



# Gale Tree Consultancy

## Tree Condition Report

Plaistow Pond, Plaistow

March 2022

Ref: TCR/334/22

Contents		Page Number
	<u>Summary</u>	3
1.0	<u>Introduction</u>	4
2.0	<u>Scope of Report</u>	5
3.0	<u>Method of Inspection</u>	5
4.0	<u>Table of Results</u>	6
5.0	<u>Summary of Results</u>	8
6.0	<u>Recommendations</u>	9
7.0	<u>Appendices</u>	
	Appendix 1      Site Plan	10
	Appendix 2      Beaufort Scale	11

## Summary

- Several trees surrounding the east, north and west aspect of a village pond
- Within the survey area, eight individual trees were recorded with a further group consisting of seven stems also being noted
- Ash Dieback was noted on several the Common ash trees resulting in a recommendation to remove some of them
- None of the recommended work was recorded as URGENT

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.0 Client and Address

- Catherine Nutting, Clerk to Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council, Winterton Hall, Loxwood Road, Plaistow, RH14 0PX

### 1.1 Site Address if Different from the Above

- Plaistow Pond, Loxwood Road, Plaistow

### 1.2 Date of Inspection

- 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### 1.3 Name of Inspector

- Andrew Gale *Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A*

### 1.4 Our Reference

- TCR/334/22

### 1.5 Instructions Received

- I have been instructed by the Clerk to Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council to undertake a ground level, walk over survey of trees growing around Plaistow Pond

### 1.6 General Description

- The pond is located between Winterton Hall (to its east) and Plaistow and Kirdford Primary School to its west
- There is a metal barrier protecting the pond from pedestrian and drivers using the footpath and Loxwood Road
- Running around the east, west and north of the pond is a regularly used unmade path

## 2.0 Scope of the Report

- The principal objective of the tree condition report is to identify whether the trees, or their parts, appear to be in a hazardous condition and to advise remedial action to reduce the risk they could pose to those persons visiting the pond area or those persons travelling passed
- Only those trees with a stem diameter greater than 15cm when measured at 1.5m ground level are to be inspected
- It does not consider any below ground issues unless relating to an issue noted within the walk over survey
- The report addresses issues apparent on the trees at the time of the inspection, therefore the likelihood of failure is considered for three years from the reports date based on the information gained on the day of the report and on the assumption that any recommended work has been undertaken in the time frame specified

## 3.0 Method of Inspection

- The trees were subject to ground level visual assessment of their external features in line with the 'Visual Tree Assessment' method described by Mattheck & Breloer (Body Language of Trees, Department of the Environment Research for Amenity Trees publication No. 4 1994)
- A plastic headed mallet was used to sound the stem area as an initial indication of the presence of decay
- A thin steel probe was used, where applicable, to assess the depth and condition of any cavities or concavities between buttress roots
- Binoculars were used to assess the upper crown branch structure

### 3.1 Tree Number and Identification

- All trees requiring further action were tagged with a round, numbered aluminium tag and placed in a prominent position on the stem at approximately 2m
- Individual trees are given the prefix T and groups G
- Those trees requiring further action are plotted on a site plan which is attached separately – see Appendix 1 TCR/334/22 Dwg01 Plaistow Pond Plaistow & Ifold PC

