

**Tree condition survey**  
at  
**St Lawrence Churchyard, Alton**  
for  
**Alton Town Council**

**sapling arboriculture ltd**

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 Institute of  
Chartered Foresters



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## **Instruction**

The tree survey is to be carried out in relation to the landowner's duty under the Occupier's Liability Act 1984 and common law. The tree survey will be carried out from ground level, identifying significant tree features that may have significant bearing upon the condition and management of the tree and giving appropriate recommendations and priorities.

Typical significant defects that are to be identified can be referred to in "Hazards from Trees, a general guide" by David Lonsdale and "The body language of trees" by Claus Mattheck published by the Forestry Commission and the Department of the Environment respectively.

## Tree Condition Survey Sheet

Site: St Lawrence Churchyard, Alton

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Weather: Clear with light wind.

Surveyed by: Ben Abbatt

No	Species	Height (m)	Age class	Condition (Physiological and structural)		Recommendations	Priority for works
1	Wild Cherry - east of church	c4	Young	<b>Fair</b>	Dominant canopy. Slightly sparse canopy. Replacement specimen.	No works required at time of survey.	-
2	Ornamental Cherry - southeast of church	c3	Young	<b>Good</b>	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density.	Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.	Low
3	Variegated Holly - southeast of church	c4	Mature	<b>Good</b>	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Litter bin beneath tree.	Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.  Crown lift to 3m over footway.	Low  Low
4	Variegated Holly - southwest of church	c4	Mature	<b>Good</b>	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density.	Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.  Crown lift to 3m over footway.	Low  Low
5	Wellingtonia - south of main gate	c29	Mature	<b>Good</b>	Intermediate canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Footway beneath tree. Top of tree previously lost / pruned off. Minor deadwood (less than 25mm diameter).	Clear building by 3m.	Low
6	English Elm - north of church hall	<10	Young	<b>Removed</b>	-	-	-

7	Elderberry - southwest of church hall	<10	Mature	Removed	-	Remove stump.	Low
8	Holly - southwest of church hall	c10	Mature	Good	Intermediate canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Church hall car park beneath tree. Canopy biased to south. Compaction evident beneath tree Leaning to the South East.	Crown lift to 3m all round.	Low
9	Yew - southwest of church hall	c10	Mature	Good	Intermediate canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Church hall car park beneath tree. Compaction evident beneath tree. Leaning to the North East.	Crown lift to 3m all round.  Sever ivy at base with hand tools only and remove ivy to 2m.	Low  Low
10	Lawson cypress - southern site boundary	c13	Middle aged	Good	Intermediate canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density.	No works required at time of survey.	-
11	Lawson cypress - west of access path	c13	Middle aged	Good	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density.	No works required at time of survey.	-
12	Lawson cypress - west of access path	c13	Middle aged	Good	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density, although slightly sparse upper canopy. Twin stemmed at 1.8m with included union. Compaction from desire line adjacent to tree.	No works required at time of survey.	-

13	Lawson cypress - west of access path	c13	Middle aged	<b>Good</b>	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Twin stemmed at 1.8m with minor included union but good equal holding wood either side. Compaction from desire line adjacent to tree.	No works required at time of survey.	-
14	Lawson cypress - west of access path	c12	Middle aged	<b>Good</b>	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density.	No works required at time of survey.	-
15	Wellingtonia - south of church	c30	Mature	<b>Good</b>	Intermediate canopy. Slightly sparse foliage and open canopy between branch units. Footpath and informal access path beneath. Metal bracket on main stem at 3m above ground level. Top of tree previously lost / pruned off. Minor deadwood (less than 25mm diameter) evident.	No works required at time of survey.	-
16	Wellingtonia - south of church	c30	Mature	<b>Good</b>	Intermediate canopy. Slightly sparse foliage and open canopy between branch units. Footpath beneath. Top of tree previously lost / pruned off. Minor deadwood (less than 25mm diameter).	No works required at time of survey.	-

