AlisonK–Arboriculture

6 Pond Piece,
Brandeston,
Woodbridge,
IP13 7AW

Phone: 01728 685898
Mobile: 07425 389786
E-Mail: ali@alisonk.co.uk
Web: AlisonK-Arboriculture

Melton PC: Divested Sites: Tree Safety Report-**Review2**.

For:

Melton Parish Council

Date of Report: **February 29th, 2024**.

Contact details.

Client: Melton Parish Council		
Contact Address: 17 Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1QT	**Client Contact:** Pip Alder Clerk to Melton Parish Council.	**Contact details:** Tel: 01394 382224 Email: clerk@melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk Web: www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk

Local Authority: East Suffolk Council		
Address: East Suffolk House, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT	**Contact:** The Arboriculture and Landscape Manager	**Contact details:** Website: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk Telephone: 0333 016 2000 Email: customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Arboricultural Consultant: AlisonK - Arboriculture		
Address: 6 Pond Piece, Brandeston, Woodbridge, IP13 7AW	**Owner:** Mrs Alice Martin-Butler	**Contact details:** Telephone: 01728 685898 Mobile: 07425 389786 Email: ali@alisonk.co.uk

Contents

Terms of reference & introduction

Melton Parish Council has commissioned AlisonK-Arboriculture to survey trees specified by them at twelve sites for which they are responsible, at various locations in Melton and then prepare a record of findings, highlighting any tree works necessary on safety grounds.

This report contains a review of the tree safety assessment carried out in February 2024 following transfer of the sites divested from East Suffolk Council in 202. This report should be read in conjunction with the previous **tree safety assessment, reports, and appendices from 2022 and 2021.**

1.1 Background:

Twenty-one parcels of land in the Parish of Melton were divested from East Suffolk Council (ESC) and formally adopted by Melton Parish Council in April 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 A2: Table of adopted site information.**

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 defendable 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 the 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 rationale:

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 each one is 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 visitors 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:

This report includes a review of the trees on the eighteen of the twenty-one parcels of land formally adopted by Melton in 2021 re-assessing and recording any changes in established individual trees on recreational areas and highlighting only those trees in need of action in wooded and less accessible areas. N.B. Land for which Melton Parish Council was previously responsible, (Burkes Wood and The Melton Recreation Ground) before adoption of new sites are 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 7.0) 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 Eighteen sites containing trees were re surveyed by Mrs Alice Martin-Butler between the 1st and 18th February 2024. 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 dry to dull and overcast. Deciduous trees assessed, were not in leaf although some were showing the first signs of bud burst.

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 or very close to the base of the tree or on ivy stems with an orange 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.**

