



Gale Tree Consultancy

Tree Condition Report

Plaistow Recreation Ground

October 2022

Ref: TCR/378/22

Gale Tree Consultancy

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Registered in England & Wales Company Number: 4915639 VAT No. 831 3224 66

Summary

- Multiple trees located around the edge of the recreation ground
- The main feature observed was the presence of deadwood of varying diameters and in varying quantities within the crown of the trees
- Two trees were recorded as requiring the removal of deadwood; however, an additional comment has also been made regarding their removal
- Several trees are part of separate decay evaluations and as such, they should be managed within their individual reports recommendations
- One tree has a fruiting body of a known wood decay fungus which has not been recorded before on this particular tree – an aerial assessment has been recommended so an appraisal of any decay can be made

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1.0 Introduction

1.0 Client and Address

- Ms Nutting, Clerk Ifold Parish Council, 7 Glebelands, Loxwood, RH14 0SW

1.1 Site Address if Different from the Above

- Plaistow Recreation Ground

1.2 Date of Inspection

- 14th October 2022

1.3 Name of Inspector

- Andrew Gale *Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A*

1.4 Our Reference

- TCR/378/22

1.5 Instructions Received

- I have been instructed by the client to undertake an assessment of the trees growing on Plaistow Recreation Ground
- I am to provide my findings in the form of a report, detailing any issues identified during the site visit

1.6 General Description

- Plaistow Recreation Ground is located within a triangle shaped piece of land that is surrounded by Loxwood Road to the north east, The Street to the west and Little Common Lane to the south
- There are three properties that border the Recreation Ground to the north and a single property to the south on the opposite side of Little Common Lane
- A fenced play area is located along the eastern fringes of the ground with access via the east and western fence line. The playground area consists of swings, roundabouts, climbing frames and other items of furniture

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2.0 Scope of the Report

- The principal objective of the tree condition report is to identify whether the trees, or their parts, appear to be in a hazardous condition and to advise remedial action to reduce the risk it/they could pose to those persons using the recreation ground and those persons using any of the public thoroughfares that border the site
- Only those trees with a stem diameter greater than 150mm when measured at 1.5m ground level are to be inspected
- It does not consider any below ground issues unless relating to an issue noted within the walk over survey
- The report addresses issues apparent on the trees at the time of the inspection, therefore the likelihood of failure is considered for three years from the reports date based on the information gained on the day of the report and on the assumption that any recommended work has been undertaken in the time frame specified

3.0 Method of Inspection

- The trees were subject to ground level visual assessment of their external features in line with the 'Visual Tree Assessment' method described by Mattheck & Breloer (Body Language of Trees, Department of the Environment Research for Amenity Trees publication No. 4 1994)
- A plastic headed mallet was used to sound the stem area as an initial indication of the presence of decay
- A thin steel probe was used, where applicable, to assess the depth and condition of any cavities or concavities between buttress roots
- Binoculars were used to assess the upper crown branch structure

3.1 Tree Number and Identification

- The existing tree tag numbering system has been used to identify those trees requiring further action
- Where tree tags have been removed by members of the public, new tags have been attached and the new number added to the Table of Results in Appendix 1
- Appendix 2 TCR-378/22 Dwg01 Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council Recreation Ground site plan identifies the locations of the trees

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4.0 Table of Results

- Please see Appendix 1

5.0 Summary of Results

- A number of the tree tags have been removed. These have been replaced with new tags, however these numbers do not correlate with the existing numbers
- The main tree related feature noted was the presence of deadwood
- Deadwood is a natural occurrence where the tree closes down branches that are no longer productive and should not be seen as a sign of ill health. However, where large sections of the tree's crown declines or dies back, further investigations should be undertaken to determine the underlying cause
- Where specified, deadwood should be removed to reduce the risk of harm or damage occurring in the event it should fail, however, where practical to do so, deadwood should be retained as it forms excellent habitat for aerial saproxylic invertebrates and for those animals that prey on them
- T511 Cherry spp. and T273 Cherry spp. have their physiological condition recorded as POOR and FAIR respectively and both have features which has led to a comment regarding their retention being made
- A dead Field elm was noted adjacent to T516 Horse chestnut - the tree was not tagged
- The cause of the trees death is Dutch elm disease, a highly destructive disease of several species of elm (trees in the *Ulmus* genus). It is caused by two related fungi, *Ophiostoma novo-ulmi* and *Ophiostoma ulmi*, although almost all cases are now caused by the former
- The fungus is spread from tree to tree by elm bark beetles with the tree plugging its own xylem tissue in an attempt to halt the spread of the fungus. In doing so, the tree stops the movement of water and nutrients thereby starving and eventually killing itself
- Once dead, the Elm trees tend to be a scaffold for ivy which eventually smother them, causing them to fail in high winds
- T524 Pedunculate requires the removal of deadwood greater than 50mm in diameter. However, I refer you to TCR/110/18 in relation to the ongoing aerial assessments identified in the report
- T531 Pedunculate oak has a fructification of the decay fungi *Fistulina hepatica* emerging from an old pruning wound

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- The fungus causes a gradual brown rot decay to form primarily in the heartwood of the tree; due to the longevity of the decay process, this is not usually associated with failure at an early age
- The aerial assessment specified will allow an appraisal of the decay so a further management plan can be produced in the event the decay is becoming established

6.0 Recommendations

- Undertake the tree work in the time period specified
- Reinspect in three years from the reports date
- This timeframe should be brought forward in the event the trees local environment changes significantly, further fruiting bodies emerge from the trees or their immediate surroundings and after extreme weather events

This concludes my report

Signed:



Andrew Gale Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A

Date: 20th October 2022



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7.0 Appendix 1

Table of Results

Please see Appendix 1 Table of Results attached separately

Appendix 2

Site Plan

Please see TCR/378/22 Dwg01 Plaistow & Ifold Parish Council Recreation Ground attached separately

Appendix 3

Beaufort Scale

Beaufort Number	Name	Knots	MPH	Effects Observed on Land
0	Calm	Under 1	Under 1	Calm, smoke rises vertically
1	Light Air	1-3	1-3	Direction of wind is shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes
2	Light Breeze	4-6	4-7	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, ordinary wind vane moved by wind
3	Gentle Breeze	7-10	8-12	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion, wind extends light flag
4	Moderate Breeze	11-16	13-18	Raises dust and loose paper, small branches are moved
5	Fresh Breeze	17-21	19-24	Small trees in leaf begin to sway, crested wavelets in inland waters
6	Strong Breeze	22-27	25-31	Large branches in motion, whistling heard in telegraph wires, umbrellas used with difficulty
7	Near Gale	28-33	32-38	Whole trees in motion, inconvenience felt in walking against the wind
8	Gale	34-40	39-46	Breaks twigs off trees, generally impedes progress
9	Strong Gale	41-47	47-54	Slight structural damage occurs - chimney pots, slates removed
10	Storm	48-55	55-63	Seldom experienced inland, trees uprooted, considerable structural damage occurs
11	Violent Storm	56-63	64-72	Very rarely experienced, accompanied by widespread damage
12	Hurricane	64 and over	73 and over	