



## Fairfield park, Stotfold, Hertfordshire

### Alan Randall of The Blue Tree Company

#### Client: Hislop Horticulture

**Instruction:** Following an instruction from Hislop Horticulture I have conducted an tree work survey of the trees highlighted in red on the map provided. The client requires a visual assessment of condition of the trees at the aforementioned property. The inspection took place in November 2019

**Regulatory framework:** This survey has been carried out according to HSE SIM 01/2007/05 (HSE, 2007) & Common-sense risk management of trees (Forestry Commission, 2011).

**Techniques:** Visual Tree Assessment (VTA; Lonsdale, 1999), desk-based enquiries (TPO / CA status, geological survey, mapping), THREATS analysis (Forbes-Laird, 2010).

**Limitations:** 1. The contents are intended for the sole use of the client and the property owner. No liability is accepted for their use by any other parties to advance an argument or claim (including legal or financial) without prior consent. 2. No liability is accepted for defects hidden from view by soil, vegetation or other obstacles to access. 3. Formal assessment of topography, drainage, service conduits, & soil conditions have not been made and are beyond the scope of this report. 4. Specific laboratory investigations of soil properties (plasticity index, moisture content, soil suction pressure) have not been made and are beyond the scope of this report. 5. This report considers only the potential for the tree to cause damage or injury under normally expected weather conditions. No liability for damage arising from any other source or mechanism is accepted. 6. This report will be deemed to be invalid if a history of vegetation related subsidence damage in this or surrounding properties exists but has not been made known to the surveyor. 7. This report considers risk mitigation measures, as opposed to risk elimination. Thus, if the tree is retained, a level of risk will remain. 8. It is understood that any risks associated with these limitations are accepted by the clients.

**Weather conditions:** Overcast, little to no wind. **Access:** Access was unhindered. **Validity:** Plants are biological organisms & change with time. Assessment remains valid for 12 months from the date of inspection, or until a major storm (Wind Force 6 +) is experienced.

**Background information:** The trees are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and do not sit within a Conservation area (CA).

**Situation:** The property stands at average elevation of 71m in a urban setting towards the north east of Letchworth (OS Maps 2016). Ground undulates locally into a series of low hills with occasional small streams. Surface deposits are of sands and gravels overlying chalk rock (BGS 2019). Soil type is described as freely draining acid but base rich loamy soils (LandIS 2019). The site therefore has low wind exposure, complex (non-laminar) wind flows, drains relatively well and has moderate fertile soil. Conditions are therefore good for tree growth.

**References:** British Geological Survey (2016). Geology of Britain Viewer 1:50,000. BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham. <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> British Standards Institute (2010). BS3998:2010 – Standards for Tree Work. BSI Publications, London. Forbes-Laird, J. (2010). THREATS tree hazard assessment system. <http://www.flac.uk.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/THREATS-GN-June-2010.pdf> LandIS (Land information system; Soilscape viewer). Cranfield University. <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm> Lonsdale, D. (1999). Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management. The Stationery Office, London. Ordnance Survey (2016). OS Maps service at <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/osmaps/> Ordnance Survey, Southampton.



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Eastern Shelter Belt						
Ref No	species	Height (M)	Age Class	Condition	Recommendation	Time frame (Months)
E1	Poplar	10	M	Poor. Historic attempt to rejuvenate the tree have failed. The tree is now standing dead and decaying at the reduction points. The tree is well with falling distance of a busy public highway	Reduce height by 4m.	6
E2	Ash	15	M	Poor. Bracket fungi <i>Inonotus hispidus</i> noted on the west side at 3m within an included bark union. Obvious decay also noted at this point. The tree is well with falling distance of a busy public highway.	Fell to ground level or reduce to a habitat pole at 4m.	6
T112	Sycamore	20	M	Various cavities on the main stem and throughout the crown. Some significant dead wood is present.	Climbing inspection off cavities and unions. Remove dead wood.	6
E3	Elm x 3 Located road side of T112	4	M	Dead. The tree is well with falling distance of a busy public highway.	Fell to ground level	6
T120	Sycamore	18	M	Reasonable. Included bark union in the main union at 3m. no significant support wood noted.	Crown reduce by up to 4m back to good viable growth points	6
E4	Sycamore Located rear right roadside of T120	16	M	Reasonable. Bark wound at base with minor decay noted. Hammer tap+ sound. Significant dead wood over public highway.	Remove dead wood over public highway	3
T129	Scots pine	15	M	Poor. Showing signs of significant crown die back	Pay special attention to this tree at the next tree survey	
E5	Ash	13	EM	Good. Recent branch failure at the point of an included bark union to the east. Remaining limb is unstable. Over the public highway.	Remove remaining limb	6
E6	Scots pine	14	M	Dead	Fell to ground level	3
G1	Sycamore x 3	16	M	Group of 3. Significant dead wood over footpath	Remove dead wood	3
E7	Horse chestnut	16	M	Ivy covered main stem to 3m preventing full VTI. Included bark union at 4m with little support wood. Historic lower limb fail.	Crown reduce by up to 4m back to good viable growth points.	6

