# Tree Safety Assessment and Report

## 3 Midgley Close Stamford Bridge East Yorkshire for Mr P Hyndman

**DRAFT**

**June 2021**

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## 1. Instructions

To carry out a survey and safety inspection of all the trees in the rear garden of 3 Midgely Close, Stamford Bridge, East Riding of Yorkshire and to prepare a report confirming findings and recommendations for the safety and health of the trees, to minimize risks to property and persons. In addition, management advice and suggestions for ongoing works are included in the report.

The trees were inspected in overcast spring conditions on the 28th April 2021, and are described in the following schedule and indicated on the attached tree location plan.

## 2. Background Information and Consents

The property and trees are located in a mature, residential part of the town, with the trees presumably originally being part of the mature gardens of nearby Stamford Bridge House. The property is bordered to three sides by other houses in good-sized gardens, while to the west is a primary school beyond Godwinsway. The tree belt continues southwards in the garden of number 2.

All the trees in the garden are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) administered by East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC). This is an area Order, reference 358 Area 2, dated April 1985, and describes Oak, Silver Birch and Scots Pine as being in the designated area.

This Order requires that permission must be obtained in advance from ERYC for any work on the trees, including felling, pruning, or root pruning, giving at least 8 weeks' notice for the work proposed. Removal of deadwood or Ivy does not require consent, and removing very small-diameter basal growth and stem shoots is normally deemed exempt.

## 3. Tree Risk Assessment

A tree risk assessment involves balancing various factors before determining whether any trees are a risk to people, property or animals. This includes identifying high risk locations, predicting the probability of a tree or branch falling, and the likely consequences. Risks considered 'High' should be attended to as soon as practical, 'Medium' can normally be attended to in a 6 to 9 month cycle, and 'Low' are generally noted as 'suggest or consider' - and may be monitored or addressed more quickly.

Surveys are undertaken in general accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) Best Management Practice for Tree Risk Assessment, and other industry-recognised documentation and recommendations. This safety inspection was undertaken from ground level which means that high level crown issues or defects are not always apparent. The assessment is intended to eliminate any appreciable dangers to persons and property, though it is not practical to confirm that if the issues highlighted in this report are dealt with then no other branches will fail or be a possible danger.

## 4. Schedule of Trees

The accompanying schedule lists the specific trees inspected with safety and hazard issues noted, along with any recommended works. Additional notes are included where remedial work, maintenance and/or aerial surveys may be suggested. Information was recorded as follows, and photographs were taken and some are included at the end of the report.

- Tree type, with reference number
- Species in English and (botanical) Latin
- Approximate maximum height and stem diameter at 1.5m above ground level
- Approximate overall, average, canopy width
- Age or class
- Physical and structural condition, with management recommendations
- Risk assessment (grading)


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## 5. Conclusion

*Overall,* the trees are mostly in fair or reasonable condition, all have minor defects or health issues which compromise them to some degree. This will likely be as a result of a combination of factors; including proximity of other trees (i.e. completion with each other), ground compaction due to use as a garden and storage area for vehicles, and even ongoing very slow root recovery after construction of the property. One of the most important and usually overlooked factors for good tree growth is soil conditions, particularly soil oxygen levels, the lack of which prevents or compromises root activity.

Having said that, no High Risk safety hazards were observed, assuming the probability of some falling deadwood – twigs and light, small branches – can be considered acceptable in context. No immediate safety work is absolutely recommended but some pruning is suggested for attention in the Low to Medium-Risk context – so possibly for attention this coming autumn winter 2021/2022?

Of most concern is the Oak T6 which carries a fair amount of deadwood and which is obviously located close to where children will pass on the pavement. Even some of the live growth is relatively low over this pavement and evidence of 'pruning' by passing vehicle can be seen. A simple crown clean removing just deadwood is the easiest operation and does not require TPO approval, but a more extensive programme of crown lifting and some thinning/reduction would be more practical; and more efficient in the longer term (but requiring TPO approval).

The Silver Birches are closest to the property and two in particular have minor defects in the Low risk category. I would therefore suggest that – if desired - a policy to remove and replace these may be considered acceptable by ERYC, subject of course to replacement planting being undertaken. I suspect that they wouldn't allow both to be removed in one application, but staggering this over a couple of years may be given approval.

An application for various TPO work is therefore suggested. Assuming approval there is then a period of 2 years when this remains valid. An application may as well include all the work suggested or being considered, as there is no administration fee for an application based on an extent of work.

## 6. Additional Information

### 6.1. Frequency of Inspections:

Recommended timetables for tree safety inspections vary, being dependent on tree numbers and ages, category of site and frequency of occupation. Inspection timings can also be determined by insurance companies' specific requirements, and may vary from annually to a 3- or 5-year cycle. For domestic inspections with small or relatively young or safe tree populations a 4-year cycle is usually considered reasonable.

### 6.2. Arboricultural Works – General:

Any tree pruning and/or felling is to be undertaken by fully insured, qualified, professional tree contractors and in full accordance with BS 3998: 2010: Recommendations for Tree Work. Consideration must be given to requirements for any additional protective fencing to ensure the undamaged retention of any adjacent trees, plants or adjacent features. All contractors must leave the work site in a clean and tidy state, free of debris, litter or spillages.

