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1. Instructions

To carry out a visual tree assessment, record information and advice on any remedial works where necessary.

2. Date of inspection

The trees were inspected on the 8th January 2021 by Aaron Bailey of AB Forestry, Hull. The weather conditions were damp and overcast.

3. Location

The location of the trees is Willesden House, 85 Main Street, Willerby. East Riding. HU10 6BY. The survey has been carried out under the occupier's liability act.

4. Survey findings

In total 40 trees have been visually surveyed, and 3 areas have been grouped. 7 trees have been given recommendations and 8 trees require essential work.

All mature trees will normally have dead branches especially Sycamore and Ash and it is vital that the dead wood is removed around high-risk areas such as footpaths and highways.

Most of the large trees on this site are around the perimeter boundary and therefore pose a high risk. There are numerous Yew trees in the grounds which also contain a lot of dead wood but these tend to be smaller and do not have a tendency to break or fall so these have not been included in the survey unless they have been deemed to pose a threat.

T17 Ash is a notable tree which should be monitored. The tree stands slightly away from the roadside but does overhang slightly. At present there is a large limb that has recently snapped and is on the ground. It can clearly be seen that the limb had severe decay and snapped under its own weight. It would be essential that a climbed inspection is carried out and any further decayed limbs are removed including all the large diameter dead wood.

T38 and T39 Limes along the western boundary have a history of heavy pollarding at various heights. Although Lime is classed as a hard wood, the wood is quite soft and an ancient pruning cut could have severe decay and the regrowth on these trees is fairly substantial so a repollarding programme should be considered.

There is a large amount of Creeping Ivy on the site and it is recommended that all the Ivy is severed at the base of each tree and carefully done so as to not cut into the tree. The Ivy itself does not harm the tree but the weight and shading that a vast amount of it can create can cause indirect harm and therefore create a possible hazard. Also, with the vast amount of Ivy in the trees it is not possible to carry out a thorough and accurate survey.

5. Table contents

- Number -relating to the tree on the plan.
- Species - English common name.
- Age class - Y-young, SM-semi mature, M-mature.
- Physiological condition - these are the structure of the tree and any findings including but not limited to any weak and strong points.
- Recommended work - recommended remedial work that may or may not be carried out.
- Essential work - any work that is required to rectify any weakness found in the tree and to keep the report valid.

Tree no.	Species	Age class	Physiological condition	Recommended work	Essential work
1.	Magnolia	M	Multi stem from base With tight forks Previous stem removed from base with onset of decay.	None	None
2.	Lawson Cypress	M	Approximately 6 trees forming boundary hedge with recent height reduction work.	None	None
3.	Lawson Cypress	M	Single stem Damage at base Good condition	None	None
4.	Yew	M	Twin stem from 1.5m Previous pruning wounds	None	None
5.	Yew	M	Multi stem from 2 metres Sparse crown Some minor dead wood Covered in Ivy.	None	None
6.	Lawson Cypress	M	Single stem Covered in Ivy.	None	None
7.	Holly	M	Covered in Ivy.	None	None
8.	Holly	SM	Single stem Damage at base Good condition	None	None
9.	Holly	M	Poor form Covered in Ivy	None	None
10.	Yew	M	Twin stem at 1m With tight form Covered in ivy	None	None

11.	Lawson Cypress	M	Twin stem from 0.5m With good 'U' union Heavy east lean over the road Sparse crown	Reduce in height by approximately one third	None
12.	Sycamore	SM	Twin stem 0.5m Tight fork On western side stem reaction wood forming at the fork	Reduce in height by one third	None
13.	Cedar	M	Multi stem from the base With good 'U' union Eastern side is heavily leaning over the road	Remove Eastern stem	Reduce Eastern stem in height by 50% if not felled
14.	Lawson Cypress	M	Multi stem from base With good 'U' union Covered in ivy	None	None
15.	Sycamore	M	Cavity at base on Southern side holding rain water Large limb on Southern side growing over road at 2m with poor branch bark ridge	None	Remove Southern side limb
16.	Cedar	M	Ivy Straight tree to 15m Numerous dead wood Small broken branch above road hanging in crown	None	Remove hanging limb and remove major dead wood
17.	Ash	M	Large Epicormic growth at base Large decayed wound on Eastern side at 0.5 metre Straight tree to 12 metres With large scaffold limbs Innonotus brackets present at 16 metres on North side limb Large amounts of major dead wood with recent limb failure	None	Remove all major dead wood and 10% crown thin and carry out climbed inspection of crown
18.	Elder	M	Fallen over and resting on Yew tree next to road	None	Clear the tree away from Yew, fence, and road
19.	Alder	M	Bend in stem at 0.5m with west side lean. Crown in decline with some deadwood	None	None
20.	Alder	M	Twin stem from base with tight fork History of poor pruning on western side	Fell	None

