

INDIVIDUAL TREE RISK SURVEY

SITE:	131 KNOLL CRESCENT HA6 1HX NORTHWOOD.
CLIENT:	MR WILCZEK
BRIEF:	CARRY OUT AN ISA LEVEL 2 AND 3 TREE RISK ASSESSMENT (TRA)

SURVEYOR:	R. BALL
ASSESSMENT DATE:	24/01/2018
VIEWING CONDITIONS:	CLOUDY & WINDY
JOB REFERENCE:	101 184

PAGE: 1 OF 6 WITH PHOTOS

General Management Recommendations = GMRs										
TREE NO.	SPECIES	AGE RANGE	HEIGHT (M)	CROWN SPREAD	DIA. (MM)	VITALITY	COMMENTS	MANAGEMENT	RISK RATING	REVIEW MONTHS
T1	Douglas Fir	EM	26+	5	670	G	T1 leans (approx. 5-8°) to the east. However, no root-plate displacement was observed as associated with this lean (i.e. on the tension side). Notably the large remnant crown is vertical (i.e. does not exacerbate lean): self-correcting. Within the last (approx.) 10 years, however, a large eastern-side scaffold (ES) tore out leaving (as viewed from adjacent build scaffolding) a large dead stub with woodpecker-holes (see photo no. 1). In addition, the central leader (CL) was also lost resulting in an unbalanced crown (see photo no. 2). The tear-out wound of the latter could not be viewed due to surrounding needle foliage. From the ground/scaffold, the extent of any decay in the above wounds could not be assessed. We therefore recommend a <i>Phase III</i> Tree Climbing inspection (CI) to test for any possible decay using a depth-probe and Sounding Hammer. In general, no basal/main trunk cavities/decay, fungal fruiting bodies were observed. Hayward's Mowing (Tree Services) CI update (31/01/2018): 1. A probe could be inserted into the ES dead stub to a depth of 45cm. In addition, hollowing was detected with a Sounding Hammer at the base of this stub where it <i>adjoins</i> into the main trunk. 2. No decay was observed around the CL tear-out wound and no hollowing was detected in the remaining CL trunk remnant (<i>at present – see below</i>).	General Management Recommendations (GMRs): Remove and Replace See Conclusion & Recommendations below	Medium	-

Conclusion and Recommendations

TREE NO.
SPECIES:
AGE RANGE:
HEIGHT:
CROWN SPREAD:
DIA:
VITALITY:

REFERENCE NUMBER. REFER TO PLAN OR NUMBERED TAGS WHERE APPLICABLE
COMMON NAME
Y = YOUNG, SM = SEMI MATURE, EM = EARLY MATURE, M = MATURE, PM = POST MATURE
OTHER THAN WHERE THE HEIGHT OF A TREE IS CRITICAL TO THE OUTCOME OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT, TREE HEIGHT IS ESTIMATED
MEASURED OR ESTIMATED DIAMETER OF CROWN AT THE WIDEST POINT
STEM DIAMETER - MEASURED AT A HEIGHT OF APPROXIMATELY 1.3 METRES.
A MEASURE OF PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION. D = DEAD, MD = MORIBUND, P = POOR, M = MODERATE, G = GOOD

HEADINGS & ABBREVIATIONS

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The risk posed by T1 is not total tree failure but additional future limb loss (**NB I** There have been two such failures within the last [approx.] 10 years and **NB II** The two remaining branches have long *lever-arms*). Within the branch failure zone of T1, there is a driveway and a newly built extension. In terms of potential driveway targets, we are advised that two cars are regularly parked on this drive used by the residents who have a three children family. Additionally, another target is an electric transformer sited under the crown of T1 (this could be struck by a failing branch; see photo no. 4). Given the defects described in the above survey assessment, it is foreseeable that decay will continue/begin to spread (progressive defect) into the main trunk. As a softwood tree species, internal CODIT decay walling-off is typically weaker when compared to hardwood tree species. Importantly, Douglas fir can be susceptible to colonisation by *Phaeolus schweinitzii* (1) causing a brittle fracture that can cause branch snap or break out (2) and *Sparassis crispa* (1) also causing a brittle fracture that can cause branch snap or break out (2).

Management Options

(A) Reduce the two remaining branch (*lever-arms*) by 4-5m or (B) remove and replace T1.

Option (A) would result an even more ‘disfigured’ crown and there would still be a *residual risk* of falling branches requiring future periodic tree risk assessment to evaluate the likelihood of such a failure (3): a unfair financial burden for the owner of a now low-grade (crown form) tree that is nonetheless still subject to a TPO. We would recommend the tree replacement option as set out below.

Tree Replacement Options

We would not recommend the planting of another Douglas fir as the garden space is very limited for such a large maturing tree species and also it is documented (1) that such tree species – as they mature – “tend to shed heavy lower branches with foliage and are therefore not well suited to sites heavily frequented by people” (see photo. no. 5 & 5a). We would recommend therefore a replacement planting of a silver birch (to be supplied as a container-grown Heavy Standard tree with a 12:14cm trunk girth).

References

- (1) Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management (2001) Lonsdale D. DTLR, Forestry Commission.
- (2) Fungi on Trees – an Arborists’ Field Guide (2011) Watson G. and Green T. Arboricultural Association
- (3) Tree Risk Assessment Manual. (2017) International Society of Arboriculture.

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Photo No. 1 to show (in the mid right-hand side of photo) the protruding base of the torn-out eastern scaffold limb.
NB The torn-out base of the missing central leader (see photo below) which is obscured by foliage



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Photo No. 2 to show the unbalanced crown form of T1 due to the loss of the central leader (as viewed from the west - on property front driveway)



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Photo No 3 to show climbing inspection in progress



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Photo No. 4 to show the fenced-off electric transformer under T1



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Photo No. 5 to show the limited garden space within which to plant another Douglas fir



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Photo No. 5a to show the limited garden space within which to plant another Douglas fir

