

Tree Survey Report

Site Address

The Butts
Alton
GU34 1RD

Report No.

G&TS/SR/0360

Site Surveyed by

Steven Lamb

Report Prepared by

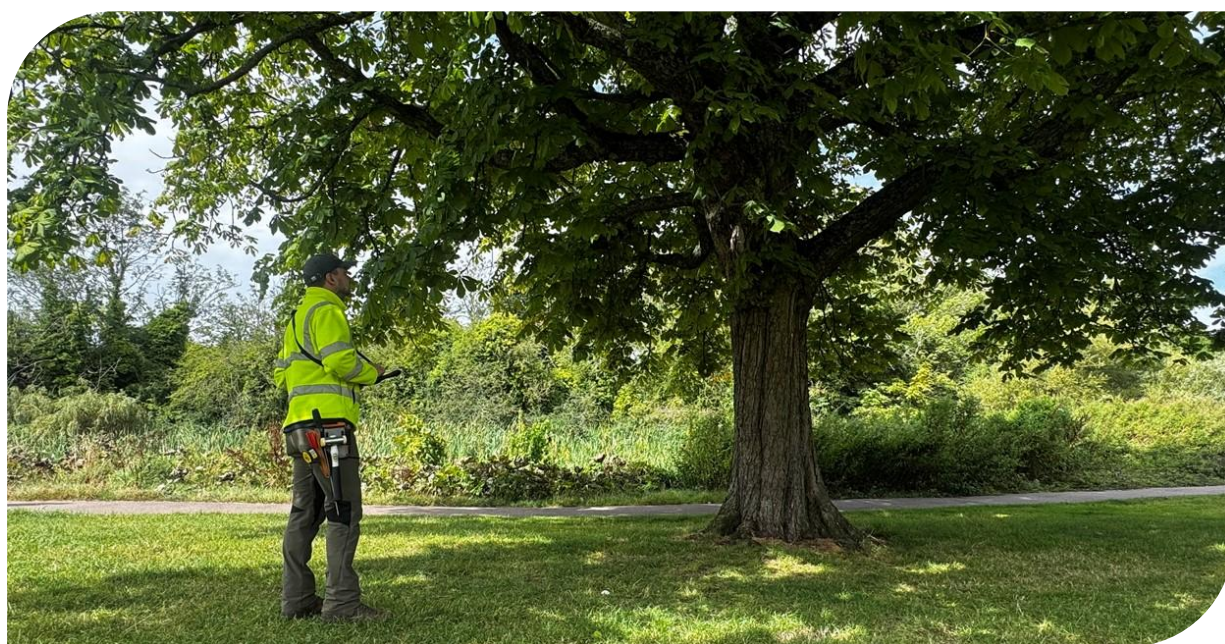
Simon Rogers

Approved by

Stuart Campbell FdSc (Arb) MArborA

Date

21st July 2026



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1. Introduction

1.1 Assignment

Gristwood & Toms (a Nurture Group Company) has been instructed by Alton Town Council to carry out a survey of the trees within the grounds of **The Butts Alton, GU34 1RD**. Where appropriate, we are to make recommendations on the immediate and future management in the interest of safety.

1.2 Documents and Information Provided

No documents or information was provided

1.3 Scope of This Report

This report solely relates to the trees that Steven Lamb surveyed on 15th, 18th May, and 1st June 2026.

1.4 Limitations of Use

The content and format of this report are for the exclusive use of the addressee in dealing with this site. It may not be sold, lent, hired out or divulged to any third party not directly involved in this site without the written consent of Gristwood & Toms.

2. Site Visit Observations

An unaccompanied site visit of The Butts, Alton, GU34 1RD was carried out by Steven Lamb on 15th, 18th May, and 1st June 2026. The trees were inspected using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) methodology described by Claus Mattheck and Helge Breloer in *The Body Language of Trees* (1994). Stationery Office Books (TSO) and endorsed by the Arboricultural Association (LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection course, 2007).

