Annual Tree Health & Woodland Inspection.

Site:

Site Number:

Inspector:

Date of inspection:

Tree Protection

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Annual Tree Health & Woodland Inspection

Introduction

In endeavour to sustain and maintain sound management of the tree and woodland asset associated with the title site a general condition survey has been carried out

The primary aims of the task are:

• To assess the current condition of the existing woodland and individual trees to meet the audit requirements for the site.

• Identify any and all arboricultural and tree management related matters that need address.

Limitations

The details and conditions of the trees and general condition of other assets/aspects around the site are recorded as found during the time of the survey, where the weather conditions were 2°C, sunny and clear, frosty.

Changes to existing site conditions may influence the condition of individual tree specimens or groups of trees that, where as a result of common crown establishment, have a common interaction.

While every effort has been made to detect defects, no guarantee can be given as to the absolute safety or otherwise of any individual tree or groups of trees where their crowns have an influencing factor.

Trees are living organisms and are subject to influence by sudden changes in climatic conditions.

The trees have been inspected from ground level employing Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) techniques.

Trees and Woodland areas inspected/assessed by pedestrian traverses around the specific site, to observe any tree health related issues or damage caused by climatic extremes, that could produce an unacceptable risk to any users of the site or neighbouring properties including roads, footpaths etc.

Should any issues be observed during the inspection works will be programmed accordingly to alleviate any potential risks.

Where access is restricted due to gradients/physical obstructions to allow 360-degree, examination of trees these are viewed from as safe proximity as can be achieved and visual aids such as binoculars are used.

No decay detection equipment was used, unless stated. It is recommended that trees continue to be inspected regularly.

The information contained within this report is for the sole use of Greenbelt Group Ltd, its officers and any agents approved by them, relative to the site in question.
Any reference to the details of the survey by any third party is done so at their own risk.

Methodology

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Works Prioritizations

Priority levels for identified works or works proposals.

High - Works should be completed at the earliest opportunity.

Moderate - Works to be completed within a six-month timescale.

Low - Less time critical, works should be undertaken within a twelve-to-twenty-four-month timescale or part of a long-term management plan.

Age Classification

Age class of trees is recorded as follows:

Semi-mature: Established tree but less than 1/3 of its potential life expectancy.

Early Mature: Well-developed trees but not yet fully matured, typically of 1/3rd to 2/3rd life expectancy.

Mature: Typically, of over 2/3rd life expectancy.

Over-Mature: tree coming to the end of their natural lifespan and typically containing significant structural defects and or decay.

Ash Dieback

Chalara, known commonly as Ash Die Back caused by the fungus (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) is now considered to be endemic and widespread throughout much of the UK. Symptoms/symptomology are not always obvious on mature trees, especially when leaves have already fallen.

The rate of decline of infected trees and the long-term prognosis for the health of Ash trees generally is currently uncertain.

Some research suggested that the UK may experience losses of up to 95% of its Ash trees and that, once infected, trees decline rapidly causing premature failure of the canopy of the infected trees.

Premature removal of healthy trees is, however, not recommended at this stage. Once trees are infected and reach less than 50% of their normal foliar density, then it may be prudent to consider the removal of such trees where they pose a threat to persons or property

Site Description

This woodland is that of Policy Planting in origin and sits to south end of the development wrapping around the entranc and the amenity grassland.

A1, species composition: - ash, sycamore, holly, birch, lime.

A2, species composition: - holly, ash, sycamore, horse chestnut, lime.

A3, species composition: - birch, plant, alder, ash, oak, fir, abies procera, holly, hawthorn, pine, hazel, weeping beech, Y

Site Survey

Advisory, with the recent extreme climatic occurrences, drought and storms, trees can become stressed and exhibit ill h term period.

The trees will be monitored accordingly, annually by the Arboricultural Manager and monthly by the Operations Manage health actions be required, depending on the work priority/prescription, the prescriptions will be programmed accordin

Recently, the months of May to October, has been uncharacteristically dry, this can and will affect some trees by placing observed by small chlorotic foliage or necrotic foliage.

The trees (especially the ash trees) will be monitored accordingly, and should any actions be required, depending on the work priority/prescription, the operations will be programmed accordingly.

A1, species composition: - ash, sycamore, holly, birch, lime. Leaning laburnum tree, to be removed, previous prescribed work completed.

A2, species composition: - holly, ash, sycamore, horse chestnut, lime. Monitor the ash and chestnut. A chestnut has been removed as previously prescribed.

The ash tree hosts canopy deadwood, wood pecker holes indicating decay in the main stem, it has a pholioata colonisation around the base of the tree, there are inonotus colonisations on the tree, it is concerning as it causes heart decay, so close to the wood pecker activity, along with suspected ash dieback, the tree is in severe decline, photo attached, remove the tree within six months, and replant with a lime species tree.

Twin stemmed chestnut, previously reduced, has giant polypore colonisations, decay in the main stem, observed is cambial necrosis, remove the tree within six months, replant with a fastigiate hornbeam or similar species.

A3, species composition: - birch, plant, alder, ash, oak, fir, abies procera, holly, hawthorn, pine, hazel, weeping beech, Yew, lime, hazel.

Some of the horse chestnut have leaf miner, and the host symptoms of bleeding canker, additionally the fungus dryads saddle was observed, these trees will be monitored accordingly.

The ash trees have ash dieback, and shaggy polypore at the basal area, the trees will also be monitored. Two trees have been reduced historically; they are in fair health and will be monitored.

Cut ivy at base of trees in A1 + A3 throughout the wooded arear to allow detailed inspection of the trees.

Previous work has been completed.

Please note if the trees are protected by either Conservation Area or Tree preservation Order legislation, an application will be required in the first instance, if the tree are not protected then under Common Law, trees that affected land owners can prune any overhanging growth providing the cuts are made on their side of the boundary. If the works undertaken weaken or subject the trees to stress and ill health, the perpetrator/s can be held to account of their actions in a court of law.

If tree failure occurs after unauthorised works, Greenbelt will not be held responsible.

Recommendations

Prescribed work:

Remove the ash and the chestnut in A1, the trees have blue dots on them, six month timescale, cut ivy at base of the trees.

Ash in A1, Pholiota at base.

Ash in A1, wood pecker holes, and inonotus

Chestnut in A1, giant polypore colonisation.

Chestnut in A1, cambial necrosis and more dryads saddle.

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