

TREE SURVEYS AND REPORTS  
BS 5837  
DECAY MAPPING  
CONSULTANCY



# 18 Station Road Ash Tree Arboricultural Management Report July 2021

Produced for Mr Peter Bouchard  
By Jim Richardson BSc For. HND Arb.



## Document Details

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## Document Production and Revisions

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## 18 Station Road Ash Tree Arboricultural Management Report July 2021

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Mr Peter Bouchard has commissioned this arboricultural management report in order to inform tree management requirements a mature Ash tree located in the front garden of 18 Station Road, Forest Hall, NE12 9NQ.
- 1.2. The survey and resulting report have been produced in order to guide tree management operations for the Ash tree.
- 1.3. Documentation used in preparation of this report. – N/A – No previous management reports maps or tree data were available.
- 1.4. All observations have been made from ground level without detailed inspection. Some measurements may have been estimated.
- 1.5. A tree location plan has been produced to accompany this report and tree locations should be referenced to this plan.

## 2. Site Details

2.1. Location: 18 Station Road, Forest Hall, NE12 9NQ

2.2. Site Description: The site consists of a private semi-detached residential house with gardens to the front and rear.

2.3. Site Visit Details: The site was surveyed between October 2020 and July 2021 during calm clear weather conditions.

2.4. The Ash tree surveyed has had no significant recent management.

### 3. Statutory Tree Protection

- 3.1. Trees may be legally protected. Tree protection can include Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) or Conservation Area status. The felling of large quantities of timber may also require a felling licence.
- 3.2. A formal search into the statutory protection of the sites trees has not been carried out as part of this survey and report. Statutory protection of trees can include Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Conservation area status.
- 3.3. Large penalties may be enforced for illegally carrying out works on protected trees. It is therefore advised that clarification of protection status be sought from the local planning authority prior to any tree works being carried out on site. Where appropriate permission for works must be applied for.
- 3.4. Some exemptions to the above may apply such as the removal of trees where full planning permission has been granted where new buildings occupy the space where protected trees lie.
- 3.5. 18 Station Road is within a conservation area.

## 4. Summary of Findings

- 4.1. There Ash tree to the front of No 18 Station Road is showing signs of 'Ash Dieback'. Although there is still some good foliage cover in the lower crown the upper crown shows poor shoot formation, shoot dieback and weak distorted growth in the upper canopy. This is consistent with 'Ash Dieback' symptoms in mature trees.
- 4.2. The lower crown shows some vigour which is consistent with a mature tree using its energy reserves to maintain photosynthesis during stress.
- 4.3. *'Experience in continental Europe, which is now being seen replicated in the UK, indicates that it can kill young and coppiced ash trees quite quickly. However, older trees can resist it for some time until prolonged exposure, or another pest or pathogen, such as Armillaria (honey fungus), attacking them in their weakened state eventually causes them to succumb'*
- para <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/>*
- 4.4. The surrounding Ash trees on Station Road, Lyndhurst Road and those within the Benton Cemetery are also showing clear signs of 'Ash Dieback', with loss of terminal buds and all key signs of the disease.
- 4.5. The first recorded infection of the disease in the immediate area was 2015 (<http://chalaramap.fera.defra.gov.uk/>) and infection has continued to spread since. Ash dieback is now devastating the Ash population across the North-East region.
- 4.6. Given that this is a none-treatable disease it is recommended that the tree be removed at the soonest opportunity.
- 4.7. Continued dieback of the tree is likely to increase the risk it poses to adjacent people and property.

4.8. The longer the tree is left in situ the worse its condition will become, which will increase the risk and cost of its removal.



## 5. Arboricultural Management Requirements

- 5.1. Given that this is a none-treatable disease it is recommended that the tree be removed at the soonest opportunity.
- 5.2. Continued dieback of the tree will increase the risk it poses to adjacent people and property.
- 5.3. The longer the tree is left in situ the worse its condition is likely to become, which will increase the risk and cost of its removal.

## 5.4. Ash Dieback

Ash dieback is a highly destructive disease of Ash trees (*Fraxinus* species), especially the United Kingdom's native ash species; Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). It is caused by a fungus named *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (*H. fraxineus*), which is of eastern Asian origin. The current spread of the disease is estimated to kill 95% of our native Ash trees. Trees showing signs of the disease should be removed at the soonest opportunity before severe dieback occurs, making tree removal operations more hazardous. The presence of the disease in the region de-values the retention value of Ash trees, as their expected useful life expectancy is greatly reduced. Infected trees are best removed at an early stage as removal can become more hazardous as the trees die back further.

## 6. Arboricultural Method Statement

### 6.1. Tree Works

6.1.1. All tree pruning and removal works must conform strictly to BS3998 (*Recommendations for Tree Works*) and must use target pruning in accordance with best practice.

### 6.1.2. Schedule of Arboricultural Works

1. Provide site managers with a copy of Arboricultural report.
2. Check conservation status of trees and apply for works if required.
3. Remove Tree.

## 6.2. Arboricultural Supervision

- 6.2.1. Tree work recommendations on this site are relatively straightforward. Arboricultural supervision is therefore not considered necessary provided that the operations are carried out by suitably qualified and experience staff.

