

Great Notley Parish Council Tree Survey Report



Sent to:
Suzanne Walker, Parish
Clerk

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Report checking and version control:

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1	11.10.2022	Joe Beznosiuk	Drafted
2	11.10.2022	Dave Green	Internally reviewed
3	11.10.2022	Joe Beznosiuk	Issued

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A site visit was carried out by Joe Beznosiuk (Place Services' Arboricultural Consultant) on the 29th September 2022 to undertake inspection as outlined in the instruction of this survey. Unless otherwise stated, all trees were inspected visually from ground level. The nature of the survey was to assess the site for risks from tree-related hazards and to recommend any necessary work to control these risks.
- 1.2 The sites surveyed include:
 - Lavens Way play area
 - RAFT area (adjacent to Notley Green)
- 1.3 Trees were assessed for safety considerations and recommendations for any necessary work have been detailed in this report. Any trees with defects that do not require remedial work, but where it is foreseeable that the trees' condition could deteriorate over time as a result of their defect(s), have been noted for monitoring. Any trees that require further investigation (either internal or aerial) have also been included.
- 1.4 It is recommended that all trees are surveyed at a minimum of every three years, with re-inspection or monitoring of individual trees as recommended in this report.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The assessment of trees on the site has been carried out using the current industry standard Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) technique developed by Mattheck and Breloer (1994). Where necessary, non-invasive tools such as binoculars, a mallet and/or a metal probe were used to assist in the assessment of tree defects, such as cavities/suspected decay. A systematic approach was used, with the rooting area, stem and crown/branch structure inspected for each individual tree.
- 2.2 Risk assessments have been carried out broadly in line with the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) - Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (guidance) and the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ), which defines the following three levels of assessment.
 - **Level 1: Basic Visual Assessment** - Generally reserved for large populations of trees that require a fast and cost effective overview of the tree stock. Any trees that require a more detailed inspection have been given a level 2 standard assessment.
 - **Level 2: Standard Assessment** - A detailed visual inspection from ground level of specific individual trees. Any trees that may require further investigation, such as internal decay detection or aerial inspection will be recommended for a level 3 advanced assessment.
 - **Level 3: Advanced Assessment** - This is the highest level of inspection, only undertaken when significant defects are identified at level 2 that require the use of specialist equipment and techniques. Examples of this level of assessment would be internal decay detection with sonic tomography or aerial inspection from a rope and harness.
- 2.3 As part of this survey a combination of both level 1 and level 2 assessments have been carried out. Where required, recommendations have been made for trees that require a level 3 advanced assessment.
- 2.4 Only areas identified as high or medium risk were inspected where public access is foreseeable; this included major paths, tracks, rides, car parks, areas abutting highways, public rights of ways, desire lines, seating and children's play areas and areas around structures and buildings.

- 2.5 The level of risk increases and decreases with the change in frequency of use, particularly during special events where large numbers of people may be in an area around trees for an extended period of time. This raises the level of risk considerably.
- 2.6 The risk assessment of each tree defect was based on the severity of the hazard and the likelihood of it causing injury or harm. Provided below are keys for the works priority (based upon the significance of the defect and the target area below) and an inspection frequency (based upon the recommended work having been completed or the likely rate of decline as a result of a defect).
- 2.7 Where work is recommended to a tree, an initial assessment for bat roost potential has been made, as appropriate to the training and experience of the surveyor. For trees with confirmed bat roost potential, or where there is uncertainty, it is essential that an ecologist is consulted to provide advice on suitable working methods to enable the remedial works without a criminal offence being committed.

3 Results

- 3.1 Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly and all trees, even healthy ones, can be a risk as a result of weather, environmental events or human actions. The assessment of risk for any tree is based upon factors evident at the time of the inspection and the interpretation of those factors by suitably qualified inspectors. The health, condition and safety of trees should be checked on a basis commensurate with the level of risk.
- 3.2 Trees are dynamic structures that can suffer damage or failure under average conditions without external symptoms. A lack of recommended work does not imply that a tree is without defect; all external factors are considered during level 1 and 2 tree surveys and an assessment of risk is made. This prevents foreseeable failure; however the very nature of a living structure gives rise to anomalies or undetectable underlying weaknesses. Regular inspections by a competent and suitably qualified arboriculturist will help to identify potential problems before they become acute.
- 3.3 The majority of the Parish's trees were found to have good vitality with no visible major defects. Section 4, below, contains a schedule specifying trees with faults and/or defects requiring work, re-inspection or monitoring.
- 3.4 We strongly suggest that tree works are organised and managed through a suitably qualified and insured contractor. Please ensure that any contractors' attention is drawn to the 'Notes for Contractors' in Section 7.
- 3.5 Brambles, Common Nettle and Common Ivy around trunks can prevent thorough inspection of some trees. In such instances, the inspection is based on crown condition and the parts of the tree that are visible. Where there are some concerns but a full inspection of individual trees has not been possible, this has been noted on the tree schedule and may be accompanied by a recommendation to clear the obscuring vegetation.

