Caroline Hall

Arboriculture

Tree survey at proposed new development site at Coalbeach Lane, Surfleet

Site: **Walnut Tree Field, Coalbeach Lane, Surfleet PE11 4DE**

Commissioned by: Mr Ian Ladds

Date: **September 2018**

Lavender Cottage, 1, The Row, West Deeping, Peterborough PE6 9HT
Mobile: 07947 653004 Email: caroline@tree-surveyor.co.uk
www.tree-surveyor.co.uk

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Section 1

Instructions

1.1 This report was commissioned by Mr Ian Ladds

1.2 The client has commissioned the report to assess the health and safety of the trees on a permitted development site.

1.3 The report will contain an appraisal of four trees on the site.

1.4 Inspection date: 12th September 2018.

1.5 Inspected by Caroline Hall (Tech Cert (Arbor A)) – Arboriculturalist

and Peter Morris, (Cert Arb (RFS)) - Aerial Tree Inspector

Section 2

Limitations of this report

2.1 As trees are living plants their health and condition can change both by forces of nature, intervention by people or vehicles, and with the seasons. For this reason the recommendations in the report are valid for one year only.

2.2 Trees 2, 3 and 4 were examined from ground level only. Tree 1 showed significant defects in the upper crown, which warranted a climbed inspection.

2.3 Soil samples were not taken during the survey. Engineering solutions in relation to foundation design are outside the scope of this report.

2.4 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 or trenching, without consultation, could render the report on the surveyed trees void.

2.5 Management recommendations are included, as part of routine arboricultural management, however, *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.*

Section 3

Tree Inspection and Site Information

3.1 The trees are situated upon the site of a permitted development of new housing with associated driveways and landscaping.

3.2 The development plans include historic tree inspections which have received approval from the local authority.

3.3 The information within this report contains further details about the trees, in particular the Walnut T1 on the enclosed plans which has been subjected to a detailed inspection.

Section 4

Findings and observations

4.1 General

4.1.1 The trees were inspected during late summer, when the trees are fully flushed with foliage. This is a good time to inspect trees for physiological defects, fungal fruiting bodies or tree disorders affecting leaf size and density, but structural defects are less readily observed due to the stem and branches being obscured by foliage. Future inspections are recommended during alternate seasons to allow for an all-round assessment to be made.

4.1.2 In general, the two Walnuts, nos 2 and 3, and the Ash no 4 are in good health and should continue for many years to come. The Walnut to the rear of the site, no 1 on the attached plan, is in fair health and poor structural condition, warranting a climbed inspection following recent heavy losses upon neighbouring property.

4.1.3 As the site has a permitted development planned, longevity of the trees has been considered within the survey as well as their protection during construction. Trees 2 and 3 have received the category A on a previous survey, which reflects a future contribution of 40 years or more, and are also protected under a TPO. Tree 1 is in poor health and has many defects which cannot guarantee this longevity. This tree is considered worthy of a C1 due its expected useful life as an amenity tree and is recommended for removal. Tree 4, Ash is in its early stages of maturity, and though is presently in good health, the tree does not have the space to reach full maturity. Its removal is recommended to allow the remaining Walnut space to grow to its full potential.

4.2 Walnut, tree 1

4.2.1 The tree has many defects and appears to have received heavy root pruning in the past. The tree is situated adjacent to housing and it can be assumed that the roots received pruning during the construction and installation of nearby septic tanks. The roots show some adaptive growth but also signs of advanced decay on the North side of the rootflare.

4.2.2 Leaves and fruit on this tree are showing signs of blight, and also nutrient deficiency. Where root damage has occurred, trees can sometimes have difficulty obtaining all the nutrients they need to photosynthesize, thus causing further stress on a tree and a weakened immune system.

4.2.3 A climbed inspection revealed areas of advanced decay through the upper crown, and on the North side. Cavities within this section of the tree indicate severe weakness and an unacceptable risk of branch failure onto neighbouring property. Please see photos appended to the end of this report.

4.2.4 An option to remove the most decayed parts of the upper crown, and to reshape the tree to approximately half its size has been considered, however, this is likely to prove ineffective in the longer term as such an operation is likely to significantly advance the demise of the tree. Bearing in mind the poor health of the tree and its' situation on a permitted development site, it would be prudent to remove the tree prior to construction and replace with a suitable alternative.

4.3 Ash tree, no 4

4.3.1 This is a healthy tree but its canopy is already growing into the larger Walnut. As Walnut trees are generally allelopathic, this means that substances within the leaves and woody parts of the tree do not allow other organisms to live alongside them easily, this also has the potential to have a detrimental effect upon the future life of the Ash. Ash trees have the potential to grow to a large size, as large as the adjacent Walnut.

4.3.2 On balance it would be better to remove this tree now, and replant elsewhere on the site, than allowing it to encroach any further into the canopy of the TPO'd Walnut.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 The inspected trees have been categorised as Good, Fair or Poor and details are shown within the attached schedules.

