

Tree Condition Assessment

at

The Warren
& South Gardens
South Harting

On behalf of: **Harting Parish Council**

Reference: **MW.21.0104.TCA**

Date Issued: **9 June 2022**



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1. Instructions and Terms of Reference

- 1.1. I was instructed by Harting Parish Council, in May 2022, to undertake a tree condition assessment of the trees at The Warren / South Garddens, with the aim of ensuring risk from trees is as low as reasonable practicable. The areas covered are shown in red on the appended plans.
- 1.2. The site can be found at grid reference SU 78334 18698, or what3words: ///essay.captive.impact.
- 1.3. A ground-based formal assessment of the trees was undertaken enabling the parish council to fulfil their duty of care as defined by both civil law and the Occupiers' Liability Acts of 1957 & 1984.
- 1.4. The trees were assessed, initially at a basic level, to discern their overall condition and to identify the risk they may pose to persons and property. Trees that have limited occupancy within their 'target area' are not assessed. For example, woodland trees not near adjacent dwellings, highways, paths etc). Only trees with a stem diameter greater than 150mm at 1.5m from ground level within falling distance of areas of moderate to high occupancy or property of value were assessed, as defined by the client and/or by the surveyor.
- 1.5. In line with ARLAP principles (see section 2), where the level of risk is deemed unacceptable, remedial works are prescribed to reduce the risk to acceptable levels. Additionally, general management advice has been provided as and when appropriate.
- 1.6. **Although all trees are assessed, as defined above, only trees requiring works to reduce risk or that are noteworthy in some way, are individually recorded on the plan and survey schedule.**
- 1.7. Any questions relating to the content of this report should be directed, in the first instance, to myself, at mark@mwelby.com or 01730 239492 quoting the site address and report reference number.
- 1.8. An online search of Chichester District Council's records do not show any trees with tree preservation orders within the survey area.
- 1.9. Harting Conservation Area does cover the Northern section of the survey area; the ponds and more formal recreation area. The image to the below is taken from the council's site and shows the conservation area boundary in magenta.

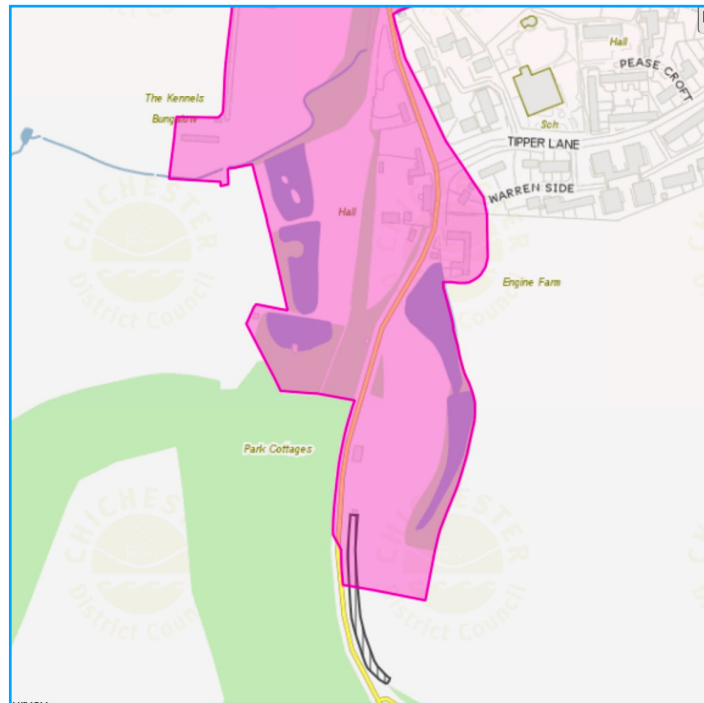


Fig 1: Harting Conservation Area boundary

2. Tree Owner Responsibilities

- 2.1. We have a duty of care to manage the risk from our trees. That duty requires that we should be *reasonable, proportionate, and reasonably practicable* when managing this risk. What this means is, there's a balance we need to strike between the many benefits of trees provide, the risk from them, and the cost of managing the risk. By taking a balanced approach, we don't waste resources by reducing risk (and losing the benefits) where risk is already acceptable.
- 2.2. The Tolerability of Risk Framework (ToR) is an internationally recognised approach to making risk management decisions where risks are imposed and have benefits. ToR identifies Broadly Acceptable and Unacceptable levels of risk. Between these two risks is a region where the risk is Tolerable if it's '**As Low As Reasonably Practicable**' (**ALARP**).
- 2.3. The Health and safety Executive (HSE) states that at the core of ALARP "is the concept of "reasonably practicable"; this involves weighing a risk against the trouble, time and money needed to control it".
- 2.4. Public safety is not the only concern when deciding how to manage trees. Other broader concerns, such as ecological, landscape and aesthetic values, should also be taken into account.¹
- 2.5. This tree assessment has been carried out using ALARP principles and applying them to tree management. Risk reduction work will be given priority when a risk is highest, and where it's most cost-effective. *As the overall risk from tree failure is extremely low, carrying out a formal assessment of every tree, every year or every other year isn't reasonable, proportionate, or reasonably practicable.* Particularly, when trees that have defects that are so obvious they'll be picked up by an informal assessment by ground staff or even the general public.
- 2.6. The following references may be of help: [Health & Safety Executive](#)², [National Tree Safety Group](#)³, [VALID Tree Risk](#)⁴.

