

## Bradford on Avon Town Council Tree Safety Plan – November 2024

### Introduction

A Bradford on Avon Town Council Tree Management Policy was adopted on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

This complementary document outlines a plan to manage tree safety on the town council's land. This document considers guidance including 'Common sense risk management of trees' (National Tree Safety Group, 2024) and the benefits that trees bring. Bradford on Avon Town Council believes that, in the unlikely event of an accident involving one of the council's trees, this system is sufficient to demonstrate 'the conduct to be expected from a reasonable and prudent landowner'.

### Tree checks and inspections

The town council will carry out or commission tree checks and inspections:

- Checks: public observation and reports, staff observation and reports leading to a reactive approach to events that have caused trees to become dangerous, as they arise, and a plan that manages the material risks to maintain them as low as is reasonably practicable.
- Professional inspections: the periodic assessment of trees by qualified professionals.

The town council will use a zoning approach as a means of defining areas of land around trees according to levels of occupancy. Higher use areas are frequented by many people every day, such as busy roads, railways or other well-used routes, car parks or areas where people regularly congregate, or places where property may be affected.

Three zones: High use, low use and negligible use are defined below. These are guidelines, and local knowledge (for instance accounting for the number or size of trees, or proximity of trees to targets) may affect categorisation

1. **High use zones** will have professional inspections each **3 years (2.5 to 3.5 years between inspections)**.

Trees within striking distance of: a busy road; or a railway; or areas with high levels of passing people; or areas where there are frequent gatherings of people. It can also include trees within striking distance of significant (high value, high risk or heritage) property.

2. **Low use zones** will have professional inspections each **5 years (4.5 to 5.5 years between inspections)**

Trees within striking distance of: lower trafficked roads; or where the levels of passing people are not at high levels; or other occupied property.

3. **Negligible use zones** will have professional inspections each **5 years (4.5 to 5.5 years between inspections)**

Trees with limited targets within striking distance: low levels of occupation by people; or unoccupied property.

High use zones will be inspected first, initial inspections complete within the first period. Following this inspection, the frequency of inspections may be adjusted following a recommendation of a greater or lesser intensity of survey. The inspection of lower use zones may be incorporated into inspections of higher use zones, for instance where two zones occur in close proximity on one site.

### Ash dieback disease (ADB)

Subject to advice for each site, ash trees may be subject to an increased inspection frequency because of additional risks caused by ADB. Sites with significant numbers of ash trees are marked \*.

## Sites

Sites without trees will not be surveyed, including Budbury Carpark and Frome Road Allotments. New or additional sites will be included on the above basis.

Site	Zone	Inspection Frequency (years)	Comment
Arnold's Wood (roadside)*	High	3	
Arnold's Wood (elsewhere)	Negligible	5	
Westbury Garden	High	3	
Culver Close	High	3	
Victory Field	High	3	
Barton Farm (lawns)	High	3	
Barton Farm (ride)*	Low	5	
Barton Farm (North Meadow railside)*	High	3	
Barton Farm (North Meadow)	Negligible	5	Apart from railside, paths are mostly away from trees
Barton Farm (far, riverside)*	Low	5	
Barton Farm (far, away from riverside)	Negligible	5	
Becky Addy Wood*	Low	5	Or otherwise defined in management plan
Spencer's Orchard	High	3	
Moulton Drive*	High	3	
Poulton Park (adjacent to play area, skatepark and carpark)*	High	3	
Poulton Park (elsewhere)	Low	5	
Riverside walk*	High	3	
Scout Hut (railside)	High	3	
Scout Hut (elsewhere)	Low	5	
The Strips (railside)*	High	3	
The Strips (elsewhere)*	Low	5	
Greenland View Play Area	Low	5	
Shoulder of Mutton Allotments	Low	5	
St Aldhelm Play Area*	Low	5	
Kingston Wood	Low	5	
BOA Cemetery (roadside)*	High	3	
BOA Cemetery (elsewhere)	Low	5	
Brooklands, Cemetery Extension Field (roadside)*	High	3	
Brooklands, Cemetery extension field (elsewhere)	Negligible	5	
Bancroft Allotment	Low	5	
Sladesbrook Allotment (roadside)*	High	3	
Sladesbrook Allotment (elsewhere)	Low	5	
Sladesbrook Park	Low	5	
Bearfield	Low	5	
Tory Trees	Low	5	
Christchurch Churchyard	High	3	Closed Churchyard
Holy Trinity Churchyard	Low	5	Closed Churchyard
Millie's Garden	Low	5	
Bradford on Avon Youth Centre*	Low	5	

## **Usual professional inspection specification:**

### **For non-woodland trees:**

Undertake a ground-based visual tree inspection of all trees on site (plot trees and groups with GPS device, tag individual trees, record estimated height, measured dbh (diameter at breast height), age class and condition, comment on defects, pests and diseases, etc.).

Undertake a Quantified Tree Risk Assessment or equivalent where significant defects or hazards are present.

Undertake or review CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees) on all individual trees and one tree within any group.

Assign a risk zone (negligible, low or high) to trees and groups.

Make management recommendations pertaining to safety, arboricultural management, direct damage, or additional survey/inspection.

### **For woodland trees:**

Undertake a walkover survey, identifying, tagging and plotting any trees that may present a risk along boundaries and areas with public access.

Record data to include estimated height, measured dbh, age class and condition, comments on defects, pests and diseases, etc.

Undertake a Quantified Tree Risk Assessment or equivalent where significant defects or hazards are present.

Plot other trees as groups to represent planting mixtures.

Undertake or review a valuation of the woodland using the Helliwell System (note: this is a valuation of the amenity value of the trees, not timber value).

Assign a risk zone (negligible, low or high) to trees and groups.

Make management recommendations pertaining to safety, arboricultural or woodland management, direct damage, or additional survey/inspection.