

St Andrews Park Preliminary Tree Condition Survey

Prepared for
Nick Ebelthite of Nurture Landscapes

Site
St Andrews Park, Hillingdon Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 0AD



Prepared by
Lee Davies Dip Arb L4 (ABC), TechArborA

11th August 2017

1. Brief

- 1.1 Artemis Tree Services Ltd has been instructed by Nick Ebelthite of Nurture Landscapes (purchase order number 101733) to undertake a preliminary tree condition survey of approximately 100 trees on land they maintain within St Andrews Park, and make recommendations for any necessary works as a result of our investigations.
The survey is concerned with the structural and physiological condition, and safety of the trees surveyed.

2. Caveats

- 2.1 Climbing inspections have not been carried out as part of the preliminary survey. If climbing inspection is required as part of a follow up inspection, this will be detailed within the recommendations.
- 2.2 Conclusions and recommendations relate to the condition of the site and tree at the time of the inspection only. Comments valid for a period of two years from the date of this report. Within this period, trees should be inspected for damage following storms or other severe weather events.
- 2.3 By their very nature, trees can never be entirely free of risk. The laws and forces of nature dictate a failure rate, even among intact trees with no apparent defects. The recommendations in this report cannot guarantee the elimination of all risk.
- 2.4 The survey and report does not include risk assessment of trees in relation to subsidence.

3. Methodology of Survey

- 3.1 I carried out the tree condition survey from ground level using the Visual Tree Assessment method (Mattheck,c and Breloer,H, 1994), using basic inspection tools (mallet, probe and binoculars).
- 3.2 For the purpose of this report all height measurements are estimated. Single tree stem diameters are measured at 1.5m from ground level using a diameter tape. Stem diameters of trees in groups are estimated. Diameter measurements are not taken from trees where there is restricted access to the trunk.

- 3.3 As set out within Artemis Tree Services Ltd survey quotation (Ref: 7453), in order to keep costs to a minimum and to focus on trees that have the highest potential to cause harm, only trees with a diameter of 15cm or over (measured at 1.5m from ground level) have be included within the survey and report. Additionally, to minimise costs, only trees that have recommendations for remedial work will be included within the survey report.

4. Documents provided

- 4.1 A map of areas contracted to Nurture Landscapes (marked red and green) has been provided to me by Nick Ebelthite, and has been included in Appendix 2 of this report. I have plotted the approximate location of trees included within this report on the map provided.

5. Introduction

5.1 Qualifications

- 5.1.1 I am qualified to, Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture, hold the Lantra Awards Professional Tree Inspection Certificate, and am a Technician Member of the Arboricultural Association.

5.2 Site visit

- 5.2.1 I visited the site on the 10th of August 2017 to carry out the preliminary tree inspection.

5.3 Site Description

5.3.1 St Andrews Park is a large community development. Construction began in 2013 and is expected to take 10 years in total to complete. The development will include:

- Up to 1,340 new homes
- New primary school
- Large public park
- Offices
- Shops
- Restaurant
- Theatre
- Hotel
- Museum
- Care home

The development is built on the 110-acre former RAF Uxbridge base, which played a crucial role in the pivotal Battle of Britain. The Bunker remains as a museum and an important visitor centre. (<http://www.standrewsuxbridge.com>)

- 5.3.2 Nurture Landscapes is currently responsible for the maintenance of a small proportion of the development (marked on maps in appendix 2).

5.4 Tree description

- 5.4.1 Trees within the site range from young newly planted trees to large mature trees of varied species. The site also includes a number of very old 'veteran' trees. Three old veteran oaks are situated within grounds maintained by Nurture Landscapes, which I have estimated to be 200-300 years old.

6. Findings

- 6.1 Appendix 1 contains the findings of the survey conducted on the 10th of August 2017. A key for table information can be found at the end of appendix 1.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 I recommend that all management actions found in appendix 1 be carried out within the advised priority time frames. These are as follows:

Priority A – Within 3 months

Priority B – Within 6 months

Priority C – Within 12 months

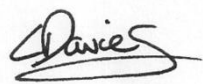
8. Trees Subject to Statutory Controls

- 8.1 Artemis Tree Services Ltd have not been instructed to establish the presence of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) or Conservation Areas Designation at this stage. This information must be obtained prior to carrying out any pruning or felling operations. If Artemis Tree Services Ltd is employed to undertake recommended works; all necessary checks will be made on the clients' behalf.

9. Arboricultural Standards

- 9.1 All tree works recommended in this report are to be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:2010. Tree Work – Recommendations, and should be undertaken by a suitably qualified contracting company.

