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ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Health and Condition Survey

**Location : Havelock Park
Havelock Street
Llanelli
SA15 2BW**

Grid ref: SS51409 98938

w3w: bells.force.preoccupied

March 2025

Client: Llanelli Town Council

Consultant: Nick Thomas Dip.Arb, RFS Cert. Arb

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the instructions of Mr Arfon Davies of Llanelli Town Council, a tree survey was undertaken at Havelock Park, Llanelli on the 13th March 2025.

The trees were previously inspected in October 2021 and July 2023 and the purpose of this re survey was to evaluate any changes in the biological health and structural condition of the trees which are within the boundary of the site. A total of twenty four individual trees are tagged and three recently planted trees have been added to this survey. The inspected trees consist of the following species.

TABLE 1

TREE SPECIES – English / Botanical	NUMBER OF TREES
Quick Thorn / <i>Crataegus persimilis</i>	1
Sycamore / <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	13
Red Flowering Chestnut / <i>Aesculus X carnea</i>	2
European Lime / <i>Tilia europaea</i>	1
Fastigate Cherry / <i>Prunus X hillieri</i> ‘Spire’	3
Cherry / <i>Prunus</i> spp.	1
Flowering Crab Apple / <i>Malus</i> spp.	2
Red Oak / <i>Quercus rubra</i>	1
Rowan / <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	2
Field Maple / <i>Acer campestre</i>	1
TOTAL	27

All numbered identification tags have been attached to the tree's main or largest stem at approximately two metres above ground level. For the purpose of this report the trees listed above and in the tree schedule (TABLE 2) are the only trees that were inspected.

For the duration of the survey the weather was dry with a light breeze and sunny periods. Please note that this is a health and condition survey and is not intended as a substitute for a structural engineers report. Unless otherwise stated, no information was received and no evaluation of the tree's roots in relation to their effect on underground services, utilities or structures has been considered in this report. This report is a basic tree survey with its conclusions and recommendations drawn from the visual evaluation as seen at the time of the inspection / survey.

All inspections were undertaken from ground level using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) system. A steel rod and nylon hammer were used to probe and sound any existing and potential areas of wood decay. Due to dense undergrowth, Ivy on the tree's main stems and branches, the terrain and the proximity of other trees, some parts of the trees were not fully visible from ground level.

Due to unpredictable weather conditions and unforeseen events the information in this report is as seen during the time of the inspection and is valid for a period of one year from the date of the inspection. The condition of any tree can change suddenly and dramatically therefore any observations and recommendations may require amendment. Any tree(s) in high risk locations should be regularly inspected especially after a storm and high winds. The frequency of inspections can be extended for trees in areas of low use and traffic or where there are low value targets. The fixed time periods are usually between six months and two years and for maximum accuracy and benefit, consecutive surveys should be completed during different seasons / times of year.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

This small public park consists primarily of a playground area and bowling green. The locations of the inspected trees are shown on the attached plan.

Due to their size and location, the majority of the trees provide a prominent feature in the local landscape and are clearly visible from the surrounding residential properties.

Static targets include houses, play equipment, boundary fencing, parked vehicles and the public highway. Mobile targets include passing vehicles and pedestrians within and external to the site.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Due to their location and condition all recommended tree work in the tree schedule – TABLE 2 should be completed within the stated time periods.
Note: The minimum statutory height clearance for the removal of low branches over a public highway or footpath is 5.3 metres and 2.4 metres respectively.
2. To reduce the tree's wind resistance and aid future tree inspections all Ivy should be severed near ground level. To avoid any damage to the bark of the trees this work should be undertaken with suitable hand tools. If required the use of a chainsaw should be limited to the larger Ivy stems with the appropriate care taken to avoid any damage to the bark of the trees. Due to its ecological benefits Ivy should only be severed on the trees listed in the schedule and which require regular inspections.
3. To evaluate any change in their health and condition and the effects of any tree pruning work all the trees should be re-inspected every two years or as per the town council's tree inspection policy.
4. Prior to any tree pruning or removal the structure of the trees should be checked for roosting, nesting or hibernating species such as bats and birds. (Refer to the biodiversity section below).

