



An Arboricultural Report on Trees at

Neston Primary School
Church Rise
Neston
Wiltshire
SN13 9SX

26th March 2026

Prepared for Neston Primary School

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Brief:** I am instructed by Jones Developments, on behalf of the School, to inspect the significant trees at Neston Primary School, Church Rise, Neston Wiltshire SN13 9SX and to provide a repeat arboricultural report.
- 1.2 Qualifications and Experience:** I have based this report on my site observations and the provided information, and I have come to conclusions in the light of my qualifications and my 27 years experience in the arboricultural industry. I have the following qualifications in arboriculture, City and Guild's Tree Surgery, Technicians Certificate in Arboriculture (Arboricultural Association) and Professional Diploma in Arboriculture (Royal Forestry Society).
- 1.3 Documents and Information Provided:** I previously carried out an assessment of the trees in October 2024. During my initial site visit Mrs Juanita Morgan, the School Business Manager, provided me with a map of the site boundaries.
- 1.4 Scope of this Report:** This report is only concerned with a hazard assessment. The trees are assessed for the risk to users of the site using the Visual Tree Assessment techniques (VTA) as detailed in *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and management by D Lonsdale 1999*. It takes no account of the potential for vegetation related soil shrinkage. It includes a preliminary assessment based on a site visit and the documents provided, listed in 1.3 above. Trees and shrubs are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly, conclusions and recommendations are only valid for a period of one year. These periods of validity may be reduced in the case of any change in conditions in proximity to the trees or built structures.
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2 SITE VISIT, OBSERVATIONS & COLLECTION OF DATA

- 2.1 Site Visit:** My assistant, Katie Sharples, and I carried out an unaccompanied site visit on 26th March 2026. All observations are from ground level without detailed investigations, I visually inspected the significant trees using binoculars to examine the aerial parts, a nylon faced sounding hammer and a thin metal probe to test external tissue resistance. I estimated all dimensions unless otherwise indicated. I had access to some of the trees outside the boundary and was able to inspect them in same way as the trees in the site. Other trees are in private gardens, I confined observations of these to what was

visible from the school grounds. The weather at the time of the inspection was broken cloud with good visibility.

- 2.2 Brief Site Description:** Church Rise is a quiet residential road linking upper and lower Neston. The section of school closest to the road is of traditional Cotswold stone construction, there are newer sections to the rear. There is a tarmac parking area between the school and the road and a tarmac playground to the rear of the school buildings. This is surrounded by a regularly used playing field, running south away from the buildings. There is an old hedgerow/area of scrub separating this field from the playing field to west. To the north of this and to the northwest of the school is a third field area, this is separated from the rest of the school by security fencing limiting the pupil access. The general nature of the locality is low density residential/countryside and the property is typical of others in the vicinity. The grounds and adjacent properties contain a variety of maturing and mature trees and shrubs.
- 2.3 Tree Identification and Observations:** I visually inspected the significant trees and recorded the information on the Tree Schedule included as Appendix 1.
- 2.4 Location of the Trees:** I have illustrated the approximate locations of the significant trees on the Site Sketch Plan included as Figure 1. The plan is for illustrative purposes only and it should not be used for directly scaling measurements. All the relevant information is contained within this report and the provided documents.

3 APPRAISAL

- 3.1 Ash Dieback:** There are a number of Ash trees on site, none are currently showing symptoms of the disease Chalara Ash Dieback, *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, this has become endemic across the country over the last 15 years. The level of infection and eventual fatality rate is not currently fully understood. The level of infection in trees is classified according to The Tree Council's Ash Dieback toolkit, this classifies the percentage of the trees canopy affected by the disease. Current industry advice is that Ash trees provide valuable habitat and should only be removed when their safety becomes a concern. The retained Ash trees were not showing symptoms at the time of my survey but the disease can have rapid effects so the trees should be regularly monitored.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Present Requirements:** The works required are detailed in the Tree Schedule.
- 4.1.1 Grade 1 Works:** Potential failures in tree pose a high risk to public. These works are required to be carried out within 3 months to establish high levels of safety to site users and members of the public.

