



ARBOR-FOLIA, 62 MANOR GRANGE, LANCHESTER, DURHAM, DH7 0LT



Arbor-Folia

ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANCY

HEALTH & SAFETY TREE AUDIT

Client: Greenbelt Group LTD

Site Reference: 1909=Emerald Green

Date: August 2020

Prepared by: William Barron FdSc Arboriculture



TEL: 07943 732 447 EMAIL: arbor-fovia@hotmail.com



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Scope & Brief

A survey was carried out at the request of Greenbelt Group Ltd to assess the safety level of the trees within their duty of care at the location stated in section **1.3** below. The purpose was to identify specific trees within the site boundary with regards to their risk level to public health and safety.

Hazards within each tree surveyed would be recorded with subsequent works recommended to alleviate these issues and provide a plan for the management of these trees from a health and safety perspective.

Trees requiring works were categorised as high, medium or low priority and a prioritised work schedule was created based on the methodology stated in **section 3.7**

The data recorded included, species (common name), height, age, condition. Detailed explanations of these criteria are in the methodology section of this report (**section 3**).

The data is recorded in the Tree Survey Schedule section (**section 4**) of this report and includes comments identifying faults and hazards with respect to crown form, condition, storm damage and disease. A recommended action was given for each tree.

All works recommended should be carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 Tree Work - recommendations.

Any trees recorded as part of the survey are plotted on the accompanying map (**section 4.3**).

1.2 Limitations

Trees with extensive ivy cladding were not thoroughly observed due to the difficulty to assess cavities and any hidden defects positioned underneath. With respect to this, the ivy should be severed to restrict its future growth and where applicable, removed to allow a detailed inspection to be carried out.

All observations were from ground level without detailed inspection and were not inspected from an aerial perspective or the use of decay detection equipment.



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As trees are living organisms their health and condition can change rapidly. All statements made about the trees were based on the status of the trees at the time of inspection. Extreme weather conditions such as prolonged rainfall (flooding) and storm winds can change site factors. Trees should be reassessed after such events to ensure continuing safety levels.

1.3 Site Location

Green Lane, Penistone, Sheffield, S36 6BE

2.0 Statutory Protection

2.1 Tree Protection

A variety of statutory restrictions apply to felling, pruning or damaging of trees with preservation orders (TPO) or within conservation areas (Department for communities and local government, 2014). With exceptions of these restrictions available.

Any trees that require arboricultural works should be checked for any restrictions prior to works commencing.

Applications should be made for trees restricted with a TPO and a six week notification made for works in a conservation area.

Where works are deemed exempt, a submission of a 5 day notification of works should be made in accordance with section 198 (6)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

2.2 Wildlife Protection

As part of the survey tree was inspected from ground level with the use of binoculars for signs of wildlife habitation, in particular birds and bats.

All bats and their roosts are protected by law (The Wildlife and countryside Act 1981 & conservation of Habitats as Species regulations 2010).

Penalties and prosecution for causing damage to bat's or roosts is up to £5,000 per bat and a prison sentence, plus confiscation of vehicles plant and machinery involved.

In the UK all wild birds and their nests are protected by law (The wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 & The Countryside Act 2000).



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The presence of Bats/roosts or birds nesting will be noted within the survey, where possible all works should be carried out to avoid the bird nesting season.

Prior to any tree works, a visual inspection should be carried out by a qualified person to ensure that there is no loss of protected wildlife habitat.

3.0 Methodology

The individual trees were assessed using Claus Matthecks methods as stated in his guide to visual tree assessment, with a copy of the updated version at hand for instant reference.

The following data was collected for each tree;

- Species (common name)
- Height
- Age
- Condition
- Comments
- Action
- Priority

Trees were given a sequential identification number. A number of trees were recorded as a group or woodland area. This generally consisted of trees that were very similar in terms of species and/or age. See appraisal **section 4** for definitions of groups and woodlands. All groups/woodland areas were plotted on the accompanying map. All trees on site were observed. Trees requiring works were recorded in the appraisal and plotted on accompanying maps

3.1 Height

The height was estimated visually and is expressed in metres (to the nearest metre)

3.3 Age

The age of each tree is expressed using the following terms:

- Y Young
- SM Semi-mature
- EM Early-mature
- M Mature
- OM Over-mature



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3.4 Condition

The overall condition of the trees was assessed with regards to its vigour, stem condition, and crown form, and is expressed using the following terms:

- P (Poor)
- F (Fair)
- G (Good)
- D (DEAD)

3.5 Comments

Any hazards or defects observed within each tree were recorded. A definition of terminology used can be found in **section 6** of this report.

3.6 Action

An action was recommended for each tree to alleviate any hazards/defects identified in the comments section of the data collected.

