

SHIRE TREES LIMITED

TREE HEALTH & SAFETY SURVEY & ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Site at:
Barley C of E First School
Church End
Barley
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 8JW

Job ref	Report Version	Author	Checked	Date
ATS1025	V1	IL	IL	August 2026



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Church End
Barley
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 8JW
ATS1025

Ian Lorman

Relevant Qualifications

Professional Diploma in Arboriculture (Royal Forestry Society)

National Diploma in Arboriculture

National Certificate in Horticulture (Arboriculture Module)

Professional Membership

I have been a Fellow Member of the Arboricultural Association since 2013

Membership number FE1030



Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION

Fellow Member

Experience

My career started in 1991 from craft level in arboriculture, to student, and then working in closely related industries to working as an Arboricultural / Trees Officer in five different local authorities. I have been practicing arboricultural consultancy for several years.



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Included with this report

Tree location plan

Tree survey schedule 11th August 2026



1 Limitations

1.1 The content of this report is valid for a period of 2 years from the date shown on the title page. Additionally, it is recommended that a 'walkover' survey be undertaken following high winds to check for any broken, hanging branches or other obvious failures. The walkover survey can be performed by a layperson. The minimum recommended professional inspection frequency is provided below.

- i. Trees in Zone 1: Minimum inspection frequency of 2 years (**red** on plan)
 - Note: Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly. Condition and health and safety should be checked on a regular basis and after an extreme weather event.

1.2 Trees

1.2.1 The tree survey has been undertaken from ground level using non-invasive methods. The presence of obstructions, Ivy, hedges, epicormic shoots or other climbing plants on tree trunks and branches obscures any defects that might be present that could otherwise be identified. In the presence of climbing plants and hedges etc assumptions are made based upon the general health and appearance of trees, which may differ fundamentally if Ivy etc were not present. For example, a tree that has the overall appearance of good health and vigour may have a serious structural defect hidden by climbing plants or a hedge.

1.3 Tree Law

- 1.3.1 This report does not consider the presence of, or implications of statutory controls upon trees, such as Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) or Conservation Areas. It shall be the responsibility of the landowner or their agent, to ensure that statutory requirements are met.
- 1.3.2 The site is located within Barley Conservation Area. North Herts District Council (NHDC) must be contacted directly to check if any TPOs apply. The Conservation Area designation means that you must notify NHDC of the intention to undertake tree works.

1.4 Wildlife

1.4.1 Before carrying out tree works, it is necessary to observe laws in respect of protected species and habitats. Various habitats and species of animal in the UK are protected by the following Statutory Instruments:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended)
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act)
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- The Hedgerows Regulations 1997
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

All tree work operations must comply with The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which provide statutory protection to birds, bats, and other species, all of which could inhabit trees. Where works may constitute an offence, advice will be required from a suitably qualified person before works are able to proceed. For example, it may be necessary to programme tree work outside of the bird nesting period, typically March through to August inclusive.

1.5 Non-disclosure Notice

1.5.1 The content and layout of this report are owned by the author. This report may not be copied or used without the author's agreement for any purpose other than the purpose indicated in this report.

1.6 Third Party Disclaimer

1.6.1 The author provides this advice without prejudice and bases his opinions on knowledge, experience, qualifications, and published research and cannot be held responsible for the consequences of a difference of opinion held by third parties, for example the Local Planning Authority or Planning Inspector. The author does not accept liability for any loss or damage arising from reliance on the content of this report.

1.7 Status

- 1.7.1 This is a tree safety report. It has been prepared in compliance with a landowner's duty of care obligations regarding the health and safety of the public and property such that may be presented by the partial or whole structural FAILURE of a tree or trees. If the report makes recommendations for tree surgery works to address defects identified during the tree survey, these must be undertaken within the recommended timescales, subject to the consent of the local planning authority. Any tree surgery works recommended are given a priority weighting.
- 1.7.2 This document does not;
- i. address the matter of the current or future potential for damage to buildings or other structures and surfaces from tree roots, directly or indirectly,
 - ii. address any hazards presented by low-hanging tree branches that have the potential to cause injury to pedestrians (e.g. eye injury) or damage to vehicles.

