



ASTILL TREECARE LTD

ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANCY

**Management plan
for small domestic woodland
on land west of
21 High Park Road, Broadstone BH18 9DE**



Prepared by:

Jonathan Astill *Dip.Arb.(RFS) M.Arbor.A.*

REF: ATC/TS/2023/720

Date: 13th December 2023

Tel: 01963 33455 Mobile: 07717 826806

info@astilltreecare.co.uk

www.astilltreecare.co.uk

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction & objectives
- 2.0 Statutory protection
- 3.0 Recent site history
- 4.0 Site description and condition survey
- 5.0 Management Plan

APPENDICES

- Appendix A Tree Location Plan
- Appendix B Tree Survey Schedule
- Appendix C Site plan – Summary of management proposals
- Appendix D Photographs

1.0 INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 I have been instructed by the owner of the land west of 21 High Park Road, Broadstone to undertake a survey of the trees and vegetation within the small domestic woodland to address the following objectives:
- a) Remove exotic and potentially invasive tree and shrub saplings to benefit the development of native and desirable tree and shrub species.
 - b) Open up circa 20% of the site area with the selective removal and translocation of understorey vegetation to provide some space within the woodland area for recreation and enjoyment of the owner's young family and to discourage unsociable behavior from trespassers
 - c) Achieve the above without impact to the established trees or any significant impact to the progeny of those trees (young saplings) all of which are subject to a 'Woodland' Tree Preservation Order.
 - d) To maintain the character of the small woodland for wildlife and local amenity by ensuring tree succession, a diversity of age, species and vertical structure of native & desirable naturalized trees and plants.
 - e) Assess the structural and physiological condition of the established trees within the site and provide a schedule of recommended works (where applicable) to address the safety of the owners, neighbouring properties, and users of the highway
- 1.2 The management plan (detailed in section 5.0 of this report) and supplemented by Appendices A, B and C are to be used as reference in support an application to works on trees (including tree saplings) subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

2.0 STATUTORY PROTECTION

2.1 2.1.1 **Tree Preservation Order:** The site is subject to the *'Land of and adjacent to 21 High Park Road, Broadstone Tree Preservation Order 2012 (TPO No: 1200010) made on 11th December 2012 and confirmed on 13th May 2013'*.

2.1.2 The principal effect of a TPO is to prohibit the: cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful damage or wilful destruction of protected trees without the formal consent of the Local Planning Authority.

2.1.3 Extract from [Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
The woodland category's purpose is to safeguard a woodland as a whole. So, it follows that, while some trees may lack individual merit, all trees within a woodland that merits protection are protected and made subject to the same provisions and exemptions. In addition, trees and saplings which grow naturally or are planted within the woodland area after the Order is made are also protected by the Order.

It is unlikely to be appropriate to use the woodland classification in gardens.

The woodland category should not hinder beneficial woodland management. Whether or not they make an Order, authorities can consider encouraging landowners to bring their woodlands into proper management under the grant schemes run by the [Forestry Commission](#). If a woodland subject to an Order is not brought in-to such a scheme, authorities can still encourage applications to manage the trees in ways that would benefit the woodland without making a serious impact on local amenity, for example by making a single application for [regularly repeated operations](#). Paragraph: 028 Reference ID: 36-028-20140306

2.2 **Wildlife:** Many trees, shrubs and understorey vegetation can harbour wildlife such as bats, nesting birds and other flora and fauna which are protected by law. (*Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010*). You must take steps to ensure that the work you are carrying out will not harm or disturb any protected species. If there is potential for such harm, then you must obtain permission from Natural England prior to carrying out the work. For more information on the statutory protection of wildlife visit: www.naturalengland.gov.uk or call 0845 6003078.