4.0 BIODIVERSITY

Trees have the potential for bat roosts and nesting birds. Various legislation such as the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981(as amended), Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2005 and

the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 make it a criminal offence to interfere with bats, birds or their roosts and nests.

Prior to any tree work all trees and the land around them must be checked for protected species by a suitably qualified and competent person. If protected species are identified all work must stop and the appropriate authority contacted e.g. Natural Resources Wales for further advice. Where bats or their roosts are present, no works shall take place unless a licence has been granted in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Where work has commenced and bats or any evidence that bats are using the site as a roost are found, work must cease and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) contacted immediately. NRW can be contacted at Ty Cambria, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0TP. Tel. 0300 065 3000. Further advice can also be obtained from the Bat Conservation Trust, 5th Floor, Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane, London. SE11 5DR. Tel. 0345 130 0228.

TABLE 2 : TREE SCHEDULE

Tree #	Species	Age	Size	Pc	Sc	Observations / Recommended works	Cat.	Risk
265	Quick Thorn	SM	S	F	F	Lift crown above the footpath to ensure a minimum vertical clearance of 2.3 metres	2	L
266	Red Flowering Chestnut	EM	S	P	P	Low vigour with extensive areas of bark necrosis in the mid and upper crown region. There is a split branch in the lower crown. The necrosis and split branch are on the northern side of the crown.	0	M
267	European Lime					As recommended in the previous survey this tree has been removed.		
268	Flowering Crab Apple	M	S	F	F	For its longer term health it would be beneficial if the crossing and rubbing branches were removed and the over extended branches were reduced in length by 1.5 to 2 metres.	3	L
269	Red Flowering Chestnut	EM	S	P	P	Small areas of bark necrosis on the main stem, dieback in the upper crown and a number of over extended branches.	0	L
270	Flowering Crab Apple	M	S	P	P	Low vigour and a poor form.	0	L

271	Sycamore	SM	S	P	F	Very low vigour and extension growth.	0	L
272	Sycamore	SM	S	F	F	Remove all branches within one metre of the lighting column and lift crown over highway to statutory requirements.	2	M
273	Sycamore	SM	S	P	F	Low vigour, lift crown over highway to statutory requirements.	2	M
274	Sycamore	SM	S	P	F	Low vigour, lift crown over highway to statutory requirements.	2	M
275	Sycamore	SM	S	F	F	Lift crown to statutory requirements above the highway.	2	M
276	Cherry spp.	Y	S	P	P	Low vigour and a poor form, strimmer/mower damage at the base of the main stem.	0	L
277	Sycamore	SM	S	P	F	Low vigour and a poor form.	0	L
278	Sycamore	SM	S	F	P	Basal decay and cavity at base of tree on north side - IMAGE A.	0	M
279	Sycamore	SM	S	F	F	N/C	0	L
280	Sycamore	EM	S	P	F	Low vigour and minor deadwood in the crown.	0	L
281	Sycamore	EM	M	P	P	Minor dieback in upper crown, very low vigour and extension growth - IMAGE B. Cavity on main stem at 2.5 metres above ground level. Remove all deadwood. Refer to the additional information below.	2	M
282	Sycamore	EM	S	P	P	Very low vigour and upper crown dieback - IMAGE B. Remove all deadwood. Refer to the additional information below.	2	M
283	Rowan N/T	Y	S	F	F	Remove stake and tree tie within 12 months. Install a strimmer guard to protect the base of the tree from damage by grass cutting machinery.	2	L
284	Sycamore	EM	M	P	F	Low vigour with minor branch dieback in the crown. Remove deadwood.	2	M
285	Red Oak	EM	M	F	F	Minor deadwood in inner crown, lift crown over highway to	2	M

