Gale Tree Consultancy

Tree Condition Report

Kelsey Hall, Ifold, RH14 0UD

February 2025

Ref: TCR/620/25

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Executive Summary

- Small site consisting of six trees
- Three trees have been scheduled for follow up remedial tree work
- No trees have been scheduled for removal

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Client and Address

- Jane Bromley, Parish Clerk, Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council, The Winterton Hall, Loxwood Road, Plaistow, RH12 0PX

1.2 Site Address if Different from the Above

- Kelsey Hall, Chalk Road, Ifold, RH14 0UD

1.3 Date of Inspection

- 26th February 2025

1.4 Name of Inspector

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

1.5 Our Reference

- TCR/620/25

1.6 Instructions Received

- I have been instructed by Jane Bromley to undertake a ground level assessment of the trees within the area marked red on the plan of Kelsey Hall supplied
- I am to provide my findings in the form of a report detailing any remedial work that may be necessary

1.7 General Description

- Kelsey Hall is located off Chalk Road with the entrance along the southeast boundary fence line, where the access drive leads to a car park for the hall. The remaining boundaries border residential properties
- The boundary between the hall grounds and Chalk Road consists of a post and rail fence which continues along the drive entrance; a ditch runs between the fence and Chalk Road
- Within the red area marked on the site plan supplied, there are six trees in total:
    - 2 x Pedunculate oak
    - 3 x Common beech
    - 1 x Hawthorn
- The area beneath the trees is grass and an aerial bundled cable (ABC) electric supply traverses the southern area of the site
- A bench seat is located at the north end of the surveyed 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 using and visiting Kelsey Hall, those persons living next to Kelsey Halle and those persons using Chalk Road 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
- Due to the small number of trees, a site plan was not used

4.0 Table of Results

Tree No	Tag No.	Species	Stem Dia.	Height	Crown Spread	Age Class	Phy. Cond.	Comments	Action Required	Priority
T1	328	Pedunculate oak	551-750	15-20	5-10	EM	FAIR	Deadwood greater than 25mm in diameter throughout crown Suspended section of deadwood over access drive	Remove dead wood greater than 25mm in diameter from throughout the crown Remove section of suspended deadwood	HS2
T2	329	Pedunculate oak	551-750	15-20	10-15	EM	FAIR	Deadwood greater than 25mm in diameter throughout the crown	Remove dead wood greater than 25mm in diameter from throughout the crown	HS2
T3	330	Common beech	150-350	5-10	0-5	SM	FAIR	Topped by electricity to provide clearance for the ABC 1 x dead stub	Remove dead stub	HS2

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
			Semi Mature [SM]	a well-established youngish tree but far from full maturity
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		Early Mature [EM]	long established nearing its full size but not fully mature
			Mature [M]	fully mature tree that has met its full size
Species	Common name in English		Late Mature [LM]	a fully mature tree that has passed its peak; may exhibit areas of decline
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]		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
Height	Height assessed visually to within the nearest 5 metre size band e.g., 10 to 15		Ancient [A]	a tree that has past full maturity and is old or aged in comparison to other trees of the same species
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	In relation to Ash and Ash Dieback: Class 1 (C1) 100-76% leaf cover remaining = no action at this stage Class 2 (C2) 75-51% leaf cover remaining = reassess throughout growing season Class 3 (C3) 50-25% leaf cover remaining = plan for its removal Class 4 (C4) 25-0% leaf cover remaining = remove before it becomes an issue		
Comments	Description of significant features, especially those requiring action or monitoring. Ivy 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 months 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

- It was noted that some arboricultural work had already been undertaken, primarily the severance and removal of ivy from the stems of the trees
- This practise should be continued to ensure the ivy doesn't increase the trees' sail area and crown mass, and doesn't impact on bud growth and development
- Deadwood was noted on the three trees recorded
- Deadwood is a valuable habitat for saproxylic invertebrates and as such wherever possible should be retained
- It is a natural occurrence where the tree closes down branches that are no longer productive and should not be seen as a sign of ill health, but where large sections of the tree's crown declines or dies back, further investigations should be undertaken to determine the underlying cause
- However, where it has the potential to cause harm or damage, its removal should be undertaken
- This has been specified as sections over a certain diameter and may be linked to certain parts of the crown only to help maintain the habitat it provides
- This should be undertaken within the timeframe specified
- The removal of deadwood is exempt from the need to make a formal application or notification to the local planning authority, for permission to carry out the work
- However, I would always recommend that they are made aware of the works

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) MICFor M.Arbor.A*

Date: 7th March 2025

Arboricultural ASSOCIATION Professional Member

7.0 Appendix 1

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	