



Shepley Allotments

Tree Condition Survey & Management Works Recommendations

Scope

To give recommendations on three trees growing either side of the Shepley Allotments/ Shepley Methodist Churchyard stone wall.

Introduction

Kirkburton Parish Council have asked for recommendations and quotes for remedial works on three small trees growing closely to and either side of a dry stone wall running between Shepley Allotments and Shepley Methodist Churchyard.

The catalyst for seeking a professional opinion is that one of the tree is overhanging a monument in the church yard, and the Council is concerned that this may cause damage at some point. The other trees are growing close to the boundary, one overhanging on the allotment side that the Council wish to trim back, and another growing on the churchyard side with one stem growing closely to the dry stone wall.

Normally with minor works like those identified at the site, no survey & management works recommendations would be necessary, but with the multi-season schedule of works required, we thought it prudent to have a record in place for accurate completion whether by ourselves or another contractor.

Safety

The trees are away from paths, roads or houses. Public access is via Shepley Allotments, although this is very lightly trafficked, and the trees themselves are blocked by shrubs and other vegetation that stops direct access.

On the churchyard side, the trees are much more easily accessible although this too is a lightly trafficked site, with only the gravesite and no church (this being on a separate site within the village). One branch, roughly 8 inches in diameter at the joint, closely overhangs a stone obelisk memorial. There is potential for damage here.

No rigging or climbing is required to carry out the works, with all works suitable to be completed with a pole saw.

Legal

The trees do not hold a Tree Preservation Order but lie within a Conservation Area, meaning permission would be needed from Kirklees Council prior to commencement of work.

“In conservation areas, notice is required for works to trees that have a trunk

diameter of more than 75mm when measured at 1.5m from ground level (or more than 100mm if reducing the number of trees to benefit the growth of other trees).”

“You have to give us six weeks notice before carrying out work on trees which are located in a conservation area but are not yet the subject of a tree preservation order. This gives us an opportunity to consider whether an order should be made to protect the trees.”

- <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/trees-listing-and-conservation/work-on-trees.aspx> -

Protected Wildlife

Before any tree work is carried out the trees should be inspected and written records taken of the activity of any protected species on site.

Tree Felling License

N/a

Recommendations

Holly tree, young, approx 3m high. Two co-dominant stems emerging directly upright from joint at ground level.
Remove stem closest to wall.

Smaller Goat Willow tree, approx 4m high. Overhanging branches. Trim back to boundary, no concern with damage or uneven canopy.

Bigger Goat Willow tree, image attached.

Approx 6m high. Two co-dominate stems emerging at 1.5m high, with bark inclusion. No disease, weeping or cracking visible at joint, indicating no immediate risk of failure.

Removal of stem closest to wall will lead to uneven canopy, therefore a multi-year pruning would be necessary to allow the tree to grow into the shift in weight and fill out unsightly canopy gaps.

Ideally prune when leaves have fallen and tree is dormant (winter), to minimise shift in weight due to extra mass (leaves) and to identify any other broken, diseased, uneven growth or crossing limbs.



Recommendation of pruning stages:

Year 1:



Year 2

