

Arboricultural Tree **Inspection Report**

RELIANCE PRECISION LTD

Rowley Mills

Lepton

Huddersfield

HD8 0LE

Date: 24th March 2024

Author: Andrew Murray.

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1 Introduction.

1.1 Purpose of report.

To undertake a tree report of the trees located along Beldon Brook which are within close proximity to the Reliance Precision Ltd building. The report details the relevant arboricultural information which is required to inform the owners of any trees which have an unacceptable risk of failure or that require remedial work carrying out to reduce any risk of incident. The specific management actions that, once undertaken, demonstrate that a duty of care has been taken with regards to tree management.

1.2 Terms of reference.

I have been instructed by the facilities manager Helen Foster to prepare a report of the trees highlighting any safety issues along with any recommended work which should be carried out, this follows the failure of an ash tree in December which fell on the building causing damage to the roof.

1.3 Report limitations.

It should be noted that although trees can live for a long time, they are not permanent. As with all living organisms they live, can be affected by decay and disease and eventually die. Trees should therefore be inspected at regular intervals to assess for change and always be inspected after inclement weather to assess for damage in the crowns or any movement at the base. No tree can be absolutely safe especially in adverse weather conditions and the risk of failure can never be entirely discounted.

1.4 Survey Details.

The survey of the trees was carried out by myself on the 13th March 2024. The weather conditions were dry and visibility was good. A visual inspection of each tree was carried out from ground level and was split into three areas. The rooting areas were inspected looking for signs of wind rock of the root plate, visible surface roots, and signs of recent excavations adjacent to the tree root plate as well as any evidence of fruiting bodies. Secondly the stems were inspected to look for signs of disease or decay, splitting of the stem and stem junctions. Finally, the crowns were inspected to check for die back, damage to the crown or any other factors which may influence the condition and safety of the trees. Where necessary, management recommendations have been made. This may include tree removal, pruning and or future monitoring.

2 TREE SURVEY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

2.1 Data Table.

The data table in Appendix 1 highlights all the trees where recommendations have been made following an inspection of the site. The following categories have been used within the data table:

Tree Number; relates to the specific tree or group of trees and its location within the Google map in appendix 2.

Species; used to identify what type of tree, the common name has been used.

Comments; includes any relevant observations made whilst surveying the tree.

Recommendations; includes details of any work which should be carried out.

Priority; is the time period in which any recommended works should be undertaken from the date of the survey. “L” low priority works within 12 months, “M” medium priority works within 6 months and “H” high priority should be completed as soon as practically possible.

3 Legal Status of Surveyed Trees.

3.1 Local Authority.

A check was made on the 14th March 2024 with Kirklees Council online mapping facility which shows that all of the trees within the area surveyed are subject to Tree Preservation Order 55/80/a1.

3.2 Permission.

As the trees are protected by means of a Tree Preservation Order then permission has to be granted from Kirklees Council. Though consideration should be made to wildlife and other relevant issues, see appendix 6 Tree Work Guidelines.

4 Discussion of Findings.

4.1 Overview.

The Reliance Precision Ltd building which runs along the Beldon Brook contains a “clean room” which is used in the production of precision equipment. My understanding is that this “clean room” is essential to the business activity of the company and if compromised would cost millions of pounds in lost production.

In December last year a tree in this area failed causing damage to the roof but luckily not to the “clean room” below. Following this incident they have requested a tree inspection report into the health of the trees close to this building.

Of the 23 trees inspected, 12 are ash which are in various stages of the ash dieback disease which is currently destroying the ash population in the United Kingdom, see appendix 5.

4.2 Recommended Felling Works

To be pro-active in the management of these trees the report highlights that 18 of the trees be removed due to their condition and location near the building / footpath. As a large number of trees are to be removed subject to planning consent it is recommended that replanting programme is adopted replacing the felled trees with native trees such as oak, beech alder and birch.

4.3 Other Works Highlighted

This is mainly crown lifting low branches over the building and removal of ivy from the base of trees as this can have a detrimental effect on trees growth and health.

5 Conclusion.

5.1 Tree Works.

Tree work should be carried out to BS3998: 2010 – “Recommendations for tree work”, see appendix 6 Tree Work Guidelines.

5.2 Re Survey.

It is prudent to have the trees inspected on a regular basis, every eighteen months would be recommended for this site. Though this may be less following stormy weather or if a tree has visible signs of ill health such as the presence of fruiting bodies, early loss of leaves, broken branches or signs of ground movement.

6 Contact Details.

6.1 Name.

Andrew Murray.

6.2 Address.

Leigh House, Rochdale Road, Ripponden, West Yorkshire, HX6 4LN.

6.3 Telephone.

Mobile: 07801 656535 / Landline: 01422 824554.

