FEENEY WOODLANDS

Arboriculture | Land Management | Forestry

Tree Condition Survey and Management Work Recommendations

Site – Kingsmead Parish, Northwich

Client – Kingsmead Parish Council

Survey date	**01/08/2025**
Publication date	**11/08/2025**
Surveyors initials	**KF**

07840639668
info@feeneywoodlands.com
www.feeneywoodlands.com

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to give a tree condition assessment of the trees located within the land ownership/management of Kingsmead Parish Council. All tree were surveyed, only those trees posing increased risk due to location and poor condition were individually marked on site and recorded within this report.

1.2 The findings of this report provide management options with the order of work priority given to primarily address any hazardous trees and provide proactive management to prolong the life and value of the trees or reduce the risk entirely were retention is not possible.

1.3 The following management work recommendations have been identified as found in Appendix 2 Tree Data.

1.4 All tree work should be carried out in accordance with the British Standard BS3998: 2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.

2.0 The Tree Condition Survey

2.1 The tree condition survey was conducted by Kevin Feeney

2.2 All tree inspections were carried out in accordance with current best practise (Visual Tree Assessment) to give a systematic, consistent and transparent evaluation method to tree inspecting.

2.3 Limitations of the Tree Condition Survey/Scope of works: Whilst every effort is made to ensure an accurate assessment of the trees condition is made during survey no responsibility can be taken for resultant damage or injury occurred by a failing tree. The survey only gives a snap shot of what is visible, not obscured or accessible on the day of survey. Please note that the findings of this report are only valid for 12 months from the date of the tree inspection. This report does not constitute to a full tree safety policy for the study area nor does it take into account any underground geological activity that may affected the structural condition of the trees.

3.0 The Tree Inspection

3.1 The main scope of this tree inspection is to identify hazardous trees in a poor physiological or structural condition and the required management options to reduce the risk of these hazardous trees to an acceptable level as detailed by the Health and Safety Executive in Management of the risk from falling trees or branches - http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag_food/010705.htm.

3.2 The trees location is factored into the management options and decision making process for priority of undertaking works. Tree failure into low or dis-used areas is below the threshold for what is reasonably practicable and removes key habitat for a range of species. All trees within the Kingsmead Parish Council ownership boundary maps provided were surveyed, only those posing risk and requiring management have been marked on site and recorded within this report.

3.3 Where required trees may be grouped as a whole and tree works recommended for that group. In this case the Tree ID will begin with a G.

3.4 The level of detail of the tree inspection may vary depending on the target occupation and the size of the tree or tree groups. For example large trees in high target occupation areas may be inspected in much greater detail than small trees in low target occupation areas.

3.5 Areas identified to be surveyed in the study area are shown on the Tree Location Plan as found in Appendix 3.

4.0 The Tree

4.1 Tree Data - All data regarding the trees inspected for this report can be found in Appendix 2 Tree Data.

4.2 Tree Management Options - Within Appendix 2 the Tree Management Work Recommendations are colour coded for work priority. See appendix 1 – tree survey key for detail on timescales. Other works can be identified from this list to achieve desired management objectives and timescale given for the completion of this work. Please note that all work must be carried out to the British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Works Recommendation.

4.3 Tree Location Plan - A Tree Location Plan can be found in Appendix 3. Note only trees requiring remedial work were noted down in this survey and other trees within the site are present but not included in the tree location plan.

4.4 Legal Constraints

- **TPO (Tree Preservation Orders)/Conservation Areas** – The Tree Preservation Officer from the Local Planning Authority should be consulted before any work is carried out on site.

- **Protected Wildlife** – Before any tree work is carried out on site the trees should be inspected and written records taken of the activity of any protected species on site. This is to prevent the damage to any wildlife. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to destroy or disturb nesting birds, if nesting birds are discovered or suspected no works can proceed and the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Local Wildlife Trust must be notified for advice as to how to proceed. Further to this wildlife such as Bats are protected under European legislation (Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Habitat Regulation 2009) it is an offence to recklessly, or internally, kill, injure or capture bats, to disturb them, or destroy, obstruct or damage any bat roosts found. If any bat activity is found then the bat conservation trust should be contacted as soon as possible (http://www.bats.org.uk/ or 0845 1300 228). Further guidance relating to the protection of wildlife within development design is given in Welsh Assembly Government Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009).

- **Tree Felling Licence** – Depend on the designation of the land where the trees are located a Tree Felling Licence may be required if more than 5 cubic metres of timber are being extracted per one quarter a felling license must be obtained from Forestry England.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The detailed Tree Management Options as found in Appendix 2 should be conducted as the priority states. See Appendix 1 for a suggested timescale for work to be carried out. These recommendations are to be taken from the date fieldwork was carried out.

6.0 Further Information and Qualifications

Kevin Feeney has been involved in Arboriculture, woodland management and ecology for over 10 years. Working across the northwest and midlands in practical and theoretical management of trees, woodlands and other habitats.

