

BUCKS PLANT CARE LTD

Arboricultural Risk
Assessment for
The Old Plough,
Peggs Lane, Buckland,
HP22 5HX

2022



BUCKS PLANT CARE LTD

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the report:

Instructions were received on 2nd September 2022 from Mr Peter Elwin to carry out a survey of the sycamore tree at the rear of his property.

The primary focus of this exercise will be a Visual Tree Assessment (VTA), to assess the health and safety of the tree, and to recommend appropriate actions to reduce the risks, (i.e. for sound arboricultural management reasons in accordance with current industry guidelines).

An informed calculation has been made of the tree's age, vitality and potential for future growth and this will inform the recommendations made. It is to be interpreted and employed as a best assessment of the arboricultural factors prevailing.

1.2 Terms of reference :

To carry out a safety survey of a sycamore tree at the back of the property.

1.3. Scope of the report :

The tree has been inspected in order to assess and if necessary reduce its potential risk of harm.

1.4. Survey details:

The survey was carried out on the 13th September 2022. The inspection was made visually from the ground level, in order to assess the condition of the tree and potential cause of harm. Where necessary management recommendations have been made. Measurements that were taken are estimates and should not be taken to reflect the actual measurement.

2. Explanation of tree descriptions

2.1 Evaluations

- a. LIFE STAGE of the tree is described as young, semi-mature, early mature, mature, or over – mature
- b. CONDITION is classed as good, fair, poor or dead. This is an indication of the health of the tree and takes into account vigour, presence of disease and dieback.
- c. LIFE EXPECTANCY is classed as; estimated years for species and current condition

2.2. Measurements

- a. HEIGHT of the tree is measured from the stem base.
- b. STEM DIAMETER (dbh) is measured at 1.5 meters above ground level.
- c. CROWN RADIUS is a measurement of the overall width of the crown at its widest point from the stem

2.3 Risk assessment definitions

- a. CRITICAL RISK - Failure imminent; Personal injury and/or property damage inevitable.
 - b. HIGH RISK: Failure likely especially during storms; Personal injury and/or property damage likely.
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- c. MODERATE RISK-Failure unlikely, and/or high risk of failure and low risk of property damage/personal injury
- d. LOW RISK-Failure unlikely and low risk of property damage

