



By Appointment to  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Landscape Maintenance Contractor  
Gavin Jones Ltd  
Surrey



Part of the Nurture Landscapes Group

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## Tree Condition Survey 2019

### Pingle Brook “ash tree”

Kingsmere, Bicester, OX26 1RS

**Prepared for:**

Richard Emery

Countryside Properties

Senior Project Manager (Infrastructure)

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Gavin Jones Ref: MSURV/CV/Pingle Brook “ash tree”/2019

**Plan prepared by:**

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**Survey work undertaken: 08<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Report prepared: 09<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019**



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### **Appendix 1: Tree Reference Plan**

### **Appendix 2: Detailed Tree Assessment**

# 1. Introduction

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Gavin Jones Ltd was commissioned to carry out a tree condition survey on behalf of Richard Emery of Countryside Properties on a single ash tree at Pingle Brook, Kingsmere, Bicester as per quotation MS19-017. The survey was completed by Carlo Vannini on behalf Gavin Jones Ltd in relation to tree health and management recommendations, safety to the general public, and outlining any proposed remedial works. The site visit was carried out on the 08<sup>th</sup> March 2019 with inspections of trees being carried out from ground level only.

## 2. The Site

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### 2.1 Description of the site

The area surrounding the ash tree comprises of open ground with lawn and new planted trees. A small brook can be found just to the north of where the tree is located. An adjacent private property is approximately 8m from the tree stem to the south.

### 2.2 Weather conditions

The weather conditions during the visit were sunny and dry.

## 3. The Trees

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**3.1** Unless expressed otherwise 1) information contained within this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the times of inspection; and 2) the inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible items. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the plant or property in question may not arise in the future.

**3.2** Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly, the health, condition, and safety of trees should be checked on a regular basis, preferably at least once in an 18 month period. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are only valid for a period of 18 months from the date of this report. This period of validity may be reduced in the case of any change in conditions to or in proximity to the tree.

**3.3** The tree has been assessed from ground level. All information was collected by carrying out a Visual Tree Assessment (VTA). The tree was not tagged during the survey.


#### **3.4 Trees Surveyed**


During the survey a single mature ash tree was inspected and recorded.


The inspected tree is a single mature ash tree located within open grounds and is approximately 8m from a newly built private property. Historically, the tree was crown reduced quite hard some time ago possibly to facilitate the construction of the new dwelling. When looking at the tree from a distance, it can be observed that the tree has died back since being reduced and major dead wood has formed over the old pruning points (see figure 1).


Further to the above, a small cavity was noted at the base of the tree to the west of the stem (see figure 2) and after removing the bramble covering the area an invasive investigation was carried out within the cavity to establish the extent of the decay present and size of the cavity. Unfortunately, the small cavity was much bigger than anticipated (see figure 3) and has spread within the majority trunk and probably up to 1m up the stem. The trunk is hollowing out and has done for quite some time (see figure 4), this is the result of fungal activity within the root and stem base area possibly from honey fungus, although no fungal fruiting body was found during the inspection. It is difficult to establish what triggered the colonisation of the fungus but whilst surveying the tree it was noticed that various rabbit burrows were present adjacent to the trunk. The rabbit's activity could have damaged some of the roots when tunnelling the area and the damaged caused might have been the point of entry for the fungal infection which then spread to the whole of the base of the tree.

Unfortunately, due to the extent of decay within the roots and stem base and furthermore due to position of the tree being within falling distance of the adjacent property I would recommend the tree to be removed as soon as it is practically possible to make the area safe.

Photograph	Description
	<p><b>Figure 1:</b> Showing ash tree crown dieback/major dead wood within the crown following the reduction.</p>

Photograph	Description
	<p><b>Figure 2:</b> Showing small cavity at the base of the tree where the arrow is pointing.</p>

Photograph	Description
	<p><b>Figure 3:</b> Showing the collapse of the timber surrounding the cavity during the invasive investigation.</p>

Photograph	Description
	<p><b>Figure 4.</b> Showing the inside of the trunk viewed from the cavity. Please note that the decay has spread for the majority of the trunk base and extending upwards to approximately 1m from the ground.</p>

### 3.5 Height, Stem Diameter and Crown Spread

Height and crown spread are given in meters (m) and stem diameter in millimetres (mm). All dimensions are estimated.

### 3.6 Root and Stem Decay Pathogens and Structural Defects

It is to be taken that unless otherwise stated with each individual entry, there were no external signs that root and stem decay pathogens or serious structural defects, present at the time of inspection.