3.7 Priority

The priority for each action required was based on individual tree locations (e.g. near roads, footpaths or buildings) and the severity of the hazards identified in the comments section.

Recommended actions should be undertaken within the following time restraints from the date of the report;

High (H) - as soon as possible within a 3-month limitation.

Medium (M) - within 12 months.

Low (L) - if desirable and/or as part of a long-term management plan.





4.0 Tree Survey Schedule

I carried out an unaccompanied site visit on Thursday 6th of August 2020. The weather that day was overcast with intermittent light rain showers. The weather conditions did not affect the observations of the trees.

4.1 Site description

Tree cover is in the form of a large woodland area to the northeast of the development with an amenity green space to the southeast of the woodland.

4.2 Appraisal

T-Tree, **H**- Hedge, **G**- Group of similar age/species trees, **W**- Woodland area comprised of mixed species and mixed age trees. **F**- Tree to be felled
*- Additional works

Age key: **Y** - young, **SM** - semi mature, **EM** - early mature, **M** - mature, **OM** - over mature, **V** - veteran

Height: Estimated to the nearest metre (for groups/woodland areas ^ represents the height of the tallest specimen)

Condition key: **D** - dead, **P** - poor, **F** - fair, **G** - good

Priority key: **High** - as soon as possible, **Medium** - as part of a management program, **Low** - desirable but not essential

Tree No.	Species	Age	Height	Condition		Comments	Action	Priority
				Str	Phys			
Area 1	Birch, Turkey Oak, Rowan, Alder	Y- SM	^10	F-G	F-G	Group of amenity specimens located around the perimeter of an open grassed area. All in fair to good condition.	See *1 below	-
*1	Turkey Oak	SM	8	G	G	Branches beginning to encroach on neighbouring property (No. 4 Usker Close).	Sympathetically prune to clear building by 1m	L
Comp 1	Goat Willow,	SM- EM	^12	F	F	Small compartment of Semi-mature to early mature aged trees. Minor deadwood present in	No action required at present	-





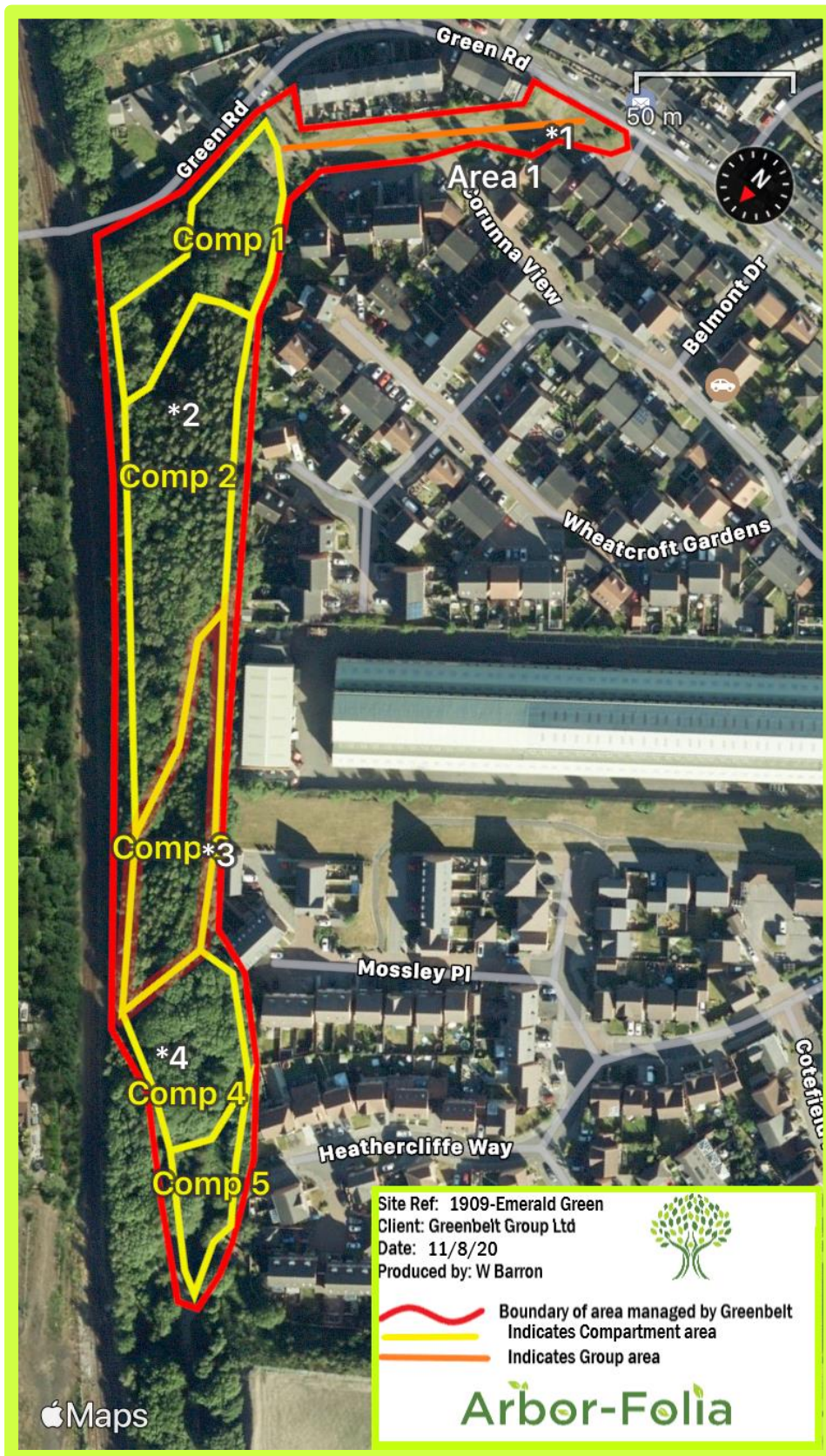
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	Sycamore, Horse Chestnut, Hawthorn,					some crowns generally characteristic of species and woodland growing habits.		
Comp 2	Birch, Willow, Oak,	Y-M	^18	F-G	F-G	Good stand of woodland specimens consisting of birch (80%) with occasional Goat willow, interspersed with young oak, hawthorn and rowan.	See *2 below	-
*2	Goat willow	SM	7	P	F	Single stem split and hung up in adjacent tree over rough footpath.	Remove from adjacent tree and leave arisings in situ	M
Comp 3	Birch, Willow	Y- SM	^8	F-G	F-G	Densely populated compartment of young aged birch specimens with occasional goat willow.	Thin compartment by 30% to allow a better quality stand of trees to develop. See *3 below	L
*3	Willow	Y	^4	F	F	Crowns of self-sown boundary specimens encroaching on neighbouring property.	Remove specimens to clear building by 2m	M
Comp 4	Goat willow, Birch, Hawthorn	SM- M	^16	F	F	Compartment consisting mainly of willow (80%) with occasional birch and under canopy of hawthorn and young willow. Ivy growing on majority of larger willow specimens.	Sever ivy on selected path side specimens allow future inspections of stem/branch unions and create a more diverse structure to the compartment. See *4 below	L
*4	Goat willow	EM	9	P	F	Multi-stemmed with heavy lean over 'turn table' area. Major root exposure and heave evident.	Remove tree. Leave arisings in stacked in situ	M
Comp 5	Goat willow, Hawthorn, Rose	Y- EM	^7	F	F	Densely populated compartment of low growing specimens. No footpath.	No action required at present	-



