Tree Condition Report
on Behalf of
William Parker Sports College
By
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In Relation To:
New Fence Installation, Sports Field Area
Index

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2: Summary

At the request of William Parker Sports College and as instructed by formal letter from Mr David Evans, Business Manger, a Tree Survey and Report has been conducted for Trees in the vicinity of proposed work for the installation of a new fence line.

Barry J Carter, of Independent Woodland Services, conducted a visual inspection and survey on 15 September and 1 December 2009. The following report is based on the findings and conclusions of the site survey.

The purpose of the survey and report is to assess the impact of a proposed new fence line installation. The fence will be of a steel palisade construction at a finished height of 2.4m.

The existing redundant fence, made of chain link and concrete posts, is still evident and is located in the upper northeast area of the school grounds adjacent to the rugby club pitches and school football fields. Most of the fence has collapsed through unauthorised access with the remainder overgrown from woodland trees and scrub.

Where possible, the new fence line will follow the existing ensuring that encroachment in to the woodland strip does not take place.

The old fence line should only be removed where no damage to retained trees or potential damage to roots will occur. It is important to maintain the integrity of the woodland edge as this does offer significant landscape contribution and cover for local wildlife habitats. It is possible that by removing some of the concrete posts disturbance to embankment stability may occur as well as damage to tree roots.

3: Report Limitations

Trees and shrubs are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly. The health, safety and condition of trees should be checked on a routine basis, preferably at least once yearly, and conclusions and recommendations are only valid for a period of 1 year. Checks on trees close to structures and high usage areas must be checked when high winds, heavy snow or inclement is experienced as these factors affect stability and safety in the most extreme instances.

All trees are surveyed and inspected from ground level using non invasive methods, unless otherwise stated.

Sub-terrain roots have not been inspected and therefore the condition and or structure and extent cannot be commented upon.

Should a more detailed arboreal inspection be required, this is highlighted in the preliminary management recommendations section of the tree survey sheet.
4: General Observations

The woodland strip as indentified in the attached plan in section 6 comprises of indigenous trees and woody shrubs. The major climax species are Ash, Sycamore and Oak. Woody shrubs comprise of Hawthorn, Holly, Blackthorn, Hazel and occasionally privet.

Tree height ranges from 4 – 11 m with shrub height range between 2 – 5 m. The width of the woodland strip between the sports field and Hillside Road Track ranges between 3 and 11 m.

St Helens wood, adjacent to the woodland trip bordering the sports field, is registered under Natural England as being a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) however, the woodland strip relation to the planning application for fence line installation falls outside of this designation.

This thin strip of woodland lays to the west of the Hillside Road Track (Plate 1). The woodland has little management over the past years with the exception of clearing fallen trees either from the track or from the sports fields.

Plate 1 : Hillside Road Track

The woodland trees are of moderate to poor health with many Ash trees suffering from wind damage and ash canker. There are many blown and leaning trees within the strip a direct result of the exposed and elevated aspect.

Although the woodland is in poor condition it does offer considerable landscape and aesthetic contribution and there is evidence of significant populations of birdlife and invertebrates.
The woodland edge is thick with shrub layer species (Plate 2) which offer warmth and protection to the woodland outside of the scope of this survey. As the existing fence is entwined with the shrub layer the removal of such will be difficult without significant cutting back of the woodland edge and disruption the boundary integrity. If at all possible preference should be given to leaving as much of the fence in situ and installing the new fence as close to the boundary as possible.

**Plate 2: Thick Woodland Edge**

Many of the boughs on the woodland trees overhang the sports field (Plate 3) and will need cutting back close to the tree stem to facilitate access for machinery and fence installation. Every care must be taken to ensure that limb pruning or removal conforms to BS3998 Recommendations for Tree Work.

In conclusion to the above observations it is considered possible to install a new fence without negative impact on the woodland, the integrity or harm to local wildlife habitats.

### 4.1 Work Recommendations

- Prune back tree overhang to 4 metre height clearance.
- Cut back scrub and shrub growth to facilitate access for fence installation.
- Ensure that woodland boundary is maintained and that no large gaps or openings are created.
- If possible leave redundant fencing in-situ to avoid disruption to woodland integrity
- All arisings from cutting operations to be dragged back in to woodland area, and crippled to 2m maximum lengths lying horizontal to the ground. Consideration can be given to the creation of small dead wood habitats to support localised wildlife.
Plate 3: Trees In Need of Cutting Back

5. Root Protection Area (RPA)

Table 1 below provides details of RPA in relation to individual tree diameter. Where trees are multi-stemmed, the average stem diameter, taken at 1.5m, has been used for calculation. Although individual RPA measurements have been given, it may not be practical to protect all trees individually. In this case, the methods of protection described in section 6, must be installed around the perimeter of the trees on the outer most limits of edge tree RPA radiuses. This will ensure that the trees are protected during the construction process.

Many of the trees within the vicinity of the proposed fence installation fall within diameters between 70 – 150 mm. There are few trees between 160 – 300 mm diam. In this regard the fence can be constructed with the need for protective fence as the location of the fence will fall outside of the work area.
Table 1: Root Protection Area in Relation to Tree Diameter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Diameter mm at 1.5m</th>
<th>Root Protection Area Max Radius m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70 – 150</td>
<td>0.8 – 1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160 – 300</td>
<td>1.9 – 3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>310 – 500</td>
<td>3.2 – 6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>510 – 700</td>
<td>6.1 – 8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>710 - 1000</td>
<td>8.5 – 12.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RPA is calculated using the following equation:

\[
RPA(\text{m}^2) = \left(\text{stem diameter (mm) @ 1.5m} \times 12\right)^2 \times \pi \times \frac{1}{10000}
\]
6 : Fence Line Trees. Location Plan

The following tree survey schedule details specification and species of each tree and indicates the retentive vale in years and by BS 5837 categorisation.

Colour Codes as Follows

Category B Mid Blue
7. Survey Methodology

This survey has been prepared in accordance to BS 5837 2005, Trees in Relation to Construction.

The results of the tree survey are not shown as individual tree assessment as the woodland area has been assessed as a tree group and there are no trees of significant importance that will be affected by the fence installation.

A walk through approach was adopted for the survey method treating all trees as an integral component of a whole woodland area.

Regard to health and long term retention has been taken into consideration however, the main focus of the survey is to investigate the disturbance to the woodland and impact the installation of a new fence line construction will have.