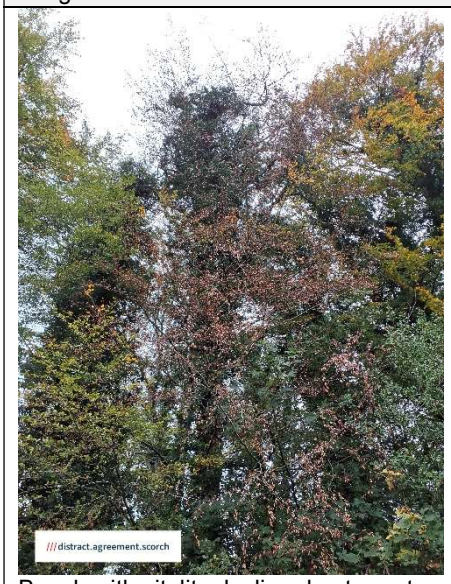
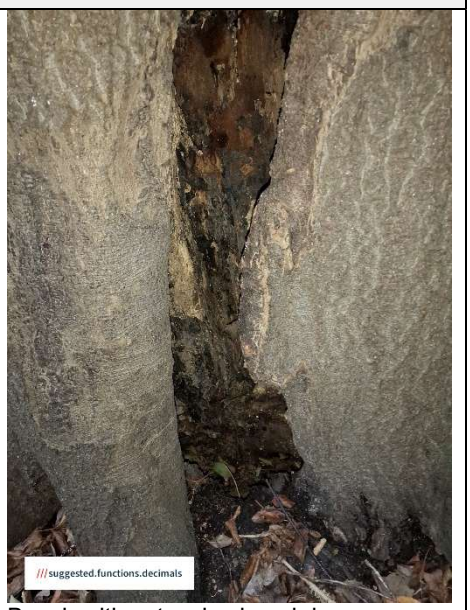
DERBYSHIRE County Council

Tree Inspection Report

(Individual trees and small groups)

*Denotes mandatory field.

Inspector *	Mark Wilson	Reference(s) *		Inspection date *	28/10/2026
Submitted to *	Justine Spencer/Rod Whiteman			Submission date *	04/11/2026
Address/location description	The Field, Shipley, Heanor			Reinspection date	
What3Words	///distract.agreement.scorch				
Work priority *	Priority 2	**6 months priority**			

Tree overview		
Images *		
 Beech with vitality decline due to root collar dysfunction adjacent to property	 Beech with areas of bark necrosis and root collar dysfunction.	 Beech with extensive basal decay adjacent to path and road
 Beech with extensive hollow cavity adjacent to property	 Beech with Honey fungus and hollow stem	 Sycamores in poor rooting environment exposed to new wind loading after recent loss of trees due to uprooting.
Species *	Beech, Sycamore, Ash, S.Birch, G. Willow	

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Physiological condition		Good		Structural condition				Fair	
Age class *	Semi-mature	Approx. DBH (cm) *		50		Approx. height (m) *		14	
Approx. crown spread (m) *		8							
Canopy density category (ash only) *		4 (0-25%)	☐	3 (25-50%)	☐	2 (50-75%)	☒	1 (75-100%)	☐

Observations

Following a recent storm event that resulted in multiple tree failures onto neighbouring property, a detailed tree inspection was undertaken to assess the condition and stability of the remaining woodland population. The occurrence of several failures within a relatively limited area prompted concerns regarding the presence of additional trees with reduced structural integrity. The inspection identified a number of trees displaying structural defects, fungal infections, bark dysfunction, root collar disorders, and other indicators of compromised health and stability. Whilst storm events can act as a triggering factor in tree failures, the defects identified during this survey suggest that some trees may have an elevated likelihood of failure under future loading conditions. This report summarises the observed defects, evaluates the associated risks where appropriate, and provides management recommendations aimed at reducing the likelihood of further failures affecting adjacent land, property, and woodland users.

