Arboricultural Survey Report 2023

Edmunds Green, Edmund Close, Meopham, Kent. DA3 0NB

For Client: Meopham Parish Council

Surveyor: Paul Hegley Dip Arb, Director, Lushland Arboricultural Consultants,
Survey Date: 19th July 2023

Report Ref: AS0250/08-23
Report Date: 24th August 2023 (valid for one year from survey date)

Arboricultural Survey Report

Report Contents

1.0 Client Instruction

1.1 I was instructed by Shaun Fishenden, Clerk to Meopham Parish Council to carry out a health a safety ground and aerial crown inspection of all trees growing within Edmunds Green, Edmund Close, Meopham.

2.0 Qualifications & Experience

2.1 I have based this report on the information provided to me and my observations made at the time of my site inspection. I have come to conclusions in the light of my experience as a qualified arboriculturist and LANTRA qualified professional tree inspector.

3.0 Background Information

3.1 Several of the residents living close to the trees have raised concern over their size, safety and continuing nuisance from falling debris such as seed, leaves and birds' mess.

3.2 This arboricultural report updates Lushland's previous survey report AS0218/12-22, dated 7th December 2022 to fulfil Meopham Parish Council's duty of care to ensure that trees growing on their land are regularly inspected by a qualified person, identifying any works needed in the interests of health and safety by undertaking a full ground and crown assessment/inspection using a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP).

4.0 Documents Supplied

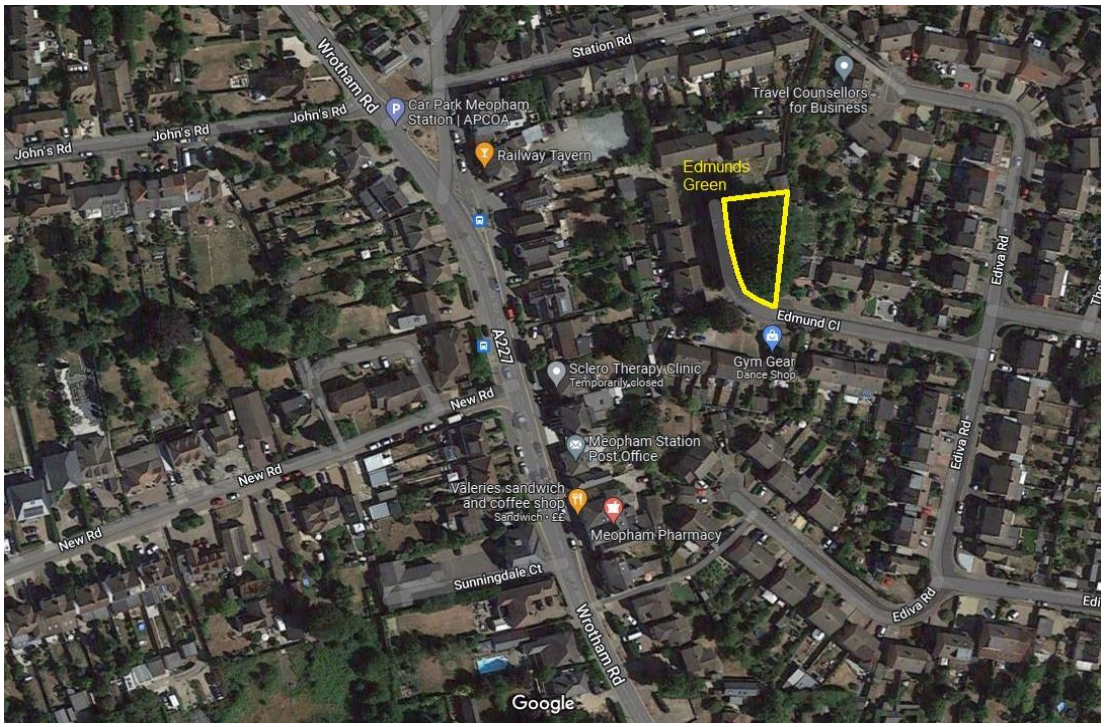
4.1 No documents were supplied.

