Bradford on Avon Town Council

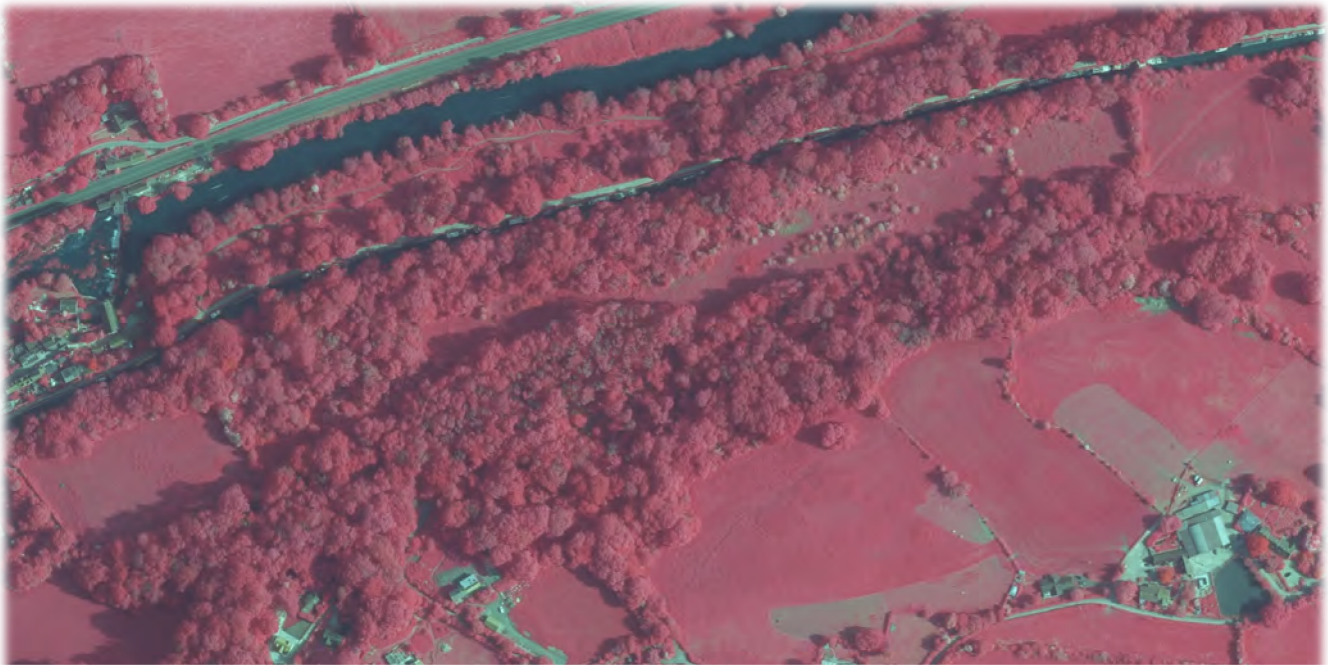
Becky Addy Wood

Woodland Management Plan

Becky Addy Wood, Wiltshire

Woodland Management Plan

Final



1715/Version: V6.0

Client: Bradford on Avon Town Council

Date: 13 October 2025

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Report prepared for:

Bradford on Avon Town Council

Main contributors:

Ellie Hack BSc ACIEEM, Principal Ecologist

Jon Heuch BSc (For), PhD, MICFor, MArborA, RCArborA, Principal Arboricultural Consultant

Kat Newbert BSc MSc MCIEEM, Principal Ecologist

Matthew Johns BSc MSc CEnv MCIEEM, Director

Reviewed by:

Liz Johns BSc (Hons) MSc CEnv MCIEEM MRSB

Director

Green Tree House, 11 St Margaret's St, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1DA
T: 01225 723652 E: info@johnsassociates.co.uk | W: www.johnsassociates.co.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Johns Associates Ltd and Duramen Consulting Ltd were commissioned in 2025 by Bradford-on-Avon Town Council to produce a Woodland Management Plan for Becky Addy Wood. The woodland is designated as ancient and semi natural woodland, with a Tree Preservation Order across the woodland and a Public Right of Way running centrally through the wood.
2. Ash dieback disease is present throughout the woodland, with some areas more impacted than others. Management of the dead and diseased ash begun in 2021; however, no management of the woodland has taken place since 2023 due to a court injunction.
3. This management plan aims to implement BOATCs vision for the safe use, restoration, enhancement and management of the wood, which is sustained in the long term. The proposed aim of the management regime is to promote biodiversity and ecological recovery of the woodland, whilst also making the woodland more welcoming and accessible.
4. The initial steps of the management plan are based on a QTRA (Quantified Tree Risk Assessment) tree risk survey undertaken during the summer of 2025.
5. The tree risks were assessed as "tolerable" category provided they are ALARP – as low as reasonably practicable. As there are significant numbers of dead and dying ash trees within falling distance of the public footpath and ash dieback is present in trees within falling distance of the public highway on the western side of the woodland, action is required to reduce the risk of harm from affected trees.
6. Usage of the site was assessed using the experience of surveyors who have been on site occasionally over the last five years. No formal use count is considered likely to alter the risk assessment.
7. Trees have been regularly falling in Becky Addy Wood with one major failure during the field work for the risk assessment. Further failures are likely, assisted by the likely spread of honey fungus through the wood. It is not possible to predict which trees will fail first, nor to say when they will fail.
8. There is no need for immediate, emergency tree works but there is a need to act in a reasonable timeframe to reduce risks, consistent with the desire to retain the woodland. Intervention having been largely delayed since 2021, the situation is now somewhat critical.
9. Management of ash dieback is likely to be the key driver for management intervention over the next five years. This is likely to involve tree felling, occasional creation of short monoliths, wood removal and woodland regeneration involving natural regeneration, where possible within fenced areas and tree planting, where not possible and where a wider range of tree species should provide a more resilient woodland able to grow in the uncertain times of tree disease and climate change.
10. In addition to ash dieback management, additional management regimes have been proposed comprising improvements and maintenance of the Public Right of Way, protection of existing key habitat features, timber management, ivy removal, removal of invasive and/or non-native plants, litter removal, public engagement and hazel coppicing.
11. Prior to any works commencing, baseline ecological surveys will be required to confirm the presence/absence of protected species and any key habitat features used by these species. Baseline ecological surveys have been commissioned and begun in May 2025. Should protected species be identified within areas of the woodland or trees where works are proposed, further phase 2 ecological surveys may be required. If protected species are confirmed to be present within the proposed works area, a European Protected Species Licence or other relevant Natural England licence (dependent upon the species) with appropriate mitigation and compensation may be required prior to works commencing.
12. This management plan will be subject to review every 5 years.
13. Long term, Becky Addy Wood will be a safe, thriving and biodiverse mixed woodland, dominated by

native broadleaved trees. Oak, sycamore and wych elm will continue to provide canopy across the wood, broken occasionally by natural glades providing additional transitory habitat and a proportion of the woodland with ash resistant to ash dieback to remain as part of the canopy. Existing and future veteran trees, bat roosts and other notable habitat features will be retained and preserved. The understory and ground flora will be revitalised, encouraging a greater species diversity.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Johns Associates has been commissioned by Bradford on Avon Town Council (BOATC) to prepare a bespoke Woodland Management Plan to support proposals to ensure the woodland is safe for users of the Public Right of Way that runs through the wood, and to implement wide-ranging, long-term nature conservation management of Becky Addy Wood, west of Bradford on Avon on the south side of the Limpley Stoke Valley.

Site name: Becky Addy Wood

Location: Avoncliff, Upper Westwood

Grid reference: ST 80900 60000

Area: 4.25 ha (10.5 acres)

Designations: National Landscape Area (NLA), Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland, National Forest Inventory – Broadleaved Deciduous Woodland, Tree Preservation Order (TPO) Woodland.

1.2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Becky Addy Wood is situated to the southwest of the hamlet of Avoncliff, to the west of the village of Westwood and on the eastern boundary of Bradford-on-Avon. It lies approximately 150 m south of the River Avon, with access to the Kennet and Avon Canal and Sustrans cycle path. It is within the southern range of the Cotswolds National Landscape Area (National Character Area 107 – Cotswolds).

The woodland covers a total area of 4.25 ha, all of which is designated as ancient & semi natural woodland. A Public Right of Way (PRoW) WW029 runs through the woodland along its northern edge, linking it to adjacent habitats including meadows and the Kennet and Avon canal. A minor road lies at the western boundary of the woodland.

Becky Addy Wood was acquired by Bradford-on-Avon Town Council in 2020 and records of a woodland at this location date from as early as the 10th century. Prior to BOATC purchasing the woodland, it was previously used for motocross, and has been unmanaged for many decades.

The canopy of the woodland is predominantly ash (Fraxinus excelsior) and sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus), with other tree species including oak (*Quercus robur*), beech (Fagus sylvatica), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), willow (*Salix* sp.), field maple (*Acer campestre*), Wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*) and crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*). The wood is NVC community W8f – ash – dogs mercury woodland (*Fraxinus excelsior* – Acer *campstre* – *Mercuralis* perennis woodland) with wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*) sub-community. There is a high pressure from ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) disease in the woodland, which is causing very large sycamore to naturally take over as canopy replacement.

12 species of bat have been recorded as present in the woodland, including the rare Annex 2 species barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*), Bechstein's (*Myotis bechsteinii*), lesser horseshoe (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) and greater horseshoe (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*), with two bat species confirmed as roosting within the woodland – soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) and Natterer's (*Myotis nattereri*).

The following images provide an instant overview of the character and nature of Becky Addy Wood.

Contact Sheet 1: Becky Addy Wood









Contact Sheet 2: Becky Addy Wood

1.2.1 Statutory Designations

Statutory Designations associated with Becky Addy Wood are illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Statutory Designations associated with Becky Addy Wood

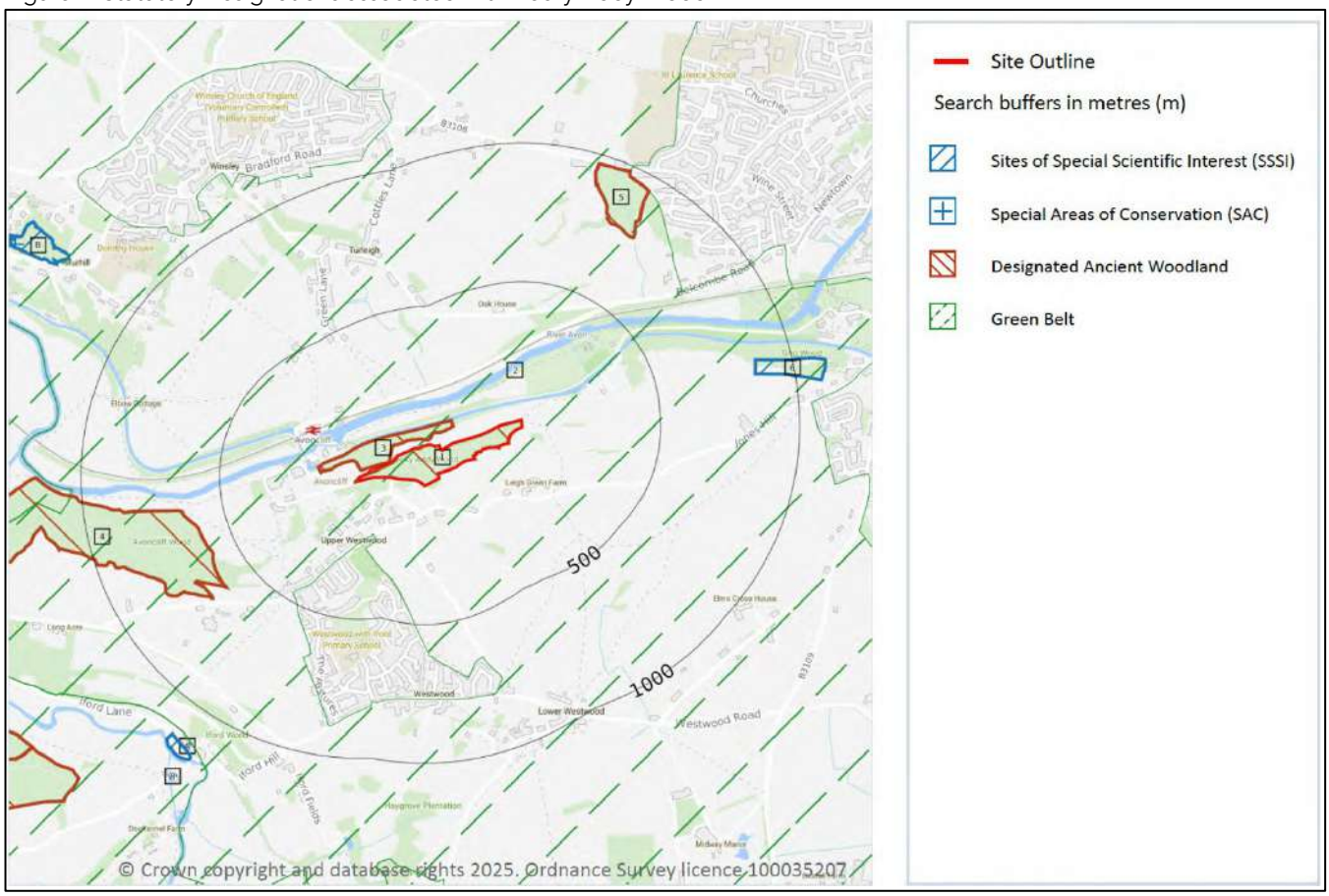


Figure 1 shows local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Designated Ancient Woodland (AW) and Green Belt (GB) in relation to Becky Addy Wood. SSSIs are sites providing statutory protection for the best examples of UK flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features. Originally notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, SSSIs were renotified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Improved provisions for their protection and management were introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 (in England and Wales).

SACs are areas which have been identified as best representing the range and variety within the European Union of habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II of Directive. SACs are designated under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC).

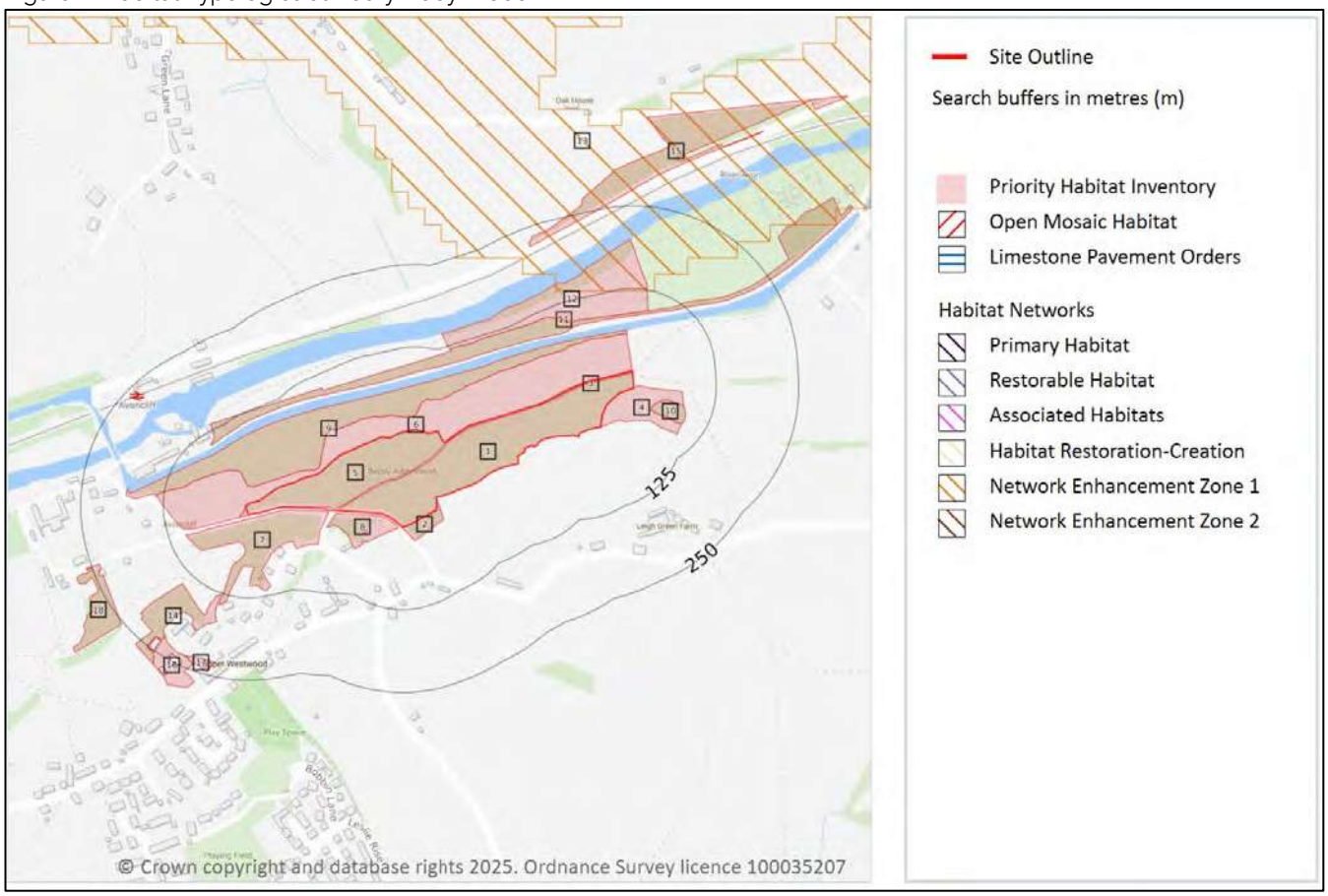
Ancient Woodlands are classified as areas which have been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. This includes semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites. 'Wooded continuously' does not mean there is or has previously been continuous tree cover across the whole site, and not all trees within the woodland have to be old.

Green Belt is an area designated to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. Becky Addy Wood is Designated Ancient Woodland and is located within the Green Belt.

1.2.2 Habitat Typologies

Figure 2 shows the habitat typologies present within the woodland.

Figure 2: Habitat Typologies at Becky Addy Wood



Priority Habitats are habitats of principal importance as named under Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). Habitat networks have been defined for 18 priority habitat networks (based primarily, but not exclusively, on the priority habitat inventory) and areas suitable for the expansion of networks through restoration and habitat creation.

