



Tree Hazard Survey

at
Black Sike
Holmfirth

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1 General Observations

This survey covers those trees as shown on the attached plans at Black Sike, Holmfirth.

This report is undertaken in the understanding that the surveyed trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order, and that retention of all trees is preferred but that the safety to visitors and others is of primary concern.

This survey recommends the removal of a small number of trees because of serious safety concerns, once an application is submitted to undertake the recommended works then the decision as to whether or not these trees can be removed lies with the local planning authority.



2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose and scope of report

This is a preliminary hazard and risk evaluation of the trees as shown on the attached plans only.

The recommendations of this report provide the necessary information to prioritise works to trees in order to better manage the risks of harm from those trees.

All tree works should be carried out to the current BS 3998: '*Recommendations for tree work*' unless otherwise stated in this report. All works should be undertaken by suitably qualified and insured contractors.

This report is based upon a visual survey undertaken from ground level. The trees were not climbed, and no specialist diagnostic techniques or equipment were used.

There shall be no responsibility for factors which were not apparent at the time of the survey. Any factor which becomes apparent after the date of survey must be brought to the consultant's attention immediately.

No liability can be accepted by the consultant unless the recommendations of this report are carried out under their supervision and within the period of time as recommended.

It is recommended that trees are regularly inspected by a suitably qualified tree inspector. In this instance it is recommended that the trees are re-assessed within twelve months of the site visit undertaken as part of this report.

2.2 Legal Constraints

No check has been made with the local planning authority or the Forestry Commission.

It is advised that the local planning authority is contacted to check whether the trees on this site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order or are within a Conservation Area.

It is also advised that the local Forestry Commission Conservancy is contacted to check whether the trees surveyed are protected under the Forestry Act.

Trees may also be subject to legal protection under a range of other legislation, much of which is aimed at wildlife and habitat protection.

No work should be done to any trees until either suitable permission has been granted or it has been verified that the intended work does not require permission.



3 Data collection methods

3.1 Survey conditions

The initial survey was carried out on 5th February 2025 by James Royston: the weather was dry and still.

3.2 Measurements

Age Class is divided into young, semi-mature, early mature, mature and over mature. This is an indication of which stage a tree is at in its natural life cycle. This allows for an assessment of how energy and growth will be prioritised within a tree.

Diameter is estimated at approximately 1.5m above ground level. Where a tree divides into multiple stems below 1.5m, an estimate of the diameter at the lowest point above the root flare will be made

Height is estimated in metres from ground level to the highest point of the tree.

Estimates of diameter and height are made with the aid of clinometers, laser measures and other specialist equipment.

3.3 Hazard and Risk

Based on Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance, a hazard is any object or any situation which has the potential to cause harm.

Risk is defined as the likelihood of harm from hazards combined with an assessment of how serious the harm could be.

In this report a hazard is any part of a tree which shows signs that there is a significant possibility that it may fail within twelve months from the date of the survey. The hazard is identified and an indication of the size of the part of the tree most likely to be of significance is given.

An assessment is then made as to the likelihood that the stated part will fail within twelve months from the date of survey.

An assessment is also made as to the the likelihood of something or someone being struck, and the level of damage or injury which may expected.

The risk is then assessed by combining the information about the hazard with information about both the likelihood and the significance of harm which could be caused should the identified part fail.

Recommendations are made to lower the risks to a level which is as low as reasonably practicable on the assumption that it is desirable to retain trees where possible.

As trees are living organisms with complex interactions with their environment there will always be an element of uncertainty in any tree risk assessment. No tree can ever be described as totally safe and nothing in this report should be taken as a guarantee that a tree is without risk.

All factors are assessed using the experience and knowledge of the author based on the author's understanding of current research, legislation and best practice guidance.



3.4 Works priority

The priority for works is allocated on a scale from 1 to 4.

Category 1 works (shown as red on the plan) are those which are urgent and should be dealt with as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Category 2 works (shown as orange on the plan) should also be considered as important and should also be done as soon as is reasonably practicable, but these works could be done after category 1 works where resources are limited. A maximum of 3 months from the date of survey is suggested.

Category 3 works (shown as green on the plan) are not urgent, but there is the possibility that observed defects may become more significant in the future. These trees should be monitored for signs of deterioration. It is sometimes cost effective to include these works as part of an ongoing arboricultural management plan.

Category 4 works (shown as gray on the plan) are areas with no significant trees, or they are trees of low risk. Works may be recommended for reasons other than risk management.



4 Contact Details

I hope this report provides all the required information. However, if further advice is needed then please contact me and I will be happy to help.

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Appendix 1: Tree data tables



Tree Number	Common Name	Botanical Name	Age	Diameter (cm)	Height (m)	Structural condition	Physiological condition	Size of hazard part	Likelihood of Failure	Target rating	Description of that which might be harmed	Observations	Recommendations	Works priority
54	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Mature	90	20	Fair	Fair	Large	Low	High	Public highway	A single stem tree with a multi-stem crown with tight unions. Primary hazards is an over-extended heavy limb overhanging the adjacent highway.	Remove over extended limb	2
55	Oak	<i>Quercus sp</i>	Semi mature	40	17	Fair	Poor	Large	Medium	Low	Most likely inaccessible woodland.	A single stem tree with die-back and deadwood with some basal decay.	Monitor for signs of deterioration	4
56	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Over mature	100	19	Poor	Poor	Large	Medium	High	Paths open to visitors	A twin stem tree with a tight union and included bark with decay and bark exudates. Hazardous tree. An additional consideration is the damage to waterways which would be caused were this tree to collapse into the pond and require removal from the pond.	Remove	1
58	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Early mature	40	12	Poor	Fair	Large	Medium	Medium	Paths open to visitors	A single stem leaning tree with fungal fruiting body at base. Hazardous tree.	Remove	2
59	Oak	<i>Quercus sp</i>	Mature	100	18	Fair	Fair	Large	Low	Low	Paths open to visitors	A single stem tree with a multi-stem crown. Cavity in main stem at approximately 6 to 8m.	Undertake a climbed inspection and follow recommendations	3
60	Oak	<i>Quercus sp</i>	Mature	50	18	Poor	Fair	Large	Medium	Medium	Paths open to visitors	A single stem leaning tree with longitudinal cracks. Hazardous tree.	Reduce height by 5m to prevent collapse	1
62	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Mature	80	19	Poor	Fair	Large	Medium	Medium	Paths open to visitors	A twin stem tree with included bark at 1m. Extensive basal decay. Hazardous tree.	Remove	2
63	Oak	<i>Quercus sp</i>	Mature	60	16	Poor	Poor	Large	Low	Medium	Paths open to visitors	A single stem leaning tree with stretched bark on the tension side. Crown appears to be in better condition than when last surveyed.	Monitor for signs of deterioration	3
65	Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Mature	45	15	Poor	Poor	Large	Medium	Medium	Paths open to visitors	A group of two trees. Both over-mature, in an apparent state of decline, and overhanging paths. Trees could not be fully inspected due to restricted access on rocky steep slopes.	Remove	2

Appendix 2: Plans





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Not to scale PAPER SIZE A3

Key	
	Category 1 Works
	Category 2 Works
	Category 3 Works
	Category 4 Works

Note: Plans are for guidance only. These plans should not be taken as an accurate representation of scale or distance.