Arboricultural Survey

Tree work recommendations at :

Breathe Estate
Great and Little Stubbing
Wombwell
Barnsley
S73 8FD

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Proposed tree management at Breathe Estate – Great and Little Stubbing

Outline of situation

Nearly three quarters of this housing development is encircled by a woodland style shelter-belt, which is under a Woodland Tree Preservation Order (TPO). This initial appraisal is entirely concerned with the Woodland TPO, although elsewhere on the estate are several individual TPOs and a small Area TPO. The TPO woodland shelter-belt grows right up to the garden fences, with significant overhang in many places. Gardens are often short, and there is significant loss of sunlight.

This shelter-belt comprises trees whose life stages are currently described as semi-mature and early-mature - most of these trees therefore have significant further growth potential. Current issues of shading and tree overhang will therefore worsen if left unchecked, and due to the trees' age, any minor branch or reduction pruning will need to be repeated on a very regular basis, and may anyhow not achieve the satisfactory effect that many of the affected householders are hoping for.

More significant tree works are therefore proposed, applying woodland management principles to those trees closest to the Great and Little Stubbing properties. In these areas, trees will largely be managed at 'woodland level', rather than on a tree-by-tree basis.

Proposals are described in the accompanying Tree Schedule, which should be read with reference to the Tree Location plan. The advantages of implementing the proposals as described are as follows:

Advantages of proposals for householders

For many households it will be a significant number of years before any tree encroachment over boundary is occurring again.

Removal of the strip of trees nearest to properties will have the effect of dramatically lowering the perceived tree height relative to the skyline (with significant increase in sunshine availability). The actual height of the remaining woodland will remain unchanged.

Requesting an ongoing TPO permission for repeated pruning back to boundaries will save the need to contact Trinity Estates or the Tree Officer as much. This applies particularly to those properties where adjacent tree removals are not proposed.

Advantages of proposals for Trinity estates (who have responsibility for tree management)

It is cost-effective. Tree work done in this type of woodland management style is far more logistically efficient and much longer-lasting in effect than pruning individual trees on a case-by-case basis (otherwise, there would be a very large number of individual trees to consider, each requiring householder input and surveyor's access to each garden). Requesting ongoing TPO permissions for repeated pruning back to boundaries will also assist in reducing householder queries to Trinity regarding trees.

With regard to most of the households on the estate, it should be many years before Trinity is having to deal with complaints about encroaching trees and sunlight issues.

Advantages of proposals for woodland and wildlife

This is a dense woodland shelter-belt, lacking the light required to give much in the way of significant understorey. There are very few of the next generation of trees coming through.

The creation of a strip of both new and coppice growth will add structural diversity in a manner that is consistent with the principles of conservation management of small early-stage woodlands.

The creation of a strip of both new and coppice growth will result in the type of woodland edge structural diversity that is favoured by many birds, butterflies, invertebrates and bat species. Indeed, there is often funding available for the creation of clearings and woodland edge habitats from bodies such as the RSPB and the EWGS.

References to support the above points can be provided if required.

Factors that have been considered in ensuring that the proposals are satisfactory

The daily trajectory of the sun (east to west, via the southern sky) has been considered in determining those trees whose effect is most severe in terms of shade domination of gardens and properties.

The need to maintain an adequate and sustainable depth of visual screening of the estate has been considered. Hence, very few tree removals are proposed on the east side of the estate.

Considerations with regard to TPO

The amenity provision of the woodland shelter-belt to the wider public is unaffected. Those for whom the amenity is altered will only be those who benefit from that alteration - Great and Little Stubbing estate residents – and even for those the great majority of the original amenity benefits will be retained, while nuisance factors are removed

In considering the longer term pressures on and sustainability of this woodland, the proposal may well be considered suitable under Planning Practice Guidance (National Planning Policy Framework)

> “An authority dealing with an application relating to woodland must grant consent so far as accords with good forestry practice unless it is satisfied that the granting of consent would fail to secure the maintenance of the special character of the woodland or the woodland character of the area”.

