

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE	20 FEBRUARY 2020	AGENDA ITEM: 7
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Report prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

Deer Park Tree Survey

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Environment & Leisure Committee with the report commissioned in respect of trees on Deer Park, in particular the Tree No. 29, a Beech Tree to the rear of a property on Orchard Place.

Detailed Information

At the meeting of the committee held in November 2019, it was resolved that the Clerk would, in consultation with the chair of the committee, arrange for a tree survey on the trees in Orchard Place. A copy of the report is attached for information is attached and attention should be drawn to Tree 29.

The report on tree 29 has not altered since the last report, stating that whilst there is multi-stem due to the absence of formative pruning, it is in good condition.

Members will recall that in the Clerk's report to the November meeting of the committee she had raised concerns that had been brought forward by a resident of Orchard Place.

"In September 2019 Councillor Whattler was approached by the same resident in respect of T29, in so far as he felt the tree to be an issue due to its height and width. The resident has provided pictures of the offending tree and states that he believes the tree has grown considerably since last inspected and that he is very concerned that should the tree fall it could potentially damage his property. He particularly highlighted the issue in respect of the multi-stem element of the tree as it would appear the area to the base of the tree is "blackening" which he believes is a sign of the tree dying."

Since that report and the subsequent report, the resident has been in contact with the Clerk to advise that he had had to manage an excessive amount of leaves from the tree in question, which had fallen into his garden, in the past months and he has also provided pictures of the trees without their leaves, to give Members an idea of the height of the tree without its foliage.

Whilst the report does not show any change in the condition of tree 49, the resident feels that the height, size and leaf fall of the tree has become unreasonable and would ask that the Council consider, as a good neighbour, taking action to reduce the height of the tree.

Recommendation

Members are requested to give consideration to the attached report from the tree consultant, whilst taking into consideration the concerns of the resident and agree a way forward in respect of the tree 49.

3. The Site.

- 3.1 The site inspected is dagger-shaped, and mostly mown grass. About 111m long by 43m maximum width. The centre of the upper lawned area contains large drainage inspection covers
- 3.2 The site is flat with a slight fall to the south west.
Solid geology from BGS website: **Raglan Mudstone Formation - Siltstone and mudstone, interbedded. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 423.6 and 419.2 million years ago during the Silurian period.**
Superficial deposits: **No superficial deposits recorded.**
Therefore we would expect subsoil to be fine-textured.
- 3.3 2018 Google Earth below. Mabel's Furlong path (well used) bounds the western side. Domestic plots bound other sides.



4. Trees.

- 4.1 The site was well-planted when adjacent houses were built, maybe 40-50 years ago? Below is view west to clump at southern end, copper beech T15 front right.



- 4.2 Some trees are good, such as Norway maple T30 and beech T29 in photo below. Horse chestnut T24 on right. 2018 photo.



- 4.3 A few trees are beginning to out-grow their location, such as balsam poplar, centre in photo below. 2018 photo.



- 4.4 Another tree becoming too dominant is Leyland cypress T22, right. 2018 photo. Note broken branches.



- 4.5 Photo below, looking north along eastern boundary, shows random hacking back of branches on T23 and T25, behind No 13 where a new shed has been erected. Remedial pruning needed to remove ugly stubs. Perhaps the neighbour should be invited to contribute to the cost?



- 4.6 Overall, we would recommend some thinning out within the next five years, and some new planting.

4.7 Tree schedule.

Overleaf is a schedule of trees.

Age class is described as:-

- Sap: Very young tree, or sapling, one-five years old.
- Y: Young tree less than fifteen years old and <1/3 fully grown.
- Sm: Semi-mature tree having attained 1/3 to 2/3 full stature and 1/3 to 1/2 estimated lifespan.
- Em: Early mature: tree at 2/3 to virtually full size, and halfway through its safe life.
- M: Mature: fully-grown tree with useful life expectancy.
- Lm: Late-mature: fully grown, of declining vigour, but still healthy.
- Om: Over-mature tree: fully grown and starting to decline in health (but may still have many years of safe life).
- Vet: Veteran: usually very old; of significant historic, habitat or cultural value.

