

# Arboricultural Survey Report 2025

Borden Nature Reserve, Borden Lane, Borden Kent

**For Client:** Borden Parish Council



**Surveyor:** [REDACTED] Dip Arb, Director, Lushland Arboricultural Consultants

**Survey Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (Report valid for one year from date of survey)

**Report Ref:** AS0308/05-25

**Report Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025

# Arboricultural Survey Report

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## 1.0 Client Instruction

1.1 I was instructed by Teresa Millum, Clerk at Borden Parish Council, to undertake a walkover survey of all trees growing within the grounds of Borden Nature Reserve, identifying any that pose a safety risk to the general public.

## 2.0 Qualifications & Experience

2.1 I have based this report on the information provided to me and my observations made at the time of my site inspection. I have come to conclusions in the light of my experience as a qualified arboriculturist and LANTRA qualified professional tree inspector.

## 3.0 Background Information

3.1 This arboricultural report updates Lushland's previous survey report AS0266/03-24, dated 27th March 2024 to fulfil the Parish Council's duty of care to ensure that trees growing on their land are inspected regularly by a qualified person, identifying any works needed in the interests of health and safety.

## 4.0 Documents Supplied

4.1 No documents were supplied.

## 5.0 Site Inspection

5.1 I made an unaccompanied inspection of the site on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The weather at the time of my inspection was hot and sunny with a slight breeze.

## 6.0 Scope of Survey

6.1 The survey is concerned with the arboricultural aspects of the site only and is solely in relation to the condition of the trees growing within the boundaries of Borden Nature Reserve, as outlined in red on the survey plan at Appendix B and the aerial photograph below. Only trees of significance, close to roads and paths, or those that displayed visible defects when inspected have been detailed in the survey data at Appendix A.



- 6.2 All non arboricultural observations and comments I have made in this report are from a lay person's point of view.
- 6.3 Trees are living organisms and as such their health and condition are naturally subject to change over time. My recommendations and assessments are based upon the trees' condition on the day of inspection. This report cannot cover unforeseen circumstances such as neglect or wilful damage to the trees or severe weather conditions.
- 6.4 Within the scope of any tree survey it is a fact that not all risks of stem and branch failure can be covered, particularly in relation to freak occurrences of weather when even healthy trees can suffer from branch snap or wind throw. It is also well known that even healthy trees can occasionally shed limbs for no discernible reason, even when the weather is calm. Although, relatively infrequent branches may be occasionally shed and this should be acknowledged as a risk that cannot be entirely mitigated
- 6.5 There were no discussions between the surveyor and any other party.
- 6.6 Any recommended pruning works detailed in this report are to be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998: 2010 Tree Work - Recommendations.
- 6.7 Although trees can be of great ecological value and grow within archeologically sensitive locations, I have no specialist expertise in these disciplines, so this report does not consider these aspects.
- 6.8 My inspection of the trees for the purposes of assessing their condition and work requirements is made on the assumption that they will be annually inspected in the future to identify any changes in condition and review the recommendations. Therefore, the tree assessment advice given in this report only remains valid for one year from the date of the site inspection (12<sup>th</sup> May 2025).**
- 6.9 Trees proposed for pruning/felling should be inspected for roosting bats and nesting birds. In the event of bats and nesting birds being present, no works are to commence until all nests and roosts have become vacant to the satisfaction of a licensed bat handler. The disturbance or destruction of nesting sites is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Further advice on bats can be advised from the Bat Conservation Trust (tel: 0845 1300 2280 / [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)) and nesting birds advice can be obtained from Natural England (tel: 0845 600 3078 [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)) or Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (tel: 01767 693690 [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)).
- 6.10 The status of the trees detailed in this report has not been confirmed. Therefore, prior to the commencement of any tree works, confirmation of the trees status must be sought from the local planning authority, as the trees may be subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), located in a Conservation Area (CA) or subject to a Planning Condition (PC).
- 6.11 When appointing an arboricultural contractor, it is important to use only suitably qualified and experienced tree surgeons. The Local Authority Tree Officer may be able to provide a select list of suitable contractors within the area. It is always essential to check that they carry public and products liability to a minimum of £5 million cover and the relevant Employers Liability Insurance.

