



Ash die-back project Marlborough Car Park



OVERVIEW

Being one of Wiltshire Council's approved contractors, Tree Technique was engaged to remove several Ash trees with Ash dieback in the Georges Main Carpark, Marlborough, Wiltshire.

BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

Results from a recent survey had deemed that approximately 8 Ash trees of various ages and sizes, were unsafe to be retained in a place of high public footfall due to Ash dieback disease. Many of the trees were clad in ivy and were potential habitats for wildlife including nesting birds.

PLANNING

**Initial site
and work assessment**
by Tree Techniques
surveyor

Site considerations

- Access
- Car park
- Public footpath

Outcome

- Car park closure agreed with the Parking department of the Council once engaged to carry out the work
- This allows space for felling the trees, thus reducing risk of flying debris hitting cars providing a 20 metre clear zone
- Car park cordoned off in the early morning of the day of the work by the parking attendant

Environmental considerations

- Nesting birds
- Bats
- Noise
- Stream

Outcome

- Use of bio-oil in the chainsaws to remove any risk of contamination
- Use of drone to check for nesting birds in the canopy of the Ash trees and works deferred for one Ash tree as a result of the drone assessment

Tree work considerations

- Condition of the trees
- Working at Height regulations

Outcome

- Not all trees safe to climb
- Combination of methods to be used
- Felling from ground level as available space all except one Ash tree
- Dismantle through climbing with two ropes and harness and spikes the one Ash tree in shrub bed as deemed of a condition safe to climb to reduce risk of damage to surrounding shrubs

RESOURCE ALLOCATION




The team was to consist of 7 personnel to ensure that the site could be effectively managed and the work carried out efficiently and safely allowing for the operational use of the car park to be available as soon as possible.

Machinery and vehicles were selected that could process and haul all the arisings in one visit, to minimise disturbance. The Unimog with low loader, Arb-digger, 14" Bandit woodchipper and several 3.5t vehicles were felt enough to carry all arisings back upon completion.



OUR APPROACH

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- Our 7-person team all arrived on site for around 8 am to be greeted by the parking attendant for Wiltshire Council. The parking spaces were all cordoned off as previously agreed.
 - A site meeting and risk assessment took place to delegate staff tasks and identify the risks specific to the task on that day.
 - There were still members of the general public passing through the work zone, so two members of the team were designated to control the public and remove any risk of them entering a live site.
 - The river was highlighted to the whole team and documented within the site-specific risk assessment.
 - A bird survey was then carried out. Several nests were spotted in the top of one of the Ash trees. The crew had access to a drone, so the drone was launched to get an overhead view of the nests, to conclude whether there was any activity. Unfortunately, there was.
 - A call was made to the Client to ascertain their view on retaining the tree for several months in its current state until the birds had left. This was agreed and the tree was removed from the work order.
 - Work began and the trees were carefully assessed and felled from ground level or dismantled in line with the initial planning assessment.
 - The brushwood from the larger trees was fed into the Bandit wood chipper using the 3-tonne Arb-digger and grab, removing any need for manual handling. The timber was cut into 2.4m lengths and loaded onto the bed of the low loader trailer, again, removing any manual handling of heavy objects.
 - The smaller trees were chipped by hand using the TR8 Forst wood chipper, directly into the back of the 3.5 vehicle chip box.





RESULT

On completion of all cutting the work areas were raked over by hand, debris was collected into bags and leaf blowers were used to achieve a tidy, clean finish. Photographs were taken of the finished works. The car park was then handed back over to the parking attendant to re-open to the public and the team left the site to dispose of all the arisings.

CONCLUSION

The photographs of the finished site were uploaded onto the client's portal on the Tree Techniques management system to be easily accessed by the client as evidence of completed works.

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