Qualifications

- Second class division one BSc (Hons) Degree
- PTI - Professional Tree Inspection (Lantra Awards)

•QTRA – Quantified Tree Risk Assessment trained and registered user.

• Institute of Chartered Foresters - Associate member

7.0 Web Information & Bibliography

Web Information

Health and Safety
Executive - http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag_food/010705.htm

Arboricultural Association – http://www.trees.org.uk/index.php

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• British Standards 3998 (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations UK; British Standards Intuition

• British Standards 5837 (2012) Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations; British Standards Intuition

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• Shigo, A.L (1991) Modern Arboriculture USA; Shigo and Trees, Association

• Sterry, P (2007) Collins Complete British Trees London; Collins • Strouts, R.G (2000) Diagnosis of ill-health in trees Edinburgh; Forestry Commission

• Weber,K & Mattheck, C (2003) Manual of wood decay UK; Arboricultural Association

• Quantified Tree Risk Assessment practice notes Practice Notes – QTRA

8.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 Tree Survey Key

• **Tree ID –** Individual number assigned to a tree using an alluminium numbered tree tag attached to the tree at 1.5-1.8m on the main stem. The use of a G indicates a group of trees. T may be used where attaching a tag is not possible with reasoning provided in the description.

• **Tree Name/ species** - Common tree name and scientific tree name in brackets.

• **W3W** – What 3 Words location of tree within a 3x3m accuracy level. what3words /// The simplest way to talk about location

• **Age class -**

- **Y - Young** – Less than 1/3 of expected species height in setting
- **SM - Semi Mature** - Less than 2/3 of expected species height in setting
- **M - Mature** – 3/3 of expected species height in setting

•**N,E,S, W –** compass directions.

•**M/m –** measurement in meters. Height is calculated using a Nikon Forestry Pro 2 Laser Rangefinder.

•**Priority** A suggested timescale for the work to be carried out is provided below:

- **Urgent** - work priority is suggested to be as soon as possible. Remedial work to take place within 14 days unless specified as immediate/same day which could include signage or temporary fencing. Remedial work to take place within 3 months.

• **High** – remedial work to take place within 6 months.

• **Medium** – remedial work within 6-18 months

• **Low** – proactive work to be carried out when time or budget allows or re-inspection at a time specified within the management options.

Appendix 2 – Tree assessment data, arranged in order of priority

Tree ID	Species	W3W	Age class	Height (m)	Description	Management Options	Priority
G295	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///thundered.feels.bounding	SM	18	Group of sixteen Ash trees. All exhibiting Ash dieback with the majority 40-60% remaining canopy function and several standing dead. Located between private driveway and footpath.	Fell all sixteen trees to ground level	High
298	Alder (*Alnus glutinosa)*	///smudges.contained.inferior	Y	6	Rot visible in buttress with strimmer damage evident around base of tree. When pressure is applied by hand the tree cracks and could easily be pushed over. Top third of tree is dead. Located in open greenspace.	Fell to ground level	High
T5	Alder (*Alnus glutinosa)*	///grills.song.reshaping	M	13	Unable to mark or inspect due to dense ivy cover throughout tree which will also increase wind loading. Located in boundary hedge next to footpath/road.	Sever and remove ivy from ground to 3m. Reinspection.	High
280	Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum)*	///tripled.reflected.diggers	M	5	Dead and fallen into neighbouring tree with low potential for upper branches to reach footpath.	Fell to ground level.	High
286	Oak (*Quercus robur)*	///shirtless.bumpy.adjusting	SM	14	Half of upper canopy has snapped out and failed into woodland edge at a tension union. Remaining half is now compromised and likely to fail into road.	Fell to ground level.	High
296	Score Pine (*Pinus sylvestrus)*	///romantics.splat.dared	M	12	Main stem forks at 2m, tension union with included bark has split into the main stem as primary limbs are pulling apart. Highly likely to fail in high winds. Within falling distance of	Fell to ground level.	High