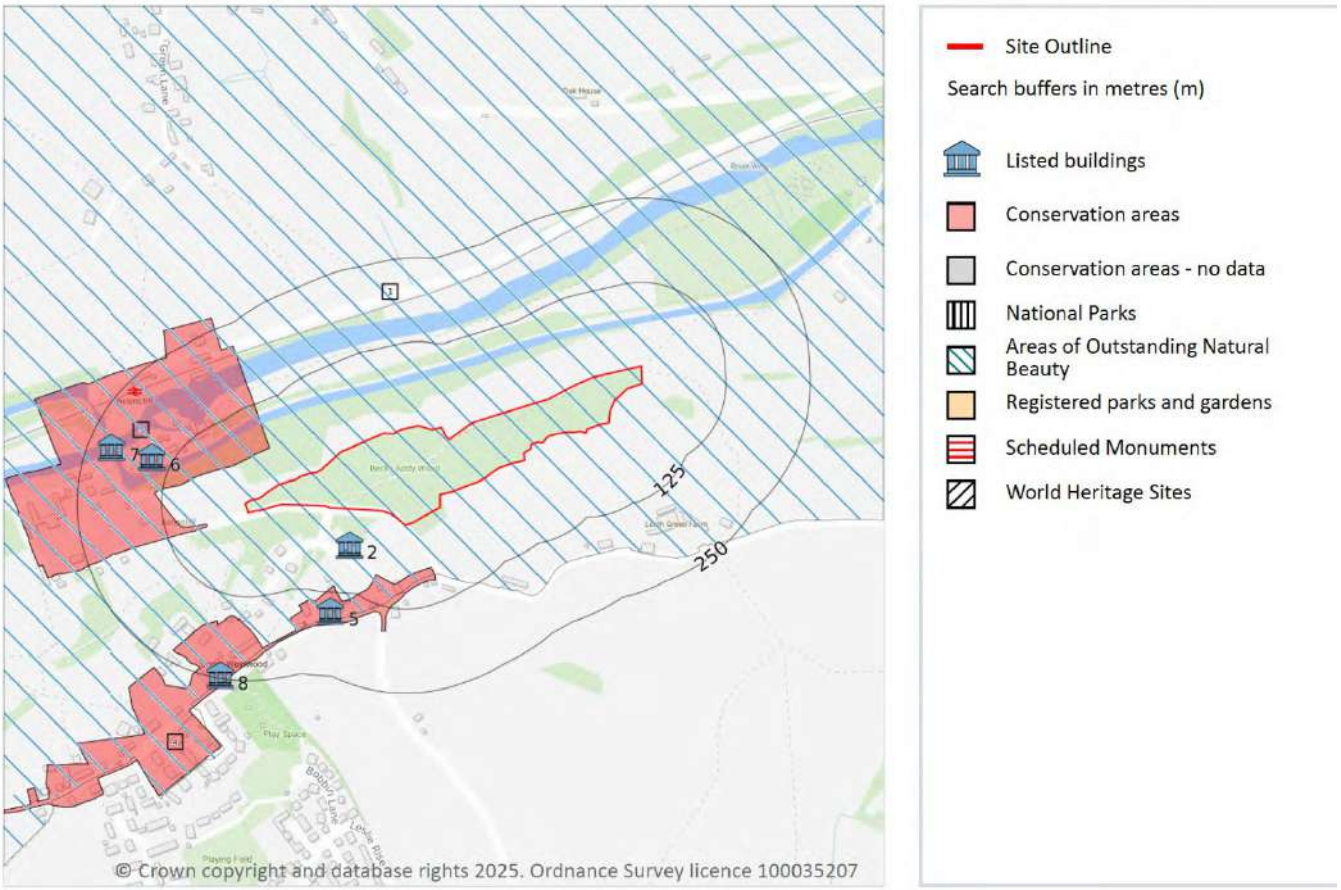
Sites verified as Open Mosaic Habitat. Mosaic habitats are brownfield sites that are identified under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as a priority habitat due to the habitat variation within a single site, supporting an array of invertebrates.

Becky Addy Wood supports Priority Habitats and the lower lying north eastern corner falls within a Network Enhancement Zone.

1.2.3 Visual and Cultural Designations

Becky Addy Wood is located in the vicinity of a number of features of cultural and archaeological interest. Some of these (the Cotswold National Landscape (AONB), Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas) are shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Visual and Cultural Designations.



1.2.4 Geology and Soils

Becky Addy Wood is located within an incised limestone valley, forming part of the southern valley slope, including a range of exposed limestone faces and debris. Superficial geology (drift deposits) is characterised by landslip rock debris. This can be seen in Figure 4.

This differentiated stratigraphical sequence has allowed the erosion of the Limpley Stoke Valley over time to create the landscape seen today, alongside alternating bands of permeable and impermeable rock, with corresponding differences in hydrology, soil moisture and vegetation. The solid geology can be seen in Figure 5.

The geology and the way in which it has influenced physical processes (erosion, deposition, soil formation, hydrology) underpins the landform of the Limpley Stoke Valley and bio-physical conditions in Becky Addy Wood, alongside human intervention. The different geological strata will also influence areas of drier and damper conditions in relation to their relative permeability, availability of certain soil nutrients and minerals and species composition.

Solid geology underlying and adjacent to Becky Addy Wood is characterised by the Forest Marble Formation – Mudstone, the Upper Rags and Bath Oolite (undifferentiated) Ooidal Limestone, the Chalfield Formation - Ooidal Limestone, Fullers Earth Formation – Mudstone, Coombe Down Oolite – Ooidal Limestone and the Twinhoe Beds - Limestone.

Figure 4: Superficial Geology

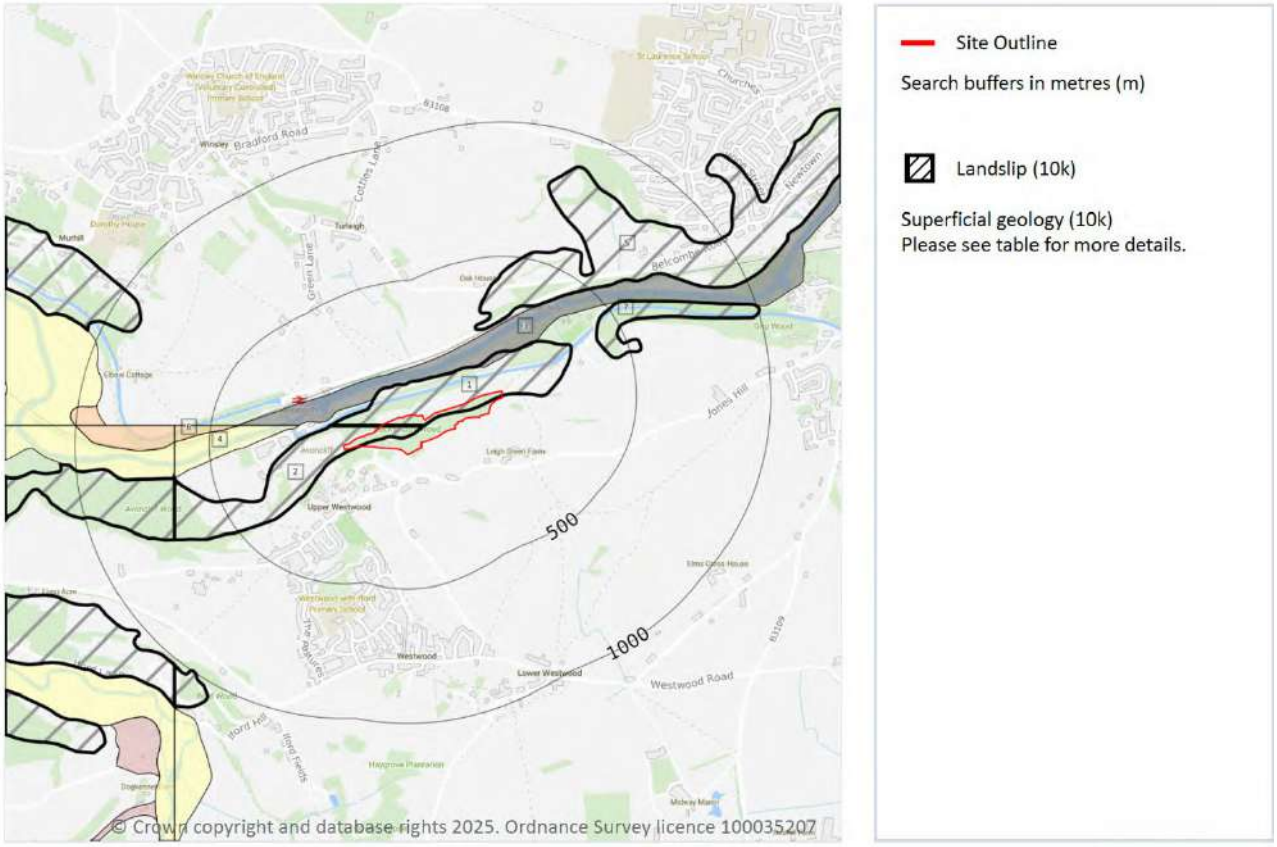
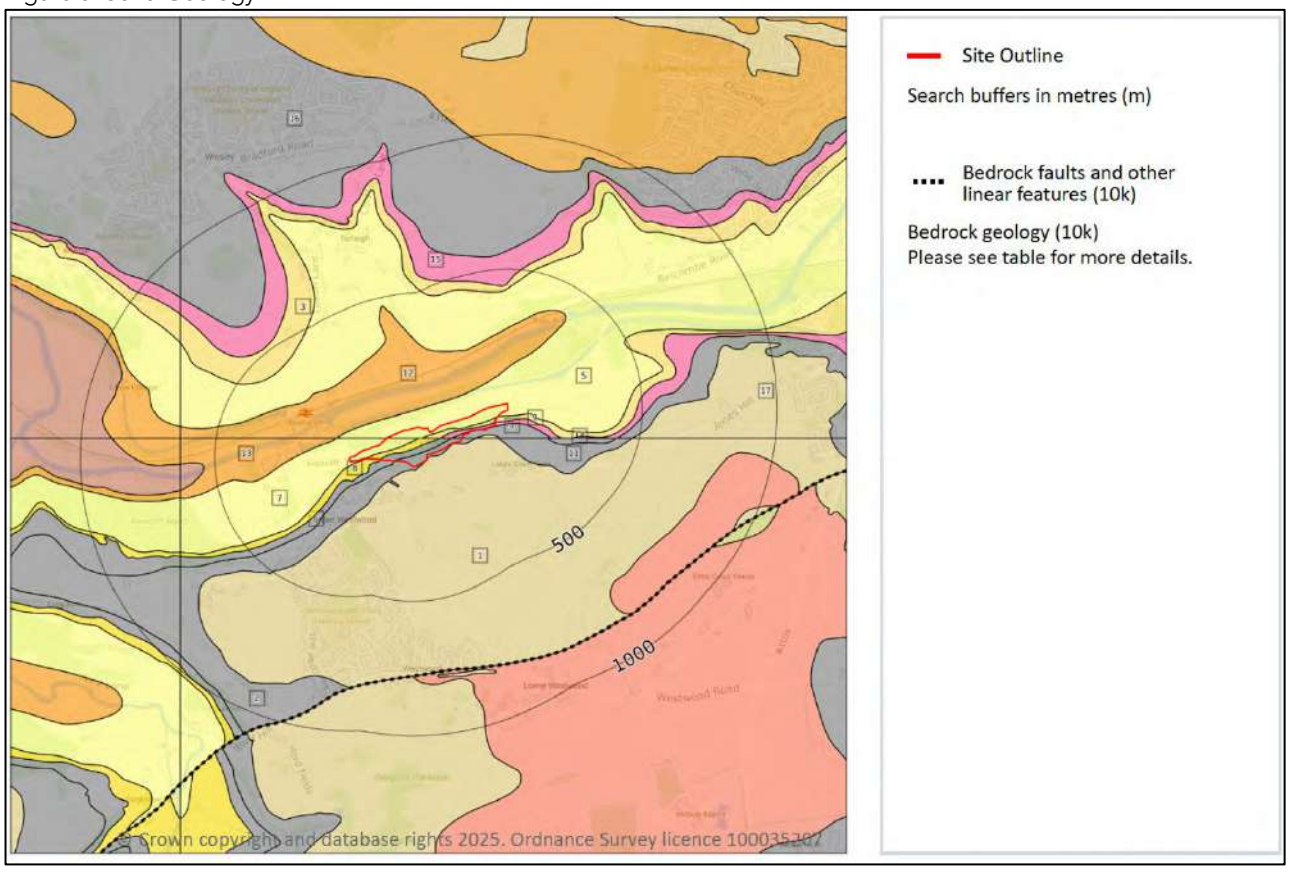


Figure 5: Solid Geology

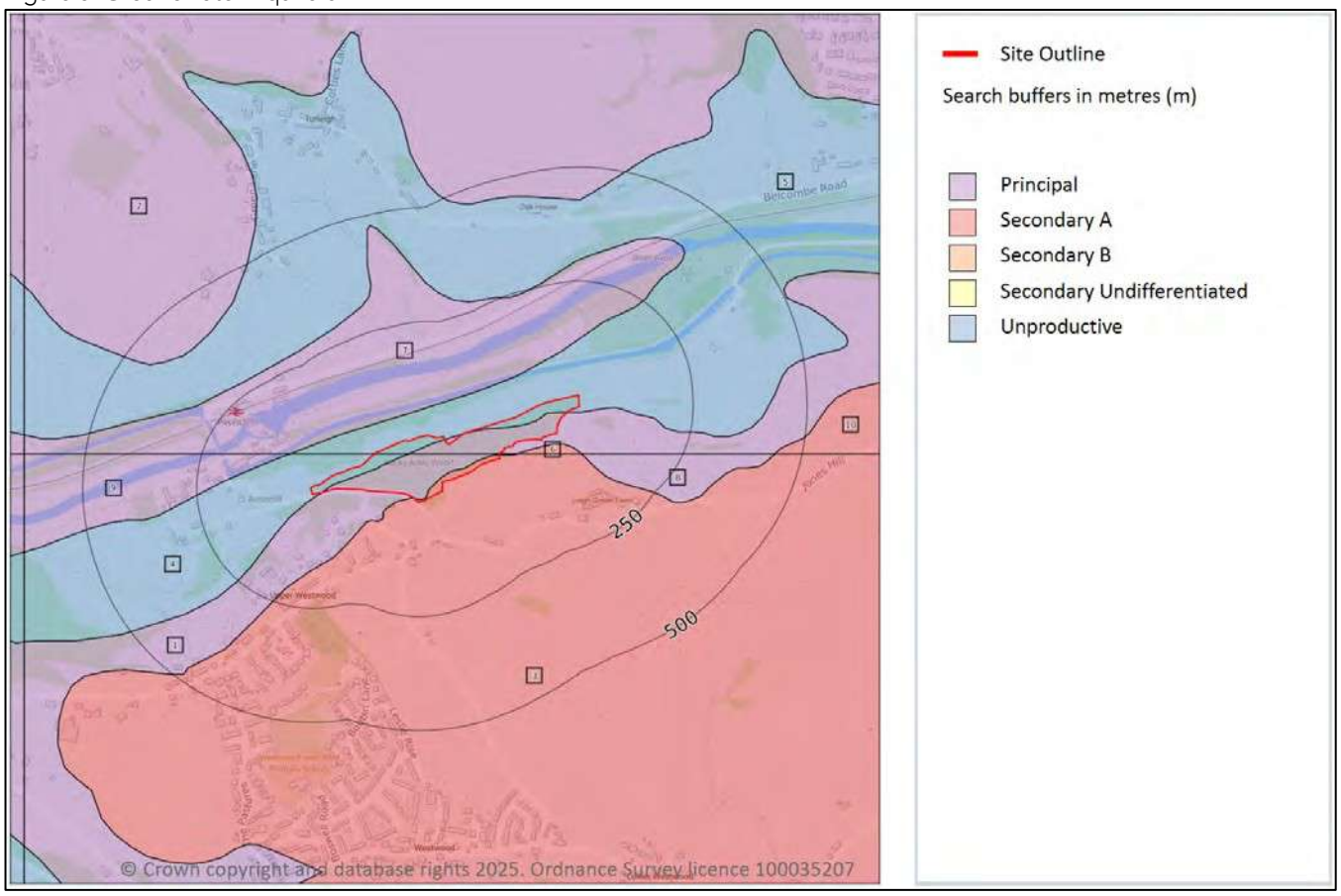


1.2.5 Ground and Surface Water

Becky Addy Wood is located over a Principal Aquifer associated with the Bath Oolite Water Framework Directive Groundwater Body. A Principal Aquifer has a geology of high intergranular and/or fracture permeability, usually providing a high level of water storage and may support water supply/river base flow on a strategic scale. Generally, principal aquifers were previously termed 'major aquifers.' These aquifers are highly vulnerability to pollution. The presence of the limestone will influence the accessibility of water to trees in the woodland, with wetter locations being where the limestone abuts more impermeable geology. This can be seen as issues or springs, particularly notable after prolonged rain when groundwater levels are higher.

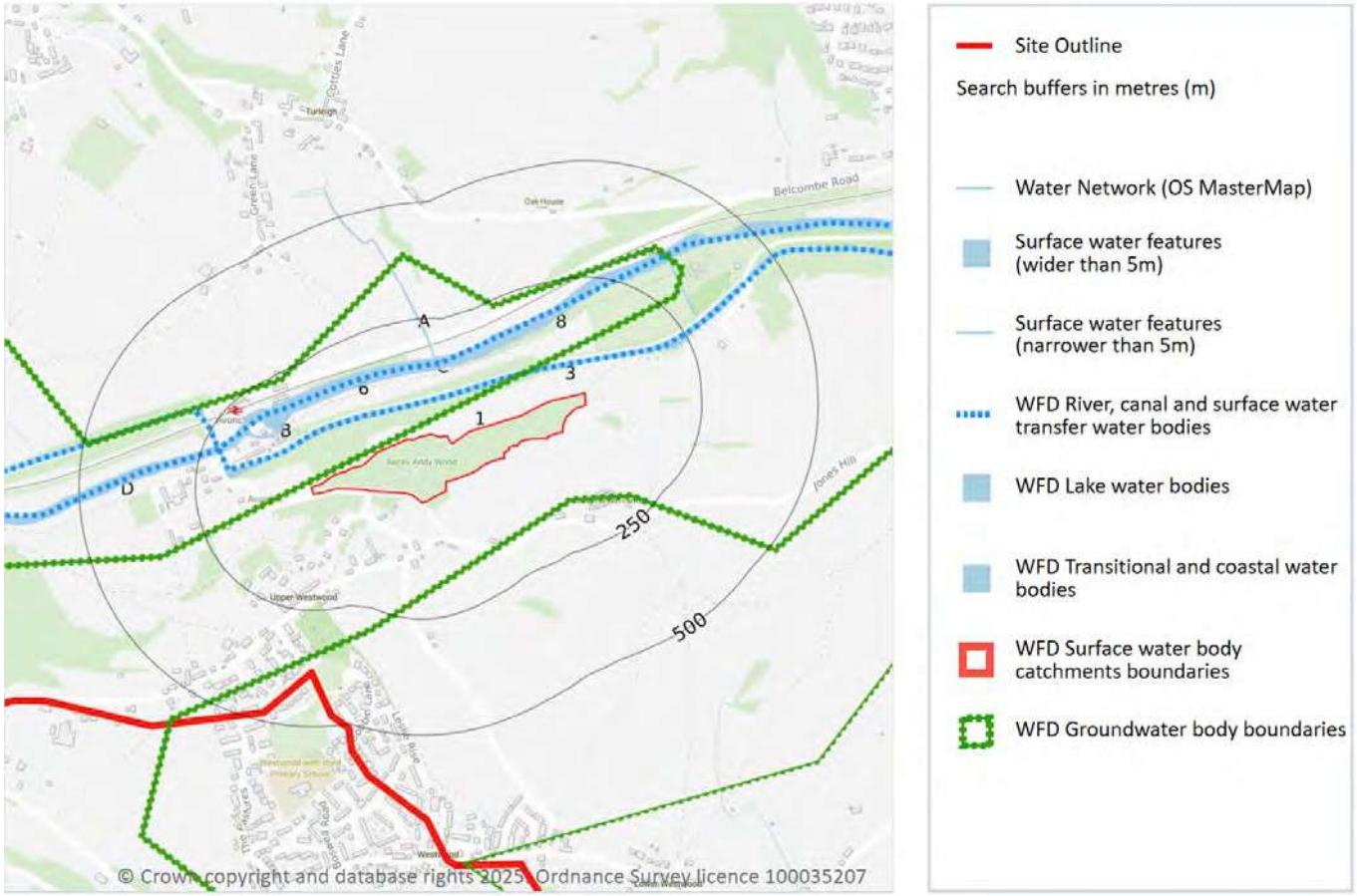
The groundwater features can be seen in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Groundwater Aquifers



Surface water features are shown in Figure 7 and include the River Avon and the Kennet and Avon Canal, which also form the Bristol Avon (Semington Brook to By Brook) and Kennet and Avon, summit to Bath WFD surface water bodies. There are no surface water features in Becky Addy Wood.

