James Royston
Arboricultural Consultant

Tree Survey

in accordance with

BS5837:2005

at

Land adjacent to Holly House Darfield

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1 Summary

This site is made up of a section of the grounds a detached house with associated gardens, parking and access. The area surveyed contained gardens with a small number of trees.

As a collection the trees surveyed have some value as part of the local tree-scape. However, several individual trees had defects which significantly reduce their useful life expectancy. Unless these trees are of sufficiently high value to justify the additional resources required for their ongoing management, they should be removed for safety reasons.

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose and scope of report

To undertake a tree survey in accordance with BS5837:2005 at: Land adjacent to Holly House, Fitzwilliam Road, Darfield.

The recommendations in this report are of a preliminary nature and do not take into account any specific development proposals. This allows the trees to be assessed independently and without bias. It also allows the same tree report to be used should the layout or design of the site be altered.

This report is based upon a visual survey undertaken on foot from ground level. No digging, drilling, climbing, or other diagnostic technique was undertaken on this occasion.

The consultant shall not be responsible for events which happen after the date of survey due to factors which where not apparent at the time of the survey.

It is advisable to have trees regularly surveyed by a suitably qualified and experienced arboricultural consultant. In this instance it is recommended that the next survey is undertaken within 12 months of this report. If the site or adjacent areas change use, or if there are significant changes to the condition of the site or adjacent areas, or if there are significant changes to the trees surveyed, it is recommended that another survey is undertaken.

No liability can be accepted by the consultant unless the recommendations of this report are undertaken within the time period recommended. Where no time period is indicated then recommendations should be carried out as soon as reasonably practicable.

The plans included as part of this report are based on those provided by the client or their representatives. Whilst reasonable steps are taken to ensure plans are accurate and correct, the consultant will not be responsible for errors or omissions arising due to information provided by the client or the client's representatives.

All tree works should be carried out to BS 3998:1989 - Recommendations for tree work by a suitably qualified, experienced and insured contractor.

2.2 Survey conditions

The survey was carried out on 6th October 2008 by James Royston.

The weather conditions were calm with adequate visibility.

3 Data collection methods

3.1 Measurements and Observations

Height is measured in metres from ground level to the highest point of the tree using tape measures and clinometers.

Diameter is measured and rounded down to the nearest ten millimetres at 1.5m above ground level using specialist tapes. Where a tree divides into multiple stems below 1.5m it will be measured at the lowest point above the root flare.

Canopy spread is measured in metres at magnetic north, south, east and west using a measuring wheel or laser measure where conditions are suitable.

Height of crown clearance is measured in metres and is an indication of the lowest significant live branches of the crown.

Age Class is divided into young, semi-mature, early-mature, mature, over mature, and veteran. This is an indication of which stage a tree is at in its natural life cycle, allowing for an assessment of how energy and growth will be prioritised within a tree. In general, younger trees are better able to cope with disturbance or stress.

Physiological condition is an assessment of the health and vigour of the tree and will include an assessment of the size, colour and density of the foliage. Trees in good physiological condition are better able to cope with disturbance or stress.

Structural condition is an indication of the structural integrity of the tree. This is given as good, average or poor. More details will be given in the observations column of the data tables if appropriate.

The observations column will include a brief description of each tree and provide further information as relevant.

Amenity value is assessed using a combination of factors such as species, size and location.

The remaining contribution is a rough estimate of the number of years a tree is expected to survive in a structurally sound condition assuming normal arboricultural management.

Occasionally it is impractical to obtain accurate measurements due to restricted access or other site conditions. In these circumstances the data may be estimated.

3.2 Category Rating

3.2.1 Main Categories

Category ratings are allocated based on the current condition of a tree in its current surroundings assuming the recommendations of this report are carried out. No consideration is given to any specific development proposal when allocating category ratings.

Category A trees are those which have high visual amenity value, are in good structural and physiological condition and are expected to contribute for at least another 40 years.

Category B trees are those which would be considered as category A trees but which are of lower value, poorer structural condition, or which are expected to contribute for less than 40 years.

Category C trees are those which have low amenity value, are in poor condition, or are expected to contribute for less than 20 years.

Category R trees are those which are expected to contribute for less than 10 years due to serious defects. As is common in risk management, where there is doubt, the precautionary principal may be applied.

In certain circumstances trees may be considered of higher value due to cultural or ecological reasons. If this is the case it will be made clear in the tree data tables.

