

Tree risk management report

Hayes Park, Hayes End Road, Uxbridge, London

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13th November 2019

16117-TreeRiskManagementReport4-CA

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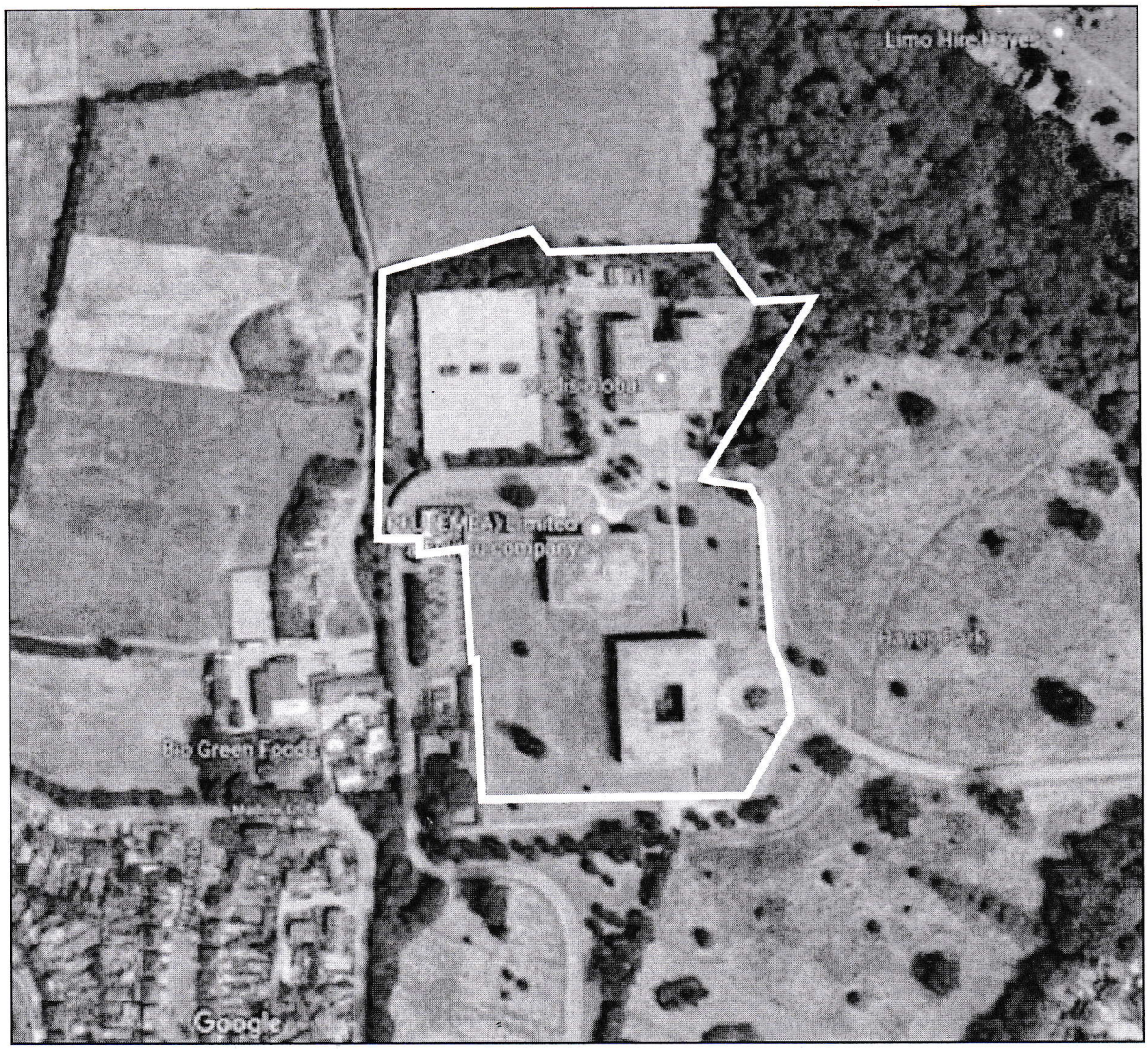
Site location, report purpose, and summary of recommendations

Site location



This aerial image is provided courtesy of Google. The yellow line indicates the approximate site boundary and is illustrative only.

Report purpose

This tree risk management report confirms that all the significant trees within the identified area at Hayes Park, Hayes End Road, Uxbridge, London, (shown within the approximate red site boundary line on sketch plan BT4) were located and visually checked to provide management recommendations.

This report includes:

- a sketch **tree location plan (sketch plan BT4)** showing the area visited, the estimated location and numbering of trees identified for work, a copy of the tree schedule, and the priority of each work recommendation;
- **management recommendations** listed as a schedule of trees to be considered for intervention work; and,
- an **Appendix** listing background administrative information and describing how the trees were surveyed.

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Site location, report purpose, and summaryof recommendations

Both the report and the location plan must be used together; the plan illustrates where the trees are, and the report explains the management recommendations.