4.1.2 Grade 2 Works: Potential failures in tree pose a lower risk to public, or works are required to prevent future damage to structures or property. These works are required to be carried out within 12 months to establish high levels of safety to site users and members of the public.

4.1.3 Grade 3 Works: Works are not required at present but on-going maintenance will be required in the future or a potential future problem has been observed which requires on-going monitoring.

4.2 Implementation of Works: I advise that the work is carried out by a suitably qualified and insured contractor from the local authority list. The contractor should carry out all tree works to BS 3998 *Recommendations for tree work* (2010).

4.3 Future Considerations: The remaining trees should be inspected on a regular basis by a qualified Arboriculturalist. The next survey should be carried out in the summer months whilst there is foliage in order to fully inspect the trees leaf size and canopy density both of which are good indicators of vitality.

5 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Trees Subject to Statutory Controls: The Wiltshire Council planning website indicates that the site is located in a conservation area, it will therefore be necessary to consult the local authority before any pruning works other than certain exemptions can be carried out. The works specified in the Tree Schedule are necessary for reasonable management and should be acceptable to the local authority. However, tree owners should appreciate that they may take an alternative point of view and have the option to refuse consent.

6 REFERENCES

The Tree Council: Ash Dieback, an Action Plan Toolkit, Summer 2019

Wiltshire Planning Explorer

<https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/>

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For Sharples Tree Services**

APPENDIX 1

Tree Schedule

Tree No	Species	Height	Dia @ 1.5m	Crown Spread	Maturity	Vitality	Observations	Recommendations	Grade
G0955	12 x Hazel <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	2	ave 8 x 25	2	Early Mature	Good	Coppice form - recently re-coppiced		
0956	Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	9	300	3	Early Mature	Good			
0957	Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	10	220	2	Early Mature	Good	Swept northeast		
0958	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	9	270	3	Early Mature	Good	No evidence of Ash dieback	Monitor for Ash dieback	3
0959	Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	10	250	2	Early Mature	Good			
0960	Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	10	260	2	Early Mature	Good			
0961	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	9	100 200	3	Early Mature	Good	Divides at 1m. Weighted east.		
0962	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	8	310	4	Early Mature	Good			
0963	Weeping Willow <i>Salix babylonica</i> sp	10	400	4	Early Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		
0964	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	8	280	4	Early Mature	Good	No evidence of Ash dieback	Monitor for Ash dieback	3
0965	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	9	290	4	Early Mature	Average	Epicormic growth through canopy	Monitor for Ash dieback	3
G0966	6 x Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>	7	ave 10 x 30	3	Early Mature	Good	Coppice form		
0967	Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	8	50, 100, 200	2	Early Mature	Good	Divides at 0.5m. Dense Ivy.		
G0968	9 x Goat Willow <i>Salix caprea</i>	9	ave 200	3	Early Mature	Good	Tree close to pond has unstable root system over pond liner	Fell tree next to pond	2
G0969	Osier Willow Fedge <i>Salix viminalis</i>	8	ave 50	2	Early Mature	Good	Small dead sections. Unmanaged for some time.	Consider management regime	3