					private garden and located within well used greenspace.		
110	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///revamped.peachy.cooks	M	22	Previously marked 110 and painted T20. Multi stemmed from base supporting three mature stems. Increasing ivy cover. Ash dieback present with 40-60% remaining canopy function. Leaning over garage and driveway.	Fell to ground level. Requires dismantle and rigging.	Medium
279	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///sweeper.essay.quality	M	16	Leaning form over road and footpath. Cavity on main stem at 6m located below two primary limbs at point of support. Located on edge of woodland in exposed location.	Fell and remove.	Medium
G282	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///quantity.thinks.squirted	SM	8	Group of two semi-mature Ash trees five meters apart next to path and clock. Ash dieback present with 40-60% remaining canopy function.	Fell to ground level.	Medium
G294	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///influence.wizards.scouting	SM	16	Group of five Ash trees. Ash dieback present with 40-60% remaining canopy function. Located between private driveway and footpath.	Fell all five trees to ground level.	Medium
T1	Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia)*	///water.proves.epidemics	M	12	Inaccessible for tree marking due to dense vegetation. Heavy ivy cover, large dead limbs mainly over below vegetation in low use area.	Remove dead limbs. Clear vegetation and inspect remainder of tree.	Medium
291	Cherry (*Prunus sp')*	///ghosts.crouch.pushes	SM	3.5	Dieback of around 60% of canopy likely caused by strimmer damage to buttress which is fresh and old indicating repeated damage. Lower canopy is in full leaf. Set on green hill well back from public however is opposite college entrance and may be used in sunny weather.	Cut and remove dead material. See notes section regarding strimmer damage.	Medium

G285	Elm (*Ulmus sp'*)	///necklace.delight.freely	SM	10	Group of ten dead Elm spread along approximately 30m of hedgerow.	Fell to ground level.	Medium
G303	Elm (*Ulmus sp'*)	///recording.grudges.swelling	SM	6	Group of eight dead Elm located next to footpath. With ivy cover.	Fell to ground level.	Medium
T4	Elm (*Ulmus sp'*)	///severe.routines.mush	SM		Dead next to path.	Fell to ground level.	Medium
284	Elm (*Ulmus sp'*)	///necklace.delight.freely	SM	7	Dead next to path and road.	Fell to ground level.	Medium
278	Goat Willow (*Salix caprea)*	///curly.ribcage.knots	M	12	Multi stemmed from base, one stem is a leaning growth form in direction of residential garden with capacity to damage fence. This limb is indicating rot at union with other stems at ground level with likelihood of failure high.	Fell and remove all 4 stems.	Medium
288	Goat Willow (*Salix caprea)*	///seating.identify.laughs	M	10	Coppice at ground level supporting five mature stems, several have failed and are caught in neighbouring trees. One mature limbs leans out over green space with little usage but is likely to fail.	Coppice all stems back to ground level.	Medium
281	Alder (*Alnus glutinosa)*	///chiefs.surprise.snappy	M	15	Leaning growth form on edge of woodland over path and garage. Bulging on lower stem and fresh back cracking indicating tension in stem.	Fell to ground level.	Medium
273	Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum)*	///emulated.pump.haggle	SM	6	Mark damage surrounding lower stem from ground to 1m with Heartwood rot visible. Trees bends from 0.5m on stem rather than ground when pushed by hand. Located within falling distance of path.	Fell to ground level and remove.	Medium
268	Oak (*Quercus robur)*	///afflicted.asserts.animal	M	16	Deadwood in lower canopy, located next to well used picnic bench. Epicormic growth along primary limbs indicating stress.	Remove deadwood branches over 1 inch in diameter.	Medium

