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St. Catherine's Church.
Princess Margaret Road.
East Tilbury. RM18 8PB.

Date 03.10.2025.

Tree Inspection Report

Survey Month: September 2025.

Compiled By: A.G. Mitchell M.Arbor. A. LCGI Am For. Cert Arb RFS

This report relates to the inspection of trees growing within, or close to the boundaries of **St. Catherine's Church. Princess Margaret Road. East Tilbury. RM18 8PB.**

Site Description.

St. Catherine's Church is located on Princess Margaret Road in East Tilbury, Essex. The site comprises the church building, surrounding churchyard, boundary walls, and access paths. The grounds contain a mixture of mature and semi-mature trees, including Sycamore, Leylandii Cypress, Yew, Cherry, and Norway maple. Trees are positioned along the eastern boundary, within the churchyard, and adjacent to public roads and footpaths.

The churchyard is bounded by a retaining wall on the southern side, with vehicular and pedestrian access from Princess Margaret Road. The eastern boundary is lined with Leylandii Cypress, some of which have experienced partial stem collapse. The site is open to public access and includes pathways leading to the riverfront.

The purpose of the inspection is to identify any actual or potential threats trees on and off the site, may cause to people, structures, buildings and vehicles.

TREE SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

Survey carried out by: A.G. Mitchell ***M.Arbor. A. LCGI Am For. Cert Arb RFS.***

Survey type.

All trees on the site were inspected from the ground only for visible physical and biological defects. In order to assess 'cavity' defects, when considered necessary, further checks were made with the use of a Borescope, sounding mallet, a cavity probe and 8 x 40 binoculars.

Only the proposed work is recorded.
No core samples were taken.
No soil samples were taken.
Information in this report relates only to the the condition of the trees at the time of survey.

All recommendations are advisory only. It is for the church authorities to decide implementation of any works.

It is recommended that all trees be visually inspected annually, and in particular, after any severe or unusual weather event. The date and findings should be recorded in a maintainance diary even if no work is required to the trees.

In order to identify the trees against the location plan and the recommended works schedule. An aluminum numbered identity tag was nailed to each tree at a height of approximately 1.8m.

SUMMARY

7 Individual trees surveyed.

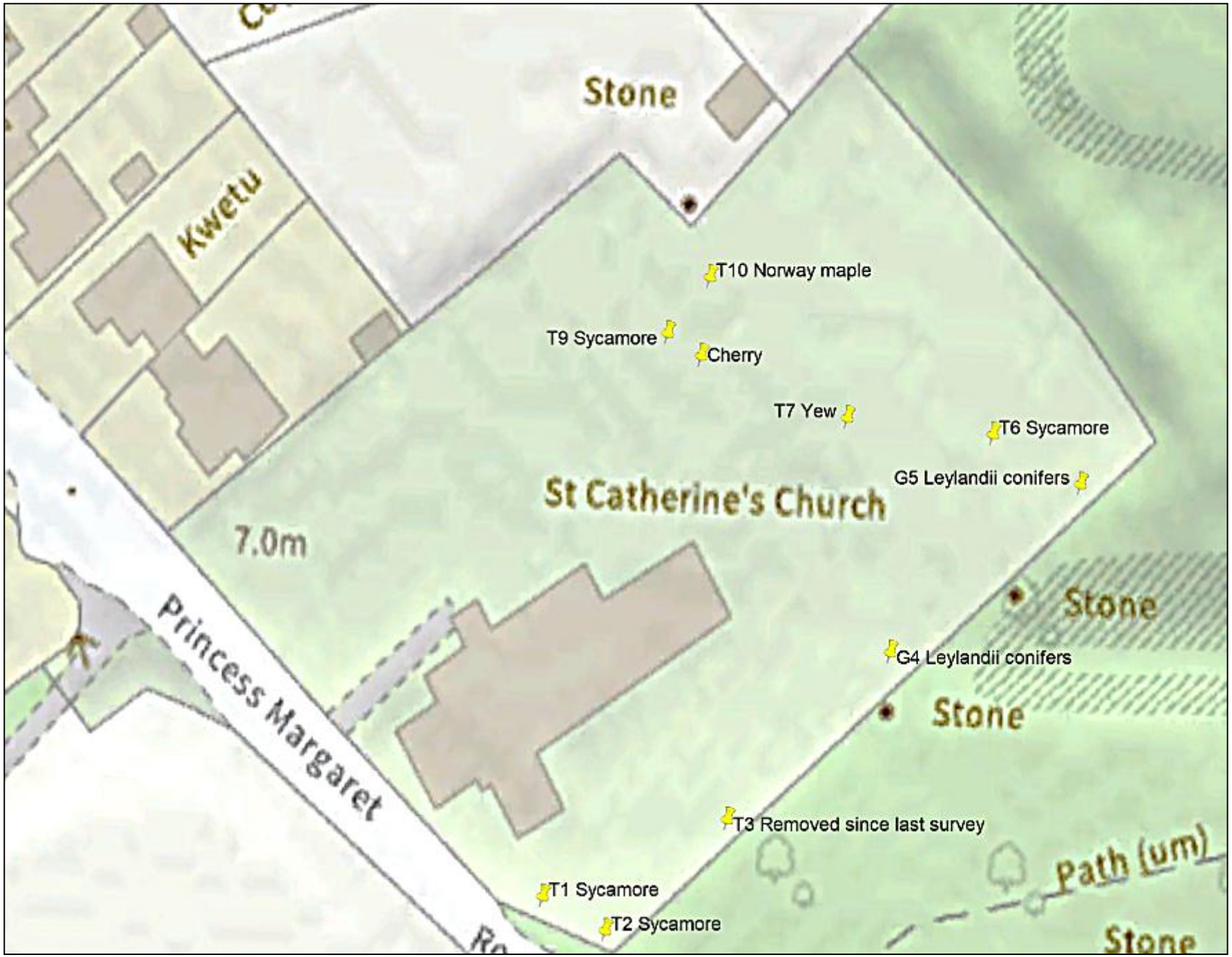
2 Groups of multiple trees surveyed.

