

Tree condition survey
for
Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
at
Windmill Common

sapling arboriculture ltd

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Tree Condition Survey Data

Site Windmill Hill Common, Stratfield Mortimer
 Date of survey 19th November 2019
 Job reference J719.02.01
 Surveyor Ben Abbatt
 Resurvey To be complete by the 1st September 2022

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	801	Oak	Mature	Good	Fair	Frontage to Longmoor Lane. Single large deadwood (more than 100mm diameter) over the carriageway.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter.	Low
T	802	Beech	Middle aged	Good	Poor	Vandalism causing bark loss on lower stem.	Remove.	Low
T	803	Oak	Mature	Fair	Fair	Declining canopy. Deadwood throughout. At pedestrian gate into woodland.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter.	Moderate
Southern edge of woodland adjacent to residential housing.								
T	804	Scots Pine	Middle aged	Fair	Fair	Recent branch failure in upper canopy. Bark loss on tension side of stem predisposing the tree to fail towards the adjacent property.	Remove.	Low
T	805	Oak	Middle aged	Good	Poor	Adjacent to informal parking area. Failed branch (hazard beam crack) at 7m.	Remove.	Moderate
T	806	Oak	Mature	Good	Poor	Lean towards adjacent property. Ivy impedes survey.	Sever ivy at base and remove to 2m using hand tools only and taking care to avoid damage to the bark beneath. Resurvey once ivy is removed from the base of the tree.	Low
						Entrance into woodland from Windmill Court.		

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	807	Scots Pine	Mature	Poor	Poor	No visible canopy. Ivy impedes survey. Adjacent to Windmill Court.	Remove.	High
Public right of way entrance from Woodland Close.								
						No tree safety works identified at the time of the survey.		
Vehicular access from Windmill Road.								
T	808	Scots Pine	Mature	Good	Poor	Vertical bark loss running down the lower stem with subsequent decay. Woodpecker holes. High habitat potential.	Remove.	Moderate
T	809	Scots Pine	Middle aged	Dead			Remove.	Moderate
T	810	Scots Pine	Mature	Good	Poor	Severe included bark union at 1.5m.	Remove.	Moderate
T	811	Scots Pine	Mature	Dead			Remove.	Moderate
Footway to north western pedestrian access into woodland.								
						No tree safety works identified at the time of the survey.		

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
Footway to northern pedestrian access into woodland.								
T	812	Scots Pine	Mature	Poor	Poor	Sparse foliage. Bottle Butt at base indicating potential decay.	Remove.	Moderate
T	813	Scots Pine	Mature	Good	Poor	Canker on lower stem; potential decay and stem failure.	Remove.	Moderate
T	814	Scots Pine	Mature	Dead			Remove.	Moderate
T	815	Scots Pine	Mature	Dead			Remove.	Moderate
T	816	Scots Pine	Mature	Good	Poor	Woodpecker holes in upper stem; potential decay and stem failure.	Remove.	Moderate
Central footway through the woodland (north to south)								
T	817	Scots Pine	Mature	Good	Fair	Moderate deadwood throughout.	Remove deadwood more than 25mm diameter.	Low
T	818	Scots Pine	Mature	Dead			Remove.	Moderate
T	819	Scots Pine	Middle aged	Dead			Remove.	Moderate

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
T	820	Scots Pine	Mature	Dead			Remove.	Moderate
T	821	Scots Pine	Middle aged	Dead			Remove.	Moderate
T	822	Scots Pine	Middle aged	Dead			Remove.	Moderate
T	823	Scots Pine	Middle aged	Dead			Remove.	Moderate
T	824	Scots Pine	Middle aged	Dead			Remove.	Moderate
Footway from northern pedestrian access into woodland to Longmoor Lane entrance.								
						No tree safety works identified at the time of the survey.		

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
General woodland management works								
						The survey has been carried out on a 'negative return' basis only recording the features which has a significant impact upon the condition of the trees. Where trees are identified as having significant features that have a significant impact upon the condition of the tree or the use of the site then the tree is tagged and works detailed with a priority. The survey has been carried out only from the woodland footpaths and the road to the east of the site. The herbaceous layer has limited the survey of the base of trees.		
						Resurvey of the woodland common will need to be carried out on a cyclic basis due to the changing circumstances. Bearing in mind the woodland features, the levels of use observed on the day of survey and the adjacent features it is reasonable for the woodland to be surveyed by an arboriculturalist once every 30 months with a 6 monthly survey by a lay person appropriately trained (for instance LANTRA Basic Tree Survey and Inspection).	Resurvey to be complete by an Arboricultural Consultant before the 1st September 2022. Ad hoc survey by Lantra Basic Tree Survey trained individual to be carried out every 6 months.	High
						The woodland has a high canopy of primarily Oak to the east, south and west with Scots Pine occasionally throughout and a group to the centre and north of the common. There is good understory of Holly and Hazel. If allowed to continue the Holly will dominate the understory and shade out the herbaceous lay. Therefore the Holly ought to be controlled. The removal of the Holly may be suitable for volunteer works with appropriate supervision.	Remove 80% of the Holly from the woodland to allow herbaceous layer and natural tree regeneration. Holly removal to commence from the centre towards the perimeter of the site to leave a 7m buffer around the perimeter of the site. Stumps of cut holly to be treated to prevent regrowth with appropriate herbicide (see HSE Pesticides Guide).	Moderate

