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Divested sites from East Suffolk Council:
Tree Safety Report.

For:

Melton Parish Council

Date of Report: 10th MARCH 2021.

Contact details.

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Terms of reference & introduction

My name is Mrs Alice Martin, I hold a BSc in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, gained from Myerscough College in 2020. I also have over 30 years' experience working in the arboricultural industry in both the public sector as an arboricultural officer and in the private sector as a consultant. I am the owner of AlisonK – Arboriculture.

Melton Parish Council has commissioned AlisonK-Arboriculture to carry out a health and safety assessment and prepare a record and schedule of works for trees growing on specified areas of land at Melton, for which they responsible [This anticipates the transfer by 31st of March 2021].

1.1 Background:

Twenty-one parcels of land in the Parish of Melton have been divested from East Suffolk Council (ESC) and formally adopted by Melton Parish Council [this anticipates transfer by 31st of March 2021]. The total land area transferred, covers around 6.7 hectares and the sites range in size from the 3.3-hectare woodland known as Leeks and Bury Hill Wood down to the 0.009-hectare area on Bury Hill. All bar three of the twenty-one parcels of land contain at least one tree. See **Appendix A: Table of adopted site information.**

1.2 Trees located on areas of divested land have recently been inspected by ESC however, no records of this inspection or any previous tree safety assessments are currently available. Tree inspection information recorded in this report is therefore considered the foundation data needed for a robust tree safety and management system.

1.3 Risk evaluation method and land area zoning.

For this report, the five-step risk assessment has been adopted following Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance for a simple tree management system. It is reliable, tried and tested and considered a robust method of assessing risk. It is also defensible in a Court of Law, being underpinned by a nationally recognised body.

Adopted land areas which contain trees have been assessed and allocate a 'Zone' based on the designated land type and level of use - 'Target' (measured by how frequently an area is visited by people). (1: High use, 2: Moderate use 3: Low use). Area Zones dictate the level of information collected during inspection and suggests a reasonable frequency for re-inspections (the risk associated with the trees are less in a site which has less frequent visits).

1.4. Zoning of land areas and rational:

1.4.1 Zone 1 trees:

All trees in areas designated as parks, play areas and areas adjacent to well used public rights of way and well used footpaths are placed in Zone 1. In these areas, where there are prominent individual specimen trees they are inspected and recorded individually. Less prominent/younger trees in Zone 1 are placed in groups. Basic information on tree species and approx. number of each, along with general group comments recorded.

In wooded areas such as along public rights of way and well used permissive footpaths, all trees within falling distance (approximately 20 metres of the Zone boundary) are briefly inspected.

1.4.2 Zone 2 trees:

Areas which see less frequent use such as minor footpaths, land where access is somewhat restricted and where trees could impact on gardens are considered a 'lower' target area with lower risk level associated and placed in Zone 2.

1.4.3 Zone 3 trees:

Areas which see few visits where with no easy access. present a very low risk (barring exceptional circumstances) to people and therefore placed in Zone 3.

1.4.4 Trees on Zones 2 and 3: In some restricted areas it is not practicable and often not necessary to inspect all trees in detail at the base, although it may be possible to assess some trees on sites more fully during the summer months. Where this is the case brief inspections are completed from as close to trees as conditions allow and comments made on the visible parts.

2.0 Scope of the work:

All areas of land recently divested from ESC are included in this report. Land for which Melton Parish Council is already responsible (Burkes Wood and The Melton Recreation Ground) covered under a separate report.

2.1 Tree survey method and rationale

All trees inspected will require regular monitoring for the following reason:

