

Single site survey

Client: St Thomas' Church

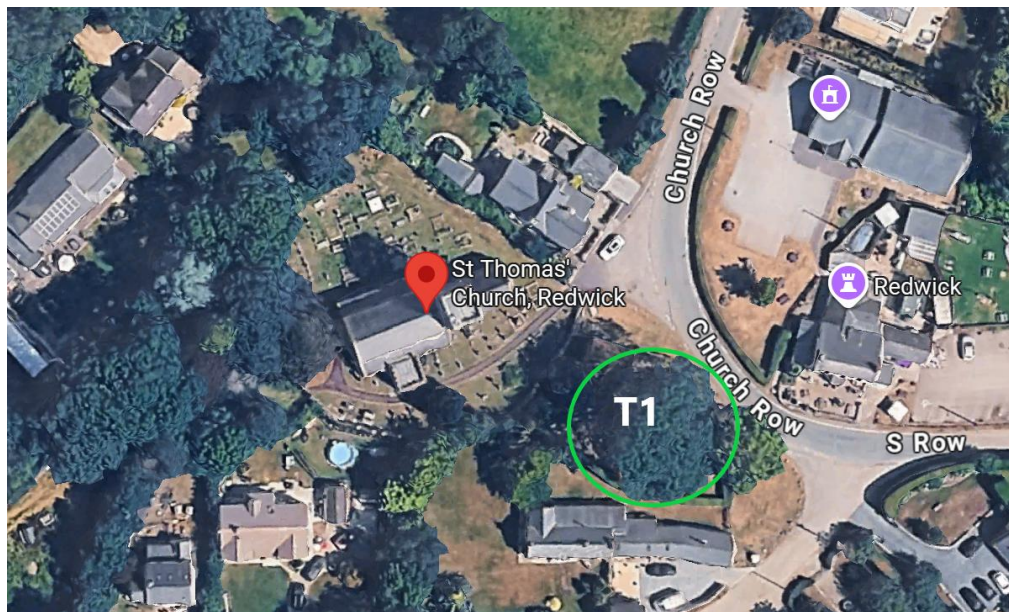
Date: 23.07.2026

Priority: 6 months

Surveyed by: James Pinder

Address: 3 Church Row, Redwick, Caldicot NP26 3DE

Location description: Tree located to the "Cider Press" building in the village centre



Tree info:

- Mature open crown ash tree
- Height 26m
- Spreads average 11m
- Stem diameter 950mm
- Fair physiological condition
- Characteristic structural condition
- High target area

Observations

- Semi-mature low stem epicormic shoots.
- Stem epicormic shoots show no Hymenoscyphus fraxineus infection.
- Open stem cavity wound at historical limb removal wound 2.2m to west of stem.
- Further occluded limb removal wound at 5m west side of stem.
- Potential for the stem to be hollow between the two points noted above.
- Dead wood throughout crown averaging 80mm diameter.
- Some dead wood as a result of natural cladoptosis but other sections most likely due to Hymenoscyphus fraxineus infection.
- Outer crown Hymenoscyphus fraxineus infection appears stabilised.
- Wide and spreading crown.

Tree Survey Sheet

Job issued:
Completed:

- Buildings within the vicinity of the tree are likely to alter aerodynamic loads and potentially affect the spreading limbs that may have become more brittle due to *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (stabilised) infection and current 2026 drought.
- Evidence of historical storm damage.
- Recent drought stress failed 90mm diameter branch from north crown.

Conclusion:

This mature ash tree in the village centre is an impressive tree. It has formed a main focal point in the village centre for many years. *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* has been a factor in the tree's recent life but there is evidence to suggest that the decline of foliage tips has halted. There are historical stem/limb removal wounds that do indicate there may be some degree of hollowing within the stem but hollow mature trees are a reasonably normal occurrence. Overall, the risks from the tree are the obvious chances of falling dead wood to the area below the tree's crown or the potential of elongated limbs to suffer breakage due to climatic conditions or disease. The recent 90mm diameter limb failure is highly likely to have been down to drought and the limb being a north crown limb (north facing limbs can often have phototropic form and extended length with the branch looking for light).

I have considered the tree's overall condition and location and have written a management prescription below. The dead wood removal is the most important factor but some degree of crown pruning could reduce sail area and limb tip mobility in high winds. Maintaining the tree's overall silhouette will however be important so that the tree's crown will continue to develop in the best way possible.

Recommendations:

1. Remove semi mature stem epicormic shoots using natural target pruning.
2. Remove dead wood from crown greater than 15-20mm diameter.
3. Prune out storm damage stubs.
4. Lift low crown foliage to a uniform 4m height.
5. Consider crown reduction of crown (2-3m) to reduce limb breakage potential.
6. All pruning work to be in accordance with BS3998 2010.
7. Review tree's condition in summer 2029.