**Sothern Shelter Belt**

Ref No	species	Height (M)	Age Class	Condition	Recommendation	Time frame (Months)
S1	Ash	12	M	Significant dead wood over public footpath.	Remove dead wood	3

<u>Western Shelter Belt</u>						
Ref No	species	Height (M)	Age Class	Condition	Recommendation	Time frame (Months)
W1	Sycamore x 2 Outside No 25	12	EM	Dead. Within falling distance of a public footpath	Fell to ground level and stack in eco piles on site.	3
W2	Elm x 5	5	EM	Dead. Within falling distance of a public footpath	Fell to ground level and stack in eco piles on site.	3
W3	Elm x 4	5	EM	Dead. Within falling distance of a public footpath	Fell to ground level and stack in eco piles on site.	3
W4	Sycamore	13	M	Poor. Large canker with signs of decay at 4m on the east side. Outer canopy is sparse and showing signs of die back.	Pollard to 6m	6
W5	Beech	20	M	Large open cavity at ground level on the east side. Probed to 20cm. Black exudates at 1.5m on the west side indicating an infection of <i>Phytophthora</i> .	PISCUS scan/Resistograph drill to ascertain the extent of decay.	ASAP
W6	Sycamore	13	EM	Group of 5 young trees. Suffering with sooty bark disease.	Fell to ground level	6
W7	Ash	11	OM	Advanced decay at base. Historic heavy pollard Leaning on adjacent tree. Leaning over public footpath	Fell to ground level and stack in eco piles on site.	3
W8	Ash Outside 25	16	M	Tree in decline. Bacterial infection noted at base to 2.5m. Habitat holes noted	Pollard to approximately 10m at least 1m above the habitat holes.	6
W9	Ash	13	M	Historic pollard. Large bracket of <i>Inonotus hispidus</i> noted on the main stem at 3m on the south east.	Re pollard to the old points	6

<u>Western Shelter Belt</u>						
Ref No	species	Height (M)	Age Class	Condition	Recommendation	Time frame (Months)
W10	?	6		Fallen, hung up dead tree covered in ivy. Close to a public footpath	Fell to ground level and stack in eco piles onsite	12
W11	Scots pine	23	M	Tree in decline, no obvious cause 90% of the canopy has died. Canopy should be investigated at the time the tree work is carried out.	Pollard to leave a 10m Habitat pole.	12

<u>Northern Shelter Belt</u>						
Ref No	species	Height (M)	Age Class	Condition	Recommendation	Time frame (Months)
T2937	Horse Chestnut	16	M	Advanced Bleeding canker noted on the main stem and throughout the canopy. Secondary limbs starting to suffer bark loss and cambium degradation. Historic crown reduction at 14m. Over hanging private property.	Repeat crown reduction and reduce back from property by up to 2m. back to good viable growth points.	12
T2935	Horse Chestnut	9	M	Cavity at base on the east side. Hammer tap and probe = solid. Significant longitudinal crack noted on the first main limb to the east 2.5m up 1m out. Bark damage on the upper side of the first main limb to the west, no significant decay noted. Bleeding canker noted on the main stem.	Remove first main limb to the east.	12
T2932	Horse Chestnut	9	M	Advanced Bleeding canker noted on the main stem and throughout the canopy. Secondary limbs starting to suffer bark loss and cambium degradation.	Crown reduce by up to 2m back to viable growth points	12
T2931	Horse Chestnut	11	M	Advanced Bleeding canker noted on the main stem and throughout the canopy. Secondary limbs starting to suffer bark loss and cambium degradation. This is more advanced on the east side	Crown reduce by up to 2m back to viable growth points	12
T2930	Horse Chestnut	11	M	Advanced Bleeding canker noted on the main stem and throughout the canopy. Secondary limbs starting to suffer bark loss and cambium degradation. This is more advanced on the east side	Crown reduce by up to 2m back to viable growth points	12
T2927	Horse Chestnut	9	M	Bleeding canker noted on the main stem. Bacterial wet wood noted on the first limb to the south	Crown reduce by up to 2m back to viable growth points	12

