

Health & Safety Tree Survey

Land to the west of Park Road
Haverhill, CB9 7SR

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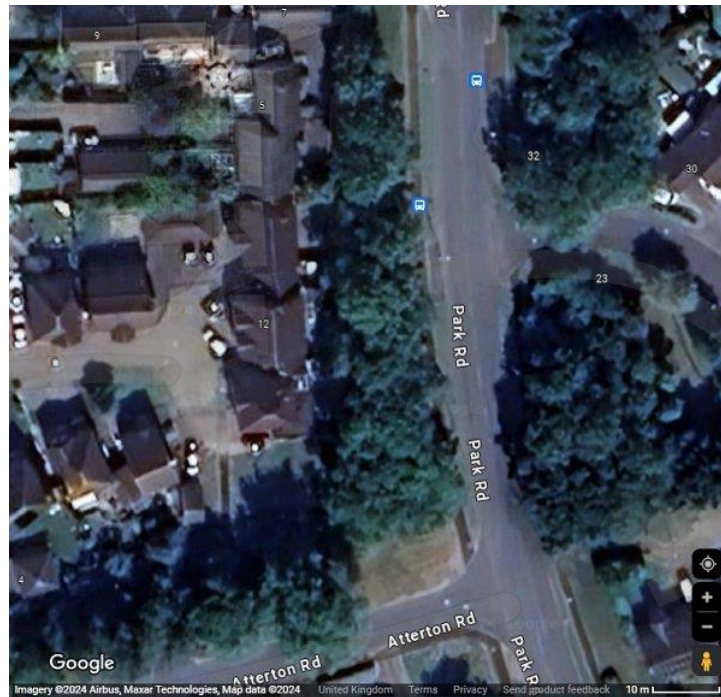
Prepared for: Abbey Homes

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. T Grayshaw Arboriculture Ltd was instructed by Abbey Homes in May 2024 to carry out a health and safety tree survey at Land West of Park Road, Haverhill CB9 7SR. The site comprises an area of trees within the ownership of Abbey Homes, located between the verge and the houses Nos 8 – 12 Atterton Road.



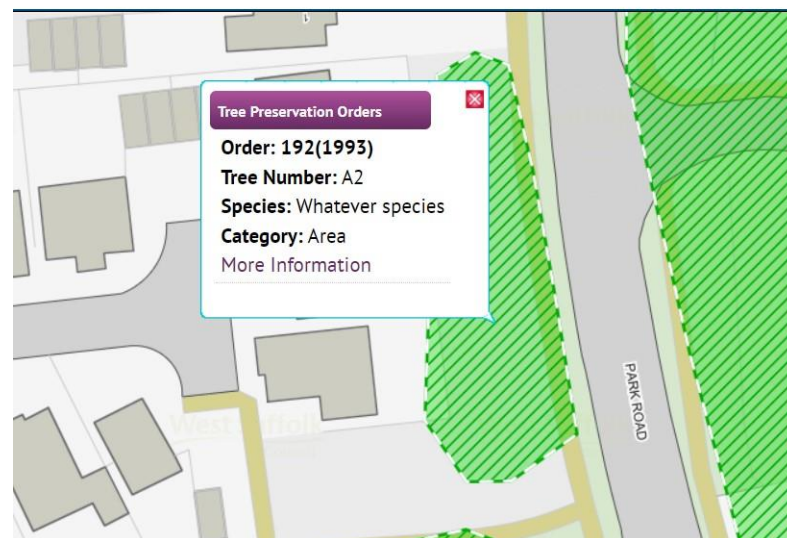
Overview of site included in survey – Google imagery

- 1.2. The tree survey was carried out on 23rd May 2024, to provide recommendations for appropriate tree works.
- 1.3. A tree survey plan is provided to allow users of this report to locate the trees on site, reference TGA.2636.TSP.001. This is provided as a separate PDF due to scale.



Area included in survey according to ownership

- 1.4. The controlling authority is West Suffolk Council. According to a search of the councils interactive mapping service the trees on the site are protected by tree preservation orders (TPO) reference 192 (1993).



Overview of site included in survey – Google imagery

- 1.5. The author of this report holds the Level 6 Diploma in Arboriculture, and is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association with over 22 years' experience in arboriculture, and qualified as a LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector.

