Cumbria Tree Surveys
Arboricultural Consultancy, Surveys, Inspections & Advice

Arboricultural Report

Land North of Greenhill

Kelbrook Road

Salterforth

October 2026

cumbriatreesurveys.co.uk
info@cumbriatreesurveys.co.uk

Arboricultural ASSOCIATION
Professional Member
PR228

FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY ACCORD
THINK SAFE STAY SAFE
MEMBER
2890

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

Contents

1.0	Terms of Reference	1
2.0	Arboricultural Inspection Constraints, Details and Observations	2
3.0	Arboricultural Observations and Comments	3
4.0	Ash Dieback, *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*	7
5.0	TEMPO, Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders	9
6.0	Arboricultural Inspection Recommendations	11
7.0	Photographic Evidence	12

Definitions i
Bibliography

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

1.0 Terms of Reference

1.1 This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Mr Nathan J Hudson of 22 Canal Street, Skipton, BD23 1LB, to assess the overall condition of a recently purchased wooded area known as, Land north of Greenhill. Kelbrook Road, Salterforth. Easting 389121 Northing 445242. SD 8912 4524

1.2 The wooded area being subject to provisional Tree Preservation Order No. 3 2026, Land north of Greenhill, Kelbrook, Salterforth. Dated 11th September 2026.

1.3 This arboricultural report, site visit, assessment and investigation have been undertaken by Mr Daniel Bold M.Arbor.A, N.C. Arb., H.N.D. Arb., N.E.B.O.S.H. General Certificate, of Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy.

1.4 The site investigations, assessments and arboricultural report on the wooded area as a cohesive group has been established by implementing the following:
National Tree Safety Group.
Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (2011), second edition 2024.
British Standard 5837:2012.
Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.
British Standard 3998:2010.
Tree work – Recommendations.
Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders, TEMPO
Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) methods, and Cumbria Tree Surveys protocols.

1.5 The arboricultural inspection and report are an assessment of the tree stock on the date of inspection. Trees are living organisms and undergo alterations in structure and physiology throughout their live stages and as a result of wind, storm and drought weather events, insect, animal and human activity. As such, no tree can be considered as completely risk free. The arboricultural report being valid for a period of 12 months from the date of inspection. No liability will be held by the surveyor or Cumbria Tree Surveys for events that occur post survey date.

1.6 The site survey being undertaken on the 1st October 2026 from ground level with no exploratory excavation works undertaken. Weather at time of inspection, bright, sunny clear with slight breeze.

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

2.0 Arboricultural Inspection Constraints, Details and Observations

2.1 The wooded group inspected and assessed to establish the following details.

2.2 Species.

Common name first, with the scientific botanical name in italics.

2.3 Age Class, Life Stage.

Four age classes as defined in British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations, are available for use for the purpose of this arboricultural inspection report. That is, Young, Semi Mature, Mature and Over Mature. This system represents the tree specimen within its life cycle.

Young being in the early formative years and still with the potential for future vigorous extension growth.

Semi Mature being in essence middle aged with growth having slowed.

Mature is regarded as the stage in the life cycle of the tree specimen when extension growth has virtually ceased and the tree specimen is, in the main, sustaining the life cycle with little or no extension growth.

Over Mature is that stage in the life cycle of the tree where the specimen is in decline.

2.4 Arboricultural Observations and Comments.

Observations and comments regarding the health and safety status, structural condition and overall physiological condition of the wooded area.

2.5 Arboricultural Condition.

An assessment of the overall condition of the specimen taking into account the factors identified in 2.4 and classified as follows: Good, Fair, Poor, Dead.

Good. Trees generally free of defects, structural faults and showing good health shape and form for age and species.

Fair. Trees with minor defects, structural faults and usually of average shape and form for age and species.

Poor. Trees in decline with impaired condition and generally of poor shape and form for age and species and / or with significant structural defects.

Dead. Trees with no indication of life or in advanced stages of decline.

2.6 Arboricultural Recommendations.

Recommendations required for the benefit of good tree care management, sound arboricultural practice and to abate any potential health and safety issues arising from the specimen.

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

3.0 Arboricultural Observations and Comments

3.1 The wooded area consists of mixed species which includes Field Maple, *Acer campestre,* Alder, *Alnus glutinosa,* Grey Poplar, *Populus x canescens,* Cherry, *Prunus species,* Silver Birch, *Betula pendula,* Rowan and Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior.*

3.2 Whilst there appears to be an even species mix. The predominate species is Ash and it is evident the wooded area has been planted as the tree stock would in the main qualify as semi mature with young self-seeded specimens developing. There are a small number of mature Ash tree specimens on the west boundary and are likely to have been present when the area was planted.