3.0 RECENT SITE HISTORY

- 3.1 A Google Earth® satellite image of the site dated 19 April 2018 (Appendix D) shows the visible ground layer through the tree canopy as brown/beige, indicative that the verdant ground vegetation had been treated or cleared at this time by the former landowner.
- 3.2 A planning application (BCP ref: APP/20/00338/F) was made by the former owners of the site on 17th March 2020 for the proposed erection of a detached dwelling with associated access and parking.
- 3.3 The application was refused planning permission on 23rd October 2020 and an appeal lodged by the applicants (Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/V1260/W/21/3268901).
- 3.4 The appeal was dismissed on 24th December 2021 with the main issues in the case being:
- The effect of the proposed development on the character and appearance of the area (loss of trees and erosion of woodland)
 - The effect upon the living conditions of nearby residents, having particular regard to privacy
- 3.5 The current landowner is mindful of the land's legal status and planning history and purchased the site in 2022. They approached BCP Council in June 2023 to seek advice on management of the small woodland block. His intention is to manage the ground vegetation for the long-term benefit of the woodland and utilise part of the site for private enjoyment by his family whilst deterring occasional antisocial behavior (drinking and smoking) from trespassers. Feedback was provided by Mr Fred Ingarfield, the Senior Arboriculture and Landscape Officer, advising the owner of the conditions of the woodland TPO and that the TPO does not to prevent any work being undertaken to trees, but is a tool to ensure the works are in accord with good arboricultural/woodland management practices. He recommended that a management plan is provided by an arboricultural consultant to support a TPO application.

4.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND TREE SURVEY

- 4.1 The roughly rectangular, small woodland block is sited at the junction of High Park Road and Roman Road in a verdant residential area of Broadstone. It has an area of c. 0.13 hectares (c. 0.3 acres) and is enclosed on the north, east and south sides with close-boarded fences. The west side is enclosed with a chain link fence and is separated from Roman Road by a narrow soft verge. An old soil bund/bank extends along the west boundary on the inside of the chain link fence. The subject woodland block is an extension to a larger woodland block within land at 21 High Park Road.
- 4.2 An irregular and informal screen of tall, established boundary shrubs grow along the southern and western boundaries - (Predominantly Rhododendron, Cherry Laurel, Laurustinus, Photinia, and Cotoneaster with one small Yew, and a suppressed Strawberry Tree). Whilst the dominant evergreen shrubs are exotics species, they provide a useful, year-round screen to neighbouring residents at 53 Roman Road to the south and seclusion from the private road to the west.
- 4.3 23 established Scots Pines provide the dominant canopy trees within the enclosed block. In light of their natural woodland competition, the Scots Pines generally have high and/or irregular crowns and support regular deadwood and stubs from branches that have been shaded out as the trees have matured. Breaks in the dominant canopy are located in the central to southern region of the woodland block.
- 4.4 A small number of sub-dominant canopy trees (predominantly exotic species) grow within the site. These include Tibetan Cherry, Snowy Mespilus, Snake Bark Maple, Tree Cotoneaster, and Sweet Chestnut. Small native trees include Rowan, Wild Cherry and Beech. Low shrub vegetation includes Common Heather with occasional Gorse and Broom.
- 4.5 All of the established trees have been tagged and subject to a ground-based condition survey with the use of binoculars, nylon sounding mallet and steel probe. **Refer to Appendices A & B.** All the trees display good to fair physiological health, and none have structural features of any significance in relation to their target setting. One Pine supports some moderate-sized deadwood over the public highway. Deadwood is a natural characteristic of woodland trees and provides a valuable habitat for fungi, invertebrates, and other wildlife. The retention of deadwood is generally encouraged where it does not pose a risk of significance (low target occupancy, robust species and short in length or low in volume).
- 4.6 There is currently no requirement to remove any established tree on the grounds of safety.
- 4.7 The condition of trees will change over the course of time due to factors such as disease, weather events and alterations to their surroundings. **It is recommended that these trees are subject to a reinspection by an arboriculturist on a frequency of every 3 three years.** Tree owners owe a 'duty of care' to their neighbours, visitors to their land and users of the highway. As such, owners are advised to observe the condition of their

trees regularly, particularly following high winds, prolonged drought, or heavy snow. In the interim, between recommended formal inspections, if there are any matters that are a cause for concern and you are unsure about what action to take, you should seek the advice of an arboriculturist.