Together, these documents inform the duty holder (the person or entity responsible for tree safety) of our advice on work recommendations, and guide the contractor in carrying out the works agreed for implementation by the duty holder. It is purposely brief to focus on identification and implementation, and does not include detailed backgroundexplanations. However, it is based on a detailed review of the current guidance and technical publications informing modern tree risk management (see Appendix).

Implementing the specified intervention works within the timescales specified in this report will be important to demonstrate that reasonable and proportionate proactive measures have been taken to manage obvious significant risks of harm from tree failures.

Summary of recommendations

- URGENT: One individual tree (T193) was identified for urgent work. Immediate provision must be made to carry out the recommended work as soon as practically possible.
- **Normal priority:** Three individual trees were identified for work to be carried out as soon as practically possible, and within about the next year. Any work that is carried out will be subject to the normal habitat, administration, and tree protection restrictions.
- **Optional:** Two individual trees, one hedge and one groupof trees were identified where management work is advised, but this is discretionary and not necessary for safety reasons. Any work that is carried out will be subject to the normal habitat, administration, and tree protection restrictions.

Reminder 1: These management recommendations are made on the basis that the locations will be re-surveyed within about two years of the date of the last inspection.

Reminder 2: The UK Health & Safety Executive advises that a system should be in place to: "enable people to report damage to trees, such as vehicle collisions, and to trigger checks following potentially damaging activities such as work by the utilities in the vicinity of trees or severe gales." In practice, this means that consideration must be given to identifying and addressing tree hazards arising from severe gales, and activities that could adversely affect tree stability, such as excavation around their bases, but the detail will vary according to each situation and is a decision for the duty holder.

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Schedule of management recommendations

All the significant trees within the specifically identified areas within the red boundary line on sketch plan BT4 were located and visually checked to prepare the schedule of management recommendations below. The approximate locations of trees requiring work are shown on sketch plan BT4, which is illustrative and not to scale. It should not be used to scale distances, or for any purposes other than identifying the approximate boundary of the inspection area and the approximate location of each numbered tree.

Trees requiring urgent works (work to be completed as soon as practically possible) are shown with the numbers within a red triangle on the plan. Trees with a normal priority (work to be completed within one year) are shown with the numbers within a green circle on the plan. Trees noted for optional work, which is discretionary, are shown with the numbers within a blue rectangle on the plan. The schedule of management recommendations below is organised with the Urgent priority work first in numerical order against the pink background, followed by the Normal priority work in numerical order against the green background, followed by the Optional work in numerical order against the blue background.

NOTE: This schedule is intentionally brief and must be interpreted by an experienced and qualified arborist working to the commonly understood conventions explained in more detail in BS 3998(2010) Tree Work – Recommendations.

Item No	Species	Comments	Recommendations	Priority
T193	Sycamore	Significant decay activity on stem. Extensive bark necrosis, poor vigour and dieback	x Remove	Urgent
T198	Cherry	Significant dieback. Main stem with significant deadwood and defective above main fork from 4m. No pruning options.	x Remove	Normal
T299	Oak	Minor deadwood overhanging road	x Remove deadwood	Normal
T352	Ash	Twin stem at 2m, leaning, poor, no long term retention potential	x Fell	Normal
H1	Hornbeam	Overgrown hedge on old wall which is showing signs of cracking. No long term retention potential.	x Manage as a hedge, or remove and replant further away from wall	Optional
G2	Leyland cypress	Poor quality line of trees along northern boundary. Dieback throughout.	x Manage by selective removal, or fell entire line and replant	Optional
T12	Lime	New tree, staked and tied which is unnecessary	x Remove stakes and ties	Optional
T13	Oak	New tree, staked and tied which is unnecessary	x Remove stakes and ties	Optional

T = Tree; G = Group; H = Hedge

Explanatory notes

1. **Inspection frequency:** The work recommendations are based on an expectation that the trees will be rechecked about every two years. Within this average timescale, there is flexibility to move that time period up to six months either way, i.e. the inspection frequency can range from between 18 months and 30 months, to allow the option of varying the season for checking. In practical terms, this means that trees can be checked alternately with leaves on and leaves off. Trees can be checked

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at any time of the year, but varying the season can sometimes facilitate the discovery of subtler defects.

2. **Item No:** The individual tree or group identified for necessary or optional work. A tag on the trunk corresponds to the number on the plan and in the schedule.

3. **Species:** The common name is listed to assist with identification on site.

4. **Comments:** These are discretionary notes intended to assist the contractor in understanding the reasons for the work recommendations. They are not intended to be a detailed description of the tree.