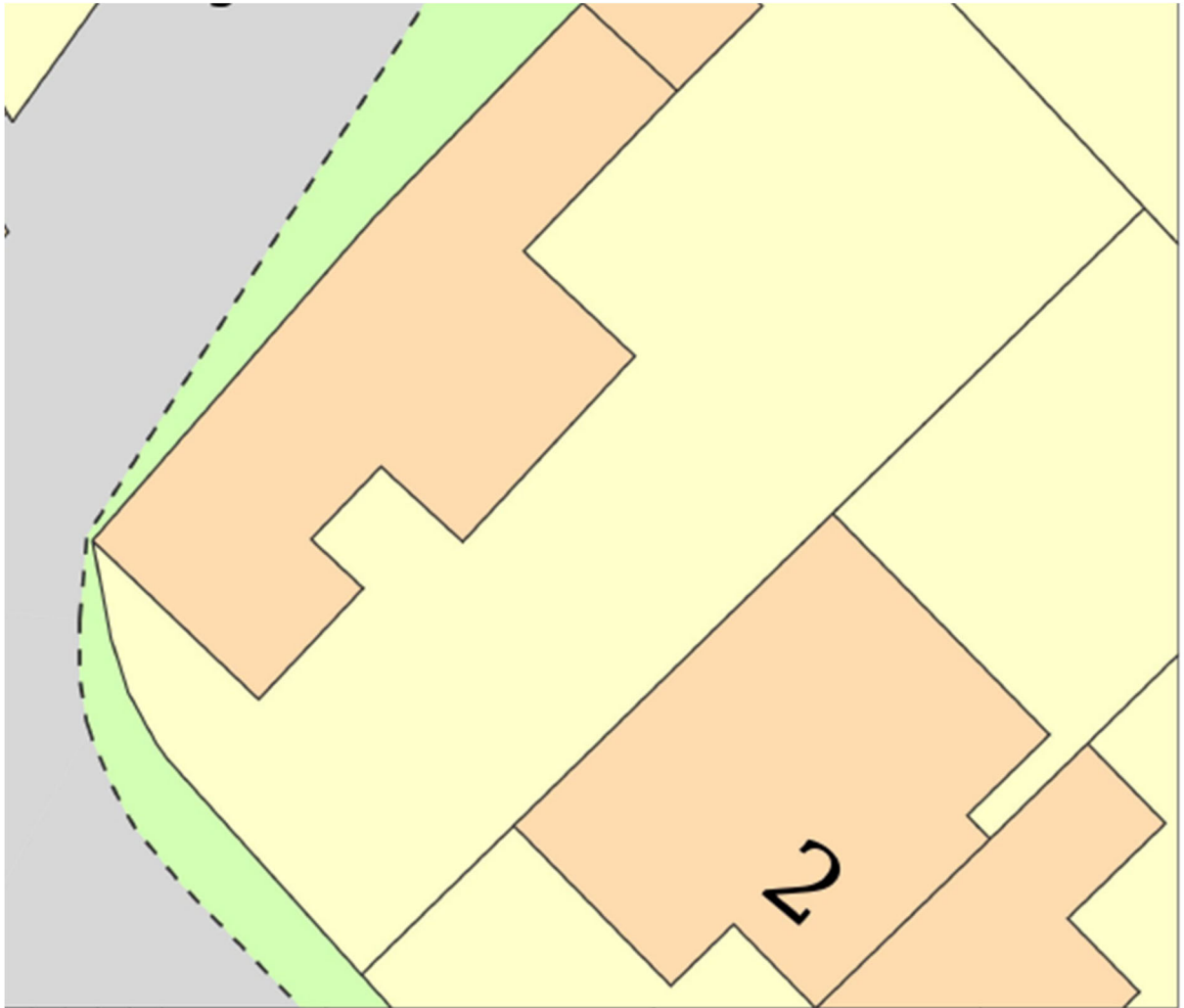
3. Status of trees

3.1. The tree in question is protected by being in the Buckland Conservation Area.



4. Site details

- 4.1 The site is located on Peggs Lane. The property is a detached dwelling with a large garden.



5. Tree Descriptions and Recommendations

- 5.1. Full details of the tree surveyed is recorded in the Table at Appendix 1.
- 5.2. Please refer to the site plan at Appendix 2

5.3. The owners are concerned about the safety of the tree due to the presence of fungal brackets. This photo was taken by Peter Elwin on the 31st August 2022.



5.4. The tree in question is a mature sycamore.



5.5. It is 20 meters tall with a crown spread of 12 meters. It has a single stem for 2 meters and then breaks into 5 stems, one of which breaks into 3 more stems.



The upper crown from the multiple stems up appears in good health with some deadwood present.

- 5.6. On the east side of the main stem there is a large cavity. On the day of the inspection the fungal brackets had mainly fallen off or shrivelled.



5.7. The fungi has been identified as Dryad's saddle (*Cerioporus squamosus*)

It is an annual white rot fungus, which is mainly found on beech trees, but can also be found on ash, poplar, sycamore, willow along with other broadleaf trees.

It is generally saprotrophic on dead sections of host with capacity to opportunistically colonise dysfunctional areas of wood, radiating towards the sapwood region. It can be found on



many parts of the tree such as wounds and cavities in this case.

5.8. An investigation was carried out to determine the extent of the decay. After removing the soft decayed wood a large cavity was revealed.



- 5.9. Using a 24cm screwdriver it was demonstrated that the decay continues up inside the trunk.



5.10. Although a large proportion of the central heartwood has been colonised by the fungus and made dysfunctional the outer supporting structure is in good health with many cambium channels supporting the crown.

6. Conclusion

6.1 There is a mature sycamore tree at the back of the garden, which has a basal cavity with fungal decay.

6.2 This decay appears to be progressive, although it is mainly saprophytic it can continue impacting sapwood. As the owner has a duty of care to ensure the tree is in a safe condition action is required.

6.3 There are 2 options available for this tree:

1. Fell to ground level , which removed all risk.
2. Reduce it by 10 meters to reduce the stress to the base of the tree and the union of stems further up. This would require regular management every 3 years to pollard back any new growth. This will help to maintain the tree as a screen and for ecological purposes. This will also enable the tree to be veterinised and become a habitat for many flora and fauna.