3.3 The planted area is contained in a central block with a fallow area of approximately 5-6 metres width around the entire boundary. It would appear to be an unused access track void of tree cover and offers separation from the boundary trees to the north, south and west. The east boundary has recently been fenced with a typical stock fence configuration offering security from the adjacent third party property.

3.4 The age of the wooded area can be established with a certain degree of accuracy as photographic evidence from 2003, as represented in google earth has the agricultural field predominately void of tree cover. (Plan not to scale).



The Imagery date just legible in the bottom right hand corner indicates 01 01 2003. 3

3.5 The google earth screen shot also clearly identifies an existing access to the north west of the area allowing access from Kelbrook Road and the existing highway boundary trees offering screening.

3.6 From the evidence available and assuming the area was planted in 2003. In the absence of any further evidence this would not be an unreasonable estimate, given the nature and the size of the tree stock. The wooded area is therefore approximately 23 years old.

3.7 The site visit of the 1st of October 2026 identified the wooded area has been subject to trespass, vandalism and criminal and malicious damage prior to the purchase by Mr Hudson. The previous owner, who lives away from the property, did not consent to any third party entering the property to undertake tree felling and removal operations.

3.8 The felling works undertaken does not constitute any form of recognised woodland management. Indiscriminate felling of healthy trees has been undertaken with those that are clearly dead, dying and dangerous left in-situ. The trees have not been felled in accordance with good woodland husbandry with stumps left at around 1 metre height. A reason for leaving the stumps at 1 metre is so that good purchase can be attained when the stumps are ripped from the ground by mechanical means. A number of more mature trees have been felled to ground level with the stumps still evident.

3.9 Existing evidence within the wooded area would suggest the trees have been felled indiscriminately as a source of firewood. Various piles of brash are within the woodland with evidence to suggest the arisings and brash have been burned. It needs to be reiterated. Such works undertaken prior to the purchase of Mr Hudson and undertaken without the knowledge of the owner at the time.

3.10 On site evidence exists to suggest that the east aspect of the wooded area has gradually been removed over a number of years due to the actions of a third party. The google earth representation of the woodland in 2018 shows a far greater area than that of 2025 as represented below.

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

Imagery date June 2018.



Imagery date September 2025.



3.11 The imagery would suggest the wooded area has been considerable reduced over the period 2018-2025.

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

3.12 The condition of the wooded area as a cohesive group could be described as poor / fair. The presence of Ash dieback is throughout the wooded area with no formal control undertaken. An example of this is the west boundary of the wooded area that has 33 Ash tree specimens, with 29 showing the various stages of Ash dieback. The consequences of Ash dieback detailed in section four.

3.13 The wooded area has no public access with the area made secure by the means of the newly installed fence to the east boundary of the new ownership. Access to the wooded area has been reinstated in the location of the access as represented historically.

3.14 In purchasing and securing the wooded area Mr Hudson has prevented further trespass, vandalism, criminal and malicious damage and likely theft as timber has been removed previously. Mr Hudson has purchased the wooded area as a family recreational area for the benefit of his family and children.

3.15 Given the current condition of the wooded area and the lack of woodland management the wooded area does need to be maintained with the damaged, vandalised and dead / dying trees maintained as required. Example below of Ash of severely impaired condition as a result of Ash dieback.



© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

4.0 Ash Dieback Disease *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*

4.1 The arboricultural inspection identified the Ash tree population have extensive Ash dieback. In view of the current Ash dieback epidemic, the following needs to be considered and is included for information.

4.2 A widely recognised method of assessing the crown of Ash trees for Ash dieback infection is to classify the degree of infection into one of four categories.
Ash Dieback Infection Stage 1: 0% to 25%
Ash Dieback Infection Stage 2: 25% to 50%
Ash Dieback Infection Stage 3: 50% to 75%
Ash Dieback Infection Stage 4: 75% to 100%

4.3 Ash dieback is a disease of Ash trees caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, previously, Chalara fraxinea. The disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees and often leads to the death of the infected specimen.

4.4 Symptoms of the disease can be visible on leaves, shoots, stems and branches of affected trees. In severe cases, the entire crown shows leaf loss and dieback. This is often associated with the formation of epicormic shoots on branches and stem.

4.5 Leaves are normally only infected by the airborne spores of the fungus. Spores are produced on fallen Ash leaves and shoots in the leaf litter layer usually between June and September in the year after infection.

4.6 Leaves typically show wilting and black-brownish discoloration that extends into the midrib and leaf stalk. The shrivelled leaves remain attached to shoots if these are girdled quickly.