## 4.0 Table of Results

Tree No	Tag No.	Species	Stem Dia.	Height	Crown Spread	Age Class	Phy. Cond.	Comments	Action Required	Priority
T1	846	Common ash	351-550	10-15	5-10	SM	MOD	ADB - moderate symptoms Deadwood TSS over path	Monitor ADB symptoms Remove dead TSS	HS1
T2	847	Pear	351-550	5-10	5-10	M	FAIR	Ivy c.50% of stem and lower crown Stem bifurcates c.1.5m E-W into 2xPSS W PSS moribund bark on upper surface	Sever ivy ground level and again at c.1m, remove severed band	HS1
T3	848	Pear	150-350	5-10	0-5	M	POOR	Stem bifurcates c.1.2m E-W Deadwood evident throughout	Assess after strong wind events	GM
G4	849	Common ash	150-350	10-15	10-15	EM	MOD	Group of c.7 stems ADB - moderate/moribund symptoms Ivy c.75% of stem and crown	Prepare for their removal	HS2
T5	850	Common ash	551-750	15-20	5-10	M	MOR	ADB - advanced symptoms	Prepare to fell	HS2
T6	851	Alder	150-350	10-15	0-5	EM	DEAD	Dead	Fell – option to leave a c2.5-3m high habitat stem	HS1
T7	852	Alder	351-550	10-15	0-5	EM	GOOD	Ivy c.80% of stem	Sever ivy at ground level and again at 1m, remove the severed band	HS1
T8	853	Pear	150-350	5-10	0-5	M	FAIR	Cavity in lower stem, extensive decay Stem bifurcates c.1.2m N-S Cavity at junction Into S PSS	None at this time Assess after strong wind events monitor	GM
T9	854	Common ash	551-750	10-15	5-10	M	MILD	Twin stem NW-SE SE stem failed; fungi noted No immediate ADB symptoms Deadwood greater than 25mm in diameter over path	Remove deadwood greater than 25mm in diameter	HS2

## Survey Key

Tree No.	Relates to numbers shown on Tree Survey Plan(s). Positions of trees are plotted using GPS and are generally accurate to within 2 metres. May be prefixed T in the case of individual trees or G in the case of groups of trees	Age Class (where used)	Young [Y]	recently planted or established within the last 5 years
Tag No. (where used)	Numbered aluminium tags may be attached to tree stems to aid with identification. In addition, trees may also be identified with red and white hazard tape		Semi Mature [SM]	a well-established youngish tree but far from full maturity
Species	Common name in English		Early Mature [EM]	long established nearing its full size but not fully mature
Stem Dia.	Stem diameter in centimetres at 1.5m above ground level or, in the case of multi-stemmed trees, just above the root flare or buttress [ARF]		Mature [M]	fully mature tree that has met its full size
Height	Height assessed visually to within the nearest 5 metre size band e.g., 10 to 15 (i.e., more than 10 but less than 15 metres) or measured using a TruPulse digital clinometer		Late Mature [LM]	a fully mature tree that has passed its peak; may exhibit areas of decline
Physiological Condition	In relation to all trees:  GOOD no significant health problems FAIR some symptoms of ill health POOR significant symptoms of ill health MORIBUND (MOR) in a serious and irreversible decline DEAD not alive		Veteran [V]	a tree with the physical characteristics of an Ancient tree but is not ancient in years compared to other trees of the same species
Comments	Description of significant features, especially those requiring action or monitoring. Where the presence of ivy is recorded the extent of the tree stem and canopy affected is usually expressed as a percentage	Ancient [A]	a tree that has past full maturity and is old or aged in comparison to other trees of the same species	
Physiological Condition		In relation to Ash and Ash Dieback:  MILD 100-70% leaf cover remaining = no action at this stage MODERATE (MOD) 70-30% leaf cover remaining = start planning for action MORIBUND (MOR) 30-0% leaf cover remaining = deal with it before it becomes an issue		
Action Required	Specific recommendations for action or monitoring	Tree Structure	Main Stem	The stem, from ground level up to the point at which it bifurcates
Priority	Work recommended in the interests of health and safety: Urgent: Immediate attention required (will be reported verbally to the client/management on day of inspection) HS1: Within 2 month of the reports date HS2: Within 6 months of the reports date HS3: Before the next survey date GM: Works recommended for general maintenance reasons or in the interests of good arboricultural management N/A: Not applicable / no work recommended at this time		Primary Stem Section (PSS)	The larger stem sections that emanate from the main stem after bifurcation; form the main crown structure
			Secondary Stem Section (SSS)	The stem sections that emanate from the primary stem sections that contribute to the inner crown structure
			Tertiary Stem Section (TSS)	The stem sections that emanate from the secondary stem sections that contribute to the inner and outer crown structure
			Subordinate Branch Structure (SBS)	The smaller diameter branches that help form the inner and outer branch structure; leaf bearing twigs emanate from these to form the crown