All observations were from ground level without detailed investigations. All dimensions were estimated unless otherwise indicated. The weather at the time of the survey was warm and sunny with good visibility.

3. Identification and Location of Trees

The survey schedule lists the species, based on visual observation, giving the scientific and common names of the tree. The tree survey schedule is included in the appendices of this report.



4. Observations

There were **31 features** in total inspected on the site. **31 trees** were identified to be in a fair condition.

5. Works Priority

Urgent – Public Safety

Works are urgently required to make safe a tree that has been identified as dead/structurally unsound and is putting public safety at risk.

These works are recommended to be completed within **1 month**.

High Priority

Works may be required for the following reasons:

To keep the highways infrastructure (e.g., streetlights and road signs) clear of obstructions and maintain sight lines for vehicles or pedestrians.

To abate an actionable nuisance (e.g., branches damaging windows and gutters).

When an inspection has identified visible decay, fungal brackets, or other structural defects.

To reduce a significant overhang of tree branches into an adjacent property.

When previous maintenance regimes have determined that future works are of the same specification for that specimen (e.g., pollarding and crown reduction).

These works are recommended to be completed within **12 months**.

Low Priority

Works may be carried out on a cyclic pruning regime to provide long term health and safety benefits to the tree.

These works are recommended to be completed within **24 months**.

No Action Required

Where a tree's health and condition indicate no works are required at the time of inspection.

The presence of any defect will increase the chances of failure. Each species has its own profile of defects. Some factors that must be considered include the species growth habit, tree

condition, branch attachments, resistance to decay, condition of anchoring roots, cultural or maintenance history and previous damage.



Failure Potential	Urgent – Public Safety	High Priority	Low Priority	No Action Required
Works Within 1 Month	1			
Works Within 12 Months		18		
Works Within 24 Months			0	
No Action Required				12

6. Recommendations

Recommendations have been made for tree works in line with sound Arboricultural management and it is recommended that the works are undertaken within the suggested timescales.

There is **1 tree** identified that requires **Urgent – Public Safety** tree work. It is recommended that the works should be completed within the next **1 month**.

There are **18 trees** identified that require **High Priority** tree work. It is recommended that the works should be completed within the next **12 months**.

There are **0 trees**, or **tree groups** identified that require **Low Priority** tree work. It is recommended that the works should be completed within the next **24 months**.

There are **12 trees** were identified as **No Action Required**.

All recommended tree works are to be carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 – Tree Work Recommendations.

Nesting Birds: Any recommended tree works should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (1st March to 31st August); however, it should be assumed that birds will nest before and after this period. A wildlife assessment should be carried out immediately prior to the commencement of works. This will inform on whether there are nesting birds and if works on a specific tree can proceed without harming any birds.

Bats: Prior to commencing aerial works or felling, the arborists should carry out a visual assessment for the potential for bat habitation. If there is a possibility of bats using a tree for roosting, the Commissioning Officer (Agent) should be contacted and works to the tree suspended until an ecologist has visited the site to provide advice on whether works can proceed without any risk of harm to bats.



7. Future Considerations

Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly; therefore, the health, condition and safety of trees should be checked on a regular basis.

When the recommended tree work has been carried out, it is suggested that an inspection regime is introduced so that the subject trees are inspected on a **24-monthly cycle**, unless otherwise indicated within Appendix 2: Tree Schedule – Priority Works of this report.

8. Other Considerations

8.1 Trees subject to statutory controls

If any trees are covered by a Tree Preservation Order or located in a conservation area it will be necessary to consult the local authority before any tree work can be carried out. The works specified above are necessary for reasonable management and should be acceptable to the local authority.

9. Reference Material

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Strouts, R.G., Winter, T.G. and Great Britain. Forestry Commission (2004). *Diagnosis of ill-health in trees*. Norwich: TSO.

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British Standards Institution (2010). *BS 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations*. London: BSI.



