

Wednesday 3rd April 2024

Arboricultural Technical Note for:

Site Reference: Footpath Diversion, Park Farm, Ramsbury Estate, Ramsbury, SN8 2HW

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/TQrTZden6QGBZWe47>

<http://streetmap.co.uk/map?X=425625&Y=169989&A=Y&Z=120>

Site Address: As above.

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Compiled by: Jonathon Price (WC) – Arboricultural Officer Trees and Woodlands

Date: 3rd April 2024

Reason for Technical Note: Footpath diversion by applicant will bring proposed route closer to area of third party owned off site trees, therefore increasing target value (where target is defined as people, property or infrastructure which could be damaged/harmed by falling trees or tree parts)



Extract 1: View of proposed diversion. Highlighted Yellow. Applicant land south of line, 3rd part owned trees and land, north of line.

The route currently runs parallel to a hedgerow and off site trees to the west north west then bisects the hedgerow and runs south east through rough pasture to meet with the wider network. The applicant is

looking to realign the footpath, from where it currently bisects the existing hedgerow, to run parallel still within their land, from west to east, to 'dog leg' therefore by-passing the rough pasture and reusing the nodal connection.

The proposed parallel stretch would bring the Row alongside an existing rough hedgerow and close to off-site mature trees. The existing off site tree belt is predominantly scattered oak and ash; with ash exhibiting Class 2 to 3 symptoms of Ash Die Back disease¹ and the oak exhibiting signs of minor to moderate decline, or accelerated senescence likely due to exposure and waterlogging. Together they contribute greatly as habitat and amenity features and have a moderate to high intrinsic value.

While a detailed risk assessment has not been carried out at this time, being beyond the surveyor's remit; it is assessed that should an industry accepted risk assessment using the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA²) be carried out, it is unlikely that the diversion would result in a significantly elevated acceptable risk tolerance score. As discussed with the applicant's representative, they intend to carry out remedial pruning to their boundary (for which they have common law rights to do, provided arisings are offered back to the tree owner and other statutory protections notwithstanding) in addition they intend, in discussions with their own estate ecologist, to carry out augmentative planting within the rough pasture, of oak and other species to be advised using tools such as the Tree Design Action Group's Species Selector for GI: [Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure - Trees and Design Action Group \(tdag.org.uk\)](#).

In summary while the Duty of Care holder (the tree owners) will see an increase in footfall within the target zone of these trees, if the user numbers equate to usual rural footpath metrics, it is unlikely this increase, in addition to remedial works, will be significant. However it is recommended advice is sought by a qualified arboricultural professional to quantify this risk. All tree works must take in to account current wildlife legislation and follow the recommendations of the document British Standard BS3998 – 2010 Tree work - Recommendations.



Plate 1: View north east, cut sward indicates line of proposed new diversion. Off site trees (ash, oak) visible centre.

¹ [Ash Dieback Disease: A Guide for Tree Owners - The Tree Council](#)

² [Quantified Tree Risk Assessment \(qtra.co.uk\)](#)



Plate 3: As for Plate 1.



Plate 4: As for Plates 1 and 2, looking from east to west.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir, a diolch.

Jonathon Price

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VALID QTRA

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