4.7 Branches and stems. Lens-shaped lesions centred on a dead side shoot are often visible on stems and branches. As the lesions girdle, wilting and dieback of shoots and branches, particularly in the upper crown, may be seen. Underneath the bark lesions, wood is often strongly stained.

4.8 Growing trees are known to be weakened to the point where they succumb to secondary pests or pathogens, e.g., Honey Fungus, Armillaria fungi.

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

4.9 Mortality has been observed in as little as two growing seasons. As an Ash tree declines, and where affected by secondary pathogens, it appears to more rapidly lose timber strength and integrity and is prone to structural failure.

4.10 The movement of arisings, wood chip, logs, and timber from infected trees may also be a pathway and vector for the spread of Ash dieback. Although the risk of this is considered low, the movement from site of such items should be avoided.

4.11 Current advice and recommendations. Whilst the advice regarding Ash dieback is under constant review, the current advice from the Forestry Commission as published in Operations Note 46a, the management of individual Ash trees affected by Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), remains as follows:

"Current advice recommends that land managers should already be identifying their ash tree population, assessing ash tree condition, monitoring for any change over time, and be planning mitigation for the expected loss of a large proportion of ash trees. Such works should look to minimise the loss of ash trees as a habitat used by other species and as an important tree in the landscape by, for example, undertaking compensatory tree planting with site appropriate species in advance of the expected loss of ash trees. Land managers need to prepare their resources and manpower to manage any identified risks resulting from changes in ash tree condition. This should include obtaining an approved felling licence for trees on their land so that they can legally fell if they need to. The advice is provided in the knowledge that land managers have an overarching duty to comply with the law, and should be acting now in their preparation to deal with the likely increased risks from ash dieback on their ash trees. In particular, their focus must be on ash trees growing within 'high risk' locations, like those adjacent to highways, service network infrastructure, buildings, or in areas or routes frequently used by the public".

4.12 Brittle and unstable Ash tree specimens are potentially dangerous to fell either by felling from ground level or by section felling / dismantling implementing rigging and traditional arboricultural work at height techniques. Mechanical and assisted felling may need to be considered.

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

5.0 TEMPO. Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders

5.1 Due process has to be followed to establish if the wooded area warrants additional protection in the terms of a tree preservation order. Existing statutory instruments are available that offer the wooded area protection. The Forestry Act of 1967, Environmental Act 2021, National Planning Policy Framework and British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition, construction – recommendations etcetera.

5.2 The fact the wooded area is now in the ownership of Mr Hudson also offers the wooded area protection. The area is now secure with no third party access allowable and living close by Mr Hudson is able to monitor the wooded area. The trespass vandalism and malicious damage have now ceased due to the change of ownership.

5.3 It is a fact that when the wooded area was being subject to trespass, vandalism and malicious damage and was in need of a tree preservation order due to the actual threat. No consideration was given to the protection of the wooded area.

5.4 As the actual threat to the wooded area has been removed by Mr Hudson. It is peculiar that now third party access has been denied and removed that protection of the wooded area is being sought.

5.5 As a result of the trespass, vandalism, malicious damage and lack of good tree care management and sound arboricultural practice over the years. The wooded area needs to be managed. Those tree specimens that are considered dead, dying, dangerous and subject to disease should be considered for removal due to health and safety concerns, although this is considered low due to the area being secure with no public access allowable. Ash trees specimens in advanced stages of decline as a result of Ash dieback should be removed for the reasons of disease control and reducing the potential for further infection.

5.6 The TEMPO assessment shall assess the wooded area as a cohesive group and states the following in relation to dead, dying, dangerous trees:
Dead, dying or dangerous trees should not be placed under a tree preservation order.

5.7 The condition assessment of the wooded area as a cohesive group is therefore considered Fair and is suitable for tree preservation order consideration and scores a value of, **score 3.**

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

5.8 Retention span relates to the longevity in years of the trees as a cohesive group. Given the nature of the species and the current age class of the specimens and the absence of any veteran trees or suitable mature trees. These are likely to have been subject to removal. A conservative assessment of the wooded area would be 20-40 years and is therefore suitable for tree preservation order consideration with a value of, **score 2.**

5.9 A further consideration for application of a tree preservation order is the Relative Public Visibility. The wooded area is not in proximity to any properties. The nearest properties are to the west at approximately 200 metres. The view from Kelbrook Road is restricted in part due to a linear feature of mature highway trees running parallel with the highway. Kelbrook Road is also sited at circa 5 metres below the existing level of the wooded area and given that the speed limit in this area when leaving Barnoldswick changes from a 30 mph to a 50, it is highly unlikely much consideration is given to the visual aspect of the wooded area behind the screening of the mature trees. On that basis it would be reasonable to declare the trees are visible only with difficulty and as such are Barely Suitable with a value of **score 2.**

5.10 The total therefore for the three elements above is **score 7**. With no zeros. On that basis, other factors need to be considered in determining the tree preservation order as the group qualifies for consideration.