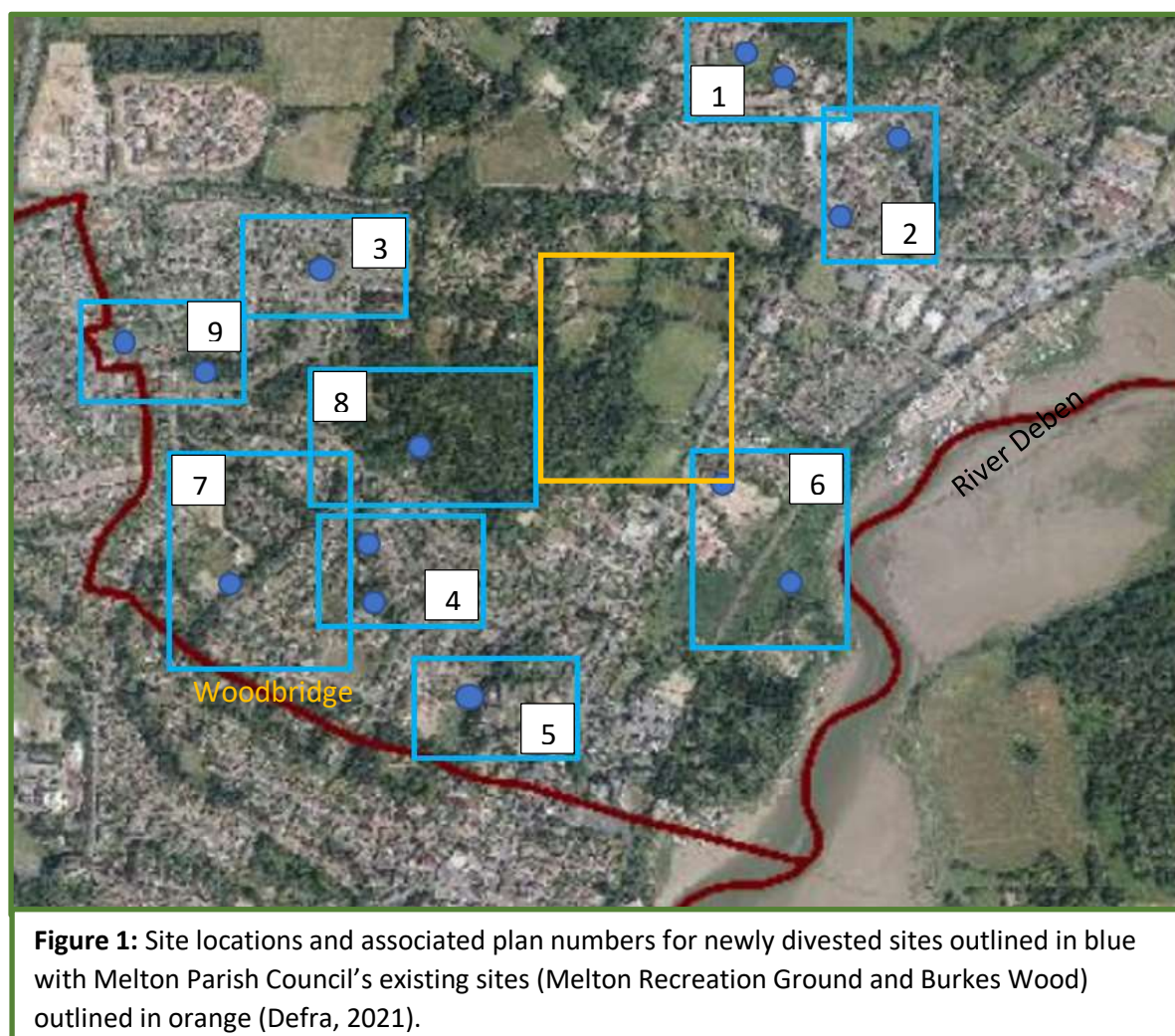
- Tracking the progress of diseases such as ash dieback disease (See Table 3 at 6.0); needed as tree condition can deteriorate quickly and in a short period of time create safety issues.
- Full tree condition is unclear or thought to be such that further investigation is needed to confirm full tree health and/or potential safety issues.

2.2 Surveys of the eighteen sites containing trees were carried out by Mrs Alice Martin between February 4th and March 3rd, 2021. The relevant qualitative data was collected to assess the condition of the existing trees and their potential risk in relation to their existing environment and the risk they pose to people and property. The weather conditions at the time of inspections varied from fine and sunny, dry to overcast with rain showers and blustery wind. Deciduous trees assessed were not in leaf.

2.3 All Individual trees assessed in detail and recorded in Zone 1 were inspected from the ground, using a level '2' basic 360-degree assessment developed by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), taking into account all tree features and site considerations.

2.4 All trees identified as in need of work have been marked discreetly at the base of the tree or on ivy stems with an orange or yellow spray dot.

2.5 For ease of use and workability, sites directly adjacent to one another are considered to be and treated as one site (e.g. Bury Hill, and Love Lane and Friars Court). Where feasible sites located close to each other have been grouped on the same plan and appear in the same schedule. **See Figure 1 and Table 1 below.**



Grouped sites are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1	Grouped sites with asset number
Plan number	
1:	Hall Farm Sports Ground (100261) and Hall Farm Close (100440)
2:	Land adj. The Street and Friars Court (101071) & (101072)
3:	Bury Hill (100751) (100751-01), (100751-02), (100751-03)
4:	Coppice Close (100694) & corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way (101266).
5:	Love Lane (100752) (100753)
6:	River View (100762) and land Opposite Fayrefield Rd (100770)
7:	Saxon Way footpath (101265).
8:	Leeks and Bury Hill wood (100263).
9:	Bredfield Road splay (100498-01), Beresford Play area (100499), area opposite the play area (100498) & corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill (101264).

2.6 Recommendations in this report are based on sound arboricultural management practices and to aid future decision-making and planning. Aesthetics and environmental issues are also considerations and where feasible, tree retention in some form is suggested for environmental and ecological benefits, both vital in sustaining a healthy tree population. Standing deadwood is a rare and very important resource for wildlife habitat. Where recommendations are given to fell a tree; when feasible, consideration should be given to retaining a standing high stem (4 to 6 metres).

2.7 The information contained in the tree schedule at **Appendix B** covers only those trees that were examined and reflects the condition of each specimen at the time of inspection. The trees were inspected from the ground only and were not climbed. No samples of wood, roots or soil were taken for analysis. No guarantee, either expressed or implied, of the **internal** condition of any of the trees can therefore be given.

2.8 Any comments with-in this report on non-arboricultural features (such as soils and buildings) should be taken as provisional and confirmation sort from an appropriately qualified professional for an in-depth opinion.

3.0 Site description:

The parish of Melton is located on the north-east of Woodbridge, in Suffolk. The twenty-one sites adopted are located mostly towards the south of the parish in built-up part closest to where Melton meets the Woodbridge boundary. **See Figure 1** for location of sites. Individual site descriptions can be found at **Appendix A: Table of adopted site information**.

