

**Annual Tree Health & Woodland Inspection.**

**Site:**

The Pastures.

Foxmill View, Millhouse Green,

Sheffield, S36 9AB.

**Site Number:**

1590.

**Date of inspection:**

19th June 2024.

**Inspector:**

Graeme Golding MICFor

Arboricultural Manager

BSc Social and Community Forestry – Chartered Arboriculturist

LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector.

**Tree Preservation Order**

**TPO 17.**

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

2.0 LIMITATIONS

3.0 METHODOLOGY

4.0 WORKS PRIORITATIONS

4.1 AGE CLASIFICATION

5.0 ASH DIEBACK

6.0 SITE DISCRIPTION

7.0 SITE SURVEY

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.0 SITE PLAN

**1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

In endeavour to sustain and maintain sound management of the tree and woodland asset/s 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 company’s management obligations requirements for an annual tree inspection (unless extenuating circumstances dictate).
* Identify/observe any arboricultural management related matters that require addressing.
* Recommendation of arboricultural works to negate potential incidences from occurring.
* Predominately inspect mature trees on the site, young trees may not be inspected to such in-depth inspection.
* To recommend work to trees to elongate their Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE).
* To recommend work to alleviate potential branch and tree failures.
* Adhering to the Occupiers Liability Act – Health and Safety Act – Miscellaneous Provisions Act accordingly.
* Observe and report illegal work (vandalism etc) that has been done by a third party without permission, and take retrospective action.
* Pest and Disease monitoring, identification of such pest and diseases, report such issues to the relevant organisation as legislation requires.
* Manage the identified Pests and Diseases in relation to good arboricultural practices.
* Prior to any work, check to identify if there are any restrictions on site, planning condition, SSSI, Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas etc.
* Implement timescale to recommended work, this may alter if tree work application have to be sought, currently there is a delay in receiving such document/permissions or in some cases refusal of work.
* Adhere to industry adopted guidelines, such as British Standards.

The monthly site checks by the operations managers also observe the trees and report any suspected issues to the abroricultural manager, should any action be required it will be reacted on.

Issues such as pests and diseases, storm damage, biotic and abiotic issues.

**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 xxx.

Trees are self-optimising organisms; their condition can suddenly and quickly change.

This can occur following adverse weather conditions or due to the effect of pests, disease and/or other biotic or abiotic factors and therefore may warrant re-inspection at shorter timescales other than the company adopted twelve-month inspection regime.

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.

The trees have been inspected from ground level employing Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) techniques, (not including soil conditions or soil type) soil type may be a guestimate at the time of the inspection.

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 annually.

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.

Act of nature, is an event that is caused solely by the forces of nature without human intervention.

The findings of this report are valid for 18 months from the date of the site inspection.

**3.0 METHODOLOGY:**

All mature trees have been inspected from ground level employing Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) techniques.

Some young and newly planted may have been omitted from this report as they pose no significant harm, neither infected by insects or diseases, but they may be included as part of a general description.

Trees and Woodland areas inspected/assessed by 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.

Trees are living organisms and are subject to influence by sudden changes in climatic conditions, biotic and abiotic issues.

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.

Some trees will not be mentioned in the report, this is due to normal health, age classification surrounding environment and species characteristics. If the trees do not pose a risk to people/building, a low risk, these are taken for normal environments characteristics.

No decay detection equipment was used, unless stated.

**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 that will differ to the above if described in the report.

**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 (50 to 70% dead) or earlier if required.

**6.0 SITE DESCRIPTION:**

This site is abutting the river Don, tree lines banks of mixed age and species, hosting ash dieback.

There is a mixed verity of amenity trees throughout the open spaces of this site.

There is a woodland area to the north side of the site that hosts a lade/stream with a desire line weaving its way through it.

To the east side is the continuation of the lade and a tree covered strip.

**7.0 SITE SURVEY:**

Advisory, with the recent climatic occurrences, drought, flooding and high winds, trees can become stressed and exhibit ill health, this can be a short- or long-term effect.

The trees will be monitored accordingly, and should any actions be required, depending on the work priority/prescription, the operations will be programmed accordingly.

In general, the trees exhibited good foliar colour, good apical dominance, some trees exhibited stress, no visual issues observed.

Observed some minor storm damage, not an issues to the trees health.

**Area 1 –** Species composition: -goat willow, alder, ash and sycamore, young to mature in age, some signs of ash dieback symptomology.

**Area 2 –** Species composition: - willow, sycamore, ash, birch, alder, young to mature in age, some signs of ash dieback symptomology.

**Area 3 -** Species composition: -willow, ash, birch, sycamore, hawthorn, alder, beech, rowan. Young to mature in age, some signs of ash dieback symptomology.

**Area 4 –** Species composition, elm, ash, alder, sycamore. Dead elm at side of lade, and leylandii branch that has snapped from neighbouring hedge.

**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:**

* **No prescribed work at this moment in time.**
* **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, he/she should report their findings to the Arboricultural Manager as soon as possible.**

**9.0 Location plan of The Pastures, site No 1590.**

****