5.11 Other factors in the TEMPO essentially concentrate on arboricultural features in general terms. The presence of veteran trees needs to be considered, trees of good form, rare or unusual trees or trees of historic commemorative or habitat importance. Should none of the above apply, as is the case with the wooded area, a value score of 1 is attributed to the tree or group. **Score 1.**

5.12 The total value of **score 8** determines that the wooded area. Does not merit a Tree Preservation Order as stated in the decision guide. Scores 7-10 are within this decision guide category. Trees or groups with a score of 9 minimum are to be considered for the Expediency Assessment in part 3 of TEMPO.

5.13 Expediency assessment concentrates entirely on the threat to the tree / group. Four categories are available. Immediate score 5, foreseeable score 3, perceived score 2, precautionary score 1. With a score of 8, the wooded area does not qualify for consideration in this category.



© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

5.14 It has been determined that the threat to the trees has been removed by the purchase of the land by Mr Hudson. On that basis should the wooded area be subject to the expediency assessment it would only attract a value of score 1.

5.15 It can be concluded from the TEMPO guide that the land north of Greenhill, Kelbrook Road, Salterforth. Does not merit a Tree Preservation Order.

5.16 Value score summary.

Part 1 Amenity Assessment	
Category	**Value Score**
Condition	3
Retention Span	2
Public Visibility	2
Other Factors	1
Total	8

6.0 Arboricultural Inspection Recommendations

6.1 Whilst the TEMPO assessment concluded the wooded area does not warrant additional statutory protection. The wooded area certainly warrants retention.

6.2 Woodland management should be implemented to remove the dead, dying, vandalised and diseased trees with a view to improving the health and appearance of the wooded area. A small number of dead trees could be retained as habitat poles for the benefit of insects, invertebrates and wildlife. An element of brash could also be retained in certain areas to create windrows also for the benefit of wildlife etc.

6.3 Replanting should be undertaken to improve the biodiversity of the wooded area with preference given to British native species of local provenance this includes hedgerow planting particularly to the east boundary. A specification for this can be determined.

6.4 All tree and shrub stock are to comply with British Standard 3936-1:1992 Nursery Stock. Specification for trees and shrubs.

6.5 In accordance with good arboricultural practice and for reasons of Health and Safety. It is recommended that the wooded area be inspected on an annual basis by a professional, trained, experienced and competent arboricultural consultant following Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy protocols.

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

7.0 Photographic Evidence

Evidence of Ash dieback at Kelbrook Road entrance.



Further evidence of Ash dieback to west aspect of wooded area.



© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

Access route to west of wooded area with Ash dieback infected Ash present.



Evidence of tree felling of Silver Birch



© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

Evidence of tree felling and damage with stumps retained at 1 metre throughout the wooded area.



Further stump and extensive wood pile.



© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

Brash and arisings within wooded area.



Additional timber within wooded area. The size and number of wood piles indicating the volume of trees felled.



© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

Evidence of burning and incineration of brash.



Tree stumps to the east. The diameter of the stump evidence that mature trees have been felled to the east boundary.



© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

East boundary of wooded area with newly installed fence and evidence of timber piles beyond the boundary fence.



Further evidence of tree removal debris within wooded area.



© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

Kelbrook Road highway trees with significant grade change to highway area boundary fence.



Kelbrook Road highway trees with low crowns screening the wooded area.



© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

Kelbrook Road highway trees. Mature trees present prior to the wooded area being planted. The tree stock of a size and nature that provides screening of the land to the north of Greenhill, Kelbrook Road, Salterforth.



Signed: *Daniel Bold* Date: 4th October 2026

Daniel Bold M.Arbor.A., N.C. Arb., H.N.D. Arb., N.E.B.O.S.H. General Certificate.
Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy.

Copyright

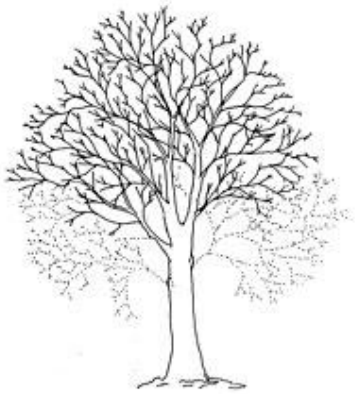
© This Arboricultural Report is the copyright of Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy. Unauthorised reproduction / copying or usage by any organisation or person(s) other than the commissioning agent is therefore prohibited.