5.0 Site Inspection

5.1 I made an accompanied inspection of the site with operatives from NPC Tree Surgery on Wednesday 19th July 2023. The weather at the time of my inspection was hot and sunny with a light breeze.

6.0 Scope of Survey

6.1 The survey is concerned with the arboricultural aspects of the site only and is solely in relation to the condition of the trees growing within the communal area of Edmonds Green, as outlined in yellow on the aerial photo below.



Replicated from Google Maps

6.2 All non arboricultural observations and comments I have made in this report are from a lay person's point of view.

6.3 Trees are living organisms and as such their health and condition are naturally subject to change over time. My recommendations and assessments are based upon the trees' condition on the day of inspection. This report cannot cover unforeseen circumstances such as neglect or wilful damage to the trees or severe weather conditions.

6.4 Within the scope of any tree survey it is a fact that not all risks of stem and branch failure can be covered, particularly in relation to freak occurrences of weather when even healthy trees can suffer from branch snap or wind throw. It is also well known that even healthy trees can occasionally shed limbs for no discernible reason, even when the weather is calm. Although, relatively infrequent branches may be occasionally shed and this should be acknowledged as a risk that cannot be entirely mitigated

6.5 There were no discussions between the surveyor and any other party.

6.6 Any recommended pruning works detailed in this report are to be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998: 2010 Tree Work - Recommendations.

6.7 Although trees can be of great ecological value and grow within archeologically sensitive locations, I have no specialist expertise in these disciplines, so this report does not consider these aspects.

6.8 My inspection of the trees for the purposes of assessing their condition and work requirements is made on the assumption that they will be annually inspected in the future to identify any changes in condition and review the recommendations. **Therefore, the tree assessment advice given in this report only remains valid for one year from the date of the site inspection (19th July 2023).**

6.9 Trees proposed for pruning/felling should be inspected for roosting bats and nesting birds. In the event of bats and nesting birds being present, no works are to commence until all nests and roosts have become vacant to the satisfaction of a licensed bat handler. The disturbance or destruction of nesting sites is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Further advice on bats can be advised from the Bat Conservation Trust (tel: 0845 1300 2280 / www.bats.org.uk) and nesting birds advice can be obtained from Natural England (tel: 0845 600 3078 www.naturalengland.org.uk) or Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (tel: 01767 693690 www.rspb.org.uk).

6.10 The status of the trees detailed in this report has not been confirmed, although I have been advised by Meopham Parish Council that the site is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Therefore, prior to the commencement of any tree works, confirmation of the trees' status must be sought from the local planning authority, so the relevant permissions can be obtained.

6.11 When appointing an arboricultural contractor, it is important to use only suitably qualified and experienced tree surgeons. The Local Authority Tree Officer may be able to provide a select list of suitable contractors within the area. It is always essential to check that they carry public and products liability to a minimum of £5 million cover and the relevant Employers Liability Insurance.

7.0 Legal Obligations - Landowner Responsibility

7.1 Any landowner who is responsible for a tree or group of trees has a 'duty of care' to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the risk of personal injury or damage to property arising from the presence of any tree on the site, or from its breakage or possible uprooting. This duty is defined by the Occupiers Liability Act.

7.2 Obligation owned by the site owners to visitors and those adjacent to a site under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 (the Principle Duty of Care) and 1984. The latter expanded the obligation to uninvited visitors, under the Principle of Common Humanity, and to those on the land for commercial reasons.

7.3 All tree owners have a duty to others to ensure that they are not endangered due to negligence on the part of the tree owner. Negligence in this situation would be the failure to have the tree inspected to avoid danger by collapse or breakage, or the subsequent inaction, following the identification of potential hazards defects by any such inspection. Negligence has been legally defined by precedence in Common Law.

7.4 Under these principles, an occupier is liable for losses (physical harm to life and/or property) arising from an accident to a third party, where the cause of the accident was both reasonably foreseeable and reasonably preventable. The circumstances of the owner are considered an important factor in determining what is reasonable.

