

3rd April 2021

Dear Nigel Holly,

Small Saints Pre-school, Holbeach – Beech tree

Thank you for instructing me to inspect the Beech tree in the grounds of the pre-school, and report on its condition and management.

Please see the accompanying map for the location of the tree.

Tree 1:

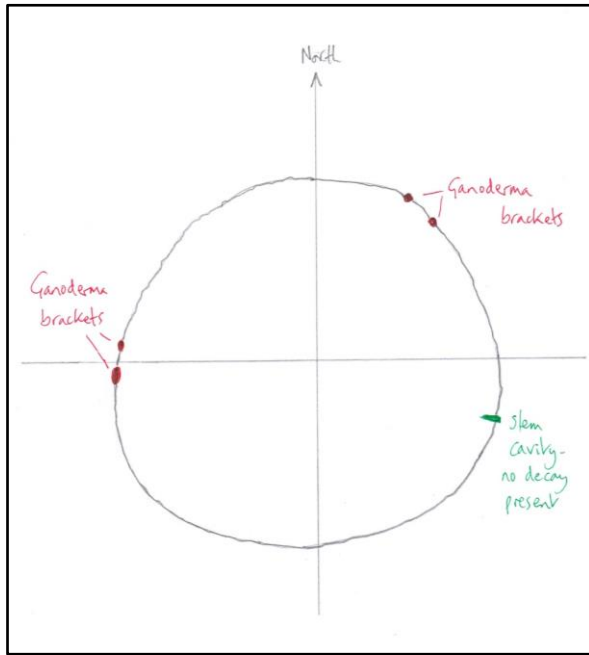
Fagus sylvatica Beech



A mature specimen tree, approx. 22m high, growing in a large shrubbery area where there has been little soil or root disturbance around the tree. Some wooden play equipment has been installed 2-3m from the tree.

The tree appears to have been pollarded early in its long history.

The main stem is sound; there are some small pockets of decay around the base with young Ganoderma brackets present. See stem diagram:



stem diameter approx. 160cm

No evidence of Meripulus was found.

There are some old pruning wounds, some possibly following a branch failure. One branch failed in summer 2020.

The crown has little dead wood, the shoots have reasonable extension growth and vitality is good.

The southern part of the crown has some crossing and self-grafting branches; one branch is damaged and weak from rubbing.

There are high branches over the neighbours property, but they are not an actionable nuisance.

Crown spread:

North....10m

East..... 14.5m

South ...8.5m

West 11m

Recommendation:

- Remove the damaged crossing branch above the play equipment, on the southern side of the crown.
- Crown reduce by pruning the side branches back to reduce the crown width by approx. 3-4m overall, and by reducing the height by approx. 2m. The pruning points to be at appropriate break points decided by the tree surgeon in the tree. This will reduce crown weight and stress on the main unions.
- Inspect in late summer to confirm Meripulus is not present
- 3 yearly re-inspection; this will allow monitoring of the Ganoderma infection

Tree 2:

Ulmus 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' Elm

Whilst on site I noticed this tree growing near the play area. See map for location.

The tree is a mature specimen, approx. 20m high.

The stems are ivy clad; it was not possible to access the base of the tree.

The tree has a poor structure due to large branch and stem failures, or removals, in the past, including on the neighbours side.

This cultivar has inherent weak stem unions and this combined with the additional weight/wind resistance of the ivy makes this tree very likely to future stem and branch failures.

There is evidence that the tree has been crown reduced in the past.

Recommendation:

- crown reduce by 3-4m; to previous pruning points
- sever ivy
- remove deadwood over 5cm Ø
- re-inspect after ivy has died

The work I have recommended should be carried out by a competent and insured tree surgeon.

As with any tree there cannot be any guarantee that the trees will not fail in the event of exceptional conditions, e.g. a violent storm.

I hope this report provides the information you require; please do contact me if you have any queries as a result of my visit or report.

Yours sincerely,

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