¹ NTSG Common Sense Risk Management of Trees, 2011, page 27.

² www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag_food/010705.htm#Summary

³ ntsgroup.org.uk

⁴ www.validtreerisk.com/tree-risk-management-strategy-policy-&-plan

3. Survey: Scope and Methodology

Formal Assessment Levels

- 3.1. **Basic**- at this level, the aim is to find the few trees with obvious defects where the risk might not be acceptable. These trees will then have a Detailed assessment carried out on them.
- 3.2. This level of survey will be carried out from ground which is easily accessible. Climbers, undergrowth, basal growth will not be removed, and hedgerows will not be cut to get a closer look unless there are obvious defect 'triggers' to justify the costs of this work.
- 3.3. Trees are either picked out for a Detailed assessment or the risk is deemed acceptable ('standard' tasks like severing ivy or removing poorly attached deadwood may be assigned within a basic assessment).
- 3.4. **Detailed**- a detailed assessment is carried out on trees identified during the Basic assessment. Or, because particular trees have been highlighted for a closer look by an informal assessment. This is a higher-level assessment to find out whether the risk might not be acceptable.
- 3.5. If, in my opinion, any risk reduction work is necessary, it will be specified. It will also be decided whether the tree remains as part of the standard formal assessment cycle, or if it's monitored and assessed more frequently.
- 3.6. **Advanced**- after a Detailed assessment, if we need more in-depth information about the likelihood of failure, and Advanced assessment can be carried out. These are rare and may be applicable with large or important trees where it looks like there's been some significant strength loss.

Informal Assessment

- 3.7. When a tree has a risk that might not be acceptable it will often have defects that are so obvious you can't help but notice them. Informal assessment means keeping a look out for obvious defects whilst going about your day-to-day routine. Details on obvious tree defects to look out for can be found here at validtreerisk.com.
- 3.8. When such an obvious defect is noticed, an arborist should be called in to carry out a Formal assessment and make recommendations.

Re-Assessment

- 3.9. There is no definitive timescale within which a tree should be re-assessed. It can vary depending on the tree's age, condition and location. A default that I find reasonable is every two and a half years. This gives the opportunity to see the tree in leaf and out of leaf. For trees that are more noteworthy in some way a reassessment in 18 months maybe more applicable. If that is the case, it will be noted in the schedule.

4. Notes and Limitations

- 4.1. A check on the legal status of the trees was not included within my instruction brief and has not been carried out. It is recommended that the status of the trees is checked before any work is undertaken.
- 4.2. In the UK, a felling licence is required under the Forestry Act (1967), for *any* tree removals, although some exemptions do apply.
- 4.3. The above approach has been formulated In-line with current best practice, and the guidance and policies on validtreerisk.com. and thus attribution is duly afforded.
- 4.4. Where measurements have been included in the schedule, they are estimated and thus for notional reference only.
- 4.5. In addition to the relevant and appropriate formal qualifications, professional memberships and associated CPD, I am a LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector, and authorised user of the VALID Tree Risk-Benefit Assessment & Management system.
- 4.6. Where necessary, binoculars have been used. No climbing inspections have been carried out. No analysis of soil samples was undertaken, and the condition root systems was only investigated by way of a surface visual inspection, light excavation around the buttress (if expedient) and assessment of the tree(s) overall vitality.
- 4.7. This record reflects the condition of the trees at the time of the assessment only. Trees vary in condition with time and can be impacted by environmental conditions such as extreme weather events.

I.

Survey Schedule

Please note that it is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and Countryside and Rights of Way Act to disturb a nesting bird or roosting/breeding bat. The nesting season runs from approximately March to August, but it is always best to check the trees before working.

