Mobile: 07777 647 152
Tel: 01473 780857

Ram Cottage, Pin Mill Lane, Chelmondiston, Suffolk. IP9 1JJ
www.peninsulatreeservices.co.uk

Formal inspection: Tree survey report for Chelmondiston Parish Council, covering Page's Common and Pin Mill Common.

Date: 6th October 2021

Surveyor: Lee Foster

Caveat: *The inspection performed is classed as a formal visual inspection, and relates only to the day of the inspection, as subsequent severe weather could create defects and hazards that were not previously present. No invasive (e.g. core sampling) or non-invasive tests (e.g. ultrasound or x-ray) were performed that would highlight any hidden core defects. Given the time of year of the inspection, fungal fruiting bodies that can be indicative of core defects would be present.*

Executive summary

A visual tree inspection was completed on 6th October 2021 by Peninsula Tree Services covering the area of Pin Mill Common and Page's Common. The overall view is that the trees in these locations are generally in good health, however after numerous high tides, which result in significant salt water flooding onto the common, it is thought to have had a negative effect on the Oak and Sycamore trees. There was very little canopy formation seen on either tree in 2020, and it was hoped that they would recover in 2021. Although the Sycamore has had a reasonable canopy this year, the Oak has failed to have any again. Some of the branches have started to die and fall, and as there are rope swings and people underneath, the recommendation is to reduce it down to just the main framework to make it safe, as total removal seems unnecessary at this time.

In 2020, the Willows on the common were re-pollarded, and were seen to have recovered well, and the Common Elders also look healthy.

On Page's Common, the majority of the trees are in reasonable condition, although Ash Dieback is evident in the Ash trees, with canopies of around 60 – 80%. There is a dead Elm and an Ash with Ash Dieback and basal decay, that should be removed.

As the trees on Pin Mill Common fall within the Conservation Area, the work needs to be carried out with the agreement of Babergh DC. The Parish Clerk will need to ascertain if an application is required or not, and if it is, make the necessary application.

To complete the works specified, it is anticipated that a 2 man climbing team + chipper would be required for in the region of 2 days, plus one man for a morning to get the Elm and Ash down and create a habitat pile. The work would be completed at the discounted cost of **£775**.

NOTE: *Unrelated to the tree survey, but the Grindle along Webb's boatyard is significantly blocked, some of it just rubbish, but there are a lot of reeds growing in it, up near the bridge. Possibly responsibility of the Environment Agency to clear it, but does need to be addressed*.

Introduction

On the 6th October 2021, a visual tree inspection survey was completed by Peninsula Tree Services of the land owned by Chelmondiston Parish Council. The object of the survey is to identify defects and risks, propose prioritised remedial action for the safety of the public, whilst being sympathetic to the natural habitat and ecology.

The inspection follows the Forestry Commission's National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) recommendations as detailed in the publication "*Common sense risk management of trees*" (Click here to view the guidelines) and complies with the classification of a **Formal Inspection**.

Through a formal visual walk-over inspection of the sites, a number of defects have been identified and risks assessed in terms of the position and potential consequence of the defect. A combination of the position and potential consequence is used to prioritise what defects should be dealt with in what order.

The attached appendices provide the detailed score sheets and notes taken during the inspection. Note: Due to the volume of trees on the sites, only trees with defects are recorded, even though trees without defects were also inspected.

Following the NTSG guidelines, the locations has been zoned as follows:

Zone 1 – Pin Mill Common. (High usage)

Zone 2 – Page's Common. (Medium / Low usage)

Inspections carried out at different times of year have different indicators present: in the spring, the canopies are just formed after the winter dormancy period should show a flush of health, but where no growth is seen, indicates a problem. Later in the summer crown condition and early leaf fall is an indicator to ill health, and late autumn, fungal fruiting bodies may be in evidence indicating defects in the core.

It is noted that the Pin Mill Common is within a Conservation Area which restricts the works that can be done to trees without permission from the Local Planning Authority (Babergh District Council) however there are exceptions for a tree that is dead, dying or dangerous.

General observations

Tree management of the locations has been performed regularly over the years, and some remedial work has been identified this year.

At various times throughout the year, high spring tides can be experienced, which result in a significant amount of salt water on Pin Mill common. It is thought this has had a negative effect on the Oak and Sycamore trees on the common, causing very little canopy formation on either tree in 2020, and it was hoped that they would recover in 2021. Although the Sycamore has had a reasonable canopy this year, the Oak has failed to have any again. Some of the branches have started to die and fall, and as there are rope swings and the public underneath, the recommendation is to reduce it down to just the main framework to make it safe, as total removal seems unnecessary at this time.

