



## Arboricultural Assessment

### Wearside Bridge Club, 17 Park Place West, Sunderland

#### Site Address

Wearside Bridge Club, No. 17 Place, Sunderland.

#### Date

Site Visit – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Final – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

#### Introduction

A health and condition arboricultural assessment (AA) has been requested for two street trees growing outside Wearside Bridge Club, at no. 17 Park Place, Sunderland.

The trees are the subjects of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). This AA will accompany an application for tree works submitted to Sunderland City Council (SCC) for works to the trees.

#### Methodology

The site was visited and the trees assessed visually, in accordance with BS5837:2012, Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction (where applicable). Details of the Tree Survey are provided within the Tree Schedule at Appendix 1.

Weather conditions were fine and dry at the time of the inspection. Light visibility was reasonable. The trees were partly in leaf at the time of the inspection.

As trees are living organisms, their condition is subject to change; therefore the details contained within this report are valid for a 12-month period.

The trees are the subjects of a TPO, therefore, permission must be sought from SCC as part of an application for tree works before undertaking works to the trees.

Other information in this report includes:

- Site & Tree Location Plan - Appendix 2
- Photographs – Appendix 3
- Terminology – Appendix 4

#### Site Survey

Park Place is a residential street set on a private road in Sunderland. No. 17 Park Place is a Victorian terraced property consisting of a dwelling that fronts east on to Park Place. The property has a long front garden and a small rear yard.

Park Place is lined with street trees growing on grass verges either side of the highway. Overall the street has good tree cover especially for a residential area.

There are two trees (T1 and T2) growing at the front of No. 17. T1 is growing close to the front pedestrian access into No. 17, T2 is on the boundary of No. 17 and the adjoining property to the south. Trees T1 & T2 form the subjects of this assessment.

#### Tree Survey & Arboricultural Assessment

Trees T1 & T2 have grown to form established street trees. T1 is the larger, more dominant tree of higher amenity and conservation value.

T1 is showing signs of early decline in the form of deadwood and dieback (approximately 25%) in the upper and eastern side of the tree's canopy where it overhangs the adjacent highway and road. Where the tree's canopy overhangs No. 17 to the west, the foliage appears to be full and healthy.

T2 appears to be in a reasonable state of health however it is growing in competition with the adjacent trees.

Full details of the trees health and condition is set out within the Tree Schedule at Appendix 1.

#### Conclusion

Trees T1 and T2, are an important part of the street scene at Park Place. T1 is the larger, more mature tree and it is considered to be of high amenity and conservational value. However T1 is showing signs of early decline in the



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form of deadwood and dieback where the tree's canopy overhangs the highway. The tree roots are also lifting the pavement however this is considered to be minor.

As the tree is showing some signs of decline and it is growing in a high frequented public area, it is advised that the tree be considered for removal by SCC. Replacement tree planting should be undertaken to help to mitigate the loss of the tree.

**Prepared by:**

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**Date:**

V2: 14.12.2023



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#### Appendix 1 - Tree Schedule

Tree Tag No.	Species	Age	Height (m)	DBH (cm)	Crown Spread south, east & west) (m)	BS5837: 2012 Colour Retention Category	Life Expect-any (yrs.)	Structural Condition	Physiological Condition	Tree Detail	Recommendations
T1	Ash	Mature	20	82	7577	Red	<10	Poor	Poor	<p>Dominant, established tree of high amenity and conservation value. T1 is growing within the grass verge outside No. 17.</p> <p>T1 has a clear upright stem to 2.5m where codominant stems are formed with signs of included bark. Tree has 4 upright scaffold limbs over the highway and No. 17. Canopy hangs low over No. 17 and is full and healthy on this side. Deadwood and dieback are present at the top central and eastern side of the tree's canopy where it overhangs the highway (approximately 25% impacted). The deadwood and dieback are an indication that the tree is suffering from Ash Dieback.</p> <p>Some minor signs of raising / lifting of pavement and adjacent highway due to tree roots.</p>	<p>The tree be remove to ground level and replacement planting be undertaken.</p> <p>Tree root pruning can then be undertaken to level out the pavement an highway where I is lifting.</p>
T2	Sycamore	Semi-mature	15	55	4345	Grey (C1)	20+	Fair	Fair	<p>Smaller street tree growing in grass verge outside No. 17 and property to the south. Tree is growing in competition with adjacent trees. It has an upright stem that bends north at 2.5m, then continues to grow upright. Target cankers from lost limbs with minor decay.</p>	<p>Crown clean. Inspect target wounds during tree works to establish extent of decay.</p>

