



Luddington Parish Council

Tree Management Policy

This policy sets out the procedure to establish a clear and consistent approach to the management of and responsibility for trees on land owned by Luddington Parish Council (LPC).

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Trees are a highly valued feature which make an enormous contribution to the character and beauty of Luddington's landscape and create and maintain environments rich in biodiversity. LPC values its trees and recognises both the human and environmental benefits of having a healthy and sustainable tree population.
- 1.2. LPC recognises that it has a 'Duty of Care' under the Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984 to ensure that all LPC tree stock on LPC owned land remains in a safe condition as far as is reasonably practicable. As such, this policy applies only to LPC tree stock on LPC owned land. A map showing LPC owned land can be found in Appendix 1.
- 1.3. A current list of current LPC tree stock can be found on LPC's website; a list of LPC tree stock as of the date of this policy can be found in Appendix 2.
- 1.4. Trees situated within the public highway, adjacent to the road or on roadside verges, are generally the responsibility of Warwickshire County Council.
- 1.5. Other trees in public areas of Luddington are the responsibility of Stratford District Council. Their Tree Management Protocol can be found on their website.
- 1.6. Although LPC believes this policy to be as comprehensive as possible, LPC acknowledges it does not cover every situation. LPC reserves the right to exercise discretion in application of this policy.

2. INSPECTION

- 2.1. An Arboricultural Association Approved (AAA) contractor will be appointed by LPC to carry out a full tree inspection every two years, or more frequently as LPC may consider necessary, to identify potential hazards to the public or property.
- 2.2. Tree inspections will take the form of a routine visual tree assessment (VTA) which can include ground level assessment of root and stem, reactive growth, growth defects,

appearance and condition of the bark, foliage (season dependent), pest and disease, fungal fruiting bodies, the local environment of the tree.

2.3. The VTA will assign a risk classification to each tree as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	PRIORITY DEFINITION	RESPONSE TIME
Risk Category 1	Emergency – Urgent for Public Safety	Within 24 hours**
Risk Category 2	Non-urgent but essential works required	Within 6 months
Risk Category 3	Desirable works	Within 12 months
Risk Category 4	No work required	No action proposed

*** or as soon as is practicably possible*

2.4. In addition to professional tree inspections the Clerk to LPC can be contacted should any member of the public be concerned about the safety of any LPC trees.

3. MAINTENANCE

3.1. Maintenance work will be determined by the biennial VTA.

3.2. LPC will seek to ensure that all tree maintenance work is carried out to the highest standards by a professionally qualified tree surgeon appointed by LPC and in accordance with BS/3998/2010 Recommendations for Tree Work 2010 (and any subsequent revisions).

3.3. When a VTA or an interim inspection has determined emergency works are necessary, there will be no public consultation and no right of objection and the work will be carried out as soon as is practicably possible.

3.4. Where maintenance work is non-urgent and considered by LPC to be significant, for example felling larger trees, carrying out works to a veteran tree, or a tree with a Tree Protection Order (TPO), LPC will provide a site notice on or very close to the affected tree.

3.5. Where maintenance work is non-urgent and considered by LPC to be minor, for example light pruning or removing trees that are less than 15 cm diameter (6 inches) at a height of 1.3 metres, LPC will not publicise the work.

3.6. If a tree scheme (felling, pruning or planting) is judged to be more impacting on the local area LPC will consider more publicity and public consultations as appropriate.

4. TREE PLANTING

- 4.1. Felled trees will be replaced on a one-for-one basis unless felling was determined by overcrowding or the unsuitability of the location.
- 4.2. All new tree planting will utilise high quality, disease free planting stock from reputable suppliers grown to British Standard 3936.
- 4.3. LPC recognises the contribution of native species and broadleaf trees to biodiversity and also to the character of the Luddington. Trees will be selected in-line with the Village Design Statement which can be found on LPC's website.

5. OTHER TREE WORKS

- 5.1. LPC will fully consider but has no obligation to carry out the following maintenance works to LPC tree stock on LPC owned land:
 - 5.1.1. Cut back branches overhanging private property.
 - 5.1.2. 'Top' trees or remove branches to increase daylight or decrease height in relation to property.
 - 5.1.3. Remove branches or trees affecting views or interfering with TV reception.
 - 5.1.4. Remove branches or trees to prevent falling leaves, honeydew from aphids or other minor debris.
 - 5.1.5. Remove roots from drains or repair root damage to structures, where the tree has not been clearly demonstrated to be the principal cause.
 - 5.1.6. Remove branches or trees to alleviate problems caused by natural or seasonal phenomena.
 - 5.1.7. Remove branches or trees to prevent potential root damage to structures.
 - 5.1.8. Remove branches nearly touching buildings, walls, roofs, fences etc.
 - 5.1.9. Remove branches or trees to prevent access to bats, squirrels or birds.
- 5.2. Landowners with property adjacent to LPC owned land where LPC tree stock crosses the landowner's boundary:
 - 5.2.1. Have a common law right to prune back tree branches **to their boundary only**, providing that would not lead to tree death and providing the tree in question is not protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO see below) or within a Conservation Area.
 - 5.2.2. Have a common law right to prune back tree roots **to their boundary only** providing that this would not lead to tree death and providing that the tree in question is not protected by a TPO or situated within a Conservation Area.