### 6.3. Wildlife and Countryside Act:

Where birds and bats may be affected by work to trees and hedges, consideration should be given to the timing of any work and whether the work is essential. Bats are protected and it is an offence to deliberately or recklessly disturb them or damage their roosts.
Tree felling and major pruning is also to be avoided in the bird nesting season, generally specified as March 1st to July 31st, though often extending through August.

| | **Tree Schedule DRAFT** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Tree No.** | **Species** | **Approx. Ht** (m) | **Approx. Diam** (mm) | **Crown Spread** (average) | **Life Stage** | **Physiological and Structural Condition.** ***Preliminary Management Recommendations*** | **Risk Assessment** | **Photo Ref.** |
| T1 | Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* | 15 | 450? (Ivy) | 4 to 6m | M | Good foliage condition above Ivy clad stem, restricting a full inspection. Stem slightly twisted, and high level form is fair but compromised as typical of the species. *No obvious safety issues; suggest Ivy is cut and removed/allowed to fall away, before another inspection check. Crown lift to 6m if desired, to open up space beneath canopy.* ***(TPO approval for live wood)*** | Very Low | 1, 2 |
| T2 | Silver Birch *Betula pendula* | 18 | 425 | 8m | M | Weakest crown of the 3 Birch in the garden, with minor deadwood present. Small hanging branch above patio. Small hole at ground level into base of stem, north side, not extensive at present. *No immediate safety work absolutely recommended though hanging branch and deadwood could be removed, if accessible.* *Suggest this tree is chosen as first to be 'managed out' after new tree planting in northern corner of garden.* ***(if so; TPO approval required)*** | Low | 2, 3 |
| T3 | Silver Birch *Betula pendula* | 20 | 375 | 6 to 8m | M | Fair form and condition, reasonable canopy health. Strongest of the 3 Birch in the garden, but some minor deterioration is evident, probably as a result of the proximity of the house and other trees. *No immediate work suggested (remove a rope causing constriction).* | Very Low | 4 |
| T4 | Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* | 18 | 350 | 4 to 5m | M | Very small and high canopy, apparently sound and healthy. Slight stem twist at approx 12m. Typical, low, dead branches and stems. *No immediate work suggested. Crown lift, removing dead branches, if desired.* ***(TPO approval not required for deadwood)*** | Very Low | 5, 8 |



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| T5 | Silver Birch *Betula pendula* | 18 | 425 | 4 to 6m | M | Fair canopy, with minor deadwood. Large hole in stem at 1.5m AGL from previous branch removal. Cavity and wood decline extends down the stem approx. 300mm, with some associated bark decline. Of concern, but not presently considered a major hazard. *No immediate safety work suggested. Consider as an alternative first option to remove and replace, or even include T1 and T5 for removal and replacement in one TPO application.* | Low | 5, 6 |
| T6 | English Oak *Quercus robur* | 16 | 950 | 20 to 24m | M | Very wide spreading canopy, low in places. Dominant and character tree. Canopy health appears to be fair only, based on this April inspection (i.e. the tree was not yet fully into leaf). Fairly extensive deadwood, up to medium size or even larger in places, including some present over the pavement and road, opposite the school. Overall health and vigour has probably been compromised by construction of the concrete surface which covers a good proportion of the Oak's root-plate. (Technically contravening the TPO) *Recommend a crown cleaning exercise to remove deadwood, crossing branches etc., allowing for up to a 10% crown reduction all around. Also recommend crown lifting to 4m clear above the pavement, including full removal of large limb to south west at 4m AGL and including appropriate rebalancing above the garden.* ***(TPO approval required)*** | Low/ Medium | 7, 8, 9, 10 |



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# KEY

| **Dimensions** | **Life Stage** (or age class) | **Other Headings & Notes** | **Grade:** (Tree Quality based on BS5837:2012, not applicable to this survey) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Approx Ht**:<br>Maximum height of tree, in metres.<br>Estimated dimension | Y – Young | **Ref:**<br>Reference number (which *may* refer to a tag fixed to a tree).<br>T – Tree, H – Hedge, G – Group | U – Trees in such a condition where any existing value would be lost in 10 years. |
| **Diam:**<br>Stem diameter at ~ 1.5m above ground level (AGL), in mm. | SM – Semi-Mature | **Species:**<br>Common name, plus Latin name where appropriate.<br>Species in brackets () indicate shrub or subsidiary species, in hedges and in groups. | A – Trees of high quality and value. |
| **Spread:**<br>Minimum spread of branches to the 4 cardinal points, in metres. | EM – Early-Mature | **Est RC:**<br>Estimated remaining contribution, in years. | B – Trees of moderate quality and value. |
| **Ht 1st branch:**<br>Height AGL of first significant branch, and growth direction where applicable, in metres. | M – Mature | **RPA:**<br>Root Protection Area, in $m^2$, calculated from stem diameter, in accordance with BS5837. | C – Trees of low quality and value.<br>*Trees in this category should not be retained where they impose significant constraints on development.* |
| **Crown Ht:**<br>Height AGL to lowest significant section of canopy, and direction where applicable, in metres. | OM – Over-Mature<br><br>V – Veteran | **Photo:**<br>Photograph reference number, where applicable. | **Other Abbreviations:**<br>AGL – Above Ground level<br>CEZ – Construction Exclusion Zone<br>TPP – Tree Protection Plan |