Definitions

The following definitions are based on British Standard 3998:2010, Tree work - Recommendations, British Standard 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations and Arboricultural terminology.

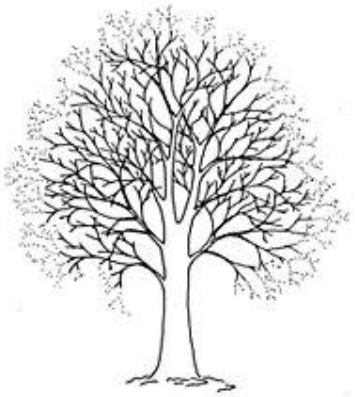
Tree Structure

Stem:	Main supporting body / truck of the tree and crown.
Scaffold Branch:	Main supporting branches for the crown and lead off the main stem.
Secondary Branch:	Branches that lead off the scaffold branches.
Tertiary Branches:	Those branches that lead off the secondary branches are usually small in diameter and contain the leaf cover.



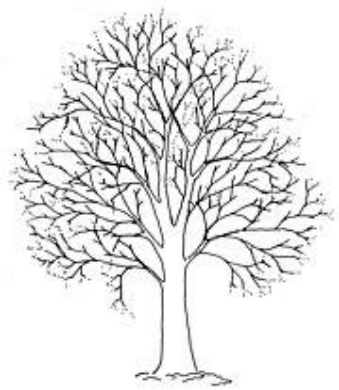
Crown Raising / Crown Lifting

Crown Raising / Crown Lifting is the removal of the lowest branches. Crown Raising is an effective method of increasing the height of the crown over a given target / hazard or obstacle. Crown Raising also enables light transmission to areas closer to the tree. At least two thirds of the total height of the tree should remain. Crown lifting should be specified with reference to a fixed point, e.g. “Crown Raise” to give 5.5 metres clearance above ground level’.



Crown Reduction

Crown Reduction is the reduction in height and / or spread of the crown. The final result should retain the main framework of the crown, and a significant proportion of the leaf bearing structure, leaving a similar, although smaller outline. Not all species are suitable for this treatment and crown reduction should not be confused with ‘topping’, an indiscriminate and harmful treatment



Crown Thinning

Crown Thinning is the removal of a portion of smaller / tertiary branches, usually at the outer crown, to produce a uniform density of foliage around an evenly spaced branch structure. It is usually confined to broad-leaved species. Crown thinning does not alter the overall size or shape of the tree. Material should be removed systematically throughout the tree, should not exceed the stated percentage and not more than 30% overall. Common reasons for crown thinning are to allow more light to pass through the tree, reduce wind resistance and reduce weight It is rarely a once only operation particularly on species that are known to produce large amounts of epicormic growth.

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy

Crown Balance
The method of pruning branches to develop an evenly distributed and weighted crown.

Crown Clean
The method of pruning those branches that are dead, dying, dangerous and deemed to be of poor quality including crossing and rubbing branches.

Side Prune
Method of pruning branches on one side of a tree crown to achieve a clearance from object / obstruction. Similar to Crown Raise.

Coppicing
Cutting trees close to ground level with the intention of encouraging regrowth of multiple shoots. This practice is species and age dependent.

Deadwood
The pruning of dead, dying branches from the crown of the tree. This may be for the entire crown or specific branches are specified in the Arboricultural Report.

Epicormic Growth
The growing of a previously dormant bud on the main stem or limb of a tree. Often as a result of defoliation or radical pruning.

Fell
The felling or dismantling in sections, of a tree to ground level.

Hedge Laying
The established practice of making and or establishing a hedge by correct cutting and pegging techniques. Stems are cut part way through, laid horizontally and pegged to hold them in position.

Pollarding
Quite a specific process that involves pruning a tree so as to encourage formation of numerous branches arising from the same height on a main stem or principal branches. Important. This process ought to be undertaken on a cyclical basis on trees that have not reached maturity.

Root Protection Area
The minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability and where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority.

Windblow / Windblown
Complete failure of the tree due to a wind or storm event.

Bibliography

National Tree Safety Group.
Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (2011), second edition 2024.
British Standard 5837:2012
Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations.
British Standard 3998:2010
Tree work – Recommendations.
Forestry Commission Pest Alert Ash dieback disease, March 2013
Forestry Commission Operations Note 46a. The management of individual ash trees affected by Ash dieback. 7th August 2019.
Tree Valuation Method for Preservation Orders.
Forbes Laird Arboricultural Consultancy.

© Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy