

## **JK ARBORICULTURE**

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Woodland Safety inspection – Manor Vale Wood, Kirkbymoorside.

August 2017

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

**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.

**Back ground:**

The last safety inspection of the woodland was carried out in early 2012 by Waller Tree Consulting 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.

I carried out a further inspection in mid August 2017

**Methodology:**

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

The woodland was inspected utilising the four zoned areas designated within the report prepared by Waller Tree Consulting, 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. The survey is at Appendix 1, aerial photos from Google maps showing the approximate location of trees is at Appendix 2, and a photographic record of individual trees is at Appendix 3.

**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.



**The Survey:**

Ref No:	Area	Species	Comments	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Risk of falling or losing branches	Risk to people, vehicle or property
509	1	Ash	Twisted branches hanging over footpath	Remove offending branches to prevent future fractures.	M	M
510	1	Holly	Situated off the footpath but crown extends low over the footpath	Raise height of hangover to prevent future interference with walkers	L	L
511	1	Oak	Crown extends over footpath – contains dead limbs.	Remove dead wood	M	M
512	1	Ash	Slight lean towards footpath, U-shaped crown. Significant die-back in crown	No urgent action required. MONITOR	M	M
513	1	Elm	Dead tree	Remove tree and dispose of.	M	M

514	1	Oak	Large imposing tree at Gillamoor Road entrance to wood. Appears outwardly healthy. Evidence of hollowing on northern side of base of trunk	Considering the position of this tree adjacent to the highway and housing, and its general importance in the woodland, it is recommended that the extent of decay in the lower parts of the tree is further investigated through a sonic tomographic survey. The use of Picus sonic tomography enables the extent of decay to be assessed without invasive testing such as resistograph drilling or boring, which damages trees and potentially impairs the tree's ability to compartmentalise the decay. Local contractors are available to carry out this service
515	1	Elm	Dead tree close to path	Fell to prevent loss of branches on to footpath and dispose of.
516	1	Elm	Dead tree adjacent to main thoroughfare through wood.	Fell to prevent loss of branches on to road and dispose of.
501	2	Ash	Dead limbs extending over footpath	Remove dead wood
502	2	Ash	Hanging dead branch over footpath.	Remove hanging branch.
716 From 2012 survey	2	Oak	Dead wood over footpath	Remove dead wood
503	2	Ash	Young tree next to seat	Fell

504	2	Ash	Tight union between two co-dominant stems. General weeping from this area.	Pollard tree above joint of co-dominant stems to prevent future splitting under high winds.	M	M
505	2	Elm (group of young trees)	Dead	Remove to prevent branch loss on to footpath and dispose of.	M	M
506	2	Ash	Relatively small tree. Fungal bracts of Ganoderma at base of main trunk. Tree generally leans away from footpath. Dead branches over footpath	Any failure of the whole tree would result in collapse away from the footpath. Remove dead branch which leans over footpath to prevent future breakage.	H	H
723	2	Oak	Previously damaged limb over footpath, good reaction wood development around damaged area	No urgent action necessary - Monitor	L	L
From previous 2012 survey						
507	2	Oak	Substantially hollow important veteran tree with open cavity on western side of main trunk. Evidence that the cavity has been burnt in the past. Canopy hangs low towards footpath.	Consider crown reduction on footpath side by approximately 2m to reduce risk fractures where branches are from a weakened origin owing to hollowing referred to. Consider signage to indicate the importance of the tree	M	M
508	2	Ash	Young tree. Dieback over footpath. Not labelled owing to difficulty of access.	Remove die-back.	M	M

Not labelled	3	MANOR ASH	<p>Reiterate previous comments by Waller Tree Consulting:</p> <p><b>Magnificent Ancient tree.</b></p> <p>Heartwood and branch decay and likely branches will fall, particularly the branch to the north arising from the centre at 6m angle.</p> <p>There is significant root decay to north and also decay in centre of the trunk.</p>	<p><b>Strongly recommended</b></p> <p>Path goes beneath the crown. Risk of possible injury to public so thought could be given to redirecting the path to the perimeter of the crown. Fencing would be required to make sure access is limited</p>	H	M
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**Appendix 1 - Approximate position of trees**



