

GHA Trees
5 South Drive
High Wycombe
Bucks
HP13 6JU



Glen Harding MICFor
MSc (Forestry), MArborA
t: 07884 056025
e: info@ghatrees.co.uk
www.ghatrees.co.uk

TREE SAFETY ASSESSMENT:
Fairfield, 8 Victoria Road, Wargrave, RG10 8AB
17th June 2024

Client: Victoria Ramsey
Date of inspection: 11th June 2024
Inspector: Glen Harding MICFor,
MSc (Forestry), MArborA

Instructions received:

Owners or occupiers of land have a duty of care that has implications for tree management; this can include the implementation of proactive inspections and maintenance. It is important that people having or taking ownership of, or responsibility for trees are aware of their condition. Tree inspections provide relevant information, to inform management decisions and demonstrate that care has been taken.

GHA Trees Ltd have been instructed to carry out an inspection of all significant trees growing within the curtilage of the Fairfield, 8 Victoria Road, Wargrave, RG10 8AB, in order to identify any trees that pose an unacceptable risk to users of the site and adjoining properties. The boundaries of the subject site are shown on the tree location plan at Appendix 1 which accompanies this report.

We are also instructed to make recommendations for remedial works that are necessary and proportionate in response to visible defects recorded during the survey.

Tree number/identification:

The positions of the surveyed trees which are listed within in the tree schedule at Appendix 1 are shown on the tree location plan at Appendix 2; this plan shows approximate tree locations.

Scope of survey:

- All significant trees were subject to a visual inspection from ground level, with the aid of binoculars where necessary.
- The trees were inspected on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breleor (The body language of tree, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994).
- No tissue samples from any tree were taken.
- The lower stems of trees were tapped with a plastic-headed hammer to check for indications of internal decay. The differing sounds can reveal areas of hollowing, dead bark and other defects. Any visible cavities in the base of the stem were probed with a steel rod. No detailed internal investigation of the subject trees was undertaken.
- Dense vegetation or climbers (such as ivy) can prohibit full inspections and is recorded if appropriate.
- In assessing the potential risks posed by defective trees, recommendations for appropriate and proportionate action are made in consideration of the guidance provided in '*Common Sense Risk Management of Trees*)' produced by the National Tree Safety Group (published by The Forestry Commission, 2011).
- The inherent risks associated with trees mean that it is a mistake to manage them in an overly risk-averse manner. In addition to considerations of tree safety, it is important that management decisions are taken in light of their wider benefits (aesthetic ecological, environmental and sociological). Management decisions to address identified hazards that exceed what is necessary to the detriment of these benefits are inappropriate.
- All measurements within the tree table at Appendix 1 are estimates. The dimensions of trees within groups are given as an averaged figure unless otherwise stated.

- Deadwood is present on most older trees, especially veteran trees. It would not be practicable or reasonable to remove all deadwood from trees in public areas. I have only recommended removal where I feel deadwood poses an imminent threat.

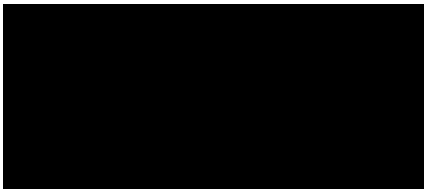
Recommendations:

The schedule Appendix 1 provides details of remedial works recommended for consideration. Tree works will be required to be in accord with British Standard 3998 – 2010 (Tree Work - Recommendations).

We do not check statutory designations as a matter of course, but can do if asked. These MUST be checked before any tree work is undertaken.

On a site such as the subject property, given the age and condition of the trees and the targets present; we would recommend trees should be re-inspected by a competent and experienced arboriculturist no less than every two years.

Signed:



Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
For and on behalf of GHA Trees

Appendix 1: Survey Schedule

Tree number on plan	Species	Estimated stem diameter (mm)	Estimated height (m)	Age class	Condition / Comments	Recommendation	Priority
T1	Variegated holly	140	6.5	Mature	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated. Sparse crown noted - estimated at 80% of 'normal' vitality for species.	No work required.	NA
T2	Magnolia	200, 220	5	Mature	Unusual form for species - sprawling crown in contact with floor. No significant / notable defects recorded during inspection.	No work required.	NA
G3	Plum scrub growth	130, 130	7	Mature	Scrub growth.	No work required.	NA
T4	Pine	950	20	Mature	No basal defects noted; resonance test did not reveal any areas of decay near ground level. Minor deadwood in crown. Large cones throughout crown.	Remove minor deadwood from crown.	within 12 months.
T5	Incense cedar	1530	29	Mature	Poor stem union at 2m to three stems is potential weak point.	Cable brace tree at 16m to provide additional stem support.	within 12 months.
T6	Deodar cedar	760	22	Mature	Crown of normal crown density for species. No basal defects noted; resonance test did not reveal any areas of decay near ground level. Minor deadwood in crown.	Remove minor deadwood from crown.	within 12 months.
T7	Copper beech	610	20	Mature	Crown of normal crown density for species. No basal defects noted; resonance test did not reveal any areas of decay near ground level. Old aerial runway cable attached to tree and now engulfed in stem.	No work required.	NA
T8	Sycamore	680	22	Mature	Forks at 3m - union is sound. Crown of normal crown density for species. No basal defects noted; resonance test did not reveal any areas of decay near ground level.	No work required.	NA