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### Appendix 2 – Site Location & Tree Location Plan

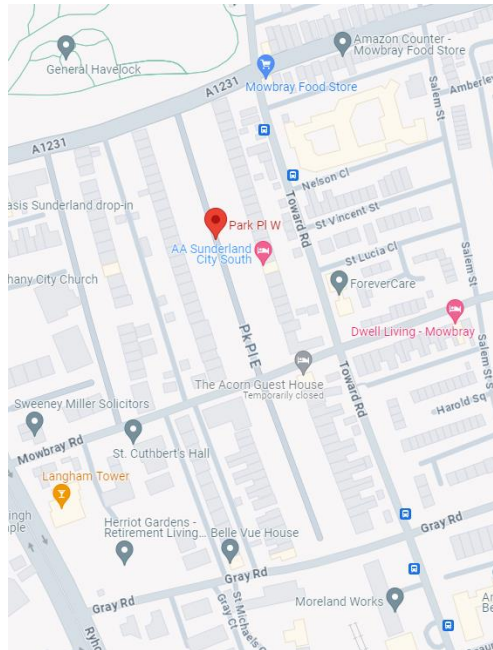


Figure 1 – Site Location Plan. The trees are growing at the front of No. 17 Park Place, Sunderland (below)

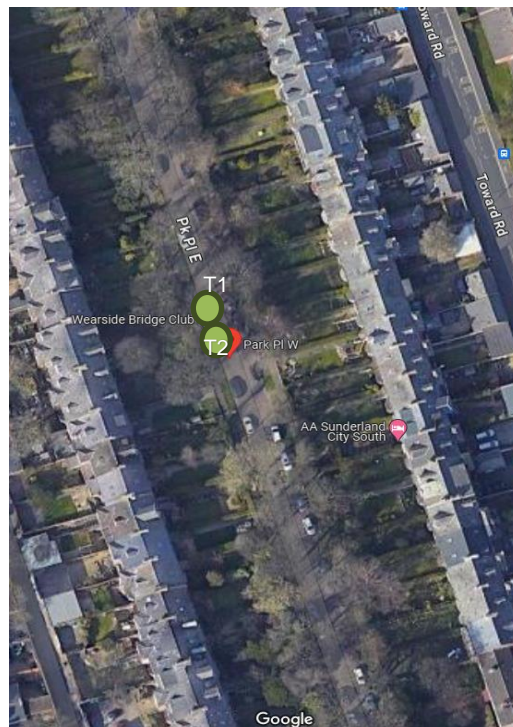


Figure 2 – Tree Location Plan

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**Appendix 3 – Photographs**

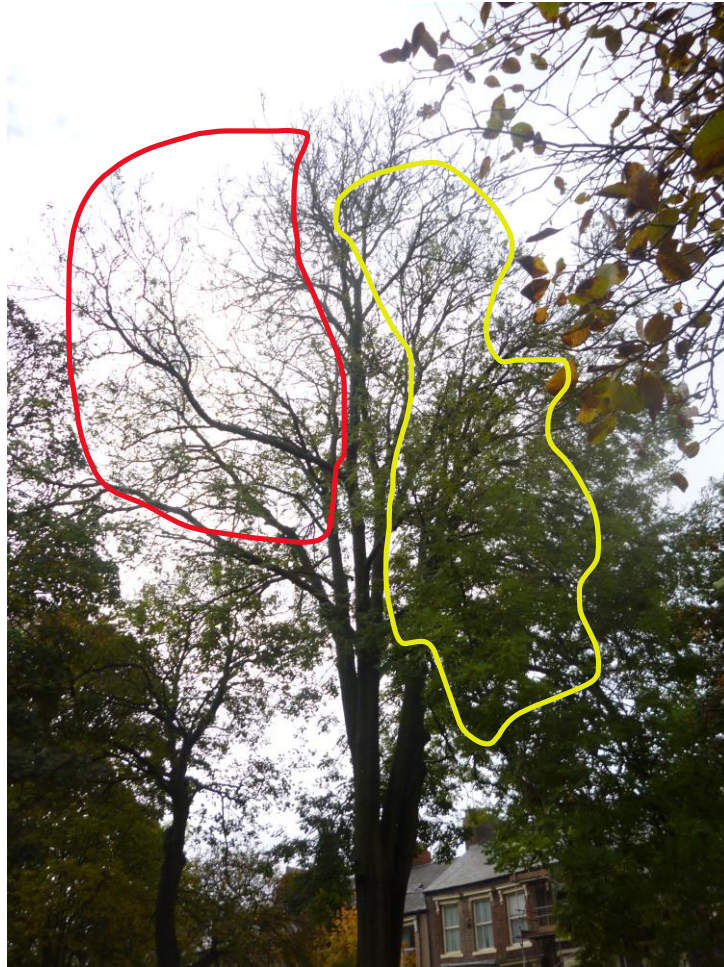


Photograph 1 – Park Place West Sunderland and trees T1 & T2 (street trees) growing at the front of the property