Figure 7: Surface Water Bodies



1.2.6 Vegetation Condition

Plate 8 presents an infrared image of Becky Addy Wood from 2023. Healthy vegetation reflects more near- infrared light than unhealthy or stressed vegetation. No formal coordination of this image has been made against ash trees, but it is not unreasonable to assume that the trees in Becky Addy Wood that are more stressed from disease or other influences may appear less red.

Plate 8: Infrared image of Becky Addy Wood

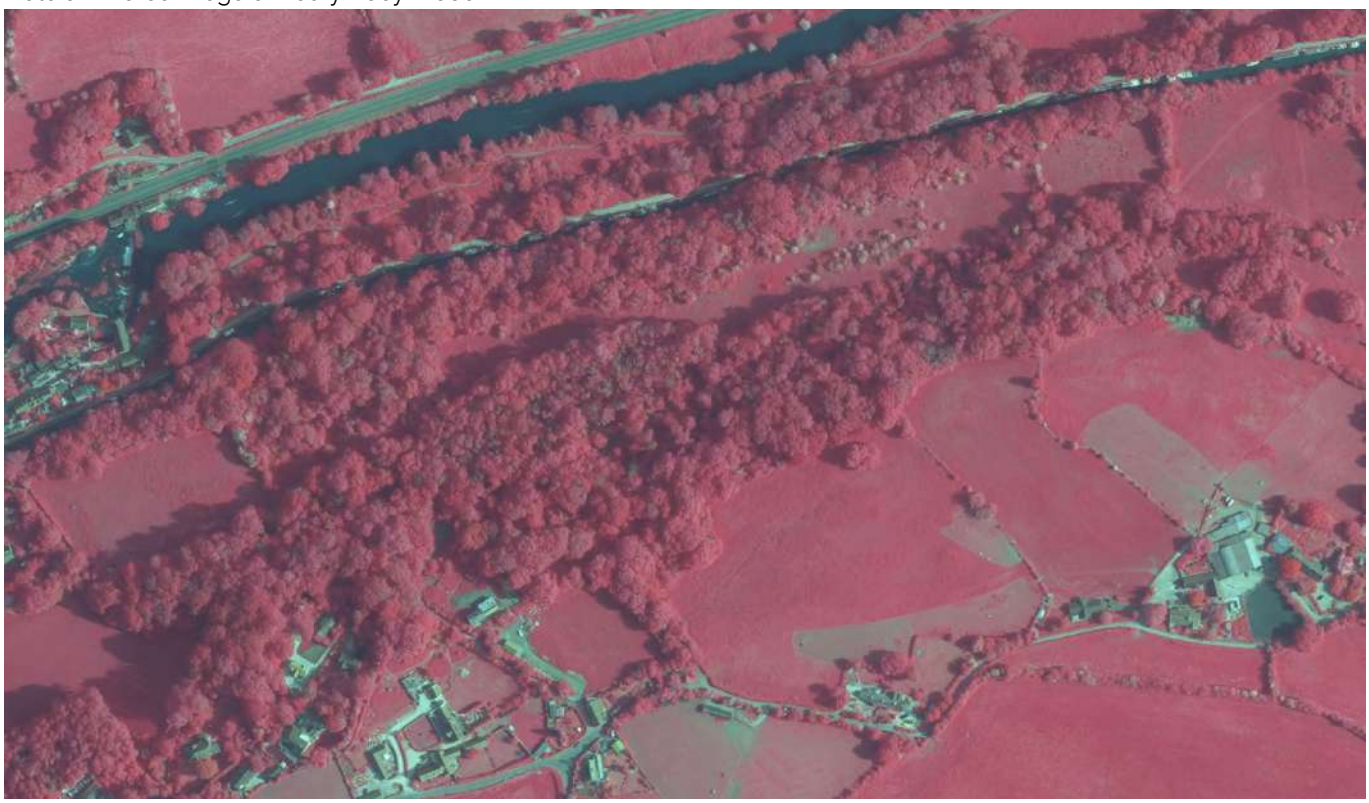
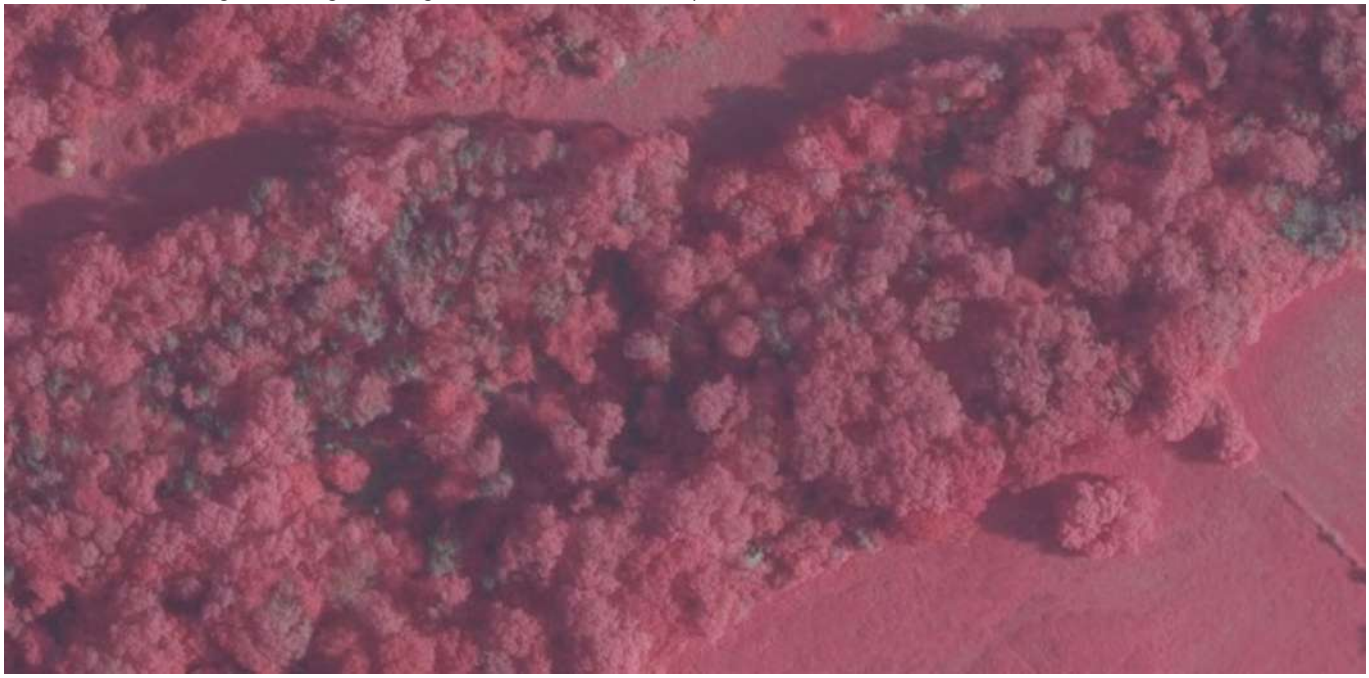


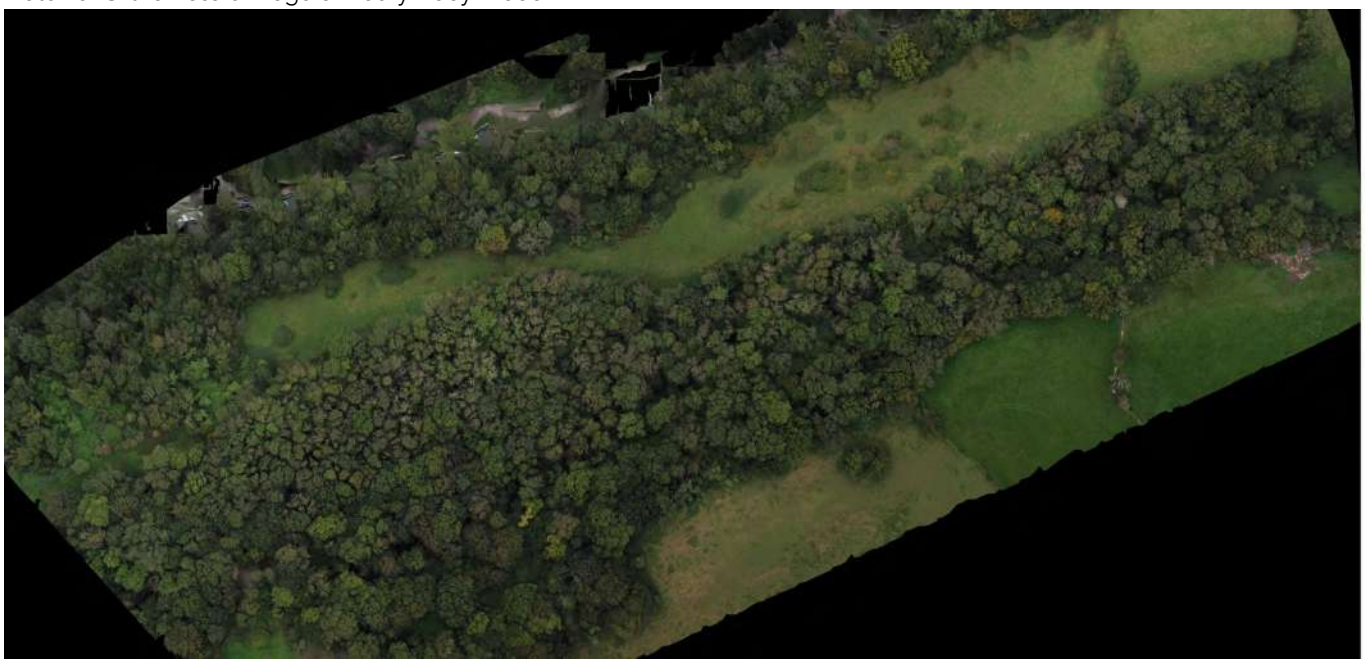
Plate 9 provides a closer view where individual trees with different levels of reflected infrared can be seen more clearly. This may highlight those trees with ash dieback or other pressures/stresses.

Plate 9: Infrared image showing differing levels of infra-red absorption and reflection



This can be compared to Plate 10, which is an orthomosaic image of Becky Addy Wood taken around the same time. Since then, further significant ash dieback has occurred with numerous fallen trees now present.

Plate 10: Orthomosaic image of Becky Addy Wood.



1.3 AIMS AND SCOPE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Woodland Management Plan sets out the management and monitoring proposals to ensure BOATCs vision for the safe use, restoration, enhancement and management of Becky Addy Wood is established and sustained in the long term by identifying appropriate short (5 year), medium (10 year) and long-term (50 year+) management actions. This document outlines the Key Features of the woodland which drive the proposed management actions. It sets out short term objectives, that are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed woodland compartment descriptions are provided in Section 4 and illustrated in Appendix B, and include constraints and designations.

The Woodland Management Plan seeks to deliver the following:

- Initial minimum intervention work required to meet all legal requirements to ensure public safety will be achieved;
- Management to be conducted on an annual basis, in response to prevailing conditions and safety requirements and to ensure safety of all persons using the woodland;
- Management undertaken to safeguard ecological features of interest (flora and fauna);
- Management to ensure the improvement of the overall biodiversity and available habitat of Becky Addy Wood;
- Enhancement of the landscape setting of this area of woodland;
- To ensure responsible and high-quality management of Becky Addy Wood, as set out in this Woodland Management Plan, in terms of wider objectives and responsibilities.

1.4 YEAR 1 VISION FOR BECKY ADDY WOOD

The first year will focus on any immediate safety or risk concerns relating to dead and dying trees within Becky Addy Wood (see Appendix G, Tree Safety Report). Moreover, additional removal of dead and dying ash trees will take place in compartment 6, due to the severity of ash dieback disease in this area and the presence of multiple important

ecological features which could be damaged or destroyed by unpredictable falling ash trees. Compartment 6 will then be re-stocked with mixed native trees suitable for the W8 woodland type from a reputable local tree supplier and protected with deer fencing. The tree species which grow most successfully in compartment 6 will then be used to re-stock other areas of the woodland in future years.

1.5 5 YEAR VISION FOR BECY ADDY WOOD

The management of Becky Addy Wood during the first 5 years will be determined by the prevalence of ash dieback, with a focus on staged removal of dead and diseased ash trees. Over this 5-year period, diseased leaf litter will be reduced which will provide retained ash trees with an opportunity to regenerate. A yearly tree safety survey will be conducted during early summer to inform which trees require removal in that 12- month period, with a report to be produced by mid-summer.

At the end of this 5-year period, most of the diseased ash will have been removed, with the aim of reducing the requirement for safety inspections from yearly to every 2 or 3 years. The woodland will be a safer environment which is free from dead and dying ash trees which may fall unpredictably. The woodland will have begun to regenerate with a more diverse species mix of healthy, high canopy trees.

Beyond the initial 5-year period, sycamore management at the wood could be considered, to promote a greater diversity of native tree species.

1.6 LONG-TERM VISION FOR BECKY ADDY WOOD

Becky Addy Wood will evolve into a safe, thriving and biodiverse mixed woodland, dominated by native broadleaved trees. Oak, sycamore and Wych elm will continue to provide canopy across the wood, broken occasionally by natural glades providing additional transitory habitat and a proportion of the woodland with ash trees that are resistant to ash dieback will remain as part of the canopy. Existing and future veteran trees, bat roosts and other notable habitat features will be retained and preserved. The understory and ground flora will be revitalised, encouraging greater species diversity.

The woodland will be valued by both local users and visitors from further afield. The PRoW will be maintained to a high standard of quality and safety. Mature trees will line the edges of the PRoW. It will be welcoming and easily accessible. Interpretation will be available on site detailing the history of the woodland and its importance in terms of biodiversity.

It will be monitored and managed in accordance with the Becky Addy Wood Management Plan and best practice, to provide a diverse ecological structure and function, enhancements to ecosystem services, retaining existing access and acting as an example of responsible woodland management to educate and inspire others.

1.7 PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

There will be a formal review of this plan every 5 years, with a summary of monitoring results to be provided on request. Management and monitoring will be ongoing, with reviews being undertaken after an initial 5- year period and thereafter every 5 years by BOATC and the CR over a 30-year period. The initial 5-year management plan is defined in detail, the 5-10 year plan in outline detail and the following 10-20 years as an example overview. This approach will be renewed on a rolling basis every 5 years in perpetuity.

This Woodland Management Plan should be read in conjunction with the supporting technical material used to inform its preparation (available separately: Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) for Becky Addy Wood, Duramen Consulting Ltd 2025 – see Appendix G). It should be treated as a live document that will be informed by ongoing monitoring to guide the best approach to management as appropriate.

1.8 WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The implementation of the vision for Becky Addy Wood will involve a range of woodland and conservation management proposals that will both deliver the urgent and ongoing safety aspects and enable the restoration of a more natural mixed woodland habitat assemblage to support other species of flora and fauna.

This will involve the following elements:

- Removal of, or works to make safe, any dangerous trees which are assessed to have unacceptable levels of risk to persons using the woodland;
- Protection of intrinsic key features of value including ecological features (e.g. bat roosts or ancient trees);
- Establishment of new native woodland in any areas of the woodland where tree felling has taken place, using both natural regeneration (restocking through natural regeneration) and tree planting;
- Improvement of the condition of the existing woodland, with the aim of increasing biodiversity; and
- Long term monitoring of the woodland for both safety and biodiversity to ensure the aims are implemented.

1.8.1 "Do Nothing" Approach vs. Woodland Management

A "do nothing" approach is not viable next to a PRoW and public road when there is a reasonable option of removing dead and diseased trees. It is not possible to achieve the long-term vision for Becky Addy Wood of high canopy cover across the woodland and a tree lined PRoW with the presence of significant numbers of diseased ash trees. Therefore, removal of ash is imperative to satisfy both the safety considerations and to achieve the biodiverse regeneration of the woodland.

1.9 SCOPE OF PROPOSALS

This document provides a scheme of initial woodland management and habitat creation/enhancement measures alongside subsequent monitoring and management requirements, which are necessary to ensure that the ecological and landscape framework is sustained.

The Woodland Management Plan therefore serves as a handbook for future woodland and ecological management following the initial phase of works and considers the whole of Becky Addy Wood. It includes the following:

- Description and evaluation of Key Features to be managed and the overall woodland and ecological vision;
- Appropriate Management Targets and Actions for achieving the Vision and Objectives;
- Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being amended for future use);
- Body or organisation responsible for implementation of each element of the Plan;
- Monitoring and review measures;
- Timeframe for reviewing the Plan.

1.10 EXISTING DATA AND REFERENE DOCUMENTS

Table 1: Existing Landscape and Ecological Data

Source	Description
www.magic.gov.uk	Wide range of supporting environmental data including: • Ordnance Survey mapping

	• SSSI and SAC Consultation Zones • Land based designations (statutory, non-statutory, historic statutory and historic non- statutory) • Habitats and species (including Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland, Ancient Replanted Woodland and Priority Habitat Inventory Deciduous Woodland) • Forestry and woodland schemes (including English Woodland Grant Schemes, Woodland Trust Sites, Forest Plans, Felling Licences) • Landscape (including geology and soils and landscape classifications) • Aerial photography • Ordnance Survey mapping • SSSI and SAC Consultation Zones
https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk	Government source of information relating to a range of flood sources and flood risk zones
Historical Ecological Reporting and Wiltshire Bat Group Records	Ecological data for Becky Addy Wood including: • Preliminary Ecological Appraisal – Ecosulis, 2020 • Ground Level Tree Assessment – Darwin Ecology, 2022 • Report of Action Taken – Johns Associates, 2022 • Wiltshire Bat Group Records –2020 – 2025
Historical Tree Surveys	Tree survey data for Becky Addy Wood including: • Tree Survey Report – Conservation Contractors, 2021 • QTRA Report – WRC, 2022
Wiltshire Council Planning Portal	Wiltshire Council Planning Explorer: Source of wide-ranging information relating to Becky Addy Wood including: • Definitive Public Rights of Way Map • Tree Preservation Orders
Groundsure Enviro and Geo Insight Report ref GS-BGK- 2RK-PK6-KB1	Wide-ranging document covering historic land use and wide-ranging environmental themes.

1.11 SITE OWNERSHIP, ROLES AND OVERSIGHT

BOATC has owned Becky Addy Wood since 2020 and holds the overall responsibility for the woodland and the adoption and implementation of this Woodland Management Plan. Specific responsible persons at BOATC are the Chief Executive and Town Clerk and the Green Spaces Officer.

The management and maintenance regimes for Becky Addy Wood, as specified in this document, will be carried out by a suitably experienced arboricultural contractor appointed by BOATC and overseen by a suitably qualified ecologist (SQE), as required: these are collectively referred to as the client representative (CR). Management of the woodland would be coordinated by the CR on behalf of BOATC.