Tree number on plan	Species	Estimated stem diameter (mm)	Estimated height (m)	Age class	Condition / Comments	Recommendation	Priority
T9	Sycamore	460	15	Mature	One sided crown (most growth leans to east) due to loss of nearby tree. Crown should balance over time. Crown of normal crown density for species. No basal defects noted; resonance test did not reveal any areas of decay near ground level.	No work required.	NA
T10	Laburnum	120, 120, 270	4	Mature	Suppressed tree of poor form. Crown in decline. Major decay in main stem - east side at 1m.	Consider for removal and replacement.	Within 24 months
T11	Lawson cypress	260, 260	9	Over Mature	Dead tree.	Fell.	within 3 months.
T12	Yew	680	12	Mature	Crown of normal crown density for species. No basal defects noted; resonance test did not reveal any areas of decay near ground level.	No work required.	NA
T13	Douglas fir	590	23	Mature	No basal defects noted; resonance test did not reveal any areas of decay near ground level. Minor deadwood in crown.	Remove minor deadwood from crown.	within 12 months.
T14	Norway maple	650	23	Mature	Tree grows ~ 7.5m from house and 6m from neighbour's house with crown in close proximity to both dwellings. No basal defects noted; resonance test did not reveal any areas of decay near ground level.	Reduce height from 23m to 17m. Reduce lateral spread from 7m to 5m away from nearby houses.	within 12 months.
T15	Sycamore	350, 380, 380	23	Mature	Tree grows ~ 7.5m from house and 6m from neighbour's house with crown in close proximity to both dwellings. No basal defects noted; resonance test did not reveal any areas of decay near ground level. Poor stem union at base of tree.	Reduce height from 23m to 17m. Reduce lateral spread from 7m to 5m away from nearby houses.	within 12 months.
T16	Sycamore	420, 460, 480	23	Mature	Tree grows ~ 7.5m from house a crown in close proximity to dwelling. Poor stem union at base of tree.	Reduce height from 23m to 17m. Reduce lateral spread from 7m to 5m away from nearby houses.	within 12 months.

Tree number on plan	Species	Estimated stem diameter (mm)	Estimated height (m)	Age class	Condition / Comments	Recommendation	Priority
G17	Holly	200, 200	9	Mature	Scrub growth. Crowns growing too close to house.	Prune laterally on house side to give 2m clearance.	within 12 months.
T18	Sycamore	320, 550	22	Mature	Crown of normal crown density for species. No basal defects noted; resonance test did not reveal any areas of decay near ground level.	No work required.	NA
T19	Thuja plicata	800	24	Mature	Crown of normal crown density for species. Topped at 6m in past. No basal defects noted; resonance test did not reveal any areas of decay near ground level. Old aerial runway cable attached to tree and now engulfed in stem.	No work required.	NA
T20	Apple	190	6	Mature	Crown appears in onset of decline. 50% live growth estimated. Bark damage 1.2 - 2.2 west side.	Consider for removal and replacement.	Within 24 months
T21	Rowan	140, 180	6	Mature	Small tree of limited value in the wider landscape.	No work required.	NA
T22	Sycamore	500 est	15	Mature	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.	No work required.	NA
T23	Holly	250	9	Mature	Small tree of limited value in the wider landscape.	No work required.	NA
T24	Eucalyptus	400 est	14	Mature	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.	No work required.	NA

Survey Key:

Tree number on plan: Relates to numbers shown on tree location plan. Numbers are prefixed 'T' for individual trees, 'G' for groups and 'W' for woodland areas. Where numbers have been added to the trees (with spray paint or with a tag) this is noted in the schedule.

Species: Common name in English

Estimated stem diameter: Stem diameter in centimetres, taken at 1.5m above ground level. Where more than one stem exists this has been recorded.

Estimated height: The height of each subject tree was estimated using a clinometer to assist where needed.

Age class:

Y: young - recently planted or established

EM: early mature - long established specimen nearing full size but not yet fully mature

M: mature - fully mature specimen that has reached full size

OM: over mature mature - fully mature, possibly past its peak and may be displaying symptoms of decline

V: Veteran tree

Condition / Comments: Description of significant features, especially those requiring action or monitoring.

Action: Specific recommendations for action or monitoring

Priority: Given in months from the date of survey

Appendix 2: Tree location plan – **NOT TO SCALE – INDICATIVE ONLY**

