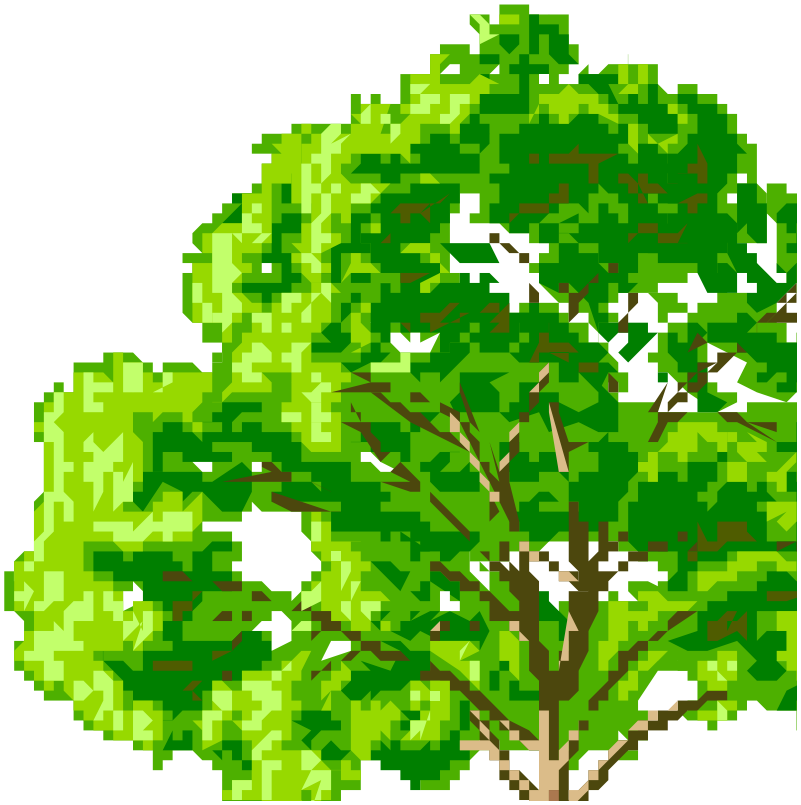
Tree and Woodland Audit



Hawthorne Croft

Site ref: 1567

10th August 2015

G. Gillespie – Professional Tree Inspector

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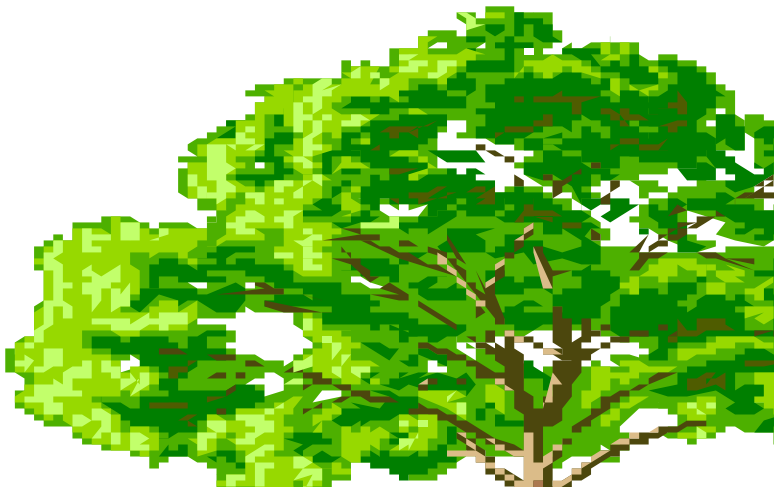

1.0 INTRODUCTION

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

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 period of the survey (10th August 2015).

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 organisms and are subject to influence by sudden changes in climatic conditions.

It is recommended that trees continue to be inspected regularly.

The findings of this survey are valid for twelve months (i.e. August 2016).

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.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

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

Woodland areas inspected/assessed by pedestrian traverses around, across and through the compartments

No decay detection equipment was used

4.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

This woodland is of Policy Planting in origin and sits to south end of the development wrapping around the entrance, car park for the flatted properties and the amenity grassland. On the north side of the entrance stand a group of broadleaf species including sycamore, ash, chestnut and beech that comprise the climax species with holly, laburnum, elder, privet and acuba forming a sound secondary layer. To the south side of the entrance sycamore is the dominant species with holly and a mixed shrub layer below. As the belt continues west and widens a more diverse mix of sycamore, ash, lime, beech and maple constitutes the climax canopy with birch, gean, hawthorn and willow providing the secondary species with some planted alder are along the north edge. Through this group are some conifers that include yew, spruce and pine providing some winter colour and along the west edge are alternating birch and London plane emerging through a privet hedge.

5.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In the main the health and condition ranges fair to good and no evidence was noted to suggest the presence of major decay fungi or significant mechanical/structural defects.
To the north of the entrance the chestnut specimens continue to show symptoms of leaf minor – a fairly common disorder that causes discolouration and blotching of foliage late in the growing season but does not place the trees at risk of failure or in need of arboricultural works. The staining and exudation on some that are suspected to early onset of bleeding canker has not worsened since last audit – this will continue to be monitored. An ash specimen shows some dieback ta the branch yips in upper crown – this is not viewed as symptomatic of the ash dieback (*Fraxinus cholera*) giving concern in parts of the UK but simply a result of the phenomena of dieback that is common to the species for a myriad of reasons. The over mature Laburnum specimen near the entrance shows some dieback and this is considered simply result of age. The sycamore at the west end of this group has some minor deadwood but again this is not considered to merit any action at this time and at the south-east corner a mature ash has some deadwood over the carriageway.
At the south-east corner behind an abutting off-site property the two mature trees (a maple and an ash) that had been crudely lopped/topped are showing reasonable recovery growth and there has been no further lopping/topping. In places the ivy ground cover has extended up tree stems and is getting into crowns that may give rise to increased wind resistance.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Remove deadwood from ash and laburnum specimens at frontage to reduce hazard to road users – at earliest opportunity

Monitor lopped/topped trees for recovery growth and consider advising neighbouring properties of folly of unauthorised tree works

Monitor decay on willow at perimeter fence

Monitor chestnut trees for any increase in stem staining/exudation

Location plan as attached

7.0 REFERENCES

The body language of trees *A hand book for failure analysis*	Claus Mattheck and Helge Breloer (Department of Environment Research for Amenity Trees No. 4)
Trees of Great Britain *And Northern Europe*	Alan Mitchell (Collins)
BS 3998: 2010 – *Recommendations* *For tree Work*	British Standards
BS 5837 2012 – Trees in relation to Design Demolition and Construction	British Standards

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