NATURALLY TREES
PROFESSIONAL TREE CARE

Tree Condition Survey and Management Work Recommendations

Date: 10th March 2024

Site: The Parks Estate, Bracknell

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The_Parks_Bracknell_2024

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Summary

A tree health and condition survey was completed on multiple trees that border roads, PRoW's and public area of interest within the boundaries of The Parks residential estate Bracknell RG12 9HN

The tree assessment was completed using the VTA (Appendix 1) method only. No internal diagnostic testing or soil sampling was completed.

Overall the tree population is good, there is evidence of a regular monitoring and remedial works aiding in the proactive management.

Section 1: Introduction

1.1: Scope And Purpose Of This Report

The report's purpose is to undertake a basic tree survey to assess the overall health and condition of the trees from a safety and management perspective and advise management recommendation.

Tree owners and managers have a duty of care to take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions that cause a reasonably foreseeable risk of injury to persons or property.

1.2: Instruction

This report was commissioned by Imran Alam 9th February 2024.

1.3: Site Information

The site is located at the east of the A322 (Bagshot Road, Bracknell)

The site visit was undertaken on Sunday 3rd March 2024. Weather conditions at the time of the survey were clear and dry.

Section 2: The Tree Survey

2.1: Method

Assessments of the trees were made using elements of the 'Visual Tree Assessment' (VTA See Appendix 1) procedure. All tree inspections were conducted from ground level with the use of an acoustic sounding hammer and probe.

- No internal diagnostic testing has been completed.
- No sub surface root testing or soil testing has been completed.
- All observations were made from the ground.

All tree inspections were carried out in accordance with current best practise (Visual Tree Assessment) to give a systematic, consistent and transparent evaluation method to tree inspecting.

2.2: The Survey Tree Results

Details of the trees as found at the time of the survey are in the tree survey sheets at **Appendix 2.**

2.3 Legal & Planning Constraints

Tree Protection Orders and Conservation Area

The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 allows for trees either as groups, or individuals, or as woodlands, to be protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO). These have the effect of preventing the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees except in certain circumstances, other than with the consent of the local planning authority.

A Conservation Area is an area designated by the Local Planning Authority as one of "special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". Special controls exist with regard to demolition and alteration of buildings; Listed Building Consent must also be obtained for any demolition, even if the building is not itself listed. Similarly, trees are given some protection with the requirement for the local authority to be given six weeks written notice before carrying out any work on trees; this gives the authority time to decide if a TPO is necessary.

Wildlife

Protected Wildlife – Before any tree work is carried out on site the trees should be inspected and written records taken of the activity of any protected species on site. This is to prevent the damage to any wildlife. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to destroy or disturb nesting birds, if nesting birds are discovered or suspected no works can proceed and the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Local Wildlife Trust must be notified for advice as to how to proceed. Further to this wildlife such as Bats are protected under European legislation (Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Habitat Regulation 2009) it is an offence to recklessly, or internally, kill, injure or capture bats, to disturb them, or destroy, obstruct or damage any bat roosts found. If any bat activity is found then the bat conservation trust should be contacted as soon as possible (http://www.bats.org.uk/ or 0845 1300 228).

Section 3: Conclusion

3.1 Discussion

The overall health of the tree population within the site is good, there are some beautiful mature specimen trees throughout the site witch hold significant amenity value.

3.2 Recommendations.

Carrying out the recommendations made in this report and implementing a suitable programme will ensure the tree populations viability.

Credentials of the author

The tree condition survey and report was conducted by Trevor Osborne BSc (Hons) Dip Arb L4 (ABC). I have 24 years' experience in the Arboricultural industry, a professional tree inspector qualification and a national diploma in Arboriculture from both the UK and Australia.

