



Survey of trees at 20, Chishill Road, Heydon

Site: 20, Chishill Road, Heydon, Royston SG8 8PU

Commissioned by: Mercer Tree Services, on behalf of Fay Dutton

Date: August 2017

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Survey schedule and maps are appended to the end of this report



1.0 Instructions

- 1.1 Instructed by: Mercer Tree Services Ltd, on behalf of Fay Dutton,
property owner
To inspect all trees within: Specified area within the grounds of the above property
- 1.2 To carry out an inspection of the trees, to assess the physiological and structural condition of the trees, to identify whether the trees are dangerous or potentially dangerous, and to make recommendations for remedial works that may be deemed necessary to alleviate or remove any problems that may exist.
- 1.3 To minimise the level of risk to users of the site, and minimise liability of the site owners by helping to reasonably discharge their responsibility under common law (duty of care) and statute law (Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984) to ensure that their trees do not pose an unreasonable threat to persons either on their property, persons on adjacent property and persons on adjacent public highways, footpaths or bridle ways.
- 1.4 Inspection date 25th August 2017
- 1.5 Inspected by Caroline Hall (Tech.Cert (Arbor.A)) – arboriculturist.

2.0 Limitations

- 2.1 The trees were subject to a Level 2 inspection from ground level, using the Visual Tree Assessment method ((VTA) – (Mattheck, C and Breloer, H. The Body Language of Trees, London. 1994 (pp118ff))). This method of inspection seeks to evaluate both the physiological and structural condition of inspected trees by assessing the presence of buds, the condition of the foliage and bark, the presence of fungal activity and external signs of decay (where trees are not covered with ivy etc.), physical damage and growth related defects.

3.0 Disclaimers

- 3.1 The report takes into account the site as laid out at the time of inspection. Any additional structures, alterations or extensions to buildings, altering of soil levels, trenching, trimming or felling of adjacent trees, without consultation, could render the report on the surveyed trees void.
- 3.2 *No tree should ever be regarded as completely safe or free from risk. Trees are dynamic, living organisms subject to change and the physical and environmental conditions that surround them.*



4.0 Site Description

- 4.1 The site is known as 20, Chishill Road, Heydon, Royston SG8 8PW, and the surveyed trees are highlighted on the enclosed site plan. (see Appendices at the end of this report)
- 4.2 The site is a residential garden landscaped with a variety of shrubs, trees and grass and is currently undergoing development.
- 4.3 It is understood that no trees are protected under a TPO.

5.0 Findings and observations

- 5.1 The survey was carried out in late summer and as such the trees were in leaf at the time of inspection. This is a good time to form conclusions about the general health of trees, assess leaf size and density or the presence of disease or fungal fruiting body. However, it is not the best time to assess the structural condition of trees, as dense foliage later in the season can sometimes hide obvious defects higher up in the crown.
- 5.2 The Holm Oak, T1 is a mature twin stemmed tree and has been infected with the fungal pathogen Ganoderma. The presence of an old fruiting body indicates the fungal activity has been active for some years, there are signs of advanced decay by way of a large basal cavity some 500mm deep, however, no new fungal brackets were visible. The root flare and basal region has some adaptive growth ribs, though it is unknown whether there is sufficient sound wood to sustain the load of both stems. It is therefore recommended to reduce the crown of this tree by 2-3 metres. Following this and at the next inspection the possibility of cable bracing both stems is recommended. Statutory clearance of branches from the public highway, and removal of dead wood is recommended as part of routine maintenance.
- 5.3 The Robinia, T2 has reached maturity and is suppressed by four neighbouring cypress trees. Dead wood within the lower crown is an indicator that insufficient light is reaching this area, and under routine maintenance this should be removed. To assist longevity of this tree it would be prudent to consider removal of the conifers, and to lessen the impact a phased approach by way of topping adjacent trees first, and full removal at a later date is an option.
- 5.4 The Oak tree T3 is showing signs of a leaf mining insect within the lower crown. Crown lifting to 2 metres from ground level will clear the majority of infected foliage, plus allow clearance from the new driveway. Leaf mining insects are generally considered to be a seasonal nuisance rather than a hazard to the overall health and safety of the tree, and there is no known control at present.



6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 6.1 Remedial works have been recommended to the trees according to the condition assessed, and the area upon which the tree stands. The recommendation is laid out in the enclosed schedule (see Appendices at the end of this report).
- 6.2 Position of the trees have been plotted on the accompanying plan and are individually numbered.
- 6.3 Considerations for wildlife should be made prior to any arboricultural contract works, in particular paying attention to the presence of wild birds and bats.



7.0 References

BS3998:2010 - *Tree work Recommendations*

BS5837:2012 - *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations*

European Tree Pruning Guide 1999

The Body Language of Trees – Claus Mattheck and Helge Breloer

Manual of Wood Decays in Trees – C Mattheck and K Weber

Fungal Strategies of Wood Decay in Trees – F.W.M.R. Schwarze, J. Engels and C. Mattheck

Quantified Tree Risk Assessment USER MANUAL version 5 – QTRA Ltd, Mike Ellison

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