



Oakbrook Services Ltd
1 Rowland Street
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S3 8DE

4th January 2023

Ref: AWA5197

Arboricultural Report

at:
Springwell Learning Centre, St Helens Blvd, Barnsley, S71 2AY

Introduction

As instructed, we have visited the above property and inspected a single Poplar tree, primarily in order to identify any obvious tree defects posing a serious and present risk of harm, and if necessary, manage these tree-related risks to an acceptable level.

The tree was given a formal visual inspection from ground level, using 'Visual Tree Assessment' techniques and in accordance with the guiding principles of National Tree Safety Group Guidance.

Full details of the surveyed tree have been provided in the attached tree data schedule and the tree position has been identified on the attached tree plan. Photographs of the tree have also been included.

The author's qualifications and experience have been included at the end of this report.



Survey Findings

The surveyed tree T1 is a mature Poplar (*Populus nigra* sp.).

The tree is situated along the northern boundary of the site. It is within a well-used area of the school. There are residential properties with associated gardens to the north of T1 behind a boundary fence. There is a footpath to the north and south of T1. As such, the trees' Target Value (an indication of the likelihood of persons or objects being within falling distance of a tree or its branches) is classed as high, and management decisions have been made in light of this.

There were minor visual defects to the base of the tree, including some minor exposed roots and minor damage at the base of the tree to the east.

The tree has pronounced included bark 'ribs' around tree base, which is characteristic of species adaptive growth. Some epicormic growth has been removed from the base of the stem leaving small stubs, but in places is unmanaged and prevalent around 2m to 3m.

The tree is single stemmed at the base, then twin stemmed at around 9m from ground level. The tree is vertical, with some partially included bark at the codominant union, however this was difficult to assess in detail due to surrounding foliage and location.

The tree has been previously pruned. There are multiple old pruning wounds on the stem, from crown lifting works, and smaller pruning wounds in the crown from selective crown reduction works. Most of the pruning wounds appear to be healing, with some occlusion of old pruning wounds visible; however, some associated decay is likely to spread into the main stem from the larger pruning wounds.

There is minor deadwood in the tree's crown, yet in general the crown was of reasonable vigour.

An adjacent Poplar stump was noted to the west of the tree T1, and we have been informed this tree was removed due to its poor condition. The removal of the adjacent Poplar tree will have exposed T1 to new wind loads.

Discussion and Recommended Works

Poplar species are generally fast growing with a wood of low density. With this combination of characteristics, specimens exposed to strong winds are often affected by the breakage of tops or branches.

The heartwood of Poplar species is not very durable and is readily colonised by decay fungi when exposed by injury or dieback.

The tree is reaching the end of its safe useful life expectancy. While the tree has no major visible defects that suggest failure of the stem or limbs are highly probable, it is foreseeable that stem or major branch failure will occur in the future.

In this instance, in light of the trees location, species characteristics, past management and current condition, the tree is considered to be at future risk of failure and significant injury or harm is foreseeable as a result. As such, management is recommended to reduce the risk of harm.