T1 Sycamore is classed as PRIORITY.

G4 Trees/groups classed as 'ORANGE' = to be included in a programme of scheduled tree works.

T2, G5 and T7 Trees/groups classed as 'NO WORK REQUIRED AT PRESENT TIME.

Tree cutting operations must be carefully timed to avoid disturbance during the bird nesting season, which typically runs from March 1st to August 31st in the UK. During this period, active nests are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it an offence to intentionally damage or destroy a nest in use or being built. As such, any tree works—especially those involving crown reduction, felling, or limb removal—should be preceded by a thorough inspection for nesting activity. If nests are found, works must be postponed until the young have fledged. Outside the nesting season, tree cutting should still be conducted with ecological sensitivity, ensuring minimal disruption to local wildlife and compliance with best practice guidance.


Stone
Kwetu
T10 Norway maple
T9 Sycamore
Cherry
T7 Yew
T6 Sycamore
G5 Leylandii conifers
St Catherine's Church
7.0m
Stone
Princess Margaret
G4 Leylandii conifers
Stone
T3 Removed since last survey
Path (um)
T1 Sycamore
T2 Sycamore
Stone

Tree No.	Species	Age	Hgt (m)	Observations	Recommendations
T1	Sycamore	EM	13	700mm base. Tri stem from 2m above base Crown has heavy lean to south over road. Crown reduced after last survey. Crown weight still totally biased towards road. Bark flaking on tension side of lower trunk. Bark creases at union of stems possibly indicating slow progressive collapse of trunk towards road. Unacceptable risk. If collapse occurs, high potential to cause injury to road users and to severely damage boundary retaining wall of church yard.	Remove stems at points indicated by dashed lines in image 1. Remove any resulting regrowth from cut points at no more than 5yrs. Continue to cut through/remove Ivy.
T2	Sycamore	SM	15	Previous crown reduction. Good leaf cover. Of average form.	No tree work required at present time. Continue to cut through/remove Ivy from trunk.
T3	Felled by recommendation from earlier tree survey.				
G4	Leylandii group	SM	16	Group of Leylandii cypress along eastern boundary. Tall over-extended poles susceptible to wind throw. Stem collapse from trees 2 & 3 already occurred.	Reduce height of all stems of trees 1 & 2 by a maximum of 4m. Leave both trees standing to give mutual support to other trees in group. Reduce side of tree number 1 that faces the church by 1.5m.
G5	Leylandii cypress	EM	4	Of poor form. Restricted growth due to adjacent trees	No Work Required at present time
T6	Sycamore	SM	16	700mm trunk. Good form, well developed balanced crown. Minor dead branch above access path.	Remove minor dead branch above access path leading to riverfront. Remove/cut through Ivy.
T7	Yew	Y	4	Of average form. Bifurcate stems.	No work required at this time.
T8	Cherry	EM	8	Over extended unbalanced crown branches. Crown weight biased to south and east.	Reduce length to south and east by 2.5m maximum. Reduce top by 2m maximum
T9	Sycamore	M	20	700mm stem. Bifurcate from 1.5m. Co-dominant stems leading into tall crown structure. Crown becoming over-extended. Several bird holes in stem indicate possible areas of soft wood. Historic storm damage on southern stem at 6m, possible decay pocket. Ivy on stem. Possible bat roost at 3.5m mentioned in earlier survey. At time of this survey, cobwebs covered entrance of said hole. Unlikely to be bat activity.	Reduce whole crown by no more than 3m. Balance top to suit sides. Remove/cut through Ivy.
T10	Norway maple	M	20	800mm stem. Rib 'wound' present on lower stem at northeast possibly indicating internal crack. Crown growth to south restricted by T9. Minor dead wood in crown	Reduce whole crown by no more than 3m. Balance top to suit sides. Remove dead wood with diameter greater than 20mm.

