



Directorate of Development and
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Tree Report - West Lancashire Borough Council

Prepared for Cllr John Gordon.

Location: Hesketh Field (Scout field), Liverpool Road, Rufford.

Report date 14th November 2016.

Site Designation.

Rufford Park Conservation Area.

Terms of reference.

A tree survey has been undertaken in early November 2016 and carried out in the interests of health and safety and to meet the requirements of Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984

The survey was undertaken by visual assessment from ground level.



HESKETH FIELD (SCOUT FIELD), LIVERPOOL ROAD, RUFFORD

Survey Date 2ND November 2016

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Tree No.	Species	Approx Height (m)	Crown Spread (m)	Condition	Age Class	Structural Condition	Preliminary Recommendations
T1	Ash			G	M	Trunk twists and leans Good upper structure	CL where low over mowed grass
G1	Sycamores x 6 and several saplings 1 x Hawthorn = Mature				YT	6 x poles size 1 x mature Hawthorn	Potential to thin-out to retain one or two sycamores only
T2	Sycamore			G	EM	Twin stemmed	Remove weaker stem arising from base
T3	Sycamore			G	EM	Good	-
T4	Hawthorn			F	M	Tall, thin crown Trunk leans	Retain for habitat
T5	Holly			F	EM	MS Good	-

Key to Headings Abbreviations

Tree Number: T (Tree) G (Group)

Condition: F (Fair) G (Good) P (Poor)

Age Class: M (Mature) OM (Over Mature) SM (Semi Mature) EM (Early Mature) YT (Young Tree) D (Dead) CL (Crown Lift) MS (Multi-Stemmed)

Regen (Regeneration/self set – sapplings)

Tree No.	Species	Approx Height (m)	Crown Spread (m)	Condition	Age Class	Structural Condition	Preliminary Recommendations
G2	Mainly Sycamore, Crab Apple, Blackthorn, Crack Willow with some Hawthorn, Beech, Oak and Elderberry Ground flora predominately Blackberry, Elderberry and Nettles				Y EM	Mainly re-generation self-set, dense area of tree with the old Rowan.	Retain for wildlife, limit any thinning to sycamore NOTE: HOGWEED ON FIELD MARGIN
G3	Mainly Sycamore				EM	Pole size, dense clusters MS by ditch Regrown from stumps	Consider selective removal at least 50%
T6	Sycamore			G	M	Good structure	–
T7	Sycamore			G	M	Three main leaders. Has been crown lifted previously to remove lower branches	–
T8	Oak			G	EM	Tall elongated form Beech and Holly in vicinity	–

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HESKETH FIELD (SCOUT FIELD), LIVERPOOL ROAD, RUFFORD

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Tree No.	Species	Approx Height (m)	Crown Spread (m)	Condition	Age Class	Structural Condition	Preliminary Recommendations
G4	Understory of Beech and Holly			G	Y		
T9	Yew			G	Y	Little ground cover in vicinity of Yew (old tennis court)	
T10	Oak			G	EM	Tall, elongated stem High crown	Consider removing surrounding sycamores
T11	Oak			G	EM	As T10	
T12	2 x MS Sycamores			G	M	Fair, probably regrown from stumps	Monitor
T13	Sycamore			G	M	MS 4 x leader/trunks Variable to failure as the trees grow and mature, due to included fork unions	Reduce number of stems in 5 to 10 years
T14	Sycamore			G	EM	Twin stemmed	
T15	Sycamore			G	M		

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G5	Boundary row of sycamores			G	EM	Some twin-stemmed One sycamore by grass edge has included bark and potential for failure but is none urgent	Monitor
A4	11 x Birch including one large MS Birch				EM to M	Some Birch are twin-stemmed 2 x Birch are thin, whippy, weak forms	Monitor Consider removal

DTTRESURVEY\HESKETHFIELD

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The accompanying plan identifies individual trees some of which are located adjacent to neighbouring National Trust land.

Some limited work proposals for the woodlands as a whole are included in the tree data and are referred to by their relevant designation on the plan.

Site Description.

The site consists of a central open area of grass land which occupies approximately 40% of the site with the rest of the site occupied by tree cover and being wooded in nature. It appears that the site is used infrequently and for informal recreation.

Woodland Condition.

Most of the woodland is self-set with natural regeneration with no active woodland management, other than some limited tree safety works. There are several larger, mature trees and these have been identified individually in the tree survey data.

Discussion, observations.

No urgent works were identified.

Some thinning and selective removal of dense area of cover as indicated in the survey data sheets would be beneficial for the woodland ecology and provide longer term safety. Particularly where competition for space has led to some trees developing tall, 'whippy' like growth. And which in time may die due to suppression.

<http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/heritage-and-environment/trees,-hedges-and-woodlands/arboricultural-contractors-list.aspx>

Please contact me should you require any further assistance or information

David Thornber
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