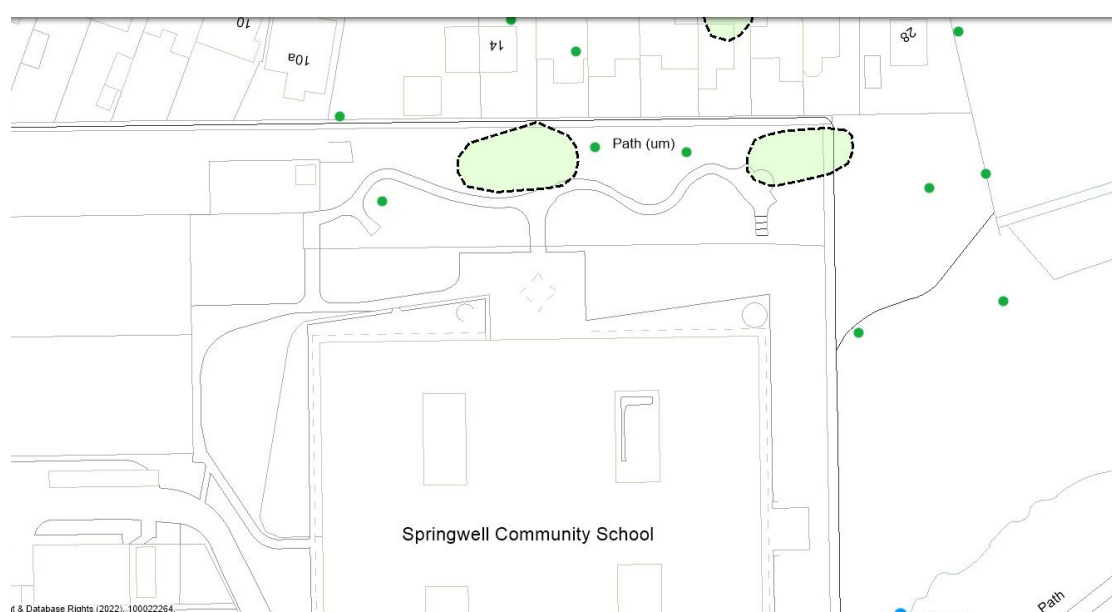
- Pruning the tree, via a crown reduction, removing around 9 to 10m of the upper crown and the sides by around 4m, to create a balanced form.
- Remove the tree to ground level and undertake replacement planting.

While pruning the tree would allow its retention with a reduced risk of harm in the short to medium term, the work will only provide a temporary reduction in risk.

As such, removal and replacement planting is considered the most suitable management option.

An online check was made with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council on the 4th of January 2023. This showed that the surveyed tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). As such, written statutory permission is required before any works can take place to the protected tree.

The accessed map image from barnsley.gov.uk is detailed below:



When appointing a tree surgeon, please use only properly qualified and experienced companies and check that they carry adequate Public Liability and Employer's Liability Insurance.

All tree work should be carried out according to British Standard 3998: 2010 – Tree Work – *Recommendations*.

Conclusion

A single Poplar tree was surveyed (T1).

The tree is reaching the end of its safe useful life expectancy. While the tree has no major visible defects that suggest failure of the stem or limbs are highly probable, it is foreseeable that stem or major branch failure will occur in the future and significant injury or harm is foreseeable as a result.

As such, management is recommended to reduce the risk of harm.

It is recommended to remove T1 and undertake replacement planting.

If I can be of further assistance in arranging the recommended works, or should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

J. Brown

James Brown, BSc (Hons) Arboriculture, MArborA, PTI (Lantra), QTRA Registered.

Photographs



T1 facing east, with adjacent Poplar stump



T1 Minor root/stem damage



T1 bark 'ribs' which are characteristic of this species



T1 pruning wounds from crown lifting works

AWA Qualifications and Experience

Mr Adam Winson, Chartered Arboriculturist, MSc, BSc (Hons), MICFor, MARborA, ACIEEM, QTRA Registered

Adam is the company Director and Principal Consultant. He has a mix of the highest-level academic qualifications and relevant work experience. He has worked within the tree care profession for over 20 years and was awarded an MSc in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, with distinction. Adam is a Chartered Arboriculturist and a Registered Consultant with the Institute of Chartered Foresters, a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association and he has original research published by the UK Forestry Commission. His work ranges from individual expert tree inspections to managing trees on major multimillion pound housing developments and infrastructure projects. His work often involves trees with preservation orders or litigation, and he has appeared as a tree expert, at planning appeal hearings up to the crown court. Adam has also undertaken locum Tree Officer work for several local authorities.

Mr James Brown, BSc (Hons) Arboriculture, MARborA, PTI (Lantra), QTRA Registered

James has a BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture, attaining first class honours, as well as being awarded the Institute of Chartered Foresters student award. He is a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association, an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, and he is working towards becoming a Chartered Arboriculturist. James joined AWA in 2016, he has several years' experience as an Arboricultural Consultant, he previously worked in Europe's largest container tree nursery and he has experience of local authority Tree Officer work.

Dr Felicity Stout, PhD, MA, BA (Hons), Cert Ed Forestry, TechArborA, PTI (Lantra)

Felicity has worked in the tree care profession for the last 10 years. She has a Certificate in Higher Education in Forestry, with a focus on Urban Forestry. She has practical arboricultural contractor experience and is a qualified and experienced social forestry practitioner. Felicity has a PhD in History, with a particular interest in the history of woodland and tree management and she has work published in The Arboricultural Journal on this subject. As well as working at AWA Felicity is the Tree Conservation Officer for the Peak District National Park Authority.

