RABY PARK
WETHERBY

MANAGEMENT PLAN

P/06/03382/FU
Revised 30/07/07

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

Location

Raby Park lies to the west of the centre of Wetherby, bounded by Spofforth Hill (A661)/Crossley Street, Raby Park and Cooper Road. The latter two roads are unadopted roads. The Park is surrounded on two sides by residential properties. A location plan is attached.

Land Use

Raby Park is designated as Greenspace within the adopted UDP and is within Wetherby Conservation Area.

History

Raby Park was leased by Mr David Hudson to Wetherby Town Council in 1994 for a term of 99 years "for the purpose of being used as a public open space" (clause 2.1 of the lease).

The Town Council was granted planning permission for change of use from agricultural land to public open space in March 1994 under application number 31/341/93/FU. The grant lapsed before it was implemented. Wetherby Town Council maintained Raby Park, repaired fences, cut the grass and managed the trees. The open well was capped in November 2004.

The Town Council re-applied for planning permission for change of use from agricultural land to public open space in 2006 under application number P/06/03382/FU/NE. There were objections to the application and a public consultation meeting was consequently held on 5th September 2006. The Town Council subsequently amended the application to show pedestrian access only from a new access point off Crossley Street.

Planning Application P/06/03382/FU/NE

The planning application for change of use from agricultural land to public open space envisaged use for informal recreation. The proposal included the addition of a pedestrian access gate from Crossley Street and no vehicular access to members of the public. The proposal did not include any formal paths or park furniture save for a dog bin and a litter bin close to the pedestrian gate, on the wall abutting Crossley Street. Trees would continue to be managed in accordance with recommendations contained in a report from a consultant arboriculturalist (see 'Trees'). Grass would continue to be cut approximately seven times year during the growing season, April to October.

Planning permission was granted following consideration by Leeds City Council Plans Panel on 18th January 2006 subject to the following condition:

" 2. Prior to the commencement of development a management plan for the open space should be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The plan shall include details of grassland and the boundary feature maintenance, measures required to maintain the stock of parkland trees and any other measures required to maintain the parkland character of the site.

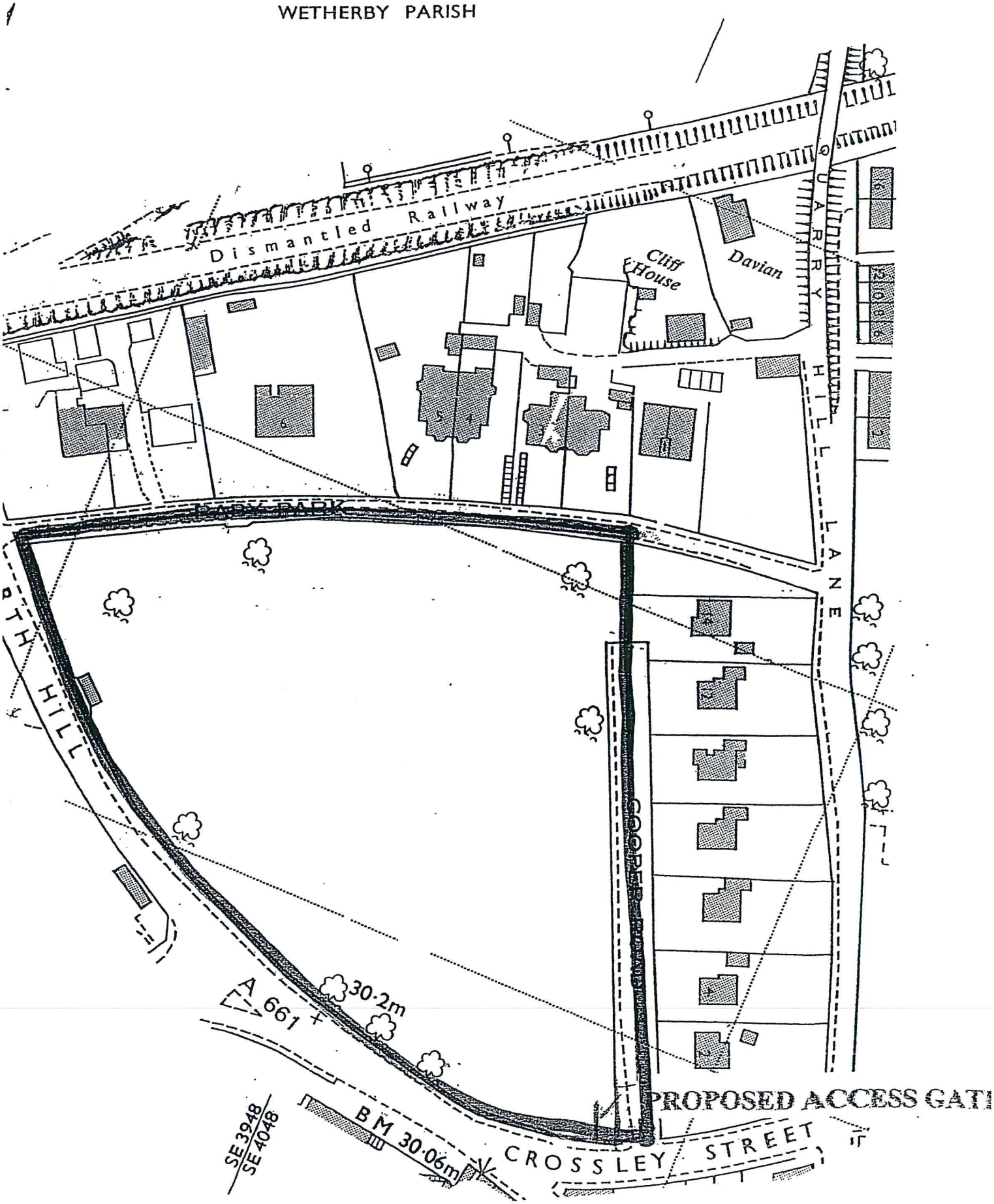
In the interests of visual amenity and nature conservation."

A copy of the grant of planning permission dated 6th February 2007 is attached.

This document considers each aspect of this condition. It was approved by the Property Committee of Wetherby Town Council at a meeting held on Monday 26th February 2007.

: SURVEY RENCE	COUNTY WEST YORKSHIRE	SHEET SE 3948	K
0 Enlarged from 1/2500	LEEDS DISTRICT		

WETHERBY PARISH



Site Plan

Leeds CITY COUNCIL

Decision Notice

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

GRANT OF FULL PLANNING PERMISSION 2 MAR 2007

Applicant	Wetherby Town Council - B Strachan	Application Number:	P/06/03382/FU
Agent:	Wetherby Town Council - B Strachan The Town Hall Market Place Wetherby Leeds LS22 6NE	Date Accepted:	2 June 2006
		Date of Decision:	6 February 2007

Proposed Development At: Land Off Raby Park, Wetherby, Leeds,

Proposal: Use of Agricultural Land As Public Open Space

Planning permission granted in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and subject to the condition(s) set out below:-

1) The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

   Imposed pursuant to the provisions of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2) Prior to the commencement of development details of the proposed access points, paths and any other equipment shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

   In the interest of visual amenity.

3) Notwithstanding the approved plans, all existing trees and vegetation on the site shall be retained unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

   In the interests of nature conservation.

4) Prior to the commencement of development, a management plan for the open space should be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The plan shall include details of grassland and boundary feature maintenance, measures required to maintain the stock of parkland trees and any other measures required to maintain the parkland character of the site.

Chief Planning Officer

Leeds CITY COUNCIL

Decision Notice

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

GRANT OF FULL PLANNING PERMISSION

In the interest of visual amenity and nature conservation.

