



FORESTRY AND ARBORICULTURAL GROUP TREE REPORT

Play Area

Worthington

18th November 2024

SURVEYOR: Rob Hardingham



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Included separately to this report.

- Tree survey schedule
- Site Maps

PURPOSE

This report has been prepared for Worthington Play Area as part of the tree safety survey conducted on 14th November 2024. It includes nine individual trees spread over the site.

Details for the individual trees may be found in the separate accompanying schedule.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The survey has been conducted from ground level and has included a close visual inspection of the external features of all significant trees on the site. The trees are plotted and numbered on the enclosed plans and details of each individual tree are given on the survey schedule attached.

Where an identified defect represents a potential hazard to users of the site, recommendations for remedial tree work have been detailed against individual trees. These works have been prioritised into the categories specified below and are detailed within the attached schedule.

FINDINGS

Recommendations for remedial works have been made in the survey under Routine works only. These trees have been identified as requiring attention at the time of the survey. You are advised to take the necessary steps to arrange for the recommended work to be completed.

'High Risk' trees are large trees close to busy areas with one or more significant defects that potentially threaten the structural integrity of the tree. These trees may be required to be re-inspected every 18 months. Any trees in this category will be highlighted in the report. All trees on this site (unless otherwise stated) should be considered as 'Moderate Risk' due to the open public aspect of the site and re-inspected every 3 years.

Routine works are those that may be picked up as part of your routine ground's maintenance cycle over three years. In some cases, these may be works that could be carried out by your own ground staff at no additional cost.

All trees should be kept routinely clear of ivy so that any evidence of poor health or safety concerns can be identified. Where trees have not been inspected due to excessive ivy, it is possible that they may not be covered by your insurance in the event of an incident. They should therefore be cleared and booked in for re-inspection as soon as possible.

1. GENERAL TREE STATEMENT

Nine individual trees were surveyed and were generally found to be in good health for their age, species and context. There are a number of mature trees on site which exhibit a range of characteristics commensurate with their age and maturity.

Works have been recommended to one tree on the site. Some trees would benefit from the removal of excessive ivy which increases the risk of failure due to excess weight on weak limbs and places excessive stress on the trees' anchorage in windy conditions, it may also prevent a comprehensive tree inspection and should therefore be removed annually whilst the ivy is small and accessible.

It is not known whether the trees on site are subject to any Tree Preservation Orders or Conservation Orders, and you should check with your local planning authority that necessary permissions are in place prior to commencing any maintenance work on the trees.

Trees of Note:

The trees along the Western boundary of the site are in very close proximity to the adjacent property and over time may come into contact with that building.

2. TREE WORKS



TREE NUMBERS	
URGENT	0
PRIORITY 1	0
PRIORITY 2	0
ROUTINE	1

Urgent Works – There are currently no urgent works to be undertaken.

Priority 1 – Remedial Health and Safety works to be completed within 3 months of report.

Priority 2 – Remedial Health and Safety works to be completed within 1 year of report.

Routine – Routine works to be completed within 3 years or as part of your regular grounds' maintenance.

The priority ratings provide an indication of how quickly recommended works should be carried out. Where you have a number of large, mature trees on site and increased costs, you may wish to prioritise those trees located within high impact areas.

NB. Quotes for recommended works can be obtained from LCC contractors upon request.

3. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- A full list of detailed tree management work recommendations is identified in the schedule and should be carried out as the priority states.

4. APPENDICIES

I) TREE SURVEYS

- The survey has included a close visual inspection of the external features of all significant trees on the site.
- The trees were inspected from ground level with no climbing inspections undertaken. No samples have been removed from the site for analysis.
- It should be noted that is a criminal offence to disturb or destroy – whether intentional or unintentional - the nesting sites of wild birds or the roost sites of bats, under the 'Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and the 'Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000'. It is not permitted to carry out significant tree works if active bird nests or bat roosts are present, and trees must be professionally surveyed for signs of bat roosts and/or bat activity before any tree works commence.

RE-INSPECTION PROCEDURE

It is important that trees are regularly inspected to monitor condition and identify any necessary remedial works. It is recommended that the following reinspection schedule should apply:

- **High Risk Trees**- re-inspections will take place every 18 months.
- **Moderate Risk Trees** - re-inspections every three years
- **Low Risk Trees** - re-inspections every six years

All trees should be included in formal routine (i.e., annual) risk assessments carried out by a suitably competent member of the site staff – an additional risk assessment should always be undertaken immediately following severe weather events i.e., high winds, heavy rain or snow falls. If in doubt regarding the safety of a particular tree, please contact the County Council's Forestry Group.