Condition report

Zone 1 – High usage: *Pin Mill common.*

Z1T1: Oak. For the second year running there has been no leaf cover in the crown, which is thought to have been the result of numerous salt water flooding events onto the common (other Oaks in the area still have a full canopy). Samples of twigs were taken, and when broken, very few showed any significant signs of life. The extremities of a few of the lower branches had some stunted growth, however there was flaking bark and dead / broken branches higher up, and some on the ground. There was also evidence of boring insect damage, which often happens once a tree starts to die.

A number of rope swings exist which have caused minor damage to the bark / cambium layer, but makes the tree a focal point.

Location: Right hand side of Common.

Zero canopy, while other Oaks in the area have a fully canopy.

View of the common / Oak during a high tide.

Action: 1) Reduce the tree down to its main structural framework, as the Oak will be able to stand for many decades, and it does have significant amenity values, both physically and aesthetically.

Remove branches down to approximately the height of the red line, and also remove any smaller branches, such that only main structure remains.

It is not impossible that the tree may put some epicormic growth on once the branches are removed and it has had a few years to recover, but with the inability to photosynthesise, and probable more salt water flooding, the likelihood of it becoming a “full tree” again is remote.

2) As the custodian of the tree, the Parish Council may feel that the swings should be removed as they do not meet any safety standard, although this could be considered an unnecessary action as the tree has been used for children’s swings for generations, and are a “feature” of the common.

Risk rating: High

Z1T2: Sycamore. Similar premature leaf fall / weak canopy formation has been observed previously, which again is probably due to an intolerance to the salty environment that the tree is in. A couple of branches had no leaves, and exhibited flaking bark, indicating they have died.

There are rope swings in this tree also.

Location: Bottom right hand side of Common.

Action: Remove dead branches and monitor future canopy formation.

Risk rating: Medium.

Zone 2 – low / medium usage: *Page's common.*

The trees in this area have undergone a significant amount of maintenance, with numerous dead Elms removed, and the creation of habitat piles, etc., to boost the ecology of the area as a wildlife haven, plus planting new trees and hedge plants.

Z2T1: Elm. Elm tree suffering from Dutch Elm disease. Trees with Dutch Elm disease support a number of invertebrate species, which in turn support other wildlife and add to the bio-diversity, so where possible it is good to be able to keep them, however this one has now been in this condition for a number of years, and the root plate felt unsecure.

Location: At top end of Page's Common, near the "forest school" area. (Z2T2 can be seen to the left).

Action: Fell – leave a high stump, as it is suspected that Stag Beetle larva are probably in the root, causing the insecurity of the root plate.

Risk rating: Medium.

Z2T2: Ash. Ash tree suffering from Ash Dieback. A very poor canopy was evident, and there is significant animal damage and decay in the basal area.

Location: Adjacent to Z2T1.