Reason(s) for granting consent:-

1) In granting permission for this development the City Council has taken into account all material planning considerations including those arising from the comments of any statutory and other consultees, public representations about the application and Government Guidance and Policy as detailed in the Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Statements, and (as specified below) the content and policies within Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), the Leeds Unitary Development Plan 2001 (UDP) and the Leeds Unitary Development Plan Review First Deposit Draft 2003 (UDPR).

   Policies GP5, N1 and T2 (UDP)
   PPS1
   PPG17

   On balance, the City Council considers the development would not give rise to any unacceptable consequences for the environment, community or other public interests of acknowledged importance.

For information:-

1) THIS APPLICATION HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY PANEL RESOLUTION ON 18 JANUARY 2007.

2) The Parish Council is advised that in seeking to discharge Condition no. 4 (Management Plan), consultation with Ward Members is advisable.

This notice of decision relates to the following plans:-

Plan Type	Plan Reference	Version	Plan Date	Received
Site Location Plan/Red Line				01.06.2006
Block Plan	1			02.01.2007

Chief Planning Officer

2. TREES

Wetherby Town Council commissioned Mr Luke Steer of Treescapes Consultancy Ltd to produce a comprehensive arboricultural report on the safety and management requirements of the trees in Raby Park in January 2006.

A copy of this report is attached.

Work categorised by Treescapes Consultancy Ltd as high priority was carried out by a tree surgeon, and other recommended work was carried out by Town Council staff in 2006.

Wetherby Town Council will review annually further work recommended in the report and make budgetary provision for such work to be carried out.

Treescapes Consultancy Ltd will be invited to review its report at approximately five year intervals.

The Council will also give consideration to recommendations in the report as to planting trees. Many of the trees in the park are of a similar age and could therefore decline at a similar rate. It is possible that many of the mature trees may need to be removed during a ten to thirty year period in future. It is recommended by Treescapes Consultancy Ltd. that it is reasonable to aim at planting five trees every ten years. This will establish enough trees to act as replacements for any that may have to be removed while not reducing the openness of the site. A sweet chestnut tree was been planted in 2006 to replace a diseased sycamore close to Cooper Road which was removed in 2005.

RABY PARK

WETHERBY

An Arboricultural Report on the Safety and Management Requirements of the Trees

Prepared for

Wetherby Town Council

28 January 2006

by

Luke Steer BSc.(Hons) Dip.Arb.(RFS) F.Arbor.A. MICFor.

Treescapes Consultancy Ltd.

Summary

This report has been compiled at the request of Wetherby Town Council. In her letter dated 16 November 2005 Mrs B. Strachan, Deputy Town Clerk for the Council, instructed me to survey trees at various sites in Wetherby including Raby Park.

I inspected the trees in Raby Park on 21 January 2006. I have shown the approximate locations of the forty seven trees that I inspected on Figure 4 and describe their condition in Appendix 3. A number of trees have bark damage on their root buttresses. I believe that this may have been caused by grass cutting machinery driving too close to the trees.

Sixty eight percent of the trees are mature whereas only 13% are recently planted semi-mature specimens. Populations of trees with a limited age class distribution can be vulnerable to catastrophic damage caused during a single event, or may all decline at the same rate.

Two species, both chestnuts in the genus *Aesculus*, account for forty percent of the trees and only four species for nearly three quarters of all the trees growing in Raby Park. A population containing few species may become vulnerable to damage caused by species specific diseases as happened to the elms with Dutch Elm Disease. Appendix 6 is an extract from the Forest Research website about a newly discovered disease of chestnuts in the genus *Aesculus.*

Recommendations are made in Section 4 and Appendix 4 and include the removal of hanging and dead branches from mature trees, removing tree-stakes and pruning semi-mature trees and stopping the grass cutting operatives from damaging the bark at the bottom of trees.

I also recommend that all the trees, but particularly the large mature specimens next to roads, should be inspected every twelve to eighteen months by a suitably qualified, experienced and insured arboriculturalist.

Table of Figures and Appendixes

is unlikely that they will cause harm unless the weather conditions are extreme and/or there are major hidden defects.

This report can not take into account the possibility of extreme climatic events not normally expected in this locality. Such events could include, but are not restricted to: severe windstorms; floods; or consecutive multiple drought years. This report can also not take into account the possibility of future outbreaks of pests or diseases.

Operations carried out in the vicinity of the trees could affect their future health and stability; such operations could include but are not restricted to trenches dug for the installation or repair of utilities.

No decay detection equipment was used to help gather the data used in this report.

3 APPRAISAL

3.1 The condition of the trees

The condition of each tree is reported in Appendix 3. Generally the trees are reasonably healthy and I found no defects that I assessed to be a major concern.

3.2 The age of the trees

Figure 1 shows the percentage of trees in each maturity class. Sixty eight percent of the trees (31 trees) are mature. There is one tree that I have classed as 'old mature,' this is an Norway maple that is probably no older than the other Norway maples growing in the area but it is suppressed and as a consequence has growth characteristics of a much older tree.

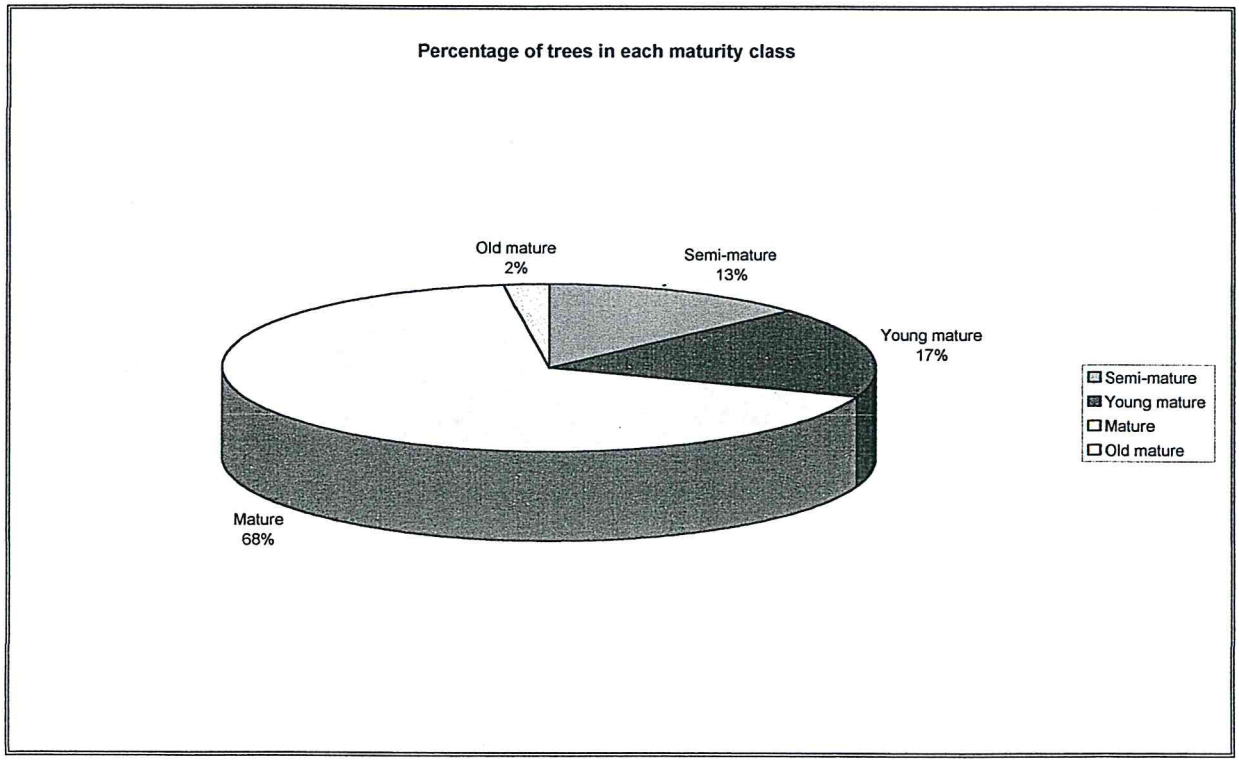


Figure 1
A pie chart showing the percentage of trees in each maturity class.