2 Brief

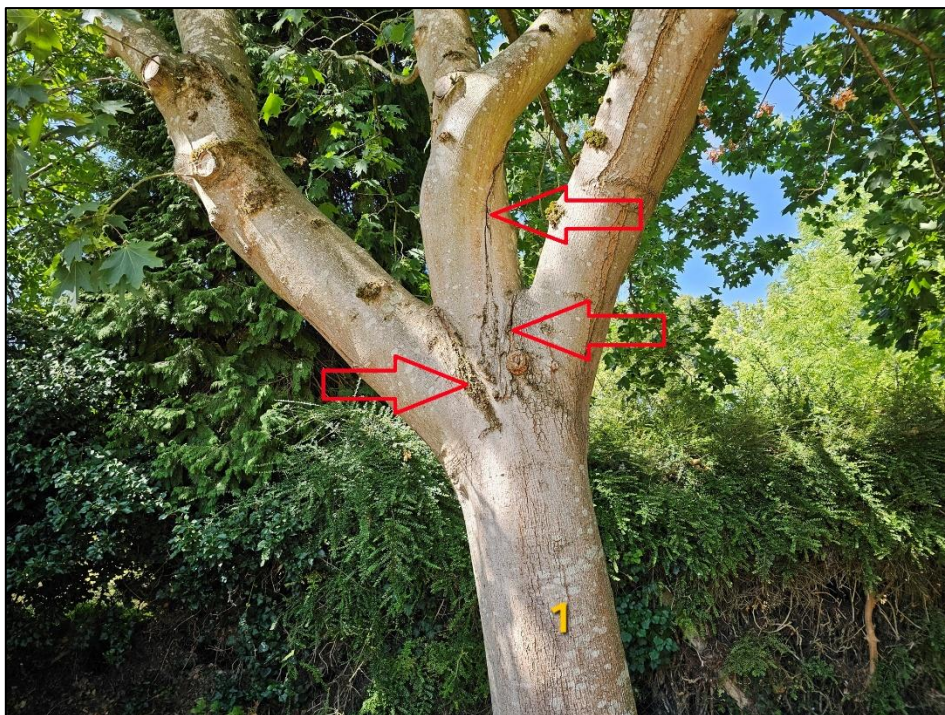
- 2.1 This report was instructed on 17th July 2026.
- 2.2 The tree survey was conducted on 11th August 2026. Shire Trees Ltd were instructed to undertake a health & safety tree survey of trees across the campus to identify structural defects and, where necessary, to make recommendations for tree surgery operations to eliminate risks or mitigate risks to an acceptable level.
- Recommendations are made that are proportionate to the nature and the location of the trees.
- 2.3 Trees have been plotted on an Ordnance Survey base map using GPS.

3 Summary of Findings and Recommendations

- 3.1 18 trees were recorded. 5 trees require attention. Out of these, 3 trees require removal. The tree survey schedule provides the specifications.
- 3.2 **URGENT** felling (or otherwise making safe) is required for Norway Maple trees 10 and 11. This work must be completed within 6 weeks of the date of the tree survey. These trees are in such a condition that they may shed very substantial parts at any time.
- 3.3 Tree 1 (Norway Maple) has numerous structural defects in the form of three bark included unions that on Maple especially are prone to spontaneous failure.
- 3.4 Walnut tree 5 has Ivy becoming well established on the trunk. This should be removed just prior to the next scheduled inspection to ensure a thorough assessment.
- 3.5 Tree 9 is a dense cluster of small stems of Norway Maple that has probably sprouted from an old stump. One of the stems is dead and should be removed.
- 3.6 It is recommended that the remaining trees be professionally reinspected within 2 years of the date of this report (no later than August 2028).