						statutory requirements and sever girdling root at base of main stem.		
286	European Lime	EM	M	F	P	Bifurcating stems at 3 metres above ground level with included bark. Reduce crown by 2 to 2.5 metres and lift crown over highway to statutory requirements. Girdling root at base of main stem. Remove deadwood.	2	M
287	Field Maple N/T	Y	S	F	F	Remove stake and tree tie within 12 months. Install a strimmer guard to protect the base of the tree from damage by grass cutting machinery.	2	L
288	Fastigate Cherry	SM	S	F	F	N/C	0	L
289	Fastigate Cherry	SM	S	F	F	Bark damage at 1.2 metres above ground level.	0	L
289A N/T	Rowan N/T	Y	S	F	F	Located 5 metres to the north of tree 290. Remove stake and tree tie within 12 months. Install a strimmer guard to protect the base of the tree from damage by grass cutting machinery - IMAGE C.	2	L
290	Fastigate Cherry	SM	S	F	F	N/C	0	L
291	Sycamore	EM	S	P	P	Low vigour, upper crown dieback and a poor form. Remove dead branches and all branches within one metre of the overhead telephone line.	2	M

Additional information - Trees 281 and 282

Due to the specific concerns expressed by the residents of 1, 3, 6 and 7 Havelock Street this additional information should be read in conjunction with the observations and recommendations in Table 2.

These two Sycamore trees are in gradual physiological decline but their structural problems can be rectified with some minor pruning i.e. removal of the small diameter deadwood. If this dead wooding is undertaken the trees can be retained with minimal management for a number of years.

As stated in my previous report for tree 281 which was undertaken on the 30th December 2021 if these trees are removed the birds will relocate to other trees in this area which may affect other residents and result in further requests for the removal of trees. If the parking of vehicles directly beneath the crowns of the trees is avoided it will reduce the severity of this bird droppings issue significantly.

The suggestion by the residents for a heavy crown pruning will result in a number of negative impacts on the trees health and longevity. Street trees are pollarded in towns and cities across the UK but to avoid large wounds which will develop into cavities and allow fungal infections into the trees main structure pollarding is started when the branches are of a small diameter and when the trees are relatively young.

The large branch removal and heavy pruning of mature trees is not pollarding, it is topping which is harmful to the trees physiological and structural condition and has been considered unprofessional and bad practice in the tree work industry for decades.

Due to the number of trees that have required felling in this area during the last five years it is beneficial to replant and three young trees which have been added to Table 2 are replacements but they will not have the same environmental benefits such as carbon sequestration as a larger more mature tree.

Due to the above facts I would recommend that these two trees have all their deadwood removed and are reinspected in 2027.

KEY TO TREE SCHEDULE

Tree / Group #	Numerical order - tag numbers 265 to 291. N/T - not tagged.
Species	Table 1 – Common English name followed by botanical title. Table 2 – English name only.
Age	Y – Young SM – Semi mature EM - Early mature M – Mature OM - Over mature
Size	S - Small M – Medium L – Large VL – Very large
PC	The general physiological condition of the tree :- G – Good F – Fair P – Poor D – Dead, dying or / and dangerous
SC	The general structural condition of the tree :- G – Good F – Fair P – Poor D – Dead, dying or / and dangerous
Observations / Recommended works	– As and when stated. N/C - No comment, observations or recommendations.
Cat.	Recommended time periods for works :-

Category 1 (Red) – If combined with a high risk (H) due to the possibility of imminent failure or danger all recommended works should be completed as soon as possible / practicable.

Category 2 (Blue) – Trees with various structural weaknesses or problems which require remedial works. Works should be completed within one year of the date of this report or sooner if possible.

Category 3 (Green) – Trees with minor defects and problems which require remedial works. These works should be completed within two years of this report.

Category 0 – No works specified or recommended.

Risk The level of evaluated risk taking into consideration the current surrounding static and mobile targets and the physiological and structural condition of the tree.

L – Low M – Medium H - High

TABLE 3: Recommended work (Tree numbers)		
Category / Risk	Tree ID numbers	Total
1H		0
1M		0
1L		0
2H		0
2M	272,273,274,275,281,282,284,285,286,291	10
2L	265,283,287,289A	4
3H		0
3M		0
3L	268	1
TOTAL		15

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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N. Fay, D. Dowson & R. Helliwell Tree Surveys – A guide to good practice (2005)

C. Mattheck Field Guide to Visual Tree Assessment (2007)

British Standards Institution BS3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations

National Tree Safety Group Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (2011)

