



Annual Tree Health & Woodland Inspection

Site:

Site Number:

Inspector:

Date of inspection:

Tree protection,
TPO 22 -W1



In this

Introduction

Limitations

Methodology

Tree Works Priority

Age Classification

Ash Dieback

Site Description

Site Survey

Recommendations

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 15°C, overcast, damp 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 self-optimising 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

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

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.

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.

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.

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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.

How Trees Self-Optimise.

Trees are natural master engineers that continually self-optimize their shape and internal structure to survive dynamic environmental stresses like wind, gravity, and competition for light. Their remarkable ability to balance mechanical stability with physiological needs is often summarized as the Axiom of Uniform Stress.

Axiom of Uniform Stress: Trees distribute mechanical stresses as evenly as possible across their entire surface. When wind bends a trunk or branch, it experiences the highest strain on the outer edges. In response, the tree adds new material exactly where the mechanical load is highest to reduce the stress.

Adaptive Growth: If a tree leans or is subjected to prevailing winds, it puts on incremental growth on the side under the most tension or compression. You can observe this in wind-swept areas; the tree's trunk thickens asymmetrically to prevent failure.

Fiber Alignment: Trees align their wood fibres directly with the direction of the force flow. This minimizes critical shear stresses between the fibres, creating an incredibly resilient structure that wastes no material.

Lever Arm Minimization: Trees naturally reduce the length of heavy or loaded lever arms, either through active bending or yielding, to minimize the leverage that gravity or wind exerts on weak points.

Load-Adaptive Growth (Thigmomorphogenesis):

When a tree experiences stress—such as bending from strong winds—it detects these mechanical strains. In response, it increases the production of woody fibers at the base, along branches, and within root buttresses to reinforce these high-stress zones.

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 with the additions of desire lines.

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.

Site Survey

Advisory, with the recent extreme climatic occurrences, drought and storms, trees can become stressed and exhibit ill health, symptoms become evident over a short- or long-term period.

The trees will be monitored accordingly, annually by the Arboricultural Manager and monthly by the Operations Manager, should there be any observed tree health issues that require prescribed work, this will be carried out at the companies earliest convenience.

2025 and early 2026, had storms and drought/dry periods, these climatic occurrences may have an effect on the health of the trees and shrubs in the coming months, the trees will be monitored accordingly.

Once again, the general tree health is good, good canopy cover and colour, species composition: - birch, willow, laburnum, elder, rowan, whitebeam, hawthorn, blackthorn, oak.

Mature willow is at an age where they can fail during storms, however there was little storm damage observed. All previous prescriptions have been completed.

The birch are the prominent species are healthy, and slender, a pioneer species on an old railway siding, understory of bramble, raspberry, nettle, cleavers, doc.

The vegetation to the westerly side of the site has heavy encroachment in to the industrial estate and the gardens, it is prescribed that all overhang is cut back the low vegetation to the fence line, and any heavy leaning tree to be pruned back to the fence line, this can be done in two stages if too costly.

This will remove vegetation hitting buildings. To be undertaken in the next few months.

Some vandalism has also occurred, removal of bark from trees.

A root-plate heaved willow is resting on the fence near the footpath, this requires to be made safe and the small arisings chipped, the larger wood can be stacked to form habitat piles, it has a colonisation of *stereum hirsutum*, (see attached photograph). To be made safe within 3 months.

There were no other tree health issues observed.

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 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

Prescriptions. Remove fallen tree, 3 months.







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