BOATC have overall responsibility for all health and safety matters required for woodland operations within the Site. Site specific Risk Assessment and Method Statements (RAMS), evidence of suitable training and qualifications, insurance cover and use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other required equipment will need to be provided by all organisations/individuals implementing the works set out in this Woodland Management Plan, which will be reviewed and approved by BOATC in advance of works being undertaken.

Johns Associates will provide the arboricultural contractor with all relevant and up to date details regarding any protected species or sensitive habitats identified on Site, to ensure that all operatives are fully trained and aware of their obligations regarding legally protected species. This will be delivered through an appropriate Toolbox Talk prior to the start of each parcel of works, alongside supervision by an SQE as necessary. Extreme care will therefore

be taken to ensure that no maintenance/management works will be carried out on Site that will adversely affect protected species without prior discussions with the CR.

Where the contractor identifies the presence of species thought to be of importance, and previously unidentified on Site, they shall immediately stop work and contact the CR.

Where any deviation from the specification/drawings occurs, consultation will first be made with BOATC and the CR.

1.12 MAINTENANCE/MANAGEMENT PERIOD

Following initial management of the Site to achieve the required safety objectives, it is anticipated that the first 12 months post completion management for all areas will be the responsibility of Duramen Consulting Ltd. Following this period, BOATC will appoint a suitably experienced contractor to continue to manage Becky Addy Wood. BOATC will ensure that a woodland management contract is always in place; with Becky Addy Wood managed in accordance with this approved Woodland Management Plan and taking account of the associated ecological constraints at the Site.

The appointed contractor responsible for implementing this Plan will have all the necessary certificates of competence to implement woodland management operations on Site. The contractor will ensure that all management operations comply with best practice standards and all relevant health and safety procedures, protection of the environment, avoidance of pollution and protection of protected species and habitats.

There are to be no changes to the details contained within this Woodland Management Plan without prior consultation and consent from BOATC and the CR.

1.13 HEALTH AND SAFETY

BOATC will ensure that Becky Addy Wood is managed to comply with all relevant health and safety legislation, approved codes of practice (ACOPs) and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance.

2 KEY FEATURES OF BECKY ADDY WOOD

2.1 ANCIENT SEMI NATURAL WOODLAND

2.1.1 Overview

Becky Addy Wood is classified as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) and covers an area of 4.25 ha. The wood is NVC community W8f – ash – dogs mercury woodland with wild garlic sub-community. The wood has a PRoW running through it from east to west. The wood is prominent in the local landscape, and contains a large proportion of ash, with sycamore, oak, Wych elm, and beech. Hazel and field maple dominate the understory. There are multiple old ash coppice stools, with veteran oak and field maple present. The ash coppice stools may be approx. 200 years old.

The wood is on a steep north facing slope facing the River Avon and was acquired by BOATC in 2020. The ground flora is dominated by wild garlic in the spring, later by dogs' mercury. Hart's tongue fern *Asplenium scolopendrium* is also frequent. Other notable plants include Wilson's honeysuckle *Lonicera nitida*, Wood millet *Millium effusum*, Spurge laurel *Daphne laureola*, Bath asparagus *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum*, Hairy St John's Wort *Hypericum hirsute*, Moscatel *Adoxa moschatellina*, Toothwort *Lathraea squamaria*, Fringecups *Tellima grandiflora*, Druce's crane's-bill *Geranium x oxonianum*, Woolly thistle *Cirsium eriphorum* and Fortune's holly-fern *Cyrtomium fortune*.

The Schedule 9 (of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)) species, non-native yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *Argentatum* was recorded. No other Schedule 9 species were found.

Bat surveys conducted by the Wiltshire Bat Group from 2020 to the present have identified 12 bat species in the wood, comprising greater horseshoe, lesser horseshoe, barbastelle, Bechstein's bat, Natterer's bat, Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), Whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, serotine, *Nyctalus*.sp and *Plecotus* sp. 24 bat boxes are installed within the woodland, of which 10 are known to support roosting bats (soprano pipistrelle and/or Natterer's bat). The woodland will form part of the Core Sustenance Zone for both greater and lesser horseshoe bats, with maternity roosts of both species within 1.3 km of the woodland. The River Avon also forms part of the key commuting route for bats associated with the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Disused stone mines are situated to both the west and east of the woodland, which may form a key commuting route for bats when visiting the area during the autumn swarming period.

Badger (*Meles meles*) is known to be present within the woodland, with several sett entrances recorded (both active and disused). Nesting birds frequent the wood, including red listed marsh tit (*Poecile palustris*) among others. Hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) has not previously been recorded, however the habitat within the woodland is considered suitable for this species.

Ash dieback is present within the woodland (first recorded in 2020) and is widespread with significant mortality and severe crown dieback. Ash tree fall is frequent in the woodland due to ash dieback which is possibly more rapid due to secondary infection by honey fungus (*Armillaria* sp.). Since 2020 BOATC have been implementing management of the infected ash trees within the drop zone of the PRoW, which has included removal, monolith or pollarding ash deemed to be of high risk. Outside of the PRoW area, the woodland has been closed to allow ash dieback to naturally progress within these areas.

2.1.2 Habitat Descriptions

Baseline habitat and botanical surveys were completed on 27th and 28th May 2025 by Kat Newbert BSc MSc MCIEEM, Principal Ecologist, Botanical/Habitat Lead and Wiltshire Vice County Recorder for Vascular Plants (full survey report to be published separately). These surveys compiled a list of plant species recorded and informed the classification of the woodland into specific habitat typology and the associated woodland compartments (see Section 5, Compartment Descriptions and Appendix B, Compartment Map). The plant and tree species recorded are listed

in Table 2. Flora taxonomy follows the nomenclature detailed in New Flora of the British Isles (4th Edition) (Stace C., 2019). Flora, where appropriate, are given a descriptive score of abundance using the DAFOR scale, as follows:

- D – Dominant
- A – Abundant
- F – Frequent
- O – Occasional
- R – Rare
- L – Locally (to be used as a prefix for any of the above)
- V – Very (to be used as a prefix for any of the above)

Table 2: Overall Plant Species List - Notable species are indicated through the use of OS grid references

Scientific name	Latin name	Abundance (DAFOR)
Canopy species		
Ash	Fraxinus excelsior	D
Oak	Quercus robur	LF
Wych elm	Ulmus glabra	F
Field maple	Acer campstre	F
Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus	LA
Beech	Fagus sylvatica	LF
Crab apple	Malus sylvestris	R
Understory		
Hazel	Corylus avellana	F
Field maple	Acer campestre	F
Wych elm	Ulmus glabra	F
Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea ssp sanguinea	O
Spindle	Euonymus europaeus	O
Wild privet	Ligustrum vulgare	O
English elm	Ulmus procera	R
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	R
Guelder rose	Viburnum opulus	R
Holly	Ilex aquifolium	R
Horse chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	R
Goat willow	Salix caprea	R
Wilson's honeysuckle	Lonicera nitida	R - ST 80892 59925
Ground flora		
Wild garlic	Allium ursinum	A
Dogs' mercury	Mercurialis perennis	F
Harts tongue fern	Asplenium scolopendrium	F
Nettle	Urtica dioica	VLA
Wood speedwell	Veronica montana	O
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male-fern	O
Wood Anemone	Anemone nemorosa	O
Herb Paris	Paris quadrifolia	O
Wood millet	Millium effusum	R - ST 81068 60029
Ivy	Hedera helix	F
Germander speedwell	Veronica chamerdrys	R
Bramble	Rubus fruticosus	LF
Hedge woundwort	Stachys sylvatica	O
Woodruff	Galium odoratum	O
Wood avens	Geum urbanum	O
Pendulous sedge	Carex pendula	R in disturbed areas
False oat grass	Arrhenatherum elatius	R
Traveller's-joy	Clematis vitalba	O

Cleavers	Gallium aparine	O
Meadow buttercup	Ranunculus acris	R track edges in disturbed areas
Red campion	Silene dioica	O
Grey sedge	Carex divulsa ssp divulsa	R
Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	O
Spurge laurel	Daphne laureola	O – large patches around- ST 81116 60079, ST 81171 60099
Honeysuckle	Lonicera periclymenum	R
Yellow archangel	Lamiastrum galeobdolon ssp. montanum	R
Ivy leaved speedwell	Veronica hederifolia ssp. hederifolia	LO
Soft shield fern	Polystichum setiferum	R

2.1.3 Significance

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland is a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP).
- The woodland forms an important BAP habitat providing refuge for wildlife, whilst also facilitating wider ecological function and connectivity within the landscape.
- The woodland hosts a number of important European Protected Species (EPS).

2.1.4 Opportunities & Constraints

- Opportunity to monitor the effects of ash dieback in some parts of the woodland with minimal management interventions.
- Investigate the significance of the use of the woodland by bats, monitor and record other notable wildlife species.
- Removal of ash from along the PRoW and other designated/appropriate areas gives an opportunity for re-stocking with resilient tree species (including natural regeneration) which will ensure the long- term health of the woodland
- Mature ash coppice stools will be prioritised for retention, with the opportunity to re-coppice once diseased ash has been removed within the next 5 years.

2.1.5 Factors Causing Change

- Ash dieback is having a major impact on woodlands and individual ash trees across the Limpley Stoke Valley and the wider region. There is the opportunity for alternative species to regenerate and for resistant ash to become established.
- Browsing by deer, squirrel damage, and/or rabbit damage can threaten the establishment of young trees.
- Climate change – more extremes of weather, soil moisture, wildfires, invasive species etc.
- Coarse vegetation e.g. bramble can quickly colonise open areas which may impact the regeneration of ground flora.
- Dutch elm disease spreading into Wych elm may cause additional tree loss.

2.1.6 Short Term Management Objectives

- Undertake baseline monitoring of flora and fauna at Becky Addy Wood.

- Tree safety assessments and subsequent felling/removal of dangerous trees where unacceptable levels of risk are identified. Annual tree inspections thereafter.
- Removal of litter and areas of fly tipping.
- Designation of management regimes to specific woodland compartments, to aim for rapid biodiversity recovery.

2.2 PUBLIC ACCESS

2.2.1 Description

A Public Right of Way (PRoW) WW029 runs through the woodland along its northern edge, linking it to adjacent habitats including meadows and the Kennet and Avon canal. A minor road lies along the western boundary of the woodland.

There is no parking within the woodland, and it is accessible by foot only. Public transport including by train to Avoncliff is available locally.

2.2.2 Significance

Becky Addy Wood is within the Cotswolds National Landscape and connects to the wider landscape. The PRoW within the wood acts as a connection between Bradford-on-Avon and both Westwood and Avoncliff and is a popular destination for walking by local people and visitors to the area.

2.2.3 Opportunities & Constraints

- To connect local people and visitors to the importance of the woodland and the wildlife within it.
- To engage people to walk to and from the woodland.
- To improve access to the woods by upgrading paths and entrances, whilst restricting access to unwanted vehicles (e.g. motorbikes).
- Tree planting or other engagement events with volunteers and the public.

2.2.4 Factors Causing Change

- Ash dieback leading to reconfiguration of the PRoW or permissive paths through the wood.
- Storms and high rain causing erosion to access tracks, likely to increase with climate change.

2.2.5 Short Term Management Objectives

- Ensure visitor safety with ongoing tree safety monitoring and management.
- Improvement to existing paths and tracks with management of muddy/slippery areas.
- Main PRoW to be mown/cut back where needed to provide unhindered visitor access.
- Install new orientation boards and information boards which promote the key features of the woodland.

3 FACTORS INFLUENCING MANAGEMENT

3.1 PLANNING AND FORESTRY CONTROLS OVER TREE WORK AND FELLING

Becky Addy Wood is listed on the National Ancient Woodland Inventory and has a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) across the entire woodland area. Ancient woodland, including ancient and veteran trees are defined as irreplaceable habitat and are protected under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Any significant tree works within Becky Addy Wood are controlled by both a woodland Tree Preservation Order (Ref: 7/00013) served by Wiltshire Council and by the need for a Felling Licence from the Forestry Commission (FC). The woodland TPO covers any works that may damage any tree (even small ones) – felling, pruning (lopping and topping), and excavation works that may damage roots. A felling licence only covers felling, which includes works that may destroy a tree, even if that work does not involve cutting through the tree1.

Both TPO and Felling Licence controls have exemptions/exceptions. Neither TPO nor the Felling Licence requirements cover dead trees, with dead trees and branches being specifically excluded by the TPO (2012 Regulation 14 (1)(a)(i) for trees; Regulation 14(1)(b) for branches) whilst felling licences only cover "growing" trees (Forestry Act 1967 (FA67) s. 9(1[1])), which the FC interpret to exclude dead trees.

Both TPO and Felling Licence regimes have exemptions for safety. The TPO exemption is stated in 2012 Regulation 14(1)(3): "…works are urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm…," whilst the FA 67 s. 9(4) excludes felling "…for the prevention of danger…".

Under 2012 Regulation 14 Wiltshire Council can agree urgent works in writing for safety purposes without a formal application and, with the TPO covering both pruning and felling, for small volumes of tree work they should be the first point of contact. Permission under a TPO typically lasts two years.

For larger volumes (e.g. 5 trees+ of the typical ash volume in Becky Addy Wood) where the "prevention of danger" exemption is not invoked, a Felling Licence is required.

In the long term, the ideal situation is that the FC grants a Felling Licence after consultation with Wiltshire Council concerning the TPO. A Felling Licence typically remains valid for three years, allowing work to progress without a constant need to seek separate permissions. Where a Felling Licence has been granted there is no further need to apply to Wiltshire Council for permission for the same works.

Where a Felling Licence is required for woodland covered by a TPO, the correct procedure to follow is to apply for a Felling Licence from the FC and tick the appropriate box to inform them that a TPO applies. The FC are responsible for liaison with Wiltshire Council to see whether they have any objections to the granting of a Felling Licence. Depending on their assessment, the FC can handle the application or pass it over to Wiltshire Council for their determination.

In terms of de minimis/small scale works, the TPO has no exclusion so any works that may damage any tree that is not dead and not necessary for safety purposes in Becky Addy Wood will require written permission from Wiltshire Council – a process typically taking 8 weeks. The felling licence regime (FA 67 s. 9(3)) allows for the felling of 5 cubic metres or less per calendar quarter. In very rough terms a mid-size tree might be around 1 cubic metre, and one large tree greater than 5 cubic metres, so the threshold volume can easily be breached if any significant works are planned.

It is for the person claiming exemption to prove the exemption applies to them, so appropriate records need to be made and taking photographs of the affected trees before any work is done may prevent problems after the event.

[1]FA67 s.35 defines "*felling*" to include wilfully destroying by any means.

History

The Wiltshire Council website is showing planning application PL/2021/07506 that refers to dead, dying and dangerous trees at Becky Addy Woods. Neither the decision notice nor any supporting documentation is showing on the Council's planning portal.

3.2 ASH DIEBACK

Ash dieback will be the main driver for management at Becky Addy Woods over the next 5 years. The more diseased ash trees that are removed, the less potential there is for re-infection due to the reduction in diseased leaf litter throughout the woodland. Resistant and/or healthy ash trees will be prioritised for retention and protection.

Removal of diseased ash trees comes with an inherent risk to the tree surgeons and contractors conducting the work. This risk must be considered and mitigated for within any proposed works (see Appendix G – Tree Safety Report).

The mature lapsed ash coppice stools present throughout the woodland are an important landscape feature of the woodland and will be prioritised for retention; however, the level of risk may be a driving feature for some. Re-coppicing of these trees can be considered once most of the diseased ash have been removed from the woodland to minimise chances of re-infection.

3.3 ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS

3.3.1 Notable plants

Certain notable plants are protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

3.3.2 Bats

Bats and their roosts are protected under Regulation 43 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This means it is a criminal offence to:

- Deliberately disturb, capture, injure or kill a bat;
- Damage or destroy a resting place of a bat (even if the bat is not present at the time).

To ensure that bats are safeguarded during management works at Becky Addy Wood, the following will be required:

- Baseline bat activity surveys to be undertaken prior to any works being undertaken. These surveys will identify key/important parts of the woodland for bats, which management could impact.
- Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) and subsequent Aerial Tree Assessment (ATA) on all trees scheduled for works.
- Should a bat roost or bat habitat feature be at risk of impact as a result of the works, appropriate mitigation and compensation will be necessary, and a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) from Natural England may be required to permit works.

3.3.3 Hazel dormouse

Hazel dormice, their breeding sites and resting places are protected under Regulation 43 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This means it is a criminal offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill hazel dormice.
- Damage or destroy a dormouse resting place or breeding site.

- Deliberately or recklessly disturb a hazel dormouse while it's in a structure or place of shelter or protection.
- Block access to structures or places of shelter or protection.
- Possess, sell, control or transport live or dead hazel dormice, or parts of hazel dormice.

Hazel dormouse is not confirmed to be present in Becky Addy Wood; however, the habitat is suitable. Should dormouse be confirmed, the following action will be required:

- Baseline dormouse surveys to be undertaken prior to any works being undertaken. These surveys will aim to confirm the presence/absence of dormice on site.
- Should dormice be confirmed to be present, appropriate mitigation and compensation will be required and a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) from Natural England may be necessary to permit works.

3.3.4 Nesting birds

All wild bird species, their eggs and nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Nesting bird habitat is present throughout the woodland. To protect nesting birds during works, the following is required:

- If possible, works should be scheduled to avoid the nesting bird season (March – September inclusive).
- If the nesting bird season cannot be avoided, a nesting bird check by an SQE will be required prior to starting works. Should active bird nests be identified in the works area, all works must cease until chicks have fledged and an SQE confirms that the nest is inactive.

3.3.5 Badger

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. To ensure badgers are safeguarded during management works, the following will be required:

- Supervision of works to manage trees and shrubs over a badger sett, ensuring all materials are removed from sett entrances before nightfall.
- Should felling be predicted to damage a badger sett (e.g. collapse of an entrance or tunnel), a badger licence from Natural England will be required to enable the works to proceed lawfully.

4 WOODLAND COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Descriptions of the different woodland compartments are presented below, including main species, level of ash dieback, management regimes, major constraints to management and key features present.