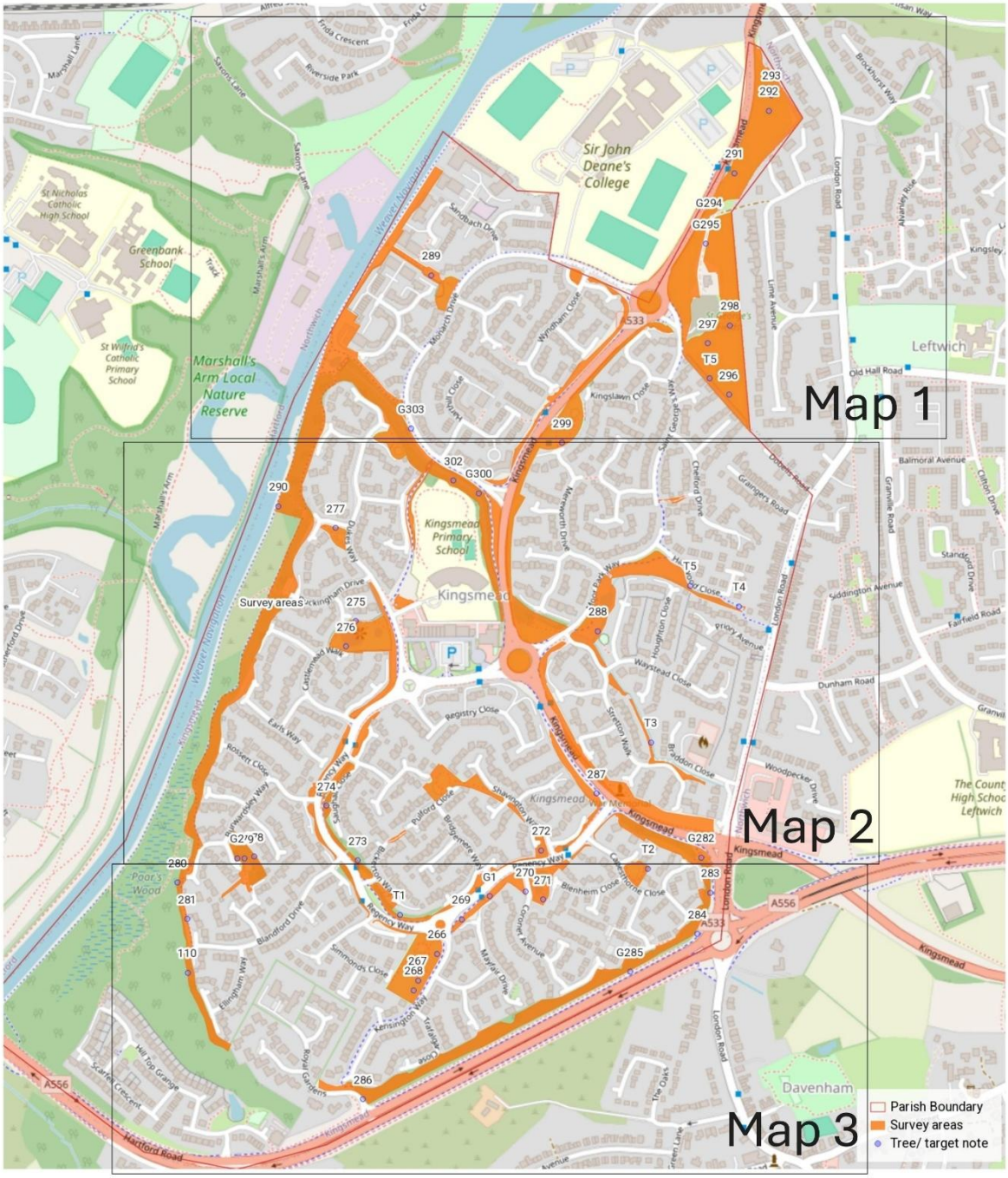
271	Oak (*Quercus robur)*	///milk.desiring.directors	M	15	Dense ivy cover throughout stem and into upper canopy. Pigeon nest in upper canopy. Ivy preventing full visual tree assessment.	Sever and remove ivy from ground to 2m. Reinspection.	Medium
274	Oak (*Quercus robur)*	///vented.indulgent.left	M	11	Two snapped out limbs in upper canopy, still attached. Likely from added wind loading from removal of neighbouring mature Ash tree. Possibility of reaching footpath in high winds.	Remove snapped out limbs.	Medium
T3	Oak (*Quercus robur)*	///disgraced.rushed.loudness	M	15	Unable to mark tree due to dense ivy cover throughout main stem and canopy preventing detailed visual tree inspection.	Sever and remove ivy from ground to 2m. Crown lift lower limbs to 3m.	Medium
267	Oak (*Quercus robur)*	///aced.toffee.dawn	M	15	Minor deadwood in canopy with larger dead limbs over picnic bench.	Remove total of two mature dead limbs located at a height of 5m. One is over picnic bench and other nearer stem.	Medium
G1	Oak, Sycamore	///states.serious.hourglass	M	16	Hedgerow with multiple mature trees, dense ivy cover on lower stem preventing visual tree inspection.	Sever and remover ivy from lower stem and reinspect within 12 months.	Medium
283	Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia)*	///necklace.delight.freely	SM	6	Dead next to path and road.	Fell to ground level.	Medium
266	Sorbus sp'	///soccer.newsprint.hourglass	M	3	Recently planted, dead. Located between play area and hedge. Strimmer damage to lower stem.	Fell and remove.	Medium
T2	Unknown	///inflamed.strictly.short	SM	6	Inaccessible for marking due to dense vegetation. Dead on boundary next to residential gardens.	Fell to ground level.	Medium
299	Willow (*Salix* sp')	///basher.tumblers.prelude	M	7	Multi stemmed from ground with previous pollarding at 2m. 40% of canopy is dead and leaning over footpath due to Grey Squirrel damage.	Coppice back to ground level, pollarding not an option due to squirrel damage on main stem.	Medium

