Ground Control
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Ecology
Arboriculture
GIS and Mapping
Landscape Architecture

Tree Condition Survey Report (VTA)

Site: **Worthing Custody, Littlehampton Road, Durrington, BN13 2PQ**

Client: Sussex Police



Document Control Sheet

Title	Tree Report: Tree Condition Report (VTA)			
Client	Sussex Police			
Site Name	Worthington Custody, Littlehampton Road, Durrington, BN13 2PQ			
GC Document Reference	J240862			
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Issue Status	***Issue***	***Date***	***Status***	***Revision***
	1	02/10/2024	Final	-
Disclaimer	*The recommendations contained in this report represent Ground Control's professional opinions, in exercising the duty of care required of a suitably experienced and qualified Arboricultural Surveyor/ Arboricultural Consultant.* *All data recorded and recommendations made are based on observable factors present at the time of inspection. Inspections consist of a ground based visual inspection only. Where access to conduct a full inspection is not possible due to reasons such as vegetation, topography, fencing or other situations that the surveyor feels are unsafe, the Arboriculturist will make appropriate notes within the survey schedule.* *As dynamic living organisms, trees can change over time. Therefore, the observations and recommendations provided in this report should be considered valid for a maximum period of 12 months, unless specified otherwise by the Arboriculturist. Additionally, it is advisable to inspect trees after a significant, strong wind event to ensure their continued health and safety.* *The report has been prepared by Ground Control Ltd for the sole and exclusive use of the client and for the specific purpose for which Ground Control has been commissioned.* *Ground Control accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the client for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared.* *Use of the Report by any other person is unauthorised and such use is at the sole risk of the user.*			

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1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 The tree survey was undertaken on the 30th September 2024 by David Watts, Ground Control's Arboricultural Surveyor at Worthing Custody, Littlehampton Road, Durrington, BN13 2PQ ; hereafter referred to as the 'site'.

1.2 A summary of the tree work actions required from this survey alongside a summary of the site's tree stock species composition is included below. Detailed information of required tree works for this site can be found within section 4.0 of this report.

Inspection Records:		**7**
Action Records:		**4**
Action Priorities *The table provides a collated summary of the recommended tree work actions in relation to the 'Action Priority' timeframes.*	IMMEDIATE/ URGENT	**0**
	Within 1 month	**0**
	Within 1 - 3 months	**4**
	Within 3 - 6 months	**0**
	Within 6 - 12 months	**0**
	Within 12 - 18 months	**0**

Table 1 – Tree Works Actions Summary Table

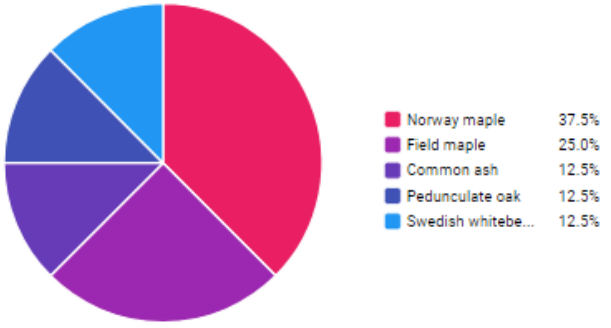

Diagram 1 – Species Composition Across the Site

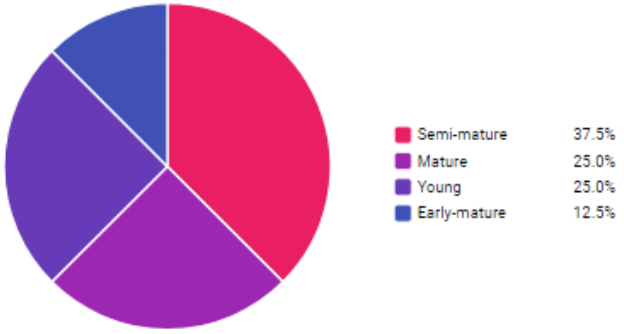

Diagram 2 – Tree Age Class Across the Site

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Ground Control Ltd were instructed by Sussex Police to undertake a Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) of all trees within the boundaries of the site.

2.2 The owner of land on which a tree or trees stand has a legal duty of care under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 and generally under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, to ensure people using the site (whether invited or not) are not exposed to tree related hazards that may present a risk to their health and safety or their property. This duty requires tree owners to take reasonably practicable steps to avoid foreseeable risk, including inspections of trees and the implementation of works where deemed necessary.

2.3 The purpose of this report is to assess the current condition of trees and significant vegetation within the site and to make recommendations for works based upon the risks of causing harm or damage to persons, property or equipment located at the site address.

3.0 Tree Survey & Methodology

3.1 The tree survey was undertaken on the 30th September 2024 by David Watts, MArborA, PTI LANTRA , Arboricultural Surveyor for Ground Control.