From Chart 1 it can be seen that only 13% of the trees are semi-mature and 17% are young mature. In reality I believe that most of the young mature and mature trees were established during a short period. Therefore there is a risk that many of them will decline simultaneously and eventually have to be removed for safety reasons during a relatively short space of time.

chestnuts are not very good at resisting the progression of decay through their tissues compared to species such as English oak (Lonsdale 1999).

3.5 Red horse chestnut canker

Many of the red horse chestnuts have cankered trunks and branches (see Figure 1). These cankers are caused by 'bud proliferation'. I have included an extract about bud proliferation of red horse chestnuts from Strouts and Winter (1994) as Appendix 6. These cankers will decay and in time compromise the structural stability of the affected trees but at present I do not believe that any pose a significant risk because of it.

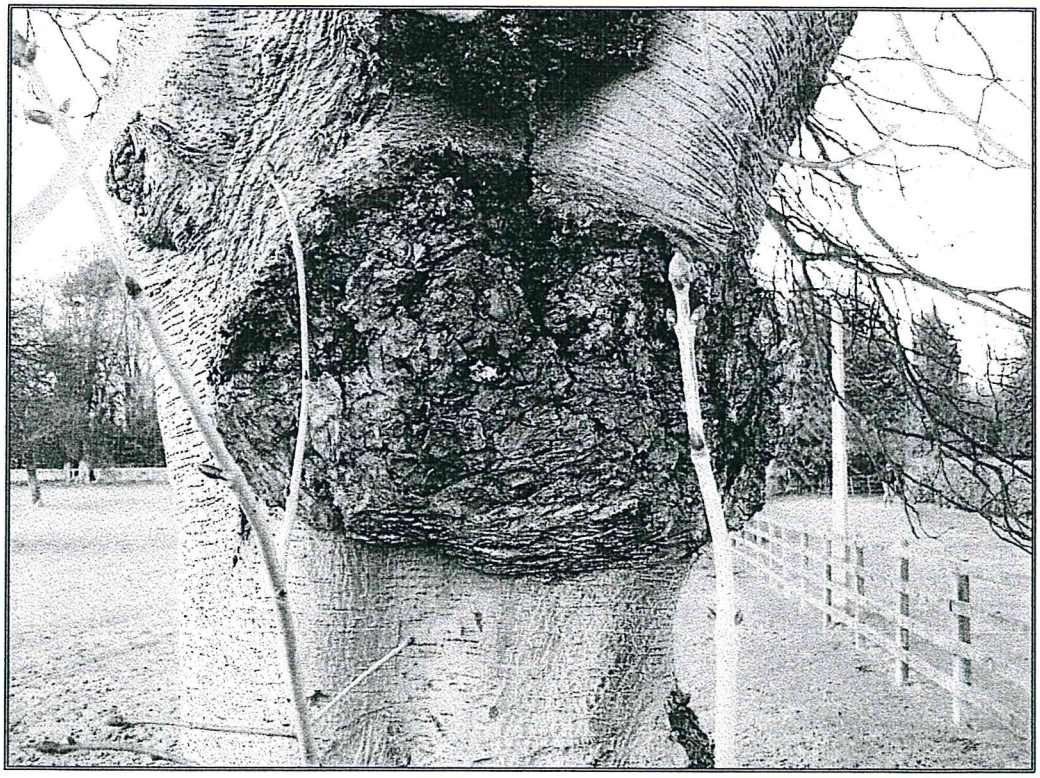


Figure 3
A photograph showing a canker on the trunk of a red horse chestnut.

3.6 Formative pruning

Six semi-mature trees have been planted in Raby Park and some of these have low branches that if not pruned will grow quite large. Trees with low branches are easy for children to climb leading to the risk of them falling. Low branches also obstruct grass cutting operations; this may be beneficial by protecting the bases of the trunks from damage. Trees with low branches may also become a hiding place for certain sectors of society. If low branches are to be discouraged it is often best to reduce them over a number of years to retard their radial growth so that when they are eventually removed the resulting wound is relatively small in relation to the size of the trunk.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Present requirements

Work required to establish acceptable levels of safety for the site is listed in Appendix 4 and should be carried out in the time scale indicated by the priority attached to the recommendation. The approximate locations of the trees listed in Appendix 4 are shown on the plan included as Figure 1.

- High priority work should be carried out as soon as possible;
- Medium priority work need not be carried out straight away but the trees should be inspected every twelve to eighteen months and after strong winds. If this work is not carried out straight away I recommend that provision is made in future budgets to have it carried out at a later date.
- Low priority work need not be carried out straight away but defects have been noted that could develop over time; these trees should be inspected every twelve to eighteen months and after strong winds.

For some of trees I have recommended that there are a number of options available for managing them. Each option will make the tree safe for the short to medium term but one of the options may suit the management objectives for the trees better than the others. Often the final choice of option may depend on the comparative costs of implementing them. I am able to provide pricing sheets that ask prospective contractors for prices for each option. The site manager is then able to make a fully-informed decision about which option to choose for managing a particular tree. Once the management options have been chosen I am able to provide a schedule of work.

In total I recommend that four trees should have some work carried out on them as soon as possible for safety reasons and another six for the good management of the site. This work ranges from removing dead and hanging branches from some trees to removing stakes and ties and formatively pruning others.

4.2 Implementation of works

I advise that the work is carried out by a suitably competent, qualified and insured contractor. The contractor should carry out all tree work to BS 3998 *Recommendations for Tree Work* (1989) as modified by research that is more recent.

Contractors should remember that many nesting birds; bats, their roosts and resting places are protected by law under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, & Conservation) Regulations 1994. Evidence of the presence of bats may include sightings at dusk and droppings below holes and other openings in the tree. If evidence is found, or in the case of doubt, further advice should be sought from English Nature.

5 CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the above information and discussions, I summarise my conclusions as follows.

- The trees in Raby Park are relatively healthy and once the high priority work listed in Appendix 4 has been carried out they will not pose a significant risk under expected conditions.
- Many of the trees are large mature specimens close to public roads; I therefore recommend that they should be inspected every twelve to eighteen months and after severe windstorms by a suitably qualified, experienced and insured arboriculturalist.
- Care should be taken by the personnel cutting the grass not to damage trees.
- The existing young trees should be formatively pruned to help them form attractive mature trees.
- The stakes and ties used to support newly planted trees should be removed as soon as possible, usually after between one and three growing seasons.
- A number of trees from a variety of species should be established during each ten year period to diversify the age range of the trees and create a robust population that isn't vulnerable to catastrophic damage during gales.