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Tree No	Species	Height	Dia @ 1.5m	Crown Spread	Maturity	Vitality	Observations	Recommendations	Grade
G0970	4 x Osier Willow <i>Salix viminalis</i>	10	ave 250	4	Early Mature	Good	Multi stemmed from base. Snapped sections in upper canopy.	Re-pollard at 2.5m	2
G0971	5 x Hazel & 2 x Dogwood	8	ave 10 x 50	2	Early Mature	Good	Group of coppice form trees		
0972	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	9	330	4	Early Mature	Good	Divides 0.5-1m - measured below. Minor deadwood.		
0973	English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	10	250	4	Early Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		
0974	English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	11	270	4	Early Mature	Good			
0975	English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	11	260	4	Early Mature	Good	One-sided to east		
0976	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	8	120 140	3	Early Mature	Good	Divides at ground level. Weighted south. Minor deadwood.		
0977	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	8	150	3	Early Mature	Good	Small patches of squirrel damage. Minor deadwood.		
0978	English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	9	250	3	Early Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		
0979	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	9	300	3	Early Mature	Average	Divides at 1.2m - measured below. Minor deadwood.		
0980	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	9	100, 250, 270	4	Early Mature	Good	Divides at 0.5m		
0981	English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	10	290	3	Early Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		
0982	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	8	300	3	Early Mature	Average	Divides at 1m - measured below. Minor deadwood.		
0983	English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	9	340	3	Early Mature	Good	Minor deadwood. 10x10cm cavity at 3m south side.	Monitor	3
0984	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	8	250	4	Early Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		

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Tree No	Species	Height	Dia @ 1.5m	Crown Spread	Maturity	Vitality	Observations	Recommendations	Grade
0985	English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	10	300	4	Early Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		
0986	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	7	160	3	Early Mature	Good	Divides at 1m - measured below. Minor deadwood. Suppressed by surrounding trees.		
0987	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	8	280	4	Early Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		
0988	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	8	8 x 150	3	Early Mature	Average	Divides at ground level		
G0989	Species include Elm, Blackthorn, Dogwood, Elder, Hazel, English Oak & Ash	7 - 9	50 - 200	2 - 3	Early Mature	Good	Grown out native hedge bordering playground. Regular access.	Monitor Elm for Dutch Elm Disease	3
0990	Goat Willow <i>Salix caprea</i>	14	7 x 300	6	Mature	Good	In G0989. Divides at 1m. In contact with shed roof. Leaning east.		
0991	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	13	240	3	Early Mature	Good	In G0989. Surface roots damaged. Minor deadwood.		
0992	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	12	320	4	Early Mature	Good	In G0989. Divides at 1.2m - measured below. Bark damage on lower limbs. Minor deadwood.		
0993	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	9	250	3	Early Mature	Good	In G0989. No evidence of Ash dieback.	Monitor for Ash dieback	3
0994	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	8	290	3	Early Mature	Good	In G0989. Divides at 1m - measured below. Bark damage to lower limbs. Patches of squirrel damage. Weighted east.		
0995	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	8	250	4	Early Mature	Good	In G0989. Weighted east. Patches of bark damage 0 - 1m.		
0996	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	8	2 x 150	2	Early Mature	Average	In G0989. Divides at 1m. Swept east. Extensive squirrel damage.	Pollard at 3.5m	2
0997	Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	9	300	4	Early Mature	Good	In G0989. Large patch of missing bark 0.5 - 1m east side, approx. half of circumference. Tag missing.	Monitor	3

