



TREE SURVEY & RISK ASSESSMENT

East Hunsbury Parish Council

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October 2023

Checked by: Robert C Yates (Principal)

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1.0 Instruction & Remit

As instructed by Caroline Holgate (Parish Clerk), on behalf of East Hunsbury Parish Council, we have carried out an unscheduled tree survey and risk assessment across specified areas of public open space, namely Grangewood Park, Penvale Park, Blacky More, Granary Road (East & West) and Stonepit open space. The purpose of this survey is to comply with the council's statutory Duty of Care obligations and adopted tree management policy, but also in response to concerns raised by adjacent property owners, whose boundaries abut the public open spaces.

2.0 Caveats

The survey was undertaken by Mr Jack Foskett *NDArb* (arboricultural surveyor), who holds the LANTRA Certificate in Professional Tree Inspection and has over eight year's relevant survey experience.

All trees have been inspected from ground level only. Should further, more detailed inspection be deemed appropriate, this will be mentioned in the recommendations section of this report.

When assessing the risk posed by individual trees, we have taken into account both the proximity of neighbouring properties and the estimated volume of pedestrian or vehicular traffic within the target range of the tree.

Should there be a change of usage of any part of the site between inspections, this could affect the level of risk posed by any particular tree or group of trees.

3.0 Methodology

All trees have been assessed for general condition and health & safety issues, using the widely adopted system known as VTA (Visual Tree Assessment), as devised by Mattheck & Breloer and subsequently popularised by eminent arboriculturists such as Dr. David Lonsdale (Ref. Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment & Management 1999).

All individual trees found to require action for risk mitigation have either been affixed with a numbered tag or will have been spot marked with biodegradable eco paint. Large groups of trees have been notionally referenced.

Recommended works have been prioritised as follows :

- Urgent :** Carry out works as soon as can be arranged – prohibit access to Target area until complete!
- High Priority :** Carry out works within 3 months, or as soon as can be arranged
- Medium Priority :** Carry out works within 6 months
- Low Priority :** Carry out works, ideally within 12 months (18 months maximum)

4.0 Findings & Recommendations

- 4.1 All recommended works are included in the survey schedule which forms appendix 2 to this report. For approximate location of recorded trees, see plans at Appendix 1 (No plans are included for areas where zero trees were recorded).
- 4.2 Where removal of ‘all significant deadwood’ has been specified, this should be taken to mean that which is in excess of 50mm dia. and/or 900mm in length.
- 4.3 In some cases, Ivy severance on trees has been recommended where it is considered that the positive conservation value is outweighed by the added risk of partial or total tree failure in the future; Ivy growth can also inhibit proper inspection.
- 4.4 As regards re-inspection of the trees, we would recommend a default period of **three years**. Between scheduled inspections (by a professional arboriculturist), impromptu risk assessments should be undertaken by a suitably competent person e.g. Parish Tree Warden, these should immediately follow periods of extreme weather e.g. high winds, heavy rain or snow falls.

5.0 Statutory Obligations

- Any works to trees which are covered by Tree Preservation Orders [TPOs] or are within a Conservation Area [CA] require permission or consent from your Local Planning Authority [LPA]. It is necessary to gain confirmation from the LPA of any TPOs or CAs on the site, and to follow the formal application procedure if tree surgery, or indeed felling, is required in respect of protected trees.
- It is a criminal offence under normal circumstances to disturb or destroy - whether intentional or unintentional - the nesting sites of wild birds or the roost sites of bats, under the 'Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, the 'Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000' and the 'Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017'.