Mr James Godfrey, BA (Hons), Dip Forestry and Arboriculture Level 4, Cert Arb L3, TechArborA, QTRA Registered

James has extensive arboricultural experience working as a team leader within the public and private sector. By achieving a Distinction Star in the Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture, James was able to use his knowledge to inform and carry out appropriate maintenance that ensured the long term wellbeing of trees across the UK. During his time at Darlington Borough Council, James provided on site assessment and the management of the remedial works required to ensure safe and suitable retention of trees that provide a multitude of benefits to the urban environment. Currently, James is completing a Foundation Degree in Arboriculture and Tree Management, while working at AWA.

Mr Joe Thomas, MSci Biology, Award L4 Arboriculture, TechArborA

Joe achieved a first class degree in biology with an integrated Masters (MSci) from the University of Sheffield. Additionally, he has a Level 4 Award in Arboriculture. Joe joined AWA in 2022 after an Urban Forestry role with the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and Sheffield City Council, where he gained a variety of experience in different aspects of the arboriculture sector.

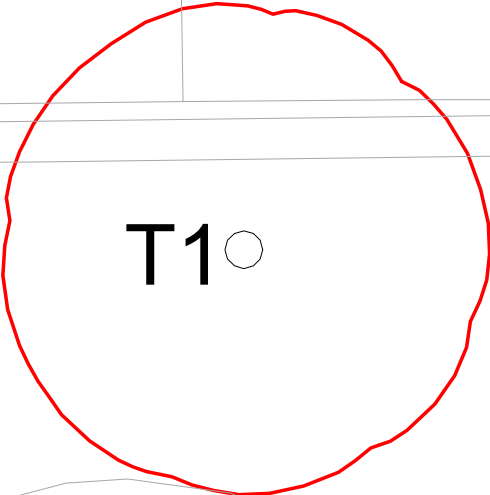
Mr James Boyle, HND Level 5 Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, Dip Arboriculture Level 4, TechArborA

Jim joined AWA in 2022, after having worked within the tree care profession for several years, alongside studying at college and university. During this time, he gained a wealth of experience and several professional and practical NPTC qualifications in the tree care industry. Jim has studied Arboriculture and Urban Forestry at Merrist Wood College in Surrey, Plumpton College in Sussex and University of Highlands and Islands in the Scotland, where he achieved distinction in the Higher National Diploma Level 5.

Miss Lucy Garbutt, MSc Animal Behaviour, BSc (Hons) Biology, CIEEM membership

Lucy recently graduated with a masters degree in Animal Behaviour from the UK's highest rated university, St Andrews of Scotland, immediately following the completion of her BSc degree in Biology from Lancaster University. Lucy moved into arboriculture after previous experience of protected species' surveys with a large environmental consulting company. This included surveys of bats, reptiles, and dormice.

Tree Species		Measurements							Tree Condition					Management			
Tree ID	Common Name	Latin Name	Maturity	Height (m)	Stems	Stem Dia (mm)	Spread Radius (m)	Target	Roots	Stem	Crown	Overall	Additional Comments	Category	Works	Priority	Next Survey
T1	Poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i> sp.	Mature	30	1	1040	6.5	High	Minor wounds /decay to base.	Old pruning wounds, Epicormic growths, Stubs, Tight union, Partially included bark	Old pruning wounds, Slightly unbalanced, Minor deadwood	Fair	Minor exposed roots and minor root damage. Previously crown lifted and reduced with associated pruning wounds, stubs and growth. TPO tag on stem no. 03522.. Included bark ribs around tree base, characteristic of species. Overall no obvious major visual defects however tree is reaching end of useful life expectancy. Replacement planting recommended.	U	Remove to ground level	Low	N/A



Tree Plan

Springwell Learning
Community Academy
AWA5197

SCALE: 1:200 PAPER: A3

	CATEGORY A: NO WORKS REQUIRED
	CATEGORY B: WORKS REQUIRED
	CATEGORY U: REMOVAL REQUIRED
	TREE STEM