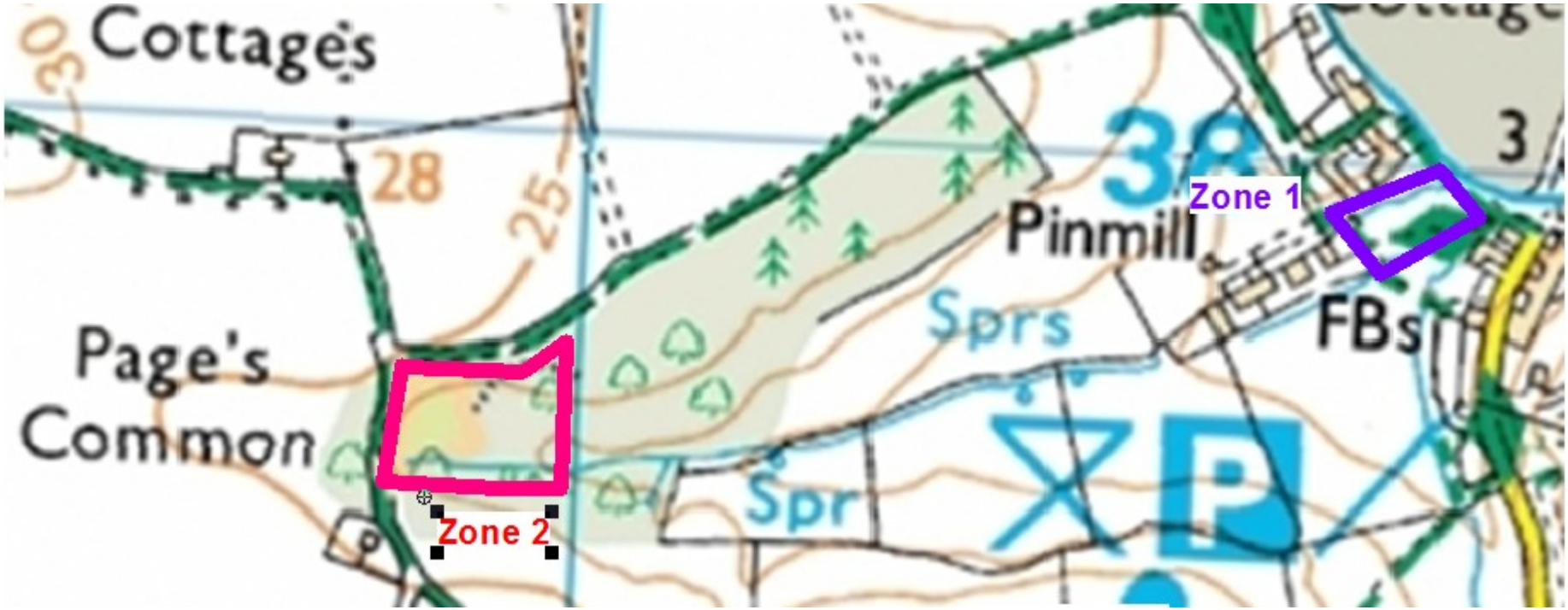
Base of tree

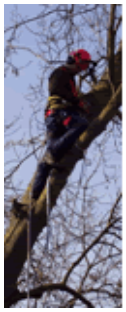
Action: Fell – leave a high stump, as it is suspected that Stag Beetle larva are probably in the root.

Risk rating: Medium.

Plan 1: GPS map of trees: *Note – due to the sky cover, the GPS positions are not 100% precise.*

Plan 2: Map showing risk assessment zones.





Peninsula Tree Services

Mobile: 07777 647 152
Tel: 01473 780857

Ram Cottage, Pin Mill Lane, Chelmondiston, Suffolk. IP9 1JJ
www.peninsulatreeservices.co.uk

Date 6th October 2021 Location Pin Mill common / Page's common

Surveyor's name Lee Foster

	Zone	1	1		2	2											
1	Tree I.D. No.	1	2		1	2											
2	Diameter (m) at 1.3m	2.35	1.52		0.80	0.69											
3	Position score	4	4		4	4											
4	Impact score	4	3		3	3											

5	Live, dead, missing, replaced	?	L		D	L											
6	Disturbance of ground	N	N		N	N											
7	Altered exposure	N	N		N	N											
8	Neglected Pollard	N	N		N	N											
9	Prolific Ivy	N	N		N	N											

10	Unstable root plate	N	N		N	Y											
11	Restricted rooting	N	N		N	N											
12	Butt swell	N	N		N	N											
13	Inadequate stem taper	N	N		N	N											
14	Condition of main stem	M	M		P	M											
15	Wounds	N	N		N	Y											
16	Decay cavities	N	N		N	Y											
17	Target Canker	N	N		N	N											
18	Bleeding canker	N	N		N	N											
19	Flaking bark	Y	Y		Y	Y											
20	Fungal fruiting bodies [Basal]	~	~		~	~											
21	[Stem / limb]	~	~		~	~											
22	Insect exit holes	Y	N		Y	Y											
23	Forks with included bark	N	N		N	N											
24	Ribs and open cracks	N	N		N	N											
25	Abrupt bends / dog-legs	N	N		N	N											
26	Pulvinaria scale	N	N		N	N											

27	New pruning	N	N		N	N											
28	Crown thinness	Y	Y		~	Y											
29	Crown discoloured	Y	Y		~	N											
30	Premature leaf fall	Y	Y		~	Y											
31	Die back	Y	Y		Y	Y											
32	Excessive sinking of branches	N	N		N	N											
33	End loading	N	N		N	N											
34	Storm damage	N	N		N	N											

35	Dark spots/blotches on leaves	~	Y		~	N											
36	Leaf rust	~	N		~	N											
37	Mildew	~	N		~	N											
38	Leaf-eating damage	~	N		~	N											
39	Chemical/salt damage	Y	Y		~	N											

Mobile: 07777 647 152
Tel: 01473 780857

Ram Cottage, Pin Mill Lane, Chelmondiston, Suffolk. IP9 1JJ
www.peninsulatreeservices.co.uk

Peninsula Tree Services

Notes 6th October 2021

		Species		Location
Zone	1	OAK	No canopy formation / swings / salt damage	
Tree ID	1		Trunk: some evidence of boring insects	
Item#	1			
Action	Reduce significantly			On common

Zone	1	SYCAMORE	Early leaf drop / swings / salt damage	
Tree ID	2		Couple of dead limbs	
Item#	1			
Action	Monitor in summer			End of Common

Zone	2	ELM	Dead	
Tree ID	1			
Item#	1			
Action	Fell			Near Forest School

Zone	2	ASH	Suffering from Ash dieback, plus significant basel decay	
Tree ID	2			
Item#	1			
Action	Fell			Adjacent to Z2T1

Zone				
Tree ID				
Item#				
Action				

Zone				
Tree ID				
Item#				
Action				

Zone				
Tree ID				
Item#				
Action				