### 3.7 Bat Potential

Trees were scored as having Potential for bats as follows; **'Yes'**, **'No'**, **'Unknown'**. For use by bats, roosting or otherwise. The assessment required the exercise of judgment, but the general guidelines set out below were followed:

- **'No'** - Trees were;
  - Not sufficiently mature to have developed potential bat roost features, or trees that were sufficiently mature but were seen to lack such features following careful survey.
- **'Unknown'** Trees were;
  - No potential roost features were identified, which could not be examined completely and were of sufficient maturity to support such features in locations not visible from the ground or where such features appeared to be extremely limited, offering minimal roosting potential.
  - Trees exhibiting only poorly-developed potential roost features or only one type of well-developed potential roost feature in a very limited range of locations or orientations
- **'Yes'** Trees were;
  - Exhibiting at least one roost feature that showed probable evidence of past use by bats.
  - Showing one type of well-developed potential roost feature in a wide range of locations or orientations.
  - Showing several types of well-developed potential roost features.

Trees that were obviously too immature to provide bat roost features were not investigated in any detail and no individual assessments of them are presented.

### **3.8 Maintenance Work Recommendations**

All recommendations can be found in the detailed tree assessment provided (Appendix 2).

All tree work will be carried out in accordance with BS3998 2010, industry best practice.

The chosen Tree Surgeon Company shall ideally be chosen from The Arboricultural Association's Approved Contractor list.

The statutory protection will be adhered to (Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981) (Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000). If further advice is required, particularly if bats are discovered during tree work, it will be obtained from Natural England or other competent person and recommendation adhered to.

### **3.9 Monitoring**

It is recommended that the trees be resurveyed within 18 months from the date of the site visit. As a tree grows and environmental conditions alter and change, the monitoring of the tree stock is essential.

## **4. Other Supporting Information**

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### **4.1 Insurance Details**

Gavin Jones Ltd is insured by RSA Insurance for professional indemnity including legal liability for professional services to a value of £10,000,000 for any one claim.

### **4.5 Qualification, experience and professional membership: Carlo Vannini**

Carlo holds a level 2 RFS (Royal Forestry Society) certificate and the level 4 professional diploma in Arboriculture and a member of the Arboriculture Association. Carlo has worked within the industry for many years, where he has gathered extensive experience and knowledge both in the commercial and domestic tree work.



## 5. Glossary

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### 5.1 Defining Age Class - Maturity

Newly planted: planted since last annual survey.

Young: <20% of final life expectancy for species.

Semi-mature: >20-70% of final life expectancy for species.

Mature: >70%-99% of final life expectancy for species.

Veteran: >70%-99% of final life expectancy for species.

### 5.2 Defining Overall Condition – General health of the tree

Good: Full functionality showing average vitality i.e. normal bud growth, leaf size, crown density.

Fair: Fully functionality showing below average vitality i.e. reduced bud growth, small leaf size, lower crown density.

Poor: Limited functionality showing significant below average vitality i.e. limited bud growth, small and chlorotic leaves.

### 5.3 Defining Tree Works

Crown cleaning: this is a health and safety trim to remove deadwood (as specified below), diseased and dying wood, broken or split branches and crossing or rubbing branches.

Crown reduction: this means a reduction of the crown size in all directions to leave a balanced branch structure. It is a complete crown treatment and not just a reduction in height without dealing with side branches. It is normally specified as a meterage and refers to the branch proportion to be removed in relation to the total branch length from tip to trunk.

Dead wood removal: this means removal of all dead wood from the tree canopy categorized as major dead wood = 25 mm diameter or above; and minor dead wood = up to 25 mm diameter unless otherwise stated. Cuts will be made to the nearest appropriate pruning position.

Fell to ground level: tree is either felled or dismantled in sections and disposed of as directed. The main stump of the tree is left in the ground and cut off as close to soil level as possible without further digging.

Formative prune: pruning of young trees to modify their form, either to avoid future structural defects or to create a desired cultivated tree form.

Raise low canopy: removal of the lowest branches which effectively increases the height of the main crown above ground level. All the remaining branches will normally be above the height specified in meters.

Prune back from buildings/structure/tree: branches will be removed to clear building walls/structure.

#### 5.4 Defining other Terms Used

Compression fork: union with enclosed bark, which acts mechanically like a crack.

Tensile fork: union optimized for the bending of the stems away from each other. There is no included bark which would have the nature of a crack.

Occlusion: The continued radial growth of new wood, including wound wood, which gradually grows over wounds to the woody parts of trees.

Wound wood: In woody stems, the new wood developing in response to a wound, often resulting in a swelling which gradually occludes the wound.