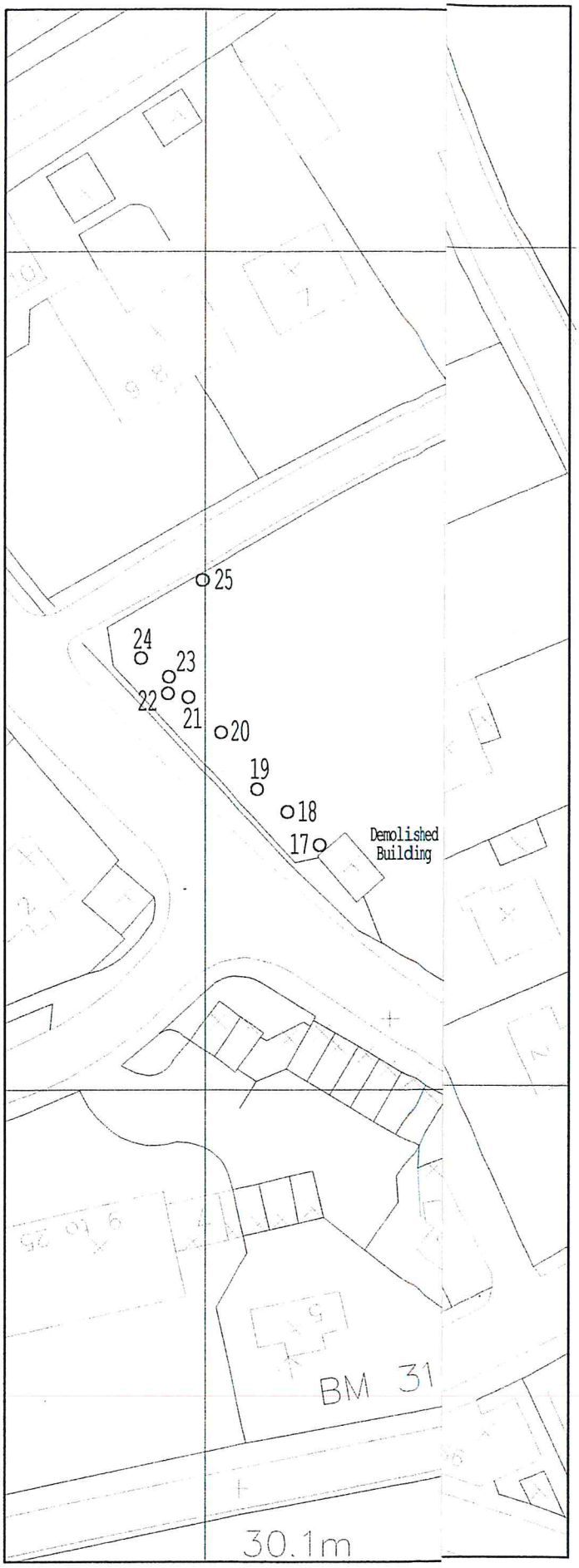
7 REFERENCES

Lonsdale D. (1999). *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management.* TSO, London, UK. Pages 195 & 341.

Strouts R.G. & Winter T.G. (1994).*Diagnosis of ill Health in Trees.* HMSO, London, UK. Pages 87-88.

Webber J. (2006) *Bleeding Canker of Horse Chestnut.* http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6KYBGV. Forest Research, Farnham, UK. Accessed 28 January 2006.

Luke Steer BSc.(Hons), Dip.Arb.(RFS), F.Arbor.A. MICFor.



1 The approximate location of a tree
o and its respective number

N

Scale 1:750

Figure 4
An Ordnance Survey plan showing the approximate location of the trees reported on.

The Qualifications and Experience of Luke Steer

1. Qualifications

- Luke Steer was awarded a National Diploma in Arboriculture in 1989.
- In 1998 he graduated with an honours degree in Arboriculture and Amenity Forestry from the Forestry Department of the University of Aberdeen.
- In 1999 he passed the Royal Forestry Society's Professional Diploma in Arboriculture.
- In 2001 he passed the final examination of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and become a member of that institute in January 2002.
- In 2001 his application to become a Fellow of the Arboricultural Association was assessed to fulfil all the necessary requirements and he became a Fellow of the association later on that year.

2. Practical experience

Luke Steer has been working and studying within the field of arboriculture for over twenty years, first as a tree surgeon and latterly in an advisory capacity. In September 1998 he started work on a short term contract reviewing Tree Preservation Orders for Chelmsford Borough Council. He stayed in this post until May 2000 after which time he become a Lecturer in Arboriculture and Forestry at Askham Bryan College, York. Since July 2002 Luke Steer has been practicing part time as an arboricultural consultant. Since January 2003 he has also been working part time for the Lake District National Park Authority as one of their Landscape and Woodland Advisors responsible for all forestry and arboricultural issues within the national park. While acting as an arboricultural consultant he has completed a number of commissions covering a variety of different aspects of arboriculture:

- Carrying out an inspection of over 3000 street trees within a borough and making recommendations about their safety and management requirements;
- Inspecting all the trees and the risks they pose within a busy tourist venue in Lake District and making recommendations about how to manage those risks responsibly;
- Putting tree work out to tender and managing the resulting contracts;
- Developing proposals to bring back into management a neglected woodland garden in a popular part of the Lake District;
- Assessing whether trees may be affected by proposed construction work, and if so making recommendations about how to mitigate against such damage.
- Compiling arboricultural reports to advise both property owners and prospective property buyers about any risks which trees may pose to a property.

Explanatory Notes for some of the terms used in this report

- **Mathematical abbreviations:** > = Greater than: < = Less than.
- **Tree Number:** This is the number used to indicate the trees approximate position on the plan inserted as figure 1. The number is also used in appendixes 2 and 3.
- **Species:** The species identification is based on visual observations and the common English name of what the tree appeared to be
- **DBH:** These figures relate to the diameter of the trunk 1.3m above ground level and are recorded in centimetres measured with a diameter tape. If, for whatever reason, the height was measured at a different height above the ground the height will be mentioned. More than one figure indicates that the individual is has a number of stems. Many stems are indicated with a 'M'. If the DBH has been estimated 'est' will appear in the column.
- **Height:** The height class of the tree was estimated as either: 0-5m; 5-10m; 10-15m; 15-20m; or >20m. If a single figure appears in this column it is the height of the tree measured with a Sunto clinometer.
- **Age Class:** Maturity is assessed as Young (Y) = a size which could be easily transplanted; Semi-mature (SM) = prior to seed bearing age but often not viable to transplant; Young Mature (YM) = early maturity, not fully grown but of seed bearing age; Mature (M) = fully grown, annual growth is much reduced; Old Mature (OM) = old for the species, possibly starting to decline; Ancient (A) = very old for the species, probably contains decay and habitat features such as cavities and rot holes.
- **Vigour:** Low = low vigour and declining growth, many dead twigs and branches within the outer crown; Moderate = reduced growth, small internodes and annual extension of twigs; Normal = normal growth and twig extension; Dead.
- **Defects:** This is the column where any of the trees defects are listed.
- **Severity of defect:** A subjective assessment of a combination of the likelihood of failure occurring. The defect shall be categorised as either: Minor, of little significance; Moderate, of some significance; or Major, a major defect that could cause the tree to fail at any time.
- **Observations:** Other observations are listed in this column.

