

Disclaimer:

Unless otherwise stated, tree inspections have been undertaken from ground level and using non-invasive techniques only. Comments upon the condition and safety of any tree relate to the condition of the tree at the time of the survey. It should be recognized that tree condition is subject to change due to, for example, the effects of disease, wind or nearby development works. Changes in land use are also significant in respect of risk assessment. Trees should therefore be inspected at intervals relative to identified site risks.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 MPTrees have prepared this report on behalf of Rufford Parish Council who wish to understand the risk of harm or damage to people or property associated with trees at Rufford Recreation Ground, Flash Lane, Rufford and The Scout Field on the opposite side of the A59 Liverpool Road.
- 1.2 Trees at the Recreation Ground and Scout Field have been surveyed previously by West Lancashire Borough Council in 2016 and 2020. This report has used the survey information and plan provided by West Lancashire Borough Council with their permission.

2.0 Relevant Constraints

- 2.1 Trees on site are afforded protection by West Lancashire Borough Council Tree Preservation Order No. WLDC 20 2022. All trees are also within the Rufford Park Conservation Area. Therefore, any work to trees, other than those works exempt under Section 198(6) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and Article 5 of the Model Order in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Trees) Regulation 1999 (as amended), will require an application to West Lancashire Borough Council.

3.0 Survey & Risk Assessment Method

- 3.1 The survey of the trees at the Recreation Ground and Scout Field was carried out on a clear sunny day on the 18th June 2021 by a fully qualified and insured surveyor. It was carried out from ground level and did not involve any invasive decay detection techniques. The tree inspection was based on the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) methodology and the assessment of risk was made using the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) method.
- 3.2 Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) is a relatively widely used method of evaluating the risk of harm to people and property from trees. It is a risk assessment methodology that incorporates numerical estimates and uses statistical probability as a measure of the risk of harm.
- 3.3 The level of risk associated with trees depends on several variables, which are the size, condition and species of tree, the local environmental conditions, and the levels of occupancy by people and/or value of property and use of the 'site'.
- 3.4 The advisory risk level thresholds used as a basis for this assessment are detailed in Table 4 of QTRA practice note v.5 at appendix 3 of this report.

4.0 Survey Results

(Full survey details can be found at appendices 1 and 2)

4.1 High Risk Trees

- 4.11 Tree T6 is a mature Oak that has a large upsweeping primary branch that extends over the eastern boundary of the Recreation Ground and the A59 Liverpool Road. There is a large vertical split in the limb where it starts to bend upwards. There is a high probability the limb will break and fail as the split opens, probably in high winds and/or very wet weather which will increase the weight of the limb. If/when the limb breaks there is a high risk of harm to users of the A59 Liverpool Road. See photograph 1 at appendix 4 for detail.

4.2 Medium Risk Trees

- 4.21 Tree T1 is a mature Oak tree located next to the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground and adjacent neighbouring property. It has decay at its base with the fungal pathogen *Ganoderma* present. There is an increased probability of stem failure over neighbouring property and as the decay in the main stem develops the probability will increase, increase the risk of harm or damage to property. See photograph 2 at appendix 4 for detail.
- 4.22 Tree T7 is an early mature beech tree that has extensive *Stereum* canker rot of the base of its main stem caused by the fungus *Stereum rugosum*. There is an increased probability of stem snap and failure and a risk that the stem will fail to the east over the A59. See photograph 3 at appendix 4 for detail.

4.3 Low Risk Trees

- 4.31 All other trees at the Recreation ground and Scout Field are currently classified as Low Risk for the purposes of this report. Although Low Risk, a number of trees have been recommended for works and/or monitoring to mitigate any potential increase in risk levels and/or as part of good arboriculture management.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that consideration be given to the tree works detailed in the Management Recommendations at appendix 1.
- 5.2 With regard to tree T6 it is further recommend that this work is carried out as soon as is practicably possible to mitigate the risk of harm.
- 5.3 The assessment of the hazard associated with trees and the management of the risk is no different than that of ensuring that buildings are in good repair and that action is taken to prevent accidents that would be considered 'reasonably foreseeable'. In storm conditions even the best trees can fail, and it is recommended that to mitigate any increase in risk levels, due to the size, age and condition of the trees at the Recreation ground, that they are surveyed every 2 years from the date this report, with the next survey in late summer. Surveying in late summer will give a more complete picture of tree vitality and will allow for the identification of any tree decay fungi that may be present and that may have an impact on risk levels.
- 5.4 In between surveys by a qualified and insured tree risk assessor, it is further recommended that grounds maintenance and the Parish Council should note any obvious changes in the condition of trees in the grounds (particularly after any storm event). Changes can include snapped or hanging branches, new splits or cracks in stems or branches, new fungus on main stems or around bases, changes in leaf colour or size etc. If required, any changes in condition can be highlighted to a qualified and insured tree risk assessor, who can then make necessary recommendations if required.

