VTA survey carried out at Wharfmeadows park Otley and Tittybottle park, Otley

Client: Ashlea

Date: 20/08/2024

Surveyor: [redacted]

Report Author: [redacted]

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1. Introduction

1.1. PLS Group UK was tasked by Ashlea to carry out a visual tree assessment of trees within two parks in the town of Otley that are included within the work area of the Otley bridge Foot bridge replacement project.

1.2. The trees were located at:

- Wharfemeadows park Otley
- Tittybottle park, Otley

1.3. The survey identified 10 trees/ tree groups within the two locations that had already been identified by the principal contactor as falling within the project area (see plan in appendix 1).

1.4. Survey data was collated at each site and can be found in appendix 2.

2. Survey brief

2.1. The survey brief provided was to carry out a Visual tree assessment survey (VTA) assessing physiological and structural condition.

2.2. Some of the trees were already ear marked for removal as part of the bridge replacement project which has been noted in the recommendation section of the survey sheets (see data in appendix). I have recommended the removal of one other tree that was not part of the trees marked for removal due to its deteriorating condition.

3. Scope and limitations

3.1. This is a VTA (Visual tree assessment) survey and evaluates the physiological and structural condition of the trees viewed. All clearly identifiable hazards and defects are highlighted along with recommendations for further action to be taken.

3.2. There may, however, be hidden defects not visible to the surveyor through ivy and other vegetation obscuring the stems and branches or certain weather conditions which may also limit visibility. (clearing excessive amounts of ivy from the stems of trees is beyond the scope of this survey).

3.3. All trees inspected may, where required, be subjected to a sounding test with a nylon hammer (where stem and roots are accessible) along with probing any significant cavities present with a long bladed screwdriver to ascertain cavity depth and structural integrity of decayed wood. This is used by the surveyor as an **aid** to detect the presence of stem hollowing and decay. For detailed decay detection, a more invasive method should be employed such as a tomogram or resistance drill test, both of which are beyond the scope
of this survey.

3.4. The level of detail given for each tree is directly related to its condition, position in the landscape and final recommendations.

3.5. Physiological and structural tree condition was the priority for this survey.

3.6. A further, more detailed survey is to be carried out to BS 5837 (2012) – Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction is to be carried out at a later date. There is no information relating to that future survey contained within this report.

4. Documents and plans

4.1. A CAD type plan is included in appendix 1 showing the location of all trees surveyed.

5. Tree pictures

5.1. Photographs of the surveyed trees are included in appendix 4.

6. Survey Methodology

6.1. The survey procedure is as follows:

- Assess the trees position in the landscape in relation to public presence.
- Make note of any other site factors that may have an effect on tree condition.
- Conduct a VTA utilising hand tools to aid where required (sounding hammer to check for hollowing, long bladed screwdriver for cavity depth checking, measuring tape for tree diameter, Binoculars for checking the upper crown)
- Photos taken of hazard trees and any findings (structural defects, decay fungi and other evidence of disease/ disorder).
- Note down relevant information on a spreadsheet (For summary of findings see appendix 2). Further detailed spreadsheet provided with this report)
- Note recommendations to alleviate risk. Survey key available in appendix 3.

7. Legal constraints

7.1. TPO/ conservation area/ other statutory protection - The local authority must be consulted prior to any work being carried out to check for the presence of any statutory tree protection. Further checks should be made to check for any other constraints (e.g. SSSI's) on work to be carried out.

7.2. Due to the location of some of the trees, it is recommended that each tree is fully inspected for the presence of wildlife prior to any work being carried out. The detail of such an inspection is the responsibility of the contractor implementing the work. This is to prevent the damage to wildlife. The Wildlife and Countryside act 1981 prohibits and

limits actions involving wild animals, and is the primary piece of legislation for wildlife protection in the
UK. Prohibitions include taking, injuring, killing and disturbing. It is also an offence to disturb places used for shelter and protection

7.3. All landowners are required to comply with Any work carried out must comply with Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984 and The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

