

Primrose and Bennett Landscapes

Bridge view,
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05/03/2022

Tree report for Mugginton C of E School

Reason for report

I was asked to carry out a tree inspection for Mugginton C of E School for their forest school activity held on land which is on Hunger Lane around 500m from the school. The land is owned by Mark Gowdridge and after the high winds in February 2022 was concerned about the trees around the site and wanted to make sure it was safe for forest school to be held at this location.

Hunger Lane

On the walk down Hunger Lane to the site there are a number of Ash trees either side which are between 100-150 years old. There were multiple small branches down along the lane from the storms but no major damage to any of these trees. These trees will be susceptible to ash dieback disease and I expect they already have it as most trees in this area of Derbyshire have been exposed to it and have it.

As the school doesn't linger under any of these trees on the walk down to forest school then the risk of anyone being under any of these trees when they fail is very low.

Forest school site

The site is located at the bottom of a field next to Hunger Lane and Hungerhill Brook runs along the bottom of the field. Access to the site is through a field gate on the opposite side of the Lane is a large ash tree which is in the later stages of its life. It has many cavities in multiple branches and there is a large cavity located at the base of the tree. The tree is leaning away from the gateway but many of its branches are over the gate way and lane. As no activities are held under the gate and it is only used for access then the risk again is very low.



The site used for forest school has a small bank to the left with multiple Holly trees, large hawthorns and other smaller shrubs. Within these Holly's there is sign of old wind damage but on inspection there is no damage to the base of the tree and there is regrowth which is over a year old so this is not recent. However there are two dead Holly trees which should be removed but do not pose any immediate risk unless there is adverse weather.



Two dead holly's which should be felled

Old wind blown holly

Most of the trees on the site are along Hungerhill Brook, there are large Hazel coppice stools, Alders and occasional Oak. The Hazel stools are old and have not been managed for a number of years there was no signs of damage from the recent storm. There Alder trees didn't have any sign of damage. I could only see one small branch around 2-3 feet in length hanging high up in one of these trees. It would take a very high wind for this to be removed and even then would not pose a significant risk.

There is a small oak tree which is next to the camp area for forest school. I could not see any damage to this tree.



Small branch hanging

Recommendations

On the day of inspection I could not see any reason why forest school could not be carried out on the site. I would advise that the two dead Holly trees on the bank be removed.

The branches which hang over the fence line next to Hunger hill brook be removed as the Hazel stools they come from will at some point fail with this extended weight.

On the days forest school is held the person responsible should look at the weather forecast the day before and if there is a predicted wind speed of more than 35 mph then the activity is not carried out.

After any occasion when the wind speed has reached 35 mph or over then the site should be inspected for any hanging branches or trees which may have failed before any activity can take place.

All work is insured by public liability up to £5,000,000