## **7.0 Legal Obligations - Landowner Responsibility**

- 7.1 Any landowner who is responsible for a tree or group of trees has a 'duty of care' to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the risk of personal injury or damage to property arising from the presence of any tree on the site, or from its breakage or possible uprooting. This duty is defined by the Occupiers Liability Act.
- 7.2 Obligation owned by the site owners to visitors and those adjacent to a site under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 (the Principle Duty of Care) and 1984. The latter expanded the obligation to uninvited visitors, under the Principle of Common Humanity, and to those on the land for commercial reasons.

- 7.3 All tree owners have a duty to others to ensure that they are not endangered due to negligence on the part of the tree owner. Negligence in this situation would be the failure to have the tree inspected to avoid danger by collapse or breakage, or the subsequent inaction, following the identification of potential hazards defects by any such inspection. Negligence has been legally defined by precedence in Common Law.
- 7.4 Under these principles, an occupier is liable for losses (physical harm to life and/or property) arising from an accident to a third party, where the cause of the accident was both reasonably foreseeable and reasonably preventable. The circumstances of the owner are considered an important factor in determining what is reasonable.
- 7.5 In order to be in a position to foresee and indeed to prevent losses arising from tree failure, it is necessary to subject the tree or trees in question to regular inspections. These inspections should be undertaken by someone competent both to identify any defects present and to interpret their significance for public safety.
- 7.6 In order to completely carry out their duty of care, the landowner should ensure that the tree condition assessment is carried out by a qualified arboriculturalist. An arboriculturalist is trained to identify hazards and recommend appropriate remedial works, whilst aiming to retain trees in a healthy and safe condition with consideration to the context of their surroundings.

## 8.0 Survey Methodology

- 8.1 A walk over survey was conducted within the boundaries of the Nature Reserve, as outlined in red on survey plan A at Appendix B. Particular attention has been paid to trees growing within the vicinity of public footpaths; manmade desire paths that have been made throughout the site, together with trees growing along the site particularly where they adjoin private properties and public roads. Unless otherwise stated, all observations were conducted from ground level, using the 'Visual Tree Assessment' system (VTA by Mattheck, C & Breloer, H 1994) and The Body Language of Trees, Research for Amenity Trees No 4 Department of the Environment) with the aid of the following equipment:
- Binoculars For inspection of upper crown
  - Sounding mallet To give a sound indication of decay/cavity extent
  - Steel probe To test resistance of wood and depth of cavities
  - Pair of secateurs To remove ivy/sucker growth if required
  - Diameter Tape To measure stem diameters
  - Digital Clinometer/  
Laser Measurer To measure tree height and canopy extents
- 8.2 All trees have been assessed from ground level and inspected for overall condition that would include presence of fungal and bacterial diseases, open decay/cavities, deadwood (over 50mm in diameter), leaf size, density and colour, shoot extension growth, weak branch/stem formation, main stem condition and signs of any root plate movement. Diagram 1 at Appendix C illustrates tree defects to be noted during a visual tree assessment, based on the VTA system.
- 8.3 No topographical plan showing the position of any trees was provided, so the approximate position/location of the trees surveyed in this report has been plotted to the nearest metre using surrounding features such as paths, fences and buildings as datums.
- 8.4 No soil samples were taken.
- 8.5 No internal investigations or tissue samples were taken from the subject trees.
- 8.6 Tree species identification was based on a visual observation. In the tree survey at Appendix A, the common English name of what the tree appeared to be was detailed first with the botanical name, if appropriate in brackets.

- 8.7 The height of the subject tree(s) were estimated to the nearest metre using a digital clinometer.
- 8.8 The average crown spread(s) of the subject tree(s) were measured from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches with average diameter in metres.
- 8.9 Tree age is estimated from visual indicators and should only be taken as a provisional guide. Age estimates often need to be modified based on further information such as historical records or local knowledge.
- 8.10 The tree(s) physiological condition has been categorised either: good / fair / poor / moribund or dead.
- 8.11 **All recommendations highlighted in red should be carried out as soon as possible.**  
Recommendations made in **green** denote secondary inspections or further investigations are warranted before appropriate works can be recommended.
- 8.12 All tree positions can be seen on the plan at Appendix B.
- 8.13 Survey results and recommended works can be seen detailed in Appendix A.