7.5 In order to be in a position to foresee and indeed to prevent losses arising from tree failure, it is necessary to subject the tree or trees in question to regular inspections. These inspections should be undertaken by someone competent both to identify any defects present and to interpret their significance for public safety.

7.6 In order to completely carry out their duty of care, the landowner should ensure that the tree condition assessment is carried out by a qualified arboriculturalist. An arboriculturalist is trained to identify hazards and recommend appropriate remedial works, whilst aiming to retain trees in a healthy and safe condition with consideration to the context of their surroundings.

8.0 Survey Methodology

8.1 A walk over survey and aerial crown inspection of the trees was conducted within Edmunds Green as shown on the survey plan at Appendix B. All observations from the ground and from the MEWP were conducted using the 'Visual Tree Assessment' system (VTA by Mattheck, C & Breloer, H 1994) and The Body Language of Trees, Research for Amenity Trees No 4 Department of the Environment) with the aid of the following equipment:

- Binoculars	For inspection of upper crown
- Sounding mallet	To give a sound indication of decay/cavity extent
- 300mm Steel probe	To test resistance of wood and depth of cavities
- Pair of secateurs	To remove ivy/sucker growth if required
- Diameter Tape	To measure stem diameters
- Digital Clinometer/ Laser Measurer	To measure tree height and canopy extents

8.2 All trees have been assessed and inspected for overall condition that would include presence of fungal growths, bacterial diseases, deadwood (over 50mm in diameter), open cavities/holes, bark & stem splits, leaf size, density and colour, shoot extension growth, weak branch/stem formation, main stem condition and signs of any root plate movement. Diagram 1 at Appendix C illustrates tree defects to be noted during a visual tree assessment, based on the VTA system.

8.3 No topographical plan showing the position of any trees was provided, so the approximate position/location of the trees surveyed in this report has been plotted to the nearest metre using surrounding features such as paths, fences and buildings as datums.

8.4 No soil samples were taken.

8.5 No internal investigations or tissue samples were taken from the subject trees.

8.6 Tree species identification was based on a visual observation. In the tree survey at Appendix A, the common English name of what the tree appeared to be was detailed first with the botanical name, if appropriate in brackets.

8.7 The height of the subject tree(s) were estimated to the nearest metre using a digital clinometer.

8.8 The average crown spread(s) of the subject tree(s) were measured from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches with average diameter in metres.

8.9 Tree age is estimated from visual indicators and should only be taken as a provisional guide. Age estimates often need to be modified based on further information such as historical records or local knowledge.

8.10 The tree(s) physiological condition has been categorised either: good / fair / poor / moribund or dead.

8.11 All recommendations highlighted in **red** should be carried out as soon as possible. Recommendations made in **green** denote secondary inspections or further investigations are warranted before appropriate works can be recommended.

8.12 All tree positions can be seen on the plan at Appendix B.

9.0 Survey Results & recommendations

9.1 Overall, following the ground and aerial inspection no major defects were noted to indicate the nine trees pose and abnormal safety risk to the surrounding area. Consequently, no immediate safety works were identified during the inspections and provided the trees are regularly inspected the Parish Council (PC) have exercised their duty of care.

9.2 However, following my inspection the PC have asked me to respond to the following questions below received by email on 19th July 2023. My responses are also detailed below in italic text under each question.

1. The tree that is closest to the pavement (Beech T2 in the survey), and lifting the pavement, could that be removed and what difference will this make to light?

I understand the trees are subject to a tree preservation order, so their removal would need to be accompanied by justified reasons and in my experience the removal of trees lifting light structures (such as paving/tarmac) is generally refused by local authorities. Concerns about the lifting of public footpaths should ultimately be reported to Kent highways who may take a different view based on a case-by-case basis. In terms of light, the loss of T2 would in part reduce its impact on the neighbouring properties, although light levels would still be impeded by the remaining trees.

2. How far back can we cut the trees all round to reduce the canopy bulk and height without killing the trees?

Details on suitable pruning works that could be considered for each tree in order to alleviate their current impact on the adjacent properties whilst maintaining the trees amenity is detailed within the survey results as Appendix A

3. Can we take some of the larger internal branches to thin the canopy in that way without killing the trees?

The removal of the larger internal branches is not recommended as such works would only create extensive open wounds that will be a source of entry for decay pathogens, contrary to British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Works

4. Would removing say 2 of the trees and cutting back the others, reduce the canopy sufficiently to reduce residents' issues?