Table 3: Descriptions of Woodland Compartments at Becky Addy Wood

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Description	Main Species	Level of Ash Dieback	Management Regime(s)	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present
1	0.2	Closed canopy woodland, old hazel coppice	Ash, field maple, hazel	Minimal	(1) Safety (2) Coppicing (3) Regeneration	Ash dieback, honey fungus, no/poor vehicular access	1x Badger sett with multiple entrances
	Minimal sign of ash dieback present. Canopy ash F, beech O, field maple F, wych elm. Continuous ground flora of wild garlic A and dogs mercury. Some old hazel coppice stools present with opportunity to bring into re-coppicing. Soprano pipistrelle bat roost present within bat box.						
2	1.3	Open canopy with many fallen ash	Ash, Wych elm	Advanced	(1) Safety (3) Regeneration (4) Re-stocking (5) Ivy removal	Ash dieback, honey fungus, no/poor vehicular access to some areas, deadwood piles and bramble hinder access outside of PRoW, steep slope in southern section	1x Badger hole
	Area has ash dieback. Many ash trees still present with ash dieback in advanced stage. Many naturally fallen ash which have damaged understorey vegetation. Regeneration happening but ground flora shaded out in places. Regeneration beech and mature wych elm. Canopy more open in this area. Soprano pipistrelle bat roosts within bat boxes.						
3	0.1	Closed canopy woodland, steep slope	Beech, ash, oak	Minimal	None	Ash dieback, honey fungus, no/poor vehicular access, very steep slope	1x Badger hole
	Steep slope in woodland with canopy of beech A, ash O, oak O, limited understory due to beech cover and steep slope. More beech in east and becomes more oak dominant to the western extent where it a large plateau develops with numerous limestone rock faces and small caves. Ash here are not so advanced in ash dieback as they are to the north downhill.						
4	0.1	Open area dominated by nettle and bramble – recent clearance works	Sycamore, hazel, elder	Advanced	(1) Safety (3) Regeneration	Ash dieback, honey fungus, no/poor vehicular access	
	Area along path appears to be marked separately on OS maps. Recent clearance works have opened the canopy and the ground flora in this area is dominated by nettles and bramble F, cleavers F, harts tongue fern O, red campion O. Regeneration sycamore, hazel and elder present. Nutrient enriched substrate.						
5	0.8	Closed canopy woodland,	Oak, ash, field maple, sycamore,	Minimal	(5) Litter	Ash dieback, honey fungus, no/poor	2x Ancient field maple ST 81095 60027 on top of bank

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Description	Main Species	Level of Ash Dieback	Management Regime(s)	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present
		top of plateau	Wych elm			vehicular access, very steep slope/cliff	4x Rock/cliff faces of potential value to bats 2x Badger holes
	Top of plateau in woodland Ash dominant but not as advanced in ash dieback downhill. Many limestone cliff edges and caves. Oaks present along southern boundary even aged likely planted 50-100 years old. Many mature field maple reaching canopy height. Sycamore and wych elm a frequent canopy component. Areas of litter/fly tipping present. Soprano pipistrelle and Natterer's bat roosts within bat boxes.						
6	0.85	Area of severe ash dieback	Ash, sycamore, Wych elm, hazel	Severe	(1) Safety (3) Regeneration (4) Re-stocking (5) Ivy removal	Ash dieback, honey fungus, no/poor vehicular access to some areas	
	Severe ash dieback present, all mature ash trees in severe health state. Many ash trees likely to fall and take out healthy trees, this has already happened in some areas. Recommend immediate removal of ash. This area as quite a dense subcanopy, sycamore, wych elm, hazel and oak. Potential to resume some hazel coppicing in this area. Recommend replanting of native trees with locally sourced stock, recommended to plant several heavy standards. Soprano pipistrelle bat roosts within bat boxes, Natterer's bat roost within tree.						
7	0.9	Closed canopy woodland besides road	Sycamore, ash	Moderate	(1) Safety	Ash dieback, honey fungus, no/poor vehicular access to some areas	2x Badger/mammal holes
	Entrance into woodland from road. Sycamore is an abundant canopy species, ash is occasional in this area. Slightly more shaded ground flora and vegetation more rank as a result. Still wild garlic and dogs mercury abundant. Field maple, wych elm and hazel most frequent in understory with sycamore. Less ash present and trees in this area seem healthier. Not as high as risk of ash dieback compared to other parcels. Soprano pipistrelle bat roost within bat boxes. Known bat swarming site opposite in Quarry Wood.						

5 OUTLINE MANAGEMENT REGIMES FRO BECKY ADDY WOOD

A set of objectives have been developed for Becky Addy Wood that demonstrate how sustainable woodland management will be achieved. These objectives have been informed by baseline ecological and arboricultural surveys, historical data and background information for the site.

Management regimes have been detailed in Table 4 in order of priority, with the compartment numbers to be included in each regime also shown. Constraints to each management regime have been identified with further actions necessary to ensure successful implementation also highlighted.

A management program for each woodland compartment and regime is included in Section 6.

Table 4: Details of Proposed Management Regimes for Becky Addy Wood

Management Regime	Compartments to Implement	Management Prescriptions	Timescale for Implementation	Constraints	Further Action Required
1. Safety	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	• Conduct arboricultural tree safety survey, considering all parts of the woodland accessed by people. • Implement recommended works as per tree safety survey. • Provisions to be made to remove all timber from the compartments. If removal is not possible, timber to be stacked in compact piles to prevent smothering of ground flora. See management regime 7. • Yearly re-inspections of the woodland by a qualified arboricultural consultant to re-assess condition.	As per recommendations within tree safety survey.	Permissions: Felling Licence required. Protected species licence(s) may be required. Ecological: Bats, Nesting birds, Dormouse, Badger	Permissions: • Obtain Felling Licence. • Obtain protected species licence(s) if required. Ecological: • Conduct baseline ecological surveys to confirm presence/ absence of protected species. • Conduct bat surveys (GLTA, ATA) on all trees requiring work.
2. PRoW Improvements and Maintenance	1, 2, 4, 7	• Cut back/strim overhanging vegetation either side of main PRoW in March and September of each year. • Cut back/strim vegetation in compartment 4 during summer (May-August) in addition to the two cuts above, as nettles in this area quickly become obstructive, and do not have ecological restrictions (e.g. unsuitable for nesting bird use).	1-2 years	Materials/Costs: Cost of equipment, materials and labour. Safety: Current risk assessment is dependent on low numbers of PRoW users. This will need to be reviewed should visitor numbers increase as a result of footpath improvements.	Materials/Costs: Source appropriate funding. Safety: Yearly review of footpath usage and re- assessment of levels of risk.

		• Repair/improve existing track by infilling areas of uneven ground with suitable material (e.g. woodchip, bark or locally sourced limestone gravel). • Improve access on slippery sections of track notably on the east side of compartment 4. • Consider erosion on paths, particularly in compartment 2. Install/implement edging to these areas to minimise erosion.			
3. Protection of existing key habitat features	All, notably 6	• Removal of additional ash dieback and/or dangerous trees surrounding existing bat roosts and/or other protected species to be considered, to prevent potential damage to these roosts/habitats.	1 year	<u>Permissions:</u> Felling Licence required. Protected species licence(s) may be required. <u>Ecological:</u> Bats, Nesting birds, Dormouse, Badger	<u>Permissions:</u> • Obtain Felling Licence. • Obtain protected species licence(s) if required. <u>Ecological:</u> • Conduct baseline ecological surveys to confirm presence/absence of protected species. • Conduct ecological surveys (GLTA, ATA) on all trees requiring work.
4. Re-stocking	Where tree removal takes place, notably 2, 4, 6	• Planting at appropriate ratios mixed native trees suitable to the W8 woodland community and soil type present. • Species to consider include pedunculate oak, Wych elm, field maple, hazel, yew, small-leaved lime, hawthorn, elder, goat willow, hornbeam, crab apple, beech. • All new trees should be locally sourced where possible and from suppliers who can provide bio secure plants. • Deer fencing and tree guards with stakes to be used.	1-5 years	<u>Materials/Costs:</u> Cost of deer fencing/tree protection, cost of trees.	<u>Materials/Costs:</u> • Source appropriate tree protection and tree supplier. • Source appropriate funding.

5. Regeneration	1, 2, 4, 6	• Encourage natural regeneration of trees by self-sown seed from existing trees. • Consider deer fencing or other protection for young saplings.	1-5 years	Materials/Costs: Cost of deer fencing/tree protection.	Materials/Costs: • Source appropriate tree protection. • Source appropriate funding.
6. Timber management	All, following any proposed tree work	• As far as practical and possible, timber from tree works should be removed from the ancient woodland areas, to prevent smothering of ground flora. • Options for use/ management of the timber include stacking the wood within compact habitat piles in situ or in a designated area (e.g. at compartment 5), processed for use either as woodchip, planks or firewood to be used in Becky Addy Wood (e.g. for path improvement or benches) or elsewhere in BoA.	Concurrent with any proposed tree works	Costs: Labour costs of conducting this work.	Costs: • Source appropriate funding.
7. Ivy Removal – Outside of 1. Safety	2, 6	• Cut/remove ivy from select dense/shaded areas to increase light levels and/or to decrease sail area. • Cut/remove ivy from notable mature/ancient or other ecologically important trees to boost growth.	1-2 years	Permissions: Protected species licence(s) may be required. Ecological: Bats, Nesting birds	Permissions: • Obtain protected species licence(s) if required. Ecological: • Conduct baseline ecological surveys to confirm presence/absence of protected species. • Conduct ecological surveys (GLTA, ATA) on all trees requiring work.
8. Removal of invasive/non-native plants	All, notably 7	• Remove non-native/invasive plants using appropriate removal techniques to ensure complete eradication.	1-2 years	Costs: Cost of specialist labour	Costs: • Source appropriate funding.
9. Litter	All, notably 5	• Initial clearing of fly-tipping zones/litter recorded during 2025 surveys in autumn of Year 1 (Compartment 5).	1 year	Materials/Costs: Cost of gate and labour to install. Cost of waste disposal.	Staff: • Delegate staff member(s) and source appropriate litter disposal.

		• Installation of locked gate at track opening at Compartment 5. • Ongoing removal/clearing of all areas of litter. • Quarterly inspections and litter clearance. • Signage to discourage littering.			
10. Public engagement	All	• Signage/info boards describing the wildlife present. • Installation of benches or seating areas. • Volunteer or community days to involve the public in the woodland management e.g. with tree planting.	1-5 years	<u>Materials/Costs:</u> Cost of materials and labour. <u>Management:</u> Source an appropriate partner to formally instruct on volunteer/tree planting activities.	<u>Materials/ Costs:</u> • Source supplier for signage/info boards and benches. • Source appropriate funding.
11. Hazel Coppicing	1	• Implement coppicing regime as per recommended schedule for hazel, to be informed by the appointed arboricultural consultant. • Stack/remove all timber from coppiced trees. If stacked, compact piles to be made in areas free from notable plant species. See management regime 7.	1-2 years	<u>Permissions:</u> Protected species licence(s) may be required. <u>Ecological:</u> Bats, Nesting birds, Dormouse, Badger	Permissions: • Obtain protected species licence(s) if required. <u>Ecological:</u> • Conduct baseline ecological surveys to confirm presence/absence of protected species. • Conduct ecological surveys (GLTA, ATA) on all trees requiring work.

6 PROPOSED POGRAMME FOR BECKY ADDY WOOD

The management program detailed below describes the management regimes for each compartment and their level of requirement. Regimes are categorised as 'requirement', 'strongly recommended', or 'recommended' based on the level of need, considering legal or other requirements.

Table 5: Management Programme for Years 1-5 at Becky Addy Wood

Proposed Management Regimes	Compartment Number & Management Approach						
	Compartment 1	Compartment 2	Compartment 3	Compartment 4	Compartment 5	Compartment 6	Compartment 7
1. Safety	Ensure PRoW is safe by taking recommended action as per tree safety survey. **Requirement**	Ensure PRoW is safe by taking recommended action as per tree safety survey. **Requirement**		Ensure PRoW is safe by taking recommended action as per tree safety survey. **Requirement**			Ensure road is safe by taking recommended action as per tree safety survey. **Requirement**
2. PRoW Improvements/ Maintenance	Improve and maintain PRoW. **Strongly recommended**	Improve and maintain PRoW. **Strongly recommended**		Improve and maintain PRoW. **Strongly recommended**			Improve and maintain PRoW. **Strongly recommended**
3. Protection of existing key habitat features	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**	Remove all dead and dying ash trees, excluding the ash coppice stools. **Strongly recommended**	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**
4. Re-stocking	Re-plant mixed native trees as per species mix recommended in Section 5 with appropriate protection. **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**	Re-plant mixed native trees as per species mix recommended in Section 5 with appropriate protection. **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**		Re-plant mixed native trees as per species mix recommended in Section 5 with appropriate protection. **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**		Re-plant mixed native trees as per species mix recommended in Section 5 with deer fencing surrounding compartment 6 and tree guards. **Requirement if (3) Is implemented**	Re-plant mixed native trees as per species mix recommended in Section 5 with appropriate protection. **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**
5. Regeneration	Fence and/or protect areas with potential for regeneration if trees are removed under (1). **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**	Fence and/or protect areas with potential for regeneration if trees are removed under (1). **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**		Fence and/or protect areas with potential for regeneration if trees are removed under (1). **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**			Fence and/or protect areas with potential for regeneration if trees are removed under (1). **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**

Proposed Management Regimes	Compartment Number & Management Approach						
	Compartment 1	Compartment 2	Compartment 3	Compartment 4	Compartment 5	Compartment 6	Compartment 7
6. Timber Management	Implement as per Section 5. **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**	Implement as per Section 5. **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**		Implement as per Section 5. **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**		Implement as per Section 5. **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**	Implement as per Section 5. **Requirement if trees are removed under (1)**
7. Ivy Removal	Implement as per recommendations in tree safety survey. **Requirement if included in tree safety report**	Implement as per recommendations in tree safety survey. **Requirement if included in tree safety report** Implement as per Section 5. **Strongly recommended**		Implement as per recommendations in tree safety survey. **Requirement if included in tree safety report**		Implement as per Section 5. **Strongly recommended**	Implement as per recommendations in tree safety survey. **Requirement if included in tree safety report**
8. Removal of invasive/non-native plants	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**	Monitor and remove if recorded as per section 5. **Recommended**	Implement as per section 5. **Strongly recommended**
9. Litter	Ongoing litter inspections and management as per section 5. **Recommended**	Ongoing litter inspections and management as per section 5. **Recommended**	Ongoing litter inspections and management as per section 5. **Recommended**	Ongoing litter inspections and management as per section 5. **Recommended**	Initial clearing of fly-tipping zones/litter recorded during 2025 surveys in autumn of Year 1. Installation of locked gate at track opening at Compartment 5. **Strongly recommended**	Ongoing litter inspections and management as per section 5. **Recommended**	Ongoing litter inspections and management as per section 5. **Recommended**
10. Public Engagement	Implement as per section 5. **Recommended**	Implement as per section 5. **Recommended**	Implement as per section 5. **Recommended**	Implement as per section 5. **Recommended**	Implement as per section 5. **Recommended**	Implement as per section 5. **Recommended**	Implement as per section 5. **Recommended**
11. Hazel Coppicing	Implement as per section 5 for hazel. Recommended						

APPENDIX A – LOCATION PLAN

JOHNS ASSOCIATES

Project Boundary

CLIENT Bradford Town Council

PROJECT Becky Addy Wood - Woodland Management Plan

TITLE Site Location Plan

SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
1:25,000	AR	EH
REFERENCE	**REVISION**	**DATE ISSUED**
J01715-002		4/7/2025

APPENDIX B WOODLAND COMPARTMENT MAP

JOHNS ASSOCIATES

- Project Boundary
- w1f7 - other lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Public Right-of-Way
- Contours

CLIENT Bradford-on-Avon Town Council

PROJECT Becky Addy Wood - Woodland Management Plan

TITLE Woodland Parcels

SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
1:2,500	AR	EH
REFERENCE	**REVISION**	**DATE ISSUED**
J01715-002	1	11/7/2025

APPENDIX C OPERATIONS MAP

JOHNS ASSOCIATES

Project Boundary

Public Right-of-Way

Parcel Category

1

2

3

4

Management Prescriptions

1 - Safety

2 - Public Right-of-Way Maintenance

3 - Protection of Existing Key Habitat Features

4 - Re-stocking

5 - Regeneration

6 - Timber Management

7 - Ivy Removal

8 - Removal of Invasives and non-native Plants

9 - Litter

10 - Public Engagement

11 - Hazel Coppicing

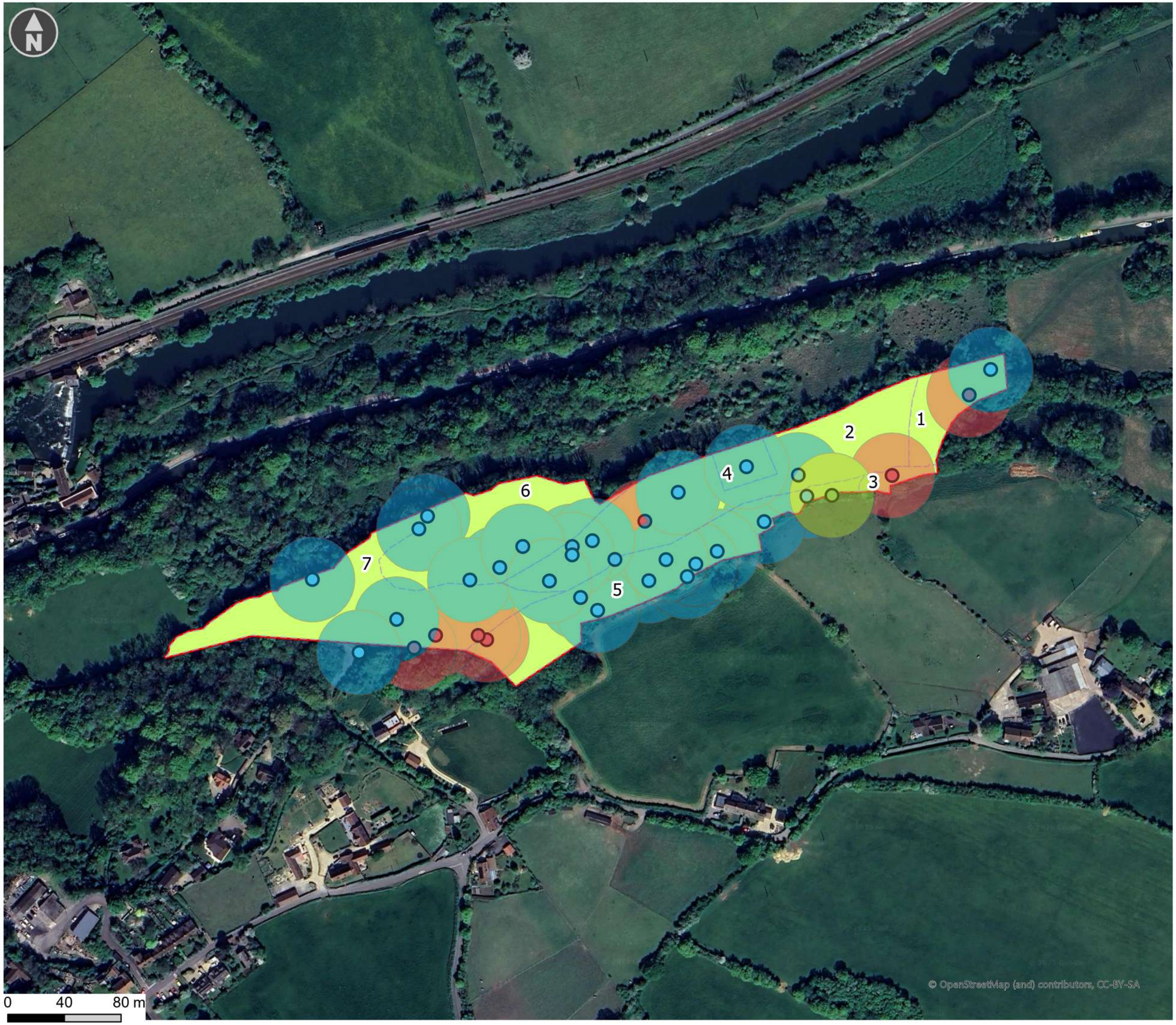
CLIENT Bradford-on-Avon Town Council

PROJECT Becky Addy Wood - Woodland Management Plan

TITLE Woodland Operations

SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
1:2,500	AR	EH
REFERENCE	**REVISION**	**DATE ISSUED**
J01715-003	2	15/7/2025