270	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///motivates.casual.dolly	M	18	Early indication of Ash dieback with minor but increasing deadwood in canopy. Leaning growth form over road. North-east side of stem at 1.5m has multiple holes indicating invertebrate burrowing. Sounding mallet on area indicates internal decay of area. Several cavities in mid canopy from previous pruning cut which are being enclosed.	Monitor for further decline in canopy.	Low
277	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///grins.bounty.cricket	SM	10	Early indication of Ash dieback with minor deadwood forming on ends of branches. Located next to play area.	Monitor annually for dieback in canopy.	Low
289	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///swanky.firework.suits	SM	11	Early Ash dieback present with 80% remaining canopy function. Between path and road.	Monitor annually for further decline, if decline reaches less than 60% remaining canopy function then fell to ground level.	Low
290	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///tickles.snipe.ignore	M	22	Ash dieback present with 40-60% remaining canopy function. Heavy ivy cover. Next to river footpath on edge of woodland block.	Fell to ground level.	Low
293	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///state.track.woods		8	Ash dieback present with 60-80% remaining canopy function, dead tips to branches. Located set back on greenspace away from regular use areas.	Monitor annually for further canopy decline.	Low
302	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///giggles.lakes.manicured	M	25	Mature specimen with some veteran features. Heavy ivy cover throughout main stem preventing visual tree inspection. Old Dryads saddle fungal bracket found at base indicating potential upper canopy branch decay but not visible. In low use area set back from footpath/road and school boundary.	Clear and remove ivy from ground to 2m. Allow Ivy to die back and reinspect within 18 months.	Low
G2	Ash (*F.exselsior)*	///renovated.jazz.snow		16	Group of 8 Ash trees exhibiting early signs of Ash dieback with minor reactive growth on	Monitor annually for canopy decline.	Low

					stems and branches with tips of canopy dead. Located next to road and footpath.		
272	Cherry (*Prunus sp')*	///jumbled.bring.months	SM	4	Large bark split on main stem at ground level, possible mechanical or mower damage. Located set back from road and other risk zones. Heavily shaded by neighbouring trees resulting in poor canopy vigour.	Tree likely to decline with possibility of failure in future years. Proactively remove or retain for deadwood habitat.	Low
G300	Crack Willow	///amphibian.rocky.maybe	M	22	Group of three mature Crack Willow located on corner junction of road. All have leaning growth forms out over road with heavy ivy cover. All have tension unions at base supporting mature stems. This species is prone to failure as a growing strategy with some evidence of bulging and buckling on the lower stem and buttress indicating tension. Trees are in good health.	Proactively consider removal of all three trees due to high risk nature of location and species.	Low
T6	Elm (*Ulmus sp'*)	///warned.pelting.potato	SM	8	Dieback in canopy with 50% remaining canopy function. Likely Dutch Elm disease. Next to footpath.	Fell to ground level. Dead Elm can remaining standing for many years.	Low
275	Alder (*Alnus glutinosa)*	///sediment.formless.insisting	M	17	Ganoderma bracket fungi visible at base of stem indicating Heartwood rot, bracket appears fresh. Located on edge of pond near to footpath. Tree is leaning towards pond so unlikely to fail in direction of path.	Monitor for decline in canopy, proactively fell and remove tree or monolith to retain standing deadwood.	Low
276	Alder (*Alnus glutinosa)*	///forced.admiringly.typified	M	18	Leggy leaning growth form on edge of pond leaning over driveway and parked cars. Tree has to main stems, one has been removed over pond with the remaining leaning stem exposed to wind loading.	Proactively fell as wind loading could cause failure due to the leggy and top heavy form of the tree.	Low
292	Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus)*	///camp.complains.gasp	SM	9	Tree in visible decline with canopy now consisting of epicormic growth along branches. Tips of branches dead but less that	Flag for re-inspection on next tree condition assessment schedule.	Low

					20mm in diameter posing low risk. Set on bank of green space well away from high risk area.		
287	Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum)*	///pipeline.suits.removed	M	8	Vertical crack on main stem from 0.3 to 2m. Crack showing good bark inclusion. Set back from road next to path on green verge.	Monitor crack for further bark inclusion. Crack likely formed by twisting of the stem as wind has hit the canopy alongside. Proactively a canopy reduction of 2m will reduce the wind loading and allow the tree time to recover.	Low
269	Oak (*Quercus robur)*	///states.serious.hourglass	M	15	Large cavity visible on main stem at 4m with good bulging and strengthening growth surrounding wound. Limb above cavity on south-eastern side of tree indicates bulging which further indicates internal decay. Tree has several recent pruning cuts which have reduced over mass. Located next to residential road.	Monitor annually for recovery of pruning cuts and further indications of internal decay.	Low
297	Unknown broadleaf with catkins	///refills.skyrocket.product	Y	3	Appears dead at first glance but is in bud and stems are alive with fresh catkins unfurling. Turf or waste soil has been dumped around root plate. Located in open greenspace, newly planted tree of little risk.	Monitor annually for recovery.	Low