Caveat

Any and all information supplied to Naturally Trees Ltd by/on behalf of the client is assumed to be accurate unless otherwise informed. This advice is limited to the observations made on the date of inspection as detailed herein and any deletion, editing or alteration will result in the advice being null and void in its entirety. This advice in its entirety may be deemed null and void if remedial works are undertaken on any area of the site, on or after the date of the survey. No liability is assumed by the author or by Naturally Trees Ltd for any misuse, misinterpretation or misrepresentation of this advice. This advice is not valid in adverse or unpredictable weather conditions or for any failure due to 'force majeure' or unpredictable events. No responsibility is assumed either by the author of this advice or by Naturally Trees Ltd for any legal matters that may arise as a consequence. Neither the author nor Naturally Trees Ltd will be required to attend court or give testimony as part of this agreement. The responsibility for any works undertaken on the basis of the recommendations of this advice does not form part of this agreement.

Signed …….. Date……..10/03/2024..

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Appendix 1:

Visual Tree Assessment (VTA)

The VTA system is based on the theory of tree biology and physiology, as well as tree architecture and structure. This method is used by arborists to identify visible signs on trees that indicate good health, or potential problems. Symptoms of decay, growth patterns and defects are identified and assessed as to their potential to cause whole-tree, part-tree and/or branch failure. For the purpose of this report, elements of the VTA system will be used, along with industry standard literature, and other relevant studies that provide an insight into potential hazards in trees. This assessment is a snapshot of what could be reasonably seen or determined from a basic visual inspection.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure an accurate assessment of the trees condition is made during survey no responsibility can be taken for resultant damage or injury occurred by a failing tree. The survey only gives a snap shot of what is visible, not obscured or accessible on the day of survey. Please note that the findings of this report are only valid for 12 months from the date of the tree inspection. This report does not constitute to a full tree safety policy for the study area nor does it take into account any underground geological activity that may affected the structural condition of the trees.

Health and Vigour Assessment

The health and vigour of a tree is assessed by looking at the tree canopy and how it is performing. Certain indicators provide information on which to base the assessment. Abnormally small leaves, chlorosis (yellowing), sparse crown, wilting, and die-back can be signs of ill-health or decline but may also be related to a temporary imbalance due to drought or pest infestations. Epicormic growth can be a sign of stress and low energy reserves but can also be related to increased light levels through the removal or pruning of adjacent trees. Extension growth can be a good indicator of vigour but this can vary greatly between species and under differing climatic conditions. For these reasons, each individual symptom or observation needs to be assessed with objectivity and consideration of all available information.

Structural Assessment

The structural assessment of trees is carried out using the basic framework of Visual Tree Assessment. Signs and symptoms of defects are assessed to gauge the likelihood of failure, because not every defect constitutes a hazard e.g. "…co-dominant stems are a structural defect. The severity of the defect is increased by included bark, large crowns and strong wind."(Matheny, N. & Clark, J. 1994.) If trees were removed purely on the basis that there were defects present without assessing the likelihood of failure or whether practical mitigation measures are available, the urban forest would cease to exist. A basic visual tree assessment is undertaken from ground level, if defects are suspected further investigation may be required and recommended. "When using the visual Tree Assessment (VTA) procedure for assessing trees, as the suspicion increases that defects are present, the examination becomes more thorough and searching."(Mattheck, C. & Broeler, H. 1994)

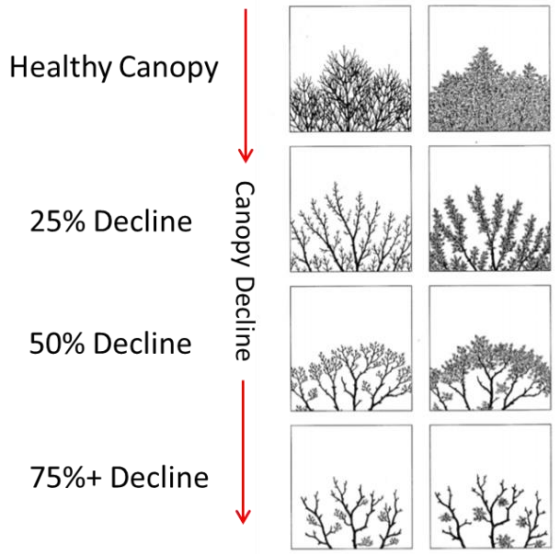
"*Some defects, especially some forms of decay, do not give rise to external signs and therefore tend to escape detection in a purely visual survey. If there is no reason for suspecting a hidden defect to occur within a particular part of the tree, there is no reasonable basis for carrying out a detailed internal assessment. Although in theory an unsuspected defect might be detectable by the use of specialized diagnostic devices, this would be impracticable in the absence of some external sign to*

