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

Arbor-Folia
ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANCY

HEALTH & SAFETY TREE AUDIT

Client: Greenbelt Group LTD

Site Reference: 1590-The Pastures

Date: August 2020

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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.

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

Millhouse Green, Penistone, S36 9AB

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).

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

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 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 consists of specimens located adjacent to the River Don that form a natural boundary to the east and south of the site. A large open grassed area containing some amenity plantings and a strip mature tree cover running adjacent to properties to the north and west. A separate thin strip of trees runs parallel to a public footpath to the west of the site.

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

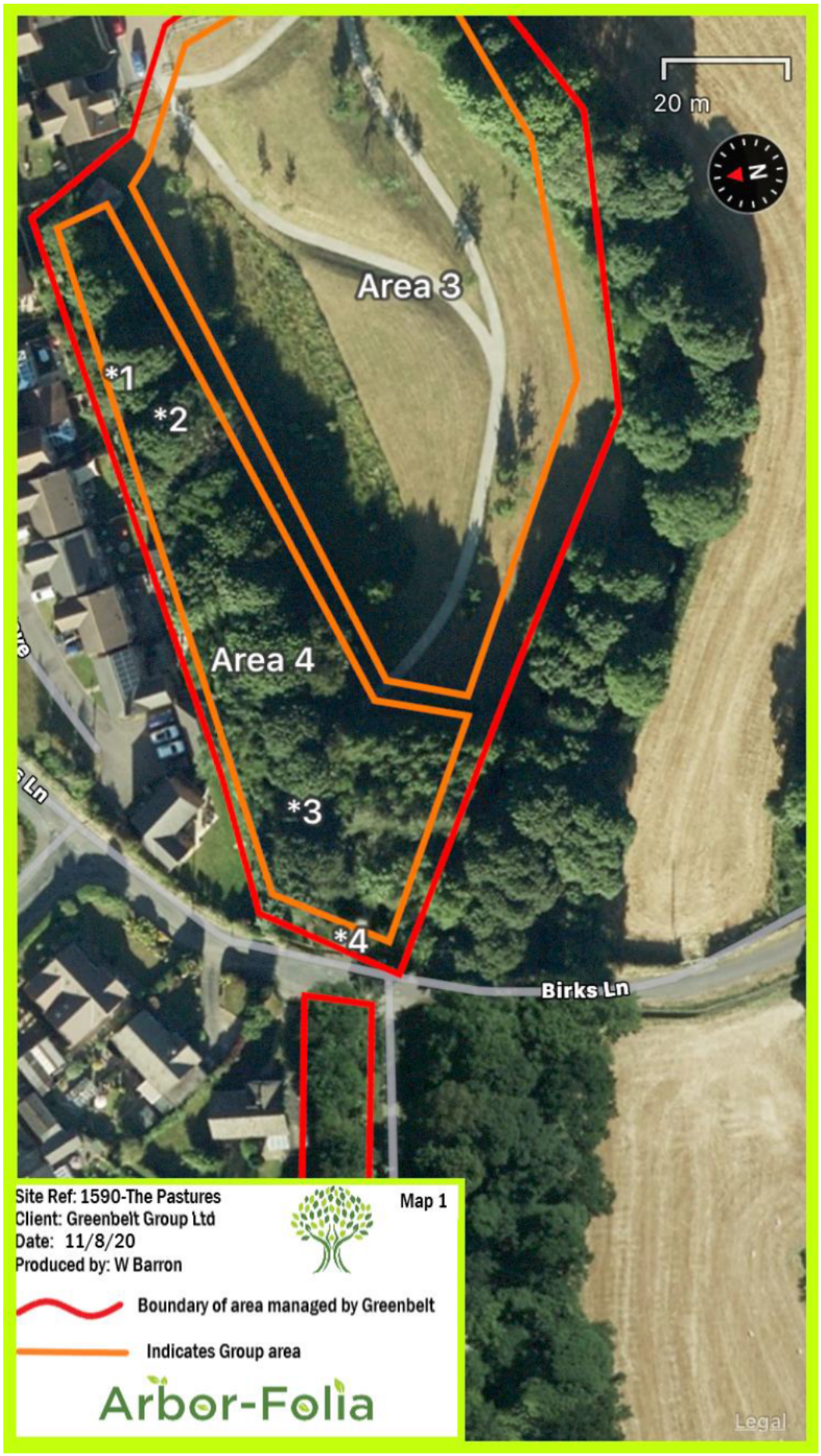
Tree No.	Species	Age	Height	Condition		Comments	Action	Priority
				Str	Phys			
Area 1	Goat willow, Alder, Ash, Sycamore	Y-M	^17	F	F	Riverside specimens. Some mild ivy coverage and small amount of minor deadwood on some trees observed.	No action required at present	-
Area 2	Willow, Sycamore, Ash, Birch, Alder	Y-M	^17	F	F	Open green space with some young amenity trees and Riverside specimens. Some mild ivy coverage and small amount of minor deadwood on some trees observed.	No action required at present	-

Area 3	Willow, Sycamore, Ash, Birch, Alder	Y-M	^17	F	F	Open green space with some young amenity plantings (Cherry, Birch, Ginkgo, Field maple) and Riverside specimens. Some mild ivy coverage and small amount of minor deadwood on some trees observed.	No action required at present	-
Area 4	Beech, Sycamore, Alder, Hawthorn, Rowan	Y-M	^17	F	F	Strip of mature beech and sycamore with an under canopy of hawthorn and occasional rowan. Some mild ivy coverage and small amount of minor deadwood on some trees observed.	See *1-*4 below	-
*1	Alder	M	12	F	P	Ivy covering main stem with apical dieback visible. Tree located between property boundary and trench.	Sever ivy Monitor vitality	M*
*2	Beech	EM	10	D	D	Standing dead tree. Tips of structure likely to fail soon.	Remove crown. Leave as 6m habitat pole. Leave arisings in situ as habitat pile	M
*3	Willow & Sycamore	EM	^11	F	F	Small amount of major deadwood present over footpath.	Remove major deadwood	M
*4	Sycamore & Ash	EM	^13	F	F	Branches encroaching on telecom line.	Prune to clear telecom line by 2m	M
Area 5	Elm, Ash, Alder Sycamore	SM-M	^16	F	F	Area of tree cover running parallel to the public footpath forming a tunnel in places. Some minor deadwood observed as expected for species and growing situation.	No action required at present	-

4.3 Site Map


50 m
Area 1
Area 2
Area 3
Area 4
Area 5
*1
*2
*3
*4
Low Rocha Grove
Birks Ln
Birks Ave
Kennedy Close
Hoyland Close
Site Ref: 1590-The Pastures
Client: Greenbelt Group Ltd
Date: 11/8/20
Produced by: W Barron
Overview
Boundary of area managed by Greenbelt
Indicates Group area
Arbor-Folia

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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 **4 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**.

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

No trees were highlighted with **low priority** recommendations.

Item *1 should be monitored regularly to assess the progression of dieback.

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

[redacted]

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.

Fastigiate- 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.