

Cam Parish Council - Visual Tree Assessment.

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A 'Duty of Care' in relation to tree inspection is owed to persons who may be reasonably contemplated (by tree owners, tree managers and tree inspectors) to be affected by their action or inaction. This duty means that the actions of these persons need to meet a standard of care. If they do not, then negligence in Common Law may be proved and result in a claim for damages.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.2

Cam Parish Council (CPC) has jurisdiction over the affairs of Cam Parish, Stroud.

1.2 Ownership

CPC have 9 open space sites within the Parish area

- Lark Rise
- High Street
- Hopton Road Green
- Ashmead 1,2 & 3
- Cam Green
- Jubilee Playing Fields
- Rackleaze Nature Reserve
- Westend Allotments
- Woodfields - Hadley Road

1.3 Duty of Care

CPC have all the normal responsibilities of being a landowner, including the duty of care with regards to harm to those who may foreseeably be affected by use of the land, or harm caused to neighbouring property or people.

1.4 History

There was no historic survey or Inspection data available. It was noted that some trees have been previously tagged and presumably surveyed for hazards.

1.5 Instruction

Glendale has been instructed, by CPC, to carry out a survey and Inspection of trees on this site to provide information on the risk presented by this tree population.

2.0 Specification

2.1 The specification was agreed to be the same as utilised on the core contract with Stroud District Council

2.2 In summary the specification was agreed as follows

For the land indicated on the plans provided by CPC

- To identify, locate and inspect all trees.
- Trees to be mapped.
- Inspection will be a ground based Visual Tree Inspection (VTA).
- The main purpose of the inspection is to assess the tree's general condition and additionally evaluate any specific risk posed by the tree.
- Results of tree inspection will lead to recommendations for remedial action in the short/medium term.
- All of the above to be encapsulated in an electronic map and summary report.

3.0 Methodology.

3.1 Timing

The entire inspection works were concluded during on **November 21st to 23rd 2023**

3.2 Qualifications

All elements of assessment/survey & inspection were undertaken by Glendale surveyor Nick davies

This Inspector is a qualified LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector.

3.3 Limitations

All trees have been assessed, as specified, using the recognised system known as **VTA** (Visual Tree Assessment) "Dr. David Lonsdale (Ref. Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment & Management 1999) and Mattheck & Breloer (Ref. The Body Language of Trees 1999)."

All trees have been inspected from ground level only. Whilst obvious aerial defects can be identified often the structure of the crown, or position of the tree, will restrict vision and identification of others.

Trees are dynamic living organisms, whose health and condition can be subject to rapid changes, depending upon a number of internal and external factors. The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are based on the trees at the time of inspection. It should be noted that even apparently sound, healthy looking trees, can fail.

The observations gathered during VTA do not account for a tree's response in extreme weather conditions.

This report represents the state of the trees on the day examined. Where no timed recommendations are made then the currency of this report will expire after 3 years from the date of inspection.

3.4 Full Site Survey/Tree inspections

3.41 Dataset

The following dataset was collected as appropriate for each tree as required:-

Site Name	Name of asset, as work instruction
Tree ID	Individual ID number. (Trees requiring work were physically tagged.)
Location - Coordinates	Coordinates obtained on site using WAAS enabled handheld devices. This data has also been converted to Lat/Long Coordinates.
Group or Single	Individual tree or group of trees
Species	Common name
Height (M)	Average height of tree
DBH (Cm)	Average diameter of main stem or stems at 1.2M above ground level
Average Crown Width (M)	Average width of crown
Tree Age Class	Newly Planted, Young, Semi-mature, Early Mature, Mature, Over Mature & Veteran
Physiological Condition	Dead, Poor, Fair or Good
Structural Condition	Dead, Poor, Fair or Good
Risk Rating	1 to 5 : 1 being negligible, 5 being extreme
Defects Observed	Yes or No significant defects observed
Target Type	Vehicle, Person, Property or Occupation
Target Range	1 to 6 , 1 being highest value
Size of Part to Fail	1 to 5, 1 being highest size
Probability of Failure	1 to 7, 1 being highest probability
Risk Of Harm	Calculated from the above 4 fields and expressed as a probability of harm
Defect 1	Description of observed defects
Defect 2	Description of observed defects

Defect 3	Description of observed defects
Programme Priority	Urgent to Low : Urgent - within 28 Days, High - work required in 3 Months, Medium- works required in 6 Months & Low - Works required in 12 months or Re-inspection
Works required	Brief specification of works recommended

3.42 Definition of key inspection terms

Age :

Subjective assessment of the life stage of the tree given species specific characteristics and the environmental context.

Physiological Condition :

Dead : Dead

Poor : Major massive occurrence of pathogen, parasite or disease which is compromising the tree.

Poor : Several occurrences of pathogens, parasites or disease which are having a notable effect upon the tree.

