



DUTY OF CARE: Tree Condition Survey & Report

Client: West Rainton Parish Council

Site location: West Rainton Cemetery

Date: 09/12/2025

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Scope & Brief

This report was prepared for West Rainton Parish Council to record the condition of the trees at West Rainton Cemetery on 5/12/2025 and to make practical, risk-based recommendations for arboricultural works necessary to manage the hazards observed on that date.

The purpose was to identify defects or hazards observable from ground level on 5/12/2025 and to recommend remedial action where appropriate to reduce foreseeable risk to people and property. This document records observations made on that date only; it is not a guarantee of future tree behavior or safety.

The inspection and recommendations have been made in accordance with recognised arboricultural practice, including BS 3998:2010 (Tree work – Recommendations) and HSE guidance on managing tree risk, and were carried out by a competent arboriculturalist.

Trees requiring works were categorised as high, moderate, or low priority and a prioritised work schedule has been created based on the methodology stated in [section 3.7](#)

The data recorded included; species (common and scientific name), height, age, condition. Detailed explanations of these criteria are in the methodology section of this report ([section 3](#)).

The data is recorded in the Tree Survey Schedule section ([section 4](#)) of this report and includes comments identifying faults and hazards with respect to crown form, condition, storm damage and disease. A recommended action was given for each tree.

1.2 Limitations

Observations were made from ground level only on 5/12/2025. No aerial inspection, internal decay assessment, invasive probing, sonic tomography, resistograph, or root excavation was undertaken unless specifically identified in the survey scope.

Where ivy or other climbers obscured the stem or branch junctions, internal cavities and defects could not be reliably assessed, the survey has recorded “ivy obstructing inspection”, this should be taken to indicate an incomplete visual assessment and further inspection (or severance/partial removal) is recommended before excluding concealed defects.

This survey does not include inspection of utilities (underground services), structural foundations, drains, or unrelated site features unless noted.

The observations record tree condition at the time of inspection only; weather events, pests, or other factors may change risk profiles. Henry Lee and Special Branch Tree Services does not accept liability for conditions that arise after the survey date unless the author is specifically retained to inspect on those later dates.

If the client or third parties require a more detailed assessment (e.g., internal decay testing, aerial inspection, soil/root investigation), a separate scope and agreement must be made in writing.

No part of this report may be reproduced or relied upon by any party other than the named client without the author's prior written consent.

1.3 Site Location

West Rainton Cemetery

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2.0 Statutory Protection

2.1 Tree Protection

A variety of statutory restrictions apply to felling, pruning or damaging of trees with preservation orders (TPO) or within conservation areas (Department for communities and local government, 2014). With exceptions of these restrictions available.

Any trees that require arboricultural works should be checked for any restrictions prior to works commencing.

Applications should be made for trees restricted with a TPO and a six week notification made for works in a conservation area.

Where works are deemed exempt, a submission of a 5-day notification of works should be made in accordance with section 198 (6)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

2.2 Wildlife Protection

The survey recorded visible signs of nesting birds, bat roosts or other protected species where present. All bats and their roosts are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations and the Wildlife & Countryside Act.

If works may affect potential roosts, the client must obtain a survey by a licensed ecologist and follow the legal advice provided. Where active nests or roosts are present, works affecting them must not proceed until permission from the appropriate statutory authority or a licensed ecologist's mitigation plan is in place. The author will advise where evidence found during inspection suggests the need for ecological input.

3.0 Methodology

The trees were assessed using Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) techniques from ground level, complemented by some photographic records and approximate mapping. Measurements (height, DBH) are estimated to the nearest metre / 5 cm unless otherwise stated. 'Condition' reflects observed structural and physiological indicators on the inspection date.

The surveyor, Henry Lee *TechArborA*, Holds a valid, in date Professional Tree Inspection Qualification and is a licensed user of QTRA (Quantified Tree Risk Assessment) and holds a Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture. We have professional indemnity insurance of £1,000,000 and public liability insurance of £5,000,000. This survey is not a full forensic investigation and does not include non-destructive testing unless specifically ordered.