3.2 The trees have been assessed from ground level only using the Visual Tree Assessment methodology and assessed with regards to:

- Structural Condition
- Current H&S Implications
- Recommendations for Remedial Works
- Priority for Works & Indicative Cost Implications

3.3 A total of 7 records including 5 tree(s) and 2 group(s) have been inspected. The detail of these inspections can be found within the tree survey schedules in Appendix A and their locations shown on the tree survey plans enclosed within Appendix B.

3.4 Tree data inventory records species, height banding, stem diameter banding, age class, condition, structural defects, and recommendations for remedial work. Where possible the number of trees and species found within groups and woodland areas have been recorded. Approximate numbers have been used where access was not possible.

3.5 Trees have been tagged as part of this survey works only where the surveyor has deemed necessary to aid location.

3.6 Recommendations for remedial work are set out within the following Action Priority Class categorisation & time limits (Table 2)

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Work Action Priority Class Categorisation		
Work Priority	**Time Limits** *(As detailed on survey schedule)*	**Details**
URGENT	**IMMEDIATE**	Separate to this report all urgent work (immediate) has been phoned / emailed through immediately to the client
HIGH	**Within 3 Months**	Covers trees within target distance of High- Risk Zone likely to cause injury, death, or substantial damage.
MEDIUM	**Within 6 Months**	Covers trees within target distance of High-Risk Zone likely to cause an inconvenience such as pruning to clear buildings or phone lines. Covers trees within target distance of Medium Risk Zone likely to cause injury or damage.
LOW	**Within 12 Months**	Covers trees within target distance of High or Medium Risk Zones with regards to tree works that are necessary to be programmed to promote the future health and well-being of tree stock, such as re-reductions whereby higher categories are not necessary.

Table 2 – Work Action Priority Class Classifications

3.7 The location of trees have been categorised as High (Red), Medium (Orange) or Low (Green). This is determined by accessibility to the general public and frequency of use. If the client has not provided risk zone maps specific to each site, then categorisation is based solely on the Arboricultural Surveyor's discretion from observations gained during the site visit only. Guidelines for this subject come from Common Sense Risk Management of Trees - National Tree Safety Group (NTSG). Due consideration has been given to the principles set out below:

- Public impact - Numbers of public using site.
- Site usage - Location of roads, footpaths, buildings
- Business Risk - Risk of damage to property

Site Risk Zone Classifications	
HIGH	Adjacent property including gardens, parks or schools, public roads and footpaths, car parks. Buildings, infrastructure, or plant. Any internal access roads or footpaths leading to buildings or infrastructure used on a regular basis.
MEDIUM	Internal access roads and footpaths used on a limited basis, open grassland.
LOW	Woodlands with limited access or fenced inaccessible areas with no surrounding targets.

Table 3 – Site Risk Zone Definitions

3.8 It is recommended that upon receipt of this report the client reviews the survey schedule and mapping to check that the survey area, risk zones/ hazard classes noted by the Arboricultural Surveyors are in line with clients' own views of that site. Ground Control cannot be held liable for any incorrect categorisation of risk/hazard zones or extent of the survey area.

4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

Recommended Tree Works:

4.1 A total of 7 survey inspections were recorded from which a total of 4 tree work actions have been recommended. A summary of the tree work actions recommended for the site are set out in the below table with photographic records of these trees found in Appendix C.

Table 4 – Tree Works Action Summary

Tree ID	Common Name Tree	Work Task	Work Priority	Description	Tag No
Group 4 and 5	Mixed Species	Prune Specific Branch/Limb	Within 1 - 3 Months	Prune all limbs by 3m overhanging Hildon Park gardens. Trees subject to TPO.	
Group 4 and 5	Mixed Species	Dismantle to ground level	Within 1 - 3 Months	Clear all self seeded small trees in group growing towards and overhanging gardens, Hildon Park. Trees subject to TPO	
Group 5	Hybrid poplar	Prune Specific Branch/Limb	Within 1 - 3 Months	Shorten lateral limb by 3m south side approximately 4m from ground level. Limb is subsiding under weightload. Rear of number 21 Hildon Park facing A2032. Tree subject to TPO	
Group 5	Hybrid poplar	Prune to Clear buildings by 2m	Within 1 - 3 Months	Prune western side of 3 crowns overhanging number 21 Hildon Park. Trees subject to TPO	

4.2 All tree works specified within this report should be conducted in accordance with BS 3998:2010 by suitably skilled, experienced, and qualified operatives that are Arboricultural Association Approved Contractors.

4.3 Prior to the completion of any tree works the contractors should check for statutory tree protection and obtain the necessary permissions where required. This should include but not be limited to Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas, and any requirements for Forestry Commission Felling Licenses where relevant.

4.4 Any works to third party trees will require written consent from the tree owner except those branches that apply to common law and overhanging branches without access into tree.

4.5 It is recommended that tree works are undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (March to September inclusive). Where works are undertaken during this period appropriate checks should be made prior to commencement by a suitably trained and competent individual.

