

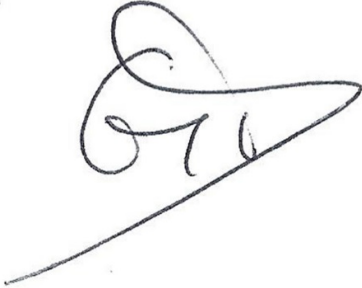
# Tree Report

**Ley Green Recreation Ground  
Kings Walden  
Hitchin SG4 8LX**

OS 1948-19-Doc1

**March 2020**

Tree Report  
for  
Ley Green Recreation Ground, Kings Walden, Hitchin, SG4 8LX

<b>Written by:</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	
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<b>Date</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2020

Open Spaces Landscape & Arboricultural Consultants Limited is a Registered Practice of the Landscape Institute.

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## 1.0 FOREWORD

This ground level tree survey was conducted to plot trees growing on land owned by Kings Walden Parish Council and trees which are growing on adjacent property but may have a direct effect on the usage of Parish Council land.

It is the intention of the report to give general information on the condition of each tree or group of trees, to make recommendations for tree work and to prioritise this proposed tree work.

## 2.0 INSTRUCTIONS

Open Spaces Landscape and Arboricultural Consultants Limited (**Open Spaces**) has been instructed by Mr T Brindley to produce a Tree Report for trees growing within and adjacent to land owned by Kings Walden Parish Council at Ley Green Recreation Ground, Kings Walden, Hitchin, SG4 8LX.

### 2.1 The following reports will be provided

- i) Tree Report

### 2.2 The following plans will be provided

- i) Tree Location Plan

### 2.3 Arboricultural Consultant

This report has been written by Graeme Drummond BSc(Hons), DipLA, CMLI, FArborA, MBALI and who is a Fellow of the Arboricultural Association (FArborA) and a Chartered Landscape Architect (CMLI).

## 3.0 LIMITATIONS

3.1 Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly. This assessment is valid for a period of 2 years from the date of the tree report. This period of time may be reduced if there is any change to the immediate surroundings of the tree or after any storm.

3.2 A tree may be protected in various ways such as by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or because it is growing within a Conservation Area. The tree may be protected for a period of time (usually not longer than 5 years) by Planning Conditions or there may be a restrictive covenant on the tree. Before any tree work is carried out on a tree, it should be determined whether the tree is protected or not. **It is a criminal offence to carry out work on a protected tree without consent or agreement of the Local Planning Authority.**

3.3 Open Spaces has not contacted any Local Planning Authority to ascertain if any tree surveyed is protected by a Tree Preservation Order or is growing within a Conservation Area or is protected by any Planning Condition or Restrictive Covenant.

- 3.4** Trees have been inspected from ground level only. Should a more detailed survey or climbing inspection be required, this will be highlighted within the recommendations.
- 3.5** Where ivy is growing over the tree or any part of it or if the tree is obscured by dense vegetation, fencing etc or cannot be accessed due to impenetrable vegetation or is growing within neighbouring land, it may not be possible to fully survey the tree. This will be highlighted within the Tree Report.

## **4.0 IN GENERAL**

- 4.1** The owner of a tree is usually liable for any damage or injury caused by that tree, therefore regular inspections carried out by a suitably qualified arboriculturist is recommended. If tree surgery is required, it should be carried out to British Standard BS 3998:2010 Tree Work - Recommendations by a competent tree surgeon who holds Public liability Insurance.
- 4.2** A tree survey which makes general observations of the condition of each tree and makes recommendations for tree work should be carried out every 3-5 years. However, this does not mean that no further inspection of the tree should be carried out in the interim period. It is the responsibility of the owner / manager of the trees and woodlands to make periodic inspections to ensure that the trees and woodlands remain in a stable and healthy condition.
- 4.3** Trees are complex living organisms and will be affected by changes in their environment. For most trees the roots which take up nutrients and moisture grow within the upper 600mm of soil. These roots require the free passage of air to allow for gaseous exchange to take place. Any alteration to soil levels or compaction of the soil will cause the tree to suffer stress which may result in disease, dieback or death. It may take several years for the signs of stress to show.
- 4.4** Should any construction work be required within the root spread of the tree, hand tools only must be used. Roots with a diameter greater than 25mm should not be damaged or cut. Where roots must be severed it should be cleanly severed with a sharp knife and reduced to a main fork.