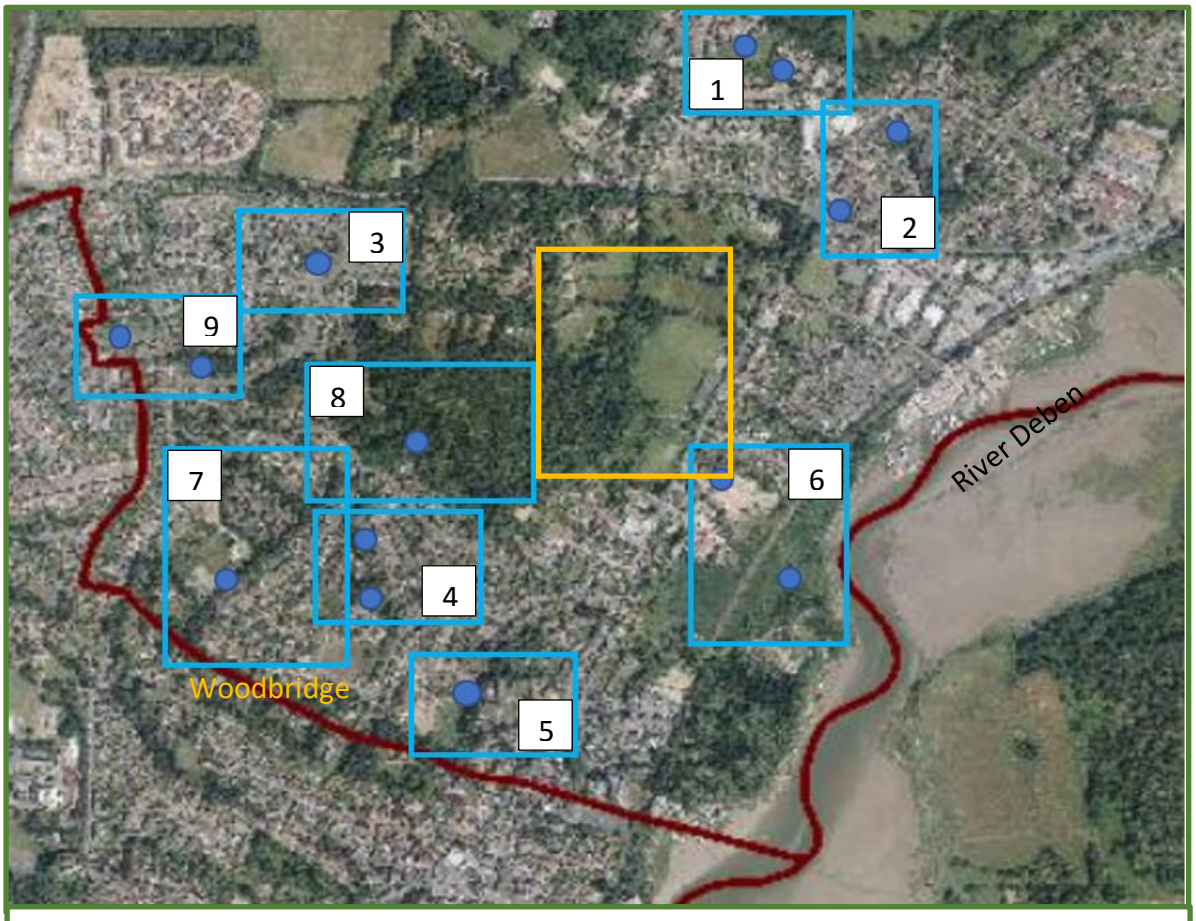

Figure 1: Site locations and associated plan numbers for divested sites outlined in blue with Melton Recreation Ground and Burkes Wood) outlined in orange (Defra, 2021).

Grouped sites are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1	Single and Grouped sites
Plan number	
1:	Hall Farm Sports Ground (now called Jubilee Green) & Hall Farm Close.
2:	Land adj. The Street & Friars Court.
3:	Bury Hill.
4:	Coppice Close & corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way.
5:	Love Lane.
6:	River View and land on the River Deben (Opposite Fayrefield Rd).
7:	Saxon Way footpath.
8:	Leeks and Bury Hill Wood.
9:	Bredfield Road splay, Beresford Play area, area opposite the play area & corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill.

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 of which are 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 (3 to 6 metres).

2.7 The information contained in the tree schedules at **Appendix B2,** 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 Review of tree safety issues from September 2022 report

Work recommended to 12 trees in the report of September 2022 have been completed, and to a satisfactory standard. No outstanding works remain.

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 and some the trees along parts of the footpath at Saxon Way together with trees on Love Lane appear to be covered under woodland area designations W5 and W7 of the 1953 Tree Preservation Order (TPO) No 25. 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 the 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 continued 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.

4.0 Tree safety assessment: By site for the February 2024 tree survey.

Tree inspection data and plans are shown for each site in **Appendix B. REVIEW2: Schedule of Trees and Recommendations** and **Appendix C. REVIEW2: Tree Location Plan.** Works identified in **Recommendations** in the highlighted boxes in the following sections 4.1 to 4.9 are collated at 6.1 on **Pages 14 to 16, i**n **Table 2** of this report.

4.1. Hall Farm Sports Ground (now called Jubilee Green) **and Hall Farm Close.** Appendix B1. REVIEW2: Schedule of Trees and Recommendations and Appendix C1. REVIEW2: Tree Location Plan.