3.2.2 Sub-categories

Sub- categories of 1, 2 or 3 are included in the tree data tables and are defined as follows:

Sub-category 1 trees are those with 'other arboricultural value'

Sub-category 2 trees are those with 'landscape value'

Sub-category 3 trees are those with 'cultural or conservation value'

These subcategories do not infer any hierarchy of value. For example, a category B1 tree should not necessarily be considered any more valuable than a category B3 tree. Most trees will simultaneously fall into all three sub-categories.

4 Legal status of surveyed trees

No check has been made by this consultant with the local planning authority or the Forestry Commission.

It is advised that the local planning authority is contacted to check whether the trees on this site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order or are within a Conservation Area.

It is also advised that the local Forestry Commission Conservancy is contacted to check whether the trees surveyed are protected under the Forestry Act.

Trees may also be subject to legal protection under a range of other legislation, much of which is aimed at wildlife and habitat protection.

No work should be done to any trees until either suitable permission has been granted or it has been verified that the intended work does not require permission.

The above is provided as guidance and is not an interpretation of the law. You are advised to seek professional legal advice as required.

5 Contact Details

I hope this report provides all the required information. However, if further advice is needed then please contact me and I will be happy to help.

James Royston – Independent Arboricultural Consultant
CEnv, BSc (Hons) Forestry, ND Arb, M.Arbor.A,
Professional Tree Inspection Qualified – LANTRA Awards.
Professional member of the Arboricultural Association and the Consulting Arborist Society
Chartered Environmentalist

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Report completed 10th October 2008

Appendix 1: Data Tables

Tree Number	Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (m)	Diameter (mm)	Branch spread North	Branch spread East	Branch spread South	Branch spread West	Height of Crown Clearance	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Observations	Recommendations	Visual Amenity Value	Remaining contribution (years)	Category grading
1	Lawson cypress	*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*	4	180	See plan	See plan	See plan	See plan	0	Young	Fair	Fair	A previously topped conifer hedge with no obvious major visible defects.	No action at present	Low	10+	C2
2	Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	17	500	6.2	5.7	2.7	3.0	6	Early mature	Fair	Poor	Single stem tree with a major cavity with significant decay at approximately 1.5m.	Either fell or undertake a decay detection analysis and follow recommendations.	Medium	<10	R
3	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	18	690	6.4	6.0	6.0	5.9	5	Early mature	Fair	Fair	Single stem tree previously topped with a multi-stem crown. Possible decay where previously topped. Minor deadwood throughout. No obvious major visible defects.	Undertake a decay detection analysis and follow recommendations	Medium	20+	B2
4	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	17	540	5.4	5.0	2.1	3.7	5	Early mature	Fair	Poor	Single stem slt with a major cavity at base. Not fully inspected due to dense ivy.	Either fell or undertake a decay detection analysis and follow recommendations.	Medium	10+	C2
5	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	18	600	6.0	6.0	7.4	6.7	5	Mature	Fair	Fair	Single stem with a multi-stem crown. No obvious major visible defects but not fully inspected as located in neighbouring property.	Re-inspect from neighbouring property	Medium	20+	B2
6	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	17	450	8.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	4	Early mature	Fair	Fair	Single stem with a multi-stem crown. No obvious major visible defects but not fully inspected as located in neighbouring property.	Re-inspect from neighbouring property	Low	20+	C2
7	Alder	*Alnus sp.*	16	450	4.0	3.0	8.6	5.0	5	Mature	Fair	Fair	Single stem with a twin stem crown with mod deadwood throughout. Possible minor cavities at approximately 4m but no obvious major visible defects. Not fully inspected as located in neighbouring property.	Remedial prune and re-inspect from neighbouring property	Low	10+	C2
8	Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	18	450	6.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5	Mature	Fair	Fair	Single stem with a multi-stem crown with minor deadwood throughout. No obvious major visible defects but not fully inspected as located in neighbouring property.	Re-inspect from neighbouring property	Medium	20+	B2

Appendix 2: Plans

N

Indicative

T8 T7 T6 T5 T4 T3 T2 T1

Holly House

3

1

BM 26.09m

Mill Houses Bridge

FITZWILLIAM ROAD

28.2m

GP

88

50m

James Royston
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Tree survey at:
Land Adjacent to Holly House, Darfield

1:500	PAPER SIZE A3

Key	
	Category A Tree
	Category B Tree
	Category C Tree
	Category R Tree