Getting agreement for works from residents – if required

The work proposed for groups G01, G02, G03 and G11 is only recommended where each group’s whole recommendation is implemented in its entirety. It would not be possible to recommend as good management a piecemeal approach to clearance of a woodland strip (i.e. clearing trees behind one garden, but not behind the next etc). A sensible approach might be to survey the opinion of each affected household, and if the majority are in favour then implement the plan (presuming permission granted).

Consulting affected residents is also advised for groups G07, G08 and G15 – though less are affected by these proposals.

Where recommendations are made for cutting back to garden boundaries, residents should be given a date by which to decide if they want the work doing, with the advice that it will not be re-visited for three years. Such work is only logistically effective if all done at the same time.

Bird nesting

Important to note that all tree felling work at this site would be best scheduled outside of the bird nesting season (which is from end of March until end of July). Things will need to progress at an efficient pace if this is to be achieved (given time to achieve TPO permission etc).


G12
G11
T13
G16
G15
T10
G17
T09
G07
T14
G06
T04-T05
G03
G01
G20
G02
Yard Jay
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Tree no.	Species	Age class	Height range (m)	Approximate diameter at 1.5 m height (mm)	Vitality	Survey notes	Risk management recommendations	Overhang, light and space - recommendations	Recommended re-inspection date
G01	Group, mixed species	semi- to early-mature	10 m	up to 150	Fair	Group comprising cherry, willow, oak, holly, Norway maple, hazel. Marked group located on the housing side of the vague path that runs through this part of the shelter belt. Trees are to south of gardens, with further growth potential and often with significant existing overhang - current shade issues will worsen unless significant action is taken.	No significant hazards were obvious at present, though risk assessment will clearly be better done following the recommended woodland management removals.	Fell all trees in this group, except for small oak at northernmost end which should be kept for its (low) visual effect at that more public location. Plan on replacement with a 50/50 mix of future coppice regrowth and new planting of appropriate species (considering wildlife value, species-specific nuisances, growth rates, longer-term stability, soil type, shade growth, lateral growth, native species?). One or two trees in remaining shelter-belt may need a height reduction of 3 or 4 m to account for increased exposure - very few of these. Expect to consider a further cycle of woodland management in 6-10 years time, and thereafter... Removal of a fence panel would allow access of a track chipper to this part of the shelter-belt, allowing for neat and sustainable processing of waste.	22.11.2019
G02	Group, mixed species	semi- to early-mature	10 to 14 m	up to 250	Fair	Group comprising cherry, willow, holly, holly, hawthorn, hazel. Marked group located on the housing side of the vague path that runs through the shelter-belt. Trees are to south of gardens, with further growth potential and often with significant existing overhang - current shade issues will worsen unless significant action is taken.	No significant hazards observed at present, though risk assessment will clearly be better done following the recommended woodland management removals.	Fell approximately 50% of trees in this group - primarily those closest to Great Stubbing's garden fences. Trees to be paint marked selectively, always remaining mindful of the need to retain sufficient screen from housing to the south. Plan on replacement with a 50/50 mix of future coppice regrowth and new planting of appropriate species (considering wildlife value, species-specific nuisances, growth rates, longer-term stability, soil type, shade growth, lateral growth, native species?). One or two trees in remaining shelter-belt may need a height reduction of 3 or 4 m to account for increased exposure - very few of these. Expect to consider a further cycle of woodland management in 6-10 years time, and thereafter... Track chipper to be used to ensure neat and sustainable processing of waste.	22.11.2019
G03	Group, mixed species	semi- to early-mature	10 to 14 m	up to 250	Fair	Group comprising cherry, willow, alder, hawthorn, birch, beech, hazel. Trees are to south of gardens, with further growth potential and often with significant existing overhang - current shade issues will worsen unless significant action is taken.	No significant hazards observed at present, though risk assessment will clearly be better done following the recommended woodland management removals.	Fell all trees in a 5 to 6 m wide strip adjacent to fence. Plan on replacement with a 50/50 mix of future coppice regrowth and new planting of appropriate species (considering wildlife value, species-specific nuisances, growth rates, longer-term stability, soil type, shade growth, lateral growth, native species?). One or two trees in remaining shelter-belt may need a height reduction of 3 or 4 m to account for increased exposure - very few of these. Expect to consider a further cycle of woodland management in 6-10 years time, and thereafter. Extent of felling to be delineated by paint marks. Retention of T04 (birch) and T05 (cherry) could be considered if desired, though it would be better from a woodland management perspective to remove them (regrowth and sunlight) - and their REMOVAL is therefore also recommended. Track chipper to be used to ensure neat and sustainable processing of waste.	22.11.2019