4.1.1: **Hall Farm Sports Ground** (now called Jubilee Green)
Tree related comments: All individual trees on the open space mown to grass remain in reasonable health. In Gp1 one stem of a twin stemmed willow has partially failed and has been added as an individual (6) in the schedule for work. All other trees in the groups (Gp1, Gp2 & GP3) remain in reasonable health. Since the last inspection a significant quantity of planting has been carried out on Jubilee Green including a new native hedge around much of the perimeter which will help to screen the 6^{ft} close boarded fence. Several more fruit trees have been planted extending the existing line of young fruit trees (Gp2). Once established these fruit trees can be added to the schedule.

4.1.2 Hall Farm Sports Ground (now called Jubilee Green)
Findings and significance: One willow tree in Gp1 in wet 'wooded' area of sports ground has suffered wind damage and needs action. No other significant safety issues were identified.
Recommendations:
Coppice one, single stem maturing willow (6) and stack arisings on site in habitat pile.

4.1.3: Hall Farm Close
Tree related comments: Group 3 (Gp3) the small copse of native trees in the fenced area, enclosed by rabbit netting and backing on to 6ft board fences of resident gardens. Exterior fenced hedge line has been reduced to 2metres high since the last inspection and planted with another row of hedging with spiral guards on the outside. The Inside area has been partially cleared leaving larger trees and planted with an additional three new trees.

4.1.4 Hall Farm Close
Findings and significance: No significant safety issues were identified.
Recommendations: No recommendations have been made for tree work on safety ground

4.2: Land adj. The Street & Friars Court. Appendix B2. REVIEW2 Schedule of trees and recommendations and Appendix C2. REVIEW2: Tree location plan.

4.2.1: Land adj. The Street
Tree related comments: One tree, a maturing, purple-leafed plum (7) now has a bracket fungus at the base, which will likely lead to its slow decline and its early removal. All other trees inspected remain in reasonable health. The two trees (9 & 10) now next to the car parking bays do not appear yet to have been adversely effected by the work following parking bay construction in 2022.

4.2.2 Land adj. The Street
Findings and significance: No specific safety issues were identified with trees 9 or 10 However, both trees now need branches removing to allow adequate access for vehicles.
Recommendations: Remove minor lower branches from two trees (9 & 10) to give headroom and width for vehicles using adjacent parking spaces. An additional tree could be planted as a future replacement for the purple plum (7) which will need removing within a few years.

4.2.2: Friars Court
Tree related comments: The six individual, mostly mature and maturing trees located on the open space in areas of short mown grass remain in reasonable health however, the condition of one rowan (3), has deteriorated since the last inspection to the point where action is needed on safety grounds.

4.2.3 Friars Court
Findings and Significance: The central stem of the rowan (3) has been dead for some time and now needs to be felled. The sucker growth around its base remains alive and could be left to grow on. No other significant tree safety issues were identified in the six trees inspected.
Recommendations: Fell central dead stem of rowan (3) and remove all arisings from site. Leave live sucker growth around base to grow on.

4.3: Bury Hill Appendix B3. REVIEW2: Schedule of Trees & Recommendations and Appendix C3. REVIEW2: Tree Location Plan.

Tree related comments: One mature birch was felled as part of the safety work following the 2022 inspection. Three replacement trees had been planted together with spiral guards. The eight remaining individual trees on site were in reasonable health. MPC had recent enquiry re size of tree (9) a Norway maple. on grass area. No safety issues identified on inspection and tree is mature and not likely to put on much more additional height.

4.3.1 Bury Hill
Findings and significance: No significant safety issues were identified.
Recommendations:
No recommendations have been made for work on safety grounds. Consider planting a couple of trees as future replacements as only tree on grass area.

4.4: Coppice Close and corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way. Appendix B4. REVIEW2: Schedule of trees and work recommendations and Appendix C4.REVIEW2: Tree Location Plan.

4.4.1 Coppice Close

Tree related comments: No change in the condition of the trees in this small copse (Gp1). Although two young/maturing sycamore trees in the eastern most corner were recently felled. Reason for felling not known. There is still some evidence of some garden rubbish accumulation.

4.4.2 Coppice Close

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues were identified.

Recommendations:

No recommendations have been made for work on safety ground. The lower areas of younger planting would however benefit from active woodland management including supplementary planting to retain future tree health and cover.

4.4.3 **Corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way**

Tree related comments: No change in condition since last inspection in Gp2. Sycamores still being trimmed back periodically over the boundaries where they adjoin some Hope Crescent gardens. Evidence of garden rubbish/debris still being dumped. The five mature, larger trees in the group remain in reasonable health.