4 Recommendations

Key to tree tables

Note: The inspection frequency categorisation given below is as used for trees on other ECC sites.

Age Class		
Y	Young	Tree is within the first third of life expectancy
SM	Semi-mature	Tree is within the second third of life expectancy
M	Mature	Tree is within the final third of life expectancy
A	Ancient	A tree that is older than the life expectancy

PRFs

Potential Roost Features for bats (European Protected Species). Please see the Information section of this report for more detail on this. If a tree requires remedial work and is found to have roosting potential for bats, an ecologist will need to be consulted on the likely impact and working methods required.

PRF	Potential
Y	Yes
N	No
U	Unsure

Work priority		
1	Urgent	Works required immediately to make tree safe.
2	Very high	Works required within 30 days.
3	High	Works required within 90 days.
4	Moderate	Works required as part of scheduled maintenance over 12 months from the relevant inspection date.
5	Low	Works required are of the lowest priority and may be done if the budget allows.
N/A	Not applicable	No work required

Inspection Frequency		
1	Urgent	Carry out an aerial inspection and/or use decay detection equipment as soon as can be arranged
2	Very high	6 month inspection
3	High	12 month inspection
4	Moderate	18 month inspection
5	Low	3 year inspection
0	None	Target removed

Remedial work

Tree ref.	Species	Height (m)	Age Class	Comments	Recommendations	PRFs	Work priority	Inspection frequency
T1	Oak	15	M	Good vitality and vigour displayed at the time of inspection. Minor deadwood noted throughout the crown at the time of inspection, under 1m length and below 5cm diameter.	Remove deadwood.	N	4	5

5 Tree Location Plan



6 Photographs



7 Information

Appendix 1: Notes for contractors

Guidance

- 7.1 Traffic management must comply with “**Safety at Street Works and Road Works: A Code of Practice**” (The Stationery Office 2001).
- 7.2 Work must be carried out in compliance with **BS3998: 2010 “Tree work – Recommendations”**, plus all relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practices.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

- 7.3 All wild birds, their eggs and nests are protected by law. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. Birds included on Schedule 1 of the Act have extra legal protection and it is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb them while they are at or near a nest. Please therefore check for the presence of nesting birds in vegetation or on open ground, before commencing work, and record the details. Where nesting birds are found to be present, the contractor must stop work immediately and seek the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist, who will be able to advise on next steps. Work in close proximity of the nest will need to be postponed until further notice.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

- 7.4 This applies to European Protected Species, which in the context of trees, refers primarily to bats and possibly Dormouse. A person is guilty of an offence if he/she:
 - deliberately captures, injures or kills a protected species
 - deliberately disturbs a protected species
 - damages or disturbs a breeding site or resting place

- 7.5 When bats are found to be present, the contractor must stop work immediately and call the National Bat Helpline on 0345 1300 228. Work will need to be postponed until further notice.

Work at Height Regulations 2005

- 7.6 Contractors must use the right work equipment and measures to prevent falls, such as mobile elevated work platforms, in preference to using measures that only provide protection from a fall, e.g. rope & harness.
- 7.7 As per Schedule 5, Part 1, a personal fall protection system shall only be used if –
 - A risk assessment has demonstrated that the work can so far as is reasonably practicable be performed safely while using that system, and that the use of other, safer work equipment is not reasonably practicable; and
 - The user and a sufficient number of available persons have received adequate training specific to the operations envisaged, including rescue procedures.

Cross-contamination

- 7.8 Where there is a risk of transferring pathogens to vegetation at other sites, felling and pruning equipment must be disinfected after use (possible disinfectants include Propellar). Also consider brushing mud and debris from soles of boots, and spraying boots and vehicle tyres before leaving the site (possible

disinfectants include CleanKill, Virkon, ethanol and industrial methylated spirits). All disinfectants should be used in accordance with the recommended safety precautions (refer to the material data safety sheet for each product).

Pests and Diseases

- 7.9 It is essential to keep up to date on pests and diseases entering the country that could pose a threat to the long term health to our tree stock, especially through cross contamination. Up to date information can be found on the Forestry Commission website <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases>

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