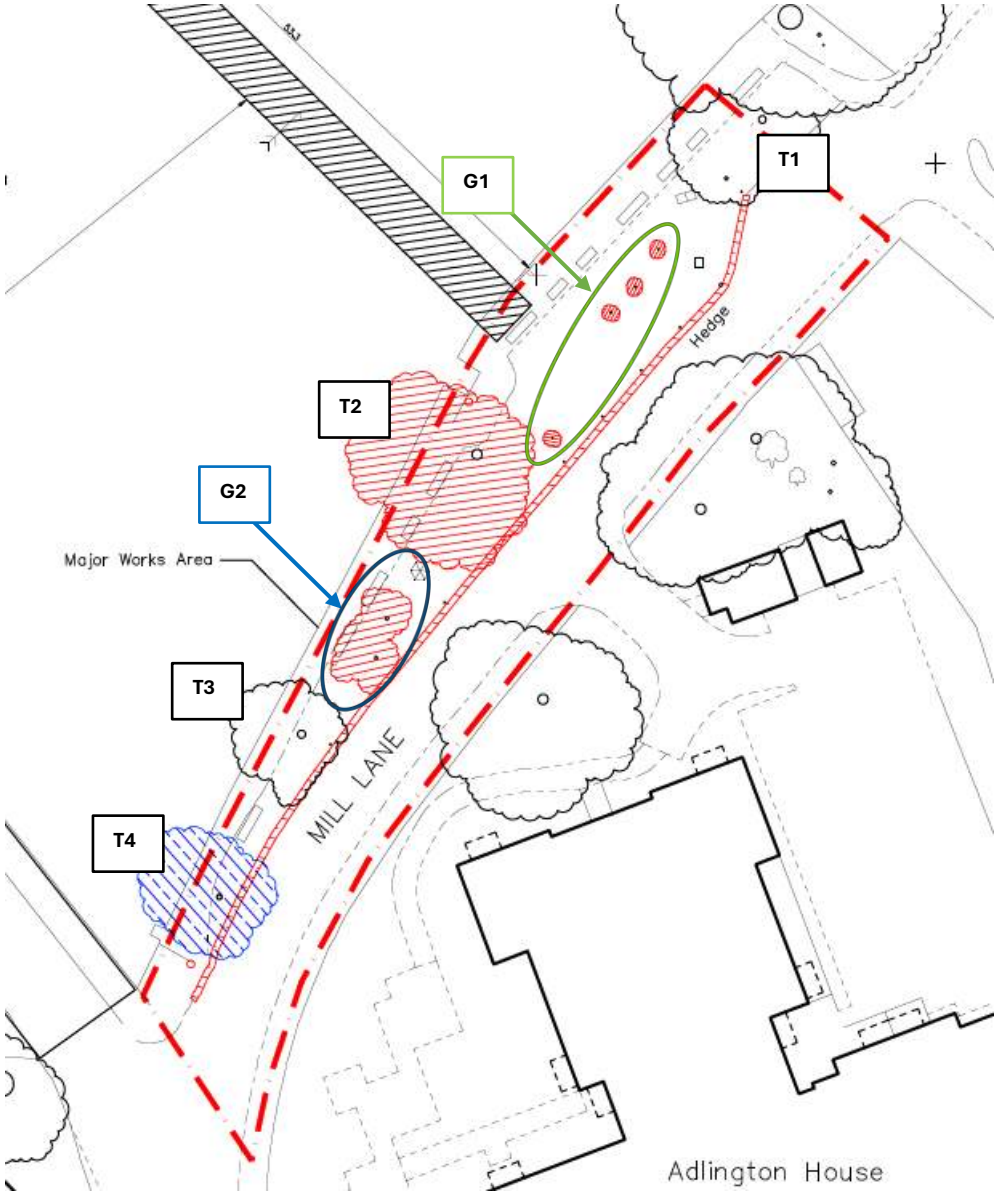
9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Survey plans

