

University of York

**Tree Survey Report
University Campus
Woodland Areas**

January 2024

Prepared by:

Jo Ryan BSc (Hons) FArborA

Lyndum, Church Hill

Stillingfleet

York YO19 6SA



1 Scope of Report

Instruction

A tree condition survey was commissioned by University of York Estates Services. I was asked to provide an updated arboricultural report on the general condition of campus trees within woodland areas and to recommend any tree works.

Collection of Data

The survey was undertaken by Jo Ryan during December 2023-January 2024. All observations were carried out from ground level using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method¹. A walk over survey was carried out in the following woodland areas:

Wentworth Cycle path/Astrocampus	Field Lane
Spring Lane Wood	Church Lane/Windmill Lane
Derwent/WACL	Windmill Lane
Genesis/Heslington Church	Siwards Way/Alcuin Way

A level 1-2 survey was undertaken in all woodland areas. The areas were walked through and individual trees showing structural, or health issues were checked in more detail. Information relating to these individual trees was added to the database. This report and data updates comments and recommendations made in the 2020 report².

Statement

Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly and all trees, even healthy ones, are at risk from unpredictable climatic and man-made events. The health, condition and safety of trees should be checked on a basis commensurate with the level of risk.

¹ Mattheck, C and Breloer, H (1994) *The Body Language of Trees. Research for Amenity Trees No.4* Department of the Environment

² UoY Woodland Areas Survey – 2020 by Jo Ryan

2 Observations and Specific Issues

Tree Schedule

The Tree Schedule for plotted and non-plotted trees showing structural or health issues has been prepared in two separate Excel database files³. Data for trees plotted on the University of York (UoY) map was added to the ArcView database, while information for non-plotted woodland areas was collected separately.

The non-plotted trees file has been sorted into three area sub-files (Windmill Lane, Seward's Way/Alcuin Way, and Astrocampus/James Way).

In addition to listing individual trees, a sub-file tab at the bottom of both datasheets has been created to show trees recommended for tree work during the next 3-12 months.

Tree Removals

Tree removal is suggested for a small number of trees which show structural problems or are in decline. 'Consider felling' is recommended for some trees which are showing problems but are consideration low risk and/or non-urgent.

Detailed Inspections

A more detailed inspection is recommended to five trees.

³ UoY Woodland Areas Survey 2023 – Plotted Trees;
UoY Woodland Areas Survey 2023 – Non-plotted Trees

Table 1 Work next 3-12 months: Tree Removal

Asset Code/ Tag	Species	Location	Work Recommended Period
FF13575	Poplar Grey	Spring Lane Wood	Remove tree or reduce height. 3 months
FF11742	Wych elm	Derwent/WACL	Remove - cut at ground level (stump may re-sprout) 12 months
FF38006	Horse chestnut	Siward's Howe	Remove Tree 12 months
Tag 422	Wych elm	Windmill Lane Area 5	Remove Tree 12 months
Tag 434	Scots pine	Area 4 - Water tower east	Remove Tree 12 months
-	Cherry	Area 3 – Stray Dead cherry in group of 4 on eastern edge of Stray.	Remove Tree 12 months

Table 2 Work next 6-12 months: Inspect in More Detail

Asset Code/ Tag	Species	Location	Work Recommended Period
FF11277 Tag 421	Beech	Derwent/Church Field	Undertake detailed inspection to ascertain extent of wood decay. 6 months
FF11732	Beech	Derwent/WACL	Undertake detailed inspection if not already completed. 12 months
FF11738	Beech	Derwent/WACL	Check late summer for fungus and inspect tree in more detail to ascertain extent of decay. Tree <5m from WACL building. 12 months
FF11662	Horse chestnut	Derwent/WACL	Undertake detailed inspection of tree to ascertain extend of basal decay. 12 months
Tag 433	Sycamore	Siward's Howe	Aerial inspection. Climb tree to check and record extent of decay/cavity and strength of wound wood. If necessary, reduce tree height 0.5-1m, to below area of decay. 12 months

Table 3 Work next 3-6 months: Other Work Recommendations

Asset Code	Species	Location	Work Recommended Period
FF11272	Oak	Derwent/WACL	Remove deadwood. 6 months
-	Beech	Windmill Lane Area 5	Reduce height to 2m. 6-12 months
71	Ash	Windmill Lane Area 4	Sever and remove ivy to check extent of dieback in upper crown and assist future surveys. Reduce height to below area of dieback/decay. 6-12 months
438	Ash	Area 5 - Alcuin Way Eastern boundary	Cut tree at 4-5m to within falling distance of shrubs. 6-12 months

3 Other Considerations

Survey periods

Trees are dynamic, living organisms and no tree can be guaranteed to be safe. As long as we retain trees, we cannot achieve zero risk. While it is important for owners and managers of trees to have them regularly inspected and to act on recommendations, there should be a reasonable and balanced approach to tree risk management where tree risk is considered alongside the benefits that trees provide. Frequency of survey should be commensurate with frequency of site use. All trees should also be checked with a walk-over survey following strong winds or adverse weather conditions.

Implementation of works

I advise that all tree works are carried out to BS 3998 *Tree Work - Recommendations* (2010).

Birds and bats

It is the responsibility of the tree owner/manager and tree contractor carrying out the work to ensure that no wild birds or bats and their roosts will be affected by any works. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 protect all wild birds, their nests (whether in use or being built) and eggs and other wild animals including bats and their roosts. Further information can be obtained from Natural England⁴.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>

Figure 1
Map Showing Tree Areas - Windmill Lane



Figure 2
Map Showing Tree Areas – Siward’s Way/Alcuin Way