Tree no.	Species	Age class	Height range (m)	Approximate diameter at 1.5 m height (mm)	Vitality	Survey notes	Risk management recommendations	Overhang, light and space - recommendations	Recommended re-inspection date
T04	Birch, Silver	early-mature	10 m	250	Fair	No significant issues observed.	see group G03 for reference to this tree	see group G03 for reference to this tree	22.11.2019
T05	Cherry	early-mature	10 to 14 m	300	Fair	No significant issues observed	see group G03 for reference to this tree	see group G03 for reference to this tree	22.11.2019
G06	Group, mixed species	early- or semi-mature	10 to 14 m	up to 200	Fair	Group comprising cherry, willow, alder.	No significant hazards observed at present.	Not encroaching as much as groups G01 to G03, but will present some shade issues for house to west. Removal of the row of 4 nearest trees to fenceline would address issues that will arise with the further growth that will happen over coming years. Will allow for a woodland structure of more sustainable height. Plan on replacement with a 50/50 mix of future coppice regrowth and new planting of appropriate species. Recommend consulting the adjacent householder prior to planning this felling work.	22.11.2019
G07	Group, mixed species	early- or semi-mature	10 to 14 m	up to 200	Fair	Two cherries and a small beech in row adjacent to fenceline. Branches overhang car parking area, residents views unknown.	No significant hazards observed at present.	If desired, removal of these three trees would address issues that will arise with the further growth that will happen over coming years. This would be proactive tree management that is consistent with the wider site plan.	22.11.2019
G08	Group, mixed species	semi- to early-mature	10 to 14 m	up to 200	Fair	Group comprising cherry, willow, oak, field maple, birch, hazel, Norway maple. Being to the east of properties, these trees do not obscure the midday or afternoon sun from properties. The shelter-belt is narrow along this stretch, such that the visual barrier it provides would be compromised by any significant amount of woodland management works.	No significant hazards observed at present.	Recommend requesting an ongoing TPO permission to keep these trees cut back to roughly in line with the boundary fence and building walls. All pruning to be in accordance with BS 3998: 2010. No cuts to be made more than one metre beyond boundary, and no cuts to exceed 5 cm in diameter. Also to remove two small willows whose lean means that future growth will cause a problem - T09 and T10.	22.11.2019
T09	Willow	semi-mature	10 m	100	Fair	Small willow with significant lean towards and over south-east corner of garage. Future growth form likely to cause problems. See also recommendation for group G08.	No significant hazards observed at present.	Fell tree to leave a coppice stump that will regrow (replacement planting not necessary).	22.11.2019