Recommended Re-Survey:

4.6 Due to the intensity of site usage and to allow for inspection of seasonal features it is recommended that trees are inspected on a 15-month cycle, and after a significant, strong wind event or as per surveyor recommendation regarding specific trees.

Appendix A – Tree Survey Schedule

Tree Survey Schedule																	
Tree ID	Tag No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Tree Height (bands)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Observation Comments	Root/Base Observations	Trunk Observations	Crown Observations	Pests, Pathogens & Diseases	Target	Risk Zone	Access	Ownership
1		Field maple	Acer campestre	0-5m	130	Semi-mature	Fair	Good		Strimmer/Mower Damage	Bark Wounding/Damage	None Significant	None Observed	Open space	Medium	Good	Client
2		Pedunculate oak	Quercus robur	0-5m	90	Young	Good	Good		No Visible Issues or Defects	No Visible Issues or Defects	None Significant	None Observed	Open space	Medium	Good	Client
3		Field maple	Acer campestre	0-5m	130	Young	Fair	Good	Bark damage at base and at crown break - occluding	Bark wound(s)	Bark Wounding/Damage, Occluding Tissues/Wood	None Significant	None Observed	Open space	Medium	Good	Client

Tree Survey Schedule																	
Tree ID	Tag No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Tree Height (bands)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Observation Comments	Root/Base Observations	Trunk Observations	Crown Observations	Pests, Pathogens & Diseases	Target	Risk Zone	Access	Ownership
4		Common ash	Fraxinus excelsior	0-5m	270	Semi-mature	Fair	Fair		No Visible Issues or Defects	No Visible Issues or Defects	Previous Poor Pruning, Stub Cuts	None Observed	Open space, Street light/furniture	Medium	Good	Client
5		Swedish whitebeam	Sorbus intermedia	5-10m	180	Semi-mature	Fair	Good		Strimmer/Mower Damage	No Visible Issues or Defects	Minor Dead Wood Under 50mm Diameter	None Observed	Car park, Open space	High	Good	Client

Tree Group Survey Schedule																	
Group ID	Tag No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Number of Trees	Tree Height (bands)	Stem Diameter (bands)	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Observation Comments	Root/Base Observations	Trunk Observations	Crown Observations	Pests, Pathogens & Diseases	Target	Risk Zone	Access	Ownership
4		Leyland cypress	Cupressus x leylandii		11-15m	300-450mm	Mature	Mixed	Fair	Foliage overhanging rear gardens- no obvious issues 1 cypress near fence had been pruned significantly Understory of self seeded mixed species as well	None Significant	Ivy Covered Stem	Minor Dead Wood Under 50mm Diameter, Previously Reduced	None Observed	Car park, Fence, Garden	High	No access to base/stem	Client
5		Hybrid poplar	Populus x canadensis	15	20+m	300-450mm	Early-mature	Good	Fair	Planted close together, creating drawn up forms. Crowns from 3 trees overhanging house number 21. No obvious defects only considered a nuisence. Trees are subject to TPO, application to LPA requirements for works. Understory of self seeded mixed species as well Self seeded trees will grow out towards property gardens over time. Recent limb failure noted behind one property Limbs overhanging rear gardens Overhanging and subsiding limb rear of number 21 - potential for hazard beam to occur over time. Overhanging hedge and footpath. Dense canopy restricting visibility. Piled debris around bases restricting visibility. Slime flux observed around some bases - no evidence of any decay/ wounding in colonised areas	Slime flux	Ivy Covered Stem	Branch/Limb Failure, Crown Close to Building, Minor Dead Wood Under 50mm Diameter, Overweight Subsiding Limbs	None Observed	Building, Car park, Road	High	No access - crown health only assessed	Client

Appendix B – Tree Survey Plans

FIGURE SHEET 1



NORTH

LEGEND

T1 Tree

G1 Tree Group

Site Boundary

Ground Control Ltd., Kingfisher House, Radford Way, Billericay, Essex, CM12 0EQ
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Client

Sussex Police

Project (Address)

1Worthing Custody, Littlehampton Road, Durrington, BN13 2PQ

Figure No.

Figure Sheet 1

GC Project ID
J240862

Issue Date
02/10/24

Notes:
1. © This drawing is the copyright of Ground Control Ltd and cannot be reproduced in any form without express consent of the company.
2. Tree positions are approximate only and based upon mobile GPS and/or site features.
3. Do not scale off this drawing. All written dimensions are to be checked on site prior to commencing works. Pay
4. All discrepancies, errors or omissions are to be reported for clarification before proceeding.

Appendix C – Photographs

Group 4 and 5 - Self seeded trees and crowns overhanging Hildon Park houses





Group 5 Hybrid poplar - 3 crowns overhanging number 21 Hildon Park



Group 5 - Hybrid poplar rear of number 21 Hildon Park. Subsiding lateral limb



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