Signed:



Date: 11th November 2016

This report was overseen by the company director Simon N'Jie

Signed:



Date: 23rd August 2017

Appendix 1

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Tree No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem Diameter (cm)	Age Class	Physio-logical Condition	Structural Condition	Comments	Recommended Management Actions	Priorit y	Re-inspect (months)
G1	1x Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) 2x Red oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>) 5x Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) 2x Lime (<i>Tilia</i> Sp.)	10	30-60	MA	Fair	Good	Large dead branches within crown. Low hanging branches over road. Branches in contact with building. Ivy growing on trunks.	Remove major deadwood. Crown lift branches over the road to 5.2m from ground level. Cut branches back from building to provide at 1.5-2m clearance. Sever ivy at the base of trees to prevent thick ivy growth on trees and that may restrict future visual inspections.	A C	24
G2	4x Red oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	10	30-60	MA	Good	Good	Low hanging branches over road. This section is not currently being managed by Nurture Landscapes. I have included it anyway as it would make sense to lift branches over the road at the same time as G1 if required.	Crown lift branches over the road to 5.2m from ground level.	C	24
G3	Lime (<i>Tilia</i> Sp.)	10	30-60	MA	Good	Good	Ivy is growing up trunks of lime trees within G3.	Sever ivy at the base of trees to prevent thick ivy growth on trees and that may restrict future visual inspections.	C	24
57	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	14	63	M	Good	Fair	Large pruning wounds visible with grass growing from the centre.	Crown reduce all over by 2m to reduce leverage on long lateral limbs.	A	24

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							Particularly long lateral limbs that may be vulnerable to failure in strong winds.			
55	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	14	97	M	Good	Fair	Large wound at crown break with staining running from the wound down the trunk. Large spreading tree with long lateral limbs. Small fungal bracket visible at 10m from ground level on central stem.	Crown reduce all over by 2-3m to reduce leverage on long lateral limbs and potential weak union at crown break.	A	24
51	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	10	136	V	Fair	Fair	Veteran oak estimated to be 200-300 years old. The tree has a large trunk and small crown as would be expected in the late stages of life. There is a large pruning wound on trunk. The appearance of exposed wood at the centre of the wound is consistent with degradation caused by brown rot fungi.	In order to improve the overall health of the tree and extend its safe retention, I recommend that the ground beneath the tree be mulched to improve the soil conditions below. Woodchip mulch should be applied from the trunk outward to the edge of the crown, to a depth of 50mm.	A	12
50	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	8	42	MA	Fair	Good	Major deadwood present in crown.	Remove major deadwood.	A	24
50b (no tag)	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	7	34	MA	Fair	Good	Major deadwood present in crown.	Major deadwood present in crown.	A	24
50c (no tag)	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	10	52	MA	Good	Fair	Major deadwood present in crown. Lowest lateral limb is outstretched and has fungi (<i>Auricularia mesenterica</i>) growing from the top of the union, indicating the presence of decay.	Remove major deadwood and reduce lowest limb by 2-2.5m to reduce the likelihood of failure under load.	A	24

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G4	4x Swedish whitebeam (<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>)	7	30-50	MA	Good	Fair	Dead branches in lower crown.	Remove major deadwood from lower crown.	C	24
51b (no tag)	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	8	122	V	Fair	Fair	Veteran oak estimated to be 200-300 years old. Large wound at crown break. Cable bracing has been installed at some point in the past between the three main stems. The tree has been heavily topped relatively recently.	In order to improve the overall health of the tree and extend its safe retention, I recommend that the ground beneath the tree be mulched to improve the soil conditions below. Woodchip mulch should be applied from the trunk outward to the edge of the crown, to a depth of 50mm. Additionally I recommend that the cable bracing is inspected for wear and additional bracing is installed if required.	A	12
G5	6x Swedish whitebeam (<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>)	6	30-50	MA	Fair	Good	Minor deadwood in crowns. One tree in the group is growing into an adjacent street lamp.	Prune branches away from street lamp to provide 1.5m clearance.	C	24
G6	5x Swedish whitebeam (<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>) 1x Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	6-8	30-50	MA	Fair	Good	Rowan tree appears to be in poor health with a very sparse crown. Trees are growing very close to houses 12, 14 and 18. Branches almost coming into contact with the buildings. Whitebeam adjacent to number 8 has some extensive	Monitor health of rowan tree. If the tree fails to flush in spring it may need to be removed. Prune branches back from adjacent houses to provide 1-1.5m clearance. Remove dead branches from northern side of crown.	C	24

