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Tree Hazard Survey

at

Northgate Honley

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1 Summary

This survey covers those trees as shown on the attached plans at High Royd, Northgate, Honley.

The survey includes a several trees which are believed to be in a dangerous condition. Other trees on the site were also visually inspected and found to have no major apparent defects. As with almost all trees, deadwood will be present in various sizes throughout the site, and this should be removed where it poses a danger – eg overhanging roads, paths and/or property.

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose and scope of report

This is a preliminary hazard and risk evaluation of the trees as shown on the attached plans only.

The recommendations of this report provide the necessary information to prioritise works to trees in order to better manage the risks of harm from those trees.

All tree works should be carried out to the current BS 3998: '*Recommendations for tree work*' unless otherwise stated in this report. All works should be undertaken by suitably qualified and insured contractors.

This report is based upon a visual survey undertaken from ground level. The trees were not climbed, and no specialist diagnostic techniques or equipment were used.

There shall be no responsibility for factors which where not apparent at the time of the survey. Any factor which becomes apparent after the date of survey must be brought brought to the consultant's attention immediately.

No liability can be accepted by the consultant unless the recommendations of this report are carried out under their supervision and within the period of time as recommended.

It is recommended that trees are regularly inspected by a suitably qualified tree inspector. In this instance it is recommended that within twelve months of this survey there is an assessment of which trees need to be surveyed. Guidance on the frequency of tree survey is based on the THREATS system and examples are given in the appendix.

2.2 Legal Constraints

No check has been made with the local planning authority or the Forestry Commission.
It is advised that the local planning authority is contacted to check whether the trees on this site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or are within a Conservation Area (CA).
An online search shows that a TPO is in place at this site, but the TPO is so outdated that it is difficult to be certain which trees are protected.
It is also advised that the local Forestry Commission Conservancy is contacted to check whether the trees surveyed are protected under the Forestry Act.
Trees may also be subject to legal protection under a range of other legislation, much of which is aimed at wildlife and habitat protection.
No work should be done to any trees until either suitable permission has been granted or it has been verified that the intended work does not require permission.

3 Data collection methods

3.1 Survey conditions

The survey was carried out on 17th January 2024 by James Royston: the weather was reasonably dry and visibility was not affected.

3.2 Measurements

Age Class is divided into young, semi-mature, early mature, mature and over mature. This is an indication of which stage a tree is at in its natural life cycle. This allows for an assessment of how energy and growth will be prioritised within a tree.

Diameter is estimated at approximately 1.5m above ground level. Where a tree divides into multiple stems below 1.5m, an estimate of the diameter at the lowest point above the root flare will be made

Height is estimated in metres from ground level to the highest point of the tree.

Estimates of diameter and height are made with the aid of clinometers and specialist tape measures but should not be taken as an accurate measure of size. The dimensions included in this report are given to as an aid to description and identification only.

3.3 Hazard and Risk

Based on BS3444:1996 and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance, a hazard is any object or any situation which has the potential to cause harm.

Risk is defined as the likelihood of harm from hazards, combined with an assessment of how serious the harm could be.

In this report a hazard is any part of a tree which shows signs that there is a significant possibility that it may fail within twelve months from the date of the survey. The hazard is identified and an indication of the size of the part of the tree most likely to be of significance is given.

An assessment is then made as to the likelihood that the stated part will fail within twelve months from the date of survey.

An indication is also given of the likelihood of something or someone being struck, and the level of damage or injury which may expected.

The risk is then assessed by combining the information about the hazard with information about both the likelihood and the significance of harm which could be caused should the identified part fail.

Recommendations are made to lower the risks to a level which is as low as reasonably practicable on the assumption that it is desirable to retain trees where possible.

As trees are living organisms with complex interactions with their environment there will always be an element of uncertainty in any tree risk assessment. No tree can ever be described as totally safe and nothing in this report should be taken as a guarantee that a tree is without risk.

All factors are assessed using the experience and knowledge of the author based on the author's understanding of current research, legislation and best practice guidance.

3.4 Works priority

The priority for works is allocated on a scale from 1 to 4.

Category 1 works (shown as red on the plan) are those which are urgent and should be dealt with as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Category 2 works (shown as orange on the plan) should also be considered as important and should also be done as soon as is reasonably practicable, but these works could be done after category 1 works where resources are limited. A maximum of 3 months from the date of survey is suggested.

Category 3 works (shown as green on the plan) are not urgent, but there is the possibility that observed defects may become more significant in the future. These trees should be monitored for signs of deterioration. It is sometimes cost effective to include these works as part of an ongoing arboricultural management plan.

Category 4 works (shown as gray on the plan) are areas with no significantly elevated risks. These areas either contain no trees, the trees are so small as to present no foreseeable risk of harm from striking injury, or the trees show no apparent defects.

4 Contact Details

I hope this report provides all the required information. However, if further advice is needed then please contact me and I will be happy to help.

