

TREE SURVEY & REPORT

87 CHURCH STREET
LITTLEBOROUGH

OL15 8AA

TREE SURVEY / SCHEDULE AND REPORT

Date: 25/08/2023

Location: 87 Church Street, Littleborough OL15 8AA

Order Conservation area

The following report was compiled by Mr S Patrick, an Arborist with over 20 years experience and having a BTEC 3 qualification in Arboriculture, triple distinction who has worked for the general public, National Trust (Craggside), English Heritage and private estates.

A formal request for a Tree Report/Survey to the owners of a tree at the above address was made by Sharon Hill of Rochdale Borough Council in order that an application could be progressed.

The tree survey carried out was designed to gather information on the age, condition, species, type and size of the tree within the curtilage of the grounds. The survey allows the owner to monitor the general health of the tree and identify any possible hazards or dangerous aspects of the tree. Also allowing to plan ongoing maintenance needed to prevent failure of the tree.

The results of the survey allow the owner to plan and budget for a cost-effective work programme should permission to work on the tree be granted.

The tree is a semi mature Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) located in the front garden adjacent to the entrance and boundary wall.

The owner holds a responsibility to carry out such surveys as a duty of care and to avoid any claims of negligence against them if a hazard or a potentially dangerous tree has been identified, it would be negligent not to investigate.

Tree reports assess a range of risks represented by a tree, and can also investigate a specified defect. It cover from the roots upwards paying particular attention to mechanical defects and signs of decay; the report will also recommend any remedial action to be taken or any future maintenance see Tree Schedule below.

Proposed Tree Schedule of Works

TREE NO.	SPECIES	D.B.H (CM)	HEIGHT (M)	AGE	CATEGORY BS 5837	RECOMMENDATION
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1	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	40	10	SM	SS RHR C1	REMOVE BY SECTION DOWN. EARLY ONSET OF ASH DIE-BACK. OUT GROWN ITS SURROUNDINGS BY STARTING TO PUSH BOUNDARY WALL NEXT TO PUBLIC PATH. REPLANT WITH A MORE SUITABLE SPECIES
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Glossary of Terms.

Y Young, SM Semi mature, MA Mature

SS Single Stem, TS Twin stem, MS Multi Stem

Crown, Stem, and overall Health of the tree are noted as:

P Poor, R Reasonable, H Healthy

Quality: A High, B Moderate, C Low.

sub category 1, mainly arboricultural value. 2 mainly landscape value.

Example SS HRH M1 (single stem Healthy crown, reasonable stem, Healthy overall, moderate arboriculture value.

Report

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A site and tree assessment was carried out at the above location to gain information on how healthy a tree is and what sort of ongoing maintenance is required before proposed work. The proposed work is to remove any risk of future hazards or failure of a semi mature Ash tree.

The tree is sited within the curtilage of the property and owned by the residents. The tree overhangs the front garden, public path and highway junction. The trunk of the tree presses against the boundary wall which runs along the public footpath.

First impressions are one of a healthy tree starting to out grow its position. On closer inspection from the ground possibly the first signs of Chalara / ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) can be seen at the tips of branches; Monitoring of this fungal disease to determine whether the tree has the disease would be needed.

There is a duty of care by the owners and the council as the tree is covered by a conservation area to monitor. If the dieback gets hold then branches will die and cast on to public path and highway, not with holding the fact it will be helping the spread of the disease.

Further inspection of the main trunk clearly shows that the tree is outgrowing its location as it is pushing the boundary wall adjacent to the public footpath. The past choice to plant/position the tree in its final place has been a poor choice; the species is not suitable as it will dominate the immediate area with a risk of dieback and deadwood in the future.

A plan of reduction could be implemented by reducing limbs or crown but would serve little purpose as the main defect, concerns would remain; any work would contribute to the decline.

The location of the tree, the maturity and faults lend itself to the tree being dismantled.

The tree has a limited arboriculture value but does provide an element of connectivity with the surrounding area. The landscape value of the immediate area would not be spoilt by the removal of the tree.

Any removal of tree or management granted must be subject to wildlife considerations. Ideally work should be timed to avoid the bird-nesting season wherever possible. If not, each tree will need to be searched for nesting birds prior to work commencing. If a nest is found then the tree and its immediate surroundings will need to be left undisturbed until nesting is complete.

It should be noted that the proposed work in the schedule would not impact on bat corridors. If a roost is found, the tree and its immediate surroundings will need to be left undisturbed.

Future Observations

Trees grow and can develop weaknesses, the climate is changing and many factors that affect trees are rarely static. An Arborist should undertake regular inspections so that changes in the trees can be monitored and management implemented, thus ensuring the maintenance and preservation of trees continues.

Conclusion

The mentioned tree schedule within the curtilage should be maintained through good practice and any surgery completed to BS3998.

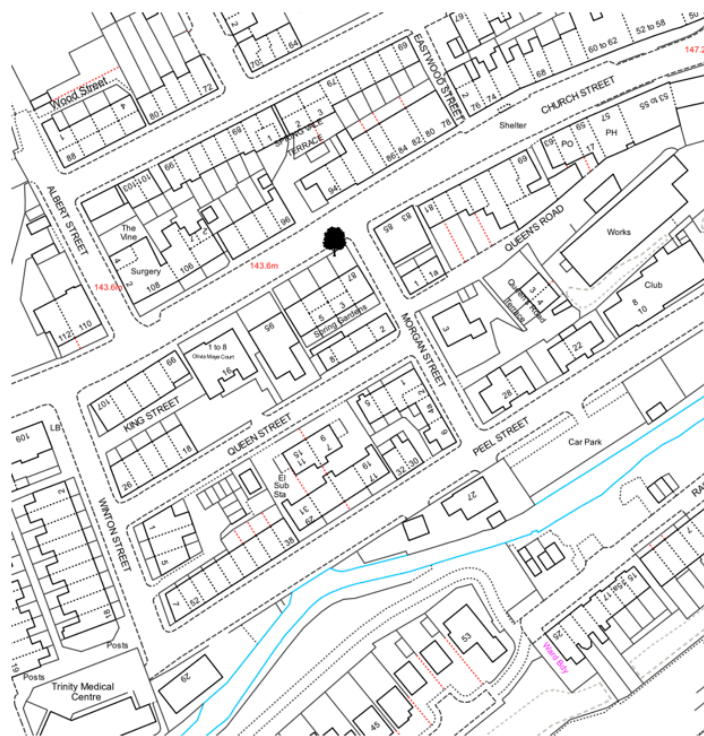
The owner of the property and the authority placed conservation area have a responsibility and duty of care for the upkeep of the curtilage. The removal and replanting of trees will aid the retention of the trees and amenity value in the area.

If the tree hazard or risk associated with Ash dieback is present then action following guidelines by the Forestry Commission and Local Authority action plans should be adhered to;

(“Public safety is likely to be one of the biggest management issues for owners of ash trees in woodlands and parks and alongside roads, railways, footpaths and car-parks etc as the disease kills or weakens trees”).

Often, trees recommended for removal are unsuitable species or have outgrown the location and replanting with more appropriate species will present less of a risk. Consideration must be given to location and species choice in order to avoid future problems. The position of trees will be dictated by the characteristics of the chosen species.

Location map and photographs below....



Location of tree 



Tree location showing proximity to public path and highway



Branch tips showing possible Ash dieback



Trunk pushing the wall and proximity to public footpath and road. Also seeing possible epicormic growth starting as Ash die back tries to establish.