- 4.8 Natural regeneration of native tree and shrub species is commonplace, particularly in the areas where Bracken and Bramble are less dense. Tree saplings ranging from 1 to c. 3 years old include: Scots Pine, Hawthorn, Holly, Silver Birch, Rowan, Pedunculate Oak, Beech, Hornbeam, Holm Oak, Sweet Chestnut and Strawberry Tree. There is no evidence of deer browsing within the site, likely due to the robust boundary fencing and the semi-urban nature of the locality.
- 4.9 As well as the native and naturalised species listed in the paragraph above, there has been a proliferation of vigorous seedlings from the more invasive, exotics shrubs (Cotoneaster, Rhododendron, Photinia and Cherry Laurel). In the absence of intervention, it is these more invasive evergreens that will dominate and suppress the seedling and young saplings of the more desirable native trees / shrubs.
- 4.10 The herb layer within the site comprises predominantly of Bramble, Bracken, Pendulous Sedge and Periwinkle. The volume and density of Bramble and Bracken is slightly thicker on the eastern side of the site. A strip of Himalayan Honeysuckle (mildly invasive and incongruous in native woodland) grows along the southern fence adjacent to High View Road.

5.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN

5.1 The following proposals are to be undertaken to achieve the objectives listed in section 1.1 of this report.
Refer also to Appendix C.

5.2 5.2.1 The pruning, relocation, removal or damage to all **tree** species subject to a 'woodland' designation TPO, (from seedlings to mature trees) requires formal consent from the Local Planning Authority **before** undertaking works. Whilst 'shrubs' are not protected by a Tree Preservation Order, there may be ambiguity with the Local Planning Authority over what species constitute a 'tree' or 'shrub' (e.g. Rhododendron, Hazel, Cotoneaster etc.) As such, management of all vegetation is included within these proposals for transparency and avoidance of misinterpretation.

5.2.2 Certain activities within the site such as excavations, vehicular use, bonfires, hard surfacing, application of herbicides, and contamination with fuels & chemicals all have the potential to cause damage to trees of all ages, their roots and their soil environment. None of these activities shall be undertaken within the site.

5.3 **Tree work:**

5.3.1 Carry out proposed tree work to established trees as listed in Appendix B – Tree Survey Schedule – Management recommendation column. Note: all proposed works are **low** or **discretionary** priority only.

5.3.2 All works undertaken to established trees are to be undertaken in accordance with '*BS.3998:2010 British Standard for Tree Work - Recommendations*' by competent, trained and fully insured arboricultural contractors.

5.3.3 There shall be no vehicles or plant machinery parked or manoeuvred within the site. There shall be no bonfires to dispose of arisings.

5.3.1 When removing the Cotoneaster (Tag 581b) for the access path, it should be cut as close to ground level only. To protect the roots of adjacent trees, the roots shall not be grubbed out and there will be no cutting into the bank.

5.4 **Demark glades:**

5.4.1 Temporarily demark the proposed 2 glades and access footpaths (shown as **dashed red lines**) with twine or cordon tape. Several of the tagged trees (refer to Appendix A) are to be used as edge markers for the glades. Canes or narrow stakes should be used to support the tape where there are no edge trees.

5.4.2 The proposed paths should be a maximum of 1 metre wide. The total area of the proposed glades and paths are circa 260m² (c.20% of the total area of the site - c.1300m²).