Wetherby Town Council

Raby Park - next to the south-western boundary

Tree	Species	DBH	Height	Age	Vigour	Observations	Defect	Severity
1	Horse Chestnut	69	17	Mature	Moderate	Some branches overhang the pavement and the road.	25-30cm diameter branch removed at 2m; the wound is decaying.	Moderate
							Lost a 15cm diameter branch at about 8-10m on the north.	Minor
							Branch wounds on the trunk are starting to decay.	Moderate
2	Horse Chestnut	78	17	Mature	Moderate	Branches overhang the road and pavement.	Pruning wounds up to 20cm in diameter; little apparent decay.	Minor
							Basal damage and early decay on the north and south-east.	Minor
							Bark damage and bacterial slime flux 1m above the ground on the east.	Minor
							30cm diameter pruning wound on the east starting to decay.	Moderate
3	Horse Chestnut	76	18	Mature	Moderate	Tag with 2858 attached to tree. Branches overhang the road and pavement.	Pruning wounds on the trunk and main branches up to 30cm in diameter and starting to decay.	Moderate
							Some dead branches up to 10cm in diameter and 5m long; above the park but not the road or pavement.	Minor
4	Horse Chestnut	83	18	Mature	Moderate	Some branches overhang the road and pavement.	Areas of basal damage and some decay around the trunk, especially on the south. There may be some internal decay.	Moderate
							Pruning wounds up to 20cm in diameter with some early decay.	Minor
							Some dead twigs <5cm in diameter and 2m long.	Minor
5	Sycamore	67	19	Mature	Moderate	Crown weight biased to the south-east away from the road. Some branches overhang the road and pavement. Lost a branch and the remaining stub is hosting a colony of Horse Chestnut Scale insects.	Bark damage on the buttresses on the north and north-east. Possibly used during grass cutting operations.	Minor
							Pruning wound <15cm in diameter at 3-4m starting to decay.	Minor
							Lower branch <15cm in diameter overhanging the road has deep cavities <5cm in diameter.	Moderate

Wetherby Town Council

Raby Park - next to the south-western boundary

Tree	Species	DBH	Height	Age	Vigour	Observations	Defect	Severity
13	John Downie Crab Apple	18	5-10m	Mature	Moderate	Set back from the road. This tree is not big enough to pose a great risk.	Bark damage and some decay at 0.5-1m.	Moderate
14	Beech	8 est	5-10m	Semi-mature	Normal	Set back from the road. In a tree guard. Too small to pose a great risk.	There is a stake and tie that may have been left in place longer than necessary.	Minor
							Bushy lower branches.	Minor
15	Beech	45 est	17	Young mature	Normal	Set back from the road. In a tree guard. Developing large lower branches.	No notable defects to report.	
16	Beech	8 est	5-10m	Semi-mature	Normal	Set back from the road. In a tree guard. Stake and tie. Bushy lower branches.	Stake and tree tie may have been left in place too long.	Minor
17	Norway Maple	51	17	Young mature	Normal	Trunk leans 10-20 degrees to the north-east away from the road. Crown weight biased to the north-east away from the road. Growing at the edge of a demolished building.	Leans to the north-east.	Minor
							Dead branches <12cm in diameter and 2m long; these do not overhang the road.	Minor
18	Norway Maple	53	19	Young mature	Moderate	Crown weight biased to the north-east away from the road. Branches do not overhang the road or pavement.	Dead branches <5cm in diameter and 4m long, these do not overhang the road or pavement.	Minor
19	Horse Chestnut	81	19	Mature	Normal	Crown weight biased to the east away from the road. Some branches overhang the pavement.	Occluding but decaying pruning wounds on the structural branches.	Moderate
							Basal damage and some decay on the south-west.	Moderate
							Basal damage on the east.	Minor
							Two main structural branches above 3m; the union appears to be stable at present.	Minor
							Occluding 15cm diameter pruning wound in the union between the two structural branches at 3m; little apparent decay.	Minor

Tree	Species	DBH	Height	Age	Vigour	Observations	Defect	Severity
25	Red Horse Chestnut	65	12		Moderate	Overhangs Raby Park Drive to the north-west. Small infestation of Horse Chestnut Scale insect. Grafted onto horse chestnut root-stock; there are some horse chestnut suckers.	Cankers starting to decay caused by bud proliferation.	Moderate
							The lowest branch that overhangs the drive is very decayed.	Moderate
26	Red Horse Chestnut	69	10-15m	Mature	Moderate	Overhangs Raby Park Drive to the north-west. Grafted onto horse chestnut root-stock; there are some horse chestnut suckers.	Cankers starting to decay caused by bud proliferation.	Moderate
27	Ash	18	5-10m	Semi-mature	Normal		Two main stems above 1.3m; the union contains included bark and appears to be stable at present but will develop into a weak point in time.	Minor
28	Hawthorn	<15 est multi	5-10m	Mature	Normal	Not big enough to pose a significant risk.	The acute branch unions of this multi-stemmed tree contain included bark but appear to be stable at present.	Minor
29	Red Horse Chestnut	45	10-15m	Mature	Moderate	Crown overhangs the drive.	Bark damage from ground to 2m; little apparent decay.	Moderate
							There is damaged bark in the union of the lowest branch with the trunk	Minor
30	Horse Chestnut	86	16	Mature	Moderate	Some branches overhang the drive to the north-west.	Dead branches <10cm in diameter and 3m long.	Minor
							Damaged branch bases.	Moderate
							The lowest branch growing to the south-west has dead patches of bark on it and its health will probably decline.	Moderate
							There are two structural branches above 3m; there is included bark in the union but it appears stable at present.	Minor
31	Red Horse Chestnut	76	12	Mature	Moderate	Grafted onto horse chestnut rootstock. Crown weight biased to the south-east away from the drive. Some branches overhang the drive.	Decaying cankers caused by bud proliferation.	Moderate
							A 30-40cm diameter branch has been removed at 2m on the north and the wound is decaying.	Moderate
							A detached branch with a diameter of about 10cm and that is 6m long is hanging in the crown.	Moderate

Wetherby Town Council

Raby Park - in the park at its west

Tree	Species	DBH	Height	Age	Vigour	Observations	Defect	Severity
36	Ornamental Hawthorn	10 est	0-5m	Semi-mature	Normal	In a tree guard with a stake and tie.	No notable defects to report	
37	Apple	59	11	Old mature	Moderate		The trunk leans about 20 degrees to the south-east.	Minor
							Basal bark damage probably caused during grass cutting operations; no apparent decay.	Minor
							Lost a major branch at 2m; the wound is decaying.	Moderate
38	Sycamore	64	17	Mature	Moderate	In a group of three trees. Crown weigh biased to the north-east.	Detached branch with a diameter <5cm and about 3m long hanging in the crown.	Minor
							Bark damage probably inflicted during grass cutting operations.	Minor
39	Sycamore	76	17	Mature	Moderate	Hosting an infestation of the horse chestnut scale insect. Crown weight biased to the south-west.	Bark damage; no apparent decay.	Minor
							Trunk becomes two structural branches between 2-3m; the union contains included bark but appears stable at present.	Minor
							Some dead branches <12cm in diameter and <4m long.	Minor
40	Sycamore	55	17	Mature	Normal	Crown weight biased to the south-east.	Bark damage, probably caused during grass cutting operations.	Minor
41	Oak	6 est	5	Semi-mature	Normal	Growing in a tree guard with a stake and tie.	No notable defects to report.	
42	Red Horse Chestnut	50	10	Young mature	Normal	Some branches overhanging the verge next to Cooper Road. Probably grafted onto horse chestnut root-stock.	Bark damage possibly caused during grass cutting operations.	Minor
							The lower branches have been removed and the resultant wounds are <15cm in diameter; they do not appear to be decaying significantly yet.	Minor

