



Gale Tree Consultancy

Tree Condition Report

Grosvenor Court, TW11 9BT

July 2024

Ref: TCR/556/24

Gale Tree Consultancy

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Summary

- Eleven trees were recorded
- One tree has been recommended for removal due to decay, alternatively, it could be reduced to c.3m as a habitat stem
- Three trees have been identified as requiring further detailed decay evaluations due to features observed
- The remaining trees require remedial work
- No trees were categorised with an urgent priority



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Client and Address

- Ed Campbell-White, The Tree Company (London) Ltd, Unit 9 Inwood Business Park, TW3 2EB

1.2 Site Address if Different from the Above

- Grosvenor Court, Fairfax Road, Teddington, TW11 9BT

1.3 Date of Inspection

- 23rd July 2024

1.4 Name of Inspector

- Andrew Gale *Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A*

1.5 Our Reference

- TCR/556/24

1.6 Instructions Received

- I have been instructed by Ed Campbell-White to undertake a ground level inspection of the trees growing within the grounds of Grosvenor Court
- I am to provide my findings in the form of a report detailing any remedial work that may be necessary

1.7 General Description

- Grosvenor Court is located on the southern side of Fairfax Road and has residential properties to its east and west and a railway line to its immediate south
- The site consists of three apartment blocks surround by mature gardens. In the south east corner of the site is an above and below ground car park and along the north west side, a garage complex dedicated for residents
- The northern edge of the site borders a public pavement and on street car parking
- Residents have full access to the grounds with a lockable pedestrian gate to the southern area of the site restricting access to members of the public; those persons using the above and below ground car park do not have access to the grounds within the controlled area



2.0 Scope of the Report

- Trees are dynamic living organisms and their health and condition can be subject to rapid changes, depending upon a number of internal and external factors
- The conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are based on information gained at the time of inspection and are subject to the limitations of the specialist nature of this survey
- Based on this, the likelihood of failure is considered for three years from the reports date based on the information gained on the day of the report and on the assumption that any recommended work has been undertaken in the time frame specified
- It should be noted that even completely sound, healthy trees, can fail given sufficiently severe weather conditions
- The principle objective of the tree condition report is to identify whether the trees, or their parts, appear to be in a hazardous condition and to advise remedial action to reduce the risk they could pose to those persons living at or visiting Grosvenor Court, and those persons using Fairfax Road, the pavement and the railway line
- Only those trees with a stem diameter greater than 150mm when measured at 1.5m ground level are to be inspected

3.0 Method of Inspection

- The trees were subject to ground level visual assessment of their external features in line with the 'Visual Tree Assessment' method described by Mattheck & Breloer (Body Language of Trees, Department of the Environment Research for Amenity Trees publication No. 4 1994)
- A plastic headed mallet was used to sound the stem area as an initial indication of the presence of decay
- A thin steel probe was used, where applicable, to assess the depth and condition of any cavities or concavities between buttress roots
- Binoculars were used to assess the upper crown branch structure
- All trees requiring further action were tagged with a round, numbered aluminium tag and placed in a prominent position on the stem at approximately 2m - see below:



- Individual trees are given the prefix T and groups G
- Those trees requiring further action are plotted on a site plan which is attached separately - see Appendix 1 TCR/556/24 Dwg01
- A number of digital photos were taken, some of which are included within the report for information - please see Appendix 3



4.0 Table of Results

Tree No	Tag No.	Species	Stem Diameter	Height	Crown Spread	Age Class	Phy. Cond.	Comments	Action Required	Priority
T1	941	Common lime	351-550	10-15	0-5	EM	FAIR	Area around tree cleared of debris and soil levels appear lowered Cavity on east side of stem starting at c.40cm above root flare Thick ivy throughout crown Deadwood/stem section in upper crown	Sever ivy at ground level and again at 1m removing the severed band Remove deadwood/stem section back to sound wood	HS3
T2	942	Common lime	351-550	10-15	5-10	EM	FAIR	Tree not tagged Unable to assess buttress roots and lower of the tree due to dense basal sucker growth - physiological condition assessed only Dead tertiary stem section	Clear basal sucker growth Remove dead tertiary stem section	HS3
T3	943	Horse chestnut	551-750	15-20	5-10	EM	FAIR	Basal growth restricts assessment of western buttress roots Two bark wounds on SE side of the stem, wound wood forming Deadwood greater than 25mm in diameter over lawn area	Clear basal growth Remove deadwood greater than 25mm in diameter over the lawn area	HS3
T4	944	Sycamore	551-750	15-20	5-10	M	FAIR	Ivy originating from property severed and dying off Ivy originating from the rail track side ascending into mid crown	Sever ivy originating from the rail track side	HS3