- 5.2.3. Are reminded that if access to LPC owned land is required to carry out any tree works they will be required to obtain written permission from LPC before carrying out such works.
 - 5.2.4. Are required to ensure that any LPC tree is not protected by a TPO, or situated within a conservation area, before carrying out any tree works.
 - 5.2.5. Must obtain permission in writing from LPC to carry out any tree works on any LPC trees not covered by a TPO in advance of such tree works.
 - 5.2.6. Must obtain quotations from AAA professional contractors approved by LPC and arrange for any tree works to be carried out at their own expense. All works will be monitored and inspected by LPC at any time.
- 5.3. LPC does not carry out works to privately owned trees.

6. PROTECTED TREES AND CONSERVATION AREAS

- 6.1. A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) prevents cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful damage or destruction of trees (including cutting roots) without permission. Planning approval should be obtained. A list of trees on LPC owned land with TPO's can be found in Appendix 2 or on LPC's website.
- 6.2. All LPC tree stock is within the conservation area as designated on 29th April 1991 (see Appendix 3).

7. OTHER FACTORS CONSTRAINING WORK TO TREES

- 7.1. The impact on local wildlife of all tree works, specifically felling and pruning will always be thoroughly considered, with the impact minimised where possible.
- 7.2. Under the Wildlife & Conservation Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to kill, injure or take wild birds, their young, their eggs or nests. Non-urgent major tree work involving tree removal or reduction and hedge-cutting operations should not normally be undertaken during bird nesting and/or breeding season, which is considered to be from 1st March to 31st July.
- 7.3. Bats are a European Protected Species and are protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Causing damage to a roosting and/or nesting site is a criminal offence which can lead to imprisonment. Trees displaying signs of roosting bats will be referred to an Ecologist before any work commences. Any trees supporting roosting bats will not be worked on until Natural England is consulted.

7.4. LPC will be guided by Stratford District Council's Tree Management Protocol in respect of wildlife.

8. HEDGES

All hedges on Parish owned land will be properly maintained in accordance with best practice and with regard to wildlife. Any new planting will be with appropriate species and selected in-line with the Village Design Statement which can be found on LPC's website.

9. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years (or earlier if required by changes to legislation) and amended as necessary based on good practice or evidence taken forward.

Adopted Date	Version	Minutes Page	Review Date
21 st January 2020	1		January 2022

Signed - Chairman	Signed - Clerk
Signed copy held on file	Signed copy held on file
DATE 21 st January 2020	DATE 21 st January 2020

Any queries should be made to:
Parish Council Clerk, telephone 07809 873716
email: luddingtonparishclerk@gmail.com

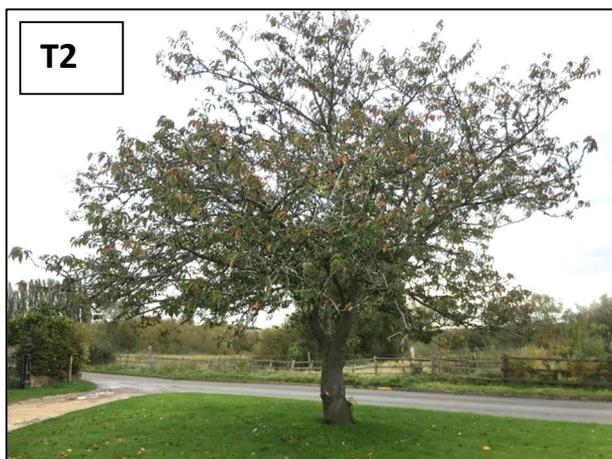
APPENDIX A

LPC Owned Land



APPENDIX B

Photo Record of LPC Owned Tree Stock, Autumn 2019



Appendix B continued

List of Trees from TreeSafe Survey, December 2019

T1	Hippocastanum	Mature
T2	Prunus	Mature
T3	Quercus	Young
G1	1 x Elder 1 x Sorbus 1 x Ash 1 x Leaning Ash (dead trees also identified to be felled)	Semi Mature Semi Mature Semi Mature Semi Mature

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