5.2 Recommendations are aimed at the site as a permitted development site, the trees' future contributions and safety adjacent to property.

5.3 Tree positions have been plotted on the accompanying plan and are individually numbered.

5.4 Work priority ratings have been given to all recommendations and are shown with the relevant maximum timescale recommended before works are carried out.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that all remedial works identified during this inspection are carried out as per the enclosed spreadsheet.

6.2 All recommended works have been given a priority rating. Priority ratings have been judged by the expected usage of the area in which each tree stands.

6.3 It is recommended that all trees are subject to regular informal inspections from ground level throughout each year by appropriate employees. All trees should be subject to regular formal inspections, carried out by a qualified arboriculturist from ground level, every 1-2 years to assess their physiological and structural condition, and to identify any need for subsequent remedial works. It is recommended that the next inspection take place 18 months from now, in order to establish any tree defects which may not be visible during this season.

6.4 The tree canopies should be inspected by aerial inspection at any time that remedial works are carried out within the canopy, or at any time that a ground level inspection identifies potential issues that warrant further investigation.

6.5 Any tree surgery works implemented should be carried out by fully qualified, approved and fully insured contractors, and should be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 - *Tree work Recommendations* and *European Tree Pruning Guide* 1999.

6.6 Owners of trees have a duty of responsibility to maintain their trees so as to make them safe or to abate any likely nuisance.

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
Mushrooms and other fungi of Great Britain and Europe – Roger Philips
Fungal Strategies of Wood Decay in Trees – F.W.M.R. Schwarze, J. Engels and C. Mattheck
Trees of Britain and Northern Europe – A Mitchell
Quantified Tree Risk Assessment USER MANUAL version 5 – QTRA Ltd, Mike Ellison

APPENDICES

Survey schedule and site plans

Tree survey schedule

Site plan

Photos

WEATHER CONDITIONS - CLEAR, FAIR

Tree Number	Species	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Recommendations	Work Priority	Inspection Frequency
1	Walnut	OM	FAIR - leaves and fruit showing signs of blight throughout the crown, leaves slightly chlorotic	POOR - root damage on N side has some adaptive growth, cavity at 2 metres is 250mm wide and 300mm deep, upper primary branch has large cavity and advanced dead wood (branch is 500mm in diameter, 100mm of live wood remaining behind cavity) areas of advanced decay through this branch, bark cracks through the whole crown, low vitality, woodpecker damage, beetle damage, squirrel damage	Fell tree to ground level (see discussion)	3-6 months	-
2	Walnut	M	GOOD	GOOD	Lift crown to 3 metres from ground level and reshape extended branch on N side to form an even crown following crown lift	3-6 months	18 months
3	Walnut	M	FAIR - leaves and fruit showing signs of blight throughout the crown	GOOD	Lift crown to 3 metres from ground level	3-6 months	18 months
4	Ash	EM	GOOD	FAIR - tree has insufficient space to reach maturity	Fell tree to ground level (see discussion)	3-6 months	-

Key to Survey

Tree no: Number on attached plan

Species: Common name of tree

Age/Class: Y – Young, newly planted or still on a stake
EM – Early Mature, within 1/3 of expected normal life
M – Mature, 2/3 to 3/3 of expected normal life
OM – Over Mature, in decline
D – Dead

Condition: GOOD – no significant defects seen
FAIR – some defects which can either be rectified, or will not have a significant impact on the health and safety of the tree
POOR – defects which cannot be rectified, and could have a significant impact upon the overall health and safety of the tree
DEAD

Where condition is marked with * this is an estimated assessment due to obstruction of the stem by climbing plants or shrubs

Work Priority: This is aimed at both health and safety of site users and future longevity of the trees, as follows:

High - As soon as reasonably practicable, usually within 3 months unless reported otherwise
Moderate – Within 3-6 months of this report
Low – Within 1 year of this report

