



ARGENTA

T R E E S U R V E Y S

TREE SURVEY & ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Site at:
Land West & South of Reed First School
Reed
Royston
Hertfordshire

Job ref	Report Version	Author	Checked	Date
ATS1024	V1	IL	IL	August 2026





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 May 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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Table One: Number of trees requiring remedial works in each priority class

Tree location plan

Tree survey schedule with recommendations





1 Limitations

1.1 The content of this report is valid for a period of two years from the date shown on the title page.

- i. Trees in Zone 1: Two years (**red** on map)
- ii. Trees in Zone 2: Four years (**amber** / **orange** on plan)
- iii. Trees in Zone 3: Six years (**green** 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

The tree survey has been undertaken from ground level using non-invasive methods. The presence of Ivy, 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 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. Where Ivy severance / removal is recommended, this is usually to facilitate a tree inspection later.

1.3 Tree Law

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 client or their agent, to ensure that statutory requirements are met. Currently, North Herts Council does not publish details of TPOs on a mapping system on their website. New tree protection designations can be made at any time. The site is located within Reed Conservation Area (the trees are subject of statutory protection).



1.4 Wildlife

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 pieces of legislation:

- 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 acquired 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

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

The report was prepared by the author at the instruction of and for the use of Roger Sedgwick Rough. 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

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. The report makes recommendations for tree surgery works to address defects identified during the tree survey. The tree surgery works are given a priority weighting.

1.7.1 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 by Mr Roger Sedgwick Rough on 12th July 2026. The site visit / tree survey was conducted on 11th August 2026.
- 2.2 I am instructed to undertake a health & safety tree survey at the site to identify structural defects in trees and to make recommendations for tree surgery operations to eliminate a risk, or mitigate a risk to an acceptable level, proportionate to the nature and the location of the trees. Trees have been plotted on Ordnance Survey base maps using Geographical Positioning System (GIS) to a level of accuracy that is sufficient to identify the location of the trees.
- 2.3 All trees have been visually inspected from ground level. The trees that require attention have been marked with a numbered aluminium tag.



3 Summary of Findings and Recommendations

- 3.1 The site is a mature woodland belt around the western and southern boundary to Reed First School.
- 3.2 Two mature trees must be felled URGENTLY in the interests of health and safety (1496 and 1499). Ash tree 1496 has shed a co-dominant stem due to a failed bark included union. The resultant tear has deeply penetrated the remaining trunk to the point that it is likely to snap off at that point, potentially falling towards the school. Maple 1499 is dead and in an advanced state of decay, immediately adjacent to the school field.
- 3.3 One tree must have a large, rotten lower branch overhanging the school grounds removed URGENTLY (1498).
- 3.4 One tree must have a large, broken, hanging branch removed (1495).
- 3.5 One tree must have major dead branches removed (1497).
- 3.6 It is recommended that the remaining trees be professionally reinspected within two years of the date of this report (no later than August 2028).
- 3.7 The table below list the number of trees that require action in each priority class.
- 3.8 The tree survey schedule provides a prescription for tree surgery.

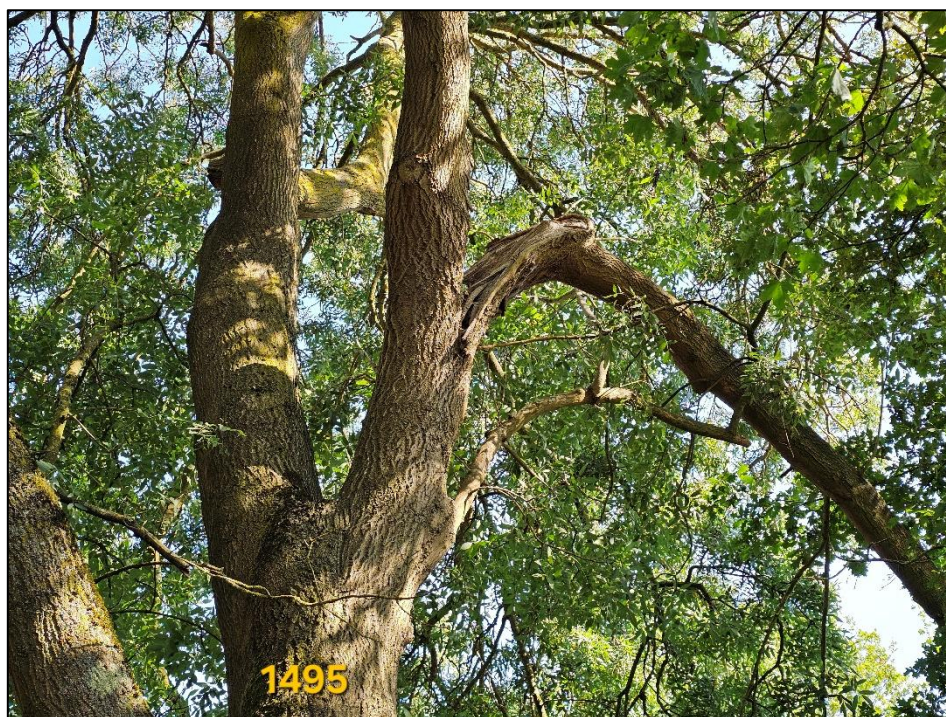
- Table One – Number of trees requiring remedial works in each priority class