## 6. References Material

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A companion to British Arboriculture 2016 <http://www.treeterms.co.uk/>

Johnson, O. & More, D. (2006). Tree Guide. Harper Collins Publishers

Mattheck, C. (2007). Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment. Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH.

Royal Horticultural Society 2016 [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

Slater, Dr D. (2016). Assessment of Tree Forks Course Notes– Assessment of Junctions for Risk Management. Arboricultural Association.

Watson, G. (2013). Tree Pest and Diseases, an Arborist's Field Guide. Arboricultural Association.

Watson, G. & Green, T. (2011). Fungi on Trees, an Arborist's Field Guide. Arboricultural Association.

## Revision & Review Record

### Revision details

Rev	Date	Amendment	Creator	Checked
	13/03/2019	Proof read	CV	RF

## 7. Disclaimers

- 5.1 This tree condition survey has been undertaken by visual inspection from ground level at Pingle Brook in order to individually assess a single ash tree under the jurisdiction of Countryside Properties. These are purely visual assessments of this tree.
- 5.2 No technical survey equipment was utilised, in order to carry out the assessments except a diameter tape, hypsometer, mallet and probe. The same methodology was applied to all the trees (i.e. an assessment was made starting at the base of each tree and moving up the stem into the crown, along with an assessment of the canopy being made via viewing the tree at distance and from underneath the canopy).
- 5.3 All assessments were carried out from ground level. Decay detection tests have not been undertaken as this fell outside the scope of this report.
- 5.4 This report, based on the survey, contains a suggested timescale for remedial works to be undertaken from the date of the survey at Pingle Brook. In the expert opinion of the author these times scales should be adhered to.
- 5.5 Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, the surveyor can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.

- 5.6 This report is for the sole use of the above named client and refers to only those trees identified within; alteration or use by any other(s) in attempting to apply its contents for any other purpose renders the report null and void.
- 5.7 Any legal description provided to the consultant is assumed to be correct. Any titles and ownership to any property are assumed to be good and marketable. No responsibility is assumed in character.
- 5.8 Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any purpose by any other person to whom it is addressed, without prior expressed written or verbal consent of the consultant.
- 5.9 The local planning authority (LPA) have not been contacted to determine whether any Tree Preservation Order (TPO) covers the tree, nor to determine if the site is a Conservation Area. Before undertaking any work to the tree, it would be advisable to check whether either of these planning controls are in operation; if they are, it would be necessary to obtain consent (or in case of a Conservation Area give six weeks' notice of intent) before undertaking any such work.

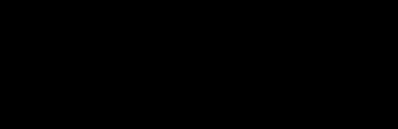
## 8. Declaration

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I hereby confirm that this tree survey and report was undertaken and completed by,