## 5.0 FINDINGS

- i) I visited the site to inspect the trees on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- ii) The following key explains the main headings within the tree report.

### 5.1 Key

Tree No.	This is the tree reference number (i.e. T1, T2, T3 etc) and can be referenced to the location plans included within this report.
Tree Tag No.	The number shown embossed on a metal disc attached to the tree (where relevant).
Tree Species	English names given
Ht	Height estimated in metres.
Stem diameter	Trunk diameter measured in mm at 1.5m above ground level. M/S = Multi-stemmed # = Estimated
Approximate Crown Spread	Approximate crown spread measured across the widest point in meters (NESW orientation indicated).
Age	Y Young. Less than 20% of life expectancy. YM Young Mature. Between 20 - 40% of life expectancy. M Mature. 40 - 80% of life expectancy. OM Over Mature. Greater than 80% of life expectancy.
Vigour	Denotes the overall vigour of the tree and leaf cover. It is expressed as Low (L) or Normal (N).
Priority	1 Proposed work to be carried out immediately. 2 Proposed work to be carried out within the 3 months of the date of this report. 3 Proposed work to be carried out within the next 12 months

### 5.2 Ivy growing within tree's crown and attached to trunks etc.

- i) If ivy is growing through the crown of trees, it is generally good practice to ensure that this ivy does not get out of hand by regular management. It is generally proposed to remove the ivy to approximately 1.5 metres above ground level and then letting the ivy re-grow.
- ii) Allowing large amounts of ivy to remain within a tree's crown may become problematic, in that in heavy autumn/winter storms, the ivy may act as a 'sail' and may result in a tree becoming unstable. Also, excessive ivy will often mask hazards within the tree such as damaged or dangerous branches or pathogens.
- iii) The normal method of killing ivy is to saw through the ivy stem at two points, approximately 300 mm apart. The central part can then be removed. This will result in the ivy above the cut stem dying off.

**5.3 Summary of proposed tree works**

<b>Priority 1</b>	
Tree work to be carried out immediately	
Tree Ref:	Proposed Tree Works – refer also to the tree report
There are no Priority 1 trees	

<b>Priority 2</b>	
Tree work to be carried out within 3 months of the date of this report	
Tree Ref:	Proposed Tree Works- refer also to the tree report
T1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove dead wood over track and recreation ground</li> <li>Remove large dead branch overhanging access track</li> </ul>
T2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove short hanging branch</li> <li>Remove large crossing branch</li> <li>Clean crown</li> </ul>
G1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove poor quality spruce growing to north end of group with dog-leg stem – Leave stump</li> </ul>
T10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove cut stump</li> <li>Remove split branch and branch with damaged bark beneath</li> <li>Crown clean</li> </ul>
T17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lift branches growing over the gateway and recreation ground to give a 2.5-3.0m clearance</li> </ul>
T18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove tree and leave stump</li> </ul>

<b>Priority 3</b>				
Tree work to be carried out within 12 months of the date of this report – refer also to the tree report				
Tree Ref:	Tree Ref:	Tree Ref:	Tree Ref:	Tree Ref:
T1	T5	T6	T7	G2
T11	T12	T13	T14	T15
T16				

<b>Trees with no works required – refer also to the tree report</b>				
<b>Tree Ref:</b>	<b>Tree Ref:</b>	<b>Tree Ref:</b>	<b>Tree Ref:</b>	<b>Tree Ref:</b>
T3	T4	T8	T9	G3

#### **5.4 Tree Report**



Tree Reference No.	Tree Tag No.	Tree Species	Height (m)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Approx. Crown Spread (m)	Age	Observations	Recommendations	Vigour	Priority
T1	---	Oak	15.0	1000	18.0	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large dead branch overhanging the access track.</li> <li>• Some storm damage within the crown</li> <li>• Large amounts of small, medium and large sized deadwood within the crown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove barbed-wire and wood nailed to tree</li> <li>• Remove dead wood over track and recreation ground</li> <li>• Remove large dead branch overhanging access track</li> </ul>	N	3 2 2
T2	314	Ash	14.0	460	7.0	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small hanging short branch at 5m on east side</li> <li>• Large crossing branch across centre of crown.</li> <li>• Over congested crown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove short hanging branch</li> <li>• Remove large crossing branch</li> <li>• Clean crown</li> </ul>	N	2 2 2
T3	387	Birch	13.0	400	7.0	O/M	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Work Required</li> </ul>	N	
T4	384	Birch	13.0	710 @ base	8.0	O/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trunk divides into 3 at 1m</li> <li>• Large witches broom growth at 3m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Work Required</li> </ul>	N	
T5	386	Oak	9.0	200	6.0	YM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing as a pair with T6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lift lower branches to 2.5-3.0m over adjacent play area</li> </ul>	N	3

