# MARLINGFORD AND COLTON. PLAY AREAS AND CONSERVATION WOODLAND

Health and Safety Tree Survey

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**TREE SURVEY AT Marlingford and Colton. October 2024**

1.0 INTRODUCTORY DETAILS

Legislation and policies are now putting greater ownership and duty of care on landowners and those who have control over the tree's management. Norfolk Trees has been commissioned by the Client to undertake a tree condition survey at the above site which ensures the Client is proactively working towards meeting their duties in this regard.

As part of the tree condition survey recommendations have been made for remedial tree works to some of the surveyed tree stock. Full details of the recommended tree works can be found within the tree survey report, Norfolk Trees is happy to manage the delivery of these tree works.

A site check with the Local Planning Authority should be carried prior to undertaking any tree works. If trees are subject to a Tree Preservation Order or are situated within a Conservation Area, consent will be required before works can commence. Please note that this can take up to 8 weeks to process. Norfolk Trees are happy to make this application on your behalf as part of any instructed works.

All survey works have been undertaken by appropriately qualified and experienced arboriculturist surveyors & consultants with a minimum of LANTRA qualified professional tree inspection.

The tree inspection was undertaken by Norfolk Trees in October 2024.

If site boundary information has not been provided by client, Arboricultural surveyors have made judgements whilst on site.

The Location of trees and the potential hazard the tree represents will be dependant on the accessibility and frequency of use. If client has not provided risk zones maps specific to the site, then categorisation is based solely on the Arboriculturist/Surveyor's discretion from observations gained during the site visit only. Guidelines for this subject come from Common sense risk management of trees- National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) Due consideration will be given to the principles set out below:

• Public impact - Numbers of public using site or adjacent to the site

• Site usage - Location of roads, footpaths, buildings

• Business Risk - Risk of damage to property

| | |
|---|---|
| HIGH | *Adjacent to property including Buildings, gardens, parks, footpaths including internal access roads and footpaths which are used on a regular basis* |
| MEDIUM | *Internal roads and footpaths and open spaces which are used on a limited basis* |
| LOW | *areas with no or limited access* |

## 2.0 THE BRIEF

2.1 – The brief was to undertake an inspection of the trees at the site and to produce a report detailing the findings. The report will evaluate any hazards arising and to subsequently propose remedial works that will remove or mitigate the hazard.

## 3.0 CAVEATS AND LIMITATIONS

3.1 – The recommendations contained in this Report represent Norfolk Trees professional opinions, in exercising the duty of care required of a suitably experienced and qualified Arboriculturist Surveyor / Arboricultural Consultant. All data recorded and recommendations made are based on observable factors present at the time of inspection. Where access to carry out a full inspection is not possible due to reasons such as vegetation, topography, fencing or other situations that the surveyor feels are unsafe, the Arboriculturist will make appropriate notes within the survey schedule.

3.2 – Inspection was carried out from ground level, with use of binoculars where necessary. No climbing inspection was conducted.

3.3 – No analysis of soil samples was undertaken. Root areas and possible underground conflict interaction were only investigated in so much as a surface visual inspection.

3.4 – Healthy trees, or parts of healthy trees, may fail in unusually high or unpredictable winds or violent storms and as such the consequences of such weather phenomena are unforeseeable. It follows Norfolk Trees cannot be held liable for any such failures.