3.1 Statutory designation.

Much of Melton is covered by statutory designation, protecting trees on some sites within locations covered in this report. Leeks and Bury Hill Wood (100263) and the trees along parts of the footpath at Saxon Way (101265) together with trees on Love Lane (100752) (100753) appear to be covered under woodland area designations W5 and W7 of the 1953 Tree Preservation Order (TPO) No 25. **See Appendix E: Copy of Tree Preservation Order**. The woodland designation covers trees of all ages located within the designated area. When looking at the plan it is however difficult to tell exactly which areas and/or trees are covered by this TPO due to the age of the order (being 68 years old) and the extent of building development since that time.

3.1.1 Bearing in mind the lack of clarity regarding which trees are protected, it would be wise to contact the arboricultural officer at East Suffolk Council to seek clarification as to whether an application is required when any works to trees are planned. Should a protected tree be removed, there is likely to be a requirement to plant a replacement tree.

3.2 Geology and soils.

The geology around Melton is variable, distinct and unusual. Glacial sands and gravel can be found on bank sides often on the surface where it meets the London clay as described by the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment with soils typical of the underlying heavy clay which occurs in eastern areas of Suffolk.

4.0 Tree safety assessment: By site.

Tree inspection data and plans are shown for each site in **Appendix B: Schedule of Trees and Recommendations** and **Appendix C: Tree Location Plan**. Explanatory note for terms and categories used in the tree schedule are listed in **Appendix D**:

Works identified in **Recommendations** (highlighted in the boxes) in the following sections 4.1 to 4.9 and in are collated in **Table 2 at 5.3** of this report.

4.1. Hall Farm Sports Ground (100261) and Hall Farm Close (100440) Appendix B1: Schedule of Trees and Recommendations and Appendix C1: Tree Location Plan.

4.1.1: Hall Farm Sports Ground (100261)

Tree related comments: Four individual trees on the open space mown to grass and three groups of trees have been assessed. Group 1 (Gp1) located in a mostly sunken damp area of land contains predominantly wet woodland tree species. Two smaller groups of young trees have also been recorded for future maintenance purposes.

4.1.2 Hall Farm Sports Ground (100261)

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues were identified; however, three of the four individual trees recorded are ash tree and therefore at risk of succumbing to ash dieback disease (See Table 3 in section 6.0 of the report).

Recommendations:

No recommendations have been made for tree work on safety ground.

4.1.3: Hall Farm Close (100440)

Tree related comments: Group 3 (Gp3) is a small copse of native trees in fenced area, enclosed by rabbit netting and backing on to 6ft board fences of residents gardens. Part of area behind No44 has been partially cleared recently, one maturing field maple felled to a .6m high stump and another reduced to 5.5m.

4.1.4 Hall Farm Close (100440)

Findings and significance There are no significant safety issues however, judging by the standard of recent tree surgery, it is unlikely to have been carried out by a professional arborist. The work not significant in terms of safety however it has slightly reduced the visual amenity of area.

Recommendations:

No significant issues in terms of tree safety however, tree work of the kind identified should if possible, be discouraged on grounds of safety for those carrying out the work and for future health of the trees and for the visual amenity of the area.

4.2: Land adj. The Street and Friars Court (101071) and (101072) Appendix B2: Schedule of trees and recommendations and Appendix C2: Tree location plan.

4.2.1: Land adj. The Street

Tree related comments: Five individual trees from young to mature in age, located in short mown grass areas have been assessed. One young rowan tree is in poor condition, is in poor condition due to sustained damage at the base probably from a strimmer or mower. (Findings and significance over leaf).

4.2.2 Land adj. The Street

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues were identified however, the rowan tree (8) has a very short life expectancy due to the damage at the base. Trees (9 &10) are in an area of grass where there is persistent car parking compacting tree rooting area. Surprisingly, these are the trees on site in the best condition.

Recommendations: No recommendations have been made for tree work on safety ground.

4.2.2: Friars Court (101071) & (101072)

Tree related comments: Six individual, mostly mature and maturing trees located on the open space in areas of short mown grass were assessed and recorded.

4.2.3 Friars Court (101071) and (101072)

Findings and Significance: No significant tree safety issues were identified. One young ash tree is densely ivy clad, ivy unlikely to be masking defects it is preventing a full inspection. And management will allow for more detailed assessment at next inspection.

Recommendations: Carry out ivy management on tree 5 (marked with yellow spray dot on ivy at back of tree).

4.3: Bury Hill (100751) & (100751-03) Appendix B3: Schedule of Trees & Recommendations and Appendix C3: Tree Location Plan.

Tree related comments: Nine individual trees located on two of the four adopted land parcels on Bury Hill were assessed and recorded. Eight of the trees are located on a wide shrubbery/verge (100751) and one tree (9) is located on short mown grass area (100751-03).

4.3.1 Bury Hill (100751) (100751-03)

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues were identified.

Recommendations: No recommendations have been made for work on safety ground.

4.4: Coppice Close (100694) and corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way (101266). Appendix B4: Schedule of trees and work recommendations and Appendix C4: Tree Location Plan.**4.4.1 Coppice Close (100694)**

Tree related comments: The tree cover consists of a small copse (Gp1) of predominantly young native trees and shrubs with few larger mature trees growing on a slope round the edges. The land slopes away from the access road on Coppice Close and enclosed on three sides by the residential dwellings on Coppice Close. There is evidence of garden rubbish accumulation both old and new and a new fence with gate erected on boundary of a property on Hope Crescent. There also appears to be active badger sett which needs to be noted and appropriate precautions taken if work in the copse is being planned.

