

# Devey Tree Care Ltd.

## Tree Condition Survey

**Client:** St Helen Without Parish Council

**Date:** 03/09/25

**Ref:** Dry Sanford Play area

**Survey By:** Owain Devey  
HND Cons, CertHE Arb, Lantra PTI

**E:** [Deveytreecare@outlook.com](mailto:Deveytreecare@outlook.com)

**T:** 01844 281418

**[www.deveytreecare.co.uk](http://www.deveytreecare.co.uk)**

## **Contents:**

- 1.0 Instruction and Scope
- 2.0 Summary of Recommendations
- 3.0 Statutory & Ecological Considerations
- 4.0 Survey Method and Limitations
- 5.0 Site Overview
- 6.0 Implementation Guidance
- 7.0 Duty of Care
- 8.0 Glossary of Survey Terms

Appendix 1 - Professional Résumé

Appendix 2 – Tree Survey Schedule and Site Map

## 1. Instruction & Scope

Devey Tree Care Ltd was instructed by St Helen Without Parish Council on 05/08/25 to undertake a tree safety inspection of trees within the site boundary defined by the client. The purpose of the survey is to assess tree condition, identify any safety risks posed by the tree and provide management recommendations to bring that risk down to an acceptable level.

## 2. Summary of Recommendations

**Urgent**; to be carried out within the next 24 hours  
N/A

**High**; to be carried out within the next 30 days  
N/A

**Medium**; To be carried out within the next 90 days.

Cherry T002- Remove to ground level

Eucalyptus T003- Reduce lateral growth on over extended NE lower limb back 3m

**Low**; lowest priority works maybe done if budget allows no timescale.

Tree Group TG10- Rake back dumped soil around base of the trees to depth no greater than 10cm.

### 3. Statutory & Ecological Considerations

**Statutory Tree Protection:** Trees may be protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or fall within a Conservation Area. Prior to undertaking works confirmation whether this is the case with the Local Planning Authority is recommended.

**Wildlife:** All nesting birds, European protected species, bats and their roosts are protected by law. It is the duty of the contractors undertaking the works to ensure reasonable precautions are taken to prevent harm or disturbance to any species covered by legislation.

### 4. Survey Method & Limitations

**Survey Methodology:** The survey was carried out from ground level using Visual Tree Assessment (VTA). Tools used included a plastic mallet for sounding, a probe for cavities and binoculars for crown inspection where required. From these investigations an assessment of the risk posed by part or all of the tree failing and likelihood of causing harm or damage relative to its location is undertaken, appropriate works are recommended using reasonable judgement in order to bring that risk to an acceptable level. No decay testing, aerial inspections or inspections below ground level were undertaken. Trees approximate locations are then logged onto the site plan and tagged where required.

**Limitations:** Inspections may be restricted by ivy cover, dense vegetation, boundaries, and site access therefore hidden defects cannot be ruled out. The assessment reflects tree condition at the time of survey and is valid for 18 months. Extreme weather events or site changes may affect validity such as but not limited to trenching or excavation around trees. This survey only takes into account the trees structural integrity, general condition and management recommendations it does not take into account any structural or property damage in relation to subsidence or heave or mechanical damage from roots.

## 5. Site Overview

The site consists of an open access recreation ground with semi mature tree groups planted in clusters, the site is bordered on all sides by residential properties and has a play area in the southern half. Usage has been categorised as low in the central grassed areas and medium where trees are in proximity with residential space and play areas, the site appears to be primarily used for dog walking.

## 6. Implementation Guidance

All works should comply with BS3998:2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations' unless otherwise specified. Works must be undertaken by suitably qualified and insured contractors, ideally Arboricultural Association Approved Contractors. Contractors should hold adequate public liability insurance to a minimum of 5 million pounds and provide risk assessments suitable for the work they are undertaking.

## 7. Duty of Care

Trees are living organisms and inherently pose a degree of risk. This survey provides reasonable professional judgement at the time of inspection but cannot guarantee absolute safety. Regular re-inspection and appropriate management are essential to discharge duty of care under the Occupiers' Liability Acts (1957 & 1984).