2. Survey method & limitations

- 2.1. Reference is made to the recommendations for survey and tree inspection as outlined in 'Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management' by David Lonsdale (1999).
- 2.2. The survey identifies the existing tree stock on site to include species, height, stem diameter, crown spread and age. An overall appraisal of physiological and structural condition is given for each tree as either 'Good', 'Fair' or 'Poor'.
- 2.3. All trees within the required survey area were recorded and assessed. However works are only recommended on a negative reporting basis – if no work is required then recommendations have not been made.
- 2.4. Where appropriate, trees may be recorded as groups for e.g. a high number of trees of the same species, or mixed boundary vegetation.
- 2.5. Tree positions on the survey plan are determined using OTISS tree survey software to allow the tree to be identified on site, and do not represent exact stem location. The position of trees on the plan must therefore not be used for any design purposes, in which case a topographical survey should be produced.
- 2.6. Metal tags have been used as required to aid identification where this will assist users of the report to find trees on site.
- 2.7. Heights, stem diameters and crown spreads of the trees were measured using a laser measure. Dimensions may be estimated where accurate measurements were not deemed critical to mitigation or recommendations.
- 2.8. Trees may be identified and recorded as groups where appropriate.
- 2.9. No tissue samples were taken, nor was any internal investigation undertaken.
- 2.10. Trees on neighbouring land have not been surveyed unless specified.
- 2.11. Where stems or branches are obscured by ivy, extensive suckering or other materials a full assessment of those parts was not possible.
- 2.12. The findings in this report do not take account of the effects of extreme weather events, vandalism or accident. TGA Ltd cannot, therefore, accept any liability in connection with these factors. No liability can be assumed to rest with TGA Ltd should site conditions or features alter after the time of survey. The findings of this report cease at any time stated within it, or if none stated after one year from the date of the survey.

3. Discussion

- 3.1. The trees included in the survey are located to the west of Park Road, and to the east of the rear gardens of Nos. 8 – 14 Atterton Road. The trees included in the survey are those included within the land owned by Abbey Homes as indicated on the plan above. It is assumed that any trees located to the east of this area are in council ownership. No topographical survey was provided, so the extents of the Abbey Homes owned land were estimated on site in relation to the plan above.
- 3.2. The trees are mainly mature ash to a height of 18m. There are then a smaller number of hawthorn and Portugal laurel present as understorey to the group.
- 3.3. The ash trees are growing in relatively close proximity to each other, and their locations would indicate they are consistent with having self seeded. Due to competition pressure between the trees in general the trees have tall drawn up crowns with few side branches on the lower parts of the stem.
- 3.4. The trees have not been historically maintained, and the group has not been thinned. The canopies of the trees within the group overhang the gardens of Nos. 8 – 14.
- 3.5. There is ash dieback present within the group of trees such that the long term life expectancy of the group is likely to be limited. According to 'Ash Dieback Guidance for Tree Owners, Managers, Contractors and Consultants' published by Arboricultural Association. Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is a prolific native tree species accounting for 12% of broadleaved woodland in Great Britain and is commonly found in parks, gardens and hedgerows.
- 3.6. Not all ash trees will die as a direct result of ash dieback infection, research and experience in Europe indicates that only up to 5% of the ash population may be genetically tolerant to ash dieback. However 100% mortality in natural forests within 30 years can't be ruled out, and mortality between 50% and 75% may be more likely. In plantations 85% mortality is the highest recorded in Europe thus far. Affected trees can create health and safety risks due to branches falling as well as whole tree failure.



Trees viewed from south, encroaching over gardens of Nos. 8 – 14



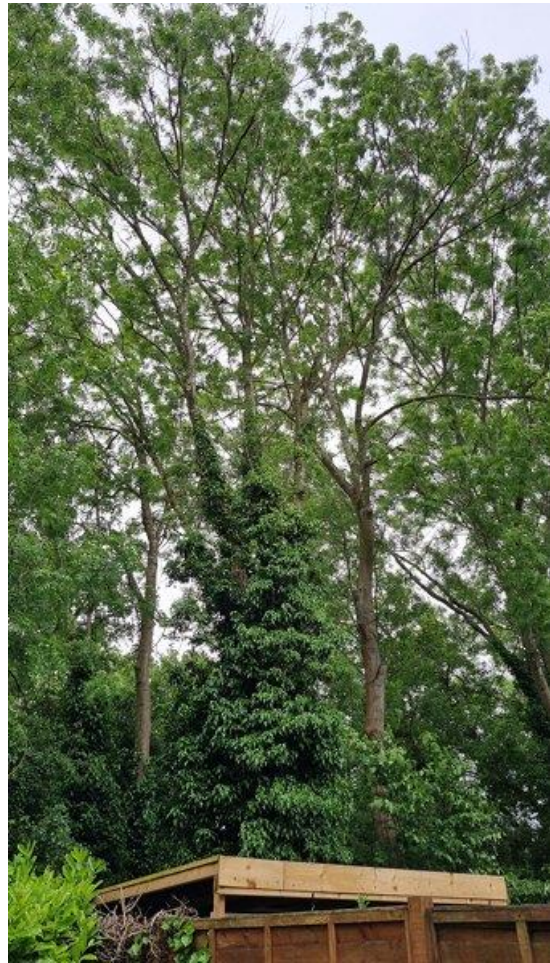
Alternate angle view, showing encroachment over gardens