6.4 E Mail.

treemonster@btinternet.com

7 Signature.

7.1 Signed.

A. Murray

Andrew Murray.

7.2 Dated.

24th March 2024

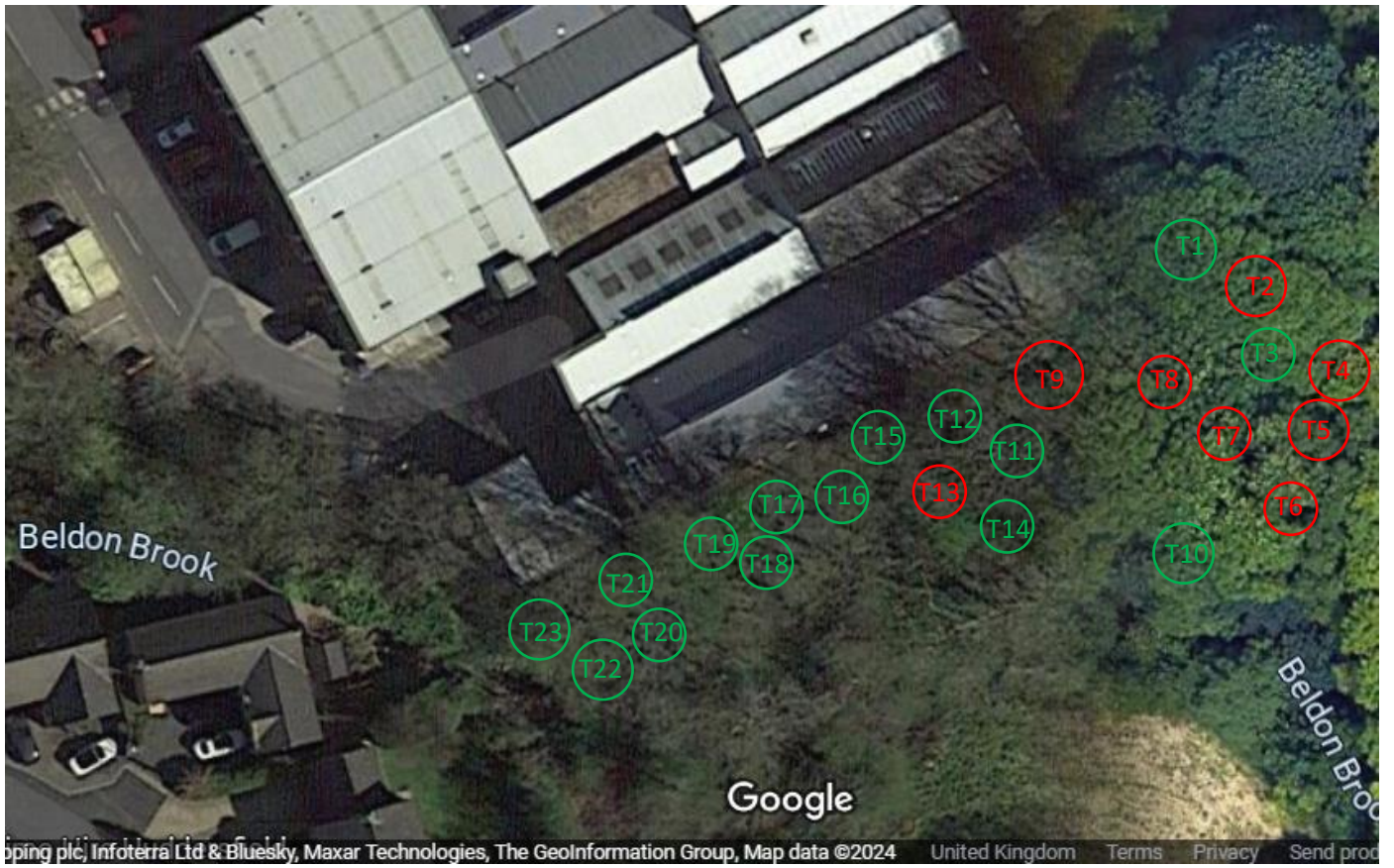
Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Tree Survey Comments and Recommendations.