The removal of 2 of the trees and the trimming back of the others would be excessive and is very unlikely to be approved/supported by the local authority under a TPO application.

5. If we can only do minimal tree works to avoid killing the trees, is there any point in completing that work at all?

The works suggested in the survey results at Appendix A are considered to be the maximum that would be acceptable in terms of reasonable management to help reduce associated problems whilst maintaining the trees amenity. However, it should be noted that it will not completely address all of the issues raised by the residents such as birds mess, falling leaves and seeds etc.

6. Are all the trees healthy and stable.

Please refer to paragraph 9.1 above.

10.0 References

10.1 "The Body Language of Trees" by Claus Mattheck & Helge Breloer

10.2 "Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment & Management" by David Lonsdale

10.3 British Standard BS3998: 2010 "Tree Work" – Recommendations

10.4 Lushland's previous report AS0218/12-22, dated 7th December 2022

10.5 Google Earth Pro

Appendix A

Tree Survey Details
& Work Recommendations

Edmunds Green, Edmund Close, Meopham, Kent

Key to Tree Details Table

Tree No:

T1= Tree numbers relate to the position of the trees as shown on the plan at Appendix B
G1 = Group of trees
W1 = Woodland

Tree Age:

N = A new or recently planted tree established for no more than 5 years in its present location.
Y = A young tree planted/established for no more than 10 years in its present location.
SM = A semi-mature tree which is well established but with some growth to make before reaching its potential maximum size.
EM = A early mature tree approaching its ultimate height and whose growth is slowing, however it will still increase considerably in stem diameter and crown spread.
Mat = A mature tree at or near its potential maximum size which is has limited potential for further significant increase in size, although is still considered to have a safe useful life expectancy.
O = An over mature tree in decline.
V = A veteran tree that, by recognised criteria, shows features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of, but not exclusive to, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species concerned.

Physiological Condition:

G = Good – Showing no adverse risk of failure/defects
F = Fair – showing minor signs of deterioration.
P = Poor – Unlikely to be returned to a good condition
MB = Moribund – Nearly dead
D = Dead

Next Inspection:

1 = Within the next 3-6 months*
2 = Within the next 6-12 months*
3 = Within the next 12-24 months*
**or following adverse weather*

Recommendations

Recommendations in **red** should be carried out as soon as possible.
Recommendations in **green** denote secondary inspections or further investigations are warranted before appropriate works can be recommended.
Recommendations in **black** are low-medium priority or no works required.

Work Priority:

IMM	– Immediate works required in the interests of safety (within 24hrs)
High	– works to be undertaken within the next month following the date of inspection.
Med	– works to be undertaken within the next three months following the date of inspection.
Low	– Works that can be undertaken post six months following the date of inspection.

Tree Number		T1	**Tree Species**	**Holly** (Ilex aquifolium)		**Age**	Mat	**Phys Cond.**	F
Height (M)	4	**DBH (MM)**	200Av	**Crown Spread (M)**	**North**	**East**	**South**	**West**	
					2	2.5	2.5	2.5	
Site/Target General assessment of surrounding area.	Located close to edge public footpath with crown and main stems in falling distance of main road.								
Roots & Surrounding Ground Cracking, heave, compaction	No defects or ground movement noted								
Buttresses Decay, ffb, physical damage, structural integrity	No defects noted although Ivy growth hindered a full assessment.								
Trunk Ffb, biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity	No defects noted although Ivy growth hindered a full assessment.								
Main union/fork Ffb, decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity.	No defects noted although Ivy growth hindered a full assessment.								
Primary Ascending Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	Typical for the species with pendulous forming lower branches, some of which overhang the path.								
Main Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	No defects noted.								
Twigs & Leaves Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density.	Leaf cover, size and colour average for the species with no visual signs of decline or disease.								
Work Required	Crown lift over the path to give a ground clearance of 3m. Cut Ivy growth by hand.				**Work Priority**	**Med**			
					Next Insp	3			