Work Recommendations for the Trees listed in Appendix 3

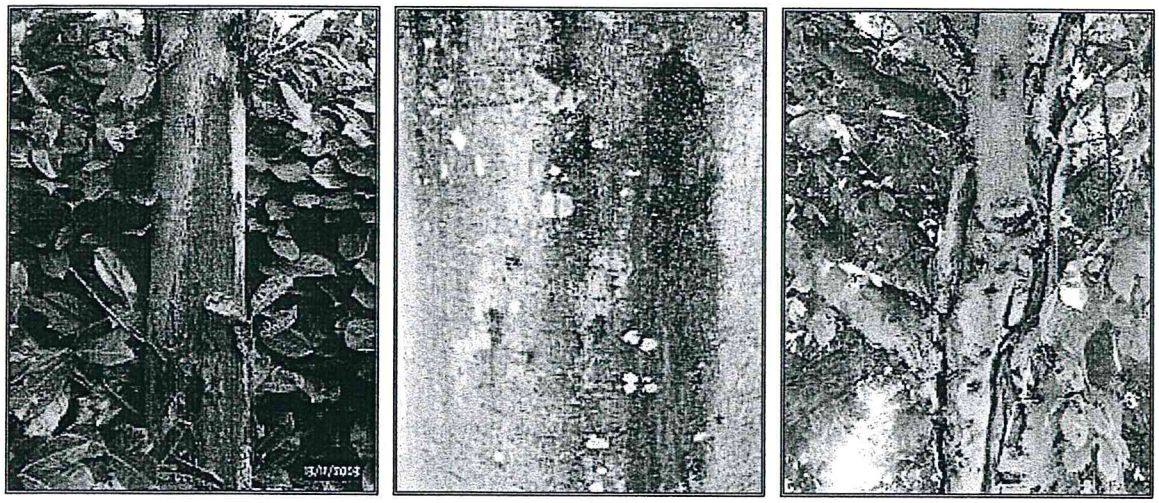
Wetherby Town Council

Raby Park - next to Raby Park drive

Tree Number	Species	Remedial Action	Details	Priority	Catagory
25	Red Horse Chestnut	See details	Reduce the lowest branch overhanging the drive by 2m to suitable growing points.	Medium	1
27	Ash	Fell	Fell if this tree is thought to be out of place.		2
		Reduce	Reduce one of the leaders to allow the other to become the dominant one and form a better tree.		2
31	Red Horse Chestnut	Make safe any unstable, dead or defective branches	Particularly remove the hanging branch.	Medium	1
34	Red Horse Chestnut	Make safe any unstable, dead or defective branches		Medium	1

Extract from the Forest Research website about a new disease of Horse Chestnuts (www.forestresearch.gov.uk)

Bleeding Canker of Horse Chestnut



Stem bleeding on horse chestnut in the UK was first reported in the 1970s, when the cause was found to be a fungal pathogen known as *Phytophthora* (Brasier and Strouts,1976). The same disorder had also been recognised in the USA much earlier in the 1930's (Caroselli, 1953).

Incidence of the disease

Until recently, such *Phytophthora* bleeding cankers were considered to be uncommon and were only seen in the south of England (Strouts and Winter, 2000). However, over the past four or five years, the number of reports of horse chestnut trees (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) with 'bleeding cankers' has increased markedly. Symptoms visible on affected trees include bleeding areas on their stems and sometimes on their scaffold branches. The increased incidence of stem bleeding on horse chestnut is not just limited to the UK; the Netherlands, France and Germany are also experiencing a similar upsurge.

Closer investigation of the bleeding cankers on horse chestnut has revealed that *Phytophthora* is no longer the primary causal agent. Instead there is accumulating evidence that a different pathogen is responsible for the increase in these symptoms on horse chestnut.

In 2003 the Disease Diagnostic Advisory Service (DDAS) of Forest Research received more than 60 reports of stem bleeding in horse chestnut, while in 2004 a further 90 reports were received. So far 70 reports have been collated for 2005. Affected trees have been recorded as far north as Lancashire and Glasgow.

Bud Proliferation of Red Horse Chestnuts (Strouts and Winter, 1994)

BUD PROLIFERATION OF RED HORSE CHESTNUT

Cause: *Unknown*

Damage Type: Proliferation of buds and dwarfed shoots on swellings on stems and branches.

Symptoms & Diagnosis: In winter, conspicuous clusters of buds are evident on branches or stems (**Fig.61**), or in summer crowded clusters of weak shoots bearing dwarfed leaves are noticeable. The clusters may consist of just a few buds or shoots on a smooth, blister-like bark swelling a few centimetres across or of a very large number packed close together over a swelling half a metre or more across and 15 cms thick. The whole structure may be alive or some buds, twigs and bark may be dead, or the whole may be dead and it and the underlying wood decaying. Some swellings are much greater in diameter than the branches bearing them and may lack buds and shoots.
Trees may bear any number of the structures. Often they occur around the graft line or round pruning or other wounds. Many, however, develop in the absence of evident wounds.
Confirmation: This disorder is so distinctive and singular that it may be used to distinguish A. × carnea from other Aesculus species with a high degree of reliability.

Status: Common and widespread in England. Probably equally common in the rest of Great Britain wherever Aesculus × carnea is grown.

Significance: For many years merely disfiguring, but if the galls die and the underlying wood is invaded by wood-rotting fungi the tree may become unsafe.

Host Trees: There appear to be no records on any tree but the hybrid red-flowered Horse chestnut, Aesculus × carnea, and there is no mention of the disease from the homes of either parent – Europe for A. hippocastanum, the USA for A. pavia.

Infection & Development: The disease appears not to have been studied, and observations on the initiation and early development of the galls are lacking, but limited observations at very long (10- and 20-year) intervals suggest that, having attained a large size, galls enlarge very slowly indeed: **Fig.62** shows galled branches in 1983; **Fig.63** shows the same branches in 1993.

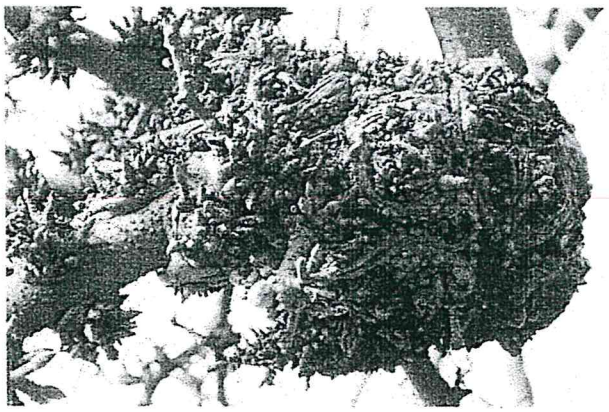


Fig. 61

Glossary of Standard Terms used when Evaluating and Recording the Level of Risk Posed by Trees

TERM	INTERPRETATION
Adapted Growth*	In tree biomechanics, the process whereby wood formation is influenced both in quantity and quality by the action of gravitational force and mechanical stresses on the cambial zone (This helps to maintain a uniform distribution of mechanical stress).
Adventitious (Growth)*	Shoots, roots or other plant organs which develop other than at their normal positions of origin (e.g. shoots which do not arise from terminal or auxiliary buds).
Atypical Growth Patterns	Swellings, excessive taper, lack of taper, reaction wood, localised changes in bark pattern, indicating altered mechanical loading.
Bark Wound	Wound not penetrating into the woody tissues.
Buckling*	An irreversible deformation of a structure subject to a bending load.
Cambial Necrosis	Death of cambium.
Canker	A lesion formed by the death of bark and cambium.
Canopy*	The topmost layer of twigs and foliage in a woodland, tree or group of trees.
Cavity (Wet / Dry)	Opening into a stem or branch. Water filled or relatively dry.
Co-dominant Stems	Two or more stems of similar diameters competing approximately evenly with each other.
Compression Strength	The ability of a material or structure to resist failure when subjected to compressive loading.
Condition	Where the term 'condition' is used in as survey it should not be taken as an indication of the safety of the tree. It is however an indication of the general vigour of the tree. Should and defects be apparent they would be listed separately in the survey.
Coppice Re-growth	Re-growth from the stump of a felled tree, irrespective of whether coppice growth was a management objective.
Crown	The branched, foliage bearing portion of a tree.
Decurrent*	In trees, a system of branching in which the crown us borne on a number of major widely-spreading limbs of similar size (see also **Excurrent**). In fungi with toadstools as fruit bodies, whose gills run some distance down the stem. Also referring to leaf bases and other plant organs which extend down the stem.