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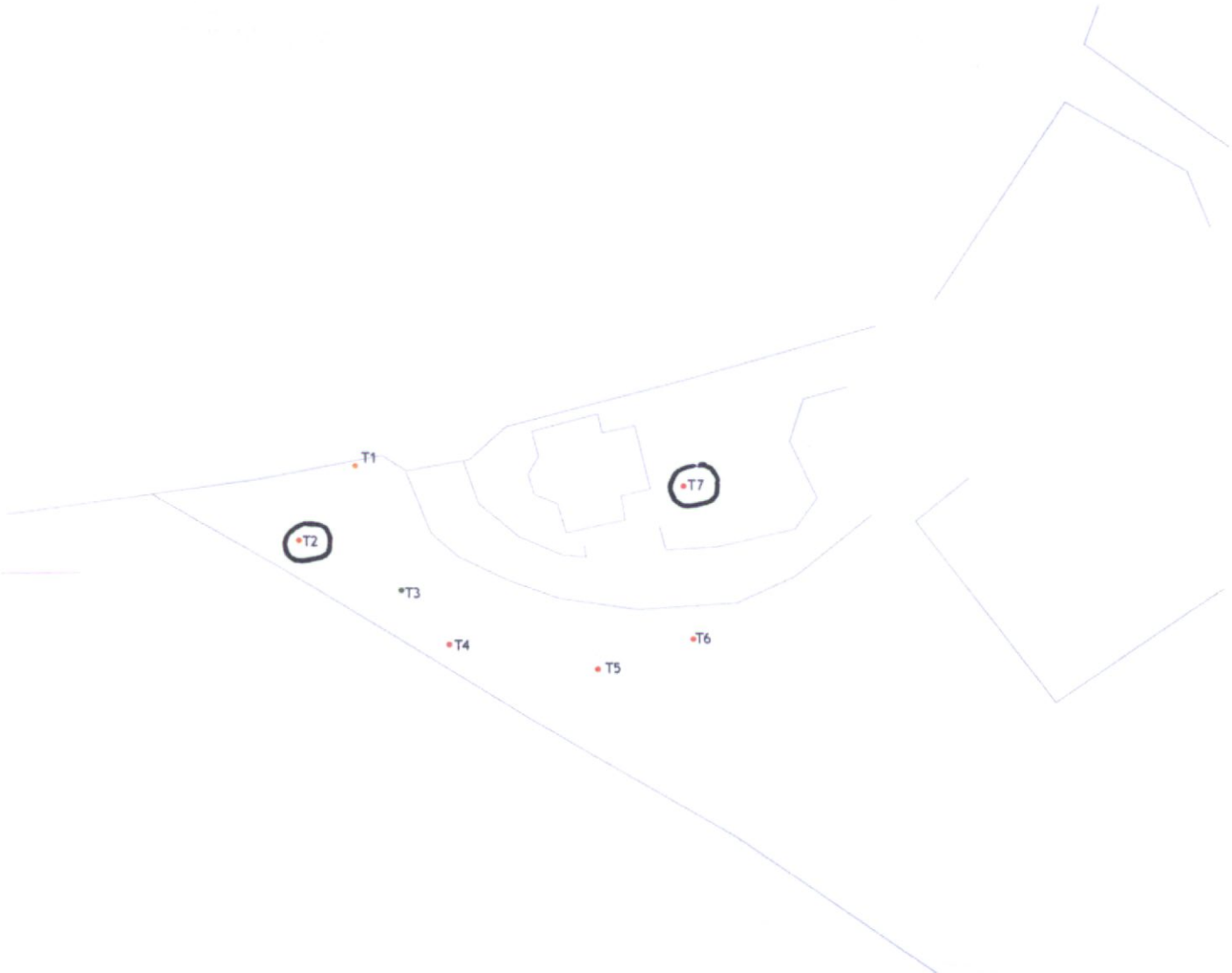
Appendix 1: Tree data tables

Appendix 2: Plans

Tree / Group Number	Common Name	Botanical Name	Age	Diameter (cm)	Height (m)	Structural condition	Physiological condition	Size of hazard part	Likelihood of Failure	Description of that which might be harmed	Observations	Recommendations	Risk of harm	Works priority
1	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	Early mature	70	18	Fair	Fair	Large	Low	Busy public highway	A single stem tree with no major apparent defects. The tree contains normal amounts of deadwood. The boundary wall is being displaced by tree growth.	Remove to prevent damage to wall and hazards to road users.	Low	3
2	Horse chestnut	*Aesculus hippocastanum*	Semi mature	45	13	Poor	Poor	Large	Medium	Private homes and gardens	A single stem leaning tree. The tree is suppressed by larger neighbouring trees. There is canker throughout.	Remove	Medium	1
3	Oak	*Quercus sp*	Early mature	60	18	Fair	Fair	Large	Low	Private homes and gardens	A single stem tree with basal bark damage which has lead to decay. The decayed area contained a fungal fruiting body, but this could not identified because it is was in poor condition. The tree's reaction growth around the decay appears to be healthy, and the tree appears to be adapting in response to the decay.	Monitor for fresh fungal fruiting bodies to allow for identification.	Low	3
4	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	Early mature	50	18	Poor	Poor	Large	High	Private homes and gardens	A single stem tree with widespread necrotic bark throughout. This is believed to be a dangerous tree.	Remove	Medium	1
5	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	Mature	60	18	Poor	Fair	Large	Medium	Private homes and gardens	A single stem tree covered in dense ivy. The base of the tree shows white mycelial fungal growth over patches of discoloured and dead bark. No decay was observed, but inspection was difficult because of site conditions and dense ivy.	Remove	Medium	2
6	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	Mature	70	18	Poor	Poor	Large	High	Private homes and gardens	A single stem tree with necrotic bark over more than ¾ of the circumference at ground level. This is believed to be a dangerous tree.	Remove	High	1
7	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	Early mature	60	18	Poor	Fair	Large	High	Private homes and gardens	A single stem tree overhanging the house. The tree has advanced basal decay affecting several buttress zones. This is believed to be a dangerous tree.	Remove	High	1



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Key	
	Category 1 Works
	Category 2 Works
	Category 3 Works
	Category 4 Works

Note: Plans are for guidance only. These plans should not be taken as an accurate representation of scale or distance.