Individual trees were assessed using visual tree assessment methods (VTA). This is a systematic approach involving visually observing the tree in sections. Root systems were observed for stability and signs of decay/disease (fungi). Stems, limbs, and branches were observed for defects, decay, disease and deadwood and the foliage (or buds depending on species and season) were observed for general vitality (vigour).

The following data was collected for each tree.

- Species (common name)
- Age
- Height
- Stem Diameter (DBH)
- Condition
- Comments
- Action
- Priority

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Trees were given a sequential identification number. Young trees were not tagged as they were deemed too small. Any tree tag numbers are to be used to identify individual specimens and are not related to the total number of trees on site.

These numbers relate to trees within the appraisal section and are identifiable by replacing the number 0 with the letter T. Example: Tag No. 0123=T123.

Several trees may have been recorded as a group or woodland area. This generally consisted of trees that were similar in terms of species, age and overall current condition. See appraisal section 4 for definitions of groups and woodlands.

All groups/woodland areas were plotted on the accompanying map with only trees requiring work identified within the appraisal. All trees on site were observed.

3.1 Age

The age of each tree is expressed using the following terms:

- Young
- Semi-mature
- Early-mature
- Mature
- Over-mature
- Veteran

3.2 Height

The height was estimated visually and is expressed in metres (to the nearest metre). For groups/woodland areas the height of the tallest specimen was recorded.

3.3 DBH (Stem Diameter)

The diameter of individual trees was estimated at from a height of 1.3m from ground level.

For groups/woodland areas a range is given using the average estimated stem.

E.g., ^50 = up to 50 cm. Only stems measuring 15cm and above were recorded.

3.4 Condition

The overall condition of the trees was assessed with regards to their structural integrity (i.e., stem condition, branch unions, crown form) and physiological condition (Vigour) and are expressed using the following terms:

- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Dead

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3.5 Comments

Any hazards or defects observed within each tree were recorded. A definition of terminology used can be found in [section 6](#) of this report.

3.6 Action

An action was recommended for each tree to alleviate any hazards/defects identified in the comments section of the data collected.

3.7 Priority

The landowner / duty holder is responsible for instructions to contractors and for ensuring completed works meet the specification. Recommendations do not transfer responsibility or create new duties for the author unless the author accepts contractually.

The priority for each action required was based on individual tree locations and the severity of the hazards identified in the comments section.

Recommended actions should be undertaken within the following time restraints from the date of this report.

Immediate (IM) - Imminent risk to people/property observed. Contractor to attend and make safe within 72 hours; site to be cordoned off and client alerted immediately.

Urgent (U) - As soon as is reasonably practicable within 4 weeks (28 Days)

High (H) - Work recommended to reduce foreseeable risk; completion within 3 months (90 days)

Moderate (M) - Works recommended as part of routine management, completion within 12 months (365 days)

Low (L) - Desirable or long-term works, no immediate safety concern. Plan within 2–5 years as part of management strategy.

Monitoring (MON): Trees requiring ongoing observation due to noted defects. These trees must be re-inspected annually, or immediately following major weather events, with findings recorded on a “report if defect observed” basis.

3.8 Tree Location Plan

An overview plan is included within this report ([Section 4.3](#)) and is a guide to the general tree cover within the site.

Where a site has a dense population of trees, more detailed plans are included within a Tree Works Schedule to accompany this report. This is provided as a separate document to allow efficient planning of proposed works.

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4.0 Tree Survey Schedule

I carried out the site visit on 5/12/2025. The weather was dry but overcast and slightly windy, the visibility was good and there were no restraints.

4.1 Site description

Main vehicular access to the site was via Chantry Place

The tree cover across the cemetery is a formally managed amenity landscape with scattered specimen trees and small groups, underpinned by a shrub/hedge structure and recent infill planting. The principal structure is provided by a number of semi-mature to mature broadleaves (notably sycamore and small-leaved lime), supplemented by ornamental species and discrete shrub/understorey elements. A small mixed group (G001) forms a hedge/canopy component dominated by *Prunus serotina* within a wider mixed assemblage, this provides screening and enclosure rather than “woodland” character. The *Tilia cordata* stand (T027–T038) is a very well managed amenity group with strong collective landscape and amenity value, the crowns have been recently reduced to a high standard and are currently functioning well within their spatial constraints. The canopy distribution is relatively even and good ongoing management is evident, and there are only a few limited areas where unmanaged juvenile establishment is influencing access or long-term suitability.