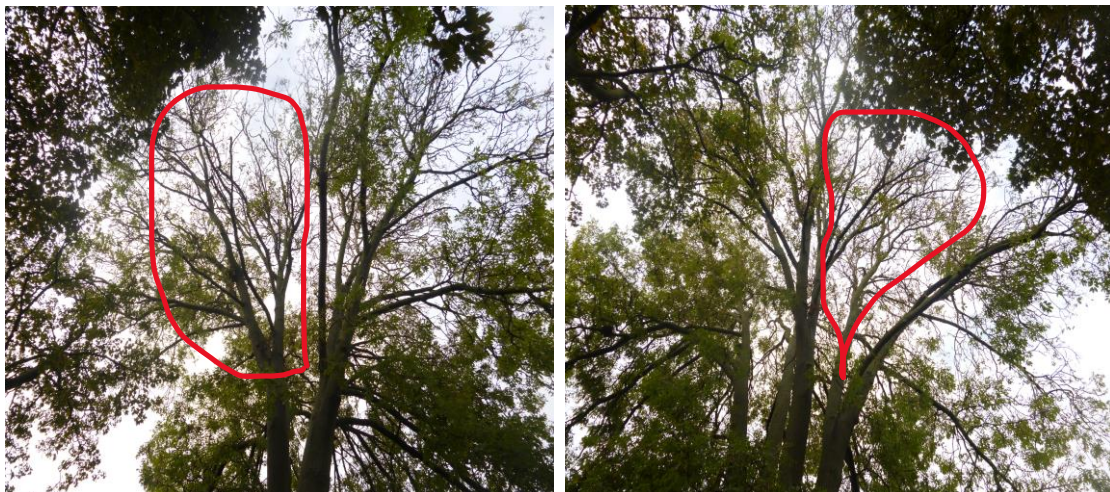


Photograph 2a to c (continued overleaf) – T1 taken from different positions, and signs of dieback within the tree's canopy (see overleaf also)

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Photograph 2c – Description as above, the areas highlighted in red shows the dieback, the yellow indicates a fuller healthier canopy.

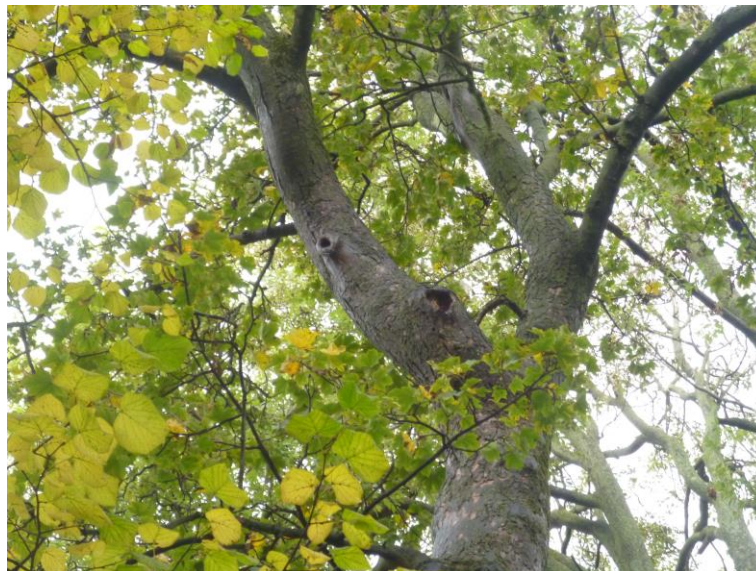


Photographs 3a & b – As above, the signs of dieback within the tree's canopy

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Photograph 4a & b – T2



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Photograph 5a to e – The pavement and highway at the base of T1 (signs of lifting to the pavement).