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							dieback on the north side of the crown.			
G7	2x Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	12-14	80-90	MA	Fair	Fair	Large lateral limb growing towards number 9 has small area of dead bark at its union and growth cracks close to the base of the limb. Possibly cause by excessive loading in strong winds. Leaf miner damage to leaves.	Reduce lateral limb growing towards number 9 by 2.5m to reduce the likelihood of it failing under load.	B	24
406	Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	18	125	MA	Fair	Fair	Leaf miner damage to leaves. Tree situated within children's play area. The tree is particularly large spreading tree. There are no significant defects present. However, in my experience mature horse chestnut species is prone to branch failure under load.	Crown reduce by removing 3-4m from the height and 2-3m from the sides, to reduce the likelihood of failure and risk of harm to playground users.	B	24
G8	4x Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	16	60-80	MA	Fair	Fair	Leaf miner damage to leaves. Low hanging branches over road.	Crown lift branches over road to 5.2m from ground level.	C	24
O1 (no tag)	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	17	72	MA	Poor	-	Significant dieback of the crown. Large amount of major deadwood present. Stem bleeding.	Fell	A	-
1331	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	10	155	V	Fair	Fair	Veteran oak estimated to be 200-300 years old. Significant cavity at base of tree. Wood decay fungi with the appearance of <i>Ganoderma</i>	I recommend further investigation be carried out using decay detection equipment (sonic tomography or microdrill) in	A	12

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							within the cavity and on main stem. Possible root decay fungi (<i>Gymnopus fusipes</i>) in clusters around base of tree. The tree has been heavily reduced relatively recently, and looks in poor health with a sparse crown.	order to better assess any risk posed by the tree.		
E1 (no tag)	Dead elm (<i>Ulmus procera</i>)	5	-	-	Dead	-	Dead elm at edge of wooded area.	Fell	C	24
L1 (no tag)	Larch (<i>Larix decidua</i>)	12	40	MA	Fair	Good	Tree appears to be in poor health with a very sparse crown.	Monitor health of tree for any improvement in the following spring.	C	24
G9	3x Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	14	40-60	MA	Good	-	Thick ivy preventing inspection of the lower trunk.	Sever and remove ivy from base up to 1.5m from ground level, and visually inspect for any obvious defects.	A	24
404	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	14	94	M	Fair	Fair	Major deadwood present in crown.	Remove major deadwood.	A	24
O2 (no tag)	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	18	130	M	Fair	Fair	Major deadwood present in crown.	Remove major deadwood.	A	24
Y1 (no tag)	Yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>)	8	53	MA	Fair	Fair	Broken branches overhanging road. Hollow stem. Branches encroaching onto street light.	Remove broken branches and crown lift over road to 5.2m. Prune branches away from streetlight to provide 1m clearance.	A	24
1411	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	18	94	MA	Good	Fair	Hanging dead stub and major deadwood.	Remove major deadwood.	A	24

1414	Yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>)	8	-	MA	Good	Fair	Clump of three branches have torn away from main trunk.	Remove failed branches.	A	24
1415	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	16	73	Ma	Good	Fair	Large damaged branch overhanging footpath on south side of crown.	Remove damaged branch and major deadwood.	A	24
G10	2x Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	16	40-60	MA	Good	Good	Low hanging branches over road.	Crown lift over road to 5.2m.	C	24

Key for column information

Height – Tree height measured in metres

Stem Diameter - Stem diameter in centimetres measured at 1.5m above ground level.

Age Class – Relative to species

Y-Young (first third of life, height and growth),

MA-Middle aged (second third of life, height and growth),

M-Mature (last third of life, ultimate height yet still increasing in girth),

OM-Over Mature/ancient (older than last third of life and tree starting to ^{SEP}decline/retrench in height and girth starting to reduce. An old example of ^{SEP}that species),

V-Veteran (trees of interest biologically, aesthetically, or culturally in their ancient stage of life relative to others of same species) ^{SEP}

Physiological condition

Good - Tree in a healthy condition with no significant problems^{SEP}

Fair - Tree generally in good health with some problems that can be remediated

Poor - Tree in poor health with significant problems that can't be remediated

Dead - Tree without sufficient live material to sustain life^[SEP]

Structural condition

Good - Tree in a safe condition with no significant defects^[SEP]

Fair - Tree in a safe condition at present but with defects or with significant defects that can be remediated

Poor - Tree with significant defects that can't be remediated

Priority – Advised time frame for management recommendations to be undertaken (from publication date of report)

U – Within 2 weeks (if necessary the hazard should be taped/fenced off until work can be carried out)

A – Within 3 months

B – Within 6 months

C – Within 12 months

Re-inspect – Advised re-inspection frequency

Deadwood classification

Minor deadwood – approx. 25mm in diameter or less

Major deadwood – approx. over 25mm in diameter