Area overview



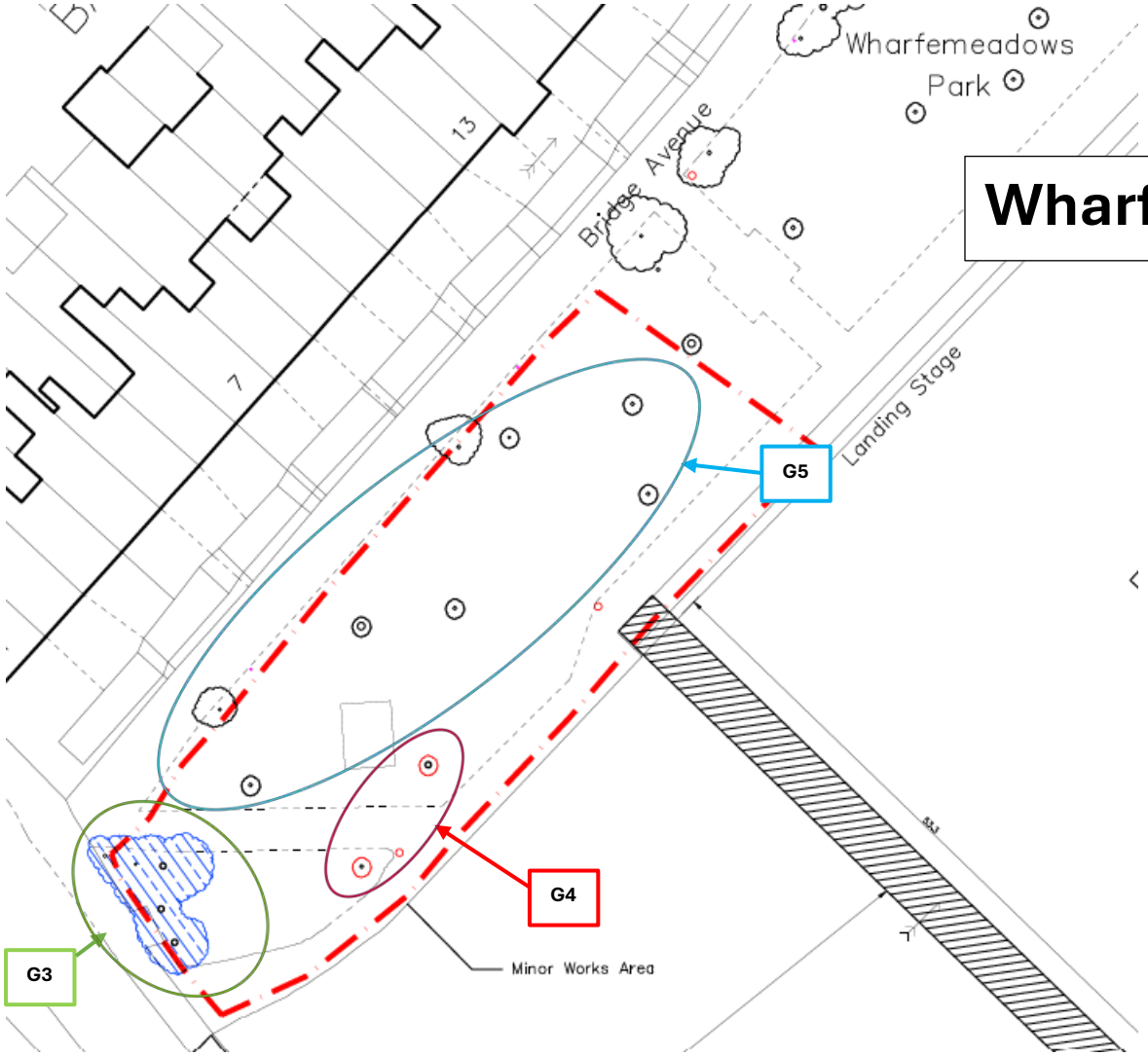
Tittybottle Park area



KEY:

- Temporary Footbridge
- Tree Canopy To Be Retained
- Tree To Be Removed
- To Be Cut Back But Not Removed
- Indicative Working Areas

Wharfemeadows Park area



KEY:

- Temporary Footbridge
- Tree Canopy To Be Retained
- Tree To Be Removed
- To Be Cut Back But Not Removed
- Indicative Working Areas

Appendix 2 – Summary of Survey data

Location	Tittybottle Park, Mill Lane, Otley LS21 2AA	Surveyor Name	[redacted]	Date	20/08/2024	Sheet No	1

Tree No	Species	Age Class	Estimated Height	Crown Spread (M) N	S	E	W	Estimated height to 1st Branch	Physiological/structural condition (grade and any additional comments)	Site conditions	Recommendations	Urgency	Survey Revisit date
T1	Red oak	Y	14	3	5	4	4	1.5	**Physiological - Good** **Structural - Good** Bark Inclusion at union of lowest branch on west side @1.5m, of low concern	Soil compaction evident from heavy foot traffic around base of tree	No work required. Not part of scheme	O	36 Months
G1	Group of young trees including Oak, fir, lawson cypress	Y	4m	1	1	1	1	0.5	**Physiological - Good** **Structural - Good**		Remove all as part of proposed footbridge replacement scheme	O	N/A
T2	Oak	SM	17	6	8	5	6	3.5	**Physiological - Good** **Structural - Good** very minor dead wood. Some crossing branches in the upper crown.	Soil compaction evident from heavy foot traffic around base of tree	Remove all as part of proposed footbridge replacement scheme	O	N/A
G2	Tulip,	SM	10	3	3	3	3	1.5	**Physiological - Good** **Structural - Good**	Soil compaction evident from heavy foot traffic around base of tree	Remove all as part of proposed footbridge replacement scheme	O	N/A
	Lawson cypress	Y	3	1	1	1	1	0.5	**Physiological - Good** **Structural - Good**	Soil compaction evident from heavy foot traffic around base of tree	Remove all as part of proposed footbridge replacement scheme	O	N/A

Sheet 1 continued

Location	Tittybottle Park, Mill Lane, Otley LS21 2AA	Surveyor Name	[redacted]	Date	20/08/2024	Sheet No	1