17	Wellingtonia - south of church	c30	Mature	<b>Good</b>	Intermediate canopy. Slightly sparse foliage and open canopy between branch units. Footpath and informal access path beneath. Minor bark exudates on main stem at 1m on south side. Metal bracket on main stem at 3m above ground level. Top of tree previously lost / pruned off. Minor deadwood (less than 25mm diameter) evident. Rubbing and crossing branches evident.	No works required at time of survey.	-
18	Sycamore - south of church	c21	Mature	<b>Good</b>	Footpath beneath. Concrete in old cavity at 5m above ground level. Metal bracket on main stem at 5m above ground level. Previously pollarded at 6m above ground level with minor regrowth. Repeated mechanical / mower damage to base of tree.	Remove epicormic growth from base to 3m. Install wood chip / mulch within 1m of base of tree to prevent mechanical damage.	Low Moderate
19	Sycamore - south of church	>15	Mature	<b>Removed</b>	-	-	-
20	Small Leaved Lime - southern site boundary adjacent to 14 Oliver Rise	c12	Middle aged	<b>Removed</b>	-	Remove stump. Replace in a position more than 4m from wall, with <i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Winter orange' or tree of similar height and spread when mature.	Moderate Low
21	Common Lime - southern site boundary adjacent to 14 Oliver Rise	c12	Middle aged	<b>Removed</b>	-	Remove stump. Replace in a position more than 4m from wall, with <i>Tilia x europaea Pallida</i> or tree of similar height and spread when mature.	Moderate Low

22	Wild Plum - southwest of church	c10	Mature	<b>Fair</b>	Suppressed canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Footpath and bench beneath tree. Series of crossing limbs. Fungal bracket of <i>Ganoderma</i> (c75mm across) at base of main stem to southwest. Poor form.	Crown reduction to final height of 9m with 4m radial branch spread.	Moderate
23	Wild Plum - southwest of church	c7	Mature	<b>Fair</b>	Suppressed canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Majority of branches to East. Surface roots evident. Footpath and bench adjacent to tree.	Reduce radial branch spread to South to 3m.	Low
24	Sycamore - southwest of church	c22	Mature	<b>Good</b>	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Previously pollarded at 6m. Minor deadwood (less than 25mm diameter). Tarmac lifting to north of tree. Footpath and 14 Oliver Rise adjacent to tree.	Crown lift to 4m all round.  Clear building by 2m.	Low  Low
25	Wild Plum - southwest of church	5	Mature	<b>Fair</b>	Suppressed canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Multi stemmed. Basal growth encroaches over footpath. Imbalanced canopy to South West.	Crown reduction to final height of 5m with 3m radial branch spread to rebalance canopy.	Low
26	Wild Plum - southwest of church	c8	Mature	<b>Removed</b>	-	Plant replacement in a position more than 2m from footway with <i>Crataegus crus galli</i> or <i>Crataegus Laevigata</i> .	Low



27	Wild Service Tree - southwest of church	c6	Young	<b>Fair</b>	Suppressed canopy. Sparse vitality. Main stem badly vandalised.	Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.	Moderate
28	Wild Plum - southwest of church	<10	Mature	<b>Removed</b>	-	Remove stump.  Replace with <i>Lagerstoemia indica Rosea</i> (Crape Myrtle) or tree of similar height and spread when mature.	Moderate  Low
29	English Oak - west of church	c23	Mature	<b>Good</b>	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Frequent typical moderate deadwood (25-100mm diameter) occasionally throughout. <i>Planted in memory of Winston Spencer Churchill 1874 – 1965.</i>	Crown lift to 4m all round.  Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter.	Moderate  Moderate
30	Hawthorn - west of church	c5	Young	<b>Good</b>	Suppressed canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Footpath adjacent to tree. Slightly sparse canopy. Mechanical damage at base.	Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.	Moderate
31	Hawthorn var 'Pauls Scarlet' - west of church	<10	Young	<b>Good</b>	Suppressed canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Footpath adjacent to tree. Mechanical damage at base.	Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.	Moderate
32	Cherry stump - west of church.	200mm	Mature	-	Area used by St Lawrence Primary School - well used by school children during break time. Adjacent tree planted as replacement.	Replace with <i>Prunus avium Kordia</i> or tree of similar height and spread when mature.	Low

33	Purple Leaved Norway Maple - west of church	c7	Middle aged	<b>Good</b>	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Area used by St Lawrence Primary School. Very dense and compact canopy.	Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.	Low
34	Buddleia - south of 16 Amery Hill	<10	Middle aged	<b>Removed</b>	-	Remove stump.	Low
35	Yew - northwest of church	c5	Middle aged	<b>Good</b>	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Multi stemmed. Commemorative plaque beneath. Low spreading habit.	No works required at time of survey.	-
36	Blue Atlas Cedar - north of church	c1	Young	<b>Good</b>	Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Replacement tree.	Remove tree guard to allow canopy development.  Cut stake to 30cm and reattach to lower stem to promote stem development for 1 more additional year.  Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.	Low  Low  Low
37	Copper Beech - north of church	c13	Middle aged	<b>Good</b>	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Bark damage (vandalism and mechanical / mower damage) on lower stem and base.	Cut turf and remove within 1m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.	Moderate
38	Copper Beech - grounds of St Lawrence Primary School	c22	Mature	<b>Fair</b>	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Typical frequent overlong branches. Tarmac surround. Nearby extension at school. Inspected externally from site.	Selective tip reduction of c40 overlong branches to natural target pruning points. Final height to be 22m with 9m radial canopy spread. Maximum wound diameter to be 75mm. Reason: to reduce potential for branch failure.	Moderate

