Gale Tree Consultancy

Tree Condition Report

Winterton Hall, Loxwood Road, Plaistow

June 2021

Ref: TCR/275/21

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Summary

- A number of trees growing adjacent to and around the perimeter fencing of The Winterton Hall
- All trees included were Common ash and all are suffering from the effects of Ash Dieback
- Two have been recommended for removal due to their condition
- Due to the nature of Ash Dieback, a reinspection period of twelve months has been recommended

1.0 Introduction

1.0 Client and Address

- Clerk to the Parish Council, Plaistow & Ifold Parish Council, 7 Glebelands, LOXWOOD, RH14 0SW

1.1 Site Address if Different from the Above

- Winterton Hall, Loxwood Road, Plaistow

1.2 Date of Inspection

- 21st June 2021

1.3 Name of Inspector

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

1.4 Our Reference

- TCR/275/21

1.5 Instructions Received

- I have been instructed by the Clerk to the Parish Council to undertake a ground level inspection of trees growing around the immediate vicinity of the site

- I am to provide my findings in the form of a report detailing any remedial work that may be necessary

1.6 General Description

- Winterton Hall is located towards the north of the village where Loxwood Road runs along its southern side; off road parking is available in front of the hall for c.4-5 cars

- To the east of the hall is a garden area and to the north, a tennis court

- The hall has various uses, including a venue for the local pre-school which also uses the garden area

1.7 Method of Inspection

- The principal objective of the tree condition report is to identify whether the trees, or there parts, appear to be in a hazardous condition and to advise remedial action to reduce the risk they could pose to those persons using The Winterton Hall, those persons visiting the venue or persons using the Loxwood Road

- 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

1.8 Tree Number and Identification

- All trees requiring further action were tagged with a round, numbered aluminium tag and placed in a prominent position on the stem at approximately 2m – see below:

- Individual trees are given the prefix T and groups G
- Those trees requiring further action are plotted on a site plan which is attached separately – see Appendix 2 TCR/275/21 Dwg01
- A number of digital photos were taken, some of which are included within the report for information – please see Appendix 3

2.0 Scope of Report

- This walk over tree condition report relates to the ground level assessment of the tree, it does not consider any below ground issues
- The report addresses issues apparent on the tree at the time of the inspection, therefore the likelihood of failure is considered for twelve months from the reports date based on the information gained on the day of the report
- The site has not been checked for any statutory constraints
- The trees were not assessed for wildlife which would include birds or bats

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3.0 Table of Results

Tree No	Tag No.	Species	Stem Diameter	Height	Crown Spread	Age Class	Phy. Cond.	Comments	Recommendations	Priority
T1	464	Common ash	451-550	15-20	10-15	M	MOD	Early symptoms of ADB Deadwood greater than 25mm in diameter Girdling roots Road de-icing salt bin beneath tree	Monitor ADB as per recommendations Remove deadwood greater than 25mm in diameter Relocate the road salt bin away from the rooting system of the tree	GM HS1 GM
T2	465	Common ash	651-750	15-20	5-10	M	MOR	Bifurcates c.1.5m SE-NW arrangement Dull tone around SW-N side of stem, large area of moribund bark and decay north side Dead tertiary stem section over roof line Deadwood greater than 25mm in diameter	FELL	HS1
T3	466	Common ash	351-450	15-20	5-10	M	MILD	Very early symptoms of ADB Twin stem N-S arrangement South stem thick ivy, bias east	Monitor ADB as per recommendations Sever ivy as close to the ground as possible and again at 1m, remove the severed band	HS1
G4	467	Common ash	251-350	5-10	0-5	SM	MOD	OWNERSHIP UNCLEAR – NO TAG Group of trees located outside the fence line along roadside verge Early symptoms of ADB	Monitor ADB as per recommendations	HS1
T5	468	Common ash	251-350	5-10	0-5	M	MOR	OWNERSHIP UNCLEAR – NO TAG Located in land behind the pond Advanced symptoms of ADB	FELL	HS1

4.0 Summary of Results

- All the trees commented on were Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and all were exhibiting varying level of Ash Dieback

- Ash dieback (ADB) (*Hymenocyphus fraxineus*) inhibits water supply and as such causes leaf loss, lesions on the branches and stems (of younger trees) and ultimately results in the decline of the trees crown

- Younger trees are killed quickly whilst the older, more mature trees, become weakened over time and eventually succumb to another pest or pathogen which ultimately causes death. Some trees show a degree of resistance to the disorder whilst others appear immune

- I use three categories when assessing Ash trees:

	Category	Leaf Cover Remaining	Recommendation
1	MILD	100-70%	No action at this stage
2	Moderate (MOD)	70-30%	Start planning for action
3	Moribund (MOR)	30-0%	Act before it becomes an issue

- In MILD cases of ADB, I recommend monitoring the tree during its growing season which allows for a balanced appraisal of the tree. This can be achieved by taking a digital photograph of the tree and re-assessing the tree next year or throughout the growing season

