

Richard Davis

Tree Surgery • Forestry • Firewood

Mrs Sonia Sharp
8 Netherwood Gardens
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7th October 2019

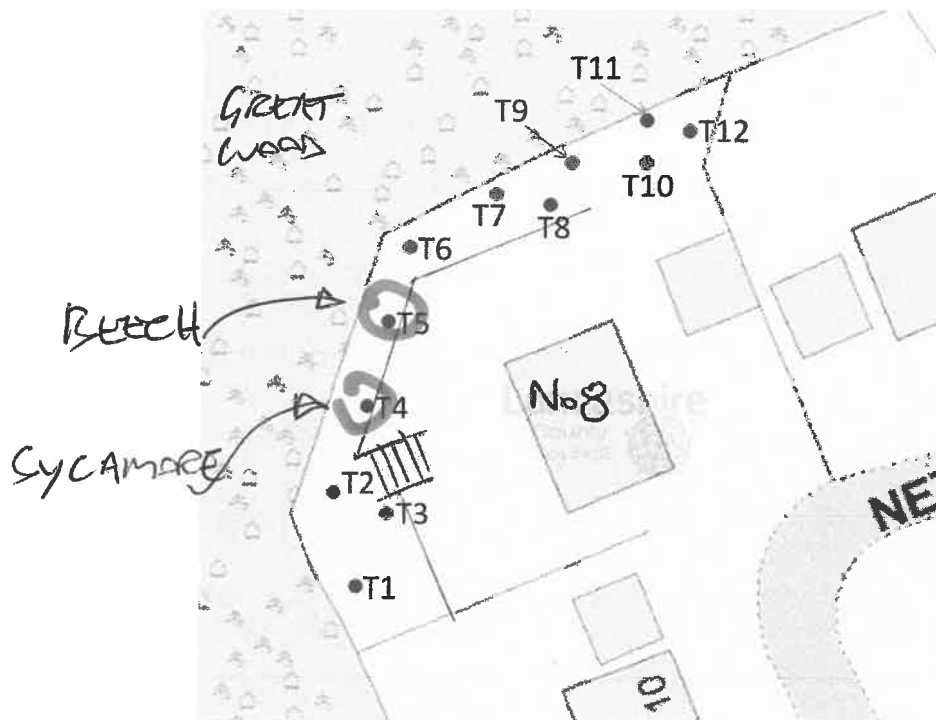
TREE SURVEY FOR 8 NETHERWOOD GARDENS

Objectives

To survey all the trees at 8 Netherwood Gardens, to give an overview of the general condition and health of each tree which can help with routine maintenance and long term management of the site. This report has been produced in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree Work' (hereafter; BS3998) and is to inform the client of the realistic arboricultural considerations on site.

Site Map

8 Netherwood Gardens is a domestic property located on a woodland fringe.



Trees T1, T3 and T12 were felled 5 years ago, as recommended in the previous survey. The current mapping system and table format has been retained for reference between each report.

Scope of survey

Each tree has been identified by species, along with height, girth and age class information. This helps other people identify each tree and the data can be correlated with previous surveys to monitor the vigour of each tree. Any significant defects have also been photographed from ground level to inform the client of any issues, and to allow a degree of monitoring should the tree decline or improve in overall health.

The survey has identified 9 individual trees. Trees that have been removed now appear in the results table in *grey italics*. Trees that require urgent attention have been highlighted red. Small trees and shrubs have not been surveyed.

Tree Categorization

I have used the cascade chart from the BS5837:2012 document to classify the trees into 4 main categories. These categories give an assessment of the quality of the tree and also an estimate of the trees remaining life expectancy, which is useful for management of the site in the future. The high risk trees can be identified as they are all category U, and better quality trees are graded A, B or C.

Author

The author of this report is Richard Davis, who holds a degree in Rural Resource Management and has Royal Forestry Society certification in Arboriculture. Richard has worked as an arborist for 15 years and has run RMD Tree Care for 11 years.

Site Visit

The survey was carried out by Richard Davis on 9th August 2019. No tree work has taken place since 2013, when the last report was published. However, extensive ground works have been implemented in the back garden in order to stabilise the ground near the foundations of the house.

Legal considerations and liability for the site

This report acts as a risk assessment for the entire site. The public liability for the trees and the site remains with the owner of the site and not RMD Tree Care.

The occupier of a site has a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimize the risk of personal injury or damage to property arising from the presence of any tree on the site. This report describes the condition of every tree on site, which have been given a category (A, B, C or U). The amount of remedial action to be taken following the report is for the site manager (homeowner in this case) to determine.

In the months and years following an inspection the condition of the trees inevitably changes. It is therefore essential that trees should be inspected regularly, and also after any event such as a storm that could have caused a sudden change. To some extent the law allows for the fact that extreme and unforeseeable events can occur.