indicate the place which should be probed. Also, internal examination without good reason is undesirable, as it usually causes injury to the tree and is unreasonably time consuming and costly." (Lonsdale. 1999)

Ash Dieback

Based on research and evidence from Denmark and Poland, the UK should expect the rapid decline and eventual death of at least 80% of the Ash tree population.

Not all Ash trees surveyed are affected to the same degree: some may appear in better physiological condition than others, but it is assumed that all are infected. Symptomatic crown dieback severely compromises the structural integrity of the tree and increases its susceptibility to secondary infections and wind damage, resulting in limb drop and ultimately whole tree failure.



The reduction in crown vigour and density allows the advantageous development of Ivy; as well as hindering visual inspection of the tree; this increases the weight and wind-loading on weakened trees further increasing the likelihood of failure.

A policy of increased frequency informal or basic-level surveys is recommended to monitor the decline of Ash trees. Felling of infected trees is recommended, prioritising the removal of affected trees before they become severely destabilised. This is particularly relating to roadside trees.

Trees showing resistance to infection should be retained where possible. Ivy should be severed at the base of all Ash trees to reduce weight and wind load effect.

Appendix 2 Tree Survey Results

TREE ID	TREE SPEICES	AGE	HEIGHT Metres	PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION	STRUCTURAL CONDITION	COMMENTS	MANAGEMENT/WORK RECOMMENDATIONS	TARGET OCCUPATION	WORK TYPE	WORK PRIOIRTY	LOCATION W3W
838	Lime (Tilia x europaea)	Mature	19m	Good	Fair	Cavity at 4m on southern aspect. Evidence of good occluding.	Reduce canopy to 4m.	High	Hazard	B	Gosh Lowest Nearly
839	Lime (Tilia x europaea)	Mature	19m	Fair	Good	Significant deadwood in upper canopy above footpath.	Remove deadwood over footpath.	Medium	Hazard	B	Voting Scar Town
840	Lime (Tilia x europaea)	Mature	19m	Fair	Good	Significant deadwood in upper canopy above footpath.	Remove deadwood over footpath.	Medium	Hazard	B	Critic Head Rating
841	Lime (Tilia x europaea)	Mature	19m	Fair	Good	Remove deadwood over footpath.	Remove deadwood over footpath.	Medium	Hazard	B	Horn Asleep Brains
842	Atlas Cedar (Cedrus atlantica)	Mature	17m	Good	Good	2 x long lateral limbs overhanging highway	Reduce back by 3.5m to alleviate potential limb failure	High	Hazard	B	Brush Ending Beside
843	Robinia (Robinia pseudoacacia)	Mature	14m	Good	Good	Significant deadwood throughout canopy	Remove deadwood.	Low	Hazard	C	Ranges Fat Tuck
844	Tulip (Liriodendron tulipifera)	Mature	20m	Good	Good	Significant deadwood throughout canopy	Remove deadwood	Low	Hazard	C	Hurry Then Doctor