TREE WORKS

- All tree works should be carried out in line with British Standard 3998:2010 – “British Standard Recommendations for Tree Works”.
- Stump chipping will only be included for stumps of felled trees where these are considered to be a hazard. (e.g., adjacent to thoroughfares). You may, however, wish to consider removing other stumps on the site if you are concerned that they may be an obstruction or potential hazard.
- Should you choose to make your own arrangements, all works should be carried out by a competent, suitably qualified and appropriately insured arboricultural contractor in accordance with the British Standard. You should have regard to your ‘duty of care’ under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 when directly employing tree-work contractors, and your potential liability if damage or injury occurs because of poor practices.
- If the trees proposed for work are included in any statutory protection (e.g., tree preservation orders) no intervention should take place until written permission has been obtained from the relevant authority.
- The trees inspected and detailed within this report have been selected for inclusion due to their influence on the site. Where works have been recommended to trees outside the ownership of the site, these can only progress with the agreement of the owner, except where it involves parts of the trees overhanging the boundary.

LIMITATIONS

Tree inspection reports are subject to the following limitations:

- Given the dynamic nature of trees and their environment, the condition of the trees could alter at any time. All trees should be inspected by the owners on an annual basis and any recorded findings of concerns be reported to the County Council’s Forestry Group.
- Where trees are visually obscured (e.g., ivy) they should be made visible before a full visual inspection can take place. Any limitations of the assessment will be highlighted in the report.
- The validity, accuracy and findings of this report will be directly related to the accuracy of the information made available prior to and during its production. Leicestershire County Council will not be responsible for the recommendations within this report where essential data is not made available or is inaccurate.
- This report is valid as of the date of inspection, and only whilst site conditions remain unaltered. It may become invalid if for example construction works or changes in soil level take place in close proximity to the tree or trees concerned.
- It must also be appreciated that recommendations proposed within this report may be superseded by extreme weather, or any other unreasonably foreseeable events. Trees should be internally inspected after adverse weather conditions and any changes reported to the County Council’s Forestry Group.

If you would like further advice with regard to the survey or would like to arrange for the recommended work to be carried out, please contact Rob Hardingham (rob.hardingham@leics.gov.uk). Records of works to your trees can then be maintained and updated accordingly on our dedicated tree management database.

II) TREE SURGERY AND MAINTENANCE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following terms, which may be included in your tree survey, relate to tree surgery and felling operations as defined in the County Council's forestry and arboricultural specifications and in British Standard 3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree Work': -

- General Works* – this operation consists of a number of basic maintenance tasks including the removal of suckers, basal growth and dense shoot growth from the trunk of the tree, repair of minor bark wounds, removal of foreign debris, removal of minor branches which obstruct overhead services and access and the severance of climbing plants such as Ivy.
- Crown Lifting* - this operation consists of the removal of lower branches, twigs and dense shoot growth from the trunk of the tree in order to increase the clearance under its canopy.
- Cleaning Out* - the removal of dead, dying, diseased and irreparably damaged branches from throughout the crown of the tree.
- Crown Thinning* - the removal of a proportion of secondary lateral branches from the main branch structure of the tree to achieve an increase in light penetration through the crown and lessen the degree of resistance in windy conditions.
- Crown Reduction* - this operation includes the reduction in the overall height and spread of a tree whilst retaining a natural shape to its crown, typical of the species.
- Formative Pruning* - the selective pruning of the tree in order to promote the development of a well-formed mature specimen of a shape, habit and branch structure typical of the species.
- Further Investigation* - a more detailed and precise analysis of inaccessible areas, internal cavities, compressed forks etc.
- Pollarding* - this operation consists of a substantial reduction in the height and/or spread of a tree's crown to a point from where a new crown may develop. This is often carried out to remove potential weak points and is a method of management which needs to be repeated at regular intervals.
- Straight Felling* - the felling of a whole tree in one operation.
- Sectional Felling* - the felling/dismantling of a tree in sections of a size appropriate to the location so as to avoid damage to surrounding features.

If you require any further clarification of the recommendations detailed in your tree survey, please contact the Forestry Group on 0116 3056920.