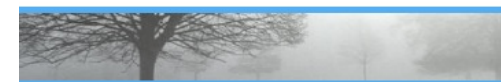
Schedule on following pages



Client: Harting Parish Council
Ref/Site: 0104 The Warren, South Harting
Date: 2022.06.08

Tree Schedule

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Conservation area trees work is **red bold**: notice must be served on council six weeks before work due

Risk Reduction work is essential to ensure risk is managed appropriately and should be carried out at the client's discretion in line with their risk management policy. Works assigned under the purpose of **Maintenance** are not risk related (at this time) and for the client's consideration

*NOTE: Remove poorly attached deadwood: deadwood is a valuable habitat that can persist on some species for decades, and must be retained if possible. Where included, this specification requires the arborist's judgment and applies to all deadwood over 25mm diameter.

This report refers to the condition of the tree(s) and property on the day of the survey. The trees were assessed from ground level only. The assessment of tree health/condition is based on a standard industry-accepted method of Visual Tree Assessment (VTA). No invasive or destructive tests were undertaken and no soil or root samples were analysed off-site. Trees are dynamic organisms and their condition can change rapidly due to circumstances such as (but not limited to) storms and other extreme weather such as drought, accidents/vandalism, pests and diseases and nearby building & maintenance works. It is recommended that any significant trees are inspected professionally on a regular basis and, where safety issues have been raised, annual inspections are typically recommended. I cannot be held liable for any tree or branch failures arising from changed circumstances.

Ref	Species	Stem Diameter (est cm)	Height (est m)	Survey Notes	Recommendations*	Purpose	Repeat Survey
06	Common Beech	90	22	Tree weighted slightly to east. Lowest limb has fracture about 4 m along.	Reduce lowest limb to point of fracture. Not to be cut back to main stem to avoid large wound on the stem.	Risk reduction	2.5 years
07	Crack Willow	50	15	One central stem with five subordinate stems from base which are subsiding due to a weak main union.	Remove tree. Consider retention of stump to allow regrowth	Risk reduction	
08	Common Ash	27	10	Ash dieback. On telecom cable.	Remove tree. Marked with pink paint. Consider removing adjacent poorly formed plums and willows also to allow better regeneration.	Risk reduction	
09	Hazel	60	8	Coppice stool on bank over road. Poorly formed with large contorted limb and one adjacent standing dead stem (separate tree). Accessible stems marked with pink paint. Opposite highway drainage point. See photo.	Coppice main stool and remove adjacent dead stem	Risk reduction	2.5 years
10	Hazel	20	5	Failed stem hung up over road. Opposite blue shed at end of garden of house to east of highway	Remove. Urgent. Parish informed by phone on 08.06.2022.	Risk reduction	
11	Mixed species	20	15	Mixed species on steep bank. Inaccessible. All visible crowns appear healthy no obvious standing dead trees.		Comment	2.5 years
12	Common Beech	40	18	Partially failed. Hung up	Remove tree	Risk reduction	2.5 years

II.

Tree Location Plans

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Tree Location Plan
Ref:21.0104
The Warren, South Harting
2022.06.09

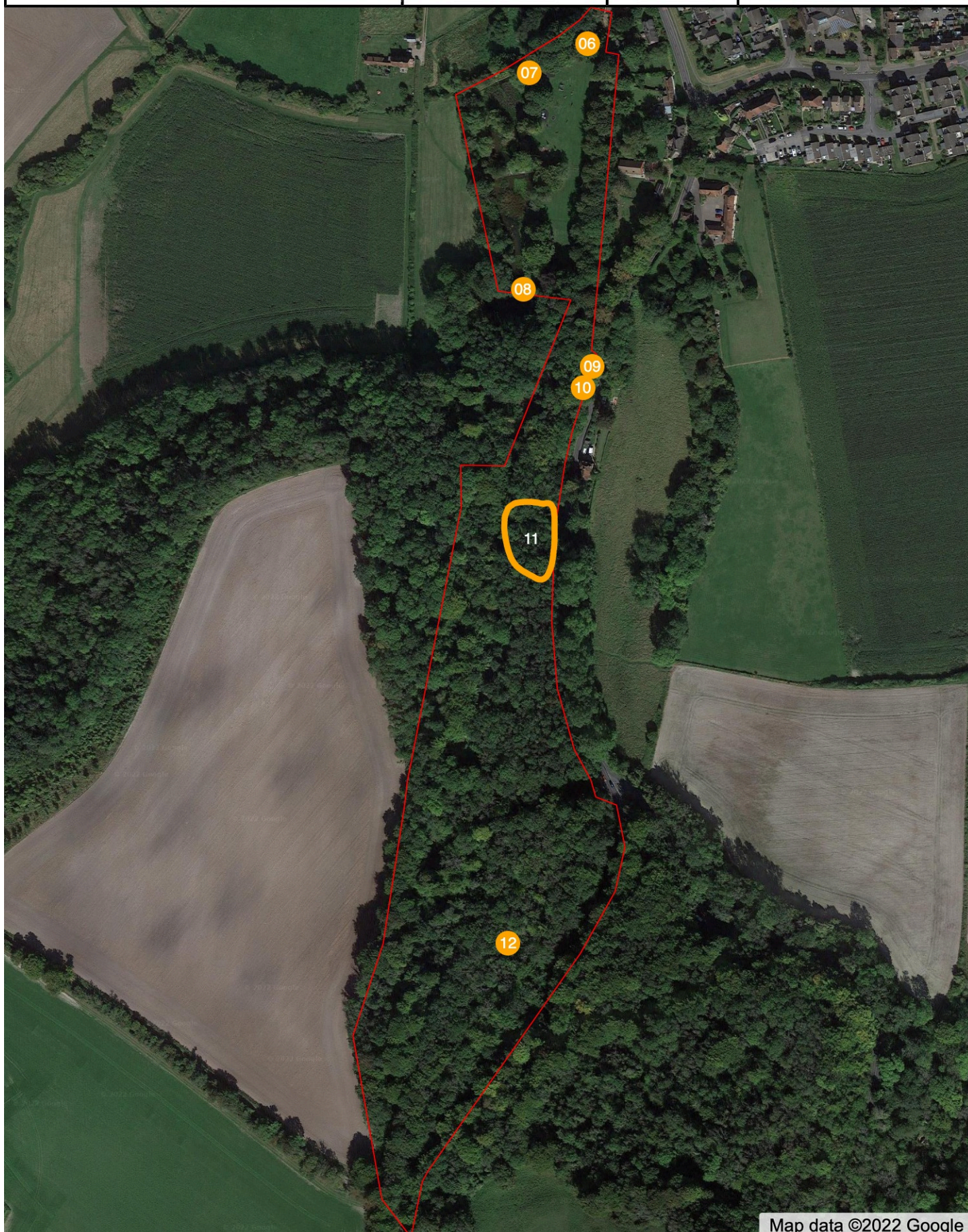
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Map data ©2022 Google

