



Tree Condition Survey

For trees at :

Land adjacent to
7B Wissage Road,
Lichfield,
Staffordshire,
WS13 6SP

Undertaken by: Bramley Tree Consultancy

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1. Instruction and Introduction

- 1.1** I have been instructed by Regional Tree Care to undertake a tree condition survey of the trees on land adjacent to 7B Wissage Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS16 6SP
- 1.2** The purpose of this report is to give a tree condition assessment at the above address, and to provide a works recommendation and time scale to mitigate any risks present.
- 1.3** The survey was undertaken on 20th February 2021 the weather at the time of inspection was overcast with intermittent light rain. All of my observations were from ground level, unless specified, without detailed investigation.
- 1.4** All tree inspections were undertaken from ground level with the use of basic inspection tools. No decay detection equipment was used.
- 1.5** The scope of this tree inspection is to identify any hazardous trees present and any works required to reduce the risk of this tree to an acceptable level.
- 1.6** All work recommendations should be undertaken in accordance with the British Standard BS3998: 2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.

2. Limitations

- 2.1** Whilst every effort has been made to detect defects within the subject trees, no guarantee can be given as to the absolute safety of any individual tree. Any recommendations for remedial works are intended to reduce the likelihood of tree failure or collapse but absolute safety is not guaranteed. Trees that appear to be in good condition and structurally sound can fail especially during bad weather such as gales, storm or heavy snow fall.
- 2.2** This finding along with the recommended works are valid for a period of 12 months, or less where detailed within the survey from the date of the survey. Trees are dynamic self-optimising structures that are subject to seasonal change, the effects of extreme weather and both manmade and natural conditions. They should be re-inspected regularly and after any extreme weather or change in their environment or site usage.
- 2.3** The survey, unless described as “detailed”, was undertaken using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) methodology to conduct a preliminary assessment of the above ground only, and with basic surveying instruments.
- 2.4** There was no use of Decay Detection Equipment, nor were the trees climbed or inspected below ground level (incl. Roots), where more detailed surveying methods are needed, this will be outlined in the survey.

- 2.5** This document is the representation of a survey and should not be construed to be a detailed tree inspection report.
- 2.6** The responsibility for any works undertaken on the basis of a recommendation of this survey does not form part of this contract. No responsibility is assumed by Bramley Tree Consultancy or Esther Bramley for any legal matters that may arise as a consequence.
- 2.7** Bramley Tree Consultancy is not responsible for any works other than those invoiced for, and does not assume liability for any misuse, misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the information contained with this report.

3. Legal and Policy Information

- 3.1** This site is protected with the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) 2005/19257/TPO. An application to Lichfield District Council (LDC) will be needed to be submitted before any works are undertaken.
- 3.2** Using information provided by Lichfield District Council is believed that T 1 – T6 is under the above TPO, although it will be prudent to check with LDC prior to undertaking any works.
- 3.3** Wildlife protection; It is a criminal offence under normal circumstances to disturb or destroy, whether intentionally or unintentionally, the nesting sites of wild birds or the roost site of bats under the “Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981” and the “Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000”. It is advised that significant tree works are avoided during the bird nesting seasons (mid-March to end of July), it is also advised that trees are professionally surveyed for signs of bat roost and/or bat activity before starting tree work.
- 3.4** Tree removal may also be restricted under the “Forestry Act 1967”. An exception applies where the felling of trees is immediately required for the purpose of carrying out development that is authorised by the approval of a full planning permission.

4. Findings

- 3.1** The tree survey showing all data is shown in Appendix One, with the tree location map in Appendix Two.
- 3.2** During the inspection 11 trees and groups were inspected; overall the trees were in a good condition and low risk, see Chart One below.

Chart One

Condition	No. Trees/Groups	Risk Rating	No. Trees/Groups
Good	6	Urgent	0
Fair	2	High	0
Poor	3	Medium	0
Dead	0	Low	11

3.3 The trees are currently sitting in a small unused area of land on the corner of Wissage Road and entrance to The Samuel Johnson Community Hospital.

3.4 The survey has identified 3 trees in poor condition and which need remedial works due to their structural condition. These are shown in Chart Two below. Other remedial works are general maintenance, to prevent direct damage to property and routine dead wooding, these are detailed in the tree survey data in Appendix One.

Chart Two

Ref	Species	Recommendation	Timescale	Work Due
T03	Downy Birch (Betula pubescens)	Remove to ground level.	3 Months	20-May-2021
T04	Downy Birch (Betula pubescens)	Mitigation Options 1: Remove deadwood, remove three lower limbs growing towards property, and prune remaining branch close to property to give 2m clearance to prevent direct damage. Mitigation Options 2: Remove to ground level and replant.	3 Months	20-May-2021
T07	Cherry Plum (Prunus cerasifera)	Remove to ground level Timescale: 20-May-2021 (3 Months)	3 Months	20-May-2021

3.5 T01, 2, 5+6 Birch and Pine provide the majority of the visual amenity to the area. T3 and 4 do provide some value but this is limited due to growth form and shielding from other trees and the adjacent property.

