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TREE SAFETY ASSESSMENT:
2-4 Northwood Road, Harefield, UB9 6PW

Client: Kevin Turner
Date of inspection: 22nd May 2023
Inspector: Glen Harding MICFor,
MSc (Forestry), MArborA

Instructions received:

Owners or occupiers of land have a duty of care that has implications for tree management; this can include the implementation of proactive inspections and maintenance. It is important that people having or taking ownership of, or responsibility for trees are aware of their condition. Tree inspections provide relevant information, to inform management decisions and demonstrate that care has been taken.

GHA Trees Ltd have been instructed to carry out an inspection of all significant trees growing within the curtilage of the 2 – 4 Northwood Road, in order to identify any trees that pose an unacceptable risk to users of the site and adjoining properties. The boundaries of the subject site are shown on the tree location plan at Appendix 1 which accompanies this report.

We are also instructed to make recommendations for remedial works that are necessary and proportionate in response to visible defects recorded during the survey.

Tree number/identification:

The positions of the surveyed trees which are listed within in the tree schedule at Appendix 1 are shown on the tree location plan at Appendix 2; this plan shows approximate tree locations.

Scope of survey:

- All significant trees were subject to a visual inspection from ground level, with the aid of binoculars where necessary.
- The trees were inspected on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breleor (The body language of tree, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994).
- No tissue samples from any tree were taken.
- The lower stems of trees were tapped with a plastic-headed hammer to check for indications of internal decay. The differing sounds can reveal areas of hollowing, dead bark and other defects. Any visible cavities in the base of the stem were probed with a steel rod. No detailed internal investigation of the subject trees was undertaken.
- Dense vegetation or climbers (such as ivy) can prohibit full inspections and is recorded if appropriate.
- In assessing the potential risks posed by defective trees, recommendations for appropriate and proportionate action are made in consideration of the guidance provided in '*Common Sense Risk Management of Trees*)' produced by the National Tree Safety Group (published by The Forestry Commission, 2011).
- The inherent risks associated with trees mean that it is a mistake to manage them in an overly risk-averse manner. In addition to considerations of tree safety, it is important that management decisions are taken in light of their wider benefits (aesthetic ecological, environmental and sociological). Management decisions to address identified hazards that exceed what is necessary to the detriment of these benefits are inappropriate.
- All measurements within the tree table at Appendix 1 are estimates. The dimensions of trees within groups are given as an averaged figure unless otherwise stated.

- Deadwood is present on most older trees, especially veteran trees. It would not be practicable or reasonable to remove all deadwood from trees in public areas. I have only recommended removal where I feel deadwood poses an imminent threat.

Recommendations:

The schedule Appendix 1 provides details of remedial works recommended for consideration. Tree works will be required to be in accord with British Standard 3998 – 2010 (Tree Work - Recommendations).

We do not check statutory designations as a matter of course, but can do if asked. These MUST be checked before any tree work is undertaken.

On a site such as the subject property, given the age and condition of the trees and the targets present; we would recommend trees should be re-inspected by a competent and experienced arboriculturist no less than every two years.

Signed:



Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
For and on behalf of GHA Trees

Appendix 1: Survey Schedule

Tree Number on plan	Tree Name (species)	Estimated height (m)	Estimated stem diameter (mm)	Comments	Recommendations	Priority
T1	Ash	17	490	Advanced signs of Ash dieback noted. Ivy prevented full inspection. Crown now ~ 20% dead and overhanging road and footpath.	Fell to ground level.	within 3 months.
T2	Sycamore	15	400, 260, 370	Poor union at 1m. Ivy prevented full inspection.	Remove ivy and reinspect.	within 6 months.
T3	Laburnum	4	90	Small tree of limited value. Suppressed by T4. Tree has little future potential due to competition from T4.	Fell to ground level.	within 6 months.
T4	Purple leaf plum	7	160,90	Crown in decline with no leave cover noted May 2023.	Fell to ground level.	within 6 months.
T5	Sycamore	13	440	Suppressed by T2. Ivy prevented full inspection.	Recommend: remove ivy and reinspect.	within 6 months.
T6	Laburnum	7	170, 170, 170	Poor stem union at ground level. Topped at 1m in past.	No work required at present.	NA
G7	Thuja and cypress	8	200	Lapsed hedge.	No work required at present.	NA
T8	Lawson cypress	5	200	Small tree of limited value in the wider landscape.	No work required at present.	NA
T9	Cherry	8	350	Ivy prevented full inspection. Tree looks of good overall condition.	Remove ivy and reinspect.	within 6 months.
T10	Cherry	7	120 x 5	Failed tree - northern stem snapped out with major decay present.	Fell to ground level.	within 3 months.
T11	Willow	8	300	Off-site - full inspection not possible.	No work required at present.	NA

Survey Key:

Tree number on plan: Relates to numbers shown on tree location plan. Numbers are prefixed 'T' for individual trees, 'G' for groups and 'W' for woodland areas. Where numbers have been added to the trees (with spray paint or with a tag) this is noted in the schedule.

Species: Common name in English

Estimated stem diameter: Stem diameter in centimetres, taken at 1.5m above ground level. Where more than one stem exists this has been recorded.

Estimated height: The height of each subject tree was estimated using a clinometer to assist where needed.

Age class:

Y: young - recently planted or established

EM: early mature - long established specimen nearing full size but not yet fully mature

M: mature - fully mature specimen that has reached full size

OM: over mature mature - fully mature, possibly past its peak and may be displaying symptoms of decline

V: Veteran tree

Condition / Comments: Description of significant features, especially those requiring action or monitoring.

Action: Specific recommendations for action or monitoring

Priority: Given in months from the date of survey

Appendix 2: Tree location plan (see separate PDF file)