- Four Beech (Fagus sylvatica) (///rewrites.holds.riding, ///costly.bookmark.rent, ///suggested.functions.decimals, ///carriage.galaxies.guard), were assessed as exhibiting good physiological vitality but poor structural condition. The trees displayed defects including bark and root collar dysfunction, structural weaknesses, and evidence of fungal colonisation, with fruiting bodies present on two individuals. Whilst the trees remain biologically vigorous, the identified defects are indicative of compromised structural integrity and an increased likelihood of failure. Given their proximity to adjacent property and the consequences associated with potential failure, retention as standing habitat stems following controlled dismantling is recommended. This management option balances risk reduction with the retention of significant biodiversity value associated with standing deadwood habitat.

- The Beech at ///distract.agreement.scorch displays vitality decline associated with multiple symptoms of basal and root collar dysfunction, including bark necrosis, localised stem bleeding, bark delamination and decay of bark tissues below ground level. The observed symptoms suggest impairment of the root collar and/or root system. While fungal structures resembling Armillaria were suspected initially, no definitive diagnostic signs were identified during inspection. The primary concern is therefore considered to be root collar dysfunction of uncertain causation, potentially involving pathogenic infection and associated root impairment. Due to proximity to residential property, dismantling and retention as standing habitat stem is recommended.

- Two remaining Sycamore trees (///pokes.testers.snaps) located adjacent to the recent windthrow event are recommended for removal. The recommendation is primarily based upon the substantially increased wind exposure resulting from the loss of neighbouring trees during the recent storm event, together with concerns regarding the suitability and long-term stability of the rooting environment. The failed trees were growing within a dense stand and likely benefited from mutual shelter. Following the loss of several adjacent trees, the remaining specimens are now exposed to wind loading conditions that they may not previously have experienced.

  Examination of the uprooted tree identified decayed roots and revealed a rooting substrate comprising a friable, dark, shaley material consistent with historic made ground or industrial fill. Given the site's association with a former railway corridor serving a colliery, it is considered possible that the trees are rooted within made ground of variable composition. However, no formal soil or geotechnical investigation has been undertaken and therefore this observation should be regarded as a preliminary site assessment rather than a definitive conclusion regarding soil conditions.
  The recent failure of multiple neighbouring Sycamore trees raises concerns regarding the adequacy and resilience of the remaining trees rooting environment, particularly now that the stand structure has been significantly altered.
  In addition, Sooty Bark Disease was identified within nearby Sycamore trees that failed during the storm. Whilst there is currently insufficient evidence to conclude that the disease was the principal cause of the recent failures, its presence represents an additional negative factor that may affect the long-term physiological condition and structural reliability of remaining Sycamore trees on the site.

  Having regard to the recent failures, the altered exposure conditions, evidence of root related failure within adjacent trees, the apparent limitations of the rooting environment and the presence of Sooty Bark Disease within the woodland, removal of the two remaining Sycamore trees is considered a proportionate risk management response.

- A mature Ash tree (///legwork.inherits.bronzes) adjacent to the property has been identified with fungal activity at the base and displaying symptoms of advanced stage dieback disease. With overall low crown vigour, apical dieback and a sparse and thinning branch structure throughout.

	Removal of this tree is recommended to prevent branch or whole tree failure onto the adjacent footpaths and building. • Dead and decaying Silver birch and Goat Willow have also been identified adjacent to well used paths within the woodland and are recommended for removal.
Works recommendations	• Dismantle 5x Beech to a safe height to retain habitat stumps at a suitable safe height to prevent failure onto paths and private property. • Fell 2x Sycamore to ground level • Dismantle Ash to a safe height to retain habitat stumps at a suitable safe height to prevent failure onto paths and private property. • Fell 2x Silver birch and Goat Willow to ground level. All works to be carried out to British Standard 3998:2010 (BSI).
Replanting specification	Replanting by natural regeneration.