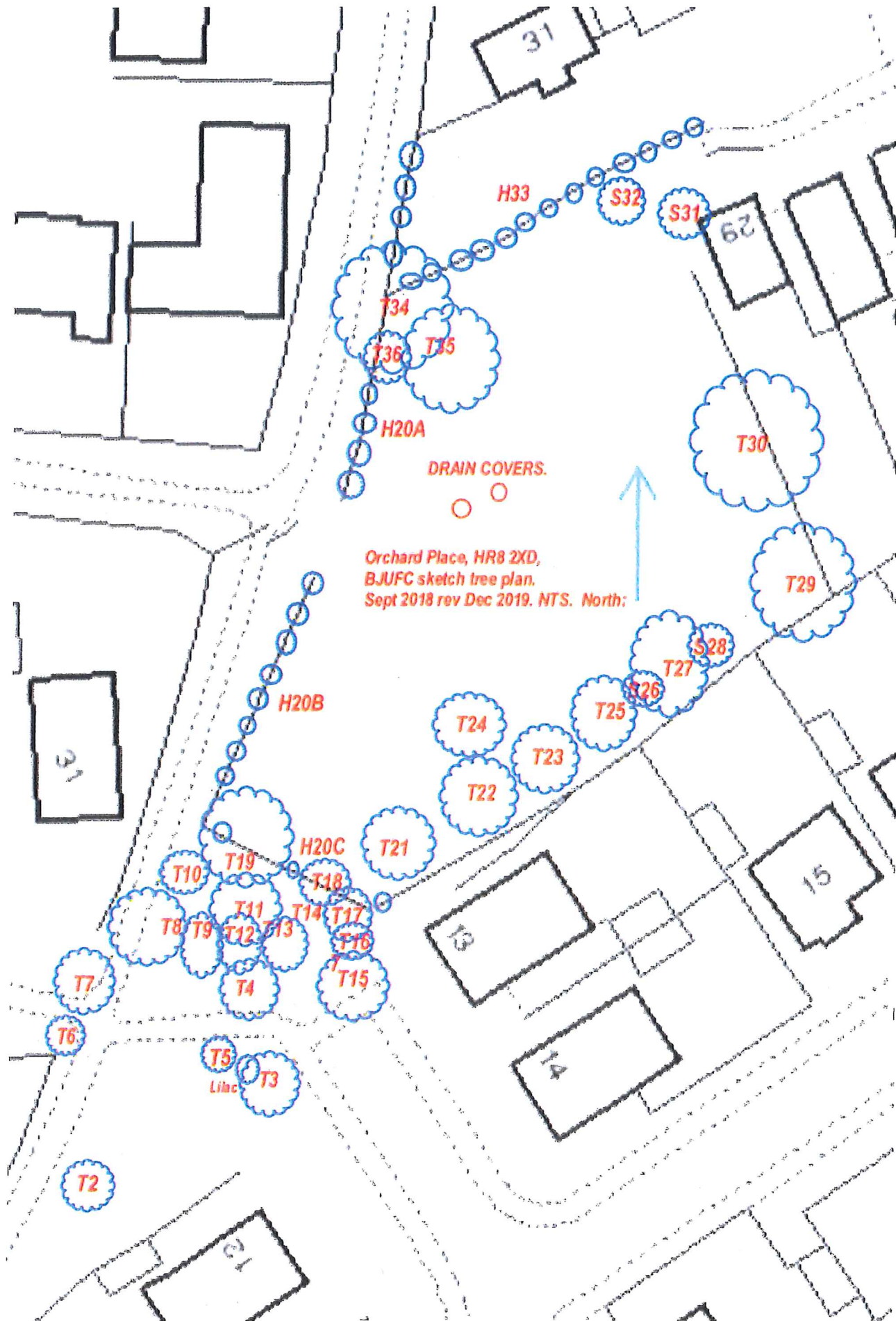
SULE: Safe useful life-expectancy in years.

Recommended work + Priority:-

0.1-0.11 = months, 1 = one year, 2 = 2-3yrs.
S = Safety work - M = Management.

4.8 Sketch plan

Tree locations are given on the SKETCH Tree Plan, attached.



