JK ARBORICULTURE

Woodland Safety inspection – Manor Vale Wood, Kirkbymoorside.

September 2020

'Goodlands'

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1. Introduction:

I am instructed by Lisa Bolland, Clerk to Kirkbymoorside Town Council, to carry out a safety assessment of trees within Manor Vale Wood, Kirkbymoorside.

2. Status of report:

Trees are living organisms whose health, condition and structure can change over time. The contents of this report are valid for a period of one year from the inspection date. The report is based upon a visual inspection from ground level. The consultant shall not be responsible for events that happen after the date of the report due to factors that were not apparent at the time, and the acceptance of this report constitutes an agreement with the guidelines and the recommendations listed in this report.

3. Scope of the report:

The main scope of this tree inspection is to identify hazardous trees in a poor physiological or structural condition and the required work management recommendations to reduce the risk of hazardous trees to an acceptable level as detailed by the Health and Safety Executive in Management of the risk from falling trees or branches -

The areas around roads, occupied houses, well used formal footpaths, public used areas, and car parks etc. were identified as priority areas for the tree survey. The level of detail of the tree inspection may vary depending on the target occupation and the size of the tree or tree groups. For example large trees in higher target occupation areas may be inspected in much greater detail than small trees in low target occupation areas. Areas identified to be surveyed in the study area are shown on the Tree Location Plan as found in Appendix 2.

4. Back ground:

The last safety inspection of the woodland was carried out by JK Arboriculture in August 2017 when numerous recommendations were made in respect of required felling and pruning operations. It is understood that all of these recommendations were subsequently carried out.

JK Arboriculture carried out a further inspection on 14 September 2020

5. Methodology:

All inspections were made from ground level during clear weather conditions.

The woodland was inspected utilising the four zoned areas designated within the previous report of 2017 walking the access road to the Golf Course and the various rides through the woodland, east and west, where the public walk regularly. Highlighted trees which require attention were afforded numbered metal discs attached to the most visible part of the trunk of individual trees. Trees which require attention are referred to in the survey data at Appendix 1, and the locations of affected trees are annotated on the map at Appendix 2.

N.B. Whilst the survey points out faults which are obvious to the surveyor, it should be noted that the woodland contains numerous large ivy covered trees which are impossible to survey in detail owing to the dense ivy coverage. Some of these trees are growing on slopes, and, although trees on slopes will grow compensatory root systems on the upper part of the slope in the interests of stability, these trees will be more vulnerable to high winds which might catch their upper parts causing possible collapse in extreme conditions. Whilst this occurrence is generally relatively rare it is also generally unpredictable in cases where outward indications of decline or disease are not readily evident.

NB. Close inspection of the trees on top of the bank adjacent to Amble Close was impossible owing to bramble growth. It is therefore recommended that access paths sufficient to allow access to this area are cut to enable closer inspection. This could be done at the same time as the recommended tree works are carried out.

6. Conclusions:

Whilst no trees of obvious imminent danger were identified during the survey the fact that many semi mature and several mature trees are growing on sloping land increases the likelihood of possible collapse under high winds. However, it is impossible accurately predict such occurrences. The work that has been recommended in Appendix 1 although not urgent should be carried out during the coming winter months. The declining ash (0139-0142) on the roadside may have succumbed to ash die-back disease which is currently prevalent in the UK as there are several other examples within the woodland but not considered to pose a threat to visitors owing to their position in the woodland. It has been recommended to pollard these trees to ensure that parts of the dead crown do not fall on to the adjacent road as the trees further deteriorate.

In the case of the oak (0514) at the Gillamoor Road entrance it is considered essential that a further Tomographical survey is carried out before the end of this year.

Whilst there is a significant amount of trees within the woodland having dead wood within their crowns this is considered to be a typical occurrence where competition for light and nutrients is high owing to the density of the woodland areas. Whilst this may give an untidy unkempt appearance to some users of the woodland, dead wood is an important component of woodlands in terms of their ecological equilibrium.

John Clayton

JK Arboriculture

Appendix 1 Tree survey data

Ref No:	Area	Species	Comments	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Risk of falling or losing branches	Risk to people, vehicle or property
0136	Area 1- Eastern side of top track	Ash	Large dead branch extending over track	Pollard below crown emergence	M	M
0138	Area 2- Southern side of track at woodland entrance	Ash (Young)	Dead, hanging over footpath	Fell	M	M
0139		Ash (semi-mature)	Extensive die-back	Pollard to a practical level	M	M
0140		Ash (semi-mature)	Extensive die-back	Pollard to a practical level	M	M
0141		Elm(semi-mature)	Extensive die-back	Pollard to a practical level	M	M
0142		Ash(Mature)	Extensive die-back over road)	Pollard to a practical level	M	M
0142		Ash(Mature)	Extensive die-back over road)	Pollard to a practical level	M	M
0514	Area 1 – At Gillamoor Road entrance	Oak (Mature)	Following identification of internal decay in the main trunk of this tree during the 2017 survey Ian Barnes Associates carried our a Tomographic Survey to determine	It is strongly recommended that a further Tomographic survey be carried out this year to determine the current structural stability of the tree.	**L**	**L-M**

			the extent of the decay. Whilst extensive decay was found it was determined that there was sufficient sound tissue to sustain the structural stability of the tree. However, the decay found is not a static situation and the amount of decay is likely to have increase over the past three years. Indeed Ian Barnes recommends that the tomographic survey is repeated this year.			

Tree Locations