3.6 T01, 2, 5 +6, Birch and Pine are all in good condition although the presence of ivy is limiting inspection to the main stems to various degrees. The ivy is not to the extent that careful removal is not possible and by doing this will enable future inspection of the

stems. Routine works of minor pruning and dead wooding is recommended on these trees apart from T6.

- 3.7** The majority of the crown of T03, Birch is dead with significant dieback on the remainder of the live crown. Due to the amount of crown that has died and the decline of the tree it is recommended for removal and replacement.
- 3.8** The crown of T04, Birch has thinned significantly resulting in less than 50% of the normal crown coverage expected of its species. It is likely that this is a result of root damage during the construction of the adjacent property. The structural condition is not compromised; due to this there is an option of removing the dead wood, along with minor pruning to clear the property to prevent direct damage. The tree may start to recover as it regains root mass, although due to the extent of the crown loss the tree may decline further. There is an option of removing to ground level and replanting with a new specimen to create age diversity.
- 3.9** The roots of T07, Prunus have been severed on the southern side due to the construction of the adjacent property; it has also lost two larger limbs from within the crown one of which is still hung up. The crown of the tree is not well shaped and is in close proximity to the adjacent property, pruning to prevent direct damage will further affect the shape of the crown. Due to this and the root damage it is recommended for removal.

Appendix One – Tree Survey

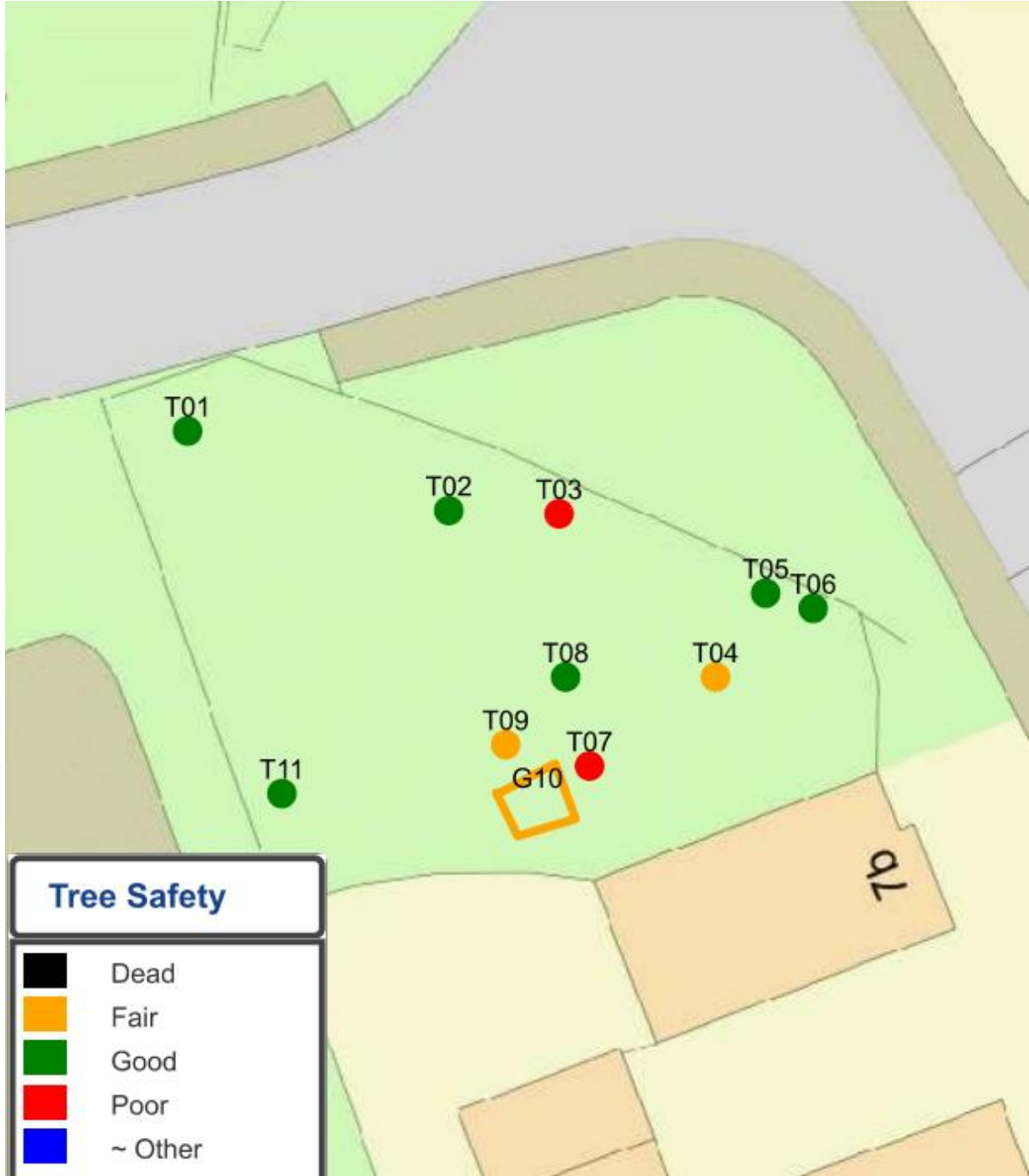
Ref	Species	Measurements	Description	Survey Notes	Condition	Risk Rating	Recommendations	Inspected	Inspection Due
T01	Downy Birch (Betula pubescens)	Height (m): 22 Crown Radius (m): 8 DBH (cm): 46 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 10+ Years	Protected tree, high amenity value	Ivy on stem up to 2.5m, deadwood throughout crown. Epicormics within crown.	Good	Low	Remove dead wood and smaller crossing branch 3m up on south side. Remove ivy to aid inspection Timescale: 20-Feb-2022 (1 year)	20-Feb-2021	20-Feb-2022
T02	Downy Birch (Betula pubescens)	Height (m): 22 Crown Radius (m): 10 DBH (cm): 62 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 10+ Years	Protected tree, high amenity value	Ivy on stem to 5m. Dead wood throughout crown, epicormics throughout crown.	Good	Low	Remove dead wood and ivy to aid inspection Timescale: 20-Feb-2022 (1 year)	20-Feb-2021	20-Feb-2022
T03	Downy Birch (Betula pubescens)	Height (m): 12 Crown Radius (m): 8 DBH (cm): 35 Life Stage: Early Mature Life Exp.: <10 years	Protected tree, limited amenity value	Stunted tree, ivy clad up into crown. Over 50% of crown is dead with significant apical die back on remaining live sections.	Poor	Low	Remove to ground level. Timescale: 20-May-2021 (3 Months)	20-Feb-2021	20-Feb-2022