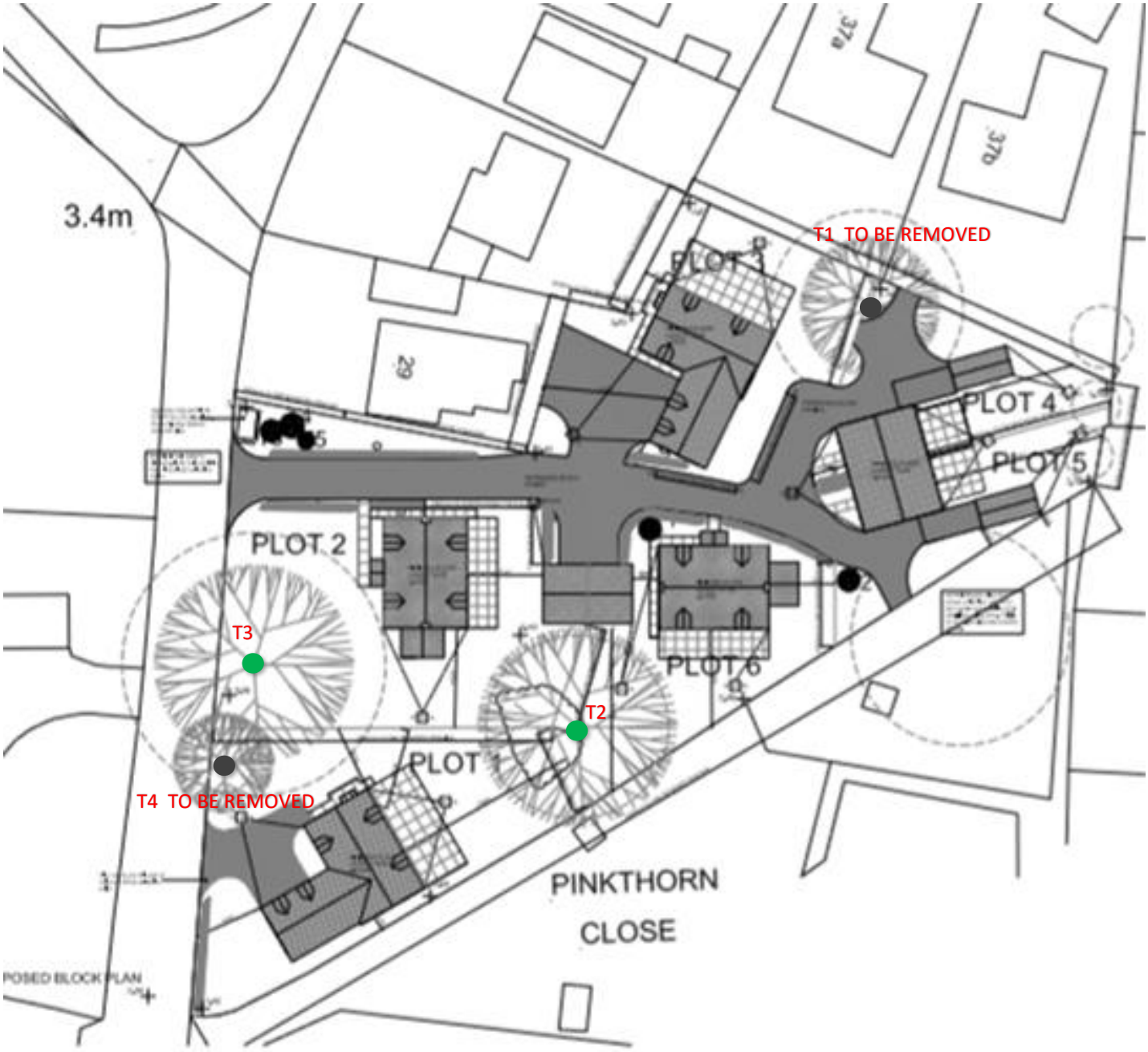
I**nspection Frequency:** This is the recommendation given for the next full inspection, however, following unusual weather events it is advisable to undertake a basic visual inspection, and call the advice of an arboriculturalist should any concerns arise.

Method of Inspection

The trees to be inspected 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 looks for external signs of decay (where trees are not covered with ivy etc.), physical damage or growth related defects.

As trees are living plants their health and condition can change both by forces of nature, intervention by people or vehicles, and with the seasons. For this reason the recommendations in the report are valid until the date of the next recommended inspection.

SITE PLAN
COALBEACH LANE, SURFLEET

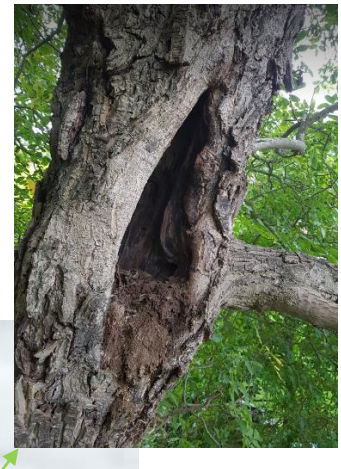


COALBEACH LANE, PHOTOS OF WALNUT T1



CRACKED AND SHEDDING BARK THROUGH CROWN

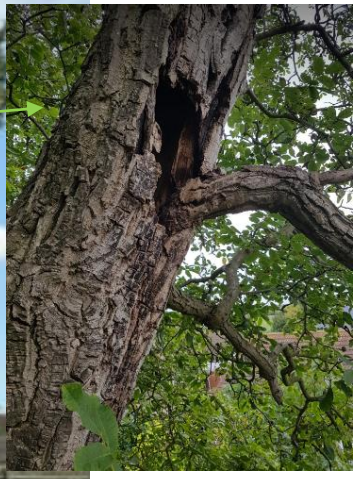




ADVANCED DECAY IN NORTH SIDE UPPER CROWN



BLIGHTED AND CHLOROTIC LEAVES AND FRUIT







DECAY AT SITES OF ROOT SEVERANCE