Fair : Isolated minor occurrences of pathogen, parasite or disease associated with average state for species and environment.

Good : No evidence of pathogens, parasites or disease.

Structural Condition :

Dead : Dead

Poor : Major massive structural defects which are compromising the tree.

Poor : Several structural defects which are having a notable effect upon the tree

Fair : Isolated minor structural defects associated with average state for species and environment.

Good : Notably good structure for species and environment

Overall Tree Condition :

The condition of a given tree is considered in light of typical characteristics for that particular species in typical circumstances. The overall tree condition takes into account a synthesis of tree vitality, physiological & structural condition and contrasts these findings against what is typical for that species and that environment.

Risk of Harm :

The QTRA system defines the final risk of harm in 4 bands of probability

<1:1,000,000 - Green - Acceptable risk

1: 10,000 to 1;1,000,000 - Yellow - Tolerable risk

1:10,000 to 1:1,000 - Amber - Only acceptable if the risk is not imposed on other people

> 1:1,000 - Red - Unacceptable risk

4.0 Survey

4.1 Site Observations

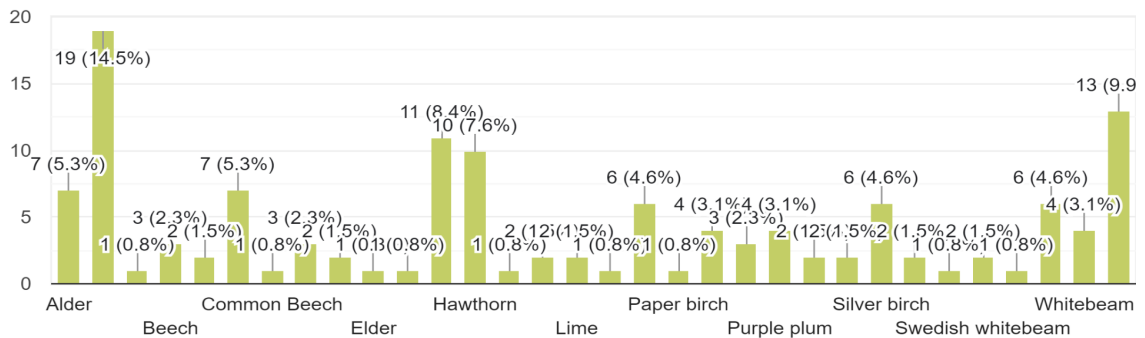
The sites were open grassed spaces with public access largely for amenity purposes

4.1.1 Tree population

There is no particular significance to the distribution of species across the sites.

Species (Common Name)

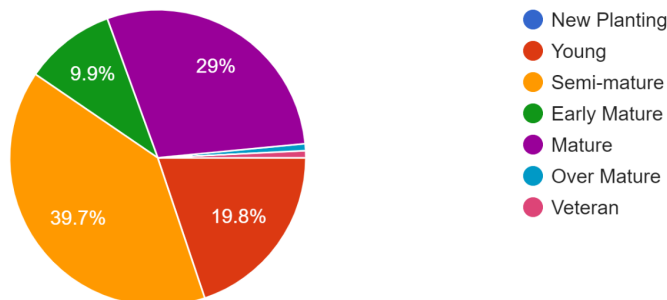
131 responses



There is a wide spectrum of tree age across the sites.

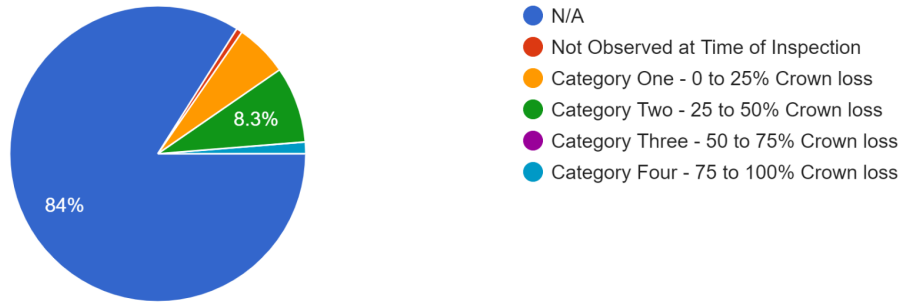
Age Class

131 responses



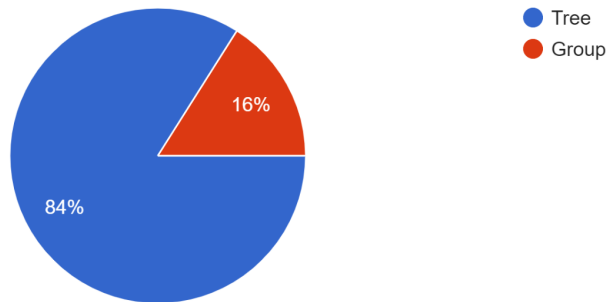
Of the Ash on site (25 noted cases) roughly 95% were showing signs of Ash Dieback (Hymenoscyphus Fraxineus).