5. **Recommendations:** The work described in the schedule is intentionally brief, to be read in the context of BS 3998(2010) Tree Work – Recommendations (see link in Appendix), and interpreted by a qualified and experienced professional, with the following clarifications:

   - **Remove:** Fell or dismantle the tree leaving the stump cut close to ground level.
   - **Habitat:** Ecological diversity is an important tree management objective that is often enhanced by leaving standing and fallen dead and decaying wood. The 'Habitat' option is an alternative to complete removal, with the intention that trunks are reduced in size to the specified height to remove any significant risk. Any long side branches should be reduced in length to remove any significant risk of them failing and causing harm, but as much live foliage should be left on the tree as possible to keep it alive, if it is not already dead. The approximate height of the standing trunk is indicated in the schedule and the disposal of cut material is a contractual matter to be agreed with the contractor.
   - **Stabilise dead wood:** Dead and dying branches can be important habitat to retain on trees where possible. As explained in 7.3.2 of BS 3998, 'Stabilise dead wood' means pruning enough to prevent dead wood falling and causing harm, but not necessarily removing every bit. Where appropriate, as much as possible should be left on the tree if there is no significant risk of it falling and causing harm. The extent of pruning will be a judgement for the climbing arborist based on knowledge of the tree species and observations of the tree surroundings.
   - **Prune to previous pruning points:** This can sometimes leave long side branches that were not previously pruned. In addition to the obvious pruning, any side branches that have become over-extended and out of proportion to the new pruned crown should be reduced in length with the aim of establishing a natural and flowing crown outline.
   - **Reduce by:** As explained in 7.7 and Figure 4 of BS 3998, this specifies the approximate extent of the outer crown to be removed. It includes any appropriate side branch reduction, with the primary intention of establishing a natural and flowing crown outline to provide a framework for sustainable future growth.
   - **Reduce to:** This applies to overgrown shrubs and small trees that need reducing in height and specifies the approximate finished height after pruning. It includes any appropriate side branch reduction necessary to address any side branches and stems left vulnerable to storm damage.
   - **Reform hedge/screen:** This is for overgrown hedges and screening that needs to be reduced to the specified height to reform the screen, which includes the proportionate reduction of any long side stems and branches that may be lower than the specified height.
   - **Lift:** As explained in 7.6 and Figure 3 of BS 3998, this specifically applies to all minor side branches/epicormics originating from the trunk, and to low hanging branches from higher main structural branches, with the intention of removing all foliage up to the specified height. This would not normally include large structural branches unless specifically noted.

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- **Maintenance:** This is intended to remove branches causing a nuisance and inconvenience to the normal use of the property, and generally includes lifting to 6-7m above roads and 3-4m above footpaths, and cutting back from road and path boundaries by 1-2m. It also includes pruning back to clear structures, e.g. buildings, service cables, and lights, by 1-2m.
- **Cut ivy:** Ivy plays an important role within the wider ecosystem because it flowers in autumn and develops fruits over winter, providing essential food and shelter for a wide range of animals. Where ivy is obscuring parts of the tree that require closer checking, or where it may be causing harm, it can be cut at the base to allow a more thorough check at the next visit.
- **Managing vulnerable branches caused by tree works:** Sometimes, work recommendations can expose branches on the subject tree or those adjacent to it, making them vulnerable to storm damage. In principle, this should be anticipated and addressed in the work recommendations, but sometimes it is not possible to specify every detail until the primary work is completed. Where a contractor carrying out the work assesses that it has resulted in branches becoming more vulnerable to storm damage, minor pruning should be carried out to remove any significant risks. Alternatively, the concerns must be reported in writing to the supervising officer.

6. **Priority:** The advice on timescales for carrying out the work recommendations is as follows:
   - **Urgent:** This work must be organised as a matter of high priority and carried out as soon as possible. In practical terms, this means beginning the process of seeking quotes for the work soon after receiving this report, and having that work carried out as soon as practically possible within normal administration and contractual constraints.
   - **Normal:** This work must be scheduled in as soon as practical, taking proper account of possible habitat restrictions and normal logistical delays, such as adverse weather and administrative workloads. 'Normal' means work to be completed within about one year of the inspection date as a standard default, unless there is reasonable justification for any delays.
   - **Optional:** These works are non-essential suggestions in the interests of good management, and are not necessary for safety reasons.
7. **Contractor competence, insurance, and the standard of tree work:** Due to the inherent risks in undertaking tree work operations, they must be carried out by skilled workers who have training, experience, and adequate insurance cover. Contractor competence and insurance must be checked before instruction. The tree works listed in this document are made on the assumption that the work will be carried out by competent arborists who are fully trained and able to work to a high standard. All tree work must be carried out as described in BS 3998(2010) Tree Work - Recommendations (see link in Appendix), as modified by more recent research and/or the specific site circumstances. As stated in the Foreword of BS 3998: "Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations." For the avoidance of doubt and misunderstanding, it must be a contractual requirement that the contractor carrying out the work has a copy of BS 3998 on site while working. A list of Approved Contractors is available from the Arboricultural Association (The Malthouse, Stroud Green, Standish, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3DL; 01242 522152; www.trees.org.uk.) Its Register of Contractors can be viewed at https://www.trees.org.uk/ARB-Approved-Contractor-Directory.
8. **Reporting during work operations:** If a contractor carrying out recommended work discovers any features or conditions that may affect tree safety, these must be reported in writing to the supervising officer. Modification to the original specification may be required because of these reports. The contractor must be specifically instructed on this point.

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9. **Queries:** Any questions relating to the work recommendations in this report must be checked by phoning Barrell Tree Consultancy during office hours on 01425 651470 or emailing enquiries@barrelltreecare.co.uk.

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