4.4.2 Coppice Close (100694)

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues were identified; however, lower area of young planting would benefit from active woodland management to retain future tree health.

Recommendations:

No recommendations have been made for work on safety ground.

4.4.3 Corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way (101266)

Tree related comments: Five mature, larger trees in the group have been recorded individually. They are located in a tree belt of predominantly young and maturing trees with mainly maturing sycamores close to the fence line with rear gardens on Hope Crescent. In this line is a group, 3 sycamores have been (topped about 4 or 5 years ago) which back on to No 4 Hope Crescent and several trees which have been sided up over gardens from No4 to No10. Several more tree stumps remain.

4.4.4 Corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way (101266)

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues were identified however judging by the work already carried out to trees in this line of maturing sycamores. Some residents from properties on Hope Close appear to have issues with the trees. The issues and conflict with the trees are likely to continue as the trees growth to maturity.

Recommendations:

No recommendations have been made for work on grounds of safety.

4.5: Love Lane (100752) & (100753) Appendix B5: Schedule of trees and recommendations and Appendix C5: Tree location plan.

Tree related comments: Twelve large mainly mature, and fully mature trees were assessed. They are located in a line on a two narrow strips of land which back on to properties on Wilkinson Way.

4.5.1 Love Lane (100752) & (100753)

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues were identified however many of the trees have had surgery where they overhang properties, and most are coming to the end of their useful life expectancy. There is likely to be an ongoing need for regular intervention over the coming years to maintain the area and trees in a safe condition and managing likely conflict with residents.

Recommendations:

No recommendations have been made for work on grounds of safety.

4.6: River View (100762) and Land side of River Deben - Opposite Fayrefield Rd (100770) Appendix B6: Tree work recommendations and Appendix C6: Tree location plan.**4.6.1 River View (100762)**

Tree related comments: Two young trees located in the narrow grass verge were assessed.

4.6.2 River View (100762)

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues have been identified however, both trees have somewhat low branches which will need removing to raise the crown at some point in the coming years.

Recommendations:

No recommendations have been made on safety grounds.

4.6.3 Land side of River Deben - Opposite Fayrefield Rd (100770)

Tree related comments: Area consists of areas of developing and mature woodland and marshland on the Southern half of the site. Some areas gradually developing into woodland with young pioneer tree species present areas of maturing wet and dry woodland towards the Northern end of the site. (Findings and significance overleaf).

4.6.4 Land side of River Deben - Opposite Fayrefield Rd (100770)

Findings and significance: Only one tree safety issue was identified. A willow tree (3) located close to the footpath was found to be in a potentially hazardous condition. No tree safety issues were identified within the remaining trees on site.

Recommendations:

Fell twin stemmed maturing willow (3) marked with yellow spray dot at base and growing within Gp2, (a group of approx. 11 closely growing young/maturing willows).

4.7: Saxon Way footpath (101265). Appendix B7: Schedule of trees and recommendations and Appendix C7.1 and C7.2: Tree location plans.

Tree related comments: Fifty-four individual maturing and mature trees and a further No5 groups of trees located either side of the footpath have been inspected. Trees present are a mix in both in age and species and border either side of this narrow linear footpath which connects Saxon Way and Pytches Road. Trees located closest to Pytches Road end are thought to be covered by the woodland designation W7 of the TPO25. See **Appendix E: Copy of Tree Preservation Order.**

4.7.1: Saxon Way footpath (101265)

Findings and significance: Few tree issues with safety have been identified, considering the age and numbers of large trees involved. Two young trees sycamore trees are in poor condition and one mature pine has a dead branch overhanging a garden. Twenty-three trees need ivy management to allow for a more detailed assessment at the next inspection date. This is a narrow land strip with trees often directly adjacent to boundaries of the mostly fenced, resident's rear gardens of 28-66 Saxon Way. The presence and location of some tree is likely to periodically cause conflict with resident wishes and lead to requests for intervention.

Recommendations: Fell trees (23 and 54), remove dead branch from pine tree (3) and carry out Ivy management on 23 trees. N.B. Trees for work are marked with an orange spray dot.

4.8: Leeks and Bury Hill wood (100263). Appendix B8: Schedule of trees and recommendations and Appendix C8: Tree location plan.

Tree related comments: This mature woodland consists of both dry and wet woodland with mature trees making up most of the tree cover. There are minimal understory and young trees. 11 individual trees and 1 group of three sycamores and 1 goat willow were inspected and recorded the schedule B8. The trees in Leeks & Bury Hill wood are protected by TPO 25.

4.8.1 Leeks and Bury Hill wood (100263):

Findings and significance: Two large willow trees (10 & 11) located in falling distance of a property on Melton Grange Rd show evidence of historic branch failure and the stem of tree 11 is hollowing near the base. An additional mature willow (9) has suffered partial stem failure and leaning into a tree in the garden of a property on Melton Grange Rd.

Recommendations:

Fell one sycamore (5), reduce/fell leaning split willow tree (9) to 5m high stump if feasible. Crown reduce two large willows (10 & 11) and carry out ivy management on 4 trees in Gp1 and 3 oaks (6, 7, & 8). N.B. Trees for work are marked with an orange spray

4.9: Bredfield Road splay (100498-01), Beresford Play area (100499), area opposite the play area (100498) & corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill (101264). Appendix B9: Schedule of trees and recommendations and Appendix C9: Tree location plan.