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
						Throughout the woodland there are low branches over the footpaths and encroaching upon the edges. It is appropriate to cut back to 1m beyond the footway edge and to 4m above the footpaths to allow pedestrian access. These works may be suitable for volunteer works with appropriate supervision.	Annual crown lift to 4m over the footway and 1m either side of the footway.	Low
						To prevent ivy becoming a significant issue, the ivy growth is to be cut at the base and removed to a height of 2m using hand saw and taking care to avoid damage to the bark beneath. This will allow the tree structure to be surveyed and to remove additional wind loading / competition for water and nutrients. As ivy offers habitat (food and shelter) to a wide range of wildlife the ivy, in future, can be cut on a cyclic basis every c4 years or where the ivy grows to above 1/3rd of the height of the tree.	Sever ivy on the trees within 5m of the perimeter of the site and footways at the base and remove to 2m using hand tools only and taking care to avoid damage to the bark beneath. Resurvey once ivy removed from the base of the tree. Sever ivy at the base of the remaining trees at a rate of approximately 20% of the site per year.	Moderate
						There is fly tipping occurring within the woodland adjacent to access road and from the rear of adjacent properties. This degrades the appearance and habitat that the woodland offers. Communication with adjacent landowners and notice boards discussing fly tipping is appropriate to reduce the occurrence. The removal of the fly tipped material may be suitable for volunteer works with appropriate supervision.	Remove flytipping and communicate with adjacent landowners to reduce future incidence.	Low
						In the material of some soil waste there are (potentially invasive) garden plants. These plants may affect the herbaceous, understory and high canopy of the woodland and degrade the appearance and habitat that the woodland offers. Communication with adjacent landowners and notice boards discussing fly tipping of garden waste is appropriate to reduce the occurrence. This material ought to be removed. The removal of the fly tipped material may be suitable for volunteer works with appropriate supervision.	Remove potentially invasive species and communicate with adjacent landowners to reduce future incidence.	Low

Designation	Reference number	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Condition notes	Condition related tree works	Priority
						<p>There are a number of non-native plants within the woodland, in particular the Laurel to the western end of the site adjacent to the footpath. It would be appropriate to remove these plants and treat their stumps to prevent regrowth. The removal of the non-native plants may be suitable for volunteer works with appropriate supervision.</p>	<p>Remove non-native plants. Stumps of cut trees and shrubs to be treated to prevent regrowth with appropriate herbicide (see HSE Pesticides Guide).</p>	<p>Low</p>

General notes

Tree positions are annotated on Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council's Geographical Information System.

The tree survey has been carried out in relation to the landowner's duty under the Occupier's Liability Act 1984 and common law. The tree survey was carried out from ground level, identifying significant tree features that may have significant bearing upon the condition and management of the tree and giving appropriate recommendations and priorities. All dimensions are estimated. No soil investigations will be carried out.

To carry out the tree survey reasonable access around the base of the tree is required. Where this is not feasible, these parts of the tree may not be able to be inspected. If view of the entire structure of the tree(s) is limited, for instance by the properties in private ownership, this is a limitation to the tree survey and some parts of the tree may not be able to be fully surveyed. The tree survey will be carried out from the ground with the aid of binoculars if necessary. The tree will not be climbed as part of this survey.

Typical significant defects that are to be identified can be referred to in "Hazards from Trees, a general guide" by David Lonsdale and "The body language of trees" by Claus Mattheck published by the Forestry Commission and the Department of the Environment respectively.

The tree survey can only be an assessment of the tree at the time of the survey and the tree(s) should be re-surveyed on a regular basis. An appropriate time period between surveys may be up to 5 years depending upon the condition of the trees, their maturity and the target(s). Recommendations for the period between surveys will be given.

As trees are dynamic structures their condition and health may change in a short period of time, particularly in relation to changes in their immediate environment and circumstances. Therefore, the survey is an assessment of the trees at the time of the survey only. If there is a significant change in the immediate environment and circumstances, then this should be brought to the attention of the arboriculturalist so that they may advise accordingly.