## 7. Other Arboricultural Site Factors

### 7.1. Protected Wildlife

7.1.1. It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA and amendments) and the EU Habitats Directive to disturb and or destroy the nests of bats, birds and other protected wildlife. Birds are protected by; The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and The Countryside (or CROW) Act 2000. Bats are protected by; The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

7.1.2. For birds as with bats there is an obligation to carry out visual checks prior to works commencing. Where possible tree works should be carried out in order to avoid the bird nesting season during the period from August to the end of February.

# Appendices

## I. Tree Details

### Tree Table Details

- **Tree number:** An individual identifying number – usually relating to tree tag.
- TPO: Detail of Tree Preservation Order tree or group number
- **Common Name (Botanical Name)** Species identification is based on visual field observations. (Botanical name in brackets)
- **Age Category:** Either an estimate (or statement if accurately known) of the age of the tree, classified as:
  - **Y** = Young tree, established tree usually up to one third of expected ultimate height & spread
  - **MA** = middle aged, usually between one third and two thirds of ultimate height & spread
  - **M** = Mature, more or less at full height but still increasing in girth & spread
  - **OM** = Over mature, grown to full size and becoming senescent,
  - **V** = Veteran tree, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species
- **Stem Diameter:** Trunk diameter measured at 1.5 metres from ground level and recorded in millimetres. (Number of stems – MS = Multi stemmed)
- **Height:** Height estimated in metres. (Lower crown height - Height in metres of crown clearance above adjacent ground level)
- **Crown Spread:** Measurement of canopy from the trunk in metres - North, South, East, and West
- **Useful Life Expectancy:** Estimated Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE). Short: 0 – 10years Medium: 10– 20 Years, Intermediate: 20-40, Long: 40 + years.
- **Condition:** Physiological Condition;
  - Good = Healthy tree with good vitality.
  - Fair = Moderate health and vitality normal or slightly less for species and age,

- Poor = Poor shape or form - signs of decline in crown, may have structural weakness.
- Dead = dead or dying tree
- **Comments:** Notes on tree condition and other points of interest.
- **Recommendations:** Management recommendations – actions required.
- **Works Priority:**
  - Urgent – Requiring immediate urgent attention.
  - High – Works relating to high risk trees potential to cause significant harm.
  - Medium – Works relating to significant potential harm.
  - Low – Works to improve tree health amenity or reduce long term risk.
  - Very-Low – Long term management or aesthetic works.
- **Bat Roost Potential:**
  - None – No significant bat roost features.
  - Low – Only minor significant bat roost features.
  - Moderate – Some notable bat roost features.
  - High – Significant or multiple bat roost features.
  - Confirmed – Confirmed bat roost.
- **Pruning:** Removal of living or dead parts of a tree.
- **Crown Cleaning:** The removal of dead, dying or diseased branch-wood, broken or crossing branches or stubs left from previous tree surgery operations unwanted objects, ivy, other climbing plants and general debris/rubbish.
- **Deadwood Removal:** Removal of significant dead and dying branches and limbs from the tree.
- **Crown Lifting:** Removal of all growth and branches below the height specified.
- **Crown Reduction:** Reduction of the complete outline of the canopy, pruning to appropriate growth points and leaving a natural silhouette.

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Tag	TPO	Name	Age	Height (m) (Lower Crown Height)	Stem Diameter - mm (No of Stems)	Crown spread North (m)	Condition	Useful Life Expectancy - Years	Comments	Recommendations	Priority	Growth	Bat Roost Potential
T1	Conservation Area	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	OM	15m	90cm (1)	12m	Poor	>10	Overmature tree. Upper crown with clear signs of Ash Dieback	Remove	High	No	Moderate

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## II. Tree Location map



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a : 9A Tankerville Place - Jesmond - Newcastle upon Tyne - NE2 3AT



### III. Photographic Record

#### Early Crown Dieback Autumn 2020



#### Terminal Shoots Withering - Upper Crown 2021



## Terminal Shoot Death 2021



## Terminal Shoots Withering 2021





Ash Dieback In Adjacent Trees - Benton Cemetery



Ash Dieback In Adjacent Trees - Benton Cemetery





Ash Dieback In Adjacent Trees – Lyndhurst Road – Terminal Shoots Dying.



## IV. Scope of Report

The survey and resulting report have been produced in order to guide tree management operations over the next two-year period. The management operations offer a guide only and should be reviewed periodically. Regular re-assessment of trees within falling distances of high occupancy areas are recommended in order to check for changes in tree and site conditions.

### a. Limitations

This report has not been designed as a hazard assessment or safety report and should not be used as such. As such only major visual tree defects are commented upon where appropriate.

This report makes no comment on any trees ability to cause either direct or indirect damage to buildings, walkways and other utilities other than where direct pressure damage is immediately and obviously foreseeable.

Trees are dynamic and changing structures and this report comments on tree condition as assessed on the day of surveying.

Further to this report it is recommended that all trees in areas where failure may result in significant risk of damage to people or property be assessed for hazard on an annual basis in order to fulfil the owner's duty of care.

### b. Survey Methodology

All trees were assessed from ground level only using visual assessment techniques. Heights and crown spreads have been measured using a laser hypsometer and tree diameters have been measured using a girth tape at 1.5m.