10. Survey Certification

Site Surveyed By:

Steve Lamb

Report Completed By:

Simon Rogers

Report Approved By:

Stuart Campbell FdSc (Arb) MArborA.

Date:

21st July 2026



11. Appendix 1: Glossary of Arboricultural Terminology

Ash Dieback	Ash dieback is a disease that affects ash trees (<i>Fraxinus spp.</i>), caused by a fungus called <i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i> . The fungus blocks water transportation within the tree, leading to bark lesions, leaf loss and dieback of the crown.
Asymmetrical Crown	Unbalanced crown often resulting from storm damage, uneven pruning work or the proximity of neighbouring trees.
Bark exudate	A flow of viscous liquid (bleeding from bark) exuded onto the surface of the bark from the underlying tissues consisting of largely of <i>gum</i> , <i>resin kino</i> or <i>latex</i> depending on the species of tree. Bark exudate indicates the inner bark is dead, dying, or injured owing to disease, physical injury, root damage etc.
Branch Stub	That part of a decapitated or broken branch protruding beyond the branch collar, sometimes called a snag. It is considered not good pruning practice to leave stubs. Branch stubs may give rise to unwanted epicormic shoots or may lack vigour and subsequently die back, making them prone to decay.
Brown rot	Form of decay where cellulose is degraded, while lignin is only modified.
Buttress root	Roots that emerge from the base of the tree stem, normally large and well developed and rapidly forming the connection between the stem and the transport roots.
Cambium	A thin layer of actively growing and dividing cells, located between the xylem (sapwood) and the bark of a plant, the part responsible for radial growth of a tree stem or branch.
Canker	A localised area of dead bark and cambium on a stem or branch, caused by fungal or bacterial organisms, characterised by wound wood development on the periphery. This may be annual or perennial.
Co-dominant stem/ trunk	Forked branches or trunks of nearly the same size in diameter and lacking a normal branch union.
Compartmentalisation	The physiological process that creates the chemical and mechanical boundaries that act to limit the spread of disease and decay organisms.
Conservation area	Designated areas of architectural or historical interest, in which there are special procedures for planning applications. Additionally, tree works cannot generally, be undertaken without prior notification to the relevant local planning authority.



Crown lifting	Crown lift the removal of the lowest branches, usually to a given height. It allows more residual light and greater clearance underneath for vehicles etc.
Crown reduction	The reduction of a tree's height or spread while preserving the tree's natural shape.
Crown thinning	The removal of some of the density of a tree's crown, usually 5-25% allowing more light through its canopy and reducing wind resistance.
Deadwood	Deadwood is often present within the crown or on the stems of trees. It may be an indication of ill health; however, it may also indicate growth processes. If a target beneath the tree, deadwood may fall and cause injury or damage and should be removed, otherwise deadwood can remain intact for conservation purposes (insects, fungi, birds etc), also, the removal of dead branches from a tree's canopy, usually of a specified size (in diameter).
Decay	Progressive deterioration of organic tissues, usually caused by fungal or bacterial organisms, resulting in loss of cell structure, strength, and function. In wood, the loss of structural strength.
Epicormic growth	Fast growing, weakly attached shoots/branches that often grow as a response to stress factors upon a tree or branch removal.
Formative pruning	The trimming of a tree to remove weaknesses and irregularities which may lead to problems. The formative pruning operation is aimed at reducing the potential for future weaknesses or problems within the tree's crown.
Girdling Root	In woody plants, a root that grows across the buttress, or across other roots, eventually causing constriction of the radial growth.
Hazard Beam	An upwardly curved branch in which strong internal stresses may occur without the compensatory formation of extra wood (longitudinal splitting may occur in some cases).
Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker	Formally attributed to <i>Phytophthora</i> spp. thought to be responsible for 5-10% of cases but following an upsurge of the disease it is now mostly attributed to the bacterium ' <i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> pv. <i>Aesculi</i> '. Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker kills the bark, resulting in conspicuous bleeding that dries into a black bark exudate. Branches and trees, including young trees, can be completely girdled resulting in the death of the tree.
Included Bark	Bark that becomes embedded in a crotch between branch and trunk or between co-dominant stems, found in narrow or tight crotches, and causes a weak structure.
Massaria	<i>Massaria</i> (<i>Splanchnonema platani</i>) is a disease of London Plane (<i>Platanus x hispanica</i> , also known as <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>) which causes large lesions on the upper surfaces of major branches and branch dieback and can cause branches to break off the tree and fall.