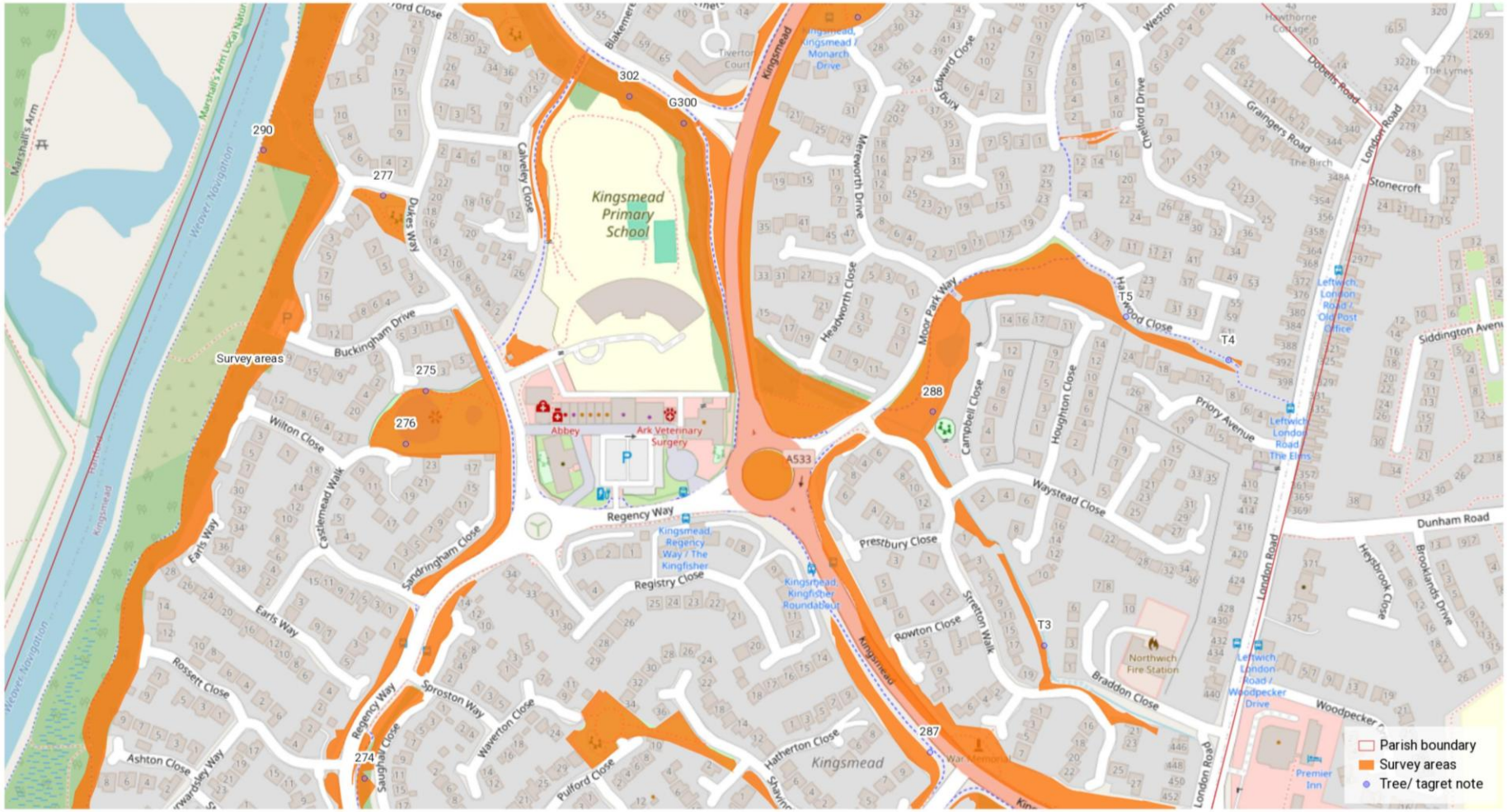
Appendix 3 – Tree Location Plan



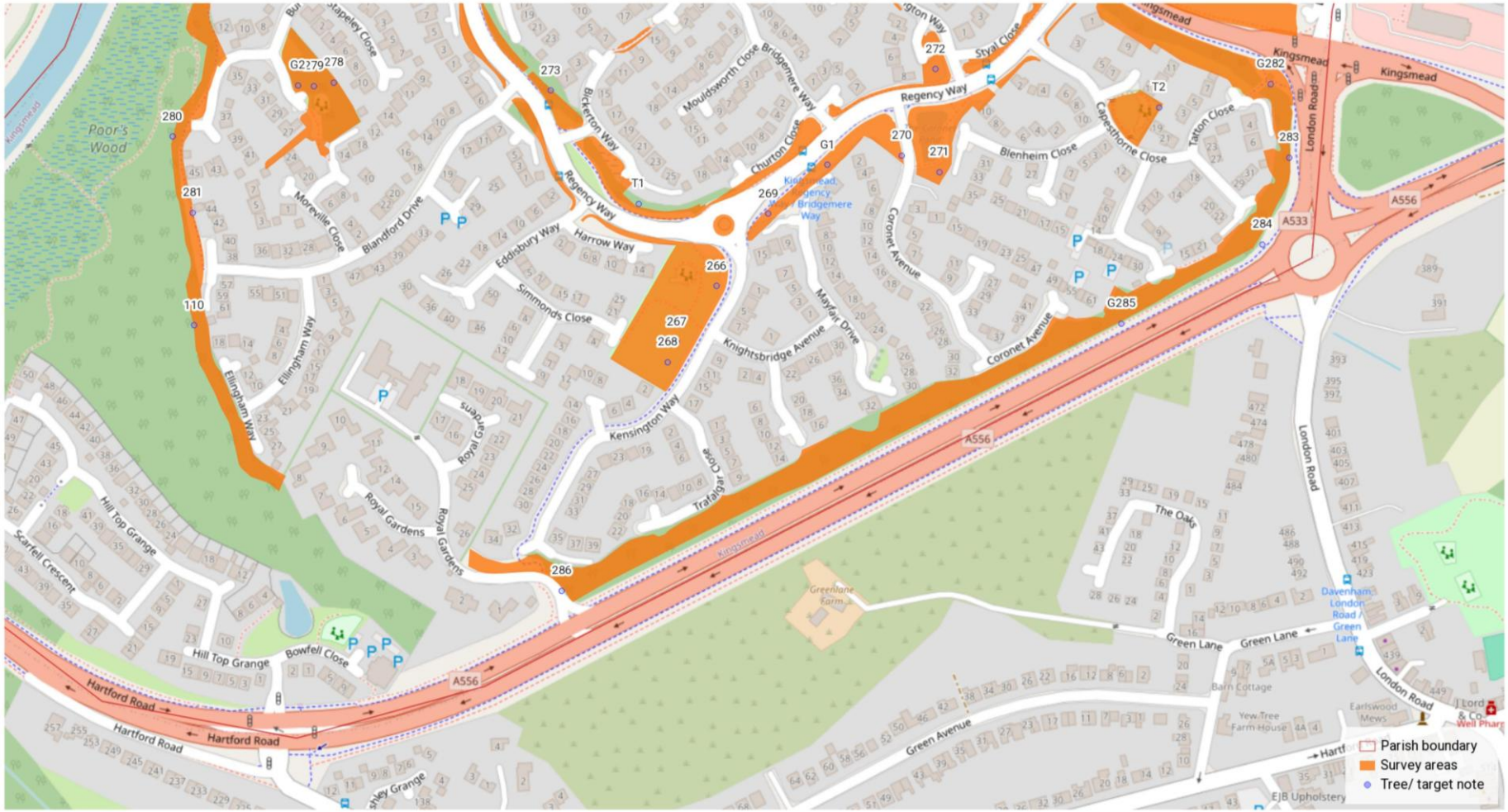
Map 1 - Overview and breakdown of Maps 2, 3 and 4



Map 2 - Northern segment of Parish.



Map 3 - Central segment of Parish



Map 4 - Southern segment of Parish

100 m
Scale 1:3845 (at A4)