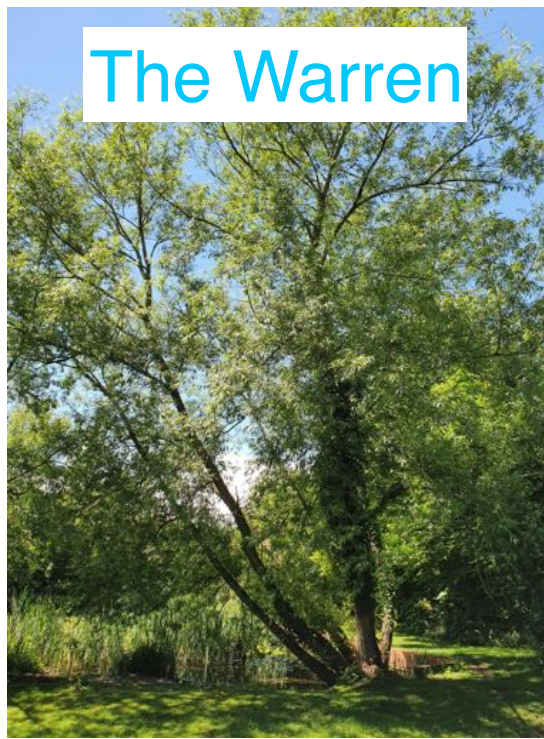
III.

Photographs

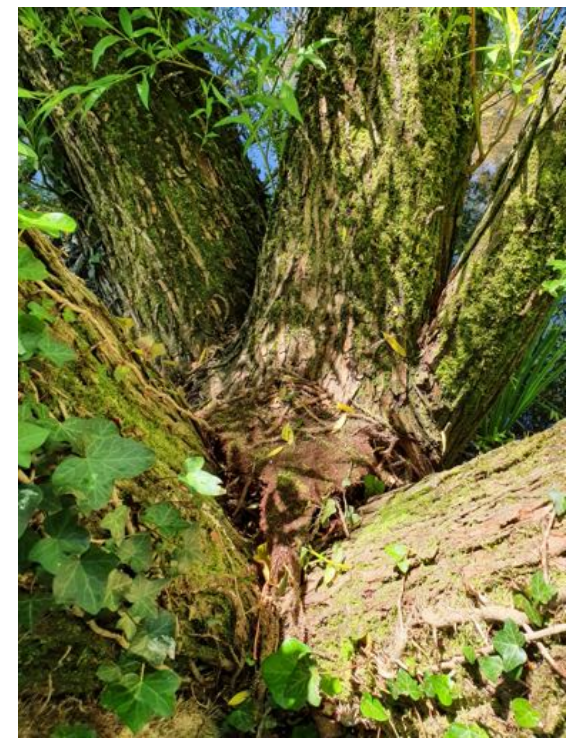
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