## 8. Glossary of Survey Terms

**Tag no.-** Unique identifier for the tree in relation to the survey and the tag number.

**Tree Species-** The common and Latin name of the tree surveyed.

**Height-** The approximate height of the tree surveyed from the base to the tip measured in metres.

**Age Class- Y Young;** tree in first third of life expectancy. **SM Semi Mature;** tree in second third of life expectancy. **M Mature;** tree in the final third of its life expectancy. **V Veteran;** tree with major physiological decline, surviving beyond the typical age range for the species.

**Physiological Condition** - An appraisal of the trees vitality based on observations. **Good;** No significant health problems. **Fair;** Minor symptoms of ill health. **Poor;** significant ill health. **Diseased;** Tree is suffering from biotic stresses such as pest damage or disease. **Dead;** Tree has died.

**Structural condition-** An appraisal of the trees structural condition based on observations. **Good;** no obvious structural defects observed. **Fair;** minor structural defects such as small cavities, minor deadwood, crossing limbs, over extended limbs or co dominant stems observed. **Poor;** Significant structural defects observed such as major cavities, heavily included unions, major deadwood, large structural failures. (structural features described are not an exhaustive list.)

**Risk-** An approximate assessment of the risk posed by failure of the tree or part of the tree in relation to its overall condition and its environment. The risk is placed into 3 categories **high, medium** and **low**.

**Comments/Observations-** A description of significant features or defects.

**Works Priority- Urgent;** to be carried out within the next 24 hours. **High;** to be carried out within the next 30 days **Medium;** To be carried out within the next 90 days. **Low;** lowest priority works maybe done if budget allows no timescale.

## **Appendix 1. Professional Résumé**

Surveyor: Owain Devey  
CertHE Arboriculture  
HND Conservation  
Bsc Hons Arboriculture and Urban forestry (currently undertaking)  
LANTRA qualified Professional Tree Inspector  
Arboricultural Association Professional Member  
Tree Life BS5837 Course  
Tree Life Mortgage Report Writing Course  
AA Getting to Grips With Subsidence  
AA Subsidence Investigation

Over 15 years experience in the arboricultural contracting and forestry sector, establishing my own AA approved company and carrying out high quality tree works for a variety of clients.

The company carries professional indemnity insurance in relation to tree surveying to a sum of £1,000,000.

## **Appendix 2. Tree Survey Schedule and Site Map**

# Details of tree inspections

Site name: Dry Sandford Recreation Ground

Risk zone: Medium Risk

Contact:

Trees: 12

Work items: 3



| Ref. | Species  | Description  | Measurements                              | Survey Notes  | Overall Condition | Recommendations  |
|------|--|--|---|---|-------------------|--|
| T001 | Norway maple<br>(Acer platanoides)             | Owned by the estate.<br>Woodland tree.<br>Target # - footpath.<br>Target # - playground. | Height (m): 15<br>Life Stage: Mature      | Cerioporus squamosus bracket<br>sited on remains of old pruning<br>wounds on W side at base.<br>sounding with mallet indicates no<br>significant hollowing around main<br>trunk.<br><br>Fungus:<br>Cerioporus squamosus (Dryad's<br>saddle)                               | Fair              |  |
| T002 | Wild cherry<br>(Prunus avium)                  | Owned by the estate.<br>Parkland tree.<br>Target # - footpath.                           | Height (m): 8<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature  | Semi mature cherry, stem bifocates<br>at 1.5m. Stem on NW side has died<br>back and SE stem suffering with<br>extensive bacterial canker. Tree has<br>reached the end of its SULE.<br><br>Pests and Diseases:<br>Bacterial Canker of Cherry<br>(Pseudomonas syringae spp) | Dead              | Remove to ground level.<br>Timescale: 03-Dec-2025 (3<br>Months)                                |
| T003 | Eucalyptus cider<br>gum<br>(Eucalyptus gunnii) | Owned by the estate.<br>Parkland tree.<br>Target # - footpath.                           | Height (m): 15<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature | Over extended lower limb on E<br>side at 6m.  | Fair              | Reduce lateral growth on over<br>extended limb back 3m<br>Timescale: 03-Dec-2025 (3<br>Months) |



