

Vicar's Wood management plan August 2024

Principles

Preserve existing amenity value but continue to avoid too much human activity away from the main paths; provide more shelter for wildlife by mowing less often and less short, by modifying pruning practices and by applying nest boxes and rotten wood.

Encourage wildlife by gradually reducing the number of exotic trees and shrubs in favour of native plants, chosen to provide not just visual appeal but shelter and food for wildlife.

Use voluntary effort where appropriate to provide both physical help and expertise. Minimise the amount of 'gardening' required to save effort, encourage natural habitats and to minimise disturbance.

Overall plan outline.

Evolution not revolution, retain all the largest trees forming basic structure. Limited felling and maintenance to ensure there is sufficient light, rather than complete tree cover, to encourage varied habitat and more wildflowers. Retain central area of short grass and keep paths clear of encroaching vegetation, especially if it is thorny or stings.

All areas

Allow ivy to climb a few selected trees, prevent it climbing remainder; retain nettles and brambles except where noted. Cut path verges within 0.6 metre of path edge where necessary to prevent vegetation encroaching. Selective removal of nettles and brambles near paths. Leave timber to rot where possible; continue to cut back ash/sycamore regrowth and seedlings. Introduce and maintain more bird and bat boxes.

Council to maintain paths, verges, seats, fences, notices and fund some purchases of plants. Council funded contractor to undertake lopping and felling; volunteers to undertake other tasks, including clearing around new plantings and removing stump regrowth.

A further tree survey is recommended for May 2026.

All volunteer's complete attendance and Health and Safety paperwork for each workday.

Protective gloves and eye protection to be worn as appropriate.

A detailed short-term plan will follow the advice from the tree survey.