BS5837:2012 Cascade chart for tree categorisation

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)		
Trees unsuitable for retention			
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot be realistically retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality 		
	Mainly arboricultural qualities	Mainly landscape qualities	Mainly cultural values, including conservation
Trees to be considered for retention			
Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter of below 150mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value

Survey data and comments

Tree	Species	Height	DBH	Age class	Category	Comment and recommendations
T1	Felled					
T2	Beech	25m	510mm	Mature	C	Tall and narrow woodland tree. Excavator damage to trunk, sparse canopy, see photo's. Partially occluded (healing). Downgraded to Cat C tree - monitor. No work required.
T3	Felled					
T4	Sycamore	19m	800mm	Mature	C/U	Tree in decline, currently Category C but likely to be reclassified as U if condition deteriorates. Damage from excavator at base of tree, decaying buttress and canopy sparse. Monitor condition and consider felling. Estimated useful life <5years.
T5	Beech	25m	600mm	Mature	C	SEE PHOTOS Was a Category B tree, in decline and likely to recede further into Category U. Sparse canopy due digger damage at base of trunk leaving a large exposed area of sapwood. Occluded around edges, but unlikely to seal over before wood decay develops. Twin stemmed from 1 m, tight union.
T6	Sycamore	26m	1100mm	Mature	C	Bark damaged at 1.5, partially occluded with decay fungi present. Downgraded, poor quality tree with tight twin stems. Gabion placed 150mm from buttress (leading to physical damage of root system and soil compaction issues).
T7	Sycamore	24m	900mm	Mature	C	Pruned away from gable end following last survey. Some epicormic regrowth which is typical of species. Heavy limb towards house appears to be well braced at union with main stem.
T8	Beech	26m	800mm	Mature	C	Tight union at 3m
T9	Beech	27m	900mm	Mature	C	Tight limb union at 6m. Multi-stemmed low grade tree due to large area of excavator damage at base of tree.
T10	Sycamore	20m	950mm	Mature	C	Large wound partially occluded at 2m. Epicormic growth previously removed and some resprouting evident.
T11	Beech	24m	900mm	Mature	B	Some epicormic resprouting as a result from pruning away from neighbours property in 2013. No further work proposed.
T12	Felled					

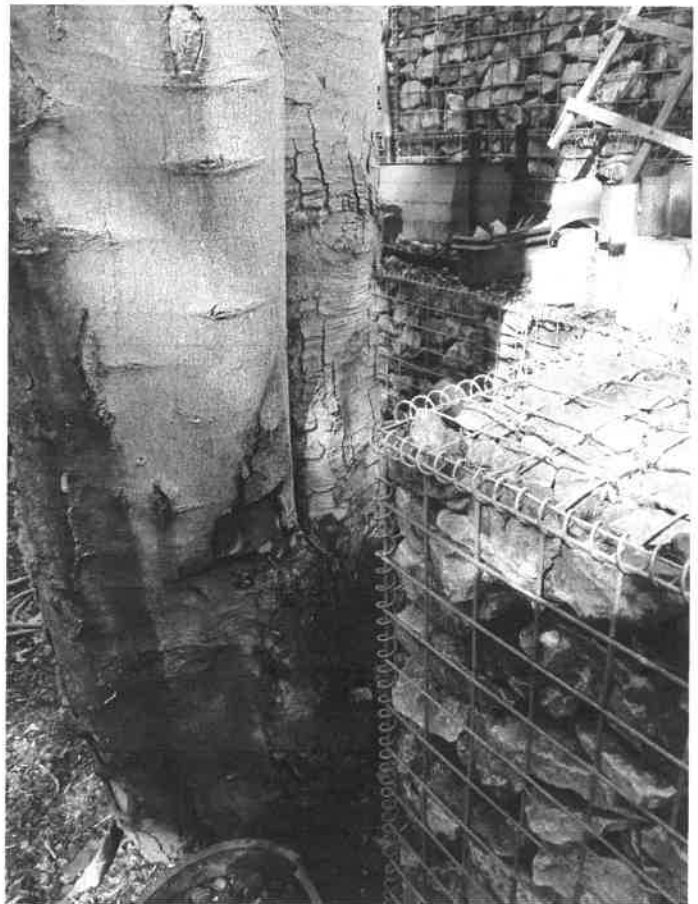
T4 SYCAMORE



Tight union of twin stems. Potential failure point. Should compensatory growth below union. Digger damaged area at back of tree.

Gabion placed extremely close to the base of the tree. Likely root damage situation and a chance of soil compaction leading to poor water and nutrient supply to the tree. The soil level will also have changed which mature trees do not tolerate.

Twin stems, tight union. Bark damage also inflicted.



AUTUMN 2019

Photographic survey



TS BEECH

Excavator damage to base of stem noted. Partially occluded (healed) around the edges of the bark damage, but unlikely to fully occlude (seal-over) considering the size of the damage and the rate that the tree is adding new growth, since the damage most have happened during 2014 when there were diggers on the site to stabilise the house foundations.

Monitor for decay fungi, especially *Ganoderma* species, that can cause brittle fracture.

Damage to base of tree and buttress. Again likely to be from excavator during the earth work in 2014. This sycamore is mature and has not put any growth around the wound to seal the area. No decay fungi viewed but site likely to become infected with decay fungi. Monitor.

N/A.





TS - JULY 2020

THINNING CANOPY