	Priority 1 (within 6 weeks)	Priority 2 (within 6 months)	Priority 3 (within 18 months)
Total no. of trees	3	2	0



4 Photographs

- Below: Tree 1495 (Ash) – Broken, hanging branch



- Below: Tree 1496 (Ash) – Massive wound from loss of co-dominant stem





- Below: Tree 1498 (Ash) – Rotten base of large branch overhanging school grounds





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)*. The trees are identified on the tree location plans.
- 5.2 Common tree names are given.
- 5.3 Tree height is estimated in metres.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 Crown spread is estimated in metres as a radius from the trunk. Tree crowns are rarely symmetrical. They are shown as such on the plans to give some impression of tree size in relation to others.
- 5.6 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 item 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 be undertaken within 18 months of the tree inspection, or prior to the next scheduled tree inspection, whichever is sooner.
- 5.7 Life stage is estimated in accordance with the known lifespan of the particular species.



Young: Young trees

Semi mature: Semi-mature, trees less than 1/2 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

5.8 The physiological condition of the tree has been referred to as one of the following:

Good: A sound tree, trees needing little, if any, attention.

Moderate: A tree with minor but rectifiable defects or in the early stages of stress, from which it may recover.

Poor: A tree with major structural and physiological defects or stress.

Dead: A tree or trees, no longer alive. However, this could also apply to those trees that are dying and will be unlikely to recover, or are / have become dangerous.

5.9 Major defects or diseases and relevant observations have also been recorded under Structural Condition within the Tree Schedules. The assessment for structural condition has included 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

5.10 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 plans) – Two year (biennial) inspection frequency.
- 2 – Low frequency of high value targets / large tree / medium tree (orange trees on the tree location plans) – Four year inspection frequency.
- 3 – Very low frequency of high value targets / large tree (green trees on the tree location plans) – Six year inspection frequency.



- 5.11 The above inspection frequencies are recommended in the absence of extreme weather events. It is strongly recommended that a 'walkover' inspection is 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 Some tree surgery work is required in the interests of health and safety. The reader is strongly advised to read through the report and tree survey schedule and to list the works necessary and to programme the works in accordance with their urgency.
- 6.2 The site should be subject to a regular tree inspection regime such as recommended within this report.
- 6.3 Tree work should be undertaken by competent operatives in accordance with British Standard BS3889: 2010 Tree Work - Recommendations



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
- 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:

Ian Lorman
Director

August 2026



**Land to West & South of Reed First School
Tree locations**

SCALE :
1 : 600 @ A4

DATE :
11/08/2026



MAP FILENAME :

THIS DRAWING MUST BE READ IN COLOUR

G1

Reed First School

JACKSON'S LANE

Nightingales

1499

1498

1497

1496

G1

1495

Site name: Land west & South of Reed 1 st 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
Tag 1495	Common Ash	18	650	8	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Fair, Basal Area - Good Remove broken hanging branch Large branch snapped and hanging up 5 metres east side	2	1
Tag 1496	Common Ash	20	650	5	Mature	Crown - Good, Stem - Poor, Basal Area - Good Fell Co-dominant leader recently snapped out at 5 metres on south side leaving gaping wound deep into the centre of the trunk that equals or exceeds 50% of the circumference of the trunk. Tree is likely to snap off at this point, especially when decay sets in, if not before	1	1
Tag 1497	Common Ash	20	700	6	Mature	Crown - Fair, Stem - Fair, Basal Area - Good Remove major dead wood Moderate dead wood in east side partially overhanging school field	2	1
Tag 1498	Common Ash	20	700	8	Mature	Crown - Fair, Stem - Good, Basal Area - Good Remove faulted/rotten lower branch on north side overhanging school field Massive live lower branch on north side at 6 metres with advanced decay at base overhanging school playing field	1	1
Tag 1499	Norway Maple	15	600	5	Mature	Crown - Dead, Stem - Dead, Basal Area - Dead Fell Dead and rotten	1	1
Group G1	Woodland belt comprising Common Ash Norway Maple Oak Field Maple Hawthorn	Up to 200	Up to 700	N/A	Mature	All trees inspected. Those trees listed above that require attention have been marked using a numbered aluminium tag and plotted using GP for ease of location by tree surgery contractor	N/A	1