Appendix 1

CLIENT:
PROJECT:
BRIEF:
SURVEYOR
DATE:

Rufford Parish Council
Recreation Ground & Scout Field
Tree Hazard Survey & Report
M Potier
18/06/2021

HEADINGS & ABBREVIATIONS

GRP/TREE REF: GROUP (G) OR TREE REFERENCE (T)

AGE: Y = YOUNG, SM = SEMI MATURE, EM = EARLY MATURE, M = MATURE, PM = POST MATURE, V = VETERAN

HT: HEIGHT (IN METRES) OF TREE OR MAXIMUM HEIGHT FOR THE GROUP

DBH: STEM DIAMETER (IN MM) FOR THE TREE OR MAXIMUM DIAMETER FOR THE GROUP - MEASURED OR ESTIMATED AT A HEIGHT OF APPROXIMATELY 1.5 METRES

VITALITY: A MEASURE OF PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION. N = WITHIN NORMAL RANGE FOR SPECIES AND AGE, R = REDUCED FROM THE NORMAL RANGE FOR SPECIES AND AGE, P = POOR, MD = MORIBUND, D = DEAD

ROH: ANNUALISED RISK OF HARM (SEE QTRA ADVISORY RISK THRESHOLDS TABLE)



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MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES (MGT CAT)

- 1) SAFETY - HIGH
- 2) SAFETY - MEDIUM
- 3) SAFETY - LOW
- 4) SAFETY - LONG TERM

- 5) DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES - HIGH
- 6) DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES - MEDIUM
- 7) DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES - LOW
- 8) GENERAL MANAGEMENT - HIGH
- 9) GENERAL MANAGEMENT - MEDIUM
- 10) GENERAL MANAGEMENT - LOW
- 11) ONGOING MANAGEMENT
- 12) IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO NEXT ASSESSMENT
- 13) NO PRIORITY

GRP REF	TREE REF	SPECIES	AGE	HT	DBH	VITALITY	COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS	MGT CAT	RISK ASSESSMENT OF	ROH
	T1	Oak	M	16	300	R	Tall thin canopy all to south west over neighbours garage ganoderma at base to south and stem wound with decay. Retire to mitigate increase in risk levels over time.	2,6,9	Stem or branch failure over neighbouring property.	1:300K
	T2	Oak	M	16	500	N	Stem wounds at base. Next to entry. Monitor condition.	4,11	Stem or branch failure over entry.	<1:1M
	T3	Oak	M	15	600	R	Large deadwood stub and stem wound from base to stub on west. Branches arch over neighbours property to south. Consider crown reduce to south or retire and replace tree.	4,7	Stem or branch failure over neighbouring property.	<1:1M
	T4	Oak	M	15	300	R	Tall, thin, die back in crown, next to boundary, reduce to safe standing height eg 3-4m.	3,10	Stem or branch failure over neighbouring property.	<1:1M
	T5	Oak	M	16	500	R	Decayed buttress to west. Monitor.	4,7	Stem or branch failure over neighbouring property.	<1:1M
	T6	Oak	M	16	500	N	Large upsweeping heavy lateral over boundary with vertical split. Remove limb back to main stem as soon as possible. Risk of branch splitting and falling onto A59. Marked with orange biodegradable dot at breast height.	1,8	Branch failure over road.	1:5K
	T7	Beech	EM	15	400	R	Extensive stem canker at breast height, risk of stem snap. Reduce to safe standing height e.g. 3-4m. Marked with orange biodegradable dot at breast height.	2,9	Stem failure over road.	1:500K
	Scout field, Various species	/	/	/	/	N	Clear young self seeded trees (sycamore, Norway maple, ash etc) next to front wall next to A59. Removing now and periodically will mitigate potential increase in risk and help management and access.	3,10	Stem or branch failure over road.	<1:1M
	General	/	/	/	/	/	Clear holly sucker stems and nettles/brambles etc around bases of all mature trees periodically and prior to subsequent surveys. Cut ivy on stems of all mature trees periodically and prior to subsequent surveys.			

Appendix 2



High Risk Trees



Low Risk Trees recommended for works.



Individual and Group Tree Numbers as per
IPTrees QTRA Survey Data Tables, Rufford
Recreation Ground, June 2021.



Notes:

1. Plan to be read in conjunction with the following reports:
MPT Trees Risk Assessment Report, Rufford Recreation Ground, June 2021
West Lancashire Borough Council Tree Report, September 2016.
West Lancashire Borough Council Tree Report, June 2020.





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VERSION: _____

MP CS MP

DATE: _____

22.06.21

DOWNSIDE NO. _____

MP 216.02 21

CLIENT: Rufford Parish Council
LOCATION: Rufford Recreation Ground, Flash Lane, Rufford
DRAWING TITLE: Tree Survey Plan
DRAWING SCALE: 1:100
SHEETS: 1 OF 2

Appendix 3

QTRA Advisory Risk Thresholds

Risk Thresholds	Description	Action
1/1 000	Unacceptable Risks will not ordinarily be tolerated	• Control the risk
	Unacceptable (where imposed on others) Risks will not ordinarily be tolerated	• Control the risk • Review the risk
	Tolerable (by agreement) Risks may be tolerated if • those exposed to the risk accept it, or • the tree has exceptional value	• Control the risk unless there is broad stakeholder agreement to tolerate it, or the tree has exceptional value • Review the risk
1/10 000	Tolerable (where imposed on others) Risks are tolerable if ALARP	• Assess costs and benefits of risk control • Control the risk only where a significant benefit might be achieved at a reasonable cost • Review the risk
	Broadly Acceptable Risk is already ALARP	• No action required currently • Review the risk
1/1 000 000		

Appendix 4

Photographs

Photographs 1 - Detail of vertical split in large primary branch extending over A59.



Photograph 2 – Detail of base of T1 to east, showing stem wound and *Ganoderma* bracket.



Photograph 3 – Detail of base of T7 with extensive Stereum canker rot.