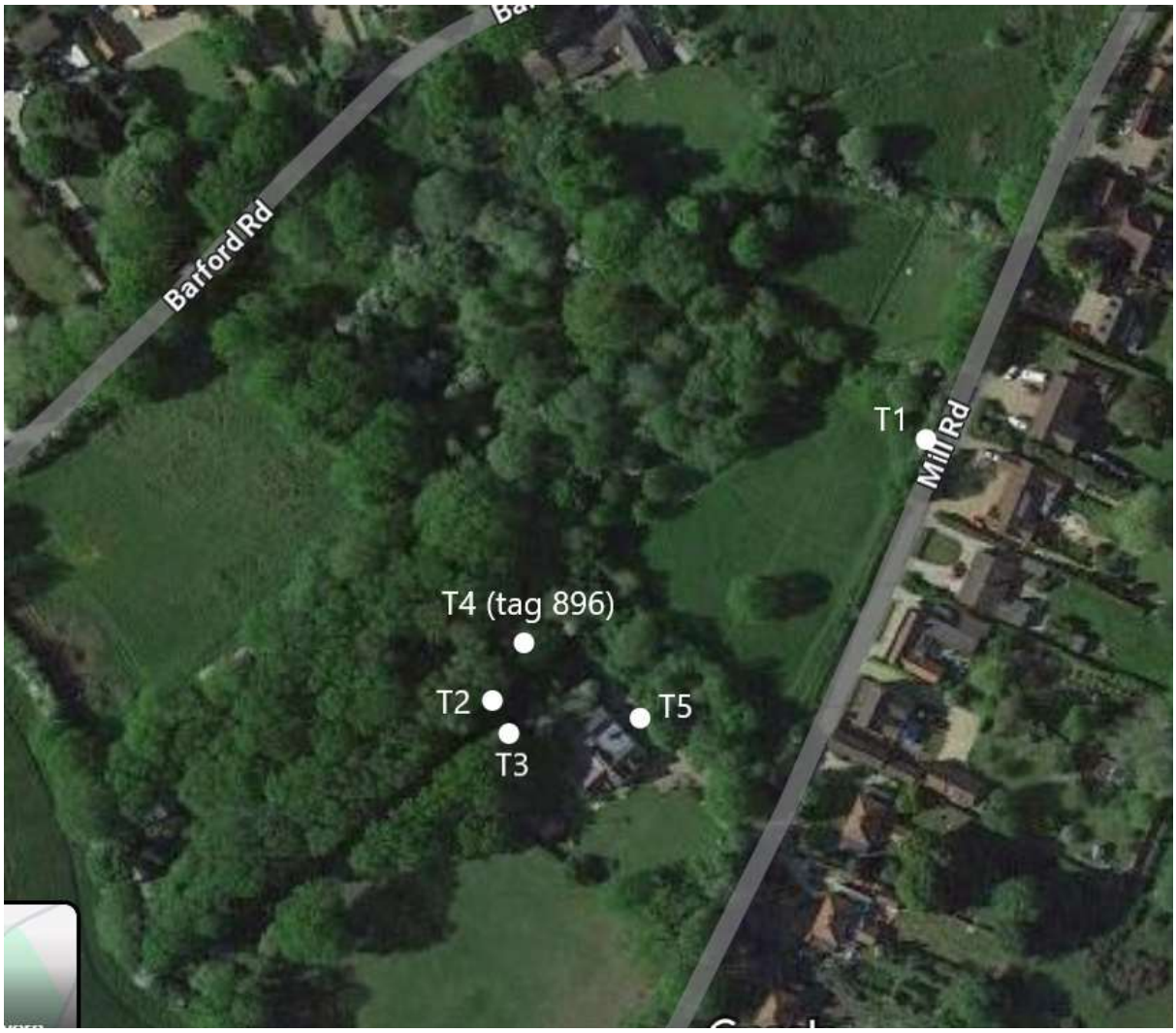
## 4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 – A site plan was provided. Trees were plotted on site by the arboriculturalist using aerial images. Plotting should be seen as indicative only