6.4 Regular inspections every 3 years will be required to monitor its condition.

Appendix 1 Tree schedule

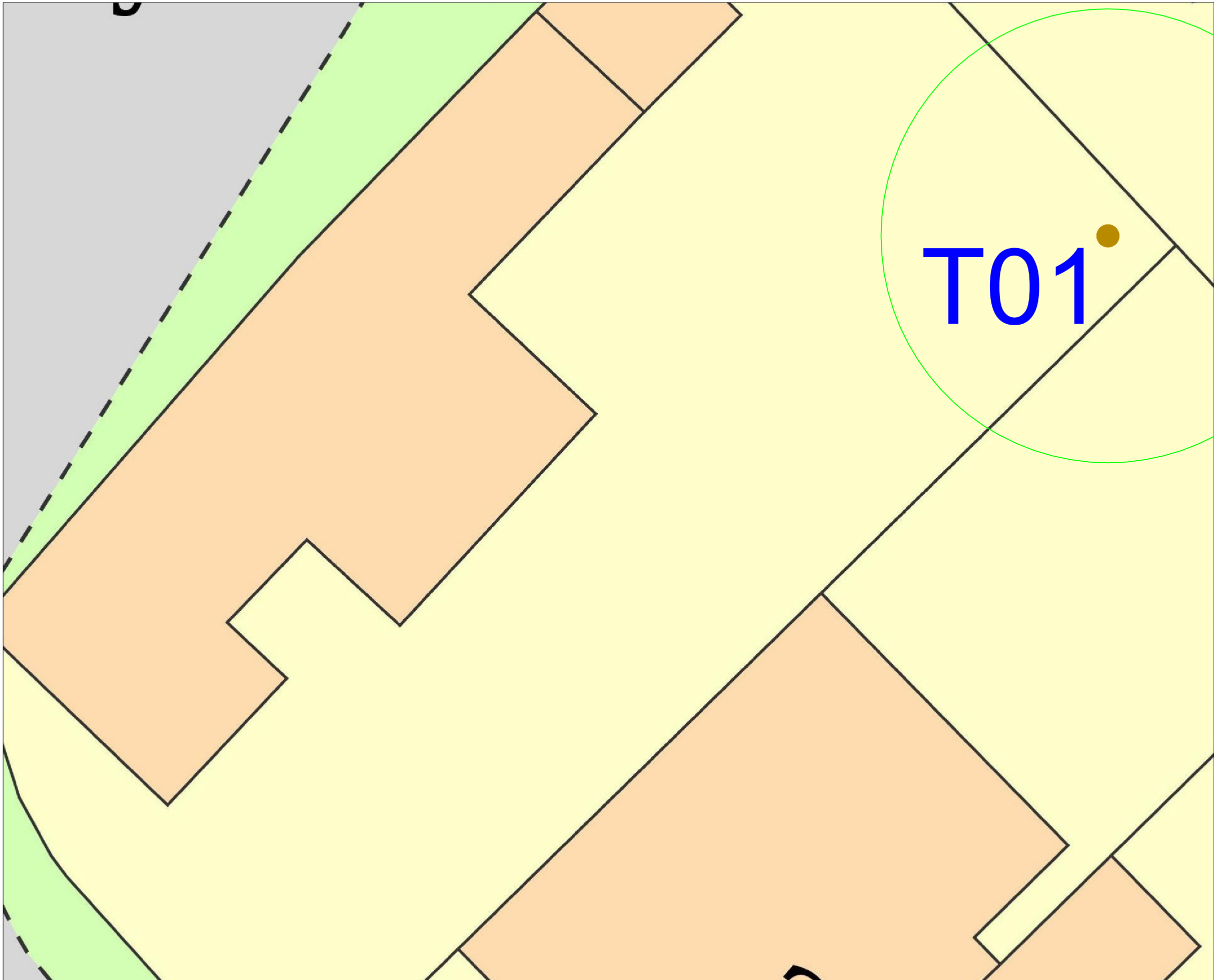
Ref	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Risk Rating	Mitigation Options	Timescale
T01	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Height (m): 20 Crown Radius (m): 6 DBH (cm): 70 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 10+ Years	There is large decay cavity at the base of the tree, which has dryads saddle actively colonising. The external structure of the tree is sound but the decay is active and progressive.	Fair	Moderate	2 options available 1. Fell 2. Manage as a smaller tree by reducing by 10 meters with re-pollard on a 3 year cycle	6 months

Arboricultural Report for: The Old Plough, Peggs Lane, Buckland, HP22 5HX

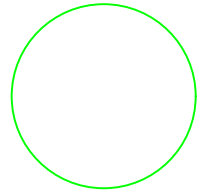
BPC Ref: 20789

Appendix 2

Tree location plan



General Notes



Tree canopy

No.	Revision/Issue	Date

Firm Name and Address
Bucks Plant Care Ltd
Wyldeerne
Bridge Street
Great Kimble
HP17 9TW

Project Name and Address
The Old Plough,
Peggs Lane,
Buckland, HP22 5HX

Project BPC - 20789	Sheet 01
Date 15.09.2022	
Scale 1:100	

Appendix 3

Author qualifications:

Patrick Prendergast, DHE, MArborA, MIHort, Tech Cert(ArborA)

Patrick has 34 years experience working in the horticultural and arboricultural industry. He is qualified in commercial and amenity horticulture along with arboriculture. He has also worked in various local authorities for 30 years managing trees. Over the last 7 years he has been developing his consultancy business, predominantly dealing with trees on development sites but also doing safety surveys and reports.

Patrick is a professional member of relevant institutes and attends conferences and seminars to ensure that he keeps up to date with current industry developments.

Qualifications:

- National Certificate in Commercial Horticulture, Kildalton, Co Kilkenny 1982
- Diploma in Horticulture from Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh 1987 –(D.H.E.)
- Technical Certificate in Arboriculture – Arboricultural Association 2003 - Tech Cert (ArborA)
- Profession Tree Inspection Certificate 2014

Professional membership

- Member of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture (MCIHort)
- Member of the Consulting Arborist Society
- Member of the Arboricultural Association (MArborA)
- Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Forestry

Bucks Plant Care Ltd

21st September 2022

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ASSOCIATION

Professional Member