39	Beech - grounds of St Lawrence Primary School	>15	Mature	Removed	-	-	-
40	Privet	3	Young	Good	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density.	Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.  Remove tree guard to allow canopy development.	Moderate  Low
41	Privet	3	Young	Good	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density.	Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.  Remove tree guard to allow canopy development.	Moderate  Low
42	Amelanchier	c3	Young	Fair	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density.	Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.  Remove tree guard to allow canopy development.	Moderate  Low
43	Crataegus crus-galli	c3	Young	Good	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density.	Remove tree guard to allow canopy development.  Cut stake to 30cm and reattach to lower stem to promote stem development for 1 more additional year.  Cut turf and remove within 0.5m radius of tree base to depth of 50mm and replace with wood chip to settled depth of 75mm.	Low  Low  Low
44	Horse Chestnut	c8	Middle aged	Good	Dominant canopy. Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Within school grounds. Surveyed from Church footway.	No works required at time of survey.	-

45	Whitebeam	c5	Young	<b>Good</b>	<p>Suppressed canopy.          Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density.          Low branches over footway.          Within school grounds.          Surveyed from Church footway.</p>	Crown lift to 3m over footway.	Low
<b>Resurvey to be complete by July 2020.</b>							

**General notes:**

The tree survey has been carried out in relation to the landowner's duty under the Occupier's Liability Act 1984 and common law. The tree survey was carried out from ground level, identifying significant tree features that may have significant bearing upon the condition and management of the tree and giving appropriate recommendations and priorities. All dimensions are estimated. No soil investigations will be carried out.

To carry out the tree survey reasonable access around the base of the tree is required. Where this is not feasible, these parts of the tree may not be able to be inspected. If view of the entire structure of the tree(s) is limited, for instance by the properties in private ownership, this is a limitation to the tree survey and some parts of the tree may not be able to be fully surveyed. The tree survey will be carried out from the ground with the aid of binoculars if necessary. The tree will not be climbed as part of this survey.

Typical significant defects that are to be identified can be referred to in "Hazards from Trees, a general guide" by David Lonsdale and "The body language of trees" by Claus Mattheck published by the Forestry Commission and the Department of the Environment respectively.

The tree survey can only be an assessment of the tree at the time of the survey and the tree(s) should be re-surveyed on a regular basis. An appropriate time period between surveys may be up to 5 years depending upon the condition of the trees, their maturity and the target(s). Recommendations for the period between surveys will be given.

As trees are dynamic structures their condition and health may change in a short period of time, particularly in relation to changes in their immediate environment and circumstances. Therefore, the survey is an assessment of the trees at the time of the survey only. If there is a significant change in the immediate environment and circumstances then this should be brought to the attention of the arboriculturalist so that they may advise accordingly.

I have not checked whether the site is within a Conservation Area or whether the trees are under Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Prior to any tree works confirmation of whether these legal restrictions apply to the site or trees ought to be sought from the Local Planning Authority (LPA). If the trees stand within a Conservation Area designated under the Town and Country Planning Act the LPA will normally require 6 weeks notice of intention to carry out any tree works as detailed in the survey. If the trees are under TPO then the LPA will normally require an application for any tree works. Some tree works are exempt, for instance if the trees are dead or dangerous, and certain works can be carried out without application. It is necessary to give the LPA at least five days notice prior to carrying out any of these tree works under these exemptions. This survey, with recommendations, can be used to support any such application or notice.

Wildlife issues are of significant concern to the general public. A balance has to be found between the protection of wildlife and the need for safety when managing trees. The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1980) and Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000) give statutory protection to wild birds, bats, mammals, some invertebrates and plants. It is important to ensure that this legislation is properly considered when carrying out any works to trees.

Bird nests were not identified whilst on site. However, any Arborist carrying out the tree works should ensure that there is no disturbance to nesting birds prior to the works being carried out. Further guidance upon the appropriate timing of the works can be sought from DEFRA, if necessary. Where nesting birds are found further information should be sought from DEFRA 08459 33 55 77 or [helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk). Prior to any works being implemented the tree contractor must identify whether there are any bats or birds using the tree as roost or nest. If such habitation is identified then the tree contractor must obtain the necessary licence from Natural England (0845 601 4523 [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)) to carry out the works.