## **9.0 References**

- 9.1 "The Body Language of Trees" by Claus Mattheck & Helge Breloer
- 9.2 "Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment & Management" by David Lonsdale
- 9.3 British Standard BS3998: 2010 "Tree Work" – Recommendations
- 9.4 Lushland's previous report AS0266/03-24, dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- 9.5 Google Earth Pro

# Appendix A

## **Tree Survey Details & Work Recommendations**

Borden Nature Reserve, Borden Lane, Borden, Kent

## Key to Tree Survey Details

### Tree No:

Tree numbers relate to the position of the trees as shown on the plan at Appendix B:

- T** = Single Tree
- G** = Group of trees
- W** = Woodland

### Physiological Condition:

- G** = Good – Showing no adverse risk of failure/defects
- F** = Fair – showing minor signs of deterioration.
- P** = Poor – Unlikely to be returned to a good condition
- MB** = Moribund – Nearly dead
- D** = Dead

### Tree Age:

- N** = A new or recently planted tree established for no more than 5 years in its present location.
- Y** = A young tree planted/established for no more than 10 years in its present location.
- SM** = A semi-mature tree which is well established but with some growth to make before reaching its potential maximum size.
- EM** = A early mature tree approaching its ultimate height whose growth is slowing, but it will still increase considerably in stem diameter & crown spread.
- Mat** = A mature tree at/near maximum size with limited potential for further significant size increase, but still considered to have a safe useful life expectancy.
- O** = An over mature tree in decline.
- V** = A veteran tree that shows features characteristic of, but not exclusive to, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species.

### Recommendations:

Recommendations in **red** should be carried out as soon as possible.

Recommendations in **green** denote secondary inspections or further investigations are warranted before appropriate works can be recommended.

Recommendations in **black** are low-medium priority or no works required.

### Work Priority:

Following the date of inspection, tree surgery works should be undertaken:

<b>IMM</b>	– Immediate works required in the interests of safety (within 24hrs)
<b>High</b>	– within the next month
<b>Med</b>	– within the next 3 months
<b>Low</b>	– post 6 months

### Next Inspection:

Due to the current condition of the tree, the next tree survey is required within the following timeframe:

**6** = Within the next 3-6 months\*

**12** = Within the next 6-12 months\*

**18** = Within the next 12-18 months\*

*\*or following adverse weather*

Although most trees require an annual inspection, if a disease (such as Ash Dieback) has been found, some trees may require an earlier re-inspection to check on the progression of the disease in the interests of health and safety.

Tree No	Species	Age	Phys Cond.	Condition/Comments	Recommendations	Work Priority	Next Inspection (months)
G1	Approx 52 Hybrid Poplar trees (Populus)	Mat	F	Re-pollarded line of trees that show new regrowth of between 1-2m in length. Ivy growth on the main trunks has also been severed and has died giving the trees an untidy appearance. The eighth Poplar in the row from the eastern end has not regenerated and is now a standing dead trunk at a height of around 6m. <i>(please refer to photo 1 below)</i>	<b>Reduce standing dead trunk of Poplar T1 to a height of 2m as a monolith</b>  Continue re-pollarding cycle every 3-5 years (depending on regrowth rate) outside the bird nesting season. September-February 2026/27	High	18
G2	Approx 10 Hybrid Poplar trees (Populus)	Mat	F	Re-pollarded line of trees that show new regrowth of between 1-2m in length. Ivy growth on the main trunks has also been severed and has died giving the trees an untidy appearance. No obvious defects were noted.	<b>No immediate works required.</b> Continue re-pollarding cycle every 3-5 years (depending on regrowth rate) outside the bird nesting season. September-February 2026/27	N/A	18
G3	Approximately 50 Italian Poplar trees (Populus)	Mat	F - G	A line of significant trees growing along the old adjoining field boundary. Most have heavy Ivy infestation that hindered a full inspection. Some with minor to moderate dead wood present, common of the species. Access to the trees made difficult due to undergrowth but from what visual observations could be made no obvious signs of decline were observed. .	<b>No immediate works required.</b>	N/A	18

## End of Survey

Photo 1 – View of standing dead Poplar T1 within group G1 (Please refer to tree location plan at Appendix B)