Tree Number		T2	Tree Species	Common Beech (Fagus sylvatica)		Age	Mat	Phys Cond.	G
Height (M)	21	DBH (MM)	940	Crown Spread (M)	North	East	South	West	
					6	3	6	8	
Site/Target General assessment of surrounding area.	Located close to edge public footpath with crown and main stems in falling distance of main road and adjacent properties to the west.								
Roots & Surrounding Ground Cracking, heave, compaction	No defects or ground movement noted								
Buttresses Decay, ffb, physical damage, structural integrity	Large buttress root to the west causing displacement and lifting of the public path. Evidence of past tarmac replacement around the base of the tree due to surface damage by root growth. ***(Please refer to photo 1 at Appendix D)***								
Trunk Ffb, biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity	Generally smoothed barked for the species with no notable defects. Occluding wounds present towards the west at 5m caused by past crown lifting works over the road.								
Main union/fork Ffb, decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity.	No visual defects noted.								
Primary Ascending Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	No visual defects noted.								
Main Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	Main branches heavy towards the road to the west due to presence of Lime (T3) to the east.								
Twigs & Leaves Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density.	Leaf density, size and colour average for the species with no visual signs of decline or disease.								
Work Required	No immediate safety works required. **Long-term management** - Consideration should be given to a light 2m crown reduction of the canopy towards the western side only leaving a crown spread of not less than 6m. No height reduction.				**Work Priority**	**Med**			
					Next Insp.	3			

Tree Number		T3	Tree Species	Common Lime (Tilia x europaea)		Age	Mat	Phys Cond.	G
Height (M)	20	DBH (MM)	610	Crown Spread (M)	North	East	South	West	
					3	5	5	5	
Site/Target General assessment of surrounding area.	Surrounded by grass within falling distance of the road and adjacent house to the east.								
Roots & Surrounding Ground Cracking, heave, compaction	No defects or ground movement noted								
Buttresses Decay, ffb, physical damage, structural integrity	Inspection hindered by extensive basal sucker growth. What buttresses were accessible no defects were noted.								
Trunk Ffb, biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity	Full inspection hindered by stem sucker growth.								
Main union/fork Ffb, decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity.	Multiple uprights at around 6m with general good attachment. No compression wood or decay visible.								
Primary Ascending Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	No visual defects noted.								
Main Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	Upper branches show past reduction works with old topping cuts. Only minor deterioration of the open heartwood of the topping cuts noted. No major decay visible.								
Twigs & Leaves Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density.	Leaf density, size and colour average for the species with no visual signs of decline or disease.								
Work Required	No immediate safety works required. **Long-term management** – Remove basal suckers and trunks sucker to first main branch at 5m and repeat on an annual basis. Remove major dead wood over 25mm+ dia or 1m+ in length within the crown.					**Work Priority**	**Med**		
						Next Insp.	3		

Tree Number	T4	Tree Species	Common Beech (Fagus sylvatica)	Age	Mat	Phys Cond.	G

Height (M)	20	DBH (MM)		Crown Spread (M)	North	East	South	West
					3	9	4	7

Site/Target General assessment of surrounding area.	Surrounded by grass within falling distance of the road and adjacent houses to the west.
Roots & Surrounding Ground Cracking, heave, compaction	No defects or ground movement noted
Buttresses Decay, ffb, physical damage, structural integrity	No defects noted.
Trunk Ffb, biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity	Generally smoothed barked for the species with no notable defects.
Main union/fork Ffb, decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity.	Main twin fork at approximately 8m. No compression or decay visible.
Primary Ascending Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	Main upright branches displayed no obvious defects.
Main Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	No defects noted although crown extending towards No.10 towards the east.
Twigs & Leaves Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density.	Leaf density, size and colour average for the species with no visual signs of decline or disease.

