

Conservation Area Tree Works Application

Woodland Management Brief

Mr Derry would like to manage the woodland to ensure it remains a safe, healthy and enjoyable environment for himself, his family and friends to use and appreciate.

The woodland is currently heavily overgrown with self-set holly and other naturally regenerating trees, which has restricted access and reduced light reaching the woodland floor. While some holly and self-set growth will be retained for biodiversity and habitat value, an approximate 70% reduction in the dense holly growth is considered beneficial to improve access, light levels and the overall structure of the woodland.

As part of the management works, it is also proposed to remove dead and structurally unsafe trees where appropriate. There are approximately 15 large dead sycamore stems within the woodland. Reducing the dense holly understorey is essential to safely carry out this work, as the existing density of holly would prevent larger sections of deadwood from safely reaching ground level.

The woodland also contains established sycamore coppice along the front boundary, which it is proposed to re-coppice as part of the ongoing management of the woodland edge. Areas of elder will also be selectively managed where growth has become excessive.

All arising timber and brash will be retained on site. Suitable timber will be left as standing or fallen habitat where appropriate, while other material may be processed into woodchip and used to create or improve informal woodland paths.

The proposed works will be undertaken sensitively and progressively, retaining suitable trees, habitat features and areas of holly while improving the woodland's safety, accessibility, biodiversity and long-term health.

The uprooted yew tree within the woodland will be retained in its current position as a natural woodland feature and valuable deadwood habitat.

Schedule of Proposed Tree Works

T1–T17 – Sycamore

The sycamore trees are located in close proximity to the adjacent highway and neighbouring residential properties. Their position means that, should their condition deteriorate or structural failure occur, there are significant potential targets within falling distance.

The trees have shown signs of stress and decline following recent periods of prolonged high temperatures and dry weather. Visible scorching and dieback within the crowns indicate that the trees may have been adversely affected by drought and heat stress.

Due to their close proximity to the highway, BT cables, power lines and residential properties, continued deterioration could increase the potential risk associated with branch or whole-tree failure.

The proposed removal is considered a precautionary and proactive management measure, forming part of the wider woodland management programme. The intention is to address trees showing signs of significant stress or decline before their condition deteriorates further, particularly given their proximity to the road and neighbouring properties.

The proposed works will improve the long-term safety and management of the woodland while allowing the remaining woodland to be managed and retained as a healthy and sustainable environment.

T18–T19 – Hawthorn

The two hawthorn trees are heavily covered with ivy and are located in close proximity to the adjacent highway, with significant overhang towards the road.

It is proposed to fell the trees to ground level due to their condition, their proximity to the highway and the potential risk associated with their continued overhang.

T20–T24 – Sycamore

The sycamore trees currently overhang the rear property boundary and extend into the neighbouring garden.

It is proposed to selectively reduce the overhanging branches back to the property boundary to minimise the potential for future issues arising from excessive overhang, including branch failure and further encroachment into the neighbouring property.

The works will be undertaken selectively, retaining the overall structure and appearance of the trees while maintaining an appropriate clearance from the neighbouring property.

Additional Woodland Management Works

In addition to the individually identified trees above, the wider woodland management programme will include:

- Selective and phased reduction of excessive self-set holly, with approximately 70% reduction proposed in the most densely overgrown areas.
- Retention of suitable holly for biodiversity and habitat value.
- Removal of dead and structurally unsafe trees where appropriate.
- Management of approximately 15 large dead sycamore stems within the woodland.

- Re-coppicing of established sycamore coppice along the front woodland boundary.
- Selective management of excessive elder growth along the woodland frontage.
- Management of trees and vegetation adjacent to the two surrounding roads.
- Management of vegetation adjacent to the neighbouring residential property.
- Improvement and creation of informal woodland access routes.
- Retention of suitable fallen timber and deadwood as habitat.
- Use of suitable arising woodchip to create and improve woodland paths.

The overall objective is to improve the safety, accessibility, biodiversity and long-term sustainability of the woodland while retaining its predominantly native character and natural appearance.