4.2 Appraisal

T-Tree, Y-Young tree (no tag), H- Hedge, S- Shrub, G- Group of similar age/species trees, W- Woodland area comprised of mixed species and mixed age trees.

*- Additional works

Age key: Y – young, SM – semi mature, EM – early mature, M – mature, OM – over mature, V – veteran

Height (HGT): Estimated to the nearest metre (for groups/woodland areas < represents the height of the tallest specimen)

DBH: Stem diameter measured at 1.3m and estimated to the nearest 5cm

Condition key: D – dead, P – poor, F – fair, G – good

Priority key: High – as soon as possible, Moderate – as part of a management program, Low - desirable but not essential

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Tree Number	Species	Life Stage	Height	DBH (cm)	Condition	Comments	Recommendations	Priority
G001	Mixed species (Mixed species)	Semi Mature	11	20	Fair	Mixed group Primarily Prunus serotina making up hedge and canopy structure Generally small trees with anything larger or of note individually surveyed and plotted Generally in fair condition	No action required at present	-
T001	Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia)	Young	4.5	6	Good	Recent planting Fair Crown Form and Condition	No action required at present	-
T002	Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia)	Young	4.5	6	Good	Recent planting Fair Crown Form and Condition	No action required at present	-
T003	Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia)	Young	4.5	6	Good	Recent planting Fair Crown Form and Condition	No action required at present	-
T004	Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia)	Young	4.5	6	Good	Recent planting Fair Crown Form and Condition	No action required at present	-
T005	Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia)	Dead	1	0	Dead	Recent planting loss Dead tree	Fell to ground level and replant	Low
T006	Black elder (Sambucas nigra)	Semi Mature	3.5	10	Good	Roundel like form Dense canopy with good acropetal growth Rubus fruticosus present around base	No action required at present	-
T007	Himalayan cherry (Prunus himalaica)	Mature	6	35	Good	Minor basal swellings Basipetal growth Included quadrafurcate union at 1.5m Fair Crown Form and Condition Minor deadwood in canopy <30mm	No action required at present	-

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T008	Tree of heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>)	Semi Mature	8	41	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Bifurcation at 2m	No action required at present	-
T009	English yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>)	Semi Mature	2.5	6	Good	Amenity roundel shrub Historic good maintenance Good Crown Form and Condition	No action required at present	-
T010	Black cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)	Semi Mature	6	17	Good	Slight northeastern lean Minor epicormic growth at base Mechanical damage to southern bole Fair Crown Form and Condition	Crown Lift to 3m to facilitate pedestrian access	Low
T011	Scarlet oak (<i>Quercus coccinea</i>)	Early Mature	5	15	Fair	Fair Crown Form and Condition Minor deadwood in canopy <30mm Historic pruning wounds Basal damage	No action required at present	-
T012	Tree of heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>)	Semi Mature	8	41	Fair	Fair Crown Form and Condition Bifurcation at 3m Minor tip dieback Stress fissures at 3m on eastern scaffold limb	No action required at present	-
T013	Black cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)	Semi Mature	6	22	Good	Slight southern lean Minor epicormic growth at base Mechanical damage to northern bole Fair Crown Form and Condition	Crown Lift to 3m to facilitate pedestrian access	Low
T014	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Semi Mature	16	55	Fair	Fair Crown Form and Condition Minor deadwood in canopy <30mm Previously crown lifted on numerous occasions to a good standard Eastern canopy has been reduced Some ivy on trunk	No action required at present	-