**Carlo Vannini – Arboricultural surveyor**

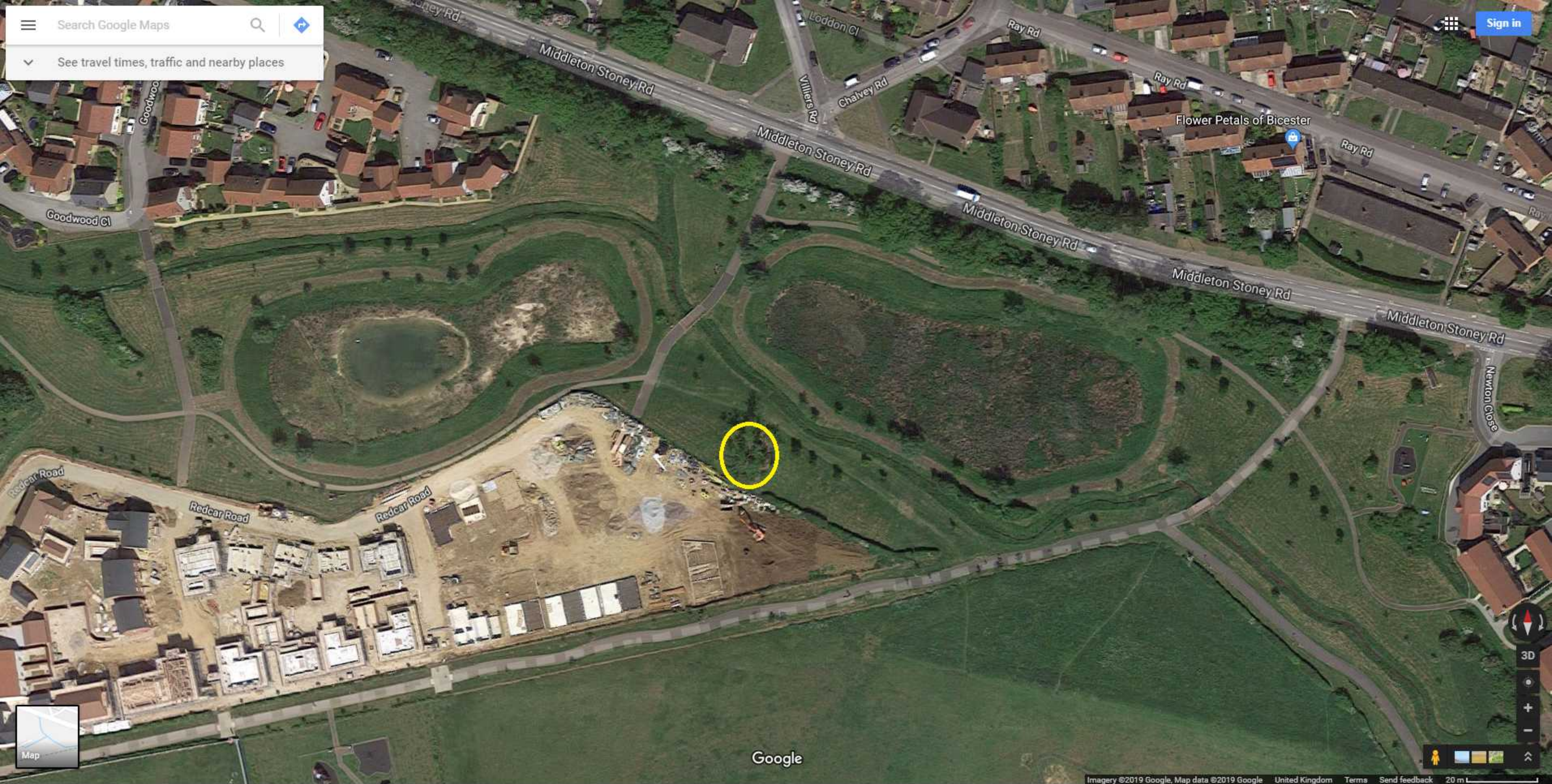
**Employed by: Gavin Jones Ltd**

Signed: 

Date: 13/03/2019

## **Appendix 1: Tree Reference Plan**





Google



## **Appendix 2: Detailed Tree Assessment**



**General Tree Assessment (Detailed)**

**Single ash tree condition report**

**Tree ID: 1**      Common Ash  
*Fraxinus excelsior*

**Tag:**      **Assessor:** Carlo Vannini  
**TPO:**      **Date:** 08-Mar-19

**Tree Comment:**

**Survey Comment:** Looking at the tree crown from distance it appears that the ash is dying back within the crown which suggest root disorder. The area surrounding the tree has various rabbit burrows within the root area and their activity may have damaged roots which could have contracted a fungal infection. The tree was previously reduced but has died back severely in the crown and major dead wood can be seen within the canopy. Following an invasive investigation within the stem base a large cavity was found to the west, the stem itself is hollowing hollowing out approximately 1m up the stem. No fungal fruiting body were observed at the time of inspection but more than likely caused but honey fungus. Unfortunately, due to the position of the tree which is within falling distance to an adjacent property should be felled as soon as practically possible to make the area safe.

Details	Height	Spread	Stems	Ø	Maturity	Bat	Con Area	Prev Insp	Next Due	Condition
	13 m	7 m	1	1000 mm	Mature	Yes		N/A	08-Jun-20	Poor
Observations	Root		Stem		Branch		Leaf/Bud			
	Trenching / excavations Damage to buttress roots Sucker growth		Bark wounds Old pruning wounds Major cavities		Apical die back Minor dead wood Major dead wood Old pruning wounds Cavities Stubs Pollard		50% dead / absent Small / sparse			
Work	Category		Action				Priority	Done		
	Fell		Fell and remove stump(s)				1 Month	No		
	See Comments		Unspecified					No		



## General Tree Assessment (Detailed)

### Report selection criteria.

#### Projects.

Single ash tree condition report

--->  
---> 1 Month

#### Date Range.

Any Date

#### Work types.

----> Fell :: Fell and remove stump(s)  
----> See Comments :: Unspecified

#### Latest Survey.

All surveys for the selected trees.  
---> Last survey for each selected tree.

#### Work Completed.

---> Work Completed  
---> Work Not Completed

**Number of trees in selected Project(s) 1**

**Number of trees in Report selection 1**