21.	Ash	M	Oversized Epicormic growth on stem on eastside Dense crown Covered in Ivy	None	None
22.	Sycamore	M	Straight tree Northside heavy Wound on North side at 1.5m	None	None
23.	Sycamore	M	Northside lean Covered in Ivy Some poor pruning cuts on north side	None	None
24.	Ash	SM	North side suppressed. Covered in Ivy	None	None
25.	Sycamore	M	Straight tree Covered in Ivy Main crown starting at 20m	None	None
26.	Sycamore	M	Some old wounds on stem Heavy west lean	None	None
27.	Sycamore	SM	West lean Small hanging branch in crown	None	None
28.	Sycamore	M	Twin stem from 3m Some large deadwood	None	Remove large dead wood and inspect fork
29.	Sycamore	M	Some old wounds on stem with onset of decay Tall and slender in poor form	None	None
30.	Sycamore	M	Single stem Some major deadwood	Remove deadwood	None
31.	Sycamore	M	Wound at base with good wound wood forming. Single stem Possible crown decline	None	Monitor
32.	Sycamore	M	Single stem suppressed.	None	None
33.	Ash	M	Wound at base with good wound wood forming. Single stem with previous pruning wounds Possible woodpecker hole Some major deadwood	None	None
34.	Sycamore	M	Single stem suppressed Some deadwood	None	None

35.	Lawson Cypress	M	Twin stem from 2m History of crown reducing	None	None
36.	Sycamore	M	Single stem Some pruning wounds on stem with good wound wood forming History of crown reducing	None	None
37.	Ash	SM	Large split at base Eastside lean	None	Fell
38.	Lime tree	M	History of pollarding at approx 20m Heavy crown lift on east side Possible squirrel damage in crown Ivy	Repollard back to previous cuts	None
39.	Lime tree	M	History of pollarding at approx 20m Heavy crown lift on east side Possible squirrel damage in crown Ivy	Repollard back to previous cuts	None
40.	Sycamore	M	Covered in Ivy History of crown reducing	None	None
G1	Mixed hedge Ash, Holly, sycamore	SM	Unmaintained mixed hedge running along boundary with road. Overgrown and covered in Ivy	None	Monitor for vehicular headroom clearance and visibility of street lights
G2	Ash and sycamore	Y	Group of self seeded and coppiced saplings forming central part of woodland	None	None
G3	Yew trees x 8 Holly Damson Birch Elm	M	Group of Yew at north end of woodland and various Birch and young dead Elm along western side Ivy present	None	None

6. Environmental considerations

Most of the large trees on this site are covered by a tree preservation order (TPO). All work to protected trees must first be applied for to East Riding council.

On the day of the survey there was no evidence of nesting birds although there were nests present in some trees.

Bird nesting season runs from 1st March until 31st July. Under section 1 of the wildlife and countryside act 1981, it is an offence to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or been built.

Some of the large trees have a high potential for Bat roosting.

If the presence of Bats is suspected when tree works commence then advice will need to be sought from Natural England on 0845 1300228 or The Bat conservation trust on 02076272629.

7. Future inspections

Under the occupier's liability act I would recommend future inspections. In the months following an inspection, the condition of trees inevitably changes. It is therefore essential that trees should be inspected regularly and after any event such as a severe storm which may have caused a sudden change. A visual tree assessment (VTA) can only assess the tree above ground and normally includes but not limited to any damage in the tree, dead branches, weaknesses, and weak branch junctions. A VTA cannot predict root plate movement and decay in roots or inside the tree and storm damage cannot be predicted.

I would therefore suggest a bi-annual inspection, or sooner if required.

8. Tree location plan