APPENDIX D CONSTRAINTS MAP



JOHNS ASSOCIATES

Project Boundary

Project Boundary

Operations Compartments

Operations Compartments

Ecological Constraints

Species/Feature

- Badgers
- Bats
- Notable Trees

Ecological Constraints Buffer

Species/Feature

- Badgers
- Bats
- Notable Trees

CLIENT	Bradford Town Council
PROJECT	Becky Addy Wood - Woodland Management Plan
TITLE	Ecological Constraints

SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
1:2,500	AR	EH
REFERENCE	**REVISION**	**DATE ISSUED**
J01715-004		11/7/2025

APPENDIX E PROPOSED MONITORING & MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE - YEAR 1

APPENDIX E – PROPOSED MONITORING & MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE FOR YEAR 1

X Set dates for completion

X Flexible dates for completion

REF.	OPERATION		JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Ecological constraints														
Principal ecological seasonal constraints:														
Bat roosting habitat			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Bird nesting season					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Licensed badger sett disturbance (if required)									■	■	■	■	■	
Licensed dormouse vegetation clearance (if required)			■	■	■								■	■
1	**Safety**	***Frequency/Timings***	***JAN***	***FEB***	***MAR***	***APRIL***	***MAY***	***JUNE***	***JULY***	***AUG***	***SEP***	***OCT***	***NOV***	***DEC***
	Conduct tree safety survey	Every 12 months					X	X						
	Issue tree safety report	Every 12 months							X					
	Conduct baseline ecological surveys to inform works	Within first 12 months				X	X	X	X	X	X			
	Conduct GLTA and ATA on all trees requiring work	As required					X	X	X	X	X			
	Obtain European Protected Species Licence if required	As required						X	X	X	X			
	Obtain Felling Licence if required	As required						X	X	X	X			
	Implement tree works as per safety survey	As required							X	X	X	X		
2	**PRoW Improvements/Maintenance**	***Frequency/Timings***	***JAN***	***FEB***	***MAR***	***APRIL***	***MAY***	***JUNE***	***JULY***	***AUG***	***SEP***	***OCT***	***NOV***	***DEC***
	Path repairs	Within first 12 months									X	X	X	
	Path maintenance - ground work	As required	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Path maintenance - vegetation cut	Twice per year			X						X			
3	**Protection of existing key habitat features**	***Frequency/Timings***	***JAN***	***FEB***	***MAR***	***APRIL***	***MAY***	***JUNE***	***JULY***	***AUG***	***SEP***	***OCT***	***NOV***	***DEC***
	Conduct baseline ecological surveys to inform works	Within first 12 months				X	X	X	X	X	X			
	Map dead/dying ash within Compartment 6	Within first 12 months							X	X				
	Conduct GLTA and ATA on all trees scheduled for removal	As required					X	X	X	X	X			
	Obtain European Protected Species Licence if required	As required						X	X	X	X			
	Obtain Felling Licence if required	As required						X	X	X	X			
	Removal of dead/dying ash from Compartment 6	Within first 12 months										X	X	
	Inspect and review for all other compartments	Every 12 months			X	X	X	X						
4	**Re-stocking**	***Frequency/Timings***	***JAN***	***FEB***	***MAR***	***APRIL***	***MAY***	***JUNE***	***JULY***	***AUG***	***SEP***	***OCT***	***NOV***	***DEC***
	Source appropriate tree supplier	Within first 12 months							X	X	X	X	X	X
	Calculate appropriate re-stocking ratios	Within first 12 months							X	X	X	X	X	X
	Install deer fencing	Within first 12 months							X	X	X	X	X	X
	Plant trees with tree guards and stakes	Within winter of Year 1 following tree removal	X	X									X	X
	New planting - replacement planting as required	As required	X	X									X	X
	New planting - watering	As required until new planting fully established		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	New planting - check stakes / guards / shelters - check and reset / replace as required	As required until new planting fully established		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
5	**Re-generation**	***Frequency/Timings***	***JAN***	***FEB***	***MAR***	***APRIL***	***MAY***	***JUNE***	***JULY***	***AUG***	***SEP***	***OCT***	***NOV***	***DEC***
	Designate re-generation areas	Within first 12 months							X	X	X	X	X	X

	Install deer fencing or other appropriate protection	Within first 12 months							X	X	X	X	X	X
	Install tree guards and stakes over new saplings	Within first 12 months	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Regenerative planting - check stakes / guards / shelters - check and reset / replace as required	As required		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
6	**Timber management**	***Frequency/Timings***	***JAN***	***FEB***	***MAR***	***APRIL***	***MAY***	***JUNE***	***JULY***	***AUG***	***SEP***	***OCT***	***NOV***	***DEC***
	Explore and agree options for timber management/storage	As required							X	X	X	X		
	Designate areas for timber stacking/storage following tree removal	As required							X	X	X	X		
	Monitor and tidy timber piles to ensure ground flora protected	As required		X			X			X			X	
7	**Ivy removal - outside of 1. Safety**	***Frequency/Timings***	***JAN***	***FEB***	***MAR***	***APRIL***	***MAY***	***JUNE***	***JULY***	***AUG***	***SEP***	***OCT***	***NOV***	***DEC***
	Identify target areas for ivy removal	Within first 12 months							X	X	X	X		
	Conduct GLTA and ATA on all ivy proposed for removal	Within first 12 months								X	X	X	X	
	Obtain European Protected Species Licence if required	If required									X	X	X	X
	Implement ivy removal work	Within winter of Year 1									X	X	X	X
8	**Removal of invasive/non native plants**	***Frequency/Timings***	***JAN***	***FEB***	***MAR***	***APRIL***	***MAY***	***JUNE***	***JULY***	***AUG***	***SEP***	***OCT***	***NOV***	***DEC***
	Agree appropriate removal techniques	Within first 12 months							X	X	X	X		
	Remove identified areas of non-native/invasive plants	Within first 12 months				X	X	X	X	X	X			
9	**Litter**	***Frequency/Timings***	***JAN***	***FEB***	***MAR***	***APRIL***	***MAY***	***JUNE***	***JULY***	***AUG***	***SEP***	***OCT***	***NOV***	***DEC***
	Initial clearing of fly-tipping zones	Autumn of Year 1									X	X		
	Installation of locked gate at opening of track at Compartment 5	Within 12 months										X	X	X
	Quarterly inspections and litter clearance	Quarterly		X			X			X			X	
	Installation of signage to discourage littering	Within 12 months										X	X	X
10	**Public engagement**	***Frequency/Timings***	***JAN***	***FEB***	***MAR***	***APRIL***	***MAY***	***JUNE***	***JULY***	***AUG***	***SEP***	***OCT***	***NOV***	***DEC***
	Design and agree information boards for installation	Within first 12 months								X	X	X	X	
	Install information boards	Within first 12 months	X	X							X	X	X	X
	Design, agree locations and install benches/seating areas	Within first 12 months	X	X						X	X	X	X	X
	Source an appropriate partner to formally lead volunteer/tree planting activities	Within first 5 years								X	X	X	X	X
	Schedule and implement quarterly volunteer/community days in the woodland	Within first 5 years		X			X			X		X		
11	**Hazel coppicing**	***Frequency/Timings***	***JAN***	***FEB***	***MAR***	***APRIL***	***MAY***	***JUNE***	***JULY***	***AUG***	***SEP***	***OCT***	***NOV***	***DEC***
	Agree appropriate coppicing regime for compartment 1	Within first 12 months								X	X	X	X	
	Conduct baseline ecological surveys to inform works	Within first 12 months				X	X	X	X	X	X			
	Conduct GLTA and ATA on all hazel proposed for removal	Within first 12 months					X	X	X	X	X			
	Obtain European Protected Species Licence if required	If required						X	X	X	X			
	Implement coppicing as per schedule in compartment 1	Within first 5 years		X	X									

APPENDIX F RE-STOCKING DENSITIES

Table 6: Proposed Re-stocking Densities for Becky Addy Wood

Proposed Restocking Density:	3 x 3 m standard restocking density, equivalent to 1111 trees per hectare (10,000 square meters).
Tree Spacing:	Spacing to be varied across the site in order to create some variation in woodland structure (i.e. some degree of 'clumping'). Clumping may also be used in low density planting to improve the form of the central trees in the clump. A 'naturalistic' planting pattern to be implemented.
Regulations:	Must be UKFS and Plant Health Management Standard compliant. Trees must be supplied from a biosecure nursery.
Tree Species:	Mixed British native species, suitable for the W8 woodland community and soil type present. Species to consider are included below. Canopy species Oak Quercus robur Wych elm Ulmus glabra Yew Taxus baccata Small-leaved lime Tilia cordata Hornbeam Carpinus betulus Crab apple Malus sylvestris Beech Fagus sylvatica Understorey/scrub species Field maple Acer campestre Hazel Corylus avellana Hawthorn Crataegus monogyna Elder Sambucus nigra Goat willow Salix caprea
Tree Planting Composition:	Canopy species to be prioritised with understorey/scrub species in a lower percentage. Detailed composition proportions are to be confirmed prior to works.
Tree Sizes:	A mixture of standards and whips to be planted, ratios to be confirmed prior to works.

APPENDIX G TREE SAFETY REPORT

Duramen

Arboricultural Report

Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA)

for

Becky Addy Wood
Bradford-on-Avon

CLIENT:

Bradford on Avon Town Council

Our Ref: 25030(f2)

Site Visit Date:
23rd & 24th June 2025
Report Date:
14th July 2025

CONSULTANTS:

Duramen Consulting
Consulting Arboriculturists
Charing Heath Rd
Charing, ASHFORD,
Kent TN27 0AU

Tel: 07810 610 712
info@duramen.co.uk
www.duramen.co.uk

Table of Contents:

REPORT SUMMARY

1. A tree survey was undertaken at Becky Addy Wood on 24th / 25th June and 14th/15th July 2025 using the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) methodology. The risks posed by individual trees was assessed based on the use of the site as experienced over those four days.

2. The main "*targets*" of the trees in the woodland are made up of one public right of way along the length of the woodland and the *cul-de-sac* public road running towards Avoncliff station along the wood's western boundary. A steep track runs along part of the south-western boundary and there are a number of informal tracks through the woodland, with passage along the main northern one being hindered by a number of fallen trees.

3. The risks posed by dead and dying ash trees was generally assessed to be the "*tolerable*" category provided they are ALARP – as low as reasonably practicable. That is to say, there is no need for immediate, emergency works but there is a need to act in a reasonable timeframe to reduce risks, consistent with the desire to retain the woodland. Preparation and implementation of a management plan which removes obvious risks posed by dead and dying trees near a public footpath is consistent with ALARP. However, intervention having been largely delayed since 2021, the situation is now somewhat critical, with the failure of trees obvious within the woodland. Further tree failures seem likely but, of course, it is not possible to predict which trees will fail first, nor to say when they will fail.

4. Around 32 dead trees have been mapped. Other dead trees are not shown due to their distance from the public footpath. It is advisable that if practicable these dead trees should be removed (felled or reduced to short monoliths) as part of a management plan. No particular length of time is specified for this work as the need for regeneration of the woodland is seen as the driver for determining which areas are cleared and when they are cleared.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report provides the results of a Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) for Becky Addy Wood, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire.

1.2 The wood lies about one kilometre to the West of the residential boundary of Bradford on Avon and to the South of the Kennet and Avon Canal and the river Avon. The wood extends to around 4.4 ha measuring around 600 metres East-West and at its widest, 150 metres North-South. It grows on ground sloping, steeply in places, down towards the North. It is located between 50 and 95m a.s.l.

1.3 The British Geological Survey online mapping shows the main part of the woodland is underlain by Corsham Limestone. However, a strip along the northern part of the wood is underlain by Fuller's Earth Formation - Mudstone and a thin strip along the southern edge is underlain by Forest Marble Formation – Mudstone. The soil is expected to be shallow and alkaline.

1.4 The existing woodland is dominated by mature ash trees. The history of the wood is not fully described here but reports of previous motorcycle use and remnants of concrete and brick work within the site suggests a degree of disturbance in its past. Previous woodland management has not been described but there are signs of some previous coppicing, but for the most part trees consist of single stems.

1.5 The MAGIC online mapping database shows Becky Addy wood as **ancient woodland**.

1.6 Wiltshire council's online mapping shows the wood to be protected by a **Tree Preservation Order (TPO)**.

1.7 Since a tree survey in 2021 suggesting the removal of over 40 trees and the "monolithing" of over another 70 trees, management of the woodland has been restricted to the most urgent cases of tree work for safety purposes. Some trees have been monolithed – essentially reduced to a standing dead tree, several metres tall. The woody remains of this work are sometimes obvious and sometimes less obvious under ground cover in that not all cut wood has been removed from the wood. Furthermore, a number of trees have fallen, some across the public footpath and others across the informal path running

across the northern part of the woodland. The combination of cut and fallen dead wood hinders and channels pedestrian access within the woodland as a whole.

2 Scope of Tree Survey

2.1 This report provides the results of a Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) of individual trees in Becky Addy wood 24th and 25th June 2025.

2.2 The methodology used is outline in in **Appendix 3.** Fuller details are described in the QTRA User Manual version V5.3.9 dated January 2025 (pdf of 29 pages) to this report.

2.3 The risk assessment was planned at first to be restricted to two 20 metre strips on both sides of the public footpath, being an indication of where trees with the greatest potential to fall onto the public footpath. The 2021 tree survey recorded two trees at 25 metres height and around nine others at 22 metres but it is unclear how reliable these estimates/measurements of height are as height measurement within the woodland is difficult for many trees due to restricted visibility. During this survey one tree adjacent to the road was measured as being 30 metres tall.

2.4 Once on site, the survey was informed by a number of informal tracks and sites of previous informal "use", suggesting that restricting the survey to the public footpath alone might not be fully comprehensive of use. However, having observed use over just 1.5 days it is clear that it is unlikely that access beyond the public footpath is common.

3 Results of Tree Survey

Targets – what could be affected by tree failure?

3.1 As the description of QTRA provided in **Appendix 3** notes, the first step is to determine use and "*targets*". On the basis, of use during day 1 of the survey being almost 0 and during day 2 barely a handful of walkers along the **footpath** (and none off the footpath), it is difficult to anticipate a use, on average, of greater than 1 person per hour, or 24 per day for 365 days a year. This corresponds to **QTRA Target Range 4**. Inevitably,

walkers are most likely during daylight hours, with more in dry weather than in wet, windy weather. The tree survey was conducted in dry, warm weather, but not at a weekend when possibly larger number of walkers might be anticipated.

3.2 In terms of stress testing this estimate the next higher use QTRA Target Range is 3 which covers up to 7 users per hour i.e. 168 people per day, on average. Again, this should be an average over the whole year including mid-winter and stormy weather. The risk assessment below will consider the effects of a higher level of use.

3.3 In terms of road use, affecting a strip of woodland along the western edge, the QTRA choice is between Target Range 3 and 4 as it is for the footpath. However, the upper threshold for Range 4 is 47 cars per day at 32mph. Based on my limited observation of the road and the size of the car park at the end of the road it seems clear that **QTRA Range 3** (470 to 48 cars per day at 32 mph) is more appropriate for consideration of risks to road users from falling trees.

The lack of a need for a formal usage survey

3.4 QTRA uses a numerical approach to determine the likelihood of someone or something being affected if a branch or tree fails. It attempts to provide some justification for a tree assessor's choice in broad bands, which are quite robust to minor changes in use. Where a site is used seasonally (or vary in some other way) there will be peaks and troughs of use. If the timing of the peaks and troughs are known it may be possible to measure usage, but where the weather is a significant factor it may be necessary to monitor for quite long periods of time to get an "*accurate*" estimate of usage. For most practical purposes, a detailed and possibly expensive monitoring of use is neither possible nor necessary. A footpath in a rural area is unlikely to have large numbers of people regularly throughout the year. Through recent surveying of Becky Addy wood (over five years), professionals whilst on site have seen how the footpath has been used. Occasional pedestrians and dog-walkers have been observed. A group of walkers too. It takes 9 minutes to walk from one end of the footpath to the other (uphill) and whilst slow walkers will take longer.

3.5 The footpath is therefore at the low end of the spectrum of land use; the woodland area away from the footpath has only very occasional visitors.

3.6 The public road is occupied more regularly with vehicles – commercial and cars – being seen regularly, travelling slowly around the sharp bend on a hill at the western end of the footpath.

Tree size

3.7 For the most part, the ash stems are not particularly large. 60 cm diameter was the maximum recorded which corresponds to **QTRA Size Range 1** (the maximum). However, a number of trees were less than the threshold of 45 cm so were considered under QTRA Size Range 2.

Probability of failure

3.8 In most tree surveys the tree features identified as hazards tend to vary from tree to tree. Furthermore, tree species, tree location and site usage vary making the assessment of each tree unique. As a result, the probability of failure tends to vary from tree to tree. In this case, with a linear "target" and a relatively uniform of dead and dying ash trees, there is greater uniformity than normal.

Ash dieback

3.9 In Becky Addy wood the only significant difference between trees is whether a tree is alive or dead. Many ash trees remaining alive were judged to be Class 4 with 0% - 25% of their crowns remaining [1] - see **Appendix 5**. That is not to say that all ash trees are so significantly affected and some were considered to be in Class 3 (26% - 50% of the crown remaining) and a few in Class 2 (51% - 75% of the crown remaining). The survey focused on the dead and most seriously affected trees, simply because of their number.

3.10 It seems reasonable to assume that a dead ash tree (however, long it has been dead) has a higher risk of failure than an almost dead ash tree. However, how much higher that risk is, is unknown. What is clear is that ash trees have been failing in Becky Addy wood. Whilst an attempt was made to estimate the number of fallen trees this was not successful as some trees had been left hanging (with significant residual risk), some had

[1] Tree Council (2020) Ash Dieback Disease A Guide For Tree Owners. 24 pages.

brought down other trees and parts of trees remain on the woodland floor that may have fallen some years ago. For the most part, I consider the Probability of Failure for individual trees to be between 1/100 and 1/1000 (**QTRA PoF Range 3**), which for one tree is quite high, relative to the average healthy tree unaffected by ash dieback. Where numerous individual trees i.e. dozens are present with this Probability of Failure it seems more likely than not that at least one tree will fail per year, which matches recent experience. With all trees showing similar features, it is not possible to predict which tree will fail, let alone when.

Honey fungus

3.11 Experience to date has shown that trees affected by ash dieback in woodland situations are susceptible to root decay caused by honey fungus [2]. The growth of honey fungus is proportionate to the "food" it has to live on and as death of ash trees has progressed through Becky Addy wood, it is likely that honey fungus has prevailed too. It is now known if earlier intervention might have limited the spread of ash dieback and honey fungus, but it is possible that intervention now to reduce the food source for honey fungus (by tree felling and wood removal), reducing the potential for all the ash trees to succumb to the disease. From a safety perspective the importance of honey fungus is that it leads to whole tree failure, whilst ash dieback alone probably leads to tree death and gradual failure of dead limbs. The loss of the ash tree after this is less significant because the tree is smaller and lighter than the failure of a tree failing as a result of honey fungus.

Estimating the risk of harm from Becky Addy wood trees

3.12 In such circumstances, the QTRA estimates of risk are relatively straightforward:

By the roadside, with a target range of 3, a size range of 1 and a probability of failure of 3 the risk of harm is estimated at **1 in 100,000**.

[2] https://forestrycommission.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/06/reflecting-on-a-decade-of-ash-dieback-response-in-the-uk/ and https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/chalara-manual-2-managing-ash-trees-and-woodland-including-logs-and-firewood/

Within the woodland, along the public footpath, with a target range of 4, a size range of 1 and a probability of failure of 3 the risk of harm is estimated at **1 in 400,000**.