| Tree No. | SPECIES | COMMENTS | RECOMMENDATIONS | PRIORITY |
|----------|----------|---|--|----------|
| T1 | SYCAMORE | HEAVILY LEANING TOWARDS BUILDING / IVY PRESENT (PHOTO 1) | FELL | L |
| T2 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 3 (PHOTO 2) | FELL | H |
| T3 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 1 / TREE SUPPRESSED (PHOTO 2) | FELL | M |
| T4 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 3 (PHOTO 2) | FELL | H |
| T5 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 3 (PHOTO 2) | FELL | H |
| T6 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 3 (PHOTO 3) | FELL | H |
| T7 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 3 (PHOTO 4) | FELL | H |
| T8 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 3 (PHOTO 4) | FELL | H |
| T9 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 1 (PHOTO 5) | FELL | H |
| T10 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 1 (PHOTO 6) | FELL | M |
| T11 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 2 (PHOTO 7) | FELL | M |
| T12 | SYCAMORE | MULTI STEMMED / LEANING TOWARDS BUILDING / IVY PRESENT (PHOTOS 8 & 9) | FELL | M |
| T13 | ALDER | MAJOR CAVITIES IN TRUNK (PHOTOS 10 & 11) | FELL | H |
| T14 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 1 (PHOTO 12) | FELL | L |
| T15 | SYCAMORE | YOUNG TREE / CLOSE TO BUILDING (PHOTO 13) | FELL | L |
| T16 | SYCAMORE | YOUNG TREE / CLOSE TO BUILDING (PHOTO 14) | FELL | L |
| T17 | ALDER | BAD FORM / NEAR BUILDING AND ELECTRICAL BOXES (PHOTOS 15 & 16) | FELL | L |
| T18 | SYCAMORE | LOW BRANCHES / IVY PRESENT (PHOTO 17) | CROWN LIFT AWAY FROM BUILDING / REMOVE IVY UPTO 2 METERS | L |
| T19 | SYCAMORE | LOW BRANCHES / IVY PRESENT (PHOTO 18) | CROWN LIFT AWAY FROM BUILDING / REMOVE IVY UPTO 2 METERS | L |
| T20 | SYCAMORE | MULTI STEMMED / IVY PRESENT (PHOTO 19) | REMOVE IVY UPTO 2 METERS | L |
| T21 | SYCAMORE | YOUNG SUPPRESSED TREE (PHOTO 20) | FELL | M |
| T22 | ASH | ASH DIEBACK CATEGORY 1 / LOW TARGET AREA PHOTO 21) | REMOVE DEADWOOD | L |
| T23 | SYCAMORE | LOW BRANCHES OVER BUILDING (PHOTO 22) | CROWN LIFT AWAY FROM BUILDING | M |

APPENDIX 2 - Tree Location Map.



APPENDIX 3 – Photos.

PHOTO 1 – TREE 1 – SYCAMORE



PHOTO 2 – TREE'S 2, 3, 4 & 5 – ASH



PHOTO 3 – TREE 6 – ASH



PHOTO 4 – TREE'S 7 & 8 – ASH



PHOTO 5 – TREE 9 – ASH



PHOTO 6 – TREE 10 - ASH



PHOTO 7 – TREE 11 – ASH



PHOTO 8 – TREE 12 – SYCAMORE



PHOTO' 9 & 10 – TREE 13 – ALDER



PHOTO 11 – TREE 14 - ASH



PHOTO 12 – TREE 15 – SYCAMORE



PHOTO 13 – TREE 16 - SYCAMORE



PHOTO'S 14 & 15 – TREE 17 – ALDER



PHOTO 16 – TREE 18 - SYCAMORE



PHOTO 17 – TREE 19 – SYCAMORE



PHOTO 18 – TREE 20 – SYCAMORE



PHOTO 19 – TREE 21 – SYCAMORE



PHOTO 20 – TREE 22 - ASH



PHOTO 21 – TREE 23 – SYCAMORE



APPENDIX 4

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations.

Arboriculture

The cultivation of trees in order to produce individual specimens of the greatest ornament, for shelter or any other primary purpose other than the production of timber.

Crown Clean

Removal of epicormic growth along with any crossing branches and deadwood.

Crown Lift

The removal of the lowest branches, usually to a specified height above ground level usually for pedestrians or vehicles to pass.

Deadwood

Dead branches within the tree. Most deadwood results from the natural dying off of branches within a tree canopy. It is natural for deadwood to form in mature trees. Where deadwood forms on the outer section of tree canopies, referred to as **dieback**, it is generally an indication that the tree is under physiological stress. Deadwood plays an important role for habitat and biodiversity and should not be removed unnecessarily. Deadwood within this report is referred to based, on its estimated girth size, minor deadwood has a girth up to 30mm and major deadwood has a girth larger than 30mm.

Epicormic Growth

Small branches that grow in uncharacteristic clusters around the base or the stem of the tree, if left unchecked they can become large with weak connections to the tree. Some species such as the common lime produce epicormic growth as a natural characteristic.

Hanger

A branch which has broken off but is still stuck within the canopy, this may then fall out causing damage or injury.

Multi Stemmed

The trunk of the tree splits low down into two or more trunks but is still the same tree.

Over Mature

A fully established tree retaining moderate vigour but with growth slowing.

Suppressed

A tree develops a suppressed form when neighbouring trees block light which they are dependant on to function. Where light may be restricted by larger, more dominant neighbouring trees, a suppressed tree may have little option than to grow towards available light source in order to survive. This can result in trees forming lateral and leaning growth forms.