Site overview						
Ownership *	DCC	☒	Private	☐	Local authority *	Amber Valley BC
Owner details (if known)	DCC Countryside Service					
Constraints *(tick all that apply and provide details)* *						
Traffic management	☐					
Overhead utilities	☒	BT Wires nearby				
Underground utilities	☐					
Site access	☐					
Tree access	☐					
Biosecurity	☐					
Licences/permits	☐					
Other	☐					
Designations *(tick all that apply)* *						
DCC TPO	☐	District TPO	☐	Relevant authority	Amber Valley BC	
Conservation Area	☒					

Surrounding land use *(tick all that apply)* *					
Woodland/wood pasture/coppice	☒	Hedgerow	☐	Heathland/moorland	☐
Arable land	☐	Pasture/grassland	☐	Waterbody/watercourse	☐
Wet ground (marsh, wetland etc.)	☐	Park/garden	☐	Residential	☒
Commercial/industrial	☐	Highway	☐	Other (detail in comments)	☐

Ecological observations (Bats potential, nesting birds, etc)
Potential habitat features observed (Roost features, nesting material, etc)

Site evaluation		
Is a further detailed ecological inspection required? *	Yes ☐	No ☒
If 'Yes', detail requirements of further inspection.	Licensed Arborist or Ecologist inspection recommended	
Although every effort has been made to identify site constraints and restrictions, omissions may still occur where complete information is not available.		

Location overview			
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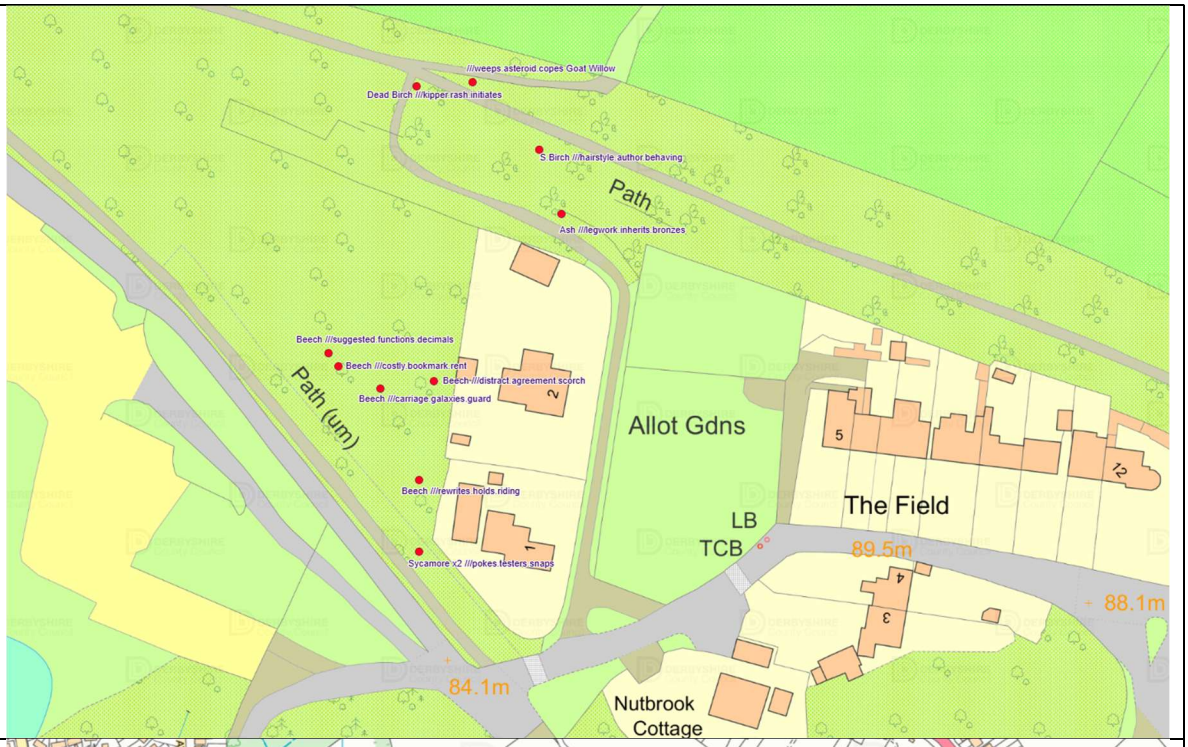
Map 1 *	
Map 2 *	

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Map 3 *	

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