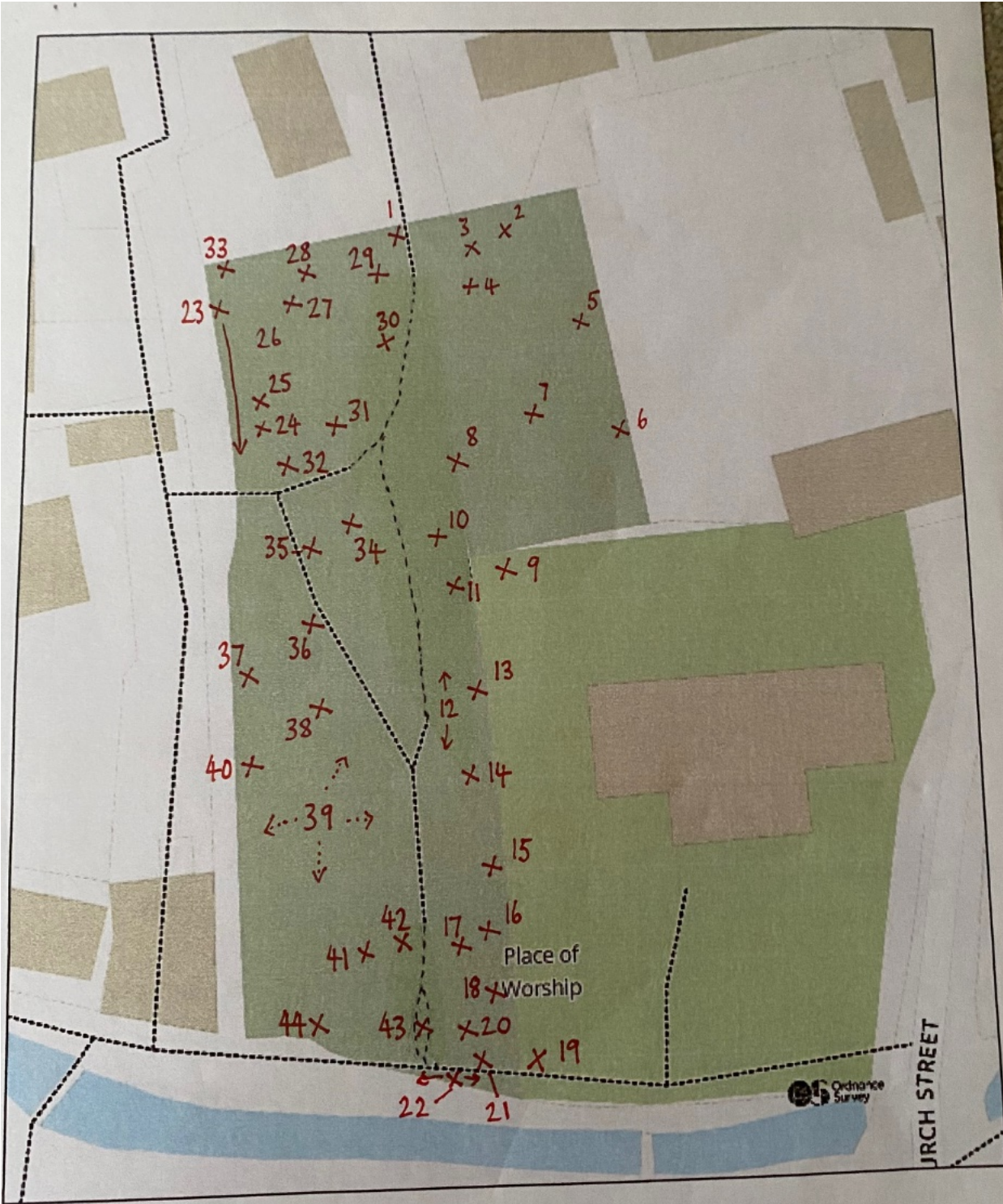
Tree no	Size band	Species	Age class	Condition/ notes	Work required	Priority	Risk category - Nettleham PC
1	S1	mixed	mature	group of shrubs near the entrance path, including Hawthorn, self-set Elder and Prunus, in rather poor condition, falling stems, OHB's to path	copse marked stems - at approx 0.3m, to regenerate	3 months	
2	S4	Fraxinus excelsior Ash	mature	appears to be in moderate condition, unknown Ash dieback, disease status, poor pruning in past - some decayed pruning wounds, high OHB's to neighbour - not actionable	no action		
3	S4	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	mature	2 trees in moderate condition, minor deadwood, active rookery in both, some ivy on stem, a long branch from T2 is rubbing on one branch	no action		
4	S2	Prunus species (probably cerasifera)	mature	tree in poor condition, unbalanced crown, starting to fall to path	pollard at marked point	3 months	
5	S4	Fraxinus excelsior Ash	mature	appears to be in moderate condition, unknown ADD status, slender stem and poor form	no action		
6	S4	Fagus sylvatica Beech	mature	specimen tree in moderate condition, has been pollarded in past, some deadwood including over neighbour, stem is sound	remove deadwood above neighbours garden	3 months	
7	S4	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	semi mature	in moderate condition but poor pruning in past, bifurcates at 1.6m, rookery in crown	no action		
8	S4	Acer platanoides Norway maple	mature	moderate condition	no action		
9	S5	Acer pseudoplatanus Variegated sycamore	mature	specimen tree in churchyard, appears to be in moderate condition, bifurcates at 2m, high and long OHB's to Vicars Wood - low risk	no action		
10	S3	Acer pseudoplatanus Variegated sycamore	mature	in moderate condition, but poor form as suppressed	no action		
11	S4	Acer campestre Field maple	mature	in moderate condition, minor deadwood	no action		
12	S2	mixed	mature	area of scrub - mostly over-mature Dogwood, Elder, Prunus, other shrub species, some stems growing out to path	prune to clear path, suggest some coppicing of shrub species in winter to regenerate	3 months	
13	S5	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	mature	in moderate condition, bifurcates at 2.5m, ivy on stem, high OHB's to churchyard, rookery in crown	sever ivy	6 months	
14	S2	Taxus baccata Yew	mature	in moderate condition but being suppressed by T13 and shrubs	suggest some pruning of tree and shrubs to open up Yew for long term benefit	6 months	
15	S4	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	mature	in moderate condition, rather poor form, minor deadwood, high OHB's to churchyard	no action		
16	S5	Quercus robur Oak	mature	specimen tree in moderate condition, 'clean' stem, some low target deadwood, some poor pruning wounds, OHB's to church floodlight, rookery in crown	prune back overhanging branches to clear light if required	3 months	
17	S2	Yew and Holly	mature	in moderate condition, probably remnant planting of churchyard	no action		
18	S5	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	mature	in moderate condition, some epicormic growth - from old wound or stem removal, minor deadwood, some OHB's to churchyard and floodlight, rookery in crown	prune back overhanging branches to clear light if required	3 months	
19	S5	Aesculus hippocastanum Horse chestnut	mature	significant specimen tree in churchyard, low risk to Vicars Wood	no action		