4.9.1 Beresford Play area (100499)

Tree related comments:

This area includes three young hornbeam trees on the site splay for Beresford Drive onto Bredfield Road and a further four trees both young and mature trees, dotted across the mown grass area. There is scope for additional tree planting on this area.

4.9.2 Beresford Play area (100499)

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues have been identified.

Recommendations: No recommendations have been made on safety grounds.

4.9.3 Beresford Drive open space (opposite the play area) (100498)

Tree related comments: The area is short-mown grass area with a diagonal desire line footpath across it. 3 young trees (still with stakes and ties) are planted close to the boundary with 50/52 Beresford Drive. There is scope for additional tree planting on this area.

4.9.4. Beresford Drive open space (opposite the play area) (100498)

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues have been identified with the trees. There however, significant damage evident at the base of all three trees which is likely to shorten their useful life expectancy.

Recommendations: No recommendations have been made on safety grounds.

4.9.5 Corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill (101264)

Tree related comments: Thirteen individual trees were inspected and one group (Gp1) which shows the boundary of a small woodland belt of trees of various ages. Five veteran oak trees (17, 18, 19, 20 & 24) are growing along its length on the edge of the bridleway. The front of the area where it adjoins Bury Rd is short mown grass containing five cedar trees (11, 12, 14, 15 & 16) of various ages and conditions and one large Norway maple (13).

4.9.6. Corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill (101264)

Findings and significance: Two large trees on this site (13 & 15) have been given short life expectancy and their removal within a short time is likely to be necessary. One densely ivy clad pine (21) is dead, and two veteran oak trees and mature two pine trees are in need of ivy management to allow for a full assessment at the next inspection. No other tree safety issues were identified in the remaining trees however area would benefit from some active management to reduce the number of young maple and favour the rare, aged and vulnerable veteran oaks along the well-used bridle path.

Recommendations:

Fell one dead ivy clad pine tree (21) (or leave as high stump) and carry out ivy management on four trees (20, 22, 23 & 23).

5.0 Conclusions:

5.1 Of the many trees (over 270) inspected very few tree safety issues were identified. A total of forty-three trees have been recorded having been identified as in need of action on safety grounds or for management due to the presence of dense ivy. Only one tree beside the River Deben footpath on land opp. Fayrefield Rd has been identified for work under the 'High' priority category to be completed within 3 months. The remaining works are in the 'Medium' and 'Low priority categories of 6 and 12 months.

6.0 Recommended work schedule and priority timescales:

6.1 Works shown overleaf in **Table 2: Recommended work schedule by priority and site**, are recommended to mitigate any identified tree safety issues, or for management of ivy to allow for more detailed assessment at the next inspection date. All works identified in the Table 2 schedule, should be completed within the timescale stated from the date of this report and any tree surgery recommended, carried out by a competent arborist to the BS Standard for tree surgery BS 3998, (2010).

March 2021	6.1 Table 2: Recommended Work Schedule by priority and site:			
Tree or Group (Gp) number	Site	Species	Works recommended for safety reasons	Timescale
HIGH PRIORITY - Trees in any zone with a higher than acceptable risk of failing.				
SITE: Land opp. Faryefield Rd between the railway and the River Deben (100770). Appendices B6 & C6.				
3	River Deben land opp. Faryefield Rd (100770)	Willow (Salix alba)	Fell twin stemmed tree to ground level and stack arisings on site away from sink.	Within 3 months
MEDIUM PRIORITY - Trees in higher use area with less urgent or minor tree works.				
SITE: Saxon Way. Appendix B7 and C7.1 & 7.2.				
3	Saxon Way (101265)	Pinus spp. (Pine spp)	Remove dead branch at 12m up stem overhanging resident garden, back to main stem	Within 6 months
23	Saxon Way (101265)	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Young sycamore in poor condition side of footpath. Fell to ground level.	Within 6 months
54	Saxon Way (101265)	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Young tree with significant area of decay at base. Fell to ground level.	Within 6 months
Site: Leeks and Bury Hill Wood (100263): Appendices B8 & C8.				
9	Leeks and Bury Hill wood (100263)	Willow spp (Salix spp)	Tree suffered partial stem failure, now leaning ivy clad stem with vertical split with tree hung up in other trees, one in adjacent garden. Reduce leaning stem to 4 metres in height.	Within 6 months
5	Leeks and Bury Hill wood (100263)	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Fell young sycamore tree with sooty bark disease to ground level and stack arisings in long lengths away from footpath and slope.	Within 6 months
10	Leeks and Bury Hill wood (100263)	Willow (Salix spp)	Reduce crown of large mature willow tree by 30%, so it is out of falling distance of neighbouring property. Stack arisings neatly in piles on site.	Within 6 months
11	Leeks and Bury Hill wood (100263)	Willow (Salix spp)	Carry out 40% crown reduction on large fully mature willow tree. Stack arisings neatly in piles on site.	Within 6 months