Trees encroaching over garden of No 14



Tree T006 leaning tree to rear of No 10



**Tree T003 Ivy infested stem, ash dieback
throughout upper crown**



South of tree group at end of No 8

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. Recommendations for tree works are provided in the tree survey schedule below. Tree works specified are recommended to be carried out according to the time frames indicated.
- 4.2. For trees T001, T002 it is considered preferable to fell these trees to reduce the canopy overbearing the gardens.
- 4.3. Trees T003 and T006 are not suitable for retention adjacent to the gardens due to dieback or structural issues.
- 4.4. Where tree works are recommended, tree surgery should comply with BS3998:2010 or more recently accepted arboricultural good practice.
- 4.5. It is the sole responsibility of the instructed arboricultural contractor to ensure that correct health and safety planning for any proposed works is identified and managed prior to commencement of proposed works. All risks associated with the work should be identified by carry out a site-specific risk assessment and managed by the use of appropriate safe working procedures.
- 4.6. Trees on site are covered by Tree Preservation Order (TPO), therefore consent for any required works should be obtained from the local planning authority prior to being carried out. Consent is not required for urgent work to dead, dying or dangerous trees, but the local planning authority should be given at least five days' notice of the intended works.
- 4.7. The statutory protection afforded by the Wildlife and Countryside Act and Countryside and Rights of Way Act must be adhered to. If further advice is required, particularly if bats are discovered during tree work, Natural England or a competent ecologist must be contacted.
- 4.8. According to the Arboricultural Association: When tree or vegetation clearance work has to be undertaken during the nesting season, a pre works survey needs to be carried out by a suitably competent person. As a general rule, it should be assumed that birds will be nesting in trees, and contactors have the responsibility to assess, record and confirm that any works carried out in the management of trees and other vegetation has not disturbed actively nesting birds.

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Director

31st May 2024

5. Tree survey schedule

Ref.	Common Name	Measurements	Survey Notes	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Recommendation
T001	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 3N, 3E, 2S, 4W DBH (cm): 36 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tag 0142. Located 1.2m to east of boundary fence, 1.5m north of corner of boundary fence. Canopy overhangs garden by 2-3m. Ash dieback disease present in crown.	Fair	Fair	Fell tree. <i>Reason: To remove canopy encroachment into garden and alleviate canopy proximity to houses.</i>
T002	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 3N, 4E, 3S, 5W DBH (cm): 35 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tag 0143. Located 2m to east of boundary fence, 5.5m north of corner of boundary fence. Canopy overhangs garden by 2-3m. Tall drawn stem with few side branches. Ash dieback disease present in crown.	Fair	Fair	Fell tree. <i>Reason: To remove canopy encroachment into garden and alleviate canopy proximity to houses.</i>
T003	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 3N, 4E, 1S, 4W DBH (cm): 35 Life Stage: Mature	Tag 0144. Located 1m to east of boundary fence, in line with conservatory. 8m north of southern boundary of No. 8. Canopy overhangs garden by 2-3m. Ivy infested stem. Ash dieback disease present in crown with dieback and deadwood visible. West main upright stem mainly dead.	Poor	Poor	Fell tree. <i>Reason: Health and safety. Poor quality tree not suitable for retention in relation to health and safety.</i>
T004	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 2N, 4E, 2S, 1W DBH (cm): 25 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tag 0145. Located 4m to east of boundary fence, 5m north of south boundary of No. 8. Ivy infested crown. Tall drawn stem with few side branches. Leaning east.	Fair	Fair	Reduce canopy by 3m. <i>Reason: Health and safety. Reduce risk of tree falling in direction of road.</i>