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T015	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	18	54	Fair	Fair Crown Form and Condition Minor deadwood in canopy <30mm Previously crown lifted on numerous occasions to a good standard Eastern canopy has been reduced Some ivy on trunk Bifurcate at base Small cavity from pruning wound at 1.5m on northern stem Some swellings around the cavity but no significant hollowing was detected	No action required at present	-
T016	Whitebeam (<i>Aria edulis</i>)	Semi Mature	16	125	Fair	Fair Crown Form and Condition Minor deadwood in canopy <30mm Previously crown lifted on numerous occasions to a good standard Eastern canopy has been reduced Some ivy on trunk inhibiting inspection of some unions Octofurcate from 3m	No action required at present	-
T017	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Semi Mature	16	55	Fair	Fair Crown Form and Condition Minor deadwood in canopy <30mm Previously crown lifted on numerous occasions to a good standard Eastern canopy has been reduced Some ivy on trunk Dense epicormic growth at base Trifurcate at base with 3 large stems forming canopy Deadwood in canopy >30mm	No action required at present	-

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T018	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	18	54	Fair	Fair Crown Form and Condition Minor deadwood in canopy <30mm Previously crown lifted on numerous occasions to a good standard Eastern canopy has been reduced Some ivy on trunk Included bifurcate union at 1m Epiphytes present in union Deadwood in canopy >30mm	No action required at present	-
T019	Whitebeam (<i>Aria edulis</i>)	Mature	16	130	Fair	Fair Crown Form and Condition Minor deadwood in canopy <30mm Previously crown lifted on numerous occasions to a good standard Eastern canopy has been reduced Slightly asymmetrical canopy due to reduction Bifurcate at 1.5m Large decaying stub at 1.5m on eastern side from historic pruning wound No significant hollowing detected	No action required at present	-
T020	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Semi Mature	14	68	Fair	Fair Crown Form and Condition Minor deadwood in canopy <30mm Previously crown lifted on numerous occasions to a good standard Northeastern canopy has been reduced Some ivy on trunk Asymmetrical crown weighted south	No action required at present	-

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T021	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Semi Mature	15	36	Fair	Multi stemmed tree Located directly adjacent to boundary fence Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm	No action required at present	-
T022	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Semi Mature	15	32	Fair	Multi stemmed tree Located directly adjacent to boundary fence Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm	No action required at present	-
T023	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Semi Mature	15	30	Fair	Multi stemmed tree Located directly adjacent to boundary fence Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm	No action required at present	-
T024	Black cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)	Semi Mature	12	30	Fair	Fair Crown Form and Condition Recent snapped limb	Remove snapped limb	Moderate
T025	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Semi Mature	15	39	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Dense ivy restricting Inspection of trunk No ash dieback Minor deadwood in canopy <30mm	No action required at present	-
T026	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Semi Mature	16	50	Fair	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm Located directly adjacent to boundary fence Slightly asymmetrical canopy due to competition	No action required at present	-
T027	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	45	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard	No action required at present	-

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T028	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	42	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard As a group they present excellent amenity value for the area	No action required at present	-
T029	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	49	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard As a group they present excellent amenity value for the area Included Bifurcate union at 2m	No action required at present	-
T030	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	48	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard As a group they present excellent amenity value for the area Included Bifurcate union at 3m	No action required at present	-

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T031	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	42	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard As a group they present excellent amenity value for the area	No action required at present	-
T032	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	48	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard As a group they present excellent amenity value for the area Included Bifurcate union at 3m	No action required at present	-
T033	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	49	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard As a group they present excellent amenity value for the area Included Bifurcate union at 2m Sparassis crispa present at base	No action required at present	-

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T034	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	45	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard As a group they present excellent amenity value for the area	No action required at present	-
T035	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	49	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard As a group they present excellent amenity value for the area Included Bifurcate union at 2m	No action required at present	-
T036	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	46	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard As a group they present excellent amenity value for the area Included Bifurcate union at 4m Small cavity at 3m from historic wound	No action required at present	-