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4.3 Site Map





5.0 Data Analysis

5.1 Trees Requiring Work

Analysis of the tree works recommended for site during data collection shows that a total of **3 items** require tree works to be performed in order to maintain adequate levels of safety (high and medium priority). These trees were prioritised with respect to the level of danger or interference with structures, and with a view to future maintenance, to ensure good levels of arboricultural management.

No trees were identified as **high priority**.

3 items were identified as **medium priority**, with a view to works being complete within 12 months as part of an on-going management plan.

3 items were highlighted with **low priority** recommendations. These works are deemed as desirable but should be considered as part of a long-term management plan to reduce future costs that may come if left unattended to.

Thinning operations should be undertaken over a 3-5 year period with focus on the removal of poorer specimens based on future crown form and current vitality.

5.2 Conclusion

I am satisfied that on completion of the recommended tree works, the level of safety throughout the site where trees are concerned will be adequate. This statement is to the best of my knowledge based on the condition of trees observed during the date of survey.

William Barron ND, FdSc Arb





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6.0 Glossary of Terms & Definitions

Amenity- the pleasantness or attractiveness of a place.

Asymmetrical crown- unbalanced, one-sided.

Cavity- hole within a stem/branch of a tree, caused by decay or damage.

Crotch/fork/ union - region formed by a junction of two branches, or stem and branch.

Crown- overall branch and foliage cover.

Deadwood- dead branches within the crown of a tree. <30mm diameter classified as minor deadwood, >30mm major deadwood.

Dieback- ends of branches with no leaf coverage, sign of decline.

Early-mature- a tree that has not reached maturity but is deemed to be 2/3 the way through its life expectancy.

Epicormic- shoot growth from dormant or adventitious buds on main stems or branches.

Fastigate- Upright crown form.

Good form- good crown shape and size expectant of specific species characteristics.

Over-mature- a tree that has exceeded its life expectancy.

Mature- a tree that has reached the final third of its life stage.

Stem- above ground structure that supports the branches of a tree.

Vigour- physical strength and health of a tree.



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