Monolith	Retaining a standing stem for wildlife habitat or conservation purposes at any given height. The height a monolith is left at is often determined by the proximity to any given target to be less than the falling distance to that target.
Oak Processionary Moth	A cause of defoliation, especially of oaks and trees of other species growing next to defoliated oaks. Eggs are laid within the outer crown of the host tree in late summer and hatch the following spring. The larvae feed on the leaves and often move head-to-tail in a procession, hence their common name. They make communal nests (sometimes called tents) out of silken thread in which they shelter when not feeding. Nests may be spun on the underside of a branch or on the trunk. The hairs of (later stage) larvae are a serious irritant and may provoke an allergic reaction. They easily break off, or are shed when the caterpillars are disturbed, to be dispersed in the air, as well as their abandoned nests, should be treated with extreme caution. Every year oaks in public places are surveyed for OPM and treated with insecticide. Private tree owners may be responsible for their own survey and control, potentially enforced by a plant health notice or the powers of the local authority.
Occluding tissue	The general term of wood, cambium and bark that develop around the site of a wound on a woody plant.
Phytophthora spp.	Phytophthora is a genus of water molds that cause devastating diseases in trees, affecting roots, stems, and foliage. Several species, like <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> (which causes Ramorum disease), <i>Phytophthora lateralis</i> , and <i>Phytophthora kernoviae</i> , are known to be highly destructive. These pathogens can lead to root rot, stem cankers, dieback, and ultimately, death of the host tree.
Picus Tomography	PiCUS testing is a non-invasive method of determining the extent of decay in trees. The PiCUS Sonic Tomograph is an instrument that can detect decay in trees by taking readings of the velocity of soundwaves through the trunk/stem from several sensors, installed with small nails around the trunk, which are each struck to pass sound through the trunk/stem. These readings are used to create a tomogram, which shows the consistency of the wood within the tree and identifies area/s of decay.
Pollard/Re-Pollard	The complete or partial removal of the crown of a young tree so as to encourage the development of numerous branches either for amenity or historically as fodder, repeated management is required cyclically to maintain the feature.
Resistograph	The Resistograph equipment is a drill-based tool using a stainless-steel drill bit that is approx. 1/16 inch in diameter and about 20 inches in length and is used to establish the strength of wood, without the need for destructive testing. As the subject tree is drilled, sound wood being denser than decayed wood offers greater resistance to the drill bit as it passes through the wood. This resistance is recorded electronically across the radius of the section being tested. The depth of drilling is dependent on the drill length and dimension of the tree part



being tested. The measurement depth is recorded in centimetres while the amplitude (resistance) reading is given as a percentage across a range of 0 to 100%. The readings allow the Arboriculturalist to assess the internal condition of the subject tree.

