



Invicta Arboriculture
Tree and Woodland Consultancy

Arboricultural Condition Report

St Mary Magdalene Church
Monkton Street
Monkton
Kent
CT12 4JR

24th February 2023



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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **Instruction:** I am instructed by Sharon McPherson to undertake a comprehensive hazard assessment tree survey at St Mary Magdalene Church, Monkton Street, Monkton, Kent, CT12 4JR and to provide an arboricultural report on any trees which are considered to pose an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of users of the site and those using public highways, rights of way and private properties adjacent to the site.
- 1.2 **Qualifications and experience:** I have based this report on my site observations, and I have come to conclusions in the light of my experience as an arboriculturist.
- 1.3 **Documents and information provided:** I was not provided with any documents.
- 1.4 **Relevant background information:** This report was commissioned by St Mary Magdalene Church in order to fulfil its duty of care in relation to its tree stock within the churchyard.
- 1.5 **Collection of data:** The survey was carried out using the following inspection aids:
- Digital clinometer- To calculate the height of the trees
 - Compass- To determine the four cardinal points.
 - Binoculars- To assess the condition of the upper crown
 - Sounding mallet to detect cavities.
- 1.6 **Scope of this report and limitations:** This report is only concerned with the structural and physiological condition of the six trees found that are considered to pose an unacceptable risk to the users of the site and those using public highways and rights of way adjacent to the site and are shown on the site plans included at appendix A. These plans are for illustrative purposes only and should not be used for directly scaling measurements. All the relevant information on them is contained within this report. It takes no account of any other trees. It includes a detailed assessment based on the site visit.

This report is only concerned with the six trees found that have clear, observable and detectable defects. All trees present within the site boundaries have been assessed from accessible points at ground level. Trees that are not listed within the schedule were considered to display good overall form and vitality with no significant visible structural or physiological defects; that is not to say that their condition may change over time (for example, internal decay that was undetectable, suspected or otherwise unforeseeable at the time of inspection could quite reasonably advance rapidly between inspections and lead to the structural failure of the affected part), however at the point of inspection they were deemed to pose an acceptable risk.

Trees and shrubs are living organisms whose health and stability can change rapidly especially following extreme weather events and therefore the recommendations given in this report are valid for a period of twelve months.

All tree work should be carried out to B.S. 3998:2010 *Recommendations for Tree Work* or as modified by more recent research. It is advisable to select a contractor from the local authority list and preferably one approved by the Arboricultural Association. Their Register of Contractors is available free from The Malthouse, Stroud Green, Standish, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3DL – 01242 522152 and can also be found on their website: <http://www.trees.org.uk/find-a-professional/Directory-of-Tree-Surgeons>.

- 1.7 **Trees subject to statutory controls:** If these trees are covered by a tree preservation order or located within a conservation area, it will be necessary to consult the relevant local authority (Thanet District Council) or local diocese (Diocese of Canterbury) in the case of churchyards before any pruning or felling works other than certain exemptions can be carried out. However, tree owners should appreciate that they may take an alternative point of view and have the option to refuse consent.
- 1.8 **Other Considerations:** The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees. All tree work operations are covered by these provisions and care must be taken before undertaking any works that might constitute an offence.
- 1.9 **Key to schedule abbreviations:**

Number: The tree numbers recorded in this report reflect those allocated to the respective trees. Pink high visibility, biodegradable spray paint was used to number the trees.

Species: Tree species given in English (where there is no English equivalent, the botanical species name is given e.g. *Laburnum spp*).

HGT: The current height of the tree is given in meters.

Condition: The structural and physiological condition of the tree at the time of inspection.

Recommendations: Immediate and/or future recommendations for management.

Work Priority: 1 – Within 24 hours of the date of inspection.
2 - Within three months of the date of inspection.
3 – Within six months of the date of inspection.
4 – Within twelve months of the date of inspection.

Cost: This column is added for the convenience of your chosen tree work contractor for tendering purposes.

Visual Tree Assessment.

Location: St Mary Magdalene Church, Monkton

Name: Mr D. Sephton.

Date: 24th February 2023

Client: St Mary Magdalene Church

Tree No	Species	Height	Age Class	Condition	Recommendations	Work Priority	Cost
1	Sycamore	15	Mature	The tree is in steady decline with die back, associated large diameter (>50mm) dead wood and cambial (bark) death evident throughout its canopy. The partial retention of the tree is considered important for local ecology with two large cavities present at four metres above ground level on the eastern side of the main stem.	Reduce down to a low pollard of approximately five metres above ground level and retain.	2	
2	Sycamore	15	Mature	A large cavity measuring 1000mm x 300mm is evident at the base of the tree on the western side with minor decay evident. Good wound wood formation is evident around the edges of the cavity. Evidence suggests that the tree was formally pollarded at approximately 1.2 metres above ground level. Large diameter (>50mm) dead wood is evident at 1.5 metres above ground level on the western side that extends upwards to eight metres above ground level. The tree is currently considered to pose an acceptable risk.	None	N/A	
3	Sycamore	10	Mature	The tree has been unsympathetically pruned (vandalised) in order to remove encroachment from over an adjacent new development. The works undertaken are outside the scope of BS3998:2010 which has lead to the overall decline of the tree with die back evident throughout its canopy and cambial (bark) death evident throughout the main stem.	Fell to ground level.	2	

Work Priority: 1= Urgent (within 24 hours). 2= High Priority (within three months). 3= Medium Priority (within six months). 4= Low Priority (within twelve months).

Visual Tree Assessment.

Location: St Mary Magdalene Church, Monkton

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Tree No	Species	Height	Age Class	Condition	Recommendations	Work Priority	Cost
4	Sycamore	12	Mature	Snapped, hung up branch evident at three metres above ground level (churchyard ground level) on south side of canopy above neighbouring driveway.	Remove snapped, hung up branch.	2	
5	Sycamore	12	Mature	The tree has been formally pollarded at five metres above ground level in response to the large cavity that extends down through the main stem, which is clearly observable at four metres above ground level on the eastern side.	Re-pollard at five metres above ground level to ease loading on the hollow main stem.	2	
6	Sycamore	18	Mature	The tree forks at three metres above ground level to form four co-dominant stems orientated to the north, south and south east. A large cavity measuring 500mm x 300mm is evident at the base of the south east facing stem with minor decay evident. A further cavity measuring 125mm x 125mm is evident at eight metres above ground level on the south side of the south facing stem that extends through to the north side of the same stem. The tree supports a heavy, wide spreading canopy that extends to eight metres to all four cardinal points.	Reduce the height of the tree by a maximum of four metres and all lateral branches by a maximum of three metres to ease loading on the overall structure. The tree should measure fourteen metres in height with a canopy spread of five metres to all four cardinal points following works.	2	

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Appendix A – Site Plan