I have not checked whether the site is within a Conservation Area or whether the trees are under Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Prior to any tree works confirmation of whether these legal restrictions apply to the site or trees ought to be sought from the Local Planning Authority (LPA). If the trees stand within a Conservation Area designated under the Town and Country Planning Act the LPA will normally require 6 weeks notice of intention to carry out any tree works as detailed in the survey. If the trees are under TPO then the LPA will normally require an application for any tree works. Some tree works are exempt, for instance if the trees are dead or dangerous, and certain works can be carried out without application. It is necessary to give the LPA at least five days notice prior to carrying out any of these tree works under these exemptions. This survey, with recommendations, can be used to support any such application or notice.

Wildlife issues are of significant concern to the general public. A balance has to be found between the protection of wildlife and the need for safety when managing trees. The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1980) and Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000) give statutory protection to wild birds, bats, mammals, some invertebrates and plants. It is important to ensure that this legislation is properly considered when carrying out any works to trees.

Bird nests were not identified whilst on site. However, any Arborist carrying out the tree works should ensure that there is no disturbance to nesting birds prior to the works being carried out. Further guidance upon the appropriate timing of the works can be sought from DEFRA, if necessary. Where nesting birds are found further information should be sought from DEFRA 08459 33 55 77 or helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Prior to any works being implemented the tree contractor must identify whether there are any bats or birds using the tree as roost or nest. If such habitation is identified, then the tree contractor must obtain the necessary licence from Natural England (0845 601 4523 www.naturalengland.org.uk) to carry out the works.

In this instance, considering the size of the trees, their location and features I believe that there is a medium potential of bats using the mature trees as a roost site. A bat survey prior to tree works is not recommended as it would be difficult to determine the location of any exit point from the roost within the tree by a bat survey and also confusion may also arise from bats travelling from other roosts. Any such exit could more easily be identified by a competent tree worker. During the tree works the contractor should carry out the tree works with bats as an active consideration and follow the current industry best practice, e.g. Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 1 Bats in the context of tree work operations 2011, which a competent tree contractor should be familiar with.

Biosecurity measures: To minimise the potential for contamination of the tree from other tree works it is appropriate to sterilise tools to be used before and after the works are implemented. Appropriate disinfectant includes Propellor or Cleankill Sanitizing spray. Loose debris is to be brushed off prior to treating with disinfectant to ensure appropriate application. See [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCMS028-guidance.pdf/\\$file/FCMS028-guidance.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCMS028-guidance.pdf/$file/FCMS028-guidance.pdf) for further information on Biosecurity and <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-9fjd2d> for disinfectant information.

Key to condition survey sheet

No	Tree number.
Species	Species of tree.
Height	Height measured in metres.
Branch Spread	Branch spread in metres taken at the four cardinal points to derive an accurate representation of the crown.
Height of crown	Height in metres of crown clearance above adjacent ground level.
Age Class (Age)	Young A tree considered to be less than approximately 20 years old.
	Middle aged A tree in approximately the first 1/5th of its normal life span with apical dominance (rapidly growing with a clear main leader) and not yet fully at its environmental potential full height.
	Mature A tree in its 2/5ths to 5/5ths of its normal life span with apical dominance lost and at its environmental potential full height.
Condition (Physiological and Structural)	Good Full healthy canopy; but possibly including some suppressed branches or minor physical damage. A tree that requires little or no tree works, and it is anticipated to be retained for over 20 years.
	Fair Slightly reduced leaf cover, minor dead wood, or isolated major deadwood. A tree that requires tree works to remove defects and/or improve the form so that it may be anticipated to be retained for over 5 years.
	Poor Overall sparse leafing or extensive dead wood. A tree that has a significant proportion of defects and/or requires considerable tree works to aid its retention and/or where the retention of the tree is not anticipated beyond 5 years.
Recommendations	As per BS3998: 2010 Recommendations for Tree Works.
Priority	Immediate Works should be carried out immediately as the probability of harm or damage occurring is likely.
	High These works are important to carry out as soon as reasonably possible and any budget available for tree management should be spent upon these trees before the moderate and low categories. Works in this category usually will relate to abatement of risk for harm and or damage to occur. Ideally works in this category are anticipated to be carried out within 2 months.
	Moderate These works are important to carry out as soon as reasonably possible and any budget available for tree management should be spent upon these trees before the low categories. Works in this category usually will relate to abatement of risk for harm and or damage to occur and for the good arboricultural management of the trees. Ideally works in this category are anticipated to be carried out within 6 months.
	Low Works in this category usually will relate to the good arboricultural management of the trees. Ideally works in this category are anticipated to be carried out within 24 months.
Re-survey	This is the time period in which it is recommended that the tree is surveyed again. This is based upon the condition of the tree, its location, previous, current and future management. It is normally expressed at a time period from the date of the report / survey, whichever is the sooner. If no time period is noted, then the default period is one year.



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