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T037	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	46	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard As a group they present excellent amenity value for the area Small cavity at 3m from historic wound	No action required at present	-
T038	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Semi Mature	15.5	50	Good	Fair Crown Form and Condition Deadwood in canopy >30mm, not atypical for species Asymmetrical crown due to stand competition Recently reduced to a very high standard As a group they present excellent amenity value for the area	No action required at present	-

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4.3 Tree Location Plan

West Rainton Parish Council
West Rainton Cemetery

West Rainton Cemetery, DH4 6PP

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1 : 700

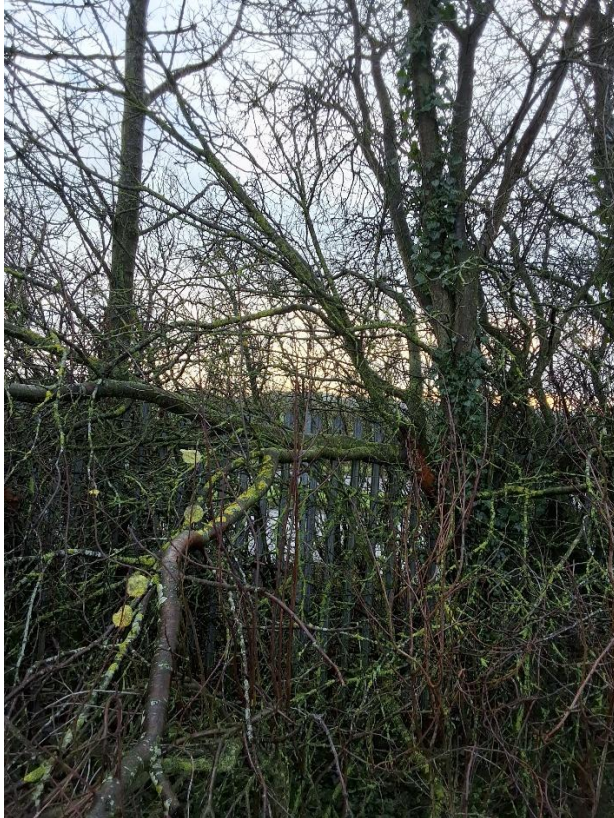


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4.4 Supporting Photographs



T024 – Snapped Limb



T027-T038 – Stand of *Tilia*

5.0 Data Analysis

5.1 Trees Requiring Work

The recommendations in this report are based on a single, ground-level inspection carried out on 5/12/2025. If the recommended works are completed within the stated timeframes, and if those works are undertaken by a competent contractor in accordance with BS 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations, the foreseeable risks identified during the inspection are expected to be reduced to a tolerable level.

This report does not provide, and must not be interpreted as providing, any guarantee of future tree condition or behaviour. Trees are living organisms subject to natural changes, weather events, pests, and diseases. The author cannot accept liability for failures occurring after the inspection date unless specifically instructed to undertake further inspections.

This report has been prepared solely for West Rainton Parish Council. No responsibility is accepted to third parties unless expressly agreed in writing through a signed letter of reliance.

Priority Ratings

Immediate (IM) - Imminent risk to people/property observed. Contractor to attend and make safe within 72 hours; site to be cordoned off and client alerted immediately.

Urgent (U)– As soon as is reasonably practicable within 4 weeks (28 Days)

High (H) - Work recommended to reduce foreseeable risk; completion within 3 months (90 days)

Moderate (M) – Works recommended as part of routine management, completion within 12 months (365 days)

Low (L) – Desirable or long-term works, no immediate safety concern. Plan within 2–5 years as part of management strategy.

Monitoring (MON): Trees requiring ongoing observation due to noted defects. These trees must be re-inspected annually, or immediately following major weather events, with findings recorded on a “report if defect observed” basis.

A total of 0 items were identified as Immediate or Urgent priority.

A total of 0 items were identified as High priority.

A total of 1 item was identified as Moderate priority.

A total of 3 items were identified as Low priority.

A total of 0 trees require ongoing monitoring.

In addition to the scheduled re-survey, the following circumstances must trigger an unscheduled inspection by a qualified arboriculturalist. These include but are not limited to:

After significant storm events (consistent winds exceeding 50 mph or any event causing branch loss in nearby trees).