N

Appendix 4 - Tree Photographs *(in ascending ID order with Groups following)*



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273



275 – Ganoderma bracket



276



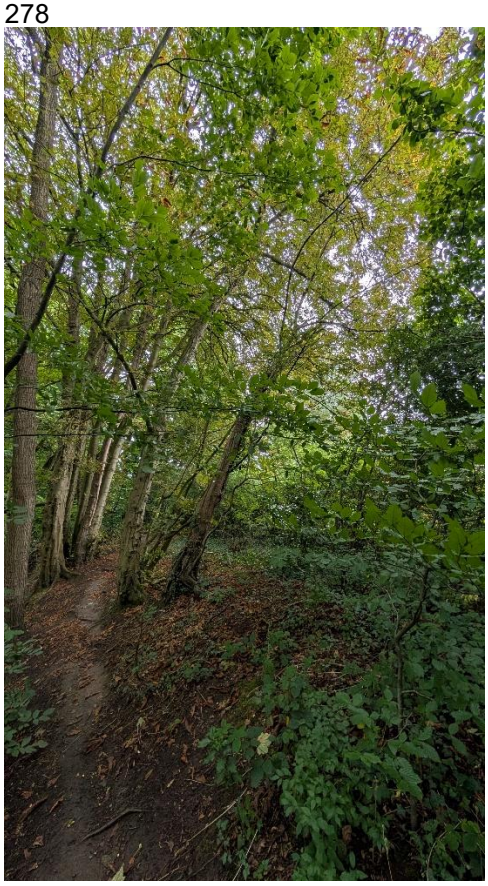
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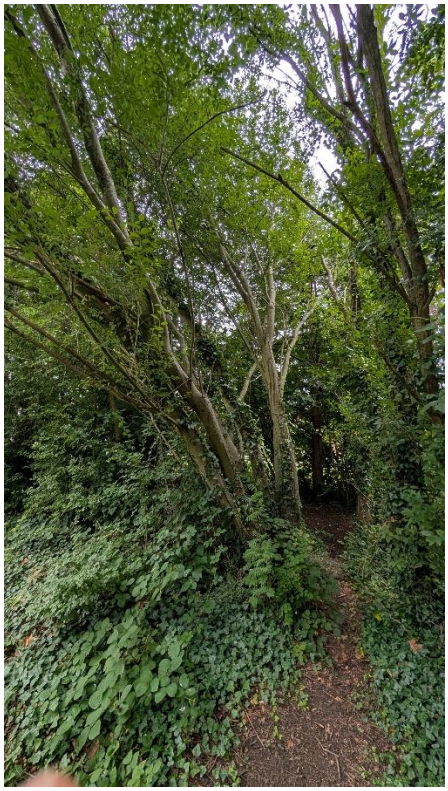
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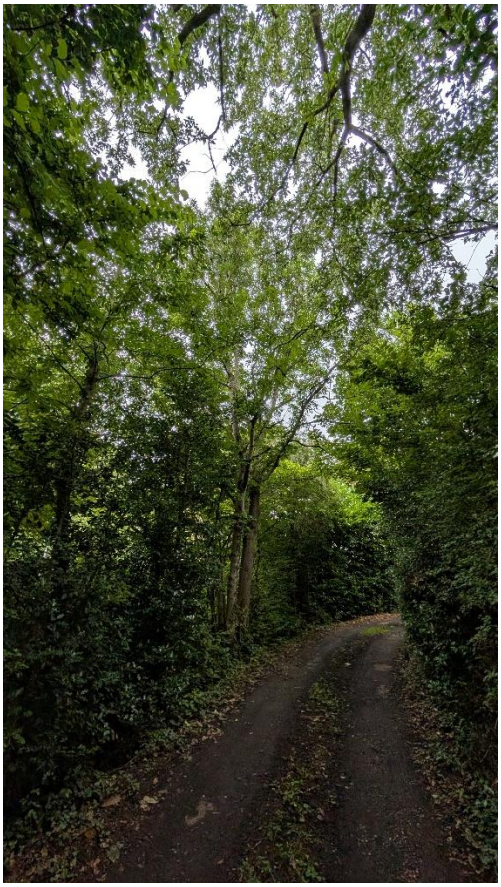
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G294



G295



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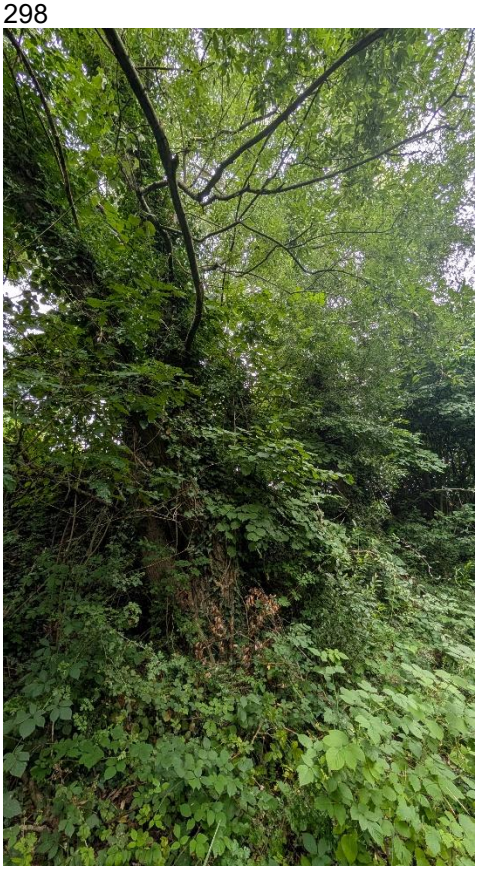
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G300



302



G303



T1



T2



T3



T4



T5



T6

Appendix 5 – Further field notes and recommendations

- It is recommended that a tree condition survey is carried out at intervals of 2 years due to the age of trees located on site and presence of target structures. Any sudden or noticeable changes such as limb loss, damage from storm events or dieback in the canopy of leaves and branches on trees then further arboriculture advice should be sought.
- Ash Dieback is present within the population within Kingsmead Parish however the presence is limited to trees noted within the report. Ash is however common and making up 20-30% of some areas of woodland cover. Thinning to 10-15% would reduce future management issues by allowing the woodland to regenerate and cope with future Ash loss, a thin of 20-30% in one go would increase the likelihood of windthrow in retained trees and cause further issues.
- The majority of tree cover is in a semi-mature phase having been mainly planted along with the building of housing estates. Proactive thinning to remove poorly formed trees will reduce costs in the long term and achieve a diverse range of tree age classes. Allowing the even age tree cover to mature at the same rate will create a mature and declining population and increased tree management costs.

We would like to thank you for your custom. At Feeney Woodlands Ltd we are passionate about all aspects of tree and land management, if you require assistance in delivering the recommendations within this report or have any other enquiries or projects then please do not hesitate to contact us.

07840639668

info@feeneywoodlands.com