- 5.5 **Relocate desirable tree/shrub saplings:** Inside the proposed glades and paths, lift the **desirable tree and shrub saplings (species listed in green on Appendix C)** and replant in areas outside of the proposed glades and paths. The tree and shrub saplings are generally between 1 to 3 years old and can be easily lifted with a trowel or small sharp spade. Care should be taken to avoid any damage to woody roots of established trees. The diameter of the root ball should be a minimum of 10 x the diameter of the base of the stem (ie: 1cm stem + 10cm root/soil ball). These should be temporarily placed in plastic plant pots and replanted within the site on the same day. Saplings should be relocated to areas where regeneration of is relatively thin. Once relocated, they should be firmed in with a boot heel and thoroughly watered. This work should be undertaken during the dormant period between 1st November and 31st March. Some of the smaller native species within the proposed glades (Holly, Yew, Gorse, Hawthorn and Hazel) could be relocated closer to the north and eastern boundaries to establish an informal belt for future seclusion.
- 5.6 **Remove undesirable tree / shrub saplings:** Inside and outside of the proposed glades and paths, **undesirable tree and shrub saplings (species listed in red on Appendix C)** can be carefully lifted with a trowel or pulled with the aid of a small garden fork and removed from site for composting / recycling. Care should be taken to avoid any damage to woody roots of established trees.
- 5.7 **Retain boundary vegetation:** Established evergreen vegetation (mostly evergreen, exotic shrubs shown as reference S1 on Appendix A – Tree Location Plan) growing on the south and west boundaries are to be retained for screening. To prevent excessive encroachment into the site from these vigorous and more dominant exotic shrubs, the lateral spread should be pruned back by circa 1.5 metres every 2 years.
- 5.8 **Management of Bramble:** Bramble provides shelter, food and nectar source for birds, mammals and invertebrates. It can also provide a ‘nurse’ environment for young saplings by protecting them from browsing deer. However, when prolific, tall and dense, it will also suppress the germination and establishment of young trees and shrubs. Whilst not aiming to eradicate it, the owner will manage bramble from dominating the small woodland block by periodically cutting it back to ground level with a billhook or brush cutter. This work is best undertaken in the winter when most of the foliage has fallen from the bramble and young saplings of **desirable** tree and shrub species can be easily seen. Every care shall be taken to ensure that **desirable** tree and shrub species shall not be cut or damaged when periodically managing the bramble.
- 5.9 **Management of Bracken:** Bracken has the potential to become prolific if left unattended. As with bramble, it can suppress the germination and establishment of young trees and shrubs and reduce the diversity of ground flora. Whilst not aiming to eradicate it, bracken is best and easily managed (on small sites) by manual beating with a stick or cane. The aim is to bend the stems (rather than cut them) which weakens the rhizomes and reduces the vigour of next season’s frond growth. Bracken beating is best done in late spring when the fronds have fully unfurled. Every care shall be taken to ensure that **desirable** tree and shrub species shall not be damaged when periodically beating the bracken.

- 5.10 **Planting of screening trees and shrubs:** Informal screen planting (relocated desirable species) on the north and east boundary of the site, shall be bulked up with additional whips (saplings) of small native trees and shrubs. (Holly, Yew, Gorse, Hawthorn and Hazel). All new whip planting shall be undertaken during the planting season (between early November to late March). In the absence of deer, there is currently no requirement for tree shelters.
- 5.11 **Maintenance of glades and paths:** After removal of undesirable saplings and relocation of desirable saplings, the herbaceous vegetation within the glades and paths are to be maintained for the family's recreational use by periodic mowing, scything or rolling only. There shall be no surfacing and no use of herbicides anywhere within the site. The glades shall not be turfed or seeded with lawn grass.
- 5.12 5.12.1 **Ongoing management:** To implement activities detailed in points 5.5, 5.6, 5.7 and 5.11, within the seasons detailed, it is requested that the permission to undertake the regularly repeated cultural operations extends for a period of 5 years. This accords with the guidance in paragraph 071 from [Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas)

Only one application is needed to carry out a number of different activities on the same tree or to carry out activities on a number of trees. Where appropriate, authorities should encourage single applications for regularly repeated operations and phased works or programmes of work on trees under good management.

In these cases the authority should satisfy itself that the proposed works are appropriate for this type of consent and that the relevant evidence supports this. The authority must ensure that applications clearly specify the proposed works and their timing or frequency. A programme of works could describe the classes of works which will need to be carried out as routine maintenance during the specified period. A programme including tree felling should be more specific and should, where appropriate, cater for replacement tree planting. (Paragraph: 071 Reference ID: 36-071-20140306)

5.12.2 Subject to approval of the above plan, it is anticipated that many of the 1 to 3-year-old desirable trees naturally regenerating within the site will be establishing successfully after a further 5 years. As such, there may be a requirement for a light thinning operation to benefit the crown development of the stronger trees and shrubs. If necessary, this can be addressed following a review of the site and a new application in 2028/29.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Jonathan Astill Dip.Arb.(RFS) M.Arbor.A.

13th December 2023



**Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION**

Professional Member
Membership No.: PR638