C. Mattheck The Body Language of Trees (2015)

D. Slater Assessment of Tree Forks. Assessment of junctions for risk management (2016)

SITE AND TREE LOCATION PLAN

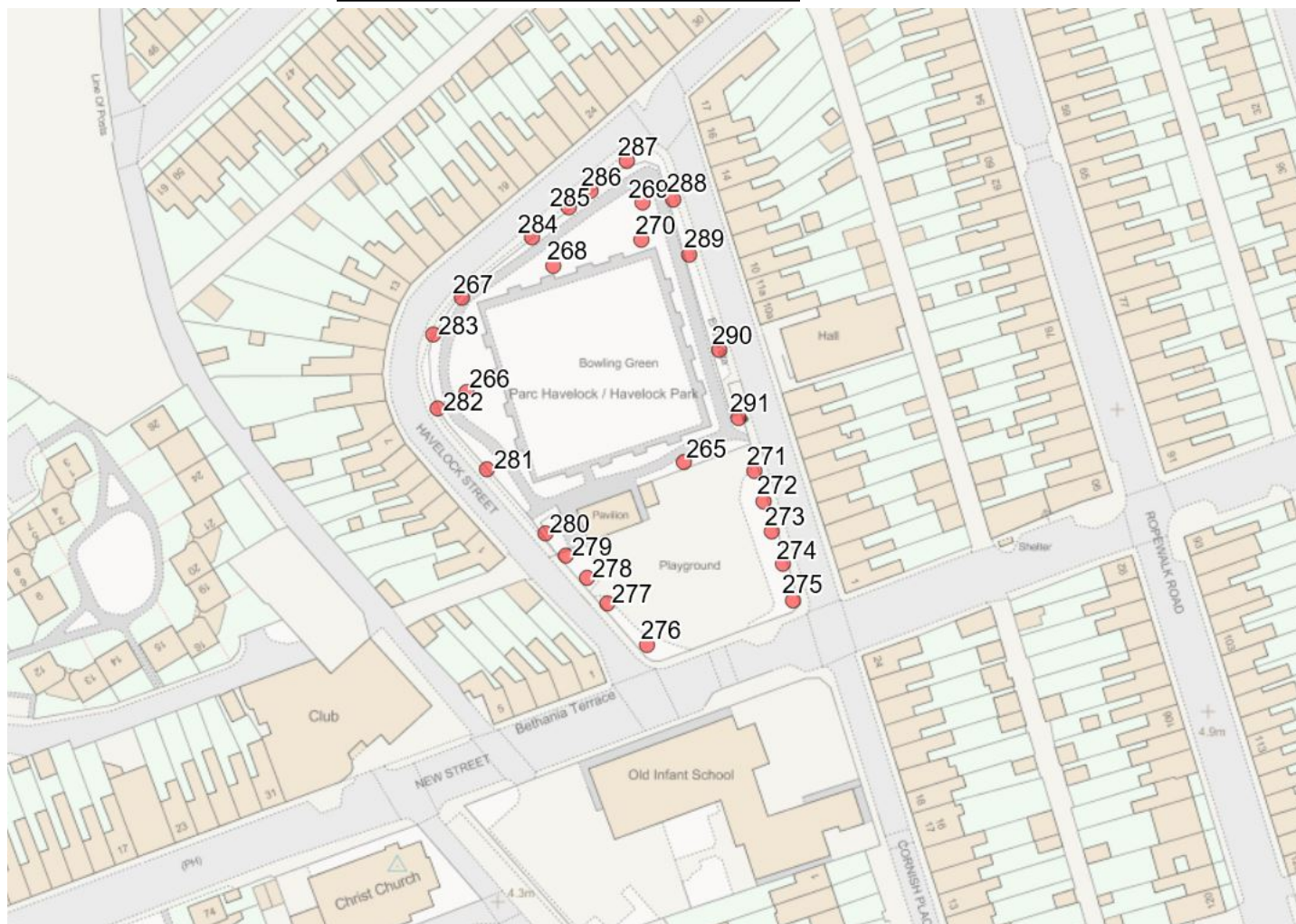




IMAGE A: Basal cavity of tree 278



IMAGE B: Trees 281 and 282, centre and left.



IMAGE C: Tree 289A showing grass cutting machinery damage to bark.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

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