3.13 Placing these estimates on the diagram below and within the traffic-light colours of QTRA (see **Appendix 3**) the risks posed by Becky Addy ash trees lie firmly in the tolerable region where risk reduction benefits should be balanced against the costs and risks associated with tree surgery. There is **no immediate emergency tree work required**. That does not mean that nothing needs to be done as it is possible to reasonably reduce the risks posed but this can be done in a planned manner, taking into account the long-term desire to retain a woodland at Becky Addy wood.

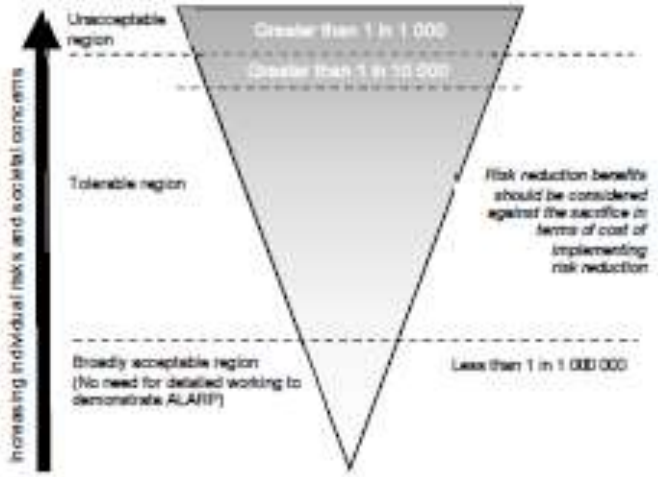


Fig. 1. Adapted from the Tolerability of Risk framework (HSE 2001).

3.14 It is useful to stress-test the above analysis by increasing individual elements of the QTRA equation:

3.15 Firstly, let's consider what happens if the Probability of Failure increases to **Range 2** (1/10-1/100). The Risk of Harm increases to **1 in 4,000** – into the unacceptable range i.e. this would warrant emergency work such as complete tree removal or reducing height so that remaining height < distance to any significant target.

3.16 Secondly, let's consider higher levels of use a) on the public footpath and b) on the road. If the footpath was judged to be the next higher level of use - Range 3 rather than Range 4 - a

risk of harm of **1 in 100,000** (i.e. the same as the risk to road users above). No emergency work would be required but risk reduction measures, if reasonably possible would be expected.

3.17 If the road was estimated to be used by over 480 vehicles (or 192 bicyclists & pedestrians) per day (**QTRA Target Range 2**) then the risk of harm from dead or heavily infected ash trees would be estimated to be **1 in 4,000**. As above, this necessitates emergency work as this is at an unacceptable level.

3.18 Thus, the need for emergency work is circumvented by the relatively low level of use of the public footpath and the even lower levels of use of the remainder of the woodland. The need for emergency works for trees near the road is not required at this stage, but as can be seen from the above calculations may not be far away if the condition of the live ash trees deteriorates further and/or further failure of trees is experienced.

3.19 At the moment, emergency works are avoided because the majority of the dead ash trees are within the woodland itself, threatening the public footpath, but not the road.

3.20 This risk assessment places most of the trees at Becky Addy wood within the tolerable provided ALARP (as low as reasonably practicable) range i.e. provided works are undertaken to reduce risk, the risk posed is tolerable. Removal of dead trees and those severely affected by ash dieback that are likely to die would be considered reasonable in the circumstances of a diseased wood as there is next to no chance that dead and dying trees can be retained. Retention of trees showing no signs of ash dieback or honey fungus is managed based on annual risk assessments until the effects of ash dieback and its spread are clearer.

4 Refining the risk assessment

4.1 Categorising all trees with the same degree of risk may seem a little broad brush. There is a degree of reassurance provided by considering the distance of any one tree from the public footpath. **Figure Y** provides an example of a 10 metre tall monolith at 9 metres from a public footpath. It shows a circular drop zone that is a 10 metre circle. In theory at least, the monolith could fall in any direction, if it were to fall. The

diagram shows a short length of overlap with the path. Thus, the risk of harm to a user of the footpath is much reduced because the chances of it falling but not on the footpath is significantly greater than it falling onto the footpath itself.

4.2 It should be borne in mind that when something falls it may not neatly drop and then stop moving – it may bounce, it may hit something whilst falling and gain some lateral momentum – but all the same the principle applies, a tree at a distance from a footpath is far more likely to fall in a direction where the footpath is not affected at all.

4.3 Similarly, a 20 metre tall tree at 20 metres distance, if it were to fall, only has a small chance of actually falling onto the path.

4.4 However, where a tree is leaning and/or its crown is weighted towards one side it is more likely to fall in the direction of the lean/asymmetry. However, assessing such a feature(s) from the ground may not be easy and wind at the time of failure may change the direction of fall.

5 Implications for woodland management

5.1 Whilst the risk of harm calculations points towards avoiding the need for any immediate tree works on an emergency basis, they most certainly don't suggest that nothing needs to be done. The risk of individual tree failure is estimated per tree to be between 1/100 and 1/1000. Tree failures have been experienced in Becky Addy Wood in recent months and years AND there is general experience of the progress of ash dieback in the country since it was first confirmed in 2012. It remains to be seen whether the individual tree risk is better assessed as Level 2 (1/10 to 1/100).

5.2 The removal of some trees and monolithing of others has had an effect on the woodland ground flora. Light levels are likely to have increased with such tree removal/thinning. Ground flora has responded, particularly bramble. Retained dead wood is likely to have impacted the ground flora too. Understorey shrubs and small trees such as hazel are growing but there is little to no sign of the regeneration of other trees. This is a non-sustainable situation and whilst risk may have been reduced, in the longer term and if continued, the

"woodland" walk will turn into a walk with few trees actually beside the path itself.

5.3 The likelihood of there being any potential for ash regeneration needs to be considered from several angles: are there any remaining ash trees with potential to produce sufficient seed? Where are they located relative to the dead trees and especially the groups of dead trees in the centre of the site? Can sufficient areas be fenced keeping browsing animals away from natural regeneration or is the only means of regeneration (of species other than ash) planting, either whips in protective tubes or the planting of larger trees (at greater cost)?

5.4 Ash being a light demanding species [3], only relatively large gaps will allow ash seedlings to grow and develop. Guidance is provided https://tinyurl.com/4xk4tkz4 [4]

5.5 The likelihood of sycamore becoming more common needs to be considered in greater depth, but this is not a human risk issue so is not dealt with here.

5.6 This report only considers the risks posed by individual trees but how to address those risks interacts with the needs and possibilities for the short and medium term management of the woodland.

[3] Ash seedlings are unlikely to grow under the shade of ash itself, let alone more shade bearing species such as beech and sycamore.

[4] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-woodland-sssis-with-ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/managing-woodland-sssis-and-ancient-woodland-with-ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus

6 Specific issues

6.1 **Ivy**: Many tall trees have significant ivy growth; the ivy is likely to increase forces on trees particularly during wind events during winter months (the "sail" effect). The immediate problem in surveying is assessing whether a tree is definitely dead, apparently dead or possibly still alive although in terrible condition.

6.2 The key question is whether the cutting of ivy provides any realistic reduction in risk from individual trees or to the overall risk within the woodland as a whole. After ivy cutting (at chest level, leaving the ivy to die in place) the ivy dries and its leaves shrivel leading to a reduction in sail area over 12 months or so after cutting. Further ivy growth in the short term is prevented. The weight and residual "sail area" of ivy will reduce over several years.

6.3 There is no shortage of ivy within Becky Addy wood; whilst ivy can provide useful habitat for wildlife removal of ivy from select trees for targeted risk reduction purposes may allow the retention of some trees which otherwise might fall by themselves or have to be removed simply because of their locations. In addition, ivy cutting can be undertaken quite quickly to all trees easily accessed, whilst tree removal may be difficult, costly and take several years.

6.4 It may therefore be useful to consider removing the ivy of dead and dying trees which are not removed for safety or woodland management purposes.

6.5 **The risk from tree surgery**: Removal of dead and dying ash trees is not an easy task. All tree works should be undertaken by experienced, qualified tree surgeons with appropriate insurance. The Arboricultural Association provides a list of accredited tree surgeons (www.trees.org.uk).

6.6 **Monoliths**: arboriculture uses the term "*monolith*" to refer to the creation of a dead standing tree, typically from a tree that was dead already or was presenting an unacceptable risk. Several have been created already in Becky Addy wood. Unfortunately, the risks posed by such trees are not adequately understood. With no living roots a monolithed tree is a rotting piece of wood which may fall at any time. In simple terms all monoliths should be created in the first

instance at a height that is less than the distance of the monolith from any significant target.

6.7 Where monoliths have already been created without thought of their long term inspection it is wise to, at the very least, to reduce the height of the monolith to less than the distance of the monolith from the footpath. Where there is no record of when the monolith was created **and** no written assessment of the condition of the original tree it is simply not possible to assess the risk posed. Use of a "*shoulder test*" [5] on each monolith provides a little clarity but lack of access may prevent a tree being pushed from all relevant directions.

[5] A shoulder test involves the tree inspector leaning against the tree with some force and seeing if the top of the tree moves. No sight of movement does not guarantee anything but it does provide a degree of reassurance that imminent failure is not obvious.

Appendix 1: Site Plan

Bradford-on-Avon Council
Becky Addy Wood

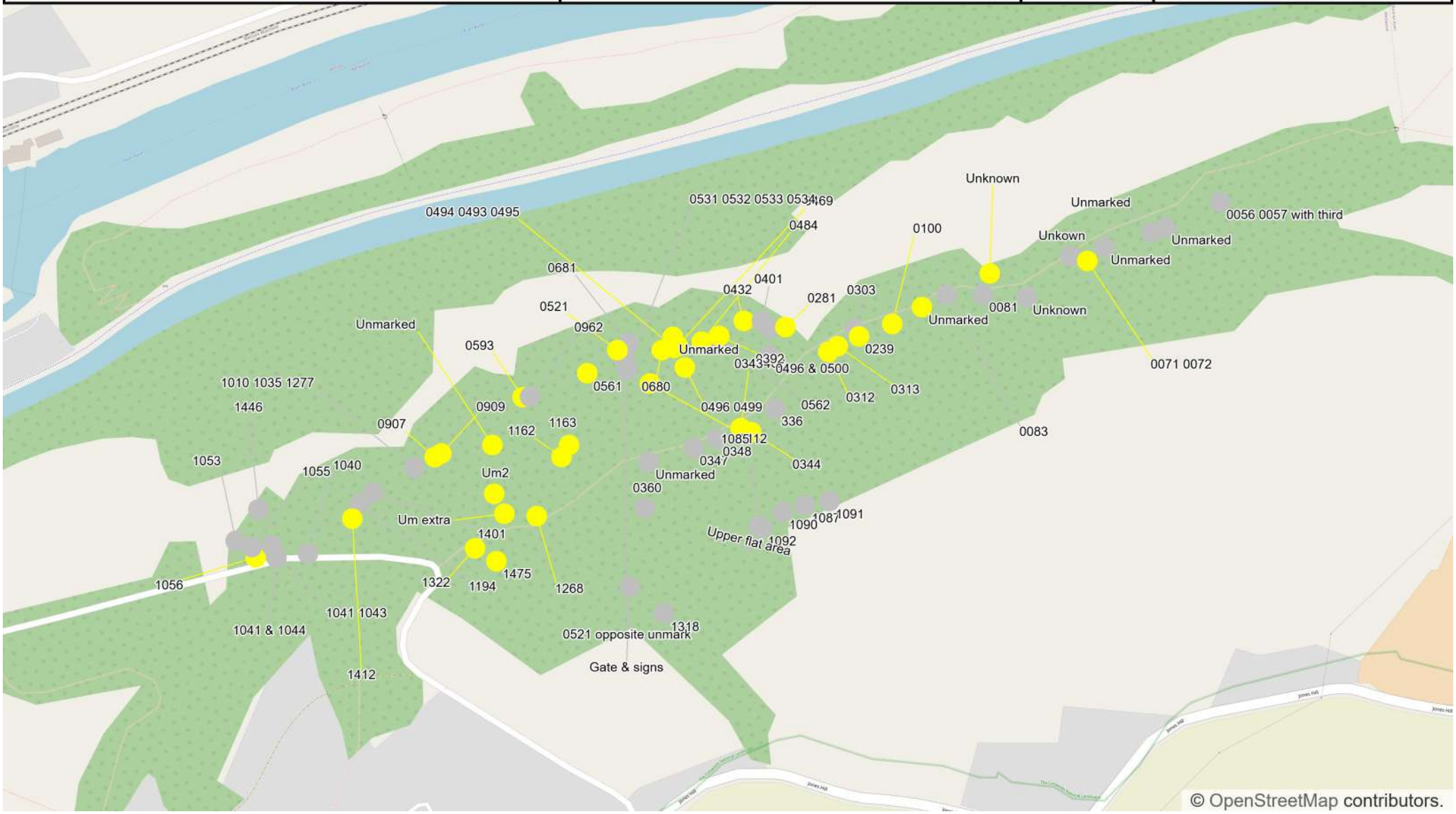
Page size: A4

1 : 2,500

0 100 m 200 m

N

Duramen



Appendix 2: Tree Data

Tree Survey Report

Client: Bradford on Avon Town Council
Site: Becky Addy Wood

Overall Condition	No. trees
Not Recorded	74
Total	74

Site	No. trees
Becky Addy Wood	74

Duramen

Ref.	Species	Description	Measurements	Survey Notes	Overall Condition	RoH	Inspected	Inspect Period	Recommendations	Photo
0056 0057 with third	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Large tree thinning crown minor dead wood	Height (m): 20 DBH (cm): 50 Stems: 3				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0071 0072	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Monoliths 7m from path	Height (m): 8 DBH (cm): 60 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0494 0493 0495	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Coppice stems	DBH (cm): 300 Stems: 2 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0496 0499	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Coppice hollow base daldinia ivy	DBH (cm): 30 Stems: 4 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0496 & 0500	Not identified *(Not identified)*						24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0531 0532 0533 0534	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Coppice stool hollow base beside informal path	DBH (cm): 300 Life Stage: Over Mature Life Exp.: <10 years	0533 dead ivy covered others taller with dieback			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1041 1043	Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*	Two Roadside stems under heavy ivy				1/40K	23-Jun-2025	1 Year		 1041 1043
1041 & 1044	Not identified *(Not identified)*					1/40K	23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1010 1035 1277	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Coppice off hol.ow base 4 stems		Ery heavy ivy. High dead wood			23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Um2	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Two dead stems with two hanging to NW over lower path	DBH (cm): 30 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		 Hanging stems
0081	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Very large 6m from path ivy	Height (m): 20 DBH (cm): 60	One of four coppice stems with 0080 0ne appears dead with dead wood high over path. Inaccessible			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0083	Elm *(Ulmus sp.)*	Dead tree beside path	Height (m): 13 DBH (cm): 30	Label loose as put on wrong side out. Label likely to fall			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo

Ref.	Species	Description	Measurements	Survey Notes	Overall Condition	RoH	Inspected	Inspect Period	Recommendations	Photo
0100	Elm *(Ulmus sp.)*	3m from path dead ivy. 2nd stem nearby similar no mark	Height (m): 10 DBH (cm): 15 Life Stage: Dead	Sp unclear			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0112	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Very heavy ivy appears dead barbed wire in stem	Height (m): 20 DBH (cm): 60 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0239	Not identified *(Not identified)*	Hung up over path. Ivy	Height (m): 15 DBH (cm): 30 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		 Hung up stem
0281	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Tall dead	DBH (cm): 55 Life Stage: Dead	Bark beginning to crack			23-Jun-2025	1 Year		 Dead
0303	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Heavy ivy. Hollow base as 0239	DBH (cm): 40				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		
0312	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Monolith with some ivy	Height (m): 10 DBH (cm): 45 Life Stage: Dead	2nd stem beside with loose bark 5m tall			23-Jun-2025	1 Year		
0313	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Snapped at 2 to 3 m ht with remains hanging from ht 3m. Heavy ivy	DBH (cm): 25 Life Stage: Dead	19m from public footpath			23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
336	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Monolith with fallen Hazel against it	Height (m): 7 DBH (cm): 60	2m from path			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0343	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Monolith beside path	Height (m): 8 DBH (cm): 80 Life Stage: Dead	Heavy ivy			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0344	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Monolith with ivy	Height (m): 8 DBH (cm): 60 Life Stage: Dead	5m from path			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0347	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	4m from path	DBH (cm): 50 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years	Crown over path. Some thinning but little dead wood			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0348	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	8m from path Old red paint mark ivy very thin crown	Height (m): 15 DBH (cm): 60 Life Stage: Over Mature Life Exp.: <10 years				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0360	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Difficult to access on slope heavy ivy	DBH (cm): 50	Paint marks leans upper id unclear due to adjacent field maple & sycamore			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0392	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Coppice stool 3 stems ivy	DBH (cm): 30 Stems: 3 Life Stage: Dead	Heavy ivy to top of tree			24-Jun-2025	1 Year	Remove ivy Timescale: Not Recorded	No Photo
0401	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Beside informal path dead wood thinning crown	Height (m): 20 DBH (cm): 40				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0402	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Tall tree thru Hazel slight leans to S		Appears alive little to no dead wood			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0432	Oak *(Quercus sp.)*	Missing bark. Leans. Ivy	Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo

Ref.	Species	Description	Measurements	Survey Notes	Overall Condition	RoH	Inspected	Inspect Period	Recommendations	Photo
0469	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Dead	Height (m): 12 DBH (cm): 45 Life Stage: Dead	Remains of dead ivy			23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0484	Not identified *(Not identified)*	Hung up across path	DBH (cm): 25 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0521	Not identified *(Not identified)*		Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0521 opposite unmark	Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*	Horizontal top of tree lodged & loose in top of tree					24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0561	Not identified *(Not identified)*	Dead	Height (m): 12 DBH (cm): 50 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0562	Not identified *(Not identified)*						24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0593	Not identified *(Not identified)*	Dead - Daldinia fungal brackets	Height (m): 8 DBH (cm): 20 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0680	Not identified *(Not identified)*	Hung g up across path	Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0681	Not identified *(Not identified)*						24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0907	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*		Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0909	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Dead coppice stool	DBH (cm): 200 Stems: 15 Life Stage: Dead	Heavy ivy one			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
0962	Field maple *(Acer campestre)*	There erect dead limbs with bat roost 0092 & bat box	DBH (cm): 60				23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1040	Elm *(Ulmus sp.)*	Heavy ivy roadside					23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1053	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*		DBH (cm): 60 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years	Heavy ivy. Leans into site & crown not over road		1/40K	23-Jun-2025	1 Year		 Roadside 1053
1055	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Roadside red paint dots ivy	DBH (cm): 50			1/40K	23-Jun-2025	1 Year		 1052 & 1055
1056	Not identified *(Not identified)*	Road	Height (m): 14 DBH (cm): 30 Life Stage: Dead	Ivy covers whole tree		1/40K	23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1085	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Beside track at top of slope	DBH (cm): 80 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years	Centre of gravity above slope away from nearby path. Dead wood. BAW016 bat box. Old fistula bracket on one branch over slope			23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1087	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Alive little dead wood asymmetric crown over i formal path					23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1090	Oak *(Quercus sp.)*	By upper path BAT BOX BAW 009 dormouse tube		Dead wood over path			23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1091	Oak *(Quercus sp.)*	Bat box dormouse tube path ends honeysuckle		Dead wood . concrete!			23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo

