

Tree Condition Survey Report for Shepherdswell with Coldred Parish Council.

Introduction.

This report is to identify trees managed by Shepherdswell with Coldred Parish Council which have physical defects, obvious structural issues or visible fungal/biological infections that may pose a danger to the public. Inspections are carried out during the autumn months to coincide with the emergence of fungal fruiting bodies (mushrooms and soft brackets) on trees which may be infected with decay fungi. Fungal fruiting bodies are a good early indicator that a tree may become unsafe in future. This report only identifies physical and structural defects visible from ground level at the time the survey was carried out on 26th November 2024. Recommendations for work to be carried out are included in this report but are subject to the views of the tree officer of Dover District Council where Tree Preservation Orders are applicable. Tree Preservation Orders are in place covering survey areas 4,5 and 6.

Survey Areas.

The sites surveyed were;

- 1- Shepherdswell Village Hall and Reed Meadow
- 2-Coldred Village Green
- 3- Shepherdswell Village Green
- 4- Meadow View open space
- 5- Trees between Hill Avenue and the recreation ground
- 6- 'The Plantation' woodland to the North East of lower pitch of the recreation ground

Location Identification.

Trees requiring attention have been described as accurately as possible by species, approximate height and diameter breast height (DBH) and in relation to fixed points in the surrounding area. Trees are marked (unless indicated otherwise) with numbers in Stihl Ecomarker biodegradable pink paint.

Site 1- Shepherdswell Village Hall and Reed Meadow.

Trees are not marked.

Tree 1. Sorbus sp, located on bank adjacent to Cox Hill opposite 'Cedarwood'. Approx height 7m, DBH 40cm. Recommend crown lift to 2m to facilitate grass cutting.

Tree 2- Sorbus sp, located on bank adjacent to Cox Hill opposite 1 Whittington Terrace. Approx height 6m, DBH 35cm. Recommend crown lift to 2m to facilitate grass cutting.

Tree 3- Sorbus sp. located on bank adjacent to Cox Hill opposite 3 Whittington Terrace. Approx height 7m, DBH 40cm. Recommend crown lift to 2m to facilitate grass cutting.

Tree 4- Quercus robur located on bank adjacent to Cox Hill opposite 5 Whittington Terrace. Approx height 8m, DBH 60cm. Cavity present at base of trunk on South East side 10cm deep, 20cm vertical, 10cm wide. This cavity has not worsened since last inspection, degraded fungal bodies present (species not identifiable). Some root damage/disturbance from

neighbouring development site was noted but doesn't appear significant. Recommend severing ivy on main stem and monitoring of cavity at next survey.

Site 2- Coldred Village Green.

Tree 1- Prunus sp adjacent to Coldred pond, tree not marked, approx height 8m, DBH 80cm. Ganoderma applanatum brackets present on buttress and exposed surface roots on the Eastern and Western sides. recommend monitoring at next survey.

Site 3- Shepherdswell Village Green.

Trees were surveyed clockwise around the Green with Tree 1 being adjacent to the picnic bench opposite the Vicarage on the corner of the one way road.

Tree 3- aesculus hippocastanum located adjacent to planter by the war memorial. Approx height 10m, DBH 90cm. Recommend crown lift to 2.5m to clear overhang of road sign.

Tree 5- aesculus hippocastanum opposite 1 The Old School. Approx height 5m, DBH 50cm. This is a previously lowered pollard- the tree is mostly hollow but has minimal branch leverage and so poses minimal public risk. Recommend retaining for amenity and environmental value but monitor condition with a view to removal in future.

Tree 6- aesculus hippocastanum located next to North Downs Way information board opposite 1 The Old School. Approx height 9m, DBH 55cm. Extensive wet cavity present on major limb on the East side, cavity is hard to measure but extends at least 35cm deep. Significant leverage above cavity overhanging the road junction of one way road and Mill Lane. Recommend removal of major limb back to main stem- limb marked X

Tree 8- aesculus hippocastanum located opposite church. Height approx 8m, DBH 70cm. Extensive wet cavity and decay at 2.5m on North side, cavity extends at least 35cm into main stem. Recommend repollarding and lowering main stem to 3.5m.

Site 4- Meadow View open space.

No issues apparent, no action required.

Site 5- Trees between Hill Avenue and recreation ground.