APPENDIX 1

Tree Schedule

Tree No	Species	Height	Dia @ 1.5m	Crown Spread	Maturity	Vitality	Observations	Recommendations	Grade
0998	Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	7	100 200	3	Early Mature	Average	Divides at 1m. Ivy.		
G0999	Species include Beech, Field Maple, Hazel, Horse Chestnut, English Oak, Hawthorn & Alder	8 - 12	ave 200	2 - 4	Early Mature	Good	Shelterbelt separating school from fields. Dense scrub/bramble limiting access in places. Some squirrel damage. 1 x Dead Alder.	Fell dead Alder - spray marked	2
0701	Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	12	600	7	Mature	Good	Divides at 1.5m - measured below. Minor deadwood.		
0702	Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	14	700	7	Mature	Good	Divides at 1.5m - measured below. Small cavity at 2m in central scaffold.		
0703	Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	14	400 600	7	Mature	Good	Divides at 1m. 75mm diameter deadwood over playing field/goal.	Remove deadwood	2
0704	Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	14	400 500	7	Mature	Good	Divides at 0.5m		
0705	Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	11	150, 250. 300	8	Mature	Good	Divides at 1m. One-sided to east. Minor deadwood.		
0706	Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	16	3 x 500	8	Mature	Good	Divides at 1m. Scrub at base. Ivy.		
0707	Scots Pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	14	400	2	Mature	Good	Deadwood - low risk	Remove deadwood if occupancy changes	3
0708	Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	15	500	6	Mature	Good			
0709	Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	15	350	5	Early Mature	Good	Ivy killed. Suppressed by Tree 0710.		
0710	Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	15	850	7	Mature	Good			
0711	Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i>	6	280 300	5	Early Mature	Good	Divides at ground level. One-sided to east. Patches of bark damage. Suppressed by surrounding trees.		
G0712	3 x Ash, 1 x Horse Chestnut & 1 x Sycamore	6 - 8	ave 150	4	Early Mature	Good	Bark damage 0-1m west side on Horse Chestnut		

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Tree No	Species	Height	Dia @ 1.5m	Crown Spread	Maturity	Vitality	Observations	Recommendations	Grade
0713	Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	16	900	8	Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		
0714	Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	15	700	6	Mature	Good			
0715	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	17	1000	7	Mature	Good	Minor deadwood. No evidence of Ash dieback	Monitor for Ash dieback	3
0716	Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	15	700	10	Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		
0717	Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	17	800	9	Mature	Good	Deadwood over footpath	Remove deadwood over footpath	1
0718	Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	15	350	2	Mature	Average	Extensive small diameter deadwood. Suppressed by surrounding trees. Ivy killed.		
0719	Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	16	1000	7	Mature	Good			
0720	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	15	300 400	6	Mature	Good	Divides at 1m. No evidence of Ash dieback.	Monitor for Ash dieback	3
G0721	Species include Portugal Laurel, Cherry Laurel, Elm, Holly, Wild Cherry, Elder & Sycamore	8	ave 100	2 - 4	Early Mature	Good	Understory of boundary trees. Scrub & Bramble		
0722	Larch <i>Larix decidua</i>	12	270	2	Early Mature	Dead	Dead	Fell	2
0723	Scots Pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	14	450	2	Mature	Good			
0724	Lawson Cypress <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	10	150 300	2	Early Mature	Average	Divides at ground level. Ivy killed. Minor deadwood. Suppressed by surrounding trees.		
0725	English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	15	700	6	Mature	Good	Ivy killed		
0726	Scots Pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	12	350	3	Mature	Good	Ivy killed. Minor deadwood.		

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Tree Schedule

Tree No	Species	Height	Dia @ 1.5m	Crown Spread	Maturity	Vitality	Observations	Recommendations	Grade
0727	Robinia <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	10	300	4	Mature	Good	Ivy. Minor deadwood.		
0728	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	10	650	5	Mature	Good	Divides at 1.5m - measured below. Ivy killed. Deadwood.		
0729	Robinia <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	10	150	3	Early Mature	Good	Ivy		
0730	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	14	300 350	5	Mature	Good	Divides at 0.25m. Ivy. No evidence of Ash dieback.	Monitor for Ash dieback	3
0731	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	14	270	3	Early Mature	Good	No evidence of Ash dieback	Monitor for Ash dieback	3
0732	Leyland Cypress <i>x Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	16	700	5	Mature	Good	Ivy		
G0733	7 x Leyland Cypress <i>x Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	14	ave 300	3	Early Mature	Good	Previously topped at 1m		
0734	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	15	280	2	Early Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		
0735	Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i>	10	550	6	Mature	Good	Leaning east. Patches of bark damage 1.5m east & west sides		
G0736	3 x Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	10	ave 150	3	Early Mature	Good	No evidence of Ash dieback	Monitor for Ash dieback	3
0737	Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	15	600	4	Over Mature	Good	Ivy		
0738	Lawson Cypress <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	14	330	2	Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		
0739	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	15	360	4	Mature	Good	Dense Ivy. Minor deadwood,		
0740	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	14	400	5	Early Mature	Good	No evidence of Ash dieback	Monitor for Ash dieback.	3
0741	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>	12	310	3	Early Mature	Good	Ivy. Minor deadwood.		