Tree no.	Species	Age class	Height range (m)	Approximate diameter at 1.5 m height (mm)	Vitality	Survey notes	Risk management recommendations	Overhang, light and space - recommendations	Recommended re-inspection date
T10	Willow	early-mature	10 m	150	Fair	Bird feeder on tree. Significant lean over boundary and garden beyond. Future growth will result in requirement to remove for risk management reasons. See also recommendation for group G08.	Fell, to coppice stump that will regrow (replacement planting not necessary).	Fell, to coppice stump that will regrow (replacement planting not necessary).	22.11.2019
G11	Group, mixed species	early- or semi-mature	10 m	up to 150	Fair	Group comprising cherry, willow, field maple, hazel. Trees are to the north of properties, so they do not obscure sunlight. However, many of this fence-side strip overhang small gardens significantly and most likely appear dominantly encroaching to householders.	No significant hazards observed at present, though risk assessment will clearly be better done following the recommended woodland management removals.	Fell any tree within 2 m of fence. This is a narrow strip with much garden waste, and replanting is therefore likely to be impractical. Replacement should therefore be by coppice regrowth. Tree work in this group will be the most logistically difficult at this site. Track chipper access will not be possible. Planning for management and disposal of tree waste should consider whether piled debris is sustainable in the longer term (future problems).	22.11.2019
G12	Group, mixed species	early- or semi-mature	10 to 14 m	up to 300	Fair	Group comprising willow, whitebeam, field maple. Trees encroaching on building.	No significant hazards observed at present.	Prune to give 3 m clearance from building. All pruning to be in accordance with BS 3998: 2010. No cuts to exceed 10 cm diameter.	22.11.2019
T13	Willow, Goat	mature	10 to 14 m	300	Fair	Sprawling growth over car parking area.	No significant hazards observed at present.	Recommend that the best long-term solution to the car parking overhang would be to coppice this tree to a low stump. Advise consulting affected residents.	22.11.2019
T14	Lime	early-mature	5 to 9 m	250	Good	Branch ends are rubbing on gable end of building.	No significant hazards observed at present.	Prune away from building to give one metre clearance. All pruning cuts to be in accordance with BS 3998: 2010.	22.11.2019
G15	Group, mixed species	early- or semi-mature	10 to 14 m	up to 150	Good	Group comprising Ash, hazel, cherry, dog rose. TPO group sited on west side of gardens, therefore affecting current sunlight provision, and with potential to further affect this much more in future (the 3 Ash trees have potential to grow much larger). **SEE PHOTO 1**	No significant hazards observed at present.	REMOVE the 3 Ash trees in this group (see Photo 1). Pruning of the 3 Ash trees at their current life stage is unlikely to produce an attractive-looking tree. But their growth to full size will be a significant future inconvenience. Could they be replaced with native species that have a smaller final size? For example rowan, which with the added colour of berries, would provide equally good visual public amenity with less dominating final growth size. Request ongoing TPO permission to prune overhanging branches - which are not currently severe.	22.11.2019

Tree no.	Species	Age class	Height range (m)	Approximate diameter at 1.5 m height (mm)	Vitality	Survey notes	Risk management recommendations	Overhang, light and space - recommendations	Recommended re-inspection date
G16	Group, mixed species	early- or semi-mature	15 to 19 m	up to 300	Fair	Row of tall slender cherry, birch and beech, sited within the gardens of several houses on Little Stubbing. APPEAR to not be within TPO, and in the absence of any other restrictions that the surveyor is unaware of, it's presumed that the householders are free to prune or remove these as they wish.	not included in survey	not included in survey	
not marked on Tree Location Plan						Along the boundary adjacent to north side of group 16, numerous small saplings are growing very close to the fenceline. As these in general appear to be originating on land outside the Breathe Estate, the landowner (LPA?) should be consulted prior to their removal. Removal is advised in order to prevent damage to fence as these saplings grow into trees.			
G17	Group, mixed species	semi- to early-mature	10 m	up to 100	Fair	The eastern edge of the woodland group borders a chainlink fence and footpath. There are 3 streetlamps along this footpath - ensure adequate clearance for light provision from each of these. In a few limited places, undergrowth is coming through fence and nearing encroachment onto path - could quickly be resolved with a hedgetrimmer.	No significant hazards observed at present.	There are 3 streetlamps along this footpath - ensure adequate clearance for light provision from each of these. In a few limited places, undergrowth is coming through fence and nearing encroachment onto path - could quickly be resolved with a hedgetrimmer.	22.11.2019
G20	Group, mixed species	early-mature	10 m	up to 150	Fair	Trees overhanging public pavement. In places height clearance is only 2 m.	No significant hazards observed at present.	Request ongoing TPO permission to maintain height clearance at 3 m over path (and 5.5 m over road in future)	22.11.2019

Photos



Photo 1. Showing group G15. The three marked ash trees have significant further growth potential that will create major shade issues for the properties to their east (behind, in the photo).