# Appendix B

## Tree Survey Plan

Borden Nature Reserve, Borden Lane, Borden, Kent

20 m  
100 ft



G3 Approx 50 Italian Poplars

G2 10 Poplars

G1 52 Poplars

T1 Dead Poplar

Scrub thickets

Borden Nature Reserve

Survey Boundary in Red

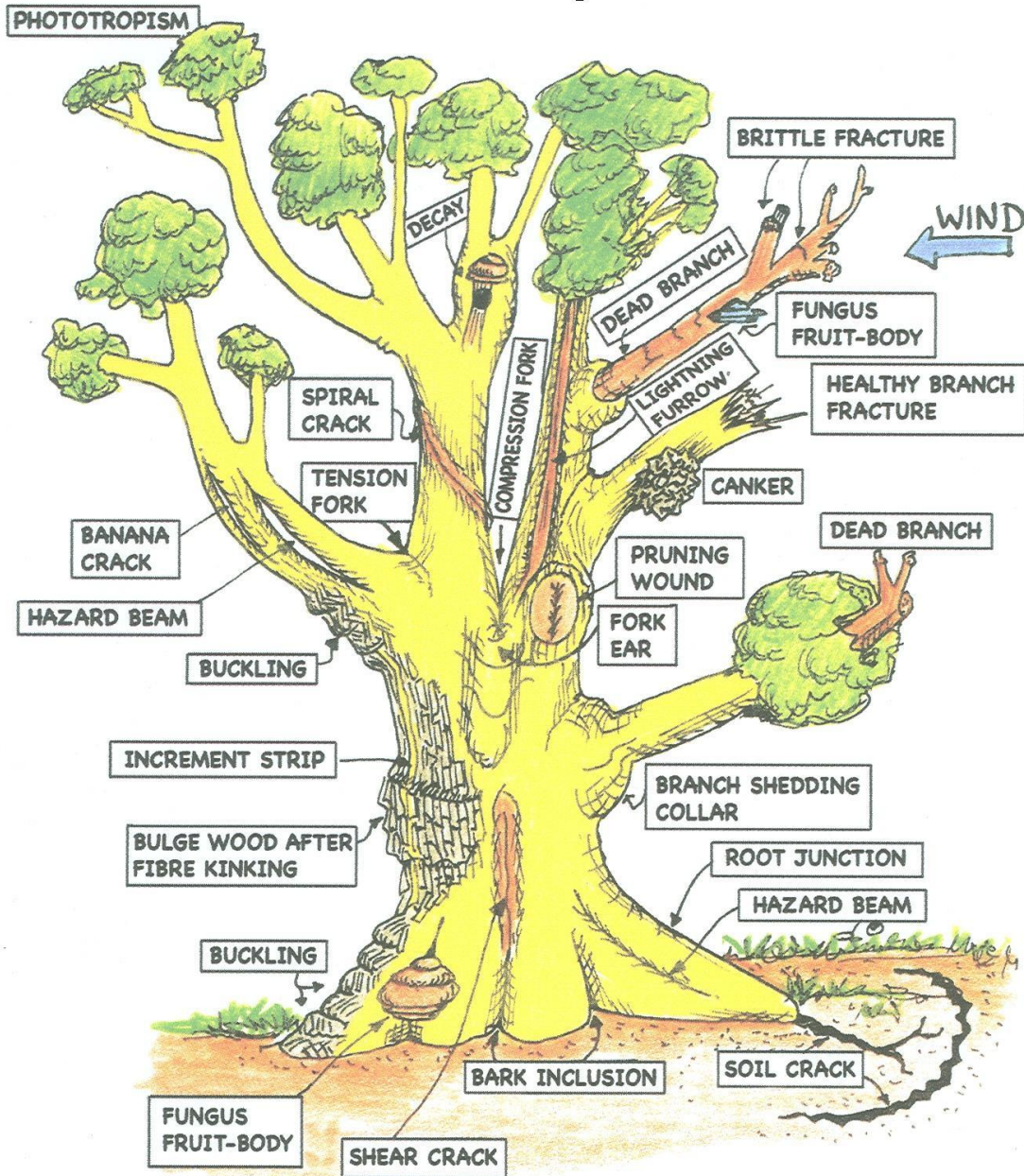
# Appendix C

## Visual Tree Assessment Diagram

## Appendix C - Defects to be noted during a Visual Tree Assessment

Taken from Updated Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment by Claus Mattheck (ISBN 978-3-923704-59-0)

### VTA at a glance



Extract from Updated Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment by Claus Mattheck