## 5.0 Summary of Results

- Nine trees were recorded, three single Common ash and a group of seven Common ash stems
- Within the Common ash, only one (T9/854) doesn't exhibit symptoms of Ash Dieback. However, it does have fructifications of the saprotrophic fungus *Daldinia concentrica* at the point where the south east stem failed
- The fungus is weakly pathogenic and is generally considered saprobic; its presence indicates physical dysfunction
- Ash dieback (ADB) (*Hymenocyphus fraxineus*) inhibits water supply and as such causes leaf loss, lesions on the branches and stems (of younger trees) and ultimately results in the decline of the trees crown
- Younger trees are killed quickly whilst the older, more mature trees, become weakened over time and eventually succumb to another pest or pathogen which ultimately causes death. Some trees show a degree of resistance to the disorder whilst others appear immune
- Three categories of ADB were used for the assessment of the Ash trees:

	Category	Leaf Cover Remaining	Recommendation
1	MILD	100-70%	No action at this stage Monitor during growing seasons
2	Moderate (MOD)	70-30%	Start planning for its removal Monitor during growing seasons
3	Moribund (MOR)	30-0%	Remove the tree before it becomes a Health & Safety issue

- In MILD cases of ADB, I recommend monitoring the tree during its growing season which allows for a balanced appraisal of the tree. This can be achieved by taking a digital photograph of the tree and re-assessing the tree next year or throughout the growing season
- For MODERATE trees, planning for their removal is key as is monitoring their condition. In my experience Ash trees in this category either decline very quickly or remain in the same for a length of time
- MORIBUND trees require removing as soon as possible. As the trees slowly die their wood structure changes resulting in a tree that is more brittle and prone to snapping
- T7/852 Alder has ivy covering c.80% of its stem which obscures any anomaly that would otherwise be visible
- The ivy will also increase the sail and /mass of the crown. The recommendation is therefore to sever the ivy at ground level and again at c.1m with the severed band being removed. This will allow the ivy to die of naturally while the gap allows any new ivy to be severed as it appears



- Wherever practicable, ivy should be retained due to its importance for wildlife
- Two trees were recorded as requiring monitoring after extreme wind events; such wind gusts would be considered anything greater than Force 8 on the Beaufort Scale
- If the trees are located within a conservation area or subject to a tree preservation order, a formal application to the local planning authority will be required and written consent obtained prior to any work is carried out

## 6.0 Recommendations

- Undertake the tree work in the time specified
- Reinspect in three years from the report's date
- This timeframe should be shortened in the event the trees local environment changes significantly, further fruiting bodies emerge from the tree or its immediate surroundings of after extreme weather events

This concludes my report.

Signed:



Andrew Gale *Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A*

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022



## 7.0 Appendix 1

### Site Plan

Please see TCR/334/22 Dwg01 Plaistow Pond attached separately

## Appendix 2

### Beaufort Scale

Beaufort Number	Name	Knots	MPH	Effects Observed on Land
0	Calm	Under 1	Under 1	Calm, smoke rises vertically
1	Light Air	1-3	1-3	Direction of wind is shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes
2	Light Breeze	4-6	4-7	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, ordinary wind vane moved by wind
3	Gentle Breeze	7-10	8-12	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion, wind extends light flag
4	Moderate Breeze	11-16	13-18	Raises dust and loose paper, small branches are moved
5	Fresh Breeze	17-21	19-24	Small trees in leaf begin to sway, crested wavelets in inland waters
6	Strong Breeze	22-27	25-31	Large branches in motion, whistling heard in telegraph wires, umbrellas used with difficulty
7	Near Gale	28-33	32-38	Whole trees in motion, inconvenience felt in walking against the wind
8	Gale	34-40	39-46	Breaks twigs off trees, generally impedes progress
9	Strong Gale	41-47	47-54	Slight structural damage occurs – chimney pots, slates removed
10	Storm	48-55	55-63	Seldom experienced inland, trees uprooted, considerable structural damage occurs
11	Violent Storm	56-63	64-72	Very rarely experienced, accompanied by widespread damage
12	Hurricane	64 and over	73 and over	