First inspection of additional area called Gp3: Mix of sycamore (13) sweet chestnut (5) larger specimens of each. Also, one mature holly, and young beech, hazel and hawthorn were present. Well, densely treed area with good, varied age range. Only one young sycamore tree may impact on fence physically in the future. One sycamore (6) recorded individually to remove ivy. Evidence of excessive garden rubbish/debris being dumped made access to some areas difficult. N.B. MPC received enquiry concerning a tree in this area. It is a sweet chestnut tree approx. 5 metres from garage of No1. Tree was inspection and no safety issues were found which require surgery identified.

4.4.4 Corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues were identified.

Recommendations:

Carry out ivy management on sycamore (6) in Gp3 to allow for full inspection at next inspection date.

4.5: Love Lane Appendix B5. REVIEW2: Schedule of trees and recommendations and Appendix C5. REVIEW2: Tree location plan.

Tree related comments: The large mainly mature, and fully mature trees located in a line and backing on to properties on Wilkinson Way remain in reasonable health. Two trees (9 & 11) however, have been recommended for a precautionary reduction due to suspected slight decline in health.

4.5.1 Love Lane

Findings and significance: No significant safety issues were identified in the 10 of the 12 trees. However precautionary work has been specified for the beech tree (11) and a sycamore (9) to reduce an identified potential risk.

Recommendations: Carry out crown reduction by up to 3 metres on sycamore (9). Cut back/thin long extended branch by up to 5 metres/ 30% thin (11). Remove all arisings from site.

4.6: River View and Land, side of River Deben - Opposite Fayrefield Rd. Appendix B6. REVIEW2: Tree work recommendations and Appendix C6. REVIEW2: Tree location plan.

4.6.1 River View.

Tree related comments: Two young trees located in the narrow grass verge were assessed. The oak tree (2) has had low branches lifted to raise the crown as part of 2022 safety work. Both trees remain in good condition although minor works have been specified.

4.6.2 River View (100762)

Findings and significance: Both trees remain in good health however**,** both require further minor pruning works to clear the footpath height and the lamp standard.

Recommendations:

Lift low minor branches from walnut (1) to give 2.5m clearance over footpath. Cut back minor branches from oak (2) to give 1.5m clearance round the lamp standard.

4.6.3 Land side of River Deben - Opposite Fayrefield Rd

Tree related comments: Two willow trees from Gp2 were felled as part of work identified in the 2022 inspection. The remaining seven willow trees in Gp2 remain in good condition. Access to this area of developing and mature woodland is via the boat yard which was slightly 'challenging' due to piles of spoil heaped up and developing undergrowth near the ditch entrance However, larger trees present between the Deben footpath and the railway tracks were inspected and no significant safety issues were identified.

4.6.4 Land side of River Deben - Opposite Fayrefield Rd

Findings and significance: No tree safety issues were identified within the trees on site.

Recommendations:

No recommendations have been made for work on safety grounds.

4.7: Saxon Way footpath. Appendix B7. REVIEW2: Schedule of trees and recommendations and Appendix C7.1 and C7.2. REVIEW2: Tree location plans.

Tree related comments: Three trees were felled as part of the safety work from the last 2022 inspection. Additionally, one tree, a mature black pine (19) (one of the seven trees in the area covered by the woodland designation W7 of the TPO25 has been felled and its remains left on site. Since the last inspection, a resident submitted a TPO application to fell both this pine and one other pine (14) which was approved by ESC. The resident felled one pine (19) but left the other (14). No replacement tree was evident.

The remaining 48 individual maturing and mature trees and trees in the five groups located either side of the footpath were inspected. Seven trees were identified for work on potential safety grounds. One sycamore tree located in Gp3, two in Gp3 and one in Gp4 were added as individuals and three trees, already on the schedule were identified as in need of work on safety grounds. All other remaining tree were in good health.

4.7.1: Saxon Way footpath (101265)

Findings and significance: Very few tree issues with safety were identified, considering the age and numbers of large trees involved. One young sycamore tree in Gp1 was in very poor condition with severe signs of sooty bark disease (See Table 3 at 7.0) and added as an individual (55). Another sycamore (56) located in Gp3 was added as it had fungal decay.