Ash Dieback
156 responses



4.1.2 Summary Findings

Is this a tree or a group
156 responses



Roughly 16% of the trees surveyed were identified in groups. This is standard practice where there is a uniform assessment of the risk presented by the trees in the group.

Hazard Rating

156 responses



(Please be aware that the colours in this chart do not match the risk classification)

Of the trees inspected and assessed

98.7 % were found to present no significant risk (Green)

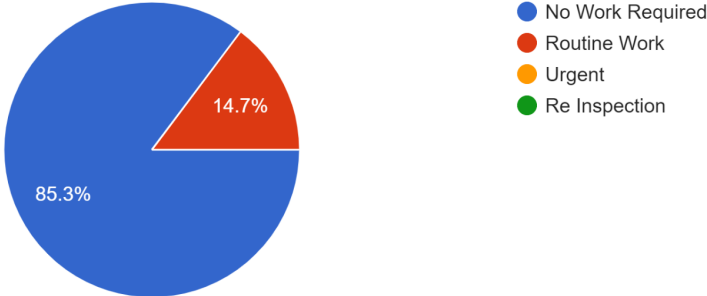
1.3 % were found to present an acceptable risk (Yellow)

No work is indicated on safety grounds.

However some trees may benefit from routine amenity work

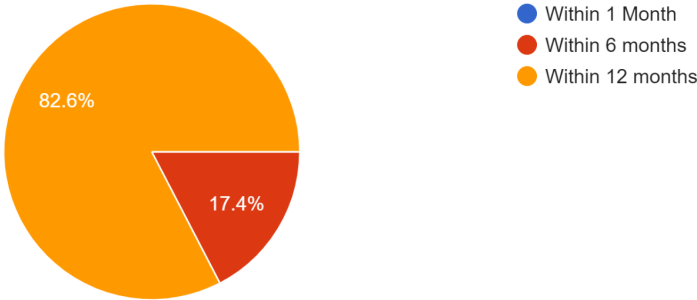
What type of work is required?

156 responses



Priority

23 responses



The following is a summary of the optional amenity works

Tree/Group ID Number (Leave Blank or Enter existing Tag)	Is this a tree or a group	Species (Common Name)	Hazard Rating	What type of work is required?	Describe work type required	Detail Specification for Work	Priority
T1	Tree	Sycamore	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months
T2	Tree	Sycamore	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months
T7	Tree	Ash	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Fell	Recommended felling to ground	Within 12 months
T13	Tree	Whitebeam	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months

T18	Tree	Lime	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove as much ivy from stem and crown as possible	Within 12 months
T22	Tree	Field maple	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months
T34	Tree	Alder	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months
T35	Tree	Willow	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months
T36	Tree	Willow	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months
T37	Tree	Willow	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months
T38	Tree	Willow	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months
T40	Tree	Willow	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Fell	Fell and leave log pile	Within 12 months
T41	Tree	Poplar	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months

T42	Tree	Poplar	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months
T44	Tree	Ash pp	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy up to 1.5m	Within 12 months
T54	Tree	Silver birch	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove all ivy from stem	Within 12 months
T68	Tree	Purple plum	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Remove Deadwood	Recommend removing deadwood and hanging branches	Within 6 months
T70	Tree	Purple plum	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove as much ivy as possible from stem and crown	Within 12 months
T78	Tree	Field maple	Yellow - Acceptable Risk (1:10,000 to 1: 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Remove Limb to suitable growth point, Sever ivy	Remove the eastern stem back to the main union. Remove all ivy from the other stem.	Within 6 months
T83	Tree	Swedish whitebeam	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove ivy from stem	Within 12 months
T87	Tree	Downy birch	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Sever ivy	Remove as much ivy as possible from stems	Within 12 months

T91	Tree	Sycamore	Yellow - Acceptable Risk (1:10,000 to 1:1,000,000)	Routine Work	Fell	Fell to ground level	Within 6 months
T93	Tree	Sycamore	Green - No realistic risk (Less than 1 : 1,000,000)	Routine Work	Fell	Fell to ground	Within 6 months

4.1.3 Data

A full data set is appended as a spreadsheet

4.1.4 The recommended removal or pruning of any specific tree does not imply that either treeowner or statutory consent has been gained for any works.

5.0 Data & Appendices

Appendix A - Data

The Inspection data has been provided as a spreadsheet.

Appendix B - Maps

Maps have been provided as a Google map (Link below) and as a KML file to allow manipulation in GIS software.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1NhC0CuON8K4SATM4oqFRz5fsje8K6VA&usp=sharing>