Tree Reference No.	Tree Tag No.	Tree Species	Height (m)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Approx. Crown Spread (m)	Age	Observations	Recommendations	Vigour	Priority
T6	382	Oak	11.0	270	7.0	YM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing as a pair with T5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lift lower branches to 2.5-3.0m over adjacent play area</li> </ul>	N	3
T7	383	Cherry	15.0	MS	12.0	O/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing adjacent to a rotting stump and a self-set cherry tree.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lift minor twigs to 2.5m over recreation ground</li> </ul>	N	3
T8	---	Lawsons cypress	15.0	500 #	5.0	M		No Work Required	N	
G1	---	Holly, Spruce	8.0 - 14.0	400 max	---	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing adjacent to western site boundary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove poor quality spruce growing to north end of group with dog-leg stem – Leave stump</li> </ul>	N	2
T9	380	Cherry	10.0	150	5.0	M		No Work Required	N	
T10	385	Oak			13.0	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large cut stump at base of tree</li> <li>Split branch at 3m on west side</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove cut stump</li> <li>Remove split branch and branch with damaged bark beneath</li> <li>Crown clean</li> </ul>	N	2 2 2

Tree Reference No.	Tree Tag No.	Tree Species	Height (m)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Approx. Crown Spread (m)	Age	Observations	Recommendations	Vigour	Priority
G2	---	Birch, Hornbeam	4.0 – 14.0	300 max	---	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small plantation of 14 trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over the next 5 years thin out the trees – remove trees which are leaning or damaged i.e. by strimmer damage at base of trunk</li> </ul>	N	3
T11	381	Cherry	8.0	220	6.0	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing with row of trees to edge of recreation ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce number of rubbing and crossing branches to a maximum branch diameter of 25mm</li> </ul>	N	3
T12	388	Cherry	9.0	430	10	O/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing with row of trees to edge of recreation ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce number of rubbing and crossing branches to a maximum branch diameter of 25mm</li> </ul>	N	3
T13	392	Cherry	9.0	280	8.0	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing with row of trees to edge of recreation ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce number of rubbing and crossing branches to a maximum branch diameter of 25mm</li> </ul>	N	3
T14	391	Cherry	8.0	220	6.0	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing with row of trees to edge of recreation ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce number of rubbing and crossing branches to a maximum branch diameter of 25mm</li> </ul>	N	3

Tree Reference No.	Tree Tag No.	Tree Species	Height (m)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Approx. Crown Spread (m)	Age	Observations	Recommendations	Vigour	Priority
T15	398	Cherry	9.0	330	7.0	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing with row of trees to edge of recreation ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce number of rubbing and crossing branches to a maximum branch diameter of 25mm</li> </ul>	N	3
T16	389	Poplar	18.0	450 #	5.0	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metal netting attached to base of tree</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove metal netting</li> </ul>	N	3
T17	---	Oak	11.0	700 #	12.0	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing within neighbouring land</li> <li>Ivy clad tree is growing through the crown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lift branches growing over the gateway and recreation ground to give a 2.5-3.0m clearance</li> </ul>	N	2
G3	---	Mixed species including plum	6.0	170	---	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrub vegetation growing to the north-east edge of the recreation ground</li> <li>Some trees are ivy clad</li> </ul>	No Work Required	N	
T18	393	Plum (possibly)	8.0	180 #	3.0	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collapsed and hung up branch/stem</li> <li>Ivy clad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove tree and leave stump</li> </ul>	P	2

**NOTE:**

- 1) Move fire pit to a minimum of 5.0m from any tree or overhanging branch.
- 2) Remove plastic spiral guards and associated canes from hedgerow to south-west boundary

**APPENDIX A**

**SKETCH TREE LOCATION PLAN**