Recommendations: Fell two maturing sycamore trees (55 & 56), crown reduce one sweet chestnut (42) and one sycamore (57). Remove deadwood/hung up branches from two trees (33 & 58).

4.8: Leeks and Bury Hill wood. Appendix B8. REVIEW2: Tree work recommendations and Appendix C8. REVIEW2: Tree location plan.

Tree related comments: The trees in Leeks Hill wood generally, remain in a healthy condition. The horse chestnut (1) has been further reduced and is now around six metres high with the risk of it failing further small. The goat willow (12) has been felled and all other pruning work completed from the 2022 schedule.
Only six trees were identified in the inspection for work because of potential safety issues. Four trees (2, 11, 15 &16) were identified as in need of surgery on safety grounds and two trees (14 & 17) for maintenance work to allow for a full inspection.

4.8.1 Leeks and Bury Hill wood: N.B. The trees in Leeks and Bury Hill wood are protected by TPO 25.
Findings and significance:
One willow tree (11) (reduced as part of a previous safety assessment) had put on extensive growth and had other safety issues. Two trees (2 & 16) contained dead branches located over a footpath. One tree (15) had suffered a partial root plate failure and was hung up in another tree. Dense undergrowth at the base and ivy prevented inspection of one willow tree (14) and on one pine (17) ivy prevented the full inspection.
Recommendations:
Reduce crown of willow (11) to - 8 metre 'pollard' pole.
Fell hung up alder (15) with partial root plate failure to ground level.
Remove dead/hung up branches from (2 & 16).
Clear brambles/undergrowth and sever ivy stem at base of willow (14) and sever ivy stems on pine (17). There is scope for additional tree planting in many areas of the woodland.

4.9: Bredfield Road splay, Beresford Play area, area opposite the play area & corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill. Appendix B9. REVIEW2: Schedule of trees and recommendations and Appendix C9. REVIEW2: Tree location plan.

4.9.1 Beresford play area including road splay.
Tree related comments: One Swedish Whitebeam (1) has failed in recent high winds. Only the stump remains. The six remaining trees were in reasonable health.

4.9.2 Beresford play area.
Findings and significance: No significant safety issues have been identified.
Recommendations: No recommendations have been made on safety grounds. However, stump of failed tree (1) should be removed. There is scope for additional tree planting on this area.

4.9.3 Beresford Drive open space (opposite the play area)
Tree related comments: The three young trees on this area remain in reasonable health.

4.9.4. Beresford Drive open space (opposite the play area)
Findings and significance: No significant safety issues have been identified.
Recommendations: No recommendations have been made on safety grounds. There is scope for additional tree planting on this area.

4.9.5 Corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill
Tree related comments: All twelve individual tree including the five veteran oak trees remain remaining from the last inspection are in reasonable health. The trees in the small woodland group (Gp1) also remain in reasonable health although one Scots pine tree in this group has died and has been added to the schedule individually for work. One ceder tree (16) on the wide grass verge contained deadwood.

4.9.6. Corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill
Findings and significance: The dead pine tree in GP1 (26) requires felling as it could impact on the footpath should it fail. The two dead branches in the cedar (16) were located over a footpath.
Recommendations:
Fell one young dead pine and stack arisings on site. Remove two dead branches deadwood from cedar tree (16)

5.0 Conclusions:

5.1 Of the many individual trees, woodland trees and groups inspected, relatively few major tree safety issues were identified. A total of 24 trees were recorded, four of which are considered to nee larger surgery work with the remaining 19, having been identified for minor works on safety grounds or for management due to the presence of dense ivy or undergrowth obscuring a full inspection. Only three 'High' priority category works were identified in the survey within 3 months. All other works identified have been placed in either the 'Medium' and 'Low' priority categories of 6 and 12 months.

5.2 Poor health and death of sycamore trees affected with sooty bark disease is becoming a more common occurrence. Fortunately, at present only occasional smaller trees have been identified and recorded for work in the many sycamores located on Melton Parish Council land. The spread of the disease, however, cannot be controlled and may become a major tree management issue with serious implications for safety and budgetary considerations.