APPENDIX 5

Ash Dieback Disease.

Ash dieback is a highly destructive disease of ash trees (*Fraxinus* species), especially the United Kingdom's native ash species, common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). It is caused by a fungus named *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (*H. fraxineus*), which is of eastern Asian origin.

The disease is also known as 'Chalara', ash dieback, and Chalara dieback of ash.

Estimates indicate that as many as 80% of the United Kingdom's ash trees may be lost to this disease.

Symptoms of Ash Dieback include;

- Lesions on the stems
- Browning of the leaves and early leaf fall
- Retaining their seeds or 'Keys' over the winter
- The foliage in the crown of the tree gradually thins as the disease progresses

There are 4 categories which identify the progress of the disease in the tree;

Category 1 - 0-25% dieback - A healthy tree with a good healthy leaf coverage. There may be minor signs of disease e.g. early leaf fall, some leaf browning.

Category 2 - 25-50% dieback - A tree starting to show signs of disease. Reduced leaf coverage/crown density with some other indicators: some leaf browning, lesions or brown keys.

Category 3 - 50-75% dieback - A tree which is clearly diseased - Significantly reduced leaf coverage/crown density. Tips of branches showing die back, brown keys evident and foliage becomes 'clumpy'.

Category 4 - 75-100% dieback - A tree which is clearly in terminal decline. Extremely sparse or no leaf coverage/crown density. Large dead branches may be present.

Key Safety Considerations;

You will need to consider whether active intervention is required or not. Key things to be aware of are:

- Trees on your land are your responsibility
- Once ash die back has infected an ash tree the tree can be at considerable risk of structural failure. The tree can shed branches and limbs, or the whole tree may even collapse.
- Large trees have the potential to kill or seriously injure people and damage property and vehicles – this should be the paramount consideration for tree owners when deciding how to manage ash trees affected by ash die back.
- A key health & safety consideration for tree owners should be “what is in the target area around the tree should it fall or shed limbs?”. For example the risk posed by the tree to infrastructure (power lines, gas lines & telecoms), highways, areas around occupied buildings and other peopled areas, should be very carefully considered.
- Preventing Access to Trees – if a tree owner has concerns about the safety of a tree, it may be prudent to cordon off the tree(s) to prevent access to the area where a tree may fall, as a short-term measure until a tree can be properly inspected.
- Inspection of Trees should, it is recommended, be carried out initially by a competent tree inspector who has relevant professional expertise and qualifications to assess the tree and recommend an appropriate course of action i.e. to carry out tree surgery /removal, or to do nothing and /or monitor the situation.
- Tree Surgery should always be carried out by a competent tree surgeon who has relevant expertise and qualifications.

APPENDIX 6

Tree Work Guidelines.

Tree Work should be carried out to a minimum of British Standard for Tree Work, BS3998: 2010 – “Recommendations for tree work”.

Contractors should have insurance in place for Employers Liability and Public Liability, recommended minimum is £5 million.

Contractors should be NPTC qualified in relation to the use of chainsaws and other equipment used such as chippers and stump grinders. If the trees require climbing or the use of a mobile elevated platform, further qualifications are required.

The contractors should be experienced in the work they are carrying out and be able to provide references for previous similar work that they have done.

Any permission required from the local authority should be obtained prior to any work being carried out.

A felling licence may be required by law if you plan to fell more than 5m³ of timber in one calendar quarter.

A method statement with clear and full details of the work to be carried out should be obtained this should also include how branches and timber will be disposed of.

A risk assessment should also be provided covering all aspects of the work to be done.

Wildlife Issues.

Bats. Under current legislation it is an offence to ‘intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat’ or damage, destroy or block access to the resting place of any bat’. For further information contact The Bat Conservation Trust, <http://www.bats.org.uk/>

Birds. Under current legislation it is an offence to disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of wild birds. Therefore, work likely to disturb nesting birds should be avoided from February to August.

APPENDIX 7

Authors Qualifications.

Andrew Murray.

I have been employed within the arboricultural industry for over 25 years working as a climbing arborist for both private industry and local authorities.

I have an HND in arboriculture from the University of Sunderland in 2008.

Other relevant qualifications held include:

Various NPTC / LANTRA awards relating to tree work operations 1999 to 2023 including;

Tree Climbing, Aerial Rescue and Use of a Chainsaw from a Rope and Harness

Fell Small, Medium and Large Trees

Woodchipper Use

Stump Grinder Use

Clearing Individual and Multiple Windblown Trees

Winching Operations

QA Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work 2021

Management of Catastrophic Bleeding 2023

IPAF Trained Operator 2017 Refresher 2022

IOSH Managing Safety 2015

Emergency Treework Operations 2014

HNC in arboriculture 2005

LOLER examiner 2003

NC in horticulture 1999