Following construction, excavation, or ground disturbance within the Root Protection Area of surveyed trees.

On discovery of fungal fruiting bodies, new cavities, or other significant changes in tree condition.

Where sudden branch failure, extensive dieback, or root plate movement is reported by site users or contractors.

These inspections are necessary to ensure that emerging risks are identified and acted upon promptly.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The overall condition across the site is predominantly Good to Fair, with a clear legacy of routine arboricultural management (multiple crowns previously lifted/reduced to a good standard, and several trees showing stable post-pruning architecture). Recent planting stock (rowans T001–T004) are establishing well, with one planting failure (T005) requiring removal and replacement to maintain continuity of design intent. The defect profile is generally low-order and typical for a managed public setting, minor deadwood (<30 mm) is common, and some trees carry deadwood >30 mm without presenting an immediate hazard where targets are limited or where crown form/attachments remain sound. The main actionable issues are target-related clearance conflicts and isolated branch defects.

Crown lifting has been recommended for two trees (T010 and T013) to re-establish safe pedestrian access, and one tree T024 has a recent snapped limb requiring removal as a straightforward risk reduction measure. The mixed group (G001) and the majority of individual trees are not presently generating intervention needs beyond normal cyclical inspection, with no widespread indicators of significant physiological decline, basal instability, or systemic structural weakness within the site.

Client / Duty Holder Responsibilities

Responsibility for implementing the recommended works, commissioning competent contractors, and ensuring completion within the specified timeframes rests solely with the landowner or duty holder.

The duty holder must also:

Retain evidence of completed works (completion certificate, photographs, contractor details).

Arrange monitoring and follow-up inspections where recommended.

Ensure that works are carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 and relevant wildlife legislation.

Failure to act on the recommendations in this report within the stated timeframes will invalidate the associated risk ratings and may expose the duty holder to liability.

Conclusion

Based on the condition of the trees as observed during the ground-level inspection on 5/12/2025 and provided that the Immediate, Urgent, High and Moderate priority works are carried out within the recommended timeframes, the level of risk associated with the trees on this site is expected to be within tolerable limits.

It is recommended that a full site resurvey be undertaken by 5/12/2028. Certain trees identified for monitoring must be inspected annually and following any major weather events. This ensures that any significant changes in tree condition are detected and addressed promptly.

If works are not undertaken within the recommended timescales, the risk rating assigned is no longer valid. The client must arrange for reassessment

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6.0 Glossary of Terminology & Definitions

Amenity- The pleasantness or attractiveness of something

Asymmetrical crown- unbalanced, one-sided.

Bracket- Fruiting body of a fungi.

Cavity- hole within a stem/branch of a tree, potentially caused by decay or damage.

Crotch/fork/ union - region formed by a junction of two branches, or stem and branch.

Crown- overall branch and foliage cover.

Deadwood- dead branches within the crown of a tree. <30mm diameter classified as minor deadwood: >30mm classified as major deadwood.

Decay- area of degraded wood, Early referring to wood that is beginning to degrade: Moderate referring to wood that has deteriorated to further noticeable degrees than early stage: Extensive referring to wood that has significantly degraded.

Dieback- ends of branches with no leaf coverage. Can be a sign of decline.

Early-mature- a tree that has not reached maturity but is deemed to be 1/3 the way through its life expectancy.

Epicormic- shoot growth from dormant or adventitious buds on main stems or branches.

Fastigate- Upright crown form.

Good form- good crown shape and size expectant of specific species characteristics.

Limb- Large structural branch section between main stem(s) and tip branches.

Over-mature- a tree that has exceeded its life expectancy.

Occluding- the production of new wood around wounds.

Pathogen- bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause disease.

Mature- a tree that has reached the final third of its life stage.

Semi-mature- an established tree that is the first 2/3 of its life expectancy.

Stem- above ground structure that supports the branches of a tree.

Support growth- Wood produced around areas of decay or degradation that provides structural support to the area affected.

Vigour- physiological strength and health of a tree.

Young- newly planted/not yet fully established tree.