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## Tree Location Plan

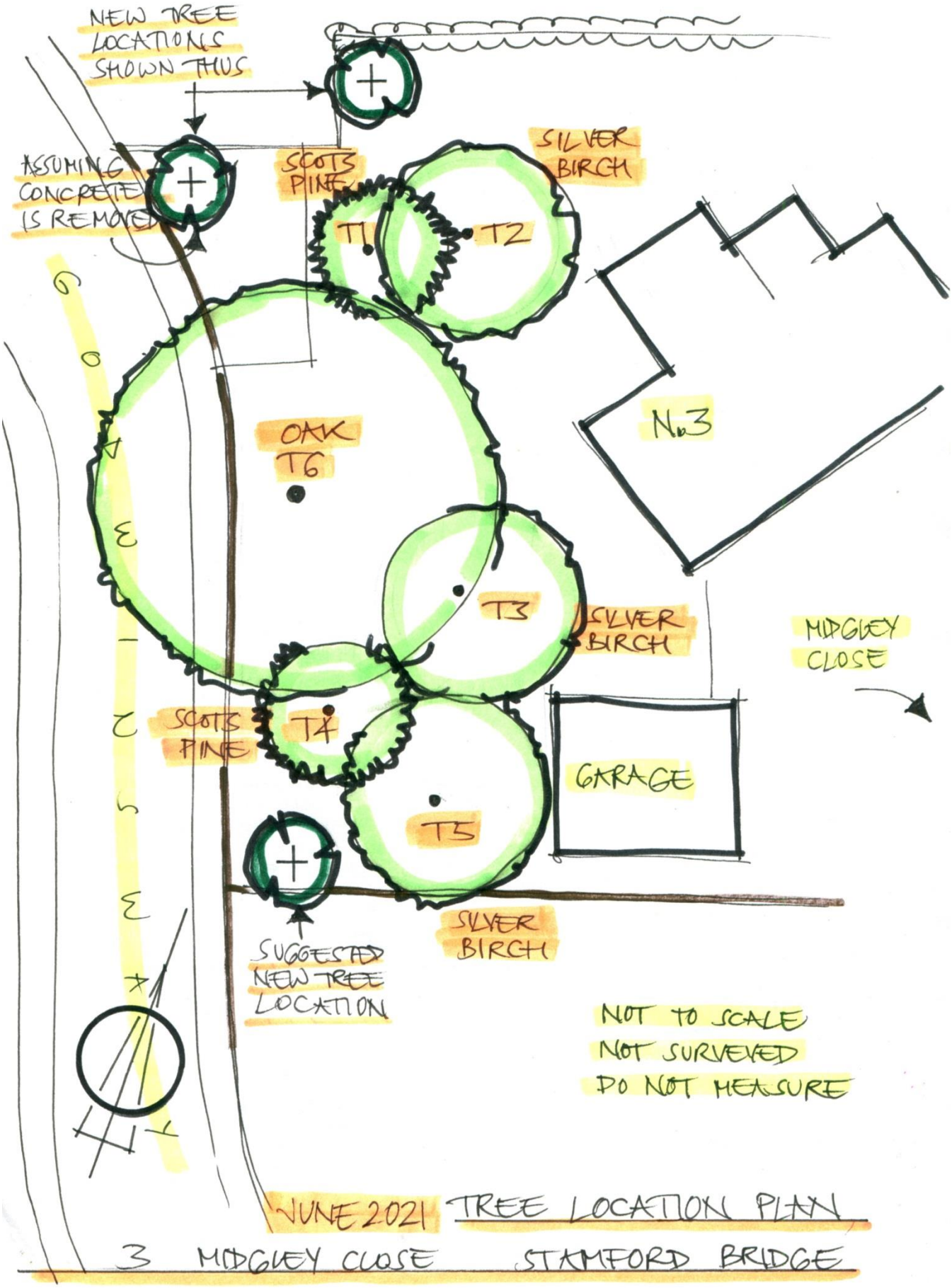

**Photo 1:** T1 Ivy-clad Scots Pine

**Photo 2:** T2 Silver Birch, T1 to left, rear

**Photo 3:** T2 Silver Birch, small cavity in stem base

**Photo 4:** T3 Silver birch, upper canopy, T1 behind



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**Photo 5:** T4 Scots Pine to left, T5 Silver Birch to right.

**Photo 6:** T5 Silver birch, cavity in centre of stem.

**Photo 7:** T6 Oak, from adjacent pavement and road (Godwinsway)

**Photo 8:** T6 Oak, from garden, T4 & T5 to left.



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**Photo 9:** T6 Oak, against boundary..

**Photo 10:** T6 Oak, canopy detail.



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