Ref.	Species	Description	Measurements	Survey Notes	Overall Condition	RoH	Inspected	Inspect Period	Recommendations	Photo
1092	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Beside informal path		BAW017 bat box dead wood over path			23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1162	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Dead large ivy Daldinia on main lower stem	DBH (cm): 60 Life Stage: Dead	Pests and Diseases: Insect holes			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1163	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Dead tall 10m from side of path	DBH (cm): 40 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1194	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Fallen to N blocking path				1/40K	23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1268	Not identified *(Not identified)*	Dead erect pushed over beside path	DBH (cm): 10 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1318	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Beside path Owned by local council. Ivy. Minor deadwood	Height (m): 17 DBH (cm): 60 Life Stage: Mature	Appears healthy no signs of dieback			23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1322	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Monolith @ 8m. 3 stems saw cut 1m below top [customise this list on website TreeSafety page]	Height (m): 8 DBH (cm): 60 Stems: 3 Life Stage: Dead	Next to 1321 and 1323		1/40K	23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1401	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Beside informal path with twisted stems & asymmetric crown ti NW	DBH (cm): 40 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years			1/40K	23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1412	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Dead fallen large	DBH (cm): 70 Life Stage: Dead	On ground Stump is 1039		1/40B	23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1446	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Leans to ne	DBH (cm): 70 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years	Difficult to see crown tru ivy & cherry. Upper crown dead Wind Exposure: Full. Crown Size: Large. Crown Density: Sparse.		1/40K	23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1475	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Dead with ivy beside horse chestnut	DBH (cm): 15 Life Stage: Dead			1/400K	23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
1476	Not identified *(Not identified)*						23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Unmarked	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	4 stems heavy ivy with Hung up nearby	Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Unmarked	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Dead with dead ivy	Height (m): 15 DBH (cm): 40 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Unmarked	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Very thin crown	Height (m): 20 DBH (cm): 50 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: <10 years				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Unmarked	Oak *(Quercus sp.)*	Hanging dead wood thinning crown	Height (m): 20 DBH (cm): 60 Life Stage: Over Mature Life Exp.: <10 years				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Unmarked	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Four plus stems c10m from path	Height (m): 20 DBH (cm): 60 Stems: 4 Life Stage: Mature	Thinning crown dead wood			24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Unkown	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	3 items. Tall thinning live ash. Monolith closer to path. One dying Hazel on					24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Unknown	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Tall with dead wood high above path	Height (m): 20 DBH (cm): 60 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: <10 years				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Unknown	Not identified *(Not identified)*	6m from path	Height (m): 15 DBH (cm): 30 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Unmarked	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	Monolith by path ivy	Height (m): 8 DBH (cm): 60 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo

Ref.	Species	Description	Measurements	Survey Notes	Overall Condition	RoH	Inspected	Inspect Period	Recommendations	Photo
Unmarked	Not identified *(Not identified)*	Monolith c6m from path ivy vertical cavity ti rear with strong regrowth					24-Jun-2025	1 Year		 Vertical wound
Um extra	Ash *(Fraxinus sp.)*	2 smaller dead closer to public footpath	DBH (cm): 10 Life Stage: Dead				24-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Upper flat area	Mixed species *(Mixed species)*						23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo
Gate & signs	Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*	South side of path Roadside tree.	DBH (cm): 70 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Fork at 1.5m			23-Jun-2025	1 Year		No Photo

Appendix 3: QTRA methodology and notes & limitations of the Tree Survey

Data collected on each recorded tree reflects the needs of the QTRA risk assessment process. Records to allow the refinding of surveyed/individual trees for follow up work is dependent on aluminium numbered labels being present and accurate GPS recordings.

The survey has focused on the largest trees and those most obviously affected by ash dieback. Cryptic weaknesses/defects may have been missed simply because of the sheer magnitude of the number of large dead and dying ash trees. Small trees away from the public footpath and obvious public access points were ignored.

Height: Visibility of both top and bottom of a tree from an appropriate distance is necessary to measure tree height. For a tree with a well-developed crown that distance is likely to be at least tree height. For a dead tree with a single dead top, a lesser distance may be used. For leaning trees height measurement from two separate locations is advisable but was not done due to time constraints. In Becky Addy Wood visibility of both top and base of 20+ metre tall trees was often not possible. As a result, only a small number of trees were measured for height.

Stem Diameter: Estimates given are purely to allow differentiation from stems of different sizes. They are not measurements and should not be used for any other purpose and the height of stem diameter used was practical not fixed i.e. around 1.5 metres height. Reference instruments such as tape measures or other objects of known size (e.g. a sheet of A4 paper – 21 x 30 cm) were used. Estimates were over ivy, where present.

Due to the active nature of ash dieback and honey fungus it is possible that the condition of individual trees will change over time. The assessment given is for the day of inspection and **no liability can be accepted for any structural deterioration of any surveyed tree occurring after the date of our inspection or that was not visible on the day of inspection.**

An annual – every 12 months – reinspection for tree health and structural condition is recommended.

Estimated Remaining Life Contribution: No standardised method is recognised for making estimates of remaining life span of a tree. The estimates given are based on a rapid assessment of the health and structural condition AND the location of the tree in relation to any targets. Thus, a roadside tree with a particular defect may be given a lesser life expectancy than a similar tree located deep in rarely visited woodland.

Wildlife considerations: This tree survey did **NOT** include a scoping survey for protected species.

The Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) Method

Tree safety management is a matter of limiting the risk of harm from tree failure while maintaining the benefits conferred by trees. Although it may seem counterintuitive, the condition of trees is **not** the starting point for risk assessment; first, the usage of the land on which the trees stand (including the land within falling distance of the trees) needs to be considered, and in turn, this will inform the process for risk-assessing trees and how thorough that assessment should be.

The Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) method applies established and accepted risk management principles to tree safety. The method moves the management of tree safety away from labelling trees as either '*safe'* or '*unsafe'* and thereby away from requiring definitive judgements from either tree assessors or tree managers. Instead, QTRA allows risk assessors to estimate numerically a risk of harm from tree failure, assisting tree managers to balance safety with the desire to retain trees and the benefits arising from them, within the accepted concepts of societal predetermined limits of tolerable or acceptable risk.

By quantifying the risk of harm from tree failure, QTRA enables a tree owner to manage the risk in accordance with widely applied and internationally recognised levels of risk tolerance. QTRA further provides a decision-making framework which considers the balance between the benefits provided by trees, levels of risk they pose, and costs of risk management.

Quantification provides a façade of precision which may be misinterpreted. The QTRA calculated risk of harm is to one significant figure only; this is predominantly because the probability of failure of trees is never known precisely – in the vast majority of cases no-one is able to predict whether a tree will fall, let alone when. Experience allows a tree surveyor to identify tree features which are unusual and which are associated with the failure of branches and or whole trees. In the case of Becky Addy wood, with ash dieback, honey fungus and tall, dead trees many trees have such defects. What QTRA allows is a means of stress testing any risk assessment – what might the situation be if the probability of failure was 10x higher, for example? By having a degree of reassurance that there is an adequate safety margin the surveyor can be reasonably confident their recommendations for tree work are appropriate for the circumstances.

Using QTRA, the land-use (**Target**) upon which trees could fail is assessed first. By valuing the Target first, the tree owner and the risk assessor are able to determine whether or not, and to what degree of rigour, a survey or inspection of the trees is required. Where necessary, the tree is then evaluated in terms of its size and probability of failure. Ranges of value for **Target**, **Size**, and **Probability of Failure** are entered into a QTRA calculator which generates a traffic light colour-coded risk of harm – see the table below. The tree owner can then compare the estimated risk to advisory levels for risk tolerance.

Using QTRA, tree owners commonly find they spend substantially less resources on assessing and managing tree risk than they did previously, whilst maximising the many benefits their trees provide. Moreover, in the event of a '*tolerable'* or '*acceptable'* risk being realised, they are in a position to demonstrate the risk has been managed reasonably and proportionately.

QTRA Advisory Risk thresholds – the traffic light colour-coded risk of harm

Note:

ALARP stands for As Low As Reasonably Practicable. ALARP means taking all reasonable steps to minimize risks in a situation, even if those risks are already considered low, but only up to the point where the cost or effort of further reduction becomes disproportionate to the benefit gained.

In the case of Becky Addy wood, the risk to the tree surgeon who is asked to "reduce" the risk from a dead or near dead tree should be considered. Typical methods of felling (cutting at ground level) or climbing and sectionally felling a tree are unlikely to be appropriate – they are simply too dangerous for the operator. Use of a MEWP (Mobile elevated work platform) may be possible, depending upon access and ground conditions, but this comes at a cost. Use of machinery in the woodland will inevitably cause disturbance to ground flora, but the build up of dead wood on the woodland floor may be excessive, necessitating its (partial) removal from the wood.

Thresholds	Description	Action
>1/1,000	*Unacceptable* Risks will not ordinarily be tolerated	Control the risk
Between 1/1,000 and 1/10,000	*Unacceptable* (Where imposed on others) Risks will not ordinarily be tolerated	Control the risk Review the risk
	Tolerable (By agreement) Risks may be tolerated if those exposed to the risk accept it, or the tree has exceptional value	Control the risk unless there is broad stakeholder agreement to tolerate it, or the tree has exceptional value Review the risk
Between 1/10,000 and 1/1,000,000	*Tolerable* (Where imposed on others) Risks are tolerable if ALARP	Assess costs and benefits of risk control Control the risk only where a significant benefit might be achieved at a reasonable costs Reviews the risk
<1/1 000 000	*Broadly Acceptable* Risk is already ALARP	No action currently required Review the risk

Determination of risk from individual trees

The QTRA risk assessor makes an assessment of three aspects

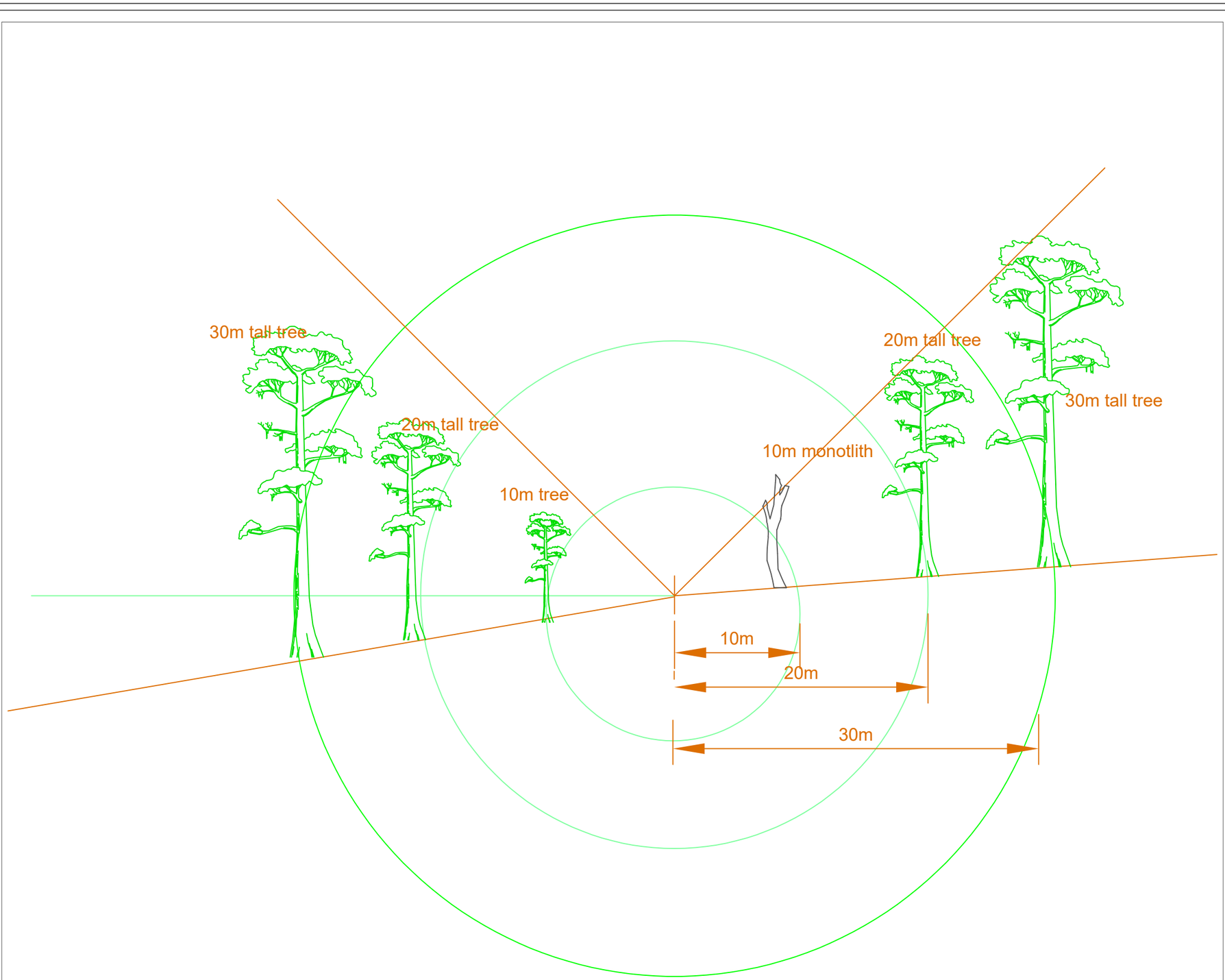
1) The target(s) – permanent and temporary – that might be affected by tree failure
2) Tree size and/or branch size
3) The probability of failure

The three assessments are then combined in a proprietary algorithm to give an estimate of risk of harm, which is then compared to the thresholds shown in the above table.

The target where moving pedestrians and vehicles are concerned is assessed based on frequency of use and the speed of their movement. It takes around 9 minutes to walk the full length of the public footpath through Becky Addy Wood. The speed of vehicles on the public highway along the western boundary of the wood was observed to be unlikely to exceed 30 miles an hour.

Assessment of the probability of failure is reliant on use by an experienced tree surveyor; having said that there is no written guidance nor data for a surveyor to rely on.

Appendix 4: Considerations of tree risk and its management



Legend

Drawing Based Upon: -

Status: FINAL

Notes:

Duramen Consulting
Arboricultural Consultants

Charing, ASHFORD, TN27 0AU
T 07810 610 712 E jh@duramen.co.uk W www.duramen.co.uk

Client: -

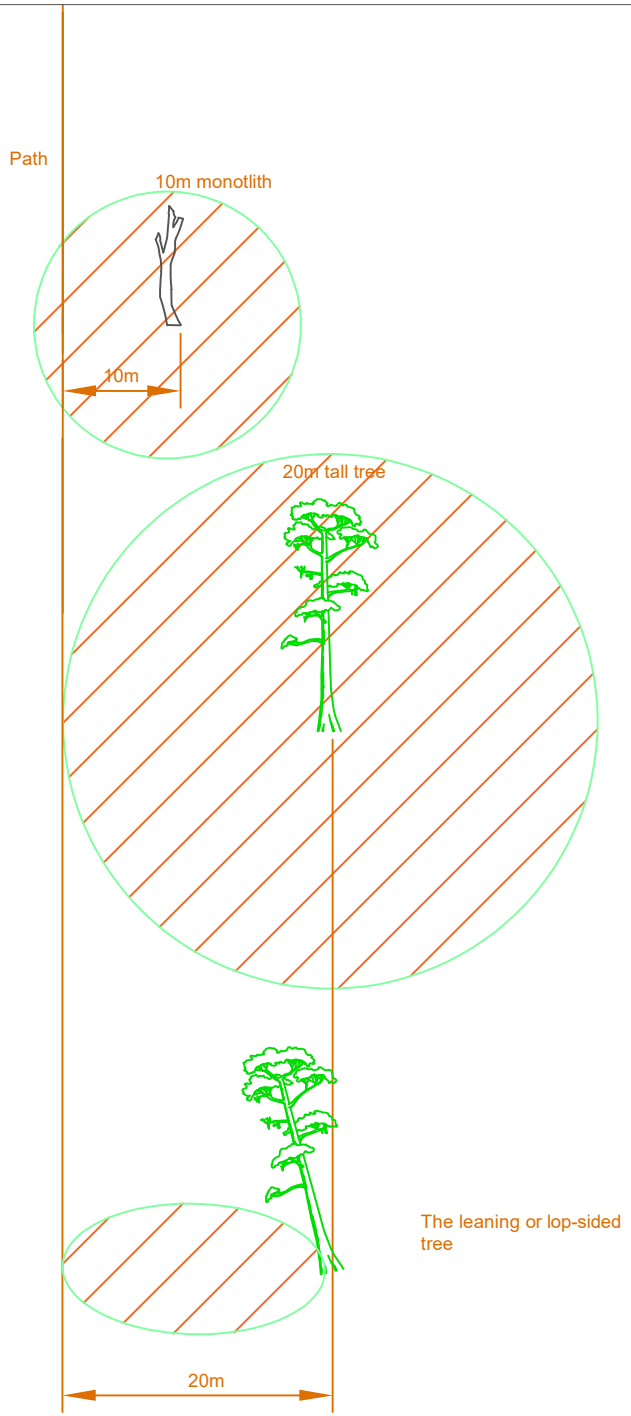
Project: Tree risk assessment by a public footpath

Title: Tree height and distance from target - the principle of 45 degrees

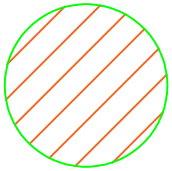
Date: 2025 Scale: Original Paper Size: A3

Drawn: JH Checked: - Job Ref: 25030

Figure Number: 1 Rev: A



Legend



Area in which a tree could fall:

Circular, where tree could fall in any direction

Elliptical, or a segment where the tree is leaning or the crown is weighted in one direction

Drawing Based Upon: -

Status: FINAL

Notes:

Duramen Consulting

Arboricultural Consultants

Charing, ASHFORD, TN27 0AU

T 07810 610 712 E jh@duramen.co.uk W www.duramen.co.uk

Client: -

Project: Becky Addy Wood

Title: The influence of distance of tree from target and of tree symmetry/ lean

Date: 2025 Scale: Original Paper Size: A4

Drawn: JH Checked: - Job Ref: 25030

Figure Number: Y Rev: A

Appendix 5: Tree Council crown assessment photographs

By looking at the crown of an ash tree, you should be able to place it in one of the following classes. Don't worry if you're not completely sure – just make your best guess:

CLASS 1 100%–76% of the crown remains

CLASS 2 75%–51% of the crown remains

CLASS 3 50%–26% of the crown remains

CLASS 4 25%–0% of the crown remains

This system does not allow you to make specific management judgements about the safety of any individual tree, but it helps to identify trees that may need attention.

If you are concerned about the extent of decline in your tree's canopy (especially if it starts to look like a class 3 or 4 tree), you need to decide how to manage your tree. It is usually best to consult a qualified tree professional who can survey your tree or trees, assessing their condition and the circumstances in which they are growing, to advise you on what action to take. If the tree is assessed as presenting an unacceptable risk to people or property, felling may be recommended. It is important to seek guidance quickly if you think your tree may be in a dangerous condition.

Otherwise, pruning work such as the removal of dead wood, a reduction of the crown, or the removal of a specific limb might manage the safety risk while allowing the tree to continue providing benefits to the landscape and to nature.

For your management options for an ash tree **see page 16**.


Class 1


Class 2


Class 3


Class 4