

Arboricultural Condition survey and work recommendations at:

Fernwood Woodland Open Space Rubys Avenue Fernwood Newark Nottinghamshire NG24 3RS

Report prepared on 13th November 2020

For:

Fernwood Parish Council

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Signed.....

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Contents

Arboricultural Survey

Introduction	3
Site Details	3
Survey Details	4
Measurements	4
Condition Evaluation	4
Discussion and conclusions	5



1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Report

The purpose of the report is to assess the general health & condition of all trees within the woodland area which has been retained as a public open space, in order to determine the current tree condition and advise of any works required from a health and safety perspective. Tree information is included in Appendix 1, and the location maps with the trees plotted onto them are included at Appendix 2.

2 Site Details

- 2.1 The woodland areas included in this report covers approximately 3 acres and is located in the heart of Fernwood. It's likely that it was originally planted as part of the formal grounds to the nearby hall. The area has now been built on leaving the woodland surrounded by a combination of commercial & residential areas on all sides.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to assess the trees in terms of their structural integrity and their general physiology to identify any current issues with a view to maintaining them in a safe condition. Where applicable recommendations have been made in light of this report for both health and safety reasons and other management concerns, for example when in close proximity to structures or overhanging areas.



3 Survey Details

3.1 Measurements

3.1.1 Height

All heights were estimated

3.1.2 Diameter

The diameter was measured at 1.5m unless stated otherwise. The diameter is referred to as **DBH** (Diameter at Breast Height) in the tree descriptions in appendix 1.

3.1.3 Crown Spread

Due to the location of some of the trees, either on the boundary and/or in close proximity to one another it has been impossible to measure all the distances. In these circumstances, some of the crown spreads has been guestimated.

3.2 Condition Evaluation

3.2.1 Age

Tree age has been categorised as Young, Semi-mature, Mature or Over-mature

3.2.2 Physiological Condition

This relates to the overall health and vitality of a tree (the presence of disease, fungi etc.) and has been given a Good, Fair or Poor rating (G, F or P).



4 Discussion and Conclusions

- 4.1 In all 104 individual trees have been included in the survey. Recommendations have been made in light of the report; this information is included in Appendix 1. The tree location map is included in Appendix 2.
- 4.2 There is a diverse mix of species and ages present. Ages range from young through to mature. There are several significant trees on the site, likely remnants of original formal planting, as well as trees which have developed since that time including numerous saplings which have not been included in the report.
- 4.3 The trees are generally in fair or good condition and require little or no works, 50 trees have no action required. Ten trees have been recommended for removal due to either impaired structural or physiological condition, the timescales vary between 1 month and 5 years.
- Many of the trees have large deadwood present in the crown which in due course will fall, it has been recommended for the removal of this deadwood when in proximity to public areas. Where located towards the centre, and away from footpaths and properties the removal of deadwood has been put at the discretion of the parish and is linked to the future use and maintenance of ground vegetation in the area. For example if the area is to remain as scrub which will limit public access then deadwood can remain, if it is to be regularly maintained effectively inviting people in then it may need removing. This is also applicable to other works in the central areas, this has been mentioned in the individual tree comments.
- 4.5 The trees requiring the most urgent works are T885 & T886, both are in decline, and the fungi Kretschmaria (Ustulina) deutsa is present at the base. Removal has been recommended within 1 month.



Appendix 1: Tree Survey and Details



Appendix 2 Site Plans



Appendix 3 Glossary

Glossary of Terms



Dieback, as exhibited on Ash

Coppice: To remove tree and cut stump low to the ground, done to promote regrowth, not effective on all species.

Daldinia concentrica: Fungi of low significance that develops on dead/dying areas of wood, found most commonly on Ash tees.

Deadwood: branches that are dead, but still remain within the crown.

Dieback: used to describe the gradual death of branch/tree from the edges inwards.

Epicormic: reactive shot growth produced by the tree when growing under stressed conditions.

Fluting: an area of reduced sap flow resulting in a dip on the surface of the bark.

Ganoderma spp: Significant wood decay fungi.

Hazard beam: when a long curved branch is forced to

straighten, as the underside of the curve is longer than the topside it has no option other than to buckle.

Included bark: two (or more) stems developing in close proximity, as a result do not form connective tissue, thus can be prone to failure, also known as **weak forks**, **inclusion**, **included union**.

Occlusion: the reaction growth of specialised tissue that grows around and eventually over a wound, also known as wound wood or reaction wood.



Included bark/union on an

Pollard: the practice of cutting trees low, to the stem (traditionally 2-4m) to promote aggressive re-growth, previously done as form of woodland management.

Ribbing: the line that is left when the occluded sides of a wound meet.

Scaffold: a large significant/primary limb within the crown.

Ustulina deusta: particularly dangerous decay fungi. The brittle fracture associated with this fungi often occurs without warning (Lonsdale, 2001). Most commonly found at the base of the tree and in root buttresses.