4 Photographs

- Below: Tree 1 (Norway Maple) – Multiple bark included unions



- Below: Trees 10 & 11 (N. Maple) – Both in very poor condition



5 Tree Survey Methodology

- 5.1 The trees have been assessed at ground level, using no ancillary equipment in accordance with the principles of Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) *C. Mattheck, K, Bethge, K, Weber (1994)*.
- 5.2 Trees with a stem diameter less than, or equal to 75 millimetres diameter at 1.5 metres above ground level may not have been recorded. Trees that, at the time of writing and due to their size and location that could not conceivably present a health and safety risk have not been recorded. Such trees may be recorded in later years once they have attained greater size.
- 5.3 Common tree names are given.
- 5.4 Tree height is estimated in metres.
- 5.5 Stem diameter is estimated in millimetres at 1.5 metres above ground level (or nearest practical height). Where multiple dimensions are given, this reflects the multi-stemmed nature of the tree. Where the number of stems exceeds six, the software used records only a single figure which represents the estimated average trunk diameter across the stem range.
- 5.6 Crown spread is estimated in metres as a radius from the trunk. This is not intended to give the impression that the tree crowns are symmetrical.
- 5.7 A priority rating has been provided where remedial tree surgery operations have been recommended. This provides a guide to assist with scheduling work and states the maximum period that should elapse from inspection date to the tree surgery operations. The following scale is used:
- 0 – No tree surgery work
 - 1 – Urgent works that should be undertaken within six weeks of the tree inspection (if the urgency is deemed higher than this, the entire survey entry row will be highlighted in **RED** in the tree survey schedule, in which case it should be undertaken as soon as practicable – ie. straight away).

- 2 – Works that should be undertaken within **6 months** of the tree inspection.
- 3 – Works that should within **18 months** of the tree inspection.
- 4 – Works with no recommended timescale, usually discretionary.

5.8 Life stage is estimated in accordance with the typical lifespan of the particular species.

Young: Young trees

Early-mature: Early-mature, trees less than 1/3 life expectancy.

Mature: Mature trees up to 2/3 life expectancy.

Over mature: Over-mature, declining, or moribund trees of low vigour.

Veteran: Veteran trees

5.9 The condition of the tree has been referred in respect of three parts on each tree; crown, stem, and basal area. To each area, a rating is given; good, fair, poor or dead.

5.10 Observations are expanded where necessary. The assessment for tree condition includes inspection of the following defects:

- The presence of fungal fruiting bodies around the base of the tree or on the stem, as they could possibly indicate the presence of possible internal decay.
- Soil cracks and any heaving of the soil around the base indicating possible root plate movement.
- Any abrupt bends in branches and limbs resulting from past pruning, as it may be an indication of internal weakness and decay.
- Tight or weak 'V' shaped forks and co-dominant stems
- Hazard beam formations and other such biomechanical related defects (as described by Claus Mattheck, Body Language of Trees HMSO Research for Amenity Trees No. 4 1994).
- Cavities as a result of limb losses or past pruning.
- Broken branches

- Storm damage
- Canker formations
- Loose bark
- Damage to roots
- Basal, stem or branch / limb cavities
- Die-back in the crown
- Abnormal foliage size and colour
- Any changes to the timing of normal leaf flush and leaf fall patterns
- Other pathological diseases affecting any part of the tree

5.11 Each tree is given a 'Zone value' for inspection frequency which refers to a combination of factors including tree height and location and frequency and value of 'targets'. Targets can be defined as person and property or other asset to which a tree presents a risk. It is important to consider risks posed by trees in respect of their location because it allows common sense decisions to be made regarding the frequency of tree inspection regime and remedial tree surgery works. This has environmental and economic benefits. The Zone value given to the tree informs the priority rating for remedial tree surgery operations. The following scale is used for the sites within this tree survey:

- 1 – High frequency of high value targets / large tree / medium tree (red trees on the tree locations plan) – 2 year inspection frequency.

5.12 The above inspection frequency is recommended in the absence of extreme weather events. It is strongly recommended that a 'walkover' inspection be undertaken following an extreme weather event where it is likely that trees will have been subjected to damaging forces and where branches can be expected to have been shed. A walkover survey is a basic visual assessment that may be carried out by a person with basic knowledge of tree safety and keen eyesight. The walkover survey

should record any items that require immediate attention to ensure safety. Works identified should be undertaken as soon as practicable and the area affected should be cordoned off where possible, until the works have been undertaken.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 All tree work must be undertaken within the timescales listed in the tree survey schedule.
- 6.2 The Zone 1 trees (red) must be reinspected no later than 2 years following the date of this report.

