Annual Tree Health & Woodland Inspection.

Site:

Emerald Green.Dunstone Heights,

Wheatcroft Gardens,

Penistone, Sheffield,

S36 6GA.

Site Number:

1909.

Date of inspection:

14th June 2023.

Inspector:

Graeme Golding MICFor

Arboricultural Manager

BSc Social and Community Forestry – Chartered Arboriculturist

LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector.

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1.0 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.

2.0 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 sunny, breezy, 21°, firm underfoot.

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.

3.0 METHODOLOGY:

All individual 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.

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4.0 TREE WORKS PRIORITY:

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.

On some occasions a specific timescale will be used.

4.1 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.

5.0 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 suggest 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.

6.0 SITE DESCRIPTION:

The tree cover lies to the west side of the development and is in the form of a woodland belt running westerly.

A central meandering path route affords pedestrian access from the development to join the Trans Pennine Trail part of which runs parallel to the woodlands west side.

The woodland also provides screening between this and the development and nearby industrial units.

In the east, there is an extending tail amenity grass plots and shrub beds with amenity trees dotted throughout to provide the more formal parts of the development’s landscaping.

There are footpaths and desire lines throughout the woodland area.

7.0 SITE SURVEY:

Species composition for the site is:- birch, oak, rowan, cherry, alder, willow, sycamore, horse chestnut, ash, elder, hazel, hawthorn, of mixed ages. A woodland area of succession, that will in time begin to establish into a woodland of mixed secondary species.

Previous recommended work has been completed to a good standard.

No replanting to be done as natural regeneration will be encouraged, to work in harmony with the succession that is occurring.

There was no other tree health issues observed at the time of the site visit, the woodland is heavily used and desire lines are clearly visual.

The encroachment over the traffic lights, the trees are not on Greenbelt land.

To the rear of the factory, some vegetation is hitting the building, Cut vegetation back to fence line.

In the woodland that backs on to the development some trees require to be cut back to the fence line as they are hitting the properties, 2 to 3m tipping back, this will not be harmful to the tree.

4 Usher close, tip back small tree from the building. 12 months.

Under Common Law 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 tree 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.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORKS:

- **Works recommended in red above.**

- **Continue to inspect of the trees / woodland by a suitably qualified/experienced person to ensure their safe existence for the long term amenity and environmental benefits and to meet the requirements of the WSOS.**

- **Any recommended pruning should be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced contractor operating in accordance with British Standard BS3998:2010 Tree work - Recommendations.**

- **Where crown reduction is specified, it is imperative that this work is undertaken sensitively, reducing the tree's height and spread by shortening or removing peripheral branches in a uniform and systematic manner. The final pruning cuts should be made back to a secondary branch, to maintain as far as is practicable a flowing outline to the crown and retain sufficient foliage-bearing growth to sustain the retained section of the branch.**

- **Should the contractor observe any additional issues whilst undertaking works should report their findings to the Arboricultural Manager as soon as possible.**

9.0 Location plan of Emerald Green, site No 1909.

