



Invicta Arboriculture  
Tree and Woodland Consultancy

## **Arboricultural Condition Report**

Sandgate Recreation Ground  
Military Road  
Sandgate  
Kent

24<sup>th</sup> March 2023



Mr David Sephton Tech Cert (Arbor. A)  
Tel: 01303 266958 | Mobile: 07810 783853 | Email: [invictaarb@icloud.com](mailto:invictaarb@icloud.com)



# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **Instruction:** I am instructed by Sandgate Parish Council to undertake a comprehensive hazard assessment tree survey at Sandgate Road Recreation Ground, Military Road, Sandgate, Kent and to provide an arboricultural report on any trees which are considered to pose a threat to the health and safety of users of the site and those using public highways, private properties and rights of way adjacent to the site.
- 1.2 **Qualifications and experience:** I have based this report on my site observations, and I have come to conclusions in the light of my experience as an arboriculturist.
- 1.3 **Documents and information provided:** I was not provided with any documents.
- 1.4 **Relevant background information:** This report was commissioned by Sandgate Parish Council in order to fulfil its duty of care in relation to its tree stock within Sandgate Recreation Ground.
- 1.5 **Collection of data:** The survey was carried out using the following inspection aids:
  - Digital clinometer- To calculate the height of the trees
  - Girthing tape- To measure stem diameter.
  - Compass- To determine the four cardinal points.
  - Binoculars- To assess the condition of the upper crown
  - Sounding mallet to detect cavities.
- 1.6 **Scope of this report and limitations:** This report is only concerned with the structural and physiological condition of the eight trees and one tree group that are considered to pose an unacceptable risk to the users of the site and those using private property, public highways or rights of way adjacent to the site or in such condition that remedial works are considered necessary in accordance with good arboricultural practice and are shown on the site plan included at appendix A. The plan is for illustrative purposes only and should not be used for directly scaling measurements. All the relevant information on them is contained within this report. It takes no account of any other trees. It includes a detailed assessment based on the site visit.

This report is only concerned with the eight trees and one tree group that have clear, observable and detectable defects. All trees present within the site boundaries have been assessed from accessible points at ground level. Trees that are not listed within the schedule were considered to display good overall form and vitality with no significant visible structural or physiological defects; that is not to say that their condition may change over time (for example, internal decay that was undetectable, suspected or otherwise unforeseeable at the time of inspection could quite reasonably advance rapidly between inspections and lead to the structural failure of the affected part), however at the point of inspection they were deemed to pose an acceptable risk.

Trees and shrubs are living organisms whose health and stability can change rapidly especially following extreme weather events and therefore the recommendations given in this report are valid for a period of twelve months.

All tree work should be carried out to B.S. 3998:2010 *Recommendations for Tree Work* or as modified by more recent research. It is advisable to select a contractor from the local authority list and preferably one approved by the Arboricultural Association. Their Register of Contractors is available free from The Malthouse, Stroud Green, Standish, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3DL – 01242 522152 and can also be found on their website: <http://www.trees.org.uk/find-a-professional/Directory-of-Tree-Surgeons>.

- 1.7 **Trees subject to statutory controls:** If these trees are covered by a tree preservation order or located within a conservation area, it will be necessary to consult the relevant local authority (Folkestone and Hythe District Council) before any pruning or felling works other than certain exemptions can be carried out. However, tree owners should appreciate that they may take an alternative point of view and have the option to refuse consent.
- 1.8 **Other Considerations:** The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees. All tree work operations are covered by these provisions and care must be taken before undertaking any works that might constitute an offence.

## Visual Tree Assessment.

Location: Sandgate Recreation Ground

Name: Mr D. Sephton.

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Client: Sandgate Parish Council

Tree No	Species	Height	Age Class	Condition	Recommendations	Work Priority	Cost
1	Ash	16	Mature	Split north west facing branch hanging close to ground level. The branch arises at three metres above ground level on the north west side of the main stem.	Remove split north west facing branch.	2	
2	Cherry	8	Mature	Extensive decay evident within the base of this twin-stem tree. The tree leans towards the adjacent dog exercise area.	Fell to ground level.	2	
3	Sycamore	16	Mature	The main fork at one metre above ground level appears to have become structurally compromised with a crack forming through it. Cambial (bark) death is also evident on the northern side of the main fork.	Reduce the height of the tree by a maximum of six metres and shorten all later branches by a maximum of three metres to east loading on the main fork.	2	
G4	Willow copse	12	Mature	The willow copse is now due to be re-pollarded. Extensive decay is also evident throughout the bases and main stem of six Willow trees.	Re-pollard all Willows and Alders within the copse back to the previous pollard points. Fell to ground level the six decayed stems and re-plant with new Willow trees.	3	
5	Sycamore	14	Mature	Cambial (bark) death and decay is evident within the main fork of the tree at 1.5 metres above ground level.	Reduce to a low pollard of six metres.	3	

**Work Priority: 1= Urgent (within 24 hours). 2= High Priority (within three months). 3= Medium Priority (within six months).**

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Tree No	Species	Height	Age Class	Condition	Recommendations	Work Priority
6	Monterey Cypress	22	Mature	A split is forming through the east-facing lateral branch arising at eight metres above ground level; the branch extends out above the adjacent basketball court. Woodpecker activity and minor decay is evident at sixteen metres above ground level on the western side of the central-most stem.	Reduce the height of the tree by a maximum of four metres. Reduce the length of the east facing lateral branch by a maximum of three metres.	3
7	Monterey Cypress	22	Mature	Twin-stem tree forms from very low fork at three metres above ground level. The low fork supports a significant amount of weight. Partial canopy separation is now evident and is indicative of possible movement within the fork.	Install non-invasive flexible restraints in accordance with either figure D.1 or D.2 BS3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations. Bracings with an eight tonne rating are recommended.	3
8	Willow	14	Mature	The tree grows horizontally across the bank and extends out over the adjacent tennis court. Evidence of minor decay within the base of the tree on the underside.	Coppice the Willow tree close to ground level and allow to re-generate.	3
9	Prunus spp	6	Mature	Predominantly dead, partially collapsed tree.	Fell to ground level.	2

**Work Priority: 1= Urgent (within 24 hours). 2= High Priority (within three months). 3= Medium Priority (within six months). 4= Low Priority (within twelve months).**

# Site Plan