Work Required	No immediate safety works required. **Long-term management** - Consideration should be given to a light 3m crown reduction of the canopy towards the eastern side and 2m reduction of the westerns side only leaving a crown spread of not less than 6m. No height reduction.	**Work Priority**	**Med**
		Next Insp.	3

Tree Number	T5	Tree Species	Common Beech (Fagus sylvatica)	Age	Mat	Phys Cond.	G

Height (M)	21	DBH (MM)	750	Crown Spread (M)	North	East	South	West
					3	9	3	9

Site/Target General assessment of surrounding area.	Surrounded by grass within falling distance of the road and adjacent houses to the west.
Roots & Surrounding Ground Cracking, heave, compaction	No defects or ground movement noted
Buttresses Decay, ffb, physical damage, structural integrity	Minor bark damage at base towards the west caused by mower damage.
Trunk Ffb, biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity	Generally smoothed barked for the species with no notable defects.
Main union/fork Ffb, decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity.	3 main stems fork at around 5m from ground level. Occluding wound to the west below the main fork has dry cavity at 100mm deep. No decay evident. Lower main fork has compressed cavity at the centre approximately 250mm deep when probed. Lower occluding wound towards the east at 4m has weeping water pocket most likely emanating from a fissure crack between the main fork above. ***(Please refer to photo 2 at Appendix D)*** Due to the presence of water decay was confined to heartwood centre with outer callous tissue unaffected.
Primary Ascending Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	Predominantly strait uprights with no notable defects.
Main Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	No visible defects noted.
Twigs & Leaves Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density.	Leaf density, size and colour average for the species with no visual signs of decline or disease.

Work Required	No immediate safety works required. **Long-term management** - Consideration should be given to a light 2.5-3m crown reduction of the canopy towards the western and eastern side only leaving a crown spread of not less than 6m. No height reduction.	**Work Priority**	**Med**
		Next Insp.	3

Tree Number		T6	Tree Species	Common Beech (Fagus sylvatica)		Age	Mat	Phys Cond.	G
Height (M)	21	DBH (MM)	770	Crown Spread (M)	North	East	South	West	
					3	9	3	9	
Site/Target General assessment of surrounding area.	Surrounded by grass within falling distance of the road and adjacent houses to the west.								
Roots & Surrounding Ground Cracking, heave, compaction	No defects or ground movement noted								
Buttresses Decay, ffb, physical damage, structural integrity	Minor bark damage at base towards the west caused by mower damage.								
Trunk Ffb, biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity	Generally smoothed barked for the species with no notable defects.								
Main union/fork Ffb, decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity.	Twin forked at 6m with old occluding wound at base of fork to the east. No active decay precent on wound or between fork.								
Primary Ascending Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	Predominantly strait uprights with no notable defects.								
Main Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	No visible defects noted.								
Twigs & Leaves Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density.	Leaf density, size and colour average for the species with no visual signs of decline or disease.								
Work Required	No immediate safety works required. **Long-term management** - Consideration should be given to a light 2.5-3m crown reduction of the canopy towards the western and eastern side only leaving a crown spread of not less than 6m. No height reduction.				**Work Priority**	**Med**			
					Next Insp.	3			

Tree Number		T7	Tree Species	Common Beech (Fagus sylvatica)		Age	Mat	Phys Cond.	G
Height (M)	21	DBH (MM)	980	Crown Spread (M)	North	East	South	West	
					4	11	4	10	
Site/Target General assessment of surrounding area.	Surrounded by grass within falling distance of the road and adjacent houses to the west.								
Roots & Surrounding Ground Cracking, heave, compaction	No defects or ground movement noted								
Buttresses Decay, ffb, physical damage, structural integrity	Historic minor bark damage at base on all compass points due to mower damage. No decay visible.								
Trunk Ffb, biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity	Generally smoothed barked for the species with no notable defects.								
Main union/fork Ffb, decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity.	Tricated stems at 6m, with water pocket between upper main fork. Lower occluding wound towards the east below fork has developing hole in the centre. Limited decay when probed with sound outer wood. Only minor surface decay present in water pocket in main fork due to anaerobic conditions. Total depth when probed 150mm.								
Primary Ascending Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	Predominantly strait uprights with no notable defects.								
Main Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	No visible defects noted.								
Twigs & Leaves Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density.	Leaf density, size and colour average for the species with no visual signs of decline or disease.								
Work Required	No immediate safety works required. **Long-term management** - Consideration should be given to a light 2.5-3m crown reduction of the canopy towards the western and eastern side only leaving a crown spread of not less than 7m. No height reduction.					**Work Priority**	**Med**		
						Next Insp.	3		