Tree No	Tag No.	Species	Stem Diameter	Height	Crown Spread	Age Class	Phy. Cond.	Comments	Action Required	Priority
T5	945	Norway maple	751-1000	5-10	5-10	M	MOR	Extensive decay and cavity present on lower stem Stem forks at c.2.2m into 3-4 stem sections two of which are dead Woodpecker holes present Remaining leaf material is poor with brown margins Previously heavily reduced	Fell to ground level OR Reduce to leave a finished height of c.3m to leave a habitat stem	HS3
T6	946	Sweet chestnut	1000+	15-20	10-15	M	GOOD	Mature basal sucker growth restricts thorough assessment of buttress roots and lower stem	Remove basal sucker growth	HS4
T7	947	Copper beech	551-750	15-20	5-10	EM	GOOD	Cavity forming on west side of stem at ground level, <i>Kretzschmaria deusta</i> fruiting bodies noted in face of cavity Further bark wound above Stem bias east Stem forks at c.6m, unions appear good Cavities noted at previous pruning wounds	Detailed decay evaluation of lower stem employing the use of PiCUS sonic and/or electrical tomography, plus Resi PD400 microdrill	HS2
T8	948	Western Red cedar	551-750	15-20	5-10	EM	FAIR	Vertical open wound on SE side of stem from ground level up to c.5m, wood dust noted caught in spiders webs along the length of the wound Crown becoming sparse, needle debris on the floor - parakeets seen in upper crown	Detailed decay evaluation of lower stem employing the use of a Resi PD400 microdrill	HS3



Tree No	Tag No.	Species	Stem Diameter	Height	Crown Spread	Age Class	Phy. Cond.	Comments	Action Required	Priority
T9	949	Lebanese cedar	751-1000	15-20	10-15	EM	GOOD	Deadwood greater than 50mm in diameter over border/pathway	Remove deadwood greater than 50mm in diameter over the border/pathway	HS3
T10	950	False acacia	351-550	15-20	5-10	EM	FAIR	Twin stem tree in an E-W arrangement Dense ivy restricts thorough assessment of E stem Possible open bark wound at c.3.5m, obscured by ivy	Sever, and as far as possible, remove the ivy Assess bark wound if present	HS3
T11	951	False acacia	551-750	15-20	5-10	EM	FAIR	Desiccated fungal fruiting body at c.7m on N side of stem next to a pruning stub with a woodpecker hole Dead truncated tertiary stem section at c.11m over border/public pavement Non-invasive cable bracing installed in upper crown due to extensive tear out wound	Perform a detailed decay evaluation of the stem at c.7m employing the use of a Resi PD400 microdrill	HS3



Survey Key

Tree No.	Relates to numbers shown on Tree Survey Plan(s). Positions of trees are plotted using GPS and are generally accurate to within 2 metres. Prefixed T in the case of individual trees or G in the case of groups of trees	Age Class (where used)	Young [Y]	recently planted or established within the last 5 years
Tag No. (where used)	Numbered aluminium tags may be attached to tree stems to aid with identification. In addition, trees may also be identified with red and white hazard tape		Semi Mature [SM]	a well-established youngish tree but far from full maturity
Species	Common name in English		Early Mature [EM]	long established nearing its full size but not fully mature
Stem Dia.	Stem diameter in centimetres at 1.5m above ground level or, in the case of multi-stemmed trees, just above the root flare or buttress [ARF]		Mature [M]	fully mature tree that has met its full size
Height	Height assessed visually to within the nearest 5 metre size band e.g., 10 to 15		Late Mature [LM]	a fully mature tree that has passed its peak; may exhibit areas of decline
Physiological Condition	In relation to all trees: GOOD no significant health problems FAIR some symptoms of ill health POOR significant symptoms of ill health MORIBUND (MOR) in a serious and irreversible decline DEAD not alive		Veteran [V]	a tree with the physical characteristics of an Ancient tree but is not ancient in years compared to other trees of the same species
Comments	Description of significant features, especially those requiring action or monitoring. lvy is recorded the extent of the tree stem and canopy affected is usually expressed as a percentage			
Rec.	Specific recommendations for action or monitoring	Tree Structure	Main Stem	The stem, from ground level up to the point at which it bifurcates
Priority	Work recommended in the interests of health and safety: Urgent: Immediate attention required (will be reported verbally to the client/management on day of inspection) HS1: Within 2 month of the reports date HS2: Within 6 months of the reports date HS3: Within 12 months of the reports date HS4: Before the next survey date GM: Works recommended for general maintenance reasons or in the interests of good arboricultural management N/A: Not applicable / no work recommended at this time		Primary Stem Section (PSS)	The larger stem sections that emanate from the main stem after bifurcation; form the main crown structure
			Secondary Stem Section (SSS)	The stem sections that emanate from the primary stem sections that contribute to the inner crown structure
			Tertiary Stem Section (TSS)	The stem sections that emanate from the secondary stem sections that contribute to the inner and outer crown structure
			Subordinate Branch Structure (SBS)	The smaller diameter branches that help form the inner and outer branch structure; leaf bearing twigs emanate from these to form the crown