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#### Appendix 4 – Key to the ‘Tree Schedule’

- 1.0 **Tree number:** Where trees have been assessed individually, they were allocated individual ‘T’ or tree numbers. Where trees are in large groups and may be difficult to identify they have been ‘tagged’ with tree tags showing the allocated number. This is identified in the report.
- 1.1 **Tree species:** Tree species is identified and provided.
- 1.2 **Age class:** The estimated age of the tree, categorised as one of the following:
- a) Young – Immature specimens, being in the early stages of life or development.
  - b) Semi-mature – half, or early stages of maturity.
  - c) Mature – Completely developed/ developed fully.
  - d) Over-mature –The latter stages of maturity, being past maturity and optimum life. The tree is therefore in latter stages of life.
- 1.3 **Tree Height:** Estimated height of the tree given from base at ground level to top of canopy.
- 1.4 **DBH:** The trees ‘diameter at breast height’ and involves measuring the diameter of the trees trunk at a height of approximately 1.3 meters above soil level. This measurement is then used to calculate trees ‘Root Protection Areas’ (RPA), a definition of which may be found within the glossary.
- 1.5 **Crown spread:** The spread of the trees crown was estimated in meters “at four cardinal points to derive an accurate representational the crown”, e.g., from the centre of tree in north, south, east and western directions (BS 5837:2005).
- 1.6 **Existing height above ground level of a) first significant branch and direction of growth, and b) canopy.** This is used to inform on ground clearance, crown/stem ratio and shading.
- 1.7 **Trees Condition – Structural / Physiological & further comments:** General observations, particularly of structural and/or physiological condition (e.g., the presence of any decay and physical defect), and/or preliminary management recommendations.
- 1.8 **British Standard Colour Categorisation BS5837: 2012**

Trees are allocated a ‘colour’ in accordance with the chart overleaf. The colour categorises are a coding system which identifies the trees ‘retention value’ (see overleaf).



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Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan															
<b>Trees unsuitable for retention</b> (see Note)																			
<b>Category U</b> Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning)</li> <li>• Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline</li> <li>• Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality</li> </ul> <p><i>NOTE</i> Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.</p>			See Table 2															
	<b>1 Mainly arboricultural qualities</b>	<b>2 Mainly landscape qualities</b>	<b>3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation</b>																
<b>Trees to be considered for retention</b>																			
<b>Category A</b> <b>Trees of high quality</b> with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	See Table 2															
<b>Category B</b> <b>Trees of moderate quality</b> with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2															
<b>Category C</b> <b>Trees of low quality</b> with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2															
	<b>Table 2 Identification of tree categories</b> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Category (from Table 1)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Colour <sup>A)</sup></th> <th style="text-align: left;">RGB code <sup>A)</sup></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>U</td> <td>Dark red</td> <td>127-000-000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>Light green</td> <td>000-255-000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>Mid blue</td> <td>000-000-255</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>Grey</td> <td>091-091-091</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><sup>A)</sup> Colours verified against <a href="http://safecolours.rigdenage.com/palettefiles.html#files">http://safecolours.rigdenage.com/palettefiles.html#files</a> [viewed 2012-03-26].</p>				Category (from Table 1)	Colour <sup>A)</sup>	RGB code <sup>A)</sup>	U	Dark red	127-000-000	A	Light green	000-255-000	B	Mid blue	000-000-255	C	Grey	091-091-091
Category (from Table 1)	Colour <sup>A)</sup>	RGB code <sup>A)</sup>																	
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- 1.9 **Estimated remaining contribution in years in accordance with BS 5837:** This is a professional judgement may on the expected remaining life / contribution of the tree. The following categories apply.
- a) Less than 10.
  - b) 10-20
  - c) 20-40
  - d) More than 40.
- 1.10 **Recommendations:** Advice is given on any recommended tree works based on surveyor's experience and knowledge.  
The following terms may be used:
- a) Crown clean –involves the removal of dead, dying, diseased damaged and crossing branches, usually undertaken for the health and longevity of the tree, but also as a means of reducing potential risk associated with branch failure.
  - (b) Crown raise/lift – the selective removal of the lower branches to raise the lower canopy of the tree. This may be undertaken to allow avoid obstruction to pedestrians/vehicles. Such works may be prescribed as a method of formative pruning to improve the shape of trees, particularly younger specimens.
  - (c) Crown Thin – the selective removal of branches within the crown to reduce crown density, allowing the increased penetration of light and air to pass through the canopy. This is usually prescribed as a percentage thin.
  - (d) Removal – complete removal of the tree, usually to a height just above existing ground level unless indicated otherwise.