| Ref. | Species                          | Description   | Measurements                              | Survey Notes   | Overall Condition | Recommendations |
|------|----------------------------------|---|---|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| TG01 | Mixed species<br>(Mixed species) | Owned by the estate.<br>Woodland tree.<br>Target # - building<br>Target # - dwelling.<br>Target # - footpath.<br>Target # - playground. | Height (m): 14<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature | Mixed species woodland group consisting of Malus, Acer, Crataegus, Fraxinus. Group borders rear gardens of dwellings and has points of access to properties leading to paths through the woodland. Undergrowth restricting access to some trees. # | Fair              |                 |
| TG02 | Mixed species<br>(Mixed species) | Owned by the estate.<br>Parkland tree.<br>Target # - footpath.  | Height (m): 14<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature | Mixed species group of 14 trees consisting of Acer, Tilia, Quercus and prunus. Heavy vegetation preventing access to base of some trees.   | Fair              |                 |
| TG03 | Mixed species<br>(Mixed species) | Owned by the estate.<br>Parkland tree.<br>Target # - dwelling.<br>Target # - footpath.  | Height (m): 9<br>Life Stage: Young        | Mixed species group consisting primarily of prunus regen and scrub. One Scott's pine situated on rear boundary with poor access, however appears in good physiological condition.  | Good              |                 |
| TG04 | Mixed species<br>(Mixed species) | Owned by the estate.<br>Parkland tree.<br>Target # - footpath.  | Height (m): 9<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature  | Mixed species group of 13 trees. Consisting of Prunus, Acer and Tilia. Heavy vegetation preventing access to base of some trees.   | Fair              |                 |
| TG05 | Mixed species<br>(Mixed species) | Owned by the estate.<br>Parkland tree.<br>Target # - footpath.  | Height (m): 8<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature  | Mixed species group of 20 trees. Consisting of Sorbus, Prunus, Fraxinus and Quercus.   | Fair              |                 |
| TG06 | Mixed species<br>(Mixed species) | Owned by the estate.<br>Parkland tree.<br>Target # - building<br>Target # - footpath.<br>Target # - playground.                         | Height (m): 10<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature | Mixed species group of approx. 14 trees. Consisting of Juglans, Prunus, Crataegus. Heavy scrub preventing access to base of trees. Ivy preventing assessment of base of mature Prunus aviums.  | Fair              |                 |

| Ref. | Species                          | Description  | Measurements                              | Survey Notes   | Overall Condition | Recommendations  |
|------|----------------------------------|--|---|--|-------------------|--|
| TG07 | Mixed species<br>(Mixed species) | Owned by the estate.<br>Parkland tree.<br>Target # - footpath.<br>Target # - playground. | Height (m): 12<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature | Mixed species group of 13 trees.<br>Consisting of Sorbus, Acer,<br>Carpinus, Prunus and Tilia.   | Good              |  |
| TG09 | Mixed species<br>(Mixed species) | Owned by the estate.<br>Parkland tree.<br>Target # - building<br>Target # - footpath.    | Height (m): 12<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature | Mixed species group of 18 trees.<br>Species are Sorbus, Prunus, Acer,<br>Fraxinus and Tilia. Heavy<br>vegetation preventing access to<br>base of some trees.   | Fair              |  |
| TG10 | Mixed species<br>(Mixed species) | Owned by the estate.<br>Parkland tree.<br>Target # - footpath.                           | Height (m): 10<br>Life Stage: Semi Mature | Mixed species group of 22 trees.<br>Species are Prunus, Acer, Sorbus<br>and Eucalyptus. Heavy vegetation<br>preventing access to base of some<br>trees. Soil has been dumped at<br>base of trees on N half of group. | Fair              | Rake back dumped soil around<br>base of the trees to depth no<br>greater than 10cm.<br>Timescale: 4 Management<br>Recommendation |

St Helen Without PC  
Dry Sandford Recreation Ground

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