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Tree Condition Survey



Shoreham College, St Julians Lane, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6YW

Undertaken by

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1. Introduction

1.1 Formal details – My name is Nicholas Jones I am the principal arboricultural consultant for R W Green Limited based at The Lister Building, Upper Stoneham Farm, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 5RH. I have 23 years' experience in the arboricultural industry with the past 12 years acting as a consultant; I hold a BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture awarded by the University of Central Lancashire and I am a Professional Member of both the Arboricultural Association and the Consulting Arborist Society. Moreover I am a Lantra accredited Professional Tree Inspector giving advice to clients on a wide range of arboricultural and horticultural issues.

1.2 This tree condition survey has been commissioned by Shoreham College in order to advise on the condition of trees within the curtilage of the college and to make appropriate recommendations for remedial works where applicable.

1.3 Full details of the trees assessed are provided in the inclusive survey schedules, with all tree locations plotted, using hand held GPS, on to an overhead image of site.

1.4 Key trees on the site are covered by Tree Preservation Order 13.53/3/00/SU. Prior to undertaking any of the recommended works identified within the survey the Local Planning Authority should be consulted to ensure that any necessary consents are obtained.

2. Background

2.1 The site was visited in July 2013 and a survey carried out identifying and locating the trees.

2.2 All trees have been subject to a ground based assessment only using the Visual Tree Assessment methodology expounded by Mattheck & Broeler.

3. The Survey

3.1 The following information is collated for each recorded tree.

- Tree number – Each tree assessed has been tagged with a unique reference number. Numbers commence at 680793 and conclude at 680942. With minimal exception tags are located at between 1.5 and 2.5m above ground level on the main stem.
- Each tree is identified giving the common name only.
- Height – Estimated height range from ground level to the top of the crown.
- Spread – Estimated average crown spread from edge of canopy to edge of canopy.
- Diameter at breast height (DBH) Estimated at 1.5m for single stemmed trees. On multi stemmed trees estimation is made at between ground level and the origin of the multiple stems.
- Age class, as defined in table 1:

Age class	Description
Juvenile	Usually less than 10years old
Semi-mature	Significant future growth to be expected, both in height and crown spread. (Typically below 30% of life expectancy)
Early-mature	Full height almost attained. Significant growth may be expected in terms of crown spread. (Typically 30-60% of life expectancy)
Mature	Full height attained. Crown spread will increase but growth increments will be slight. (Typically 60% or more of life expectancy)
Veteran	A level of maturity whereby significant management may be required in order to maintain the tree in safe condition.
Over mature	As for veteran trees except management is not considered worthwhile

Table 1

3.2 Principal Target – Notes on the surrounding features present and "at risk" should the tree or part of the tree fail.

3.3 Comments – Additional Comments – As deemed relevant by the assessor.

3.4 Recommended works – Which are prescribed on the basis of minimising risk and where practicable preventing risk by adopting sound arboricultural practice.

3.5 All trees are assessed and assigned a hazard risk rating as defined in table 2:

Hazard risk rating	Description
Red	Trees displaying significant defects and posing an immediate risk to health and safety. Red works should be undertaken within 6 months. Recommendations will be made for remedial health and safety works to preserve trees or make safe where practicable
Amber	Trees displaying a defect which has the potential to fail. Although at the time of inspection not deemed significant enough to warrant urgent attention. Amber works should be undertaken with in 6-18 months.
Green	Trees displaying no evident major defects and are therefore assumed safe at the time of inspection. Recommendations for work are based on abating nuisance or obstruction issues. Furthermore to promote good form and eliminate so far as possible any future risk. Green works should be undertaken with in 18-36 months.

Table 2

Please note that those trees allocated a hazard risk rating of 0 are defined as being in a safe condition at the time of assessment.

4. Conclusions

4.1 The tree stock throughout the site is generally in fair condition. The sustained commitment to proactive management over preceding years has ensured that the tree stock is regularly maintained.

4.2 The remedial works identified within this survey accord with current sound arboricultural practice.

4.3 When remedial works are undertaken these must be completed with due regard to British Standard 3998:2010 'Tree Work – recommendations' and accord with the guidance therein.

4.4 All trees requiring remedial works have been allocated a hazard risk rating and associated timescales, which should be treated as a maximum.

4.5 The trees on all sites should continue to be reassessed annually and fully re-surveyed every 3 years. As recommended works are undertaken it is essential that the information in this survey is updated to reflect that.

Limitations

Trees are living organisms that are subject to the stresses of climatic extremes and attack from decay fungi and injurious diseases. Therefore the conclusions given in this survey are relevant to the day of surveying.

No assessment of the soils or woody tissue has been sent for laboratory analysis unless specifically stated. Assessments are based on professional experience and expert observations.

The extent of any protection afforded to tree(s) on the site in the form of Tree Preservation Order or Conservation Area has not been gained. Prior to undertaking any works to the tree(s) it is strongly advised that the Local Authority is consulted regarding necessary consents.

R W Green Limited recommends that all trees should be regularly inspected by professionals as part of a defensible tree management programme. All trees should be re-inspected annually or as specified in the report. Recommended works should be undertaken within the timescales given, which should be treated as a maximum.

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