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). Trees in need of felling/work have been marked discretely at the base of the tree with an orange spray dot.

6.1 Table 2	Recommended Work Schedule by site and work priority: February 2024 N.B: Trees in need of felling/work have been marked discretely at, or near the base of the tree with an orange spray dot.			
Tree number	Tree site location	Species	Works recommended for safety reasons	Timescale
HIGH PRIORITY – Trees in higher usage areas with a raised potential safety risk for people and property. February 2024				
SITE: Hall Farm Sports Ground (now called Jubilee Green) and Hall Farm Close. **Appendix B1. REVIEW2 & Appendix C1: REVIEW2**				
3	In Gp1 in wet 'wooded' area of sports ground.	Willow (Salix spp)	Coppice split willow tree to ground and stack arisings on site.	Within 3 months
SITE: Land adj. The Street & Friars Court. **Appendix B2. REVIEW2 & Appendix C2. REVIEW2**				
10	Land adj. The Street	Purple Norway Maple (Acer platanoides Var purpurea)	Remove minor lower branches to give 2.5m headroom for cars to save damage to cars and car park users	Within 3 months
11	Land adj. The Street	Swedish Whitebeam (Sorbus x intermedia)	Cut back minor low branches to clear parking bays to give vehicles 3ms clearance	Within 3 months
MEDIUM PRIORITY - Trees in higher use area with less urgent or minor tree works. February 2024				
SITE: Land adj. The Street & Friars Court: . **Appendix B2. REVIEW2 & Appendix C2. REVIEW2**				
3	Friars Court.	Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia var)	Fell main central dead stem and remove arisings from site. (Could leave live suckers to grow on)	Within 6 months
SITE: Love Lane: **Appendix B5. REVIEW2 and Appendix C5. REVIEW2**				
9	Love lane, behind Wilkinson Way.	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Carry out crown reduction by up to 3 metres	Within 6 months
10	Love lane, behind Wilkinson Way.	Common Beech (Fagus sylvatica)	Cut back/thin long extended branch by up to 5 metres/ 30% thin. Remove arisings from site.	Within 6 months

MEDIUM PRIORITY - Trees in higher use area with less urgent or minor tree works. February 2024 (continued)				
SITE: Riverview. **Appendices B6. REVIEW2 & Appendix C6: REVIEW2**				
1	Riverview. Beside footpath next to Walnut Cottage	Common walnut (Juglans regia)	Lift low minor branches to give 2.4m clearance over footpath.	Within 6 months
2	Riverview. Beside footpath next to Walnut Cottage	(Tree 2) 1 x oak (Quercus robur)	Cut back minor branches to give 1.5m clearance round the lamp standard.	Within 6 months
SITE: Saxon Way. **Appendix B7. REVIEW2 and C7.1 &7.2. REVIEW2**				
7	Saxon Way footpath	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Young sycamore in poor condition side of footpath. Fell to ground level.	Within 6 months
33	Saxon Way footpath	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Remove hung up dead branch and carry out climbing inspection to check historic pruning point branch attachment.	Within 6 months
42	Saxon Way footpath	Sweet chestnut (Castania sativa)	Carry out crown reduction sides and top to reduce crown by up to 9m from height & 3 metres Leaving tree around 8 to 9 metres high.	Within 6 months
55	Saxon Way footpath in Gp1	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Fell young sycamore tree with sooty bark disease to ground level and remove all arisings from site	Within 6 months
56	Saxon Way footpath in Gp3	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Fell maturing sycamore with signs of Kretzschmaria to ground level and remove all arisings from site.	Within 6 months
57	Saxon Way footpath in Gp3	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Carry out crown reduction of up to 4m in height to reduce load on twin stem union.	Within 6 months
58	Saxon Way footpath in Gp4	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Remove deadwood from crown at 7 to 10m up back to main stem.	Within 6 months