Ref	Species	Measurements	Description	Survey Notes	Condition	Risk Rating	Recommendations	Inspected	Inspection Due
T04	Downy Birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>)	Height (m): 20 Crown Radius (m): 6 DBH (cm): 31 Life Stage: Semi Mature Life Exp.: <10 years	Protected tree, limited amenity value. Close to adjacent property.	Apical dieback, Crown is very thin. Asymmetrical crown towards property. Dead wood throughout crown. Crown close to property.	Poor	Low	Mitigation Options 1: Remove deadwood, remove three lower limbs growing towards property, and prune remaining branch close to property to give 2m clearance to prevent direct damage. Timescale: 20-May-2021 (3 Months) Mitigation Options 2: Remove to ground level and replant Timescale: 20-May-2021 (3 Months) Long term Recommendations: Monitor for further crown dieback	20-Feb-2021	20-Feb-2022
T05	Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)	Height (m): 20 Crown Radius (m): 6 DBH (cm): 45 Life Stage: Early Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years	Protected tree, high amenity value	Thick ivy to 8m, asymmetrical crown to north and east. Minor deadwood throughout crown	Good	Low	Remove deadwood and lower branch over grassed area to north for clearance. Remove ivy to aid inspection Timescale: 20-Feb-2022 (1 year)	20-Feb-2021	20-Feb-2022
T06	Downy Birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>)	Height (m): 10 Crown Radius (m): 6 DBH (cm): 24 Life Stage: Semi Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years	Protected tree, limited amenity value	Heavy ivy on stem to 5m, asymmetrical crown to north east	Good	Low	Remove ivy to aid inspection Timescale: 20-Feb-2022 (1 year)	20-Feb-2021	20-Feb-2022