LOW PRIORITY – Less urgent tree works or trees in need of maintenance work to allow for more detailed inspection.				
SITE: Friars Court (101272). Appendix B2 & C2.				
5	Friars Court (101272)	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Carry out ivy management	Within 12 months
SITE: Saxon Way (101265) Appendix B7 and C7.1 & 7.2.				
1	Saxon Way (101265)	Common oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Carry out ivy management & clear around immediate base.	Within 12 months
6,7,9,10,12,19,25,27,28,29,30, 47, 49, 53 & 4 x trees in Gp 4.	Saxon Way (101265)	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Carry out ivy management on 17 x sycamore trees.	Within 12 months
13	Saxon Way (101265)	Common oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Carry out ivy management	Within 12 months
37	Saxon Way (101265)	Common beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	Carry out ivy management	Within 12 months
53	Saxon Way (101265)	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Carry out ivy management	Within 12 months
SITE: Land on corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill (101264). Appendix B9 & C9.				
20 & 24	Bredfield Rd and Bury Hill (101264)	Common oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Carry out ivy management	Within 12 months
21	Bredfield Rd and Bury Hill (101264)	Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)	Fell to ground level and stack arisings on site.	Within 12 months
22 & 23	Bredfield Rd and Bury Hill (101264)	Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)	Carry out ivy management	Within 12 months
Site: Leeks and Bury Hill Wood (100263): Appendices B8 & C8.				
Gp1	Leeks and Bury Hill Wood (100263)	3 x multi stemmed mature sycamore and 1 mature goat willow	Carry out ivy management on 4 x trees	Within 12 months
6,7 & 8	Leeks and Bury Hill Wood (100263)	Common oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Carry out ivy management on 3 x mature trees	Within 12 months

6.2. Statutory tree protection:

The tree surgery recommended in this report are solely to undertake works on safety grounds and therefore considered exempt from application. It may however be useful to contact the arboricultural officer at East Suffolk to establish (if possible) which trees within newly adopted areas where there appears to be ambiguity such as Saxon Way and Love Lane are covered by the TPO 25. See **Appendix E: Copy of Tree Preservation Order**.

6.4 Timescale for re-inspection

The trees in this report have been given a re-inspection date of **18 months** from the date of the report, with the next inspection to take place towards the end of the summer of 2022.

5.4 Trees are dynamic, ever-changing organisms, which react to changes in their environment. In the event of high winds and storms a survey of the trees is recommended as soon as possible after the event.

7.0 Table 3: Evaluation of threats to the tree population:

Table 3 below gives a brief explanation of the most significant threats, both abiotic and biotic, to trees identified in the tree inspection.

Table 3: Evaluation of threats to tree population on site
Ash dieback disease (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>)
This disease can cause death of branches leaving significant sized deadwood, capable of causing harm to people and damage to structures. Rate of decline can vary significantly within trees of different ages in some cases deteriorating within a year to the point where action is required. Regular assessment (preferably during the summer months) is needed to monitor and manage the disease spread.
Acute oak decline (AOD)
Acute oak decline (AOD) is a new disease mostly affecting oak trees in Great Britain. It is thought to have first established a presence in Britain during the last quarter of the 20th century. It is most prevalent on our native 'English' or pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) and sessile oak (<i>Q. petraea</i>). It is characterised by bleeding or oozing of dark fluid (see Bleeding cankers below) from small lesions or splits in the bark of tree stems often around 1 to 2 metres above ground level. Symptoms can become extensive and eventually lead to dieback and death.
Bleeding cankers
The threat from both the fungal pathogen (<i>Phytophthora</i> spp) and other bacterial causal agents of bleeding canker (<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp) are a growing threat to the health of many tree species including oak, horse chestnut and maples. The distinctive symptoms of brown and black staining 'bleeding cankers' is now a common site across the country. This disease can cause death of trees and monitor and manage the disease spread.
Dutch elm disease (DED) is still common across the UK, especially in unmanaged hedgerows. New elm growth generally reaches a certain height and is then infected by the beetle (<i>Scolytus</i> spp) carrying the fungus (Stout and Winter, 1994).
Most standing are not more than 'pole' stage, small diameter stems and often die within three to four years of infection. Trees of this diameter can stand dead for several years before becoming unstable and a potential safety issue.
Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)
The presence of Ivy on healthy trees is not normally a problem and provides excellent wildlife habitat and vital as a winter food source. However, where a tree is already in decline and ivy has become extensive, it can be a problem by increasing wind sail effect increasing the risk of failure and suppressing growth. Ivy may also be masking major defects. Where this is felt to be the case, ivy management has been specified.
Ivy management technique: Sever and remove a section (minimum of a 50mm) of all ivy stems around the tree base. NB. Care needs to be taken when carrying out this work not to cut right through ivy stems into the bark of the tree as this can cause long-term damage.
Sooty Bark Disease (<i>Cryptostroma corticale</i>)
Sooty bark disease of sycamore can affect trees of all ages. It is thought to be a secondary infection and becomes evident after episodes of prolonged hot weather, causing partial or total wilting of the crown and death of trees.

8.0 Conditions and limitations:

This tree risk management report is subject to the following limitations and qualifications.

General Exclusions

Unless specifically mentioned, the report will only be concerned with the above ground inspections. No below ground inspections will be conducted without prior agreement from the client that such works should be undertaken.

The validity, accuracy and findings of this report will be directly related to the accuracy of the information made available during the inspection process. No checking of independent data will be undertaken. AlisonK-Arbiculture will not be responsible for recommendations within this report where essential data is not made available or is inaccurate.

This report will remain valid for **18 months** for the trees inspected from the date of the report.