TERM	INTERPRETATION
Included Bark in a Branch or Stem Union.	The union of stems, branches or branches with stems where bark is ingrown. Symptoms of failure at included unions may include: outgrowth of tissues (bulging); atypical bark patterns such as streaks of juvenile bark; or cracking of bark.
Lateral Branch(es)	Side branches arising from a **Scaffold or Primary Branch** of a **decurrent** tree or the side branches of an **excurrent** tree.
Leaver Arm*	A mechanical term denoting the length of the leaver represented by a structure that is free to move at one end, such as a tree or one of its branches.
Limited Decay	Decay, which is limited in its distribution by chemical or anatomical boundaries within the affected part. Decay that is thus limited may eventually be able to beak out from the limited zone, often after the tree has suffered a stressful event such as drought, root severance or a pruning episode.
Lower Stem	The lower third of the stem.
Longitudinal Cracking	Cracks extending longitudinally along the stem or branch and usually extending to the pith or beyond.
Lower Crown	Lower third of the crown.
Mechanical Injury	Injury resulting from any external impact.
Mid Stem	Middle third of stem length.
Mid Crown	Middle third of crown (height).
Multi-stemmed	More than two stems originating from or within one metre of ground level.
Mycelium*	The body of a fungus consisting of branched filaments (hyphae).
Occluded Cavity/Wound	Completely covered by growth of tissue since wounding.
Partially Occluded Cavity/Wound	Partially covered by growth of tissue since wounding.
Pollarded**	Past removal of the crown of a tree so as to encourage the development of numerous branches; also further cutting to maintain this growth pattern.
Pollard Re-growth	Shoots or branches arising from the point of pollarding or topping.
Primary Branch	Branch contributing to the main framework of the crown.
Progressive Decay	Decay not substantially restricted by the trees defences.
Progressive Lean	Continuing progression of lean (usually of a stem).
Reaction Wood	Woody tissues produced in response to mechanical stress.
Reduced Vigour	Indicated by reduced leaf and/or shoot size and distribution, possibly with dieback to outer crown.
Resistance*	In tree health assessment, the ability of a tree to withstand particular adverse conditions or attack by a specific pest or pathogen.

TERM	INTERPRETATION
Upper Stem	Upper third of stem.
Vigour*	In a tree assessment an overall measure of the rate of (leaf and) shoot production, shoot extension or diameter growth.
Walkover Survey/ Inspection`	Inspection of trees within a defined area, carried out without invasive investigation, recording only those trees identified as containing defects that could be significant in relation to the level of public access or value of adjacent structures.
Weak Attachment/ Branch Union	Branch or stem attachment with increased failure potential due to defects at point of attachment.
Wind Snap*	The breaking of a tree stem by wind.
Windthrow*	The blowing over of a tree at its roots.
Woundwood*	Wood with **atypical** anatomical features, formed in the vicinity of a wound. Also a term sometimes used to describe the occluding tissues around a wound in preference to the ambiguous term 'callus'.

Above list adopted from Ellison M.J. Pers Com 2001

* From Lonsdale D. (1999). Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management. HMSO, London. 218pp.

** Adapted from Lonsdale D. (1999). Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management. HMSO, London. 218pp.

3. MANAGEMENT OF GRASSLAND

Wetherby Town Council started to use contractors to cut the grass following complaints from residents about the length of grass and weeds.

This was formalised under the present grass cutting contract to seven cuts each year between April and October.

The park is used for feeding by two species of bat which roost in neighbouring houses. The bats have continued to feed in the park despite the grass being cut. However, it is considered that feeding opportunities are increased if the grass is allowed to grow longer.

In order to increase biodiversity, it was suggested that the grass should not be cut at all or cut only twice a year, with pathways cut through the long grass which would be cut more regularly to allow access for the public. However, consultation with the grass cutting contractor demonstrated that the grass, which is natural pasture grass rather than rye grass, could grow very tall. If the grass were not to be cut at all, at the end of the season, it would dry out and then lie on the ground. This would kill the grass beneath and also present a fire hazard. Similar considerations would apply if the grass were to be cut twice a year and the risings left on the ground. It is not cost effective to remove the grass risings.

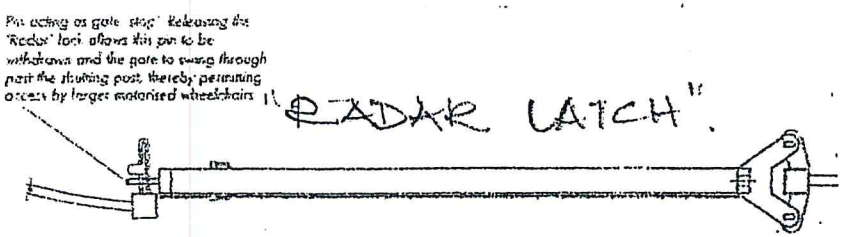
In order to increase biodiversity while at the same time permitting use of the park by the public, Wetherby Town Council has agreed a grass cutting programme with Leeds City Council's Nature Conservation Officer and Planning Officer:

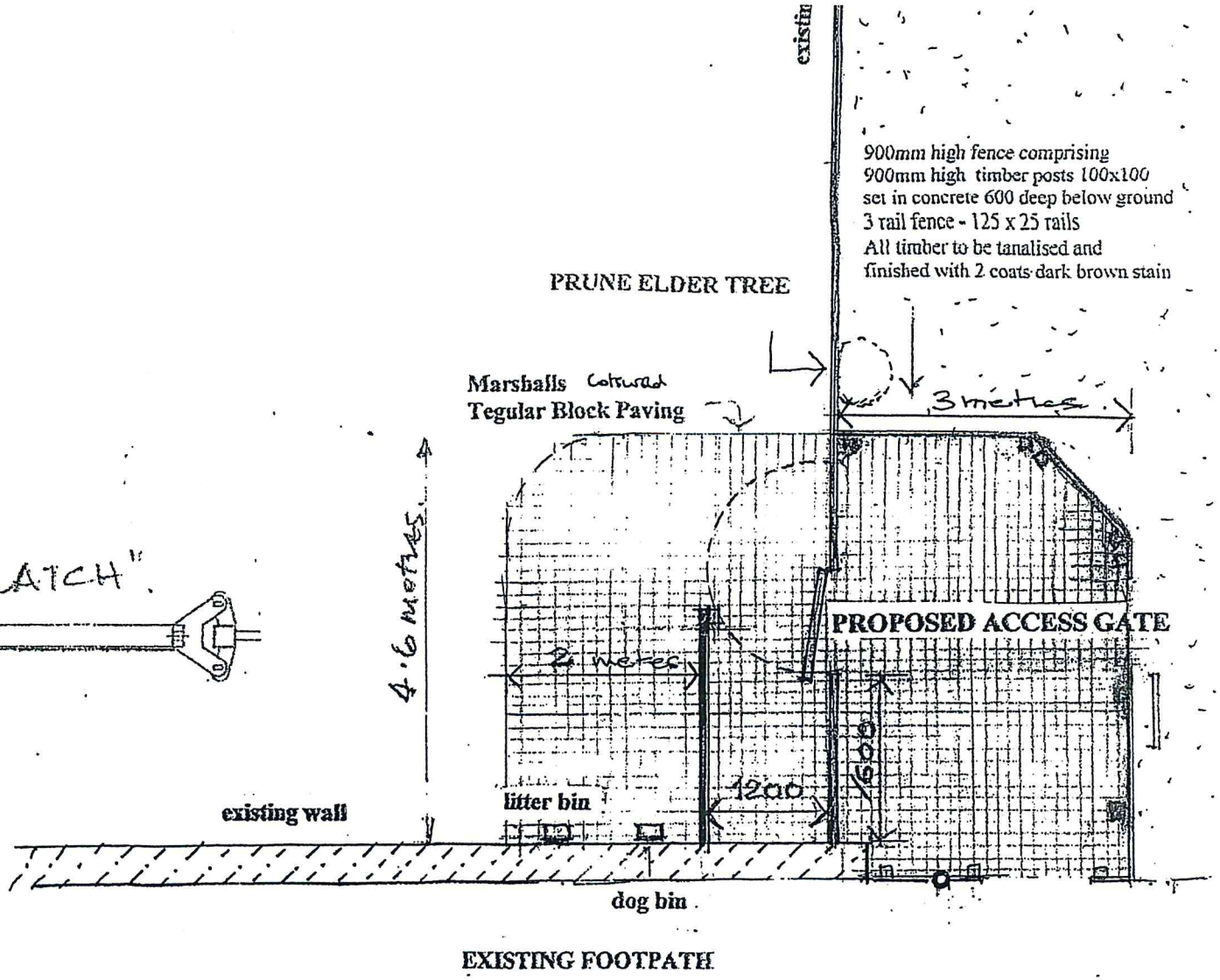
- On the perimeter of the park on the Spofforth Hill/Westgate and Raby Park boundaries grass will not be cut under the line of the canopy of the trees, except for the final cut of the season to prevent scrub from developing.
- On the Cooper Road boundary, grass will not be cut around the trunks of individual trees, except for the final cut of the season to prevent scrub from developing.
- Grass growing under trees within the park will not be cut around the trunks, except for the final cut of the season to prevent scrub from developing.
- Grass will not be cut on an area to the north of the park (near the boundary with Raby Park) when the croci are growing and flowering, although it will be necessary to cut the grass here on the final autumn cut so that the croci can be seen in the spring
- The remainder of the park will be cut up to seven times a year, depending on seasonal growth.