TREE ID	TREE SPEICES	AGE	HEIGHT Metres	PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION	STRUCTURAL CONDITION	COMMENTS	MANAGEMENT/WORK RECOMMENDATIONS	TARGET OCCUPATION	WORK TYPE	WORK PRIOIRTY	LOCATION W3W
845	Conifer (Cypressess)	Mature	16m	Good	Poor	Mature specimen multi stemmed from base. Individual stems are splitting – risk of stem failure.	Reduce in height by 6m and reduce rogue lateral limbs.	Medium	Hazard	B	Dare Cute Worry
846	Oak (Quercus robur)	Medium	20m	Fair	Good	Significant deadwood throughout canopy over highway. Low southern limb over highway is exhibiting fibre buckling.	Remove deadwood. Reduce sub target limb by 4m.	Medium	Hazard	B	Audio This Flames
G-847	Group: 3 x Scots Pine (Pinus sylvestris Plant)	Semi-Mature	23m	Good	Good	Significant deadwood in canopy	Remove deadwood	Medium	Hazard	C	Dates Potato Empire
848	Oak (Quercus robur)	Semi-Mature	14m	Good	Good	Significant deadwood in canopy overhanging parking bays.	Remove deadwood	Medium	Hazard	C	Ended Soil Among
849	Oak (Quercus robur)	Mature	25m	Good	Good	Significant deadwood in canopy	Remove deadwood	Medium	Hazard	B	Rock Trip Beats

TREE ID	TREE SPEICES	AGE	HEIGHT Metres	PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION	STRUCTURAL CONDITION	COMMENTS	MANAGEMENT/WORK RECOMMENDATIONS	TARGET OCCUPATION	WORK TYPE	WORK PRIOIRTY	LOCATION W3W
850	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	Mature	19m	Fair	Fair	Tree exhibiting early signs of Ash dieback. Significant deadwood throughout.	Fell	High	Hazard	B	Urgent System Doctor
851	Sweet Chestnut (Castanea sativa)	Mature	20m	Fair	Fair	Canopy dieback at 20%. Significant deadwood throughout and overhanging footpath and highway.	Remove deadwood and monitor tree health.	Medium	Hazard	B	Copper Sunsets Awards
G-852	Oak (Quercus robur)	Mature	20m	Good	Good	Significant deadwood throughout canopies.	Remove deadwood	Medium	Hazard	C	Shed Taken Eager
853	Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)	Mature	23m	Very poor	Poor	Heavily declined specimen with evidence of failures. Next to highway and residential homes.	Fell	High	Hazard	A	Shot Factor Patio

TREE ID	TREE SPEICES	AGE	HEIGHT Metres	PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION	STRUCTURAL CONDITION	COMMENTS	MANAGEMENT/WORK RECOMMENDATIONS	TARGET OCCUPATION	WORK TYPE	WORK PRIOIRTY	LOCATION W3W
854	Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)	Mature	23m	Fair	Fair	Evidence of canopy dieback approx. 20%. Significant dead and declining branches over highway and residential gardens.	Remove deadwood and inspect canopy.	High	Hazard	B	Apply Resort Solid
855	Horse Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)	Mature	19m	Good	Fair	Evidence of cavity on southern aspect at 2m. Approx. 45cm inward decay.	Further investigation recommended via Picus test.	Medium	Hazard	B	Wider Banana Grab
856	Hornbean (Carpinus betulus)	Mature	14m	Fair	Poor	Significant decay at crown break. Evidence of 'chicken of the woods' decay fungi.	Reduce remaining canopy to a finished height of 5m.	Mature	Hazard	B	Petty Letter Complains
U-T001	Oak (Quercus robur)	Mature	15m	Good	Good	Heavily clad with ivy. Difficult to assess structural condition	Sever ivy at base and reassess in 18-24 months.	Mature	Arb	B	Overnight Shirts League