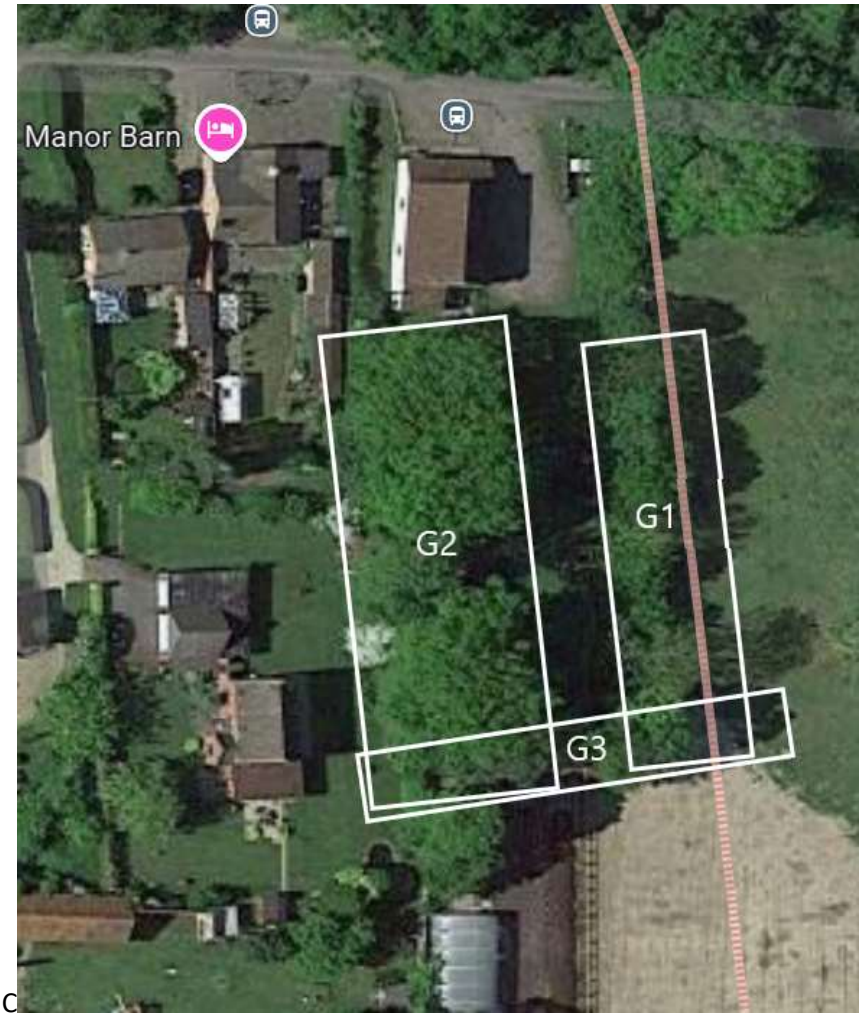
Inspections are recorded within the survey and are traceable to an individual or group plotted on the map. Each entry will record tree defects observed by the arboricultural surveyor and make recommendations for remedial action as appropriate.

4.2 - An inspection will consist of the identification of tree species, and a determination of the rough age class. Subsequently, an appraisal of the condition of the tree is carried out. The inspection is a combination of visual and non-invasive physical techniques (such as probing or sounding with a mallet) that allow the identification of existing or potential hazards and defects. Although all trees are inspected, only those considered as requiring works are referenced in the report and are numbered on the plan.

4.3 - Recommendations are made on the basis of the report brief and tree condition as well as any additional factors such as legislation and wildlife issues.


Barford Rd
Mill Rd
T1
T4 (tag 896)
T2
T5
T3

C




| **Annex A - Survey Data Collection Key and Remedial Work Actions** | |
|---|---|
| | |
| ***Ref No:*** | *Assigned tree number. Corresponds to supporting plans. Trees have been categorised as one of the following: Tree (T) or Group (G).* |
| | |
| ***Species:*** | *The common name of the tree* |
| | |
| ***Height (m):*** | *In line with National Housing Federation height banding to include:0-5, 5-10m, 10-15m, 15-20m and 20+M* |
| | |
| ***Stem Diameter (mm):*** | *The diameter of the trunk measured in millimetres taken with a DBH Tape at a height 1.5m above ground. In line with National Housing Federation DBH banding to include:0-150mm, 150-300mm, 300-450mm, 450-600mm, 600-1000mm and >1000mm.* |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Crown Spread (m):*** | *Canopy spread of the tree (estimate)* |
| | |
| ***Age Class:*** | *Recorded as:* |
| | |
| | ***Y (Young)** = Staked tree or tree with high growth potential (in 1st 3rd of life expectancy).* |
| | ***MA (Middle Age)** = Tree nearing full height but not full spread or stem diameter (Tree in 2nd 3rd of life expectancy).* |
| | ***EM (Early Maure) M (Mature) OM (Over Mature)** = A mature specimen with limited potential for any significant increase in size but with a reasonable safe life expectancy (in its last 3rd of life expectancy).* |
| | ***V (Veteran)** = A mature specimen in decline with significant dead wood and cavities which are adventageous to wildlife.* |
| | |
| ***Target*** | *Depicts the target with which the tree as a whole or part is within distance of.* |
| ***Risk Level:*** | High, Medium or Low |
| ***Condition:*** | *Categorised as either: Good, Fair, Poor or Dead* |
| | |
| ***Observation Physical Remarks*** | *Observations made on the trees structural condition, wounds and defects* |
| | |
| ***Action*** | *Title of Remedial work specification* |

Recommendations for remedial work are set out within the following Action Priority Class categorisation & time limits;