- For MODERATE trees, planning for their removal is key as is monitoring their condition. In my experience Ash trees in this category either decline very quickly or remain in the same for a length of time

- MORIBUND trees require removing as soon as possible. As the trees slowly die their wood structure changes resulting in a tree that is more brittle and prone to snapping

- T1/464 Common ash has a road de-icing salt storage bin located adjacent to the main stem – the yellow bin in the photo in Appendix 3

- Table 2.2 of the Forestry Commission's Bulletin 101 De-icing Salt Damage to Trees and Shrubs suggests Fraxinus excelsior has an intermediate tolerance to the effects of de-icing road salt. However, the combination of the effects of spillage from the storage bin and the effects of ADB could accumulate to increase stress levels within the tree which could exacerbate the issues

- A recommendation to relocate the road de-icing bin away from trees has been made

- T2/465 Common ash is in such a condition due to the decay in the stem and the effects of ADB, that its removal has been recommended. This should be done as soon as practicable

- The ownership of G4/467 and T5/468 was unclear, hence not being tagged, but included within the report as their failure could impact on The Winterton Hall's boundary fence line. If known, the owner/s of these trees should be notified of their duty of care in relation to managing their liability in the event of tree failure

- If the tree is located within a conservation area or subject to a tree preservation order, a formal application to the local planning authority will be required and written consent obtained prior to any work is carried out

5.0 Recommendations

- Undertake the felling of T2/465 as soon as practicable

- Undertake the remaining work recommended in the time period specified

- Due to the nature of ADB, a reinspection date of twelve months from the reports date has been specified. This will allow for an appraisal of the tree's conditions during the main leaf bearing time and as such an evaluation of the extent of any decline

- This timeframe should be brought forward in the event the trees local environment changes significantly

Signed:

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

Date: 29th June 2021

Arboricultural ASSOCIATION Professional Member

6.0 Appendix 1

Survey Key

Tree No.	Relates to numbers shown on Tree Survey Plan(s). Positions of trees are plotted using GPS and are generally accurate to within 2 metres. May be prefixed T in the case of individual trees or G in the case of groups of trees	
Tag No. (where used)	Numbered aluminium tags may be attached to tree stems to aid with identification. In addition, trees may also be identified with red and white hazard tape	
Species	Common name in English	
Stem Dia.	Stem diameter in centimetres at 1.5m above ground level or, in the case of multi-stemmed trees, just above the root flare or buttress [ARF]	
Height	Height assessed visually to within the nearest 5 metre size band e.g., 10 to 15 (i.e., more than 10 but less than 15 metres) or measured using a TruPulse digital clinometer	
Crown Spread (where used)	Average crown spread, assessed visually to within the nearest 5 metre size band, e.g., 10 to 15 (i.e., more than 10 but less than 15 metres) or measured using a TruPulse digital clinometer	
Age Class (where used)	Young [Y]	recently planted or established within the last 5 years
	Semi Mature [SM]	a well-established youngish tree but far from full maturity
	Early Mature [EM]	long established nearing its full size but not fully mature
	Mature [M]	fully mature tree that has met its full size
	Late Mature [LM]	a fully mature tree that has passed its peak; may exhibit areas of decline
	Veteran [V]	a tree with the physical characteristics of an Ancient tree but is not ancient in years compared to other trees of the same species
	Ancient [A]	a tree that has past full maturity and is old or aged in comparison to other trees of the same species
Physiological Condition	In relation to all trees: GOOD — no significant health problems FAIR — some symptoms of ill health POOR — significant symptoms of ill health MORIBUND (MOR) — in a serious and irreversible decline DEAD — not alive In relation to Ash in light of Ash Dieback: MILD — 100-70% leaf cover remaining = no action at this stage MODERATE (MOD) — 70-30% leaf cover remaining = start planning for action MORIBUND (MOR) — 30-0% leaf cover remaining = deal with it before it becomes an issue	
Comments	Description of significant features, especially those requiring action or monitoring. Where the presence of ivy is recorded the extent of the tree stem and canopy affected is usually expressed as a percentage	
Recommendation	Specific recommendations for action or monitoring	
Priority	Work recommended in the interests of health and safety: Urgent: Immediate attention required (will be reported verbally to management on day of inspection) HS1: As soon as is practicable HS2: Works that should be completed within the survey period GM: Works recommended for general maintenance reasons or in the interests of good arboricultural management N/A Not applicable / no work recommended at this time	

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Appendix 2

Site Plan

See TCR/275/21 Dwg01 attached separately

Appendix 3

Site Photos

T1/464 Common ash – note the symptoms of crown decline

T3/466 Common ash – note the very early signs of crown decline

T2/465 Common ash – note the advanced symptoms of ADB

T2/465 Common ash – note the green handled steel probe in the base of the stem

G4/467 Common ash along the verge with the boundary fence line – note the moderate symptoms of ADB with the crowns of the group of trees

T5/468 Common ash – note the advanced symptoms of ADB