In addition, fallen wood from trees will be left in situ and allowed to decay. Decaying wood is beneficial as a habitat to a number of species. Long grass around the trees will discourage pedestrians from approaching the trees and habitats will not be disturbed.
A photograph showing the croci blooming in January 2007 is attached.

CROC1

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

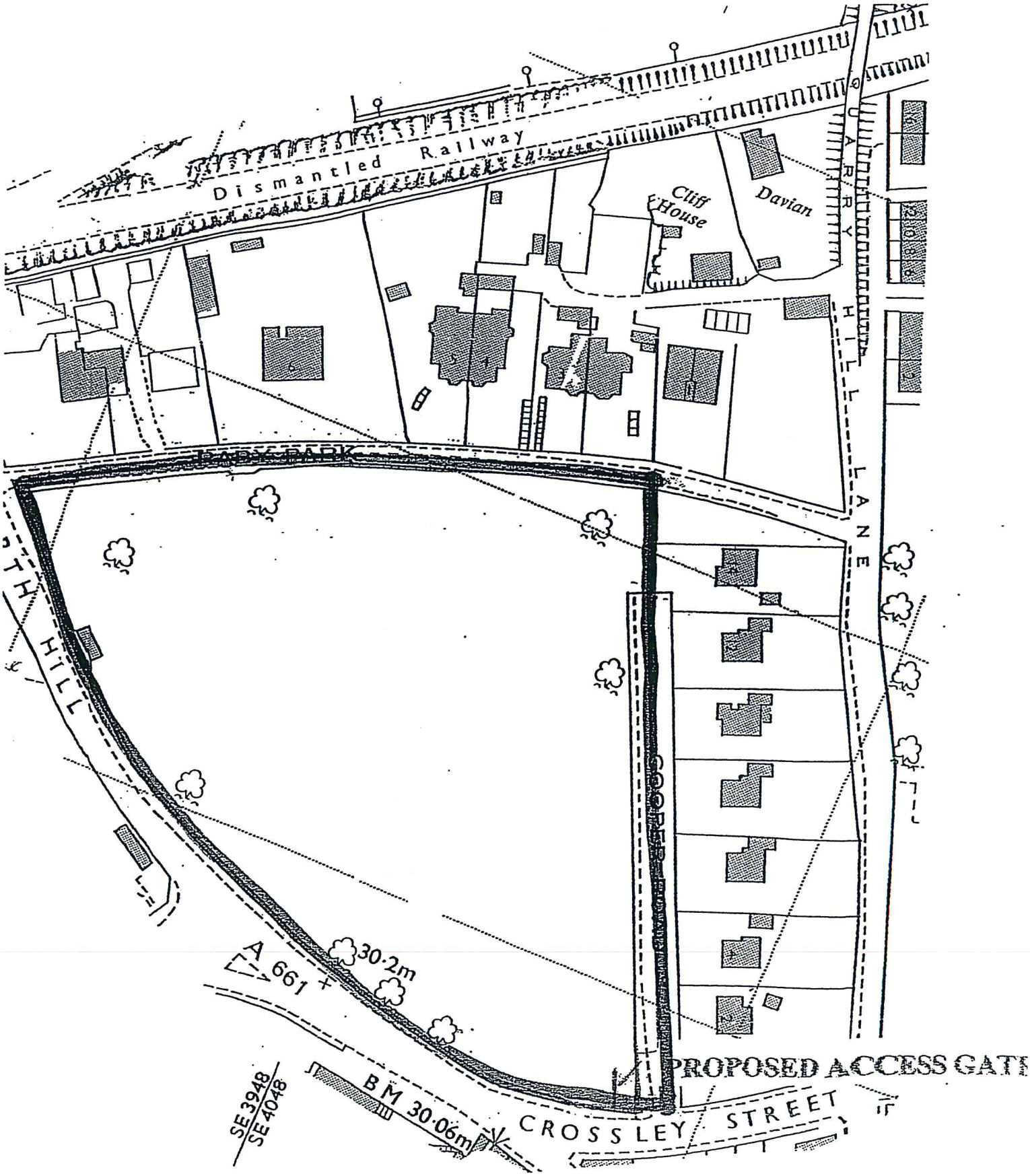




Scale 1 : 50

CROSSLEY STREET

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS



4. BOUNDARY MAINTENANCE

The boundary at the eastern end of Spofforth Hill/ Crossley Street is a stone wall. This was repaired and partially repointed in 2005. Ivy is removed from time to time as required. The central section of the Spofforth Hill boundary is a post and 3 rail wooden fence which was constructed in 2006 to replace an earlier fence which had fallen into disrepair. The western section of this boundary is a hedge. This is cut back annually.

The boundary with Cooper Road is a post and 4 rail fence. This is in a good state of repair.

The original boundary fence with Raby Park was a post and 3 rail fence with a field gate. The fence and gate had fallen into disrepair and the fence has been removed. A one bar wooden fence has been constructed in its place.

5. PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

A drawing showing the proposed pedestrian access off Crossley Street is attached.

It is proposed to plant hawthorn hedging adjacent to the fence on the Cooper Road side of the entrance.

BINS

One dog bin and one litter bin will be installed by Wetherby Town Council inside the wall adjacent to Crossley Street, near to the pedestrian gate.

The position of the bins is shown on the attached drawing showing the pedestrian access off Crossley Street.

Bins will be emptied weekly by Wetherby Town Council staff.

OTHER FURNITURE

There are no plans for other furniture, such as benches, or play equipment, at Raby Park.