TREE ID	TREE SPEICES	AGE	HEIGHT Metres	PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION	STRUCTURAL CONDITION	COMMENTS	MANAGEMENT/WORK RECOMMENDATIONS	TARGET OCCUPATION	WORK TYPE	WORK PRIOIRTY	LOCATION W3W
857	Oak (Quercus robur)	Mature	19m	Fair	Fair	Significant deadwood throughout canopy. Canopy decline at 10% Tree lacks stem taper from possible soil level change.	Remove deadwood and monitor tree health.	Medium	Hazard	C	Food Assist Alarm
858	Oak (Quercus robur)	Sem-Mature	19m	Good	Good	Storm damage limbs hung up in canopy over highway and footpath.	Remove failed branches from canopy.	Medium	Hazard	A	Teams Motive Space
859	Larch (Larix decidua)	Semi-Mature	15m	Fair	Poor	Evidence of swelling and cracking at base. Significant lean over highway.	Fell	Medium	Hazard	A	Guard Foal Racks
860	Beech (Fagus sylvatica)	Semi-mature	14m	Fair	Good	Evidence of canopy dieback at tips at approx. 10%	Monitor tree health and reassess in 18-24 months.	Medium	Arb	C	Stack Handle Tiny
861	Robinia (Robinia pseudoacacia)	Dead	15m	Very Poor	Very Poor	Dead specimen in woodland	Fell	Low	Hazard	C	Fled Rivers Mimic
862	Larch (Larix decidua)	Young	18m	Poor	Poor	Heavily declined specimen next to parking bays.	Fell	Medium	Hazard	A	Meals Venues Across
863	Scots Pine	Dead	19m	Very Poor	Very Poor	Dead tree next to parking	Fell	Medium	Hazard	A	Votes Fact

	(Pinus sylvestris)					spaces and unofficial footpath.					Keeps

Appendix 3 Tree Survey Map

Appendix 4 Tree Survey Key

Section	Key
ID	Identifies the tree, group, row, hedgerow or woodland with a unique identification number.
Tree Name	Scientific tree name and common tree name in brackets
Age	• Y - Young – First 10 years of growth • SM - Semi Mature - Less than 1/5 of life completed • EM – Early Mature – Less than 2/5 of life completed • M - Mature – 2/5 – 5/5 of life completed • OM - Over Mature - more than 5/5 of life completed and declining • V - Veteran – Veteran trees have no precise definition but are trees considered to be of biological aesthetic or ecological value because of their age
Height	Approximate size to the closest 0.5 metres
Physiological Condition	• G - Good • F - Fair • P - Poor • D - Dead
Structural Condition	• G - Good • F - Fair • P - Poor • VP – Very poor
Comments	Observations and comments
Management Work Recommendations	Required tree surgery operations including further investigation of suspected defects that require more detailed assessment
Target Occupation	An approximate site specific guide from High to Low as assessed on the day of the tree inspection of the risk relating to the potential for damage to a person, property or item, within an area around the tree if failure of the tree or part of the tree were to occur. It is recommended that the re-inspection of tree or groups of trees should be carried out as follows: • High – Re-inspect in 12 months or less if stated • H/Medium – Re-inspect in 24 months or as stated • Medium – Re-inspect in 30 months or as stated • M/Low – Re-inspect in 3 years or as stated • Low - Re-inspect in 5 years or as stated
Work Type	Type of management work recommendation • Hazard – Hazard Management - A risk to person or property from a tree with a defect or in poor condition • Arb – Arboricultural Management • Landscape – Landscape design/Management • Conservation – Wildlife/Habitat/Historic Management. • Woodland – Woodland Management

Work Priority	A priority rating for management work recommendations. This is determined from an assessment on the day taking into account the target occupation around the tree, the size/part of the tree affected by the defect, the probability and foreseeable nature of the defect failing, the quality and value of the tree and other arboricultural factors. A suggested timescale for the work to be carried out is provided below: • **Urgent -** Work to be carried out as soon as practically possible. I.e. less than 7 days **High –** Work to be carried out within 3-6 months • **Medium –** Work to be carried out in 6/12 months • **Low -** 12 + months**.** After consideration of management objectives.