7 Normative References

7.1 The following documents are indispensable in the application of the recommendations in this report:

- R.G. Strouts, T.G. Winter (1994). Diagnosis of Ill-Health in Trees. DoE
- D. Lonsdale (1999). Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management. ODPM
- C. Mattheck, K. Bethge, K. Weber (1994). The Body Language of Trees. DoE
- C. Mattheck (2007). Updated Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment. Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH
- F.W.M.R. Schwarze, J. Engels, C. Mattheck (1999). Fungal Strategies of Wood Decay in Trees. Springer
- Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (2024). National Tree Safety Group / Forestry Commission
- Tree Surveys: A Guide to Good Practice – Guidance Note 7 (2015). The Arboricultural Association
- National House Building Council – Chapter 4.2 Building Near Trees
- P.G. Biddle - Tree Root Damage to Buildings. Willowmead. 1998. Acorn Press
- British Standard BS3998: 2010 Tree Work – Recommendations. BSI
- R J. Davies (1987). Trees & Weeds. Handbook 2. Forestry Commission
- Arboricultural Journal Volume 43 Issue 1 (March 2021). Jeremy Barrell. The implications of recent English legal judgements, inquest verdicts, and Ash Dieback Disease for the defensibility of tree risk management regimes. The Arboricultural Association

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Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Lorman', written over a horizontal line.

Ian Lorman
On behalf of Shire Trees Ltd

August 2026





Barley First School
Tree locations

SCALE :
1 : 400

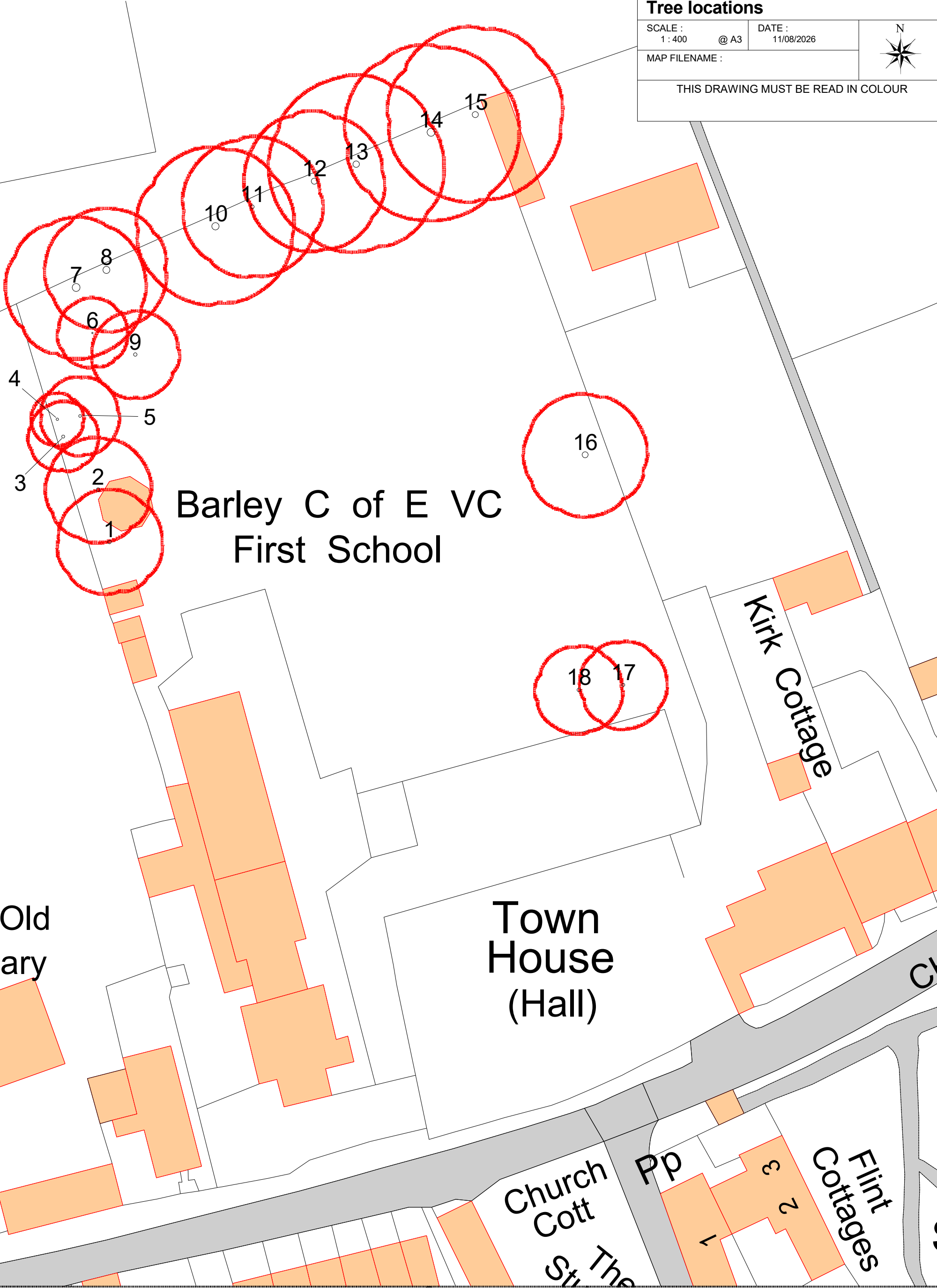
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DATE :
11/08/2026