These trees were surveyed starting at the Approach Road end of Hill Avenue.

Tree 1- Fraxinus excelsior, located in front of Shepherdswell Scout hut, single pollarded stem Approx height 4m, DBH 35cm. Extensive decay has spread into buttresses, minimal regrowth following pollarding, ganoderma sp. present on west side of base, significant insect damage to 90cm height on West side of stem. Recommend removal.

Tree 2- acer pseudoplatanus, located adjacent to junction of Approach Road and Hill Avenue. Multi stem, approx height 13m, DBH 15cm, 15cm, 30cm and 30cm. Significant decay on West side at base from ground to 50cm high, 50cm wide and up to 20cm deep, the two main stems are leaning towards Approach Road and have a very tight union with 70cm of bark inclusion indicating a vulnerable weak point. Recommend removal- caution required due to insulated low voltage cable in proximity.

Tree 3- acer pseudoplatanus, located 2.5m in from Hill Avenue opposite the boundary of 'The Briars' and 'Mossridge'. Approx height 14m, DBH 70cm. Cavity on West side base between 20cm and 50cm height, cavity is 3cm wide and 15cm deep and contains unidentified decayed fungal fruiting bodies. Tree is not marked, recommend monitoring in future inspections.

Tree 4- acer pseudoplatanus, located on top of the bank adjacent to the playing field, approximately 12m north of utility pole 895210. Approx height 12m, DBH 40cm. The tree has a pronounced lean towards the playing field and the main stem is split and separating at 3.5m due to what appears to be wind damage. Recommend removal.

Tree 5- ulmus procera, location roadside of Hill Avenue. Approx height 9m, DBH 35. Lowest branch has damage from high vehicle. Recommend removal of lowest branch.

Tree 6- acer pseudoplatanus located halfway between Hill Avenue and sports pitch opposite boundary of 'Senang' and 'Caxton Cottage'. 3 stem tree approx height 14/15m, DBH 35cm, 40cm and 45cm. Wet cavity and rot present to depth of 25cm at the union of the 3 stems, included bark at the unions which shows signs of cracking possibly due to wind movement. Recommend pollarding all 3 stems to reduce failure risk but maintain ecological value.

Site 6- The Plantation woodland.

These trees were surveyed on a clockwise loop from the footpath entrance at the far end of Hill Avenue and are numbered as a continuation of those in Hill Avenue.

Tree 7- ulmus procera approximately 15m along footpath on left hand side. Approx height 8m, DBH 30cm. Tree is dead- this was flagged in previous report but has not been dealt with. Recommend removal.

Tree 8- ulmus procera, located adjacent to tree 7. Approx height 14m, DBH 45cm. Tree is dead- this was flagged in previous report but has not been dealt with. Recommend removal.

Tree 9- ulmus procera, located adjacent to tree 8. Approx height 8m, DBH 45cm. Tree is dead- this was flagged in previous report but has not been dealt with. Recommend removal.

Tree 10- fagus sylvatica, located approximately 8m South West of tree 9. Approx height 18m, DBH 80cm. Tree has a wound on West side from 80cm to 2m which appears to be healing well, two main stems form at 2.5m with an occluded tight joint showing a wet cavity, the tree has been previously reduced to alleviate wind stress on this joint. Two large pruned stems in the crown at approx 12m have died back. Recommend removal of major deadwood in crown.

Tree 11- ulmus procera, small dead specimen adjacent to tree 10 next to footpath, Recommend removal.

Tree 12- fagus sylvatica- located approx 5m South West of tree 11. Approx height 16m, DBH 85cm. Small cavity opening at 1.2m on North West side- cavity opening is 5cm by 15cm, interior decay of the cavity measures approx 40cm vertical by 25cm deep. Recommend monitoring at next inspection with a view to future crown reduction/thin to reduce stresses on main stem.

Tree 13- acer pseudoplatanus- located 9m due South of tree 9 between North and South footpaths. Approx height 9m, DBH 140cm. This tree was heavily pollarded about 10 years ago due to very extensive fire and mechanical damage at its base. The burned area of the trunk is now severely decayed and showing heavy insect and fungal damage with a very large cavity in the Western main stem (up to 300cm vertical, 40cm deep and 60cm wide). Recommend removal as the tree appears to be at the end of its viable life before becoming a safety hazard.

References.

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