Tree Number		T8	Tree Species	Common Beech (Fagus sylvatica)		Age	Mat	Phys Cond.	G
Height (M)	21	DBH (MM)	940	Crown Spread (M)	North	East	South	West	
					4	13	4	10	
Site/Target General assessment of surrounding area.	Surrounded by grass within falling distance of the road and adjacent house to the east.								
Roots & Surrounding Ground Cracking, heave, compaction	No defects or ground movement noted								
Buttresses Decay, ffb, physical damage, structural integrity	Historic minor bark damage at base on all compass points due to mower damage. No decay visible.								
Trunk Ffb, biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity	Generally smoothed barked for the species with no notable defects.								
Main union/fork Ffb, decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity.	3 main stems fork at around 7m with no decay evident between forks.								
Primary Ascending Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	No defects noted. Lower arterial heavily loaded limb extends towards the east over the garden of No 10								
Main Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	No visible defects noted.								
Twigs & Leaves Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density.	Leaf density, size and colour average for the species with no visual signs of decline or disease.								
Work Required	No immediate safety works required. **Long-term management** - Consideration should be given to a light 2.5-3m crown reduction of the canopy towards the western and eastern side only leaving a crown spread of not less than 7m. Reduce lower heavy overextended lateral limb towards the east by 4-5m, back to suitable growing points/branch junctions. No height reduction.					**Work Priority**	**Med**		
						Next Insp.	3		

Tree Number		T9	Tree Species	Common Beech (Fagus sylvatica)		Age	Mat	Phys Cond.	G
Height (M)	22	DBH (MM)	910	Crown Spread (M)	North	East	South	West	
					12	10	3	10	
Site/Target General assessment of surrounding area.	Surrounded by grass within falling distance of the road and adjacent house to the north.								
Roots & Surrounding Ground Cracking, heave, compaction	No defects or ground movement noted								
Buttresses Decay, ffb, physical damage, structural integrity	Limited buttressing common to the species. No visible defects noted.								
Trunk Ffb, biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity	Generally smoothed barked for the species with no notable defects.								
Main union/fork Ffb, decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity.	Tight main forks at 8m with no evidence of fissures or cavity formation between forks.								
Primary Ascending Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	Generally upright stems that are slightly pronounced towards the north due to the growth of adjacent Beech T8.								
Main Branches Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity.	Rubbing and naturally fused/bracing lower main branches towards the north at around 10 & 12m. No decay precent at bracing points.								
Twigs & Leaves Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density.	Leaf density, size and colour average for the species with no visual signs of decline or disease.								
Work Required	No immediate safety works required. **Long-term management** - Consideration should be given to a light 2.5-3m crown reduction of the canopy towards the north, western and eastern sides only leaving a crown spread of not less than 7m. No height reduction.					**Work Priority**	**Med**		
						Next Insp.	3		