Tree No	Species	Age Class	Estimated Height	Crown Spread (M)				Estimated height to 1st Branch	Physiological/structural condition (grade and any additional comments)	Site conditions	Recommendations	Urgency	Survey Revisit date
				N	S	E	W						
T3	Horse Chestnut	SM	7	4	4	3	4	2.5	**Physiological - Poor** **Structural - Fair** Bacterial cankers present on south side of stem to 4m. One large canker on main stem @ 1m showing signs of decay in main stem. Leaves damaged by *Cameraria ohridella (leaf mining moth)* throughout crown	Soil compaction evident from heavy foot traffic around base of tree	Remove - not part of scheme	O	N/A
T4	Norway maple	SM	10	5	5	5	5	2	**Physiological - Good** **Structural - Good** Root damage due to heavy foot traffic. Footpath damage from surface roots. Minor deadwood in crown	Soil compaction evident from heavy foot traffic around base of tree.	Crown lift to 5m over road, 3m over path	O	36 Months

Sheet 2

Location	Wharfmeadows Park, Bridge St, Otley LS21 2AA	Surveyor Name	[redacted]	Date	20/08/2024	Sheet No	2

Tree No	Species	Age Class	Estimated Height	Crown Spread (M)				Estimated height to 1st Branch	Physiological/structural condition (grade and any additional comments)	Site conditions	Recommendations	Urgency	Survey Revisit date
				N	S	E	W						
G3	Rowan	SM	4	3	3	3	3	1	**Physiological - Good Structural - Good**	Trees growing from a bordered bed	Crown lift trees to 2.5 m. Trim shrubs back with hedge cutters as part of bridge replacement scheme	O	60 Months
	Malus	SM	4	3	0	2	2	1	**Physiological - Good Structural - Good**			O	60 Months
	Mixed shrub understorey	M	1 to 2					Ground	**Physiological - Good Structural - Good**			O	60 Months
G4	Lawson cypress	SM	3	1	1	1	1	Ground	**Physiological - Good Structural - Good**	Growing within mown area	Remove as part of bridge replacement scheme	O	N/A
	Lawson cypress	SM	3	1	1	1	1	Ground	**Physiological - Good Structural - Good**	Growing within mown area	Remove as part of bridge replacement scheme	O	N/A
G5	Group of small managed Lawson Cypress and Malus	SM	3					Ground	**All of group - Physiological - Good Structural - Good**	Growing within mown area	No work Required	N/A	60 Months

Appendix 3 – Survey Key

Survey Sheet Key (to accompany form PLSF0070)									
Location: Site address, geographical location, What three words			**Surveyor:** Name [redacted]				**Site Plan Ref:** Reference number of any plans or maps	**Sheet No:** 1,2,3 etc.	
Tree No.	**Species**	**Age Class**	**Estimated Height (m)**	**Crown Spread (m)**	**Estimated Height to first Branch**	**Physiological/structural condition (grade and any additional comments)**	**Recommendations**	**Urgency**	**Survey revisit**
Numbered 2,2,3 etc.	Common and/or Scientific names	**Y-Young**, in first third of life expectancy	Heights estimated in meters. Crown spread estimated in meters on north, south, east, west axis			**G- Good**, no significant physiological/structural defects	Any action required e.g. Crown lift lower branches over roadside to a height of 5m to meet highways regulations	**I-Immediate action,** to be acted on receipt of survey within 1 month	**In months**. Eg. 6, 12, 18, 24 etc
		SM- semi mature, within the second third of life expectancy				**F- Fair**, some physiological/structural defects which may require action		**U-Urgent** should be acted on within 4 months	
		M-Mature - within the last third of life expectancy				**P-Poor**, many physiological/structural defects compromising the trees structural integrity		**NU-Non-urgent**, To be acted on within 12 months	
		OM-Over mature, In natural decline				Grade to be applied to both e.g. Physiological – P Structural - G Any additional comments to be added as necessary in cases where tree has been graded F or P		**O-Optional**, To be acted at discretion of client	
		V-Veteran – tree that, by recognised criteria, shows features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of, but not exclusive to, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species concerned. For the purpose of this report the term 'ancient tree' and 'veteran tree' are interchangeable.							
		D-Dead							

Appendix 4 – Tree photographs



T1





G1



G1 continued



T2



G2



T3 showing bacterial canker and leaf miner damage



T4 showing exposed surface roots and root damage to pathway



G3



G4



G5

Appendix 5 - Glossary

Included bark (ingrown bark) – bark of adjacent parts of the tree(usually in forks, acutely angled branches or basal flutes) which is in face to face contact, so that there is weakness due to the lack of a woody union

Canker – a lesion formed by the death of bark and cambium

Appendix 6 – References

C. Mattheck, K. Bethge, K. Weber – The body Language of trees

Guy Watson, Ted Green – Fungi on Trees

Guy Watson – Tree Pests and Diseases

David Lonsdale – Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management

Appendix 9 – Surveyor credentials