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| IMMEDIATE/URGENT | | *All urgent work will be phoned through immediately to the client where necessary* |
| HIGH | Within 3 Months | *Covers trees within High Risk Zones which are likely to cause injury or damage. Includes crown lifts over roads, footpaths and car parks* |
| MEDIUM | Within 12 Months | *Covers trees in High Risk Zones likely to cause inconvenience such as pruning to clear buildings. Includes trees within Medium Risk Zones likely to cause injury or damage* |
| LOW | Within 3 Years | *Covers trees in All Risk Zones with regard to tree works that are advised to promote the future health and well being of the tree stock* |

| Tree / Group No. | Species | Height | Dia @ 1.5m | Crown spread | Age Class | Target Risk Zone | Condition | Comments and Observations | Action | Priority |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T1 | Ash | 10-15 | multi | 5 | E M | H | P | Multi stem Ash/ early signs of Ash Die Back. Suspect that tree is on land which is owned/managed by NCC Highways | Monitor/report to NCC | Low |
| T2 | Birch | 10-15 | 150-300 | 3 | E M | H | Dead | Dead Tree. Potential threat to power line | Report to UK power network | Med |
| T3 | Birch | 10-15 | 150-300 | 3 | E M | H | P | Dead Top. Potential threat to power line | Report to UK power network | Med |
| T4 Tag 896 | Oak | 10-15 | 350-500 | 3 | E M | L | P | Failed at roots. Resting in adjacent tree | Fell | Low |
| T5 | Sycamore | 10-15 | multi | 5 | E M | M | F | Multi Stem tree, some decay at base. Not thought to be compromised at present | Monitor decay with a view to possible coppicing in the future | Low |

**MARLINGFORD CONSERVATION WOODLAND AND PLAY AREA**

The site consists of woodland and areas of public open space including a play area. Permissive and Public Footpaths are present throughout the site which appear to have Low/Moderate use. The majority of the site is considered to be low risk, higher/moderate risk areas are adjacent to Barford Road and Mill Road, as well as adjacent to overhead power lines which run through the wooded area.

The woodland consists predominately of Oak with interspersed Ash, Sweet Chestnut, Hazel, Hawthorn and Willow. The majority of trees appear to be in good health. Many of the Oaks contain dead wood, some of which is overhanging footpaths. It is considered that the risk of falling dead wood causing damage or injury is very low and that dead wood can remain in situ.

| Tree / Group No. | Species | Height | Dia @ 1.5m | Crown spread | Age Class | Target Risk Zone | Condition | Comments and Observations | Action | Priority |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 | Sweet Chestnut, Walnut, Ash, Oak,Sycamore, Norway Maple | 5-10 | 150-300 | 3 | S M | M | F/P | Outside site boundary. Bark Damage, probably caused by grazing. Dead/dying Ash trees over hanging play equipment | Inform owners that Ash needs to be removed | Med |
| G2 | Oak x3 with understorey of Sycanore, Lime, Ash, Hawthorn | 20 + | 600-1000 | 8 | M | M | G | No notable defects. Good vitality | Given the size/maturity of trees and inspection every 2 years is recommended | Med |
| G3 | Hazel, Birch, Ash, Oak | 5-10 | 150-300 | 3 | S M | M | F | Growing close together | Consider thinning/remove Ash to give more room for adjacent trees | Low |

**COLTON PLAY AREA**

The play area has trees on the east, west and southern boundaries. Trees on the Eastern boundary (G1) are outside the fence line and therefore it is assumed by a third party. Trees on the southern boundary (G3) are congested and would benefit from some thinning. Removal of the Ash is suggested, although this is purely to benefit the adjacent trees and is not a safety requirement.

Three very large Oak trees are located on the Western boundary (G2). The trees are of normal form and vitality. Minor dead wood throughout canopies which is normal. No significant defects were identified. Given the size of these trees and proximity to buildings and the play area, it is recommended that an inspection is undertaken every two years

**WORKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN**

No checks with have been made to establish if the trees are subject to a Tree Preservation order or located within a Conservation. It is strongly recommended that these checks are made with The District Council before undertaking any of the recommended works.

**Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, The Habitat Regulations 1994, The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (Natural Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 it is as offence to:**

- **Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built**
- **Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird**
- **Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats**
- **Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time)**

**In light of this legal protection, it is recommended that any works to trees, where birds and/or bats are known to, or are likely to, next/roost, is avoided during the nesting season (usually March-August) and/or the advice of a bat specialist is obtained**

**The Health & Safety Executive issues clear guidelines to tree workers. All workers should be certified competent for the operation they undertake and carry adequate Public Liability Insurance.**