Appendix B

Tree Survey Plan

Edmunds Green, Edmund Close, Meopham, Kent

TREE SURVEY PLAN

Plan Ref: AS0250/08-23/TSP

Site: Edmunds Green, Edmund Close

Date: August 2023

PLAN LEGEND

Individual tree prefix = T1

Individual tree =

N

22

12

31

T9

T8

T7

T6

T5

T4

T2

T3

T1

10

EDMUND CLO

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hreid

13

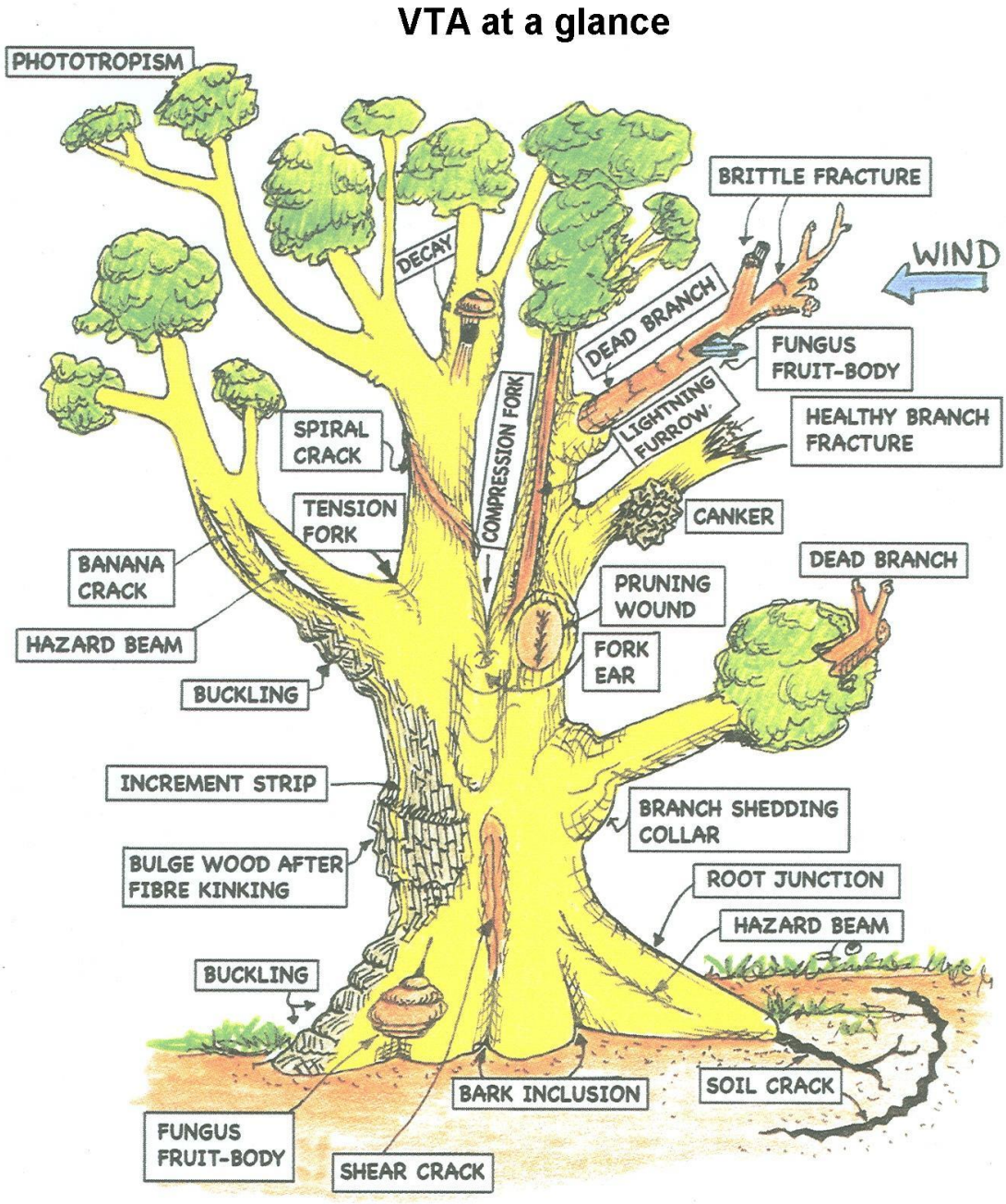
0m 10.0m 20.0m

Appendix C

Visual Tree Assessment Diagram

Appendix C - Defects to be noted during a Visual Tree Assessment

Taken from Updated Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment by Claus Mattheck (ISBN 978-3-923704-59-0)



Extract from Updated Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment by Claus Mattheck

Appendix C

Site Photographs

Photo 1 – Base of Beech T2 showing buttress damage to footpath surface and obstruction.

Photo 2 – View of weeping water pocket from occluding wound on Beech T5.