Ref	Species	Measurements	Description	Survey Notes	Condition	Risk Rating	Recommendations	Inspected	Inspection Due
T07	Cherry Plum (<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>)	Height (m): 5 Crown Radius (m): 7 DBH (cm): 32 Life Stage: Early Mature Life Exp.: <10 years	Close to adjacent property	Snapped branch to west (hung up) and south. Deadwood present. Roots have been severed due to development. Branches close to property.	Poor	Low	Remove to ground level Timescale: 20-May-2021 (3 Months)	20-Feb-2021	20-Feb-2022
T08	Lawson Cypress (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>)	Height (m): 7 Crown Radius (m): 5 DBH (cm): 25 Life Stage: Semi Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years		Tree stem has grown around cord at about 2m, becoming twin stemmed at 2m.	Good	Low		20-Feb-2021	20-Feb-2022
T09	Italian Cypress (<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>)	Height (m): 5 Crown Radius (m): 3 DBH (cm): 26 Life Stage: Semi Mature Life Exp.: <10 years		Twined stemmed with tight union. Ivy clad to top, previously topped. Little crown.	Fair	Low		20-Feb-2021	20-Feb-2022
G10	Downy Birch x7 (<i>Betula pubescens</i>)	Height (m):Max 5 Crown Radius (m):Max2 DBH (cm): 7 Life Stage: Young Life Exp.: 10+ Years	Group of self set Birch	Small self sets	Fair	Low		20-Feb-2021	20-Feb-2022
T11	Common Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)	Height (m): 6 Crown Radius (m): 2 DBH (cm): 9 Life Stage: Young Life Exp.: 30+ Years	Young tree of good form	Soil has been built up at base	Good	Low	Carefully remove soil around base of stem Timescale: 20-May-2021 (3 Months)	20-Feb-2021	20-Feb-2022

- **Reference** – Tree identification number, T = Tree H = Hedge G = Group
- **Species** – Tree species, given in Latin and common name, where both are known
- **Height** – Approximate height metres
- **Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)** - The diameter of the trunk at 1.5m from ground level
- **Crown Radius** - The spread of the crown's radius from the centre to each cardinal point in metres **N** – North, **E** – East, **S** – South, **W** – West
- **Life Stage** - Estimated life stage of the tree **Newly Planted** -A newly planted tree, **Young** – Establishing tree could be a transplanted without the need of specialist equipment i.e less than 150mm diameter, **Semi mature** –A tree that is established but with some growth to make before reaching it potential maximum size, a tree within its first third of life span, **Early Mature** – A tree that is reaching its ultimate potential height, who's growth rate is slowing down but it healthy will still increase in stem diameter and crown spread, a tree in its second third of lifespan, **Mature** – A tree that has limited potential for any significant increase in size, even if in good health, a tree within is last third of its lifespan, **Over Mature** – A senescent (declining/degradation) or moribund specimen that has low vigour and is within its final third of lifespan. It may also contain sufficient structural defect that may or may not pose a safety risk, **Veteran** – Trees that exhibit features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of, but not exclusive to, a tree that is beyond its normal life span for its species, **Ancient** – A tree that is beyond its species normal life span, **Dead** – A dead Tree
- **Life Expectancy** - Estimated years of remaining tree life
- **Description** – General comments on the tree
- **Tree Survey Notes** – A broad guide to the condition of the tree from a superficial ground level inspection.
- **Condition** - The condition rating is not to be used for health and safety purposes but will indicate the approximate condition of the tree and highlight any major faults. **Good** – No obvious faults, or some minor faults which would reduce the life expectancy of the tree, a good form or a full canopy. **Fair** – A tree with significant faults which will reduce the life expectancy. Probably with faults that require surgery and which will reduce the amenity of the tree. A tree with poor form or a thin canopy. **Poor** – A tree near the end of its life or one with severe faults which may be correctable with surgery or may not but which will probably leave the tree in a form which is poorly structured.
- **Risk Rating** – The risk rating based on the likelihood of failure/damage occurring, likelihood of impact and the consequence of the damage or failure.
- **Recommendations** – Work required to reduce the risk and hazard the tree poses.
- **Time Scale** – (within recommendations) Time scale that recommended works need to be undertaken.
- **Inspection Date** – Date inspection was undertaken.
- **Inspection Due** – Date the tree needs to be re-inspected.

Appendix Three – Tree Location Map



Appendix Four – Pictures



Picture One – View from Wissage Road



Picture Two – Showing the condition of T03
(centre)



Picture Three – Showing the thinning crown of T04
and also T05



Picture Four – Showing T07 and root damage

Appendix Five – Authors Credentials

Qualifications

- ABC Level 6 in Arboriculture – 2018
- Lantra – Professional Tree Inspection - 2015
- ABC Level 4 in Arboriculture - 2015
- ABC Level 2 in Arboriculture (Theory) – 2008
- BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Forestry and Arboriculture – 2007

Experience

- Bramley Tree Consultancy 2020 – Present
- Tree Officer - East Staffs Borough Council (subcontracted one day) 2016 – Present
- Tree Officer - Tamworth Borough Council 2015 – Present
- Arborist - Moorland Tree and Ground Care 2012 – 2015
- Arborist - Self employed
- Arborist – Treemenders LTD 2007 – 2009

Professional Bodies

- Technician Arboricultural Association
- Professional Member of the Consulting Arborist Society



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