A significant amount of encroachment into the church yard from off-site shrubs is occurring particularly along the western and north-eastern boundaries. It is recommended that the shrubs along these boundaries be cut back to the boundary fence.

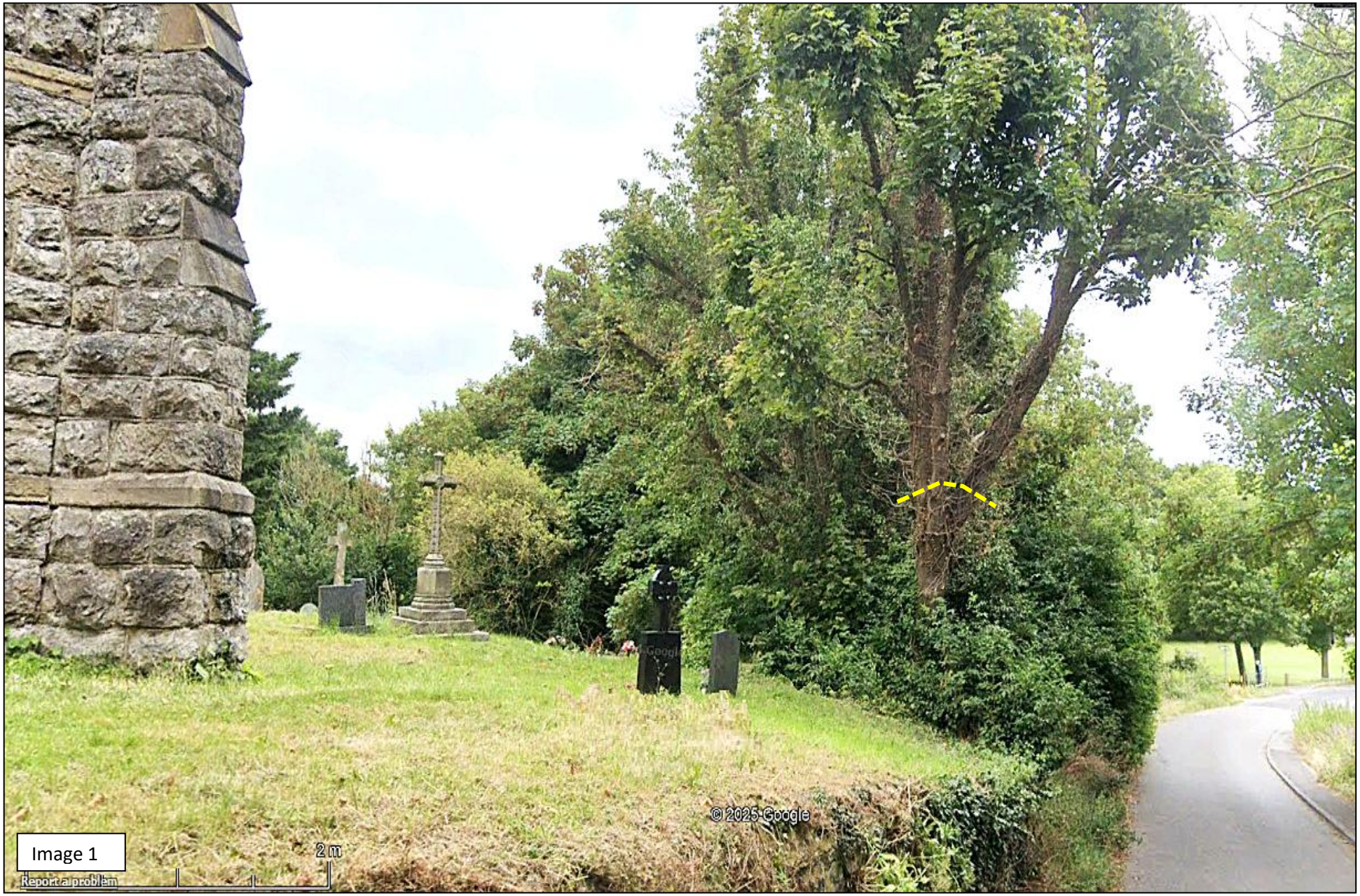


Image 1

By way of qualification to undertake the tree survey. An outline of A.G. Mitchell's arboricultural education and experience is shown below.
(Not exhaustive).

Alan Mitchell. *LCGI Am For. Cert Arb RFS. M.Arbor. A*

Principal of A.G. Mitchell Countryside (est. 1995).

1994-2003 Technical and craft courses of study in Arboriculture at Otley College, Suffolk and Capel Manor College, Enfield. And Ecology, and Environmental Conservation at Capel Manor College. Enfield.

Professional Member Arboricultural Association. • Licentiateship in Amenity Forestry City & Guilds London Institute. • Certificate in Arboriculture Royal Forestry Society. • Certificate in Arboriculture City & Guilds London Institute. • Certificate in Environmental Conservation. City & Guilds London Institute.

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BSI Publication

Selected images provided by
Google Earth.

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