Ref.	Common Name	Measurements	Survey Notes	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Recommendation
T005	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 2N, 6E, 2S, 1W DBH (cm): 25 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tag 0146. Located 4m to east of boundary fence, 9m north of south boundary of No. 8. Twin stem. Ivy infested stem. Tall drawn stem with few side branches. Leaning east.	Fair	Fair	Reduce east of canopy by 3m to rebalance crown. <i>Reason: Health and safety. Reduce risk of tree falling in direction of road.</i>
T006	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 7N, 4E, 0S, 6W DBH (cm): 25 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tag 0147. Located 2m to east of boundary fence, in line with southern boundary of No. 10. Uneven crown shape, leaning significantly to north. Dieback and deadwood within crown consistent with ash dieback disease. Wound on main stem 4m and again at 6m from large branch removal in the past. Exposed decayed heartwood and poor callousing where wounded. Not suitable to be retained in relation to garden and house.	Fair	Poor	Fell tree. <i>Reason: Health and safety. Poor quality tree not suitable for retention in relation to health and safety.</i>
T007	Ash	Height (m): 15 Crown Radius (m): 4N, 3E, 3S, 4W DBH (cm): 25 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tag 0148. Located in line with northern boundary of No. 10. 3.5m east of garden fence. Twin stem.	Fair	Fair	No action required
T008	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 5 DBH (cm): 40 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tag 0149. Located 1.5m east of decking area, 1.5m south of northern boundary line of number 12. Surrounded by dense vegetation at base.	Fair	Fair	Cut back canopy on west side to garden boundary, i.e. edge of decking area. <i>Reason: To remove canopy encroachment into garden.</i>

Ref.	Common Name	Measurements	Survey Notes	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Recommendation
G009	Leyland cypress Portugal laurel Hawthorn	Height (m): 6 Crown Radius (m): 2 DBH (cm): 15	No tags used. Mixed dense group of boundary vegetation. Average estimated dimensions given for group. Over hanging garden area.	Fair	Fair	Cut back group canopy in line with edge of rear garden. Fell 3 no. small self-seeded ash trees next to decking area. Remove 1 x Leyland cypress with Tag 0153 to thin group. <i>Reason: To remove canopy encroachment into garden.</i>
T010	Hawthorn	Height (m): 5 Crown Radius (m): 2.5N, 1E, 2.5S, 2.5W DBH (cm): 10 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tag 0150. Untidy tree with canopy overhanging garden area.	Good	Fair	Reduce to 3m in height and cut all remaining branches on west side in line with edge of deck area. <i>Reason: To remove canopy encroachment into garden.</i>
T011	Ash	Height (m): 7 Crown Radius (m): 2 DBH (cm): 15 Life Stage: Semi Mature	Tag 0151. Poor quality tree with low crown volume and evidence of Ash dieback in crown.	Fair	Fair	Fell tree. <i>Reason: To remove canopy encroachment into garden. Poor quality tree.</i>
T012	Portugal laurel	Height (m): 5 Crown Radius (m): 2 DBH (cm): 18 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tag 0152. Poor species choice for location. Encroaching into garden area. Pruning the tree back to the boundary meaningfully would result in a very one-sided appearance.	Fair	Fair	Fell tree. <i>Reason: To remove canopy encroachment into garden and thin group.</i>

Ref.	Common Name	Measurements	Survey Notes	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Recommendation
T013	Ash	Height (m): 14 Crown Radius (m): 2N, 6E, 2S, 1W DBH (cm): 25 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tag 0154. Located 6m to east of boundary fence, in line with south boundary of No. 10. Ivy infested stem. Tall drawn stem with few side branches. Leaning east.	Fair	Fair	Reduce east of canopy by 3m to rebalance crown. <i>Reason: reduce risk of tree failing and falling towards road.</i>
T014	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 4N, 2E, 4S, 4W DBH (cm): 35 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tag 0155. Located 3m south of boundary corner of No. 8. Ivy covered stem. One sided crown shape. Leans over garden.	Fair	Fair	Cut back in line with edge of garden. Reduce height of remaining crown by 3m. <i>Reason: To remove canopy encroachment into garden.</i>
T015	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 1 DBH (cm): 19 Life Stage: Semi Mature	Tag 0156. Tall drawn up tree with few side branches.	Poor	Poor	Fell tree. <i>Reason: Poor quality tree not suitable for retention in relation to health and safety.</i>
T016	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 2N, 5E, 3S, 0W DBH (cm): 32	Tag 0157. 2m east of garden fence. 1m south of southern boundary of No 8. Ivy covered stem. Unbalanced crown shape.	Fair	Fair	Reduce canopy height by 3m. <i>Reason: To remove canopy encroachment into garden.</i>
G017	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 4 DBH (cm): 25 Life Stage: Early Mature	Tags 0158-0162. Group of 5 trees of same species with similar age and dimensions.	Fair	Fair	Reduce crowns by 3m <i>Reason: to reduce risk of failure in high wind.</i>

Ref.	Common Name	Measurements	Survey Notes	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Recommendation
G018	Ash	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 4 DBH (cm): 25 Life Stage: Early Mature	All remaining untagged ash trees. Average estimated dimensions given for group. Ownership uncertain as trees may be located in area to east of land in Abbey homes ownership. It is recommended where these are weighted towards the road to the east that these are reduced.	Fair	Fair	Reduce height of crown by 3m and reduce east of crown as required to rebalance crown shapes. <i>Reason: to reduce risk of failure in high wind.</i>