4.9 Orchard Place – Tree Inspection - BJUFC – 21st September 2018 – updated 24th Dec 2019

No. T=tree S=shrub H=hedge G=group	Species	Old Dbh (stem diam @ 1.5m ht) mm.	Est. height.	Avg. crown radii	Age class	Health	Structural Condition	SULE	Comment (All are in average to good health and condition, unless stated otherwise.)	Recommended WORK excluding development.	Priority Year Safety or Management
T1	Gone.										
T2	Flowering cherry	250	5	4.5	M	P/ F	F	10- 20			
T3	Flowering cherry	300	5	5 E	M	P/ F	F	10- 20			
T4	Flowering cherry	310	5.5	4	Em	F	F	20- 40	Lopsided crown.		
T5	Juniper	100	3	1.25	M	F	F	20+	Dwarf conifer.		

T6	Variegated holly	90, 130	5	1.5	Em	F	F	40+	Off-site?		
T7	Purple Norway maple	280	9	4 S	Sm	F	P	40+	Off-site? Pollarded at ½ height, creating decayed pockets.		
T8	Field maple	470	14	6 W	M	F	F	20-40	Good.		
T9	Ash	370	17	5 E	Em	F	F	20-40			
T10	Hawthorn	200 basal	5	2	M	P/ F	F	20+	Small.		
T11	Ash	450	18	6	Em	F	F	20-40	Tall and good.		
T12	Ash	280	18	4	Em	F	F	20-40			
T13	Ash	290	13	4 E	Em	F	P	<5	Very suppressed.	Recommend felling soon.	2m

208

T14	Silver birch	190	9	3 E	Sm	F	F	20+				
T15	Copper beech	490	18	5	Em	F	P/ F	40+	Several narrow weak forks, but intertwined stems provide natural bracing.			
T16	Rowan	150	5	1.5	Sm	F	F	20+	Small. Broken top.			
T17	Silver birch	300	15	5 E	Em	F	F	20+				
T18	Wild cherry	300	12	4 N	Em	F	P	<5	Suppressed.			
T19	Balsam poplar	700	20	8 N	M	F	F	10- 20	Big. May be outgrowing location. Ivy on stem.	Remove ring of ivy from ground level up to head height.	0.3m	
H20 A, B, C	Hazel, hawthorn, and elder	150	3	1.5	Lm	P/ F	P/ F		Very overgrown hedge. Ivy.	God habitat. Coppice ALL elders. Repeat every three-five years. Trim hedge as required.	1m	
T21	Horse chestnut	400	10	5 N	Em	P/ F	P/ F	10- 20	Bacterial canker. Scruffy. Lopsided crown.			

T22	Leyland cypress	650	20	6	M	F	F	<10	Big. Some branches ripped off. Dominates bungalow to east.	Consider felling within five years.	5m/s
T23	Wild cherry	510	12	6	M	F	F	20+	Ugly lopping back on SE side.	Prune off ugly stubs.	1m
T24	Horse chestnut	400	11	5	Sm	F	F	>40			
T25	Sweet chestnut	150, 200, 250	9	6 N & S	Sm	F	F	20+	Ugly lopping back on SE side.	Prune off ugly stubs.	1m
S26	Viburnum lantana				M				Shrubby.		
T27	Flowering cherry	420 basal	4.5	6 W	M	F	F	20+	Low Japanese cherry.		
S28	Forsythia				M				Shrub.		
T29	Beech	700 basal	150	6	Em	F	F	>40	Multi-stem due to absence of formative pruning. Good.		

210

T30	Norway maple	520	15	6	Em	F	F	>40	Good.		
S31	Lilac				M				Off-site shrub.		
S32	Cherry laurel				M				Low shrub.	Coppice every five years.	2m
H33	Leyland cypress	100	2	0.6	Em	F	F	20+	Trimmed boundary hedges.	Trimmed by neighbours?	
T34	Ash	500, 500	19	6	Em / M	F	F	10-20	Self-sown in hedge. Pushing sycamore to south. Pruned back from 31 Bramley Close in 2018/19.		
T35	Sycamore	600	18	8 E	Em / M	F	F	>40			
T36	Hawthorn	260	6	3	Lm	P	P	20	Ivy smothered, in hedge.	Remove ring of ivy from ground level up to head height.	0.3m

End of table.