MEDIUM PRIORITY - Trees in higher use area with less urgent or minor tree works. February 2024 (continued)				
SITE: Leeks and Bury Hill Wood. **Appendices B8. REVIEW2 & C8. REVIEW2**				
2	Lower part of Leeks & Bury Hill wood, on footpath that joins Bury Hill.	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Remove dead branch at around 5ms, back to main stem.	Within 6 months
11	Lower part of Leeks & Bury Hill wood, close to Saxon Way.	Crack willow (Salix fragilis)	Reduce crown to - 8 metre pollard pole. Stack arisings on site. Needs further reduction as evidence of partial failure of buttress root on top side of stem lean.	Within 6 months
15	Lower part of Leeks & Bury Hill wood, close to Saxon Way.	Alder (Alnus glutinosa)	Fell hung up tree with partial root plate failure to ground level. cut into long lengths and stack neatly in habitat pile on site	Within 6 months
16	Upper part of Leeks Hill wood close to dividing footpath and Burkes Wood	Beech (Fagus sylvatica)	Remove 2 hung up branched from crown at around 12 metres up. Branch well hung up, but remove as over footpath	Within 6 months
SITE: Land on corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill. **Appendix B9. REVIEW2 & C9. REVIEW2.**				
16	On grass area side of road	Cedar of Lebanon	Remove two dead branches in crown over informal footpath back to main stem.	Within 6 months
26	In wooded area on corner of Bredfield Rd and Bury Hill	Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris)	Scots pine is standing dead. Fell to 3m high stem and leave as habitat pole. Lave arisings on site as habitat pile	Within 6 months
LOW PRIORITY – Trees with a less urgent priority for works or trees in need of maintenance work to allow for more detailed inspection.				
SITE: Corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way. **Appendix B4. REVIEW2 & Appendix C4. REVIEW2**				
6	Located in Gp3 behind properties o Hope Crescent	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Carry out ivy management to allow for full inspection at next inspection date.	Within 12 months
SITE: Leeks and Bury Hill Wood. **Appendices B8. REVIEW2 & C8. REVIEW2**				
14	Lower part of Leeks & Bury Hill wood, side of footpath close to Saxon Way.	Willow (Salix spp)	Clear bramble undergrowth around base and manage ivy on stem.	Within 12 months
17	Upper part of Leeks Hill wood on boundary with private land	Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris)	Carry out ivy management	Within 12 months

6.2. Statutory tree protection:

The tree surgery recommended in this report has been recommended 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 areas where there appears to be ambiguity (such as Saxon Way and Love Lane) are covered by the TPO 25. Replacement tree planting may also be required under the preservation order should protected trees need to be removed.

6.3 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 late Spring of 2024.

6.3.1 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 biotic threats identified in the tree inspection.

Table 3: Evaluation of biotic threats to tree population
Ash dieback disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*)
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)
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 (Quercus robur) and sessile oak (Q. petraea). It is characterised by bleeding or oozing of dark fluid 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.
Beefsteak fungus (*Fistulina hepatica*)
Beefsteak fungus is common in the UK. It is usually found in broad-leaved woodland, low on the trunks of oak trees and sometimes on sweet chestnut. It is a slow brown rot decay fungus of the heartwood which rarely causes weakness in trees in the initial stages.
Brittle Cinder (Kretzschmaria deusta)
Kretzschmaria deusta It is considered one of the most important root and butt decay pathogens in urban trees. It causes soft rot type and has a broad host range, commonly affected are beech, sycamore, and lime, although it may occur on any species. Such a decay type, once advanced, can cause failure of the tree with little or no warning.
Dutch elm disease (DED)
Dutch elm disease 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 (Scolytus spp) carrying the fungus. Most standing trees 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 (*Hedera helix*)
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 (Cryptostroma corticale)
Sooty bark disease is fungus, which becomes more evident after episodes of prolonged hot weather. It shows in a dark brown/black sooty coating on stems, causing partial or total wilting of the crown and death of sycamore trees. Sooty bark disease is believed to be a secondary 'opportunistic' fungus and thought not to be the primary cause of tree decline/death. Sooty bark disease of sycamore can affect trees of all age appear more prevalent on younger 'pole stage' trees. The wood of effected trees, once dead becomes brittle in a short time.

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-Arboriculture 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.

29th February 2024.

.....

Mrs A. Martin-Butler BSc (Hons) Arboriculture
Arboricultural Consultant.