Central area						
Ref No	species	Height (M)	Age Class	Condition	Recommendation	Time frame (Months)
C1	Robinia	13	M	Single stem remaining of a twin stem tree, the missing stem was removed some time ago. Minor decay noted at the old point of attachment. Recent main leader fail at 6m. Several historic limb fail points noted on secondary limbs. Significant dead wood throughout the crown. The condition is typical of age/species.	Crown reduce by up to 2m back to good viable growth points.	6
C2	Robinia	12	M	Twin stem. Sheltered and subdud by adjacent trees. Crown bias to the west. Minor bark wound on the main stem at 1.75m on the west side. Significant dead wood throughout the canopy typical of age/species.	Crown reduce by up to 2m back to good viable growth points.	6
C3	Robinia	14	M	Bark wound at 1.5m from a historic limb removal. Significant dead wood and decay pockets from historic limb failure.	Crown reduce by up to 2m back to good viable growth points.	6
C4	Robinia	12	M	Sheltered and subdud by adjacent trees. Crown bias to the west. Significant dead wood throughout the canopy typical of age/species. The condition is typical of age/species.	Crown reduce by up to 2m back to good viable growth points.	6
C5	Robinia	14	M	Bark damage and cavity at the base. Hammer tap and probe = solid. Significant cavity on the upper side of the limb 6m to the east. Significant dead wood throughout the crown. The condition is typical of age/species.	Crown reduce by up to 2m back to good viable growth points.	6

Eastern Boundary site map: Note: Tree positions are indicative only.

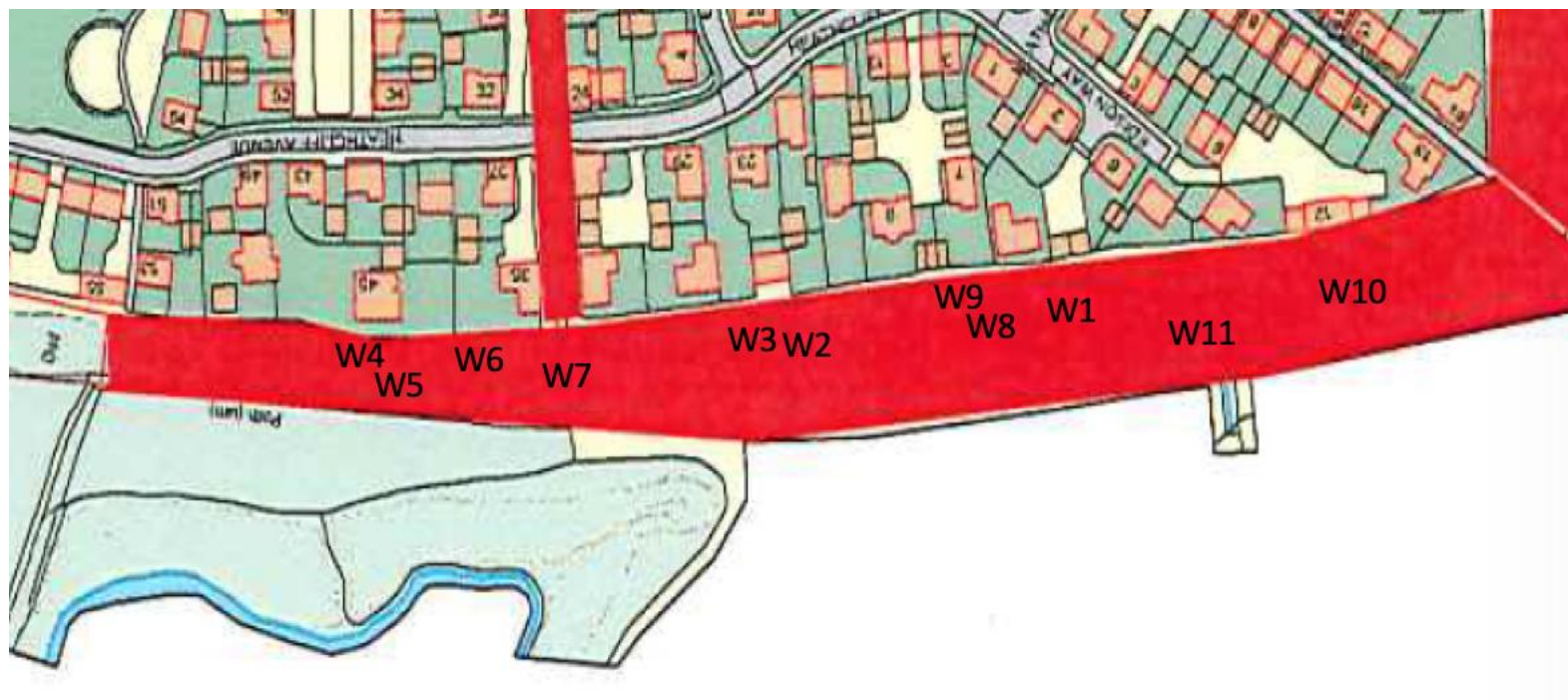


E1

Sothern Boundary site map: Note: Tree positions are indicative only.



Western Boundary site map: Note: Tree positions are indicative only.



Northern Boundary site map: Note: Tree positions are indicative only.





Central area site map: Note: Tree positions are indicative only.



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Site map provided by Hislop Horticulture.