5.0 Summary of Results

- The ground along the rear of the car park, and the location of T1/941 Common lime, has been cleared and in places, lowered. It is not clear how much soil was removed, or whether the material removed was rubbish, but although no obvious root damage was noted, in the event surface roots were severed, decline of the trees may ensue
- Ivy was also noted on a number of the trees where it serves as valuable habitat for wildlife and wherever possible should be retained for this purpose
- However, where it obscures the main stem, major branch attachment points and the upper crown structure, it can cover anomalies that would otherwise be evident. It will also increase the sail and 'mass' of the crown and in extreme cases can increase the risk of branch failure, this is of particular importance where trees are located adjacent to areas of high usage
- Where it has been recommended, the ivy should be severed as close to the ground as possible and again at 1m with the severed band being removed. This will allow the ivy ascending into the tree to die off naturally whilst the gap generated will allow any new ivy to be severed if/when it appears
- In the case of T10/950 False acacia, the ivy covers a possible bark wound and as such, it has been recommended for it to be removed in its entirety so the feature can be better assessed
- Basal sucker was another feature recorded. Where it restricted a thorough assessment of the buttress roots and lower stem area of the tree, and in the case of T2/942 Common lime, the sucker growth was so thick that it was not possible to attach a tree tag
- The assessment of this area of the tree is important as many decay fungi can originate from around the buttress root and lower stem area
- One such fungi is *Kretzschmaria deusta* (Brittle Cinder fungus) which affects the lower stem and principal roots of the host tree. It forms a soft rot in its early stage which eventually makes the wood brittle, a white rot can form in the latter stages which in advanced stages, can lead to catastrophic failure
- Where recommended, the sucker growth should be removed so the tree can be assessed thoroughly
- T5/945 Norway maple has extensive decay in the stem and upper crown. its removal has been recommended; alternatively, it could be reduced to leave a finished height of c.3m to retain a habitat for wildlife
- T7/947 Copper beech has an open bark wound on the west side of the stem which is home to fructifications of the decay fungus *Kretzschmaria deusta* - see previous comments
- A recommendation has been made for a detailed decay evaluation employing the use of PiCUS sonic and electrical tomography, along with resistance drilling in the form of a Resi PD400 microdrill, to ascertain the extent of any decay that may be forming
- Further detailed decay evaluations should be undertaken on T8/948 Western Red cedar and T11/951 False acacia due to features noted



6.0 Recommendations

- Undertake the tree work in the time period specified
- Reassess in three years from the reports date
- This time frame should be shortened in the event:
 - The trees local environment changes significantly
 - Fruiting bodies emerge from anywhere on the tree
 - After extreme weather events such as:
 - Wind gusts in excess of Force 8 on the Beaufort Scale
 - After named extreme weather events

This concludes my report

Signed:

Andrew Gale *Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A*

Date: 25th July 2024





7.0 Appendix 1

Site Plan

Please see TCR/556/24 Dwg01 attached separately



Appendix 2

Beaufort Scale

Beaufort Number	Name	Knots	MPH	Effects Observed on Land
0	Calm	Under 1	Under 1	Calm, smoke rises vertically
1	Light Air	1-3	1-3	Direction of wind is shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes
2	Light Breeze	4-6	4-7	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, ordinary wind vane moved by wind
3	Gentle Breeze	7-10	8-12	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion, wind extends light flag
4	Moderate Breeze	11-16	13-18	Raises dust and loose paper, small branches are moved
5	Fresh Breeze	17-21	19-24	Small trees in leaf begin to sway, crested wavelets in inland waters
6	Strong Breeze	22-27	25-31	Large branches in motion, whistling heard in telegraph wires, umbrellas used with difficulty
7	Near Gale	28-33	32-38	Whole trees in motion, inconvenience felt in walking against the wind
8	Gale	34-40	39-46	Breaks twigs off trees, generally impedes progress
9	Strong Gale	41-47	47-54	Slight structural damage occurs - chimney pots, slates removed
10	Storm	48-55	55-63	Seldom experienced inland, trees uprooted, considerable structural damage occurs
11	Violent Storm	56-63	64-72	Very rarely experienced, accompanied by widespread damage
12	Hurricane	64 and over	73 and over	



Appendix 3

Site Photos



T1/941 Common lime - note the soil level change and cavity - circled red



T2/942 Common lime - note the dense basal sucker growth



T5/945 Norway maple - extensive decay in lower stem and main stem sections - circled red



T6/946 Sweet chestnut - basal growth restricts thorough assessment of buttress roots and lower stem



T7/947 Copper beech - fructifications of the decay fungus *Kretzschmaria deusta* emanating on the face of the open wound



T8/948 Western Red cedar - note the vertical wound and wood dust caught in the spiders web



T11/951 False acacia - desiccated fungal fruiting body adjacent to a woodpecker hole - circled red