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Tree Schedule

Tree No	Species	Height	Dia @ 1.5m	Crown Spread	Maturity	Vitality	Observations	Recommendations	Grade
0742	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	16	450	5	Mature	Good	No evidence of Ash dieback. Minor deadwood.	Monitor for Ash dieback	3
G0743	3 x Lawson Cypress <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	10	ave 200	2	Early Mature	Good	Minor deadwood		
G0744	Species include Hazel, Privet, Sycamore, Juniper, Ash & Lonicera	4 - 6	50 - 150	2	Early Mature	Good	In scrub area surrounding circular stone area		
0745	Scots Pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	12	350	4	Mature	Good			
0746	Lombardy Poplar <i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	17	500 700	4	Mature	Average	Divides at 0.5m. Small amount of decay at base east side, audible hollow to 1m. Previously pollarded at 8m - vigorous regrowth. Low target occupancy.	Monitor. Re-pollard if occupancy changes. Will require repollarding in future.	3 3 3
0747	Goat Willow <i>Salix caprea</i>	11	260 270	4	Early Mature	Good	Divides at 1.3 m Weighted north		
0748	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	8	120	3	Early Mature	Good	No evidence of Ash dieback	Monitor for Ash dieback	3
0749	Lawson Cypress <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	10	310	3	Early Mature	Good	Ivy		
0750	Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	8	350	3	Mature	Good	Ivy		
0751	Portugal Laurel <i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	3	100	1	Mature	Good	Previously pruned		
0752	Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	6	200	2	Early Mature	Good	Crown raised		

APPENDIX 1

Tree Schedule Explanatory Notes

- **Measurements/estimates:** All dimensions are measured unless otherwise indicated. Measurements are taken with a tape or digital clinometer.
- **Tree Number:** All surveyed trees are tagged with numbered metal tags and their locations are mapped on the Site Sketch Plan included as Figure 1. Where there are several trees of similar size and species growing together I have inspected all of them and as the information pertaining to them is very similar I have recorded them as a group. They have a single tag on the first available accessible stem.
- **Species:** The species identification is based on visual observations and the common English name of what the tree appeared to be is listed first, with the botanical name in italics.
- **Height:** Height is measured with a digital clinometer and rounded to the nearest metre.
- **Dia @ 1.5m:** Diameter at 1.5m above ground level and is recorded in millimetres. Diameter is measured with a diameter tape.
- **Crown Spread:** Crown spread is measured in metres and is an average radial measurement.
- **Maturity:**
 - Young = Newly planted
 - Semi-mature = less than one third life expectancy
 - Early-mature = one third to two thirds life expectancy
 - Mature = last one third of life expectancy
 - Over-mature = older than the average life expectancy for the species
- **Vitality:**
 - Poor = low vigour and declining growth
 - Average = average vigour and growth
 - Good = good vigour and growth
- **Structural Condition – Ash dieback health class:**
 - Ash Health Class 1 – less than 25% of canopy affected by disease
 - Ash Health Class 2 – 25% - 50% of canopy affected by disease
 - Ash Health Class 3 – 50% - 75% of canopy affected by disease
 - Ash Health Class 4 – 75% - 100% of canopy affected by disease
- **Grade:**
 - 1 = High Risk, works to be carried out within 3 months.
 - 2 = Low risk, works to be carried out within 12 months.
 - 3 = Potential future works required.

FIGURE 1
Site Sketch Plan