9.0 References:

Davies, C., Fay, N. and Mynors, C., (2000). Veteran trees: A guide to risk and responsibility (p. 17). Peterborough, UK: English Nature.
Dunster, J. A., Smiley, E. T., Matheny, N., & Lilly, S. (2017). Tree risk assessment manual (No. Ed. 2). International Society of Arboriculture.

Fay, N., Dowson, D., & Helliwell, R. (2005). Tree Surveys: A Guide to Good Practice. Arboricultural Association.

Forestry Research. (2020). *Pests and disease Resources.* Available: https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/pest-and-disease-resources. Last accessed 6th August 2020.Hirons, A. and Thomas, P.A., (2018). Applied Tree Biology. John Wiley & Sons

HSE Health and Safety Executive. (2013). Management of the risk from falling trees or branches. Available: https://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag_food/010705.htm#. Last accessed 21st February 2022.

Lonsdale, D. (1999). Principles of tree hazard assessment and management. Stationery Office Ltd, Publications Centre

National Tree Safety Group (2011). Common Sense Risk Management of Trees: Guidance on Trees and Public Safety in the UK for Owners, Managers and Advisers. London: Forestry Commission. 23.

Occupiers' Liability Act 1957. C.31 Available at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/5-6/31/contents Last accessed February 2022

Royal Forestry Society. (2019). Managing ash dieback. Available: https://rfs.org.uk/media/598372/rfs-managing-ash-dieback-case-studies-2019.pdf. Last accessed 21st February 2021.

Strouts R.G. & Winter T.G. (1994) Research for Amenity Trees No2. Diagnosis of Ill-Health in Trees.

Suffolk County Council. (2008). *Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment.* Available: https://suffolklandscape.org.uk/landscapes/ancient-estate-claylands/. Last accessed 10th December 2020.

The British Standards Institute (2010) Recommendations for Tree Work BS 3998: BSI Standards Ltd.

10.0 Appendices:

Appendix A: Table of sites adopted in April 2021.

Appendix B. REVIEW2: Tree schedule and recommendations (attached separately)

Appendix B1. REVIEW2: Hall Farm Sports Ground (now called Jubilee Green) & Hall Farm Close
Appendix B2. REVIEW2: The Street Car Park and Friars Court.
Appendix B3. REVIEW2: Bury Hill
Appendix B4. REVIEW2: Coppice Close and Corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way.
Appendix B5. REVIEW2: Love Lane
Appendix B6. REVIEW2: River View and Land side of River Deben - Opposite Fayrefield Rd.
Appendix B7. REVIEW2: Saxon Way footpath.
Appendix B8. REVIEW2: Leeks and Bury Hill wood.
Appendix B9. REVIEW2: Bredfield Road splay, Beresford Play area, area opposite the play area & Corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill.

Appendix C. REVIEW2: Tree location plans (attached separately)

Appendix C1. REVIEW2: Hall Farm Sports Ground (now called Jubilee Green) & Hall Farm Close.
Appendix C2. REVIEW2: The Street Car Park and Friars Court.
Appendix C3. REVIEW2: Bury Hill.
Appendix C4. REVIEW2: Coppice Close and corner of Coppice Close and Saxon Way.
Appendix C5. REVIEW2: Love Lane
Appendix C6. REVIEW2: River View and Land side of River Deben - Opposite Fayrefield Rd.
Appendix C7. REVIEW2: Saxon Way footpath.
Appendix C8. REVIEW2: Leeks and Bury Hill wood.
Appendix C9. REVIEW2: Bredfield Road splay, Beresford Play area, area opposite the play area & corner of Bredfield Rd & Bury Hill.

Appendix D: Explanatory notes to accompany tree schedule.

Appendix A:	**Melton Parish Council: Table of sites divested from East Suffolk Council in 2021**				
Adopted site name & corresponding Appendix number.	**Original land asset number**	**Area (Ha's)**	**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 The Street, car park	100460	0.1	SEEAC (whatever that is) (Green space).	6 x Individual trees recorded	Areas of tarmac car parking and mown grass with individual specimen trees to the front of Winifred Fison House and adjacent to and accessed from 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 & 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 along with botanical names 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 when appropriate 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 of 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 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 **12 months**
Non-urgent works: Suggested timescale given to aid future planning timescales or tree health.