Should alterations to the site or soil levels are carried out, other than those specified within the report, or additional tree work undertaken, then commissioning of a new tree inspection is strongly recommended.

Opinions expressed concerning built structures and soil data are provisional. Confirmation should be sort from an appropriately qualified professional sought for an in-depth opinion.

It will be appreciated and deemed to be accepted by the client and their insurers, that the formulation of the recommendations will be guided by the following:

- The need to avoid reasonably foreseeable damage.
- The arboricultural considerations - Tree safety, good arboricultural practice, aesthetics, and environmental considerations.

The client and their insurers are deemed to have accepted the limitations placed on the recommendations by the sources quoted in the attached report. Where time constraints or the client limits resources, this may lead to an incomplete calculation of risk.



March 10th, 2021

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9.0 References:

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10.0 Appendices:

[Appendix A: Table of adopted site information.](#)

[Appendix B: Tree schedule and recommendations \(B1 to B9 attached separately\)](#)

Appendix B1: Hall Farm Sports Ground (100261) and Hall Farm Close (100440)

Appendix B2: Land adj. The Street and Friars Court (101071) & (101072)

Appendix B3: Bury Hill (100751) & (100751-03)

Appendix B4: Coppice Close (100694) and Corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way (101266).

Appendix B5: Love Lane (100752) (100753)

Appendix B6: River View (100762) and Land side of River Deben - Opposite Fayrefield Rd (100770)

Appendix B7: Saxon Way footpath (101265).

Appendix B8: Leeks and Bury Hill wood (100263).

Appendix B9: Bredfield Road splay (100498-01), Beresford Play area (100499), area opposite the play area (100498) & Corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill (101264).

[Appendix C: Tree location plan \(C1 to C9 attached separately\)](#)

Appendix C1: Hall Farm Sports Ground (100261) and Hall Farm Close (100440)

Appendix C2: Land adj. The Street and Friars Court (101071) & (101072)

Appendix C3: Bury Hill (100751) & (100751-03)

Appendix C4: Coppice Close (100694) and corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way (101266).

Appendix C5: Love Lane (100752) (100753)

Appendix C6: River View (100762) and land side of the River Deben - Opposite Fayrefield Rd (100770)

Appendix C7: Saxon Way footpath (101265).

Appendix C8: Leeks and Bury Hill wood (100263).

Appendix C9: Bredfield Road splay (100498-01), Beresford Play area (100499), area opposite the play area (100498) & corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill (101264).

[Appendix D: Explanatory notes to accompany tree schedule.](#)

[Appendix E: Copy of Tree Preservation Order \(Attached separately\)](#)

Appendix A:		Melton Parish Council: Table of sites divested from East Suffolk Council 2020/21			
Adopted site name & corresponding Appendix number.	Land asset number	Area in hectares	Land use/Property type. Land area Zones	Approx. Tree total. individuals & Groups	Site description and situation.
1.0 Hall Farm Road	100261	0.3	Park (Green space) Zone 1.	5 x individual trees & 3 x Groups recorded	Sports ground on land between Hall Farm Close & Hall Farm Road. Predominantly level site of mown grass with sunken damp area of land on the South of the site containing wet woodland species. A fenced open water course 'sink' runs from this area, East alongside the entrance path the Hall Farm Close.
1.1 Hall Farm Close	100440	0.003	Park (Green Space)	1 x Group recorded	Small area of young trees on level ground contained within a fenced enclosure by turning area and backing onto the garden fences of 44 & 46 Hall Farm Close.
2.0 Land adj. The Street				5 x Individual trees recorded	Two areas of mown grass with individual specimen trees to the front of Winifred Fison House and on the verge adjacent to The Street.
2.1 Friars Court 1	101071	0.016	Park (Green space)	6 x Individual trees recorded	Mown grass with individual specimen trees on amenity land between Friars Court and the A1152.
2.2 Friars Court 2	101072	0.003	Park (Green space)		
3.0 Bury Hill	100751	0.04	Park (Green space)	8 x Individual trees recorded	Maturing trees in shrubbery on land adjacent to 31 Bury Hill
3.1. Bury Hill 1	100751-01	0.009	Park (Green space)	NO TREES on site	Triangle of short mown grass adjacent 19 Bury Hill
3.2. Bury Hill 2	100751-02	0.014	Park (Green space)	NO TREES on site	Square of short mown grass situated between 19-21 and 31-33 Bury Hill
3.3. Bury Hill 3	100751-03	0.03	Park (Green space)	1 x Individual tree recorded	Rectangle of short mown grass between 25-29 and 37-43 Bury Hill

