Environment Research for Amenity Trees No 4 'The Body Language of Trees - The Handbook for Failure Analysis' by Claus Mattheck and Helge Breloer.

Department of the Environment Transport Regions No 7 Research for Amenity Trees No 7 'Principals of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management' by David Lonsdale.

.....
Alan J Engley

AJE/AF/27392

18th December 2014

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE – Coalpit Road, Batheaston, Bath BA1 7NR

Abbreviations:

DI- Dense ivy cover or vegetation, sufficient to prevent a condition inspection

RISK, HAZARD, TARGET (RHT)

RD – Road
GRND – Grounds
PAV - Pavilion

Age

MA – Middle Age
Y – Young

CT- Crown Thin

PTY – Priority Note, PTY 1 means

recommended works should be carried

TD – Trunk Diameter

out as soon as reasonably possible.

MS - Multi-stemmed

Certainly within 1 year. The identified risk is not imminent, but the trees have an increased risk of failure.

SSS – Self Sown Seedling

SD – Squirrel Damage

PTY 2 –Carry out any works Year 2-4 (non- urgent)

Surveyor: A J Engley

PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION (CON):

G – Good condition
F – Fair condition
P – Poor condition
M – Moribund condition
D – Dead

NOTE:

- Ivy should be retained as wildlife habitat and removed only to allow a detailed condition inspection.

Tree Ref No.	Species	Hgt (m)	TD (cm)	Life stage	RHT	CON	PTY	Structural Condition & Observations and Recommendations	Management Recommendations
H1 and H2	Leylandii (<i>Cuprocyparis leylandii</i>)	14	up to 60	M	PAV GRNDS	Fair	1	DI closely planted rows. Crown lifted up 1/3 heights. Dense heavy upper 2/3, some stem damage (bonfires)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CR 1/3, cuts circa 20cm diameters Trim tops and pitch/insides. Shape as a slope down from the top growth. (Page 1 pic)
2	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	10	MS	Y	RD GRNDS Garages	F	2	DI SSS, it grows against roof of garage. Poor form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fell/apply poison
G3	Lilac, Willow, Hazel, Dogwood, Sorbus, Ash,	6	MS	M	Fence	F	2	Grows against fence, better Sorbus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut at 1.5 (will resprout) Retain Sorbus, no treatment
G4	Crack Willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>)	15	MS 70	M	GRNDS Play area and wire fence	F	1	DI SSS, weak fork 1.5m, dense wide crown old tear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CR to 7m to just under old branch scar.

Tree Ref No.	Species	Hgt (m)	TD (cm)	Life stage	RHT	CON	PTY	Structural Condition & Observations and Recommendations	Management Recommendations
	Ash	12-14	MS 60			F		DI SSS fork at .3m, better form	• CT 15%
G5	Crack Willow x 5 (next to fence and play area)	15		M	Play area		1	Very large wide spreading trees growing from weak forks have an increased risk of failure	• CR ½ height 20cm diameter cuts (Pic 2)
	and 2 x down slope Ash above Hazel			Y				Narrow etiolated form. Good long term prospects?	
G6	Alder x 3 Ash x 1 (west side of stream)	13		MA M	GRNDS Fence neighbours woodland area		2	DI Good riparian group, both sides of the stream	
G7	Flood Plain area Alder and Willow	14-16	40 50	MA M	GRNDS	F	2	DI, Good riparian group that contrasts the introduced Cypress trees, excellent wildlife habitat	
7	Lime	12	75	EM	GRNDS Play area	F	2	Near upright trunk, tight fork at 2.25m. Dense wide spreading crown overhangs play equipment. No signs of weakness of roots, trunk or limbs. Very good form.	
G8	Sycamore Ash Hazel	12				F	2	DI growing along boundary chain link fence. Tight fork, ivy prevents inspection. Will damage fence	• Clear ivy (allow inspection)