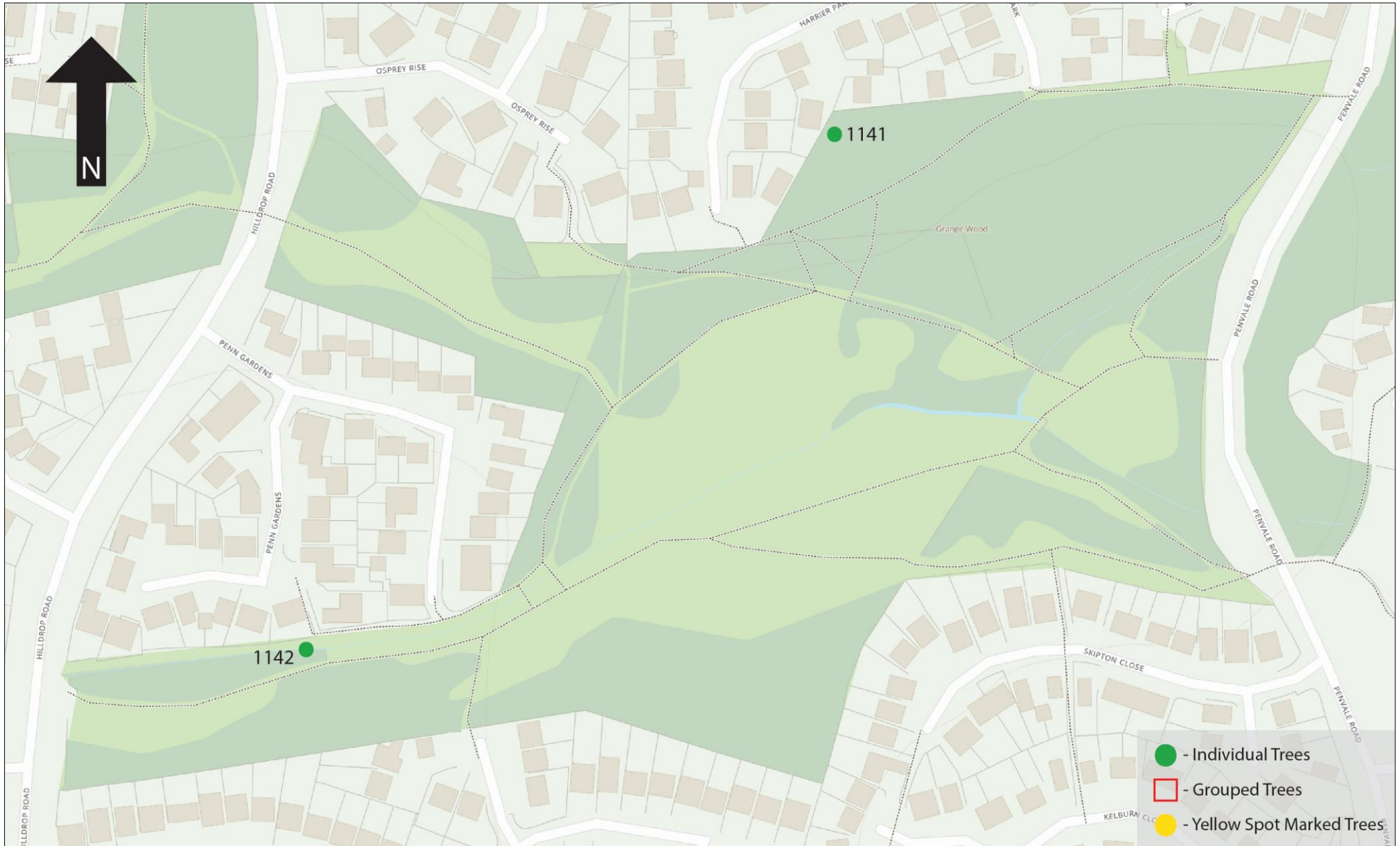
We strongly recommend that prior to commencement of any significant tree works i.e. felling or heavy crown reduction, a thorough aerial inspection is carried out by a suitably competent arborist in order to check for signs of bat activity or occupied nest sites. Further advice on how to proceed can, if necessary, be obtained from the local office of Natural England.

APPENDIX 1 : SURVEY PLANS (1 of 3) – Not to Scale

Plan 1 : Grangewood Park



Plan 2 : Penvale Park



APPENDIX 2 : Survey Schedule – East Hunsbury PC

Location	Tree ID.	Species (Common Name)	Age Class	Height (m)	Stem dia. (mm)	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Observations / Comments	Recommendations	Work Priority
Grangewood Park	G1	Sycamore	Middle aged	12	320	Poor	Poor	5 x Dead standing trees within falling distance to adjacent properties (All trees spot marked with orange eco paint)	Remove 5 x dead standing trees to ground level	HIGH
	190	English Oak	Mature	25	1200	Fair	Good	Ivy recently severed - still cannot fully inspect crown due to remaining Ivy coverage. <i>Fistulina hepatica</i> fungal fruiting body at base to south - insignificant at present	No action required	N/A
Penvale Park	1141	Ash	Mature	20	480	Normal	Fair	1 x Limb to north appears overextended towards adjacent property. Limb is mostly Ivy clad	Reduce overextended limb to north by 5m Sever Ivy at base	Low
	1142	Grey Poplar	Mature	25	580	Normal	Fair	Moderate lean to east towards footpath and properties	Reduce crown overall by 40% + remove deadwood	Medium
Blackymore Open Space	1143	Scots Pine	Young	8	200	Poor	Poor	Tree is moribund, located next to adjacent property (spot marked with orange eco paint)	Remove to ground level	HIGH

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Location	Tree ID.	Species (Common Name)	Age Class	Height (m)	Stem dia. (mm)	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Observations / Comments	Recommendations	Work Priority
Granary Road East								No significant defects found within area		
Granary Road West								No significant defects found within area		
Stonepit Open Space								No significant defects found within area		