20	S2	mixed		group of trees and shrubs at south end of wood, including one small Prunus with snapped branch and stem decay (& pigeon nest), Hazel, Hawthorn, Elder, in moderate condition, minor deadwood	no action		
21	S4	Allanhus altissima Tree of Heaven	mature	specimen tree near fence, in moderate condition, poor pruning in past resulting in poor form, 3 main stems, has been suppressed too, stem burl at 3.5m, 2 small branch failure scars	no action		
22	S2	Taxus baccata Yew	mature	group of 3 trees on path side of fence, ownership unclear, in moderate condition, some low twiggy branches to path, some epicormic growth, minor deadwood, roots causing minor lifting of tarmac, the trees add interesting character to the path and entrance to Vears Wood	suggest some light pruning to give approx 2.2m clearance of path	3 months	
23	S2	Elder	over mature	group of self-set trees along the fence and both sides of the entrance path, in rather poor condition; some stems growing out over fence to path, and neighbours fence, some ivy clad and falling stems, OHB's to path, with some Prunus stems, will become a nuisance along boundary fence	copice biggest stems next to fence and both sides of entrance, at approx 0.3m, to regenerate - approx 7 multi-stemmed trees	6 months	
24	S4	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	mature	in moderate condition, was twin-stemmed but one stem removed, some epicormic growth from old wound, minor deadwood	no action		
25	S3	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	mature	in moderate condition, but suppressed by T24, has been pruned back from street light	no action		
26	S2	mixed	mature	group of trees and shrubs north of path and triangle, including Hazel and Elder and planted Oaks, in moderate condition, some good coppice stools developing	no action		
27	S4	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	mature	in moderate condition, bifurcates at 4m, minor deadwood	suggest prune to favour the planted Oaks	1 year	
28	S4	Fraxinus excelsior Ash	mature	appears to be in moderate condition, unknown ADD status, minor deadwood, high OHB's to neighbour, active rookery in crown	no action		
29	S4	Fraxinus excelsior Ash	mature	appears to be in moderate condition, unknown ADD status, some deadwood including small hanger above path - low risk, active rookery in crown	no action		
30	S3	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	mature	in moderate condition	no action		
31	S5	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	mature	in moderate condition, minor deadwood	no action		
32	S4	Juglans regia Walnut	mature	probably the oldest tree in Vears Wood, does have some veteran features, small branch cavities and bark splits, rather poor form, minor deadwood, area of old basal damage, stem is sound	no action		
33	S1	Elder and Dogwood	over mature	group of stems next to wall, in poor condition, unmanaged, Elder snapped onto wall, ivy and other vegetation here is now an actionable nuisance to neighbour, garden waste being dumped in corner	remove/fell stems to clear wall - approx 6 stems including small tree	3 months	
34	S3	Betula pendula Birch	semi mature	group of 5 trees, in moderate condition, one has spindly stem	no action		
35	S2	Ilex aquifolium Holly	mature	in moderate condition, some sub-stems, being pruned back from path	no action		
36	S2	Prunus species (probably cerasifera)	mature	twin-stemmed tree next to path, in rather poor condition, unbalanced crown, growing inter-dependently with other sucker stems, basal cavity	monitor	6 months	
37	S2	Prunus species (probably cerasifera)	mature	in rather poor condition, heavy crown due to fasciation, some dieback, interesting tree	monitor	1 year	
38	S4	Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore	mature	in moderate condition, some epicormic growth and ivy, has been pruned back from street light	no action		
39	S2	mixed	mature	group of Hazel, Elder, Prunus and other shrubs - inc raspberry, between the western boundary and central path, in moderate condition	continue to coppice Hazel and Elder	1 year	
40	S2	Prunus species (probably cerasifera)	mature	tree near fence in rather poor condition, ivy clad crown, starting to grow out to path	sever ivy, prune back from path where required	3 months	

41	S5	Platanus x hispanica London plane	mature	significant specimen tree, DBH 135cm, has been pollarded in past, minor deadwood, has been pruned back from corner street light, active rookery in crown	no action		
42	S5	Platanus x hispanica London plane	mature	significant specimen tree, DBH 107cm, has been pollarded in past, co-dependent with T41, minor deadwood, active rookery in crown	no action		
43	S2	Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn	mature	tree in path 'island' in rather poor condition, old basal and stem damage and decay, unbalanced and slender form as suppressed by neighbouring trees, soil compaction of root plate	suggest pollard at approx 3m to retain as an interesting old tree	3 months	
44	S1	mixed	mature	area of shrubs - Hazel, Elder, Prunus, Snowberry and fruit, in moderate condition, being 'gardened', branches growing through fence to seat and bin	monitor and prune to clear seat and bin when required	3 months	

size ranges: S1 to 5m, S2 5-10m, S3 10-15m, S4 15-20m and S5 over 20m

ADD Ash dieback disease



Vicars Wood, Nettleham
 Lincolnshire
Tree safety survey
 19th & 21st April 2024