MAP FILENAME :



THIS DRAWING MUST BE READ IN COLOUR



Site name: Barley First School Surveyor: Ian Lorman			Date of survey: 11 th August 2026 Conditions: Clear / dry / still					
Tree number	Species	Height estim (m)	Stem Diam (s) estim (mm) No. of	Crown spread Ave rad estim (m)	Life stage	Observations; structural / physiological condition and any tree work recommendations	Priority / urgency of work	Zone value
1	Norway Maple	15	400	6	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Poor, Basal Area - Good Fell Three stems from 2.5 metres. all with weak bark included unions	2	1
2	Norway Maple	13	400	6	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good No action Previously pollarded at 3 metres and regrown	0	1
3	Sycamore	12	350	4	Mature	Crown - Fair, Stem - Poor, Basal Area - Fair No action Old large open wound on trunk from ground level to 2 metres. Well occluded (not a safety concern)	0	1
4	Sycamore	12	275	3	Mature	Crown - Fair, Stem - Fair, Basal Area - Fair No action Fire damage at ground level	0	1
5	Common Walnut	10	300	4.5	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Fair, Basal Area - Fair Remove ivy from trunk prior to next inspection Ivy on trunk	3	1
6	Sycamore	7	150	4	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good No action New crown sprouted from old stump	0	1
7	Common Ash	18	900	8	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good No action No notable defects	0	1
8	Sycamore	18	800	7	Mature	Crown - Fair, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good No action Chlorotic foliage (Lime induced chlorosis)	0	1

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9	Norway Maple	10	200 200 200 200 100	5	Early-mature	Crown - Fair, Stem - Fair, Basal Area - Fair Fell single dead stem (one of the five stems) Cluster of five stems probably sprouted from old stump. One stem dead. Remove dead stem	2	1
10	Norway Maple	20	850	9	Mature	Crown - Poor, Stem - Poor, Basal Area - Fair Fell Massive dead branch north side (half of the tree's crown). Vascular dysfunction in trunk throughout. Rapid decline expected. Branch shedding likely	1	1
11	Norway Maple	18	450	8	Mature	Crown - Poor, Stem - Fair, Basal Area - Fair Fell Very sparse. Strip lesions on underside of some branches. Lion-tailing of some laterals. Rapid decline expected. Branch shedding likely	1	1
12	Norway Maple	18	700	8	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good No action No notable defects	0	1
13	Norway Maple	20	750	10	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good No action No notable defects	0	1
14	Common Horse Chestnut	20	900	10	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good No action Trunk bifurcated at 2 metres. Chronic bleeding canker disease. Leaf miner	0	1
15	Common Horse Chestnut	20	700	10	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good No action Trunk bifurcated at 2 metres. Chronic bleeding canker disease. Leaf miner	0	1

Site name: Barley First School Surveyor: Ian Lorman			Date of survey: 11 th August 2026 Conditions: Clear / dry / still					
Tree number	Species	Height estim (m)	Stem Diam (s) estim (mm) No. of	Crown spread Ave rad estim (m)	Life stage	Observations; structural / physiological condition and any tree work recommendations	Priority / urgency of work	Zone value
16	Wild Cherry	14	550 450	7	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good No action Trunk bifurcated just above ground level	0	1
17	Field Maple	10	250 200 125	5	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good No action No notable defects	0	1
18	Wild Cherry	10	300 175 150 150	5	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good No action No notable defects	0	1