In this instance, considering the size of the trees, their location and features I believe that there is a low to medium potential of bats using the mature trees as a roost site. A bat survey prior to tree works is not recommended as it would be difficult to determine the location of any exit point from the roost within the tree by a bat survey and also confusion may also arise from bats travelling from other roosts. Any such exit could more easily be identified by a competent tree worker. During the tree works the contractor should carry out the tree works with bats as an active consideration and follow the current industry best practice, e.g. Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 1 Bats in the context of tree work operations 2011, which a competent tree contractor should be familiar with.

Biosecurity measures: To minimise the potential for contamination of the tree from other tree works it is appropriate to sterilise tools to be used before and after the works are implemented. Appropriate disinfectant includes Propellor or Cleankill Sanitizing spray. Loose debris is to be brushed off prior to treating with disinfectant to ensure appropriate application. See [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCMS028-guidance.pdf/\\$file/FCMS028-guidance.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCMS028-guidance.pdf/$file/FCMS028-guidance.pdf) for further information on Biosecurity and <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-9fjd2d> for disinfectant information.

## Key to condition survey sheet

<b>Desig</b>	Designation (T is Tree, G is Group, H is Hedge, W is woodland, S is Stump)	
<b>No</b>	Tree number.	
<b>Species</b>	Species of tree.	
<b>Height</b>	Height measured in metres.	
<b>Height of crown</b>	Height in metres of crown clearance above adjacent ground level.	
<b>Age Class (Age)</b>	<b>Young</b>	A tree considered to be less than approximately 20 years old.
	<b>Middle aged</b>	A tree in approximately the first 1/5th of its normal life span with apical dominance (rapidly growing with a clear main leader) and not yet fully at its environmental potential full height.
	<b>Mature</b>	A tree in its 2/5ths to 5/5ths of its normal life span with apical dominance lost and at its environmental potential full height.
	<b>Veteran</b>	A tree of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of its age and is old relative to others of the same species. See Natural England definition.
<b>Condition</b> (Physiological and Structural)	<b>Good</b>	A tree of typical physiological and structural condition that requires only general tree works to facilitate its retention in the landscape.
	<b>Fair</b>	A tree of impaired physiological and / or structural condition that may require remedial and general tree works to facilitate its retention in the landscape.
	<b>Poor</b>	A tree of significantly impaired physiological and / or structural condition that will require remedial and general tree works to facilitate its retention in the landscape if feasible.
<b>Recommendations</b>	As per BS3998: 2010 Recommendations for Tree Works.	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Immediate</b>	Works should be carried out immediately as the probability of harm or damage occurring is likely.
	<b>High</b>	These works are important to carry out as soon as reasonably possible and any budget available for tree management should be spent upon these trees before the moderate and low categories. Works in this category usually will relate to abatement of risk for harm and or damage to occur. Ideally works in this category are anticipated to be carried out within 2 months.
	<b>Moderate</b>	These works are important to carry out as soon as reasonably possible and any budget available for tree management should be spent upon these trees before the low categories. Works in this category usually will relate to abatement of risk for harm and or damage to occur and for the good arboricultural management of the trees. Ideally works in this category are anticipated to be carried out within 6 months.
	<b>Low</b>	Works in this category usually will relate to the good arboricultural management of the trees. Ideally works in this category are anticipated to be carried out within 24 months.
<b>Re-survey</b>	This is the time period in which it is recommended that the tree is surveyed again. This is based upon the condition of the tree, its location, previous, current and future management. It is normally expressed at a time period from the date of the report / survey, whichever is the sooner. If no time period is noted, then the default period is one year.	

## Site plan



<p><b>General / Key:</b></p> <p>Tree position ●</p> <p>Tree position (removed) ○</p>	<p><b>Site:</b> St Lawrence Churchyard, Alton</p> <p><b>Data:</b> Centremapslive under licence number 100019980. Crown copyright. All rights reserved.</p> <p>This drawing is copyright of Sapling Arboriculture Limited and may not be copied, altered or reproduced in any way without writtent authority from Sapling Arboriculture Limited.</p> <p>Tree positions are approximate.</p>	<p><b>Drawing title:</b> Tree condition survey</p> <p><b>Drawing reference:</b> J064 / 15</p> <p><b>Revision:</b> -</p> <p><b>Date:</b> November 2018</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> N/A on A4</p> <p><b>Sheet:</b> 1 of 1</p>	<p><b>sapling</b> arboriculture ltd</p> <p>registered in england: 5414238</p> <p>T: 01420 544 860 E: ben@saplingarboriculture.com W: www.saplingarboriculture.com</p> <p><b>Ben Abbatt</b> MICFor, MRICS, CEnv, Dip. Arb. (RFS), BA (Hons) Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant</p>
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