4.0 Coppice Close	100694	0.1	SEEAC (Green space)	1 x Group recorded	Copse of predominantly young trees and shrubs with few larger maturing trees located on land sloping away from the access road to Coppice Close and enclosed on three sides by the residential dwellings on Coppice Close.
4.1 Corner of Coppice Close & Saxon Way	101266	0.1	SEEAC (Green space)	5 x Individual trees & 1 x group recorded	Mix of trees from young to mature in woodland belt on the corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way, backed by fences of resident's gardens on Hope Crescent.
5.0 Love Lane	100752	0.016	Verge (Green space)	12 x Individual trees recorded.	Dense undergrowth with line of mature trees on narrow strip of land between the pedestrian Love Lane and properties on Wilkinson Way.
5.1 Love Lane 1	100753	0.016	Verge (Green space)		
6.0 Riverview.	100762	0.0179	Verge (Green space)	2 x Individual trees recorded	Mown grass with individual specimen trees on verge at Riverview.
6.1. Land opp. Fayrefield Road between railway track and River Deben	100770	1.7	SEEAC (Green space)	1 x Individual tree & 3 x Groups recorded	Largely level low-lying area containing open running water sinks. Located on land between the railway line and the raised ridge of a footpath which runs along the River Deben. Contains vegetation gradually developing into woodland from mainly marshy wet grassland on the Southern boundary through to maturing wet and dry woodland towards the Northern end of the site.
7.0 Saxon Way footpath.	101265	0.3	SEEAC (Green space)	54 individual trees & 5 x Groups recorded	Narrow linear land feature bounded mostly by fences of resident's gardens on land rear of 28-66 Saxon Way. Contained well used meandering footpath connecting Saxon Way and Pytches Road.
8.0. Leeks Hill Woodland	100263	3.3	SEEAC (Public Open Space)	11 x Individual trees & 1 x Group recorded	Mature woodland (protected by TPO) with both dryer and wet woodland areas off Saxon Way. On noticeably South West facing slope down to

					Saxon Way. North-eastern edge joins the privately owned section of Leeks Hill wood and also adjoins along some of the boundary of Burkes wood.
9.0 Beresford Drive Play area and splay on Bredfield Rd	100499	0.26	Park (Green space)	7 x Individuals recorded	Level land to the north of Beresford Drive consisting of mown grass with a children's play area enclosed by railings including the site splay verge to the North of Beresford Drive onto Bredfield Rd.
9.1 Corner of Bredford Rd, north of Bury Rd	101264	0.3	SEEAC (Green space)	13 x Individual trees & 1 x Group recorded	Land North of Bury Hill consisting of mown grass and sloping down to the roadside with mature trees. Small mature woodland belt backing onto the bridleway and then resident gardens.
9.2. Opp. Play area on Beresford Drive	100498	.06	Park (Green space)	3 x Individual trees recorded	Level area of mown grass on land to the South of Beresford Drive
9.3. Corner Splay of Bredfield & Beresford Drive.	100498-01	0.04	Verge (Green space)	NO TREES on site	Level area of mown grass to the South of Beresford Drive
Total: 21 sites		Tot: 6.725 Ha			

Appendix D: Explanatory notes

Below is an explanation of the categories used in the tree survey **Appendix B**: Tree schedule and recommendations and **Appendix C**: Tree location plans.

Tree No:

Individual trees numbers are given in sequential order, commencing at "1" In some cases trees will be specified as groups (E.g. Gp1).

Tree Species:

Common names are given to aid understanding for a wider audience.

Spread:

For individual trees, an estimated spread is given, for poplar trees a nominal spread provided aid location within the group.

Age class:

Young = An established tree (less than 1/3 life expectancy).

Maturing = A tree still to reach its full potential height and or spread (around 1/3 to 2/3 life expectancy)

Mature = A mature tree (over 1/3 but less than 2/3 life expectancy) with slowing growth rate and limited potential for significant increase in height or spread.

Fully mature = A mature past 2/3 life expectancy for species.

Veteran = A fully mature specimen with high-value due to factors such as its age (having lived past that which is normal for the species) and/or ecological significance.

Tree Problem/Comments:

The following categories and descriptions are based on evaluation of tree health, structural integrity, and safety. Where appropriate comments have been made relating to:

- Tree Health and condition, tree structure and form and specific problems such as deadwood, pests and diseases broken limbs etc
- The effect of other trees present, of ground works and previous surgery.

Overall Tree Condition:

Good: = No significant physiological or structural defects, and an upright and reasonably symmetrical structure.

Fair: = No significant pathological defects but slightly impaired physiological structure however, not to an extent that the tree is immediate or early risk of collapse

Indifferent: = Significant physiological or pathological defects; but these are either remedial or do not put the tree at imminent or early risk of collapse

Poor: = Significant and irreparable physiological or pathological defects such that there may be a risk of early or premature failure.

Hazardous: = Significant and irreparable physiological or pathological defects, such that there is an elevated risk of failure.

Vitality: Comments on vitality are given in relation to such as growth rates, leave size and density, twig and branch extension growth and density.

Deadwood:

This relates to dead branches within the crown of the tree. In most cases this is due to natural aging of the tree or its location close to other trees. However, it could relate to fungal, bacterial or viral infection. For this reason, regular monitoring needs to be carried out on trees showing signs of excessive deadwood. Standing deadwood timber is a very important wildlife habitat and in short supply, especially in the urban environment. Standing stems should be retained where feasible when trees need to be made safe.

Minor Deadwood = 60mm diameter or less and not extensive enough to warrant removal

Moderate Deadwood = 60mm diameter up to 150mm

Major Deadwood = 150mm and above

Work Priority Rating:

This relates to the urgency of the work in relation to existing safety problems identified within the tree survey.

Very Urgent: Need for recommended works to be carried out within 48 hours of notification.

Urgent: Recommended works to be carried out within **4 weeks** of notification.

High: Recommended works to be carried out within **3 months** of notification

Medium: Works required within **6 months**.

Low: Works required within **1 Year**

Non-urgent works: Suggested timescale given to aid future planning timescales or tree health.