Root collar	The basal area of the tree; transition zone from trunk to root. Also sometimes called trunk flare.
Scaffold limbs / scaffold branches	The branches that form the main network framework of the crown of a tree.
Sever ivy and re-inspect	Cut or sever a band of ivy from ground level to a defined height, usually 1.5m above ground level to allow for the inspection and reporting of the base of the tree. Severing ivy also allows the ivy above to die back over a period of time to facilitate future inspections.
Slime Flux	Relating to a toxic condition from the spreading of bacteria or their products from a source of infection: characterised by malodorous gases, or salt deposits upon the bark. Should these enter the sap stream, localised vessel necrosis can result.
Soft rot	A kind of wood decay, where a fungi degrades cellulose within the cell wall, without causing overall degradation.
Sooty Bark Disease	<i>Cryptostroma corticale</i> (Sooty bark disease) is a species of fungus that causes sooty bark disease of maples, particularly sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>). The spores grow in large amounts under the bark of affected trees or stacked allergenic and cause a debilitating pneumonitis (inflammation of the lungs) in humans.
Stag-head/heading	The outer branches of a tree that have died and now tend to protrude beyond the present extent of the crown.
Subsidence	In relation to vegetation, the removal of water by plant growth resulting in localised shrinkage in the soil volume.
Suppressed	Trees which are dominated by surrounding vegetation and whose crown development is restricted from above.
Tight Union / Tight Crotch	A crotch with a narrow angle between branches, often having included bark.
Tree Preservation Order	An order made by the local planning authority, where consent must be gained before undertaking all but exempt works to a tree.
Visual Tree Assessment (VTA)	An assessment of the mechanical condition of trees based upon their 'body language'. Trees are dynamic and respond to faults / decay / environmental factors in various ways, these responses can be indicative of structural integrity.



Wetwood

An infection caused by bacteria living inside the plant tissues. The bacteria ferment the plant fluids, resulting in death of nearby cells, and often causing exudations of fluid from the bark, often referred to as a Slime Flux.

White Rot

A type of wood decay where fungi attacks the lignin within the wood matrix.



12. Appendices 2 & 3:

- **Tree Schedule – Priority Works**
- **Tree Location Plan**



Appendix 1: Tree Schedule

Feature Type / Tree Code	Tree Seq.no	Store code & name/Location	Tree Location within site	Tree tag number	Geolocation Data			Site features	Tree species (Common Name)	No. of stems	Tree Dimensions			Tree defects	Condition	Recommendations	Priority	Date of inspection	Date of next inspection
					O/s Grid Reference	Latitude - Longitude	What3Words				Height (m) (Approx.)	Crown spread (m) (Approx.)	Stem diameter at breast height (cm) (measured)						
Sgl/354804	2	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Opposite 56 The Butts	No tag found	471241-138708	51.1432178 - 0.9829869	dumplings.unsigned.possible	* Grass * Public access: high * Telephone wires in canopy	Fraxinus excelsior (Common Ash)	1	17.0m	12.0m	70cm	* Ash Dieback - Health Class 1: 76%-100% remaining canopy * Fungal fruiting bodies (Not identifiable) - Inonotus hispidus located on Northern limb bias at approx 6-7m above ground level on east aspect, bracket also found on highway. Fungal bracket not visible on 19 September 2024 or May 2026 * Historic pruning wounds * Major dead wood >50mm * Minor dead wood <50mm	Fair	* No work required	No action required	01/06/2026	June 2029
Sgl/354832	9	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Adjacent Butts Road	No tag found	471227-138636	51.1425702 - 0.9831992	retraced.sensitive.popping	* Grass * Public access: high	Castanea sativa (Sweet Chestnut)	1	6.5m	5.0m	30cm	* Branch stubs - Recent poor pruning cuts which do not conform to Tree Works British Standards 3998:2010. * Damaged branches * Low branches	Fair	* No work required	No action required	18/05/2026	May 2029
Sgl/354836	10	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Adjacent Butts Road	No tag found	471223-138620	51.1424221 - 0.9832714	fatter.latteries.stitch	* Grass * Public access: high	Castanea sativa (Sweet Chestnut)	1	5.5m	4.5m	27cm	* Branch stubs - Recent poor pruning cuts which do not conform to Tree Works British Standards 3998:2010. * Low branches	Fair	* No work required	No action required	18/05/2026	May 2029
Sgl/354840	11	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Adjacent Butts Road	No tag found	471218-138603	51.1422756 - 0.9833445	templates.lousy.undulation	* Grass * Public access: high	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	1	6.0m	5.0m	35cm	* Branch stubs - Recent poor pruning cuts which do not conform to Tree Works British Standards 3998:2010. * Low branches	Fair	* No work required	No action required	18/05/2026	May 2029
Sgl/354860	16	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Adjacent Butts Road	No tag found	471204-138546	51.1417593 - 0.9835565	gives.mixing.carting	* Grass * Public access: high	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	1	8.0m	6.0m	30cm	* Branch stubs - Recent poor pruning cuts which do not conform to Tree Works British Standards 3998:2010. * Low branches	Fair	* No work required	No action required	18/05/2026	May 2029
Sgl/354880	21	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Adjacent Butts bridge	No tag found	471184-138475	51.1411280 - 0.9838574	ordeals.knots.wonderfully	* Grass * Public access: high	Fraxinus ornus (Manna Ash)	1	7.0m	6.0m	34cm	* Ash Dieback - Health Class 1: 76%-100% remaining canopy * Typical of species and age	Fair	* No work required	No action required	18/05/2026	May 2029
Sgl/354892	24	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Adjacent Butts bridge	No tag found	471168-138462	51.1410141 - 0.9840799	skylights.pampered.clicker	* Grass * Public access: high	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	1	12.0m	8.0m	40cm	* Ivy or climbing plants - Main stem * Trunk cankers * Typical of species and age	Fair	* No work required	No action required	18/05/2026	May 2029
Sgl/354900	26	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Adjacent Butts bridge	No tag found	471154-138459	51.1409862 - 0.9842812	flicked.snowboard.release	* Grass * Public access: high * Road sign	Castanea sativa (Sweet Chestnut)	1	9.0m	6.5m	40cm	* Typical of species and age	Fair	* No work required	No action required	18/05/2026	May 2029
Sgl/354912	29	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Opposite 98	No tag found	471085-138523	51.1415704 - 0.9852555	recorders.transmits.shell	* Grass * Public access: high	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	1	18.0m	10.0m	70cm	* Low branches * Typical of species and age	Fair	* No work required	No action required	01/06/2026	June 2029
Sgl/354916	30	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Opposite 92	No tag found	471093-138533	51.1416617 - 0.9851391	cooks.fruitcake.rebirth	* Grass * Public access: high	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	1	18.0m	12.0m	100cm	* Basal and trunk suckers - Dense crown restricting VIA. * Low branches * Major dead wood >50mm * Minor dead wood <50mm * Trunk defect - Stem and limb burs * Typical of species and age	Fair	* No work required	No action required	01/06/2026	June 2029
Sgl/354924	32	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Opposite 82/80	No tag found	471112-138556	51.1418617 - 0.9848590	circulate.object.leaky	* Grass * Public access: high	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	1	14.0m	12.0m	100cm	* Branch stubs - Recent poor pruning cuts which do not conform to Tree Works British Standards 3998:2010. * Cavity - Approximately 2.5m above ground level. Concrete within cavity. * Metal & other objects within tree - Failed metal cable bracing at approximately 5m agl. * Main stem rot - No sounds of audible decay around cavity * Evidence of recent major surgery - Crown previously reduced. * Narrow forks with included bark * Raised roots/buttressing	Fair	* No work required	No action required	01/06/2026	June 2029
Sgl/354940	36	The Butts, GU34 1RD	Opposite 65	No tag found	471171-138625	51.1424735 - 0.9840060	afford.invoices.salmon	* Grass * Public access: high	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	1	12.0m	12.0m	100cm	* Branch stubs - Recent poor pruning cuts which do not conform to Tree Works British Standards 3998:2010. * Crossing branches * Low branches * Resin bleeding - Resin bleeding and split bark on primary South Western limb	Fair	* No work required	No action required	01/06/2026	June 2029

Priority	Priority Key (incl timescale) Colour	Timescale
No action required		No Timescale
Low Priority		24 Months
High Priority		12 Months
Urgent- Public safety		1 Month

Appendix 2: Tree Location Plans





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