

Loughton Town Council Tree Survey Report

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Essex County Council

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1	10.12.2019	Stephen Cozens	Drafted
2	17.12.2019	Joe Beznosiuk	Internally reviewed
3	17.12.2019	Stephen Cozens	Issued

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Several site visits were carried out by Stephen Cozens (Place Services' Junior Arboricultural Consultant) to inspect selected sites, which was instructed by Paul Hoy, Services Manager from Loughton Town Council. Unless otherwise stated, all trees were inspected visually from ground level. The nature of the survey was to assess the site for risks from tree-related hazards and to recommend any necessary work to control these risks.
- 1.2 The sites that were surveyed include:
- Kings Green
 - School Green
 - Standard Green
 - Youth/Community Centre
 - The Lindens
 - Loughton Cemetery
 - Allotment Gardens
 - Hillyfields Open Space
 - Lady Whitakers Mead & Willingale Road Playing Field
 - Roding Valley Nature Reserve
 - Felstead Road
- 1.3 Trees were assessed for safety considerations and recommendations for any necessary work have been detailed in this report. Any trees with defects that do not require remedial work, but where it is foreseeable that the trees' condition could deteriorate over time as a result of their defect(s), have been noted for monitoring. Any trees that require further investigation (either internal or aerial) have also been included.
- 1.4 It is recommended that all trees are surveyed at a minimum of every three years, with re-inspection or monitoring of individual trees as recommended in this report.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The assessment of trees on the site has been carried out using the current industry standard Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) technique developed by Mattheck and Breloer (1994). Where necessary, non-invasive tools such as binoculars, a mallet and/or a metal probe were used to assist in the assessment of tree defects, such as cavities/suspected decay. A systematic approach was used, with the rooting area, stem and crown/branch structure inspected for each individual tree.
- 2.2 Risk assessments have been carried out broadly in line with the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) - Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (guidance) and the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ), which defines the following three levels of assessment.

- **Level 1: Basic Visual Assessment** - Generally reserved for large populations of trees that require a fast and cost effective overview of the tree stock. Any trees that require a more detailed inspection have been given a level 2 standard assessment.
- **Level 2: Standard Assessment** - A detailed visual inspection from ground level of specific individual trees. Any trees that may require further investigation, such as internal decay detection or aerial inspection will be recommended for a level 3 advanced assessment.
- **Level 3: Advanced Assessment** - This is the highest level of inspection, only undertaken when significant defects are identified at level 2 that require the use of specialist equipment and techniques. Examples of this level of assessment would be internal decay detection with sonic tomography or aerial inspection from a rope and harness.

- 2.3 As part of this survey a combination of both level 1 and level 2 assessments have been carried out. Where required, recommendations have been made for trees that require a level 3 advanced assessment.
- 2.4 Only areas identified as high or medium risk were inspected where public access is foreseeable; this included major paths, tracks, rides, car parks, areas abutting highways, public rights of ways, desire lines, seating and children's play areas and areas around structures and buildings.
- 2.5 The level of risk increases and decreases with the change in frequency of use, particularly during special events where large numbers of people may be in an area around trees for an extended period of time. This raises the level of risk considerably.
- 2.6 The risk assessment of each tree defect was based on the severity of the hazard and the likelihood of it causing injury or harm. Provided below are keys for the works priority (based upon the significance of the defect and the target area below) and an inspection frequency (based upon the recommended work having been completed or the likely rate of decline as a result of a defect).
- 2.7 Where work is recommended to a tree, an initial assessment for bat roost potential has been made, as appropriate to the training and experience of the surveyor. For trees with confirmed bat roost potential, or where there is uncertainty, it is essential that an ecologist is consulted to provide advice on suitable working methods to enable the remedial works without a criminal offence being committed.

3 Results

- 3.1 Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly and all trees, even healthy ones, can be a risk as a result of weather, environmental events or human actions. The assessment of risk for any tree is based upon factors evident at the time of the inspection and the interpretation of those factors by suitably qualified inspectors. The health, condition and safety of trees should be checked on a basis commensurate with the level of risk.
- 3.2 Trees are dynamic structures that can suffer damage or failure under average conditions without external symptoms. A lack of recommended work does not imply that a tree is without defect; all external factors are considered during level 1 and 2 tree surveys and an assessment of risk is made. This prevents foreseeable failure; however the very nature of a living structure gives rise to anomalies or undetectable underlying weaknesses. Regular inspections by a competent and suitably qualified arboriculturist will help to identify potential problems before they become acute.
- 3.3 The majority of the trees were found to have good vitality with no visible major defects. Section 4, below, contains a schedule specifying trees with faults and/or defects requiring work, re-inspection or monitoring.
- 3.4 Please note, no remedial works were required at the time of inspection at, Kings Green, Standard Green, Youth/Community centre, The Lindens, Loughton Cemetery, Hillyfields open space, Whitakers Mead and Willingale Road Playing Field.

Trees located on private land adjacent to the sites but within falling distance of high/medium risk areas owned by the Parish have been visually assessed from within the site. It is not possible to undertake a detailed inspection without access to the trees and therefore our recommendations should be considered preliminary. Where concerns about private trees are noted in the report, the Parish is advised to contact the landowner(s) regarding the identified recommendations.

- 3.5 We strongly suggest that tree works are organised and managed through a suitably qualified and insured contractor. Please ensure that any contractors' attention is drawn to the 'Notes for Contractors' in Section 7.
- 3.6 Brambles, Common Nettle and Common Ivy around trunks can prevent thorough inspection of some trees. In such instances, the inspection is based on crown condition and the parts of the tree that are visible. Where there are some concerns, but a full inspection of individual trees has not been possible, this has been noted on the tree schedule and may be accompanied by a recommendation to clear the obscuring vegetation.

4 Recommendations

Key to tree tables

Note: The inspection frequency categorisation given below is as used for trees on other ECC sites.

Age Class		
Y	Young	Tree is within the first third of life expectancy
SM	Semi-mature	Tree is within the second third of life expectancy
M	Mature	Tree is within the final third of life expectancy
A	Ancient	A tree that is older than the life expectancy

PRFs

Potential Roost Features for bats (European Protected Species). Please see the Information section of this report for more detail on this. If a tree requires remedial work and is found to have roosting potential for bats, an ecologist will need to be consulted on the likely impact and working methods required.

PRF	Potential
Y	Yes
N	No
U	Unsure

Work priority		
1	Urgent	Works required immediately to make tree safe.
2	Very high	Works required within 30 days.
3	High	Works required within 90 days.
4	Moderate	Works required as part of scheduled maintenance over 12 months from the relevant inspection date.
5	Low	Works required are of the lowest priority and may be done if the budget allows.
N/A	Not applicable	No work required

Inspection Frequency		
1	Urgent	Carry out an aerial inspection and/or use decay detection equipment as soon as can be arranged
2	Very high	6 month inspection
3	High	12 month inspection
4	Moderate	18 month inspection
5	Low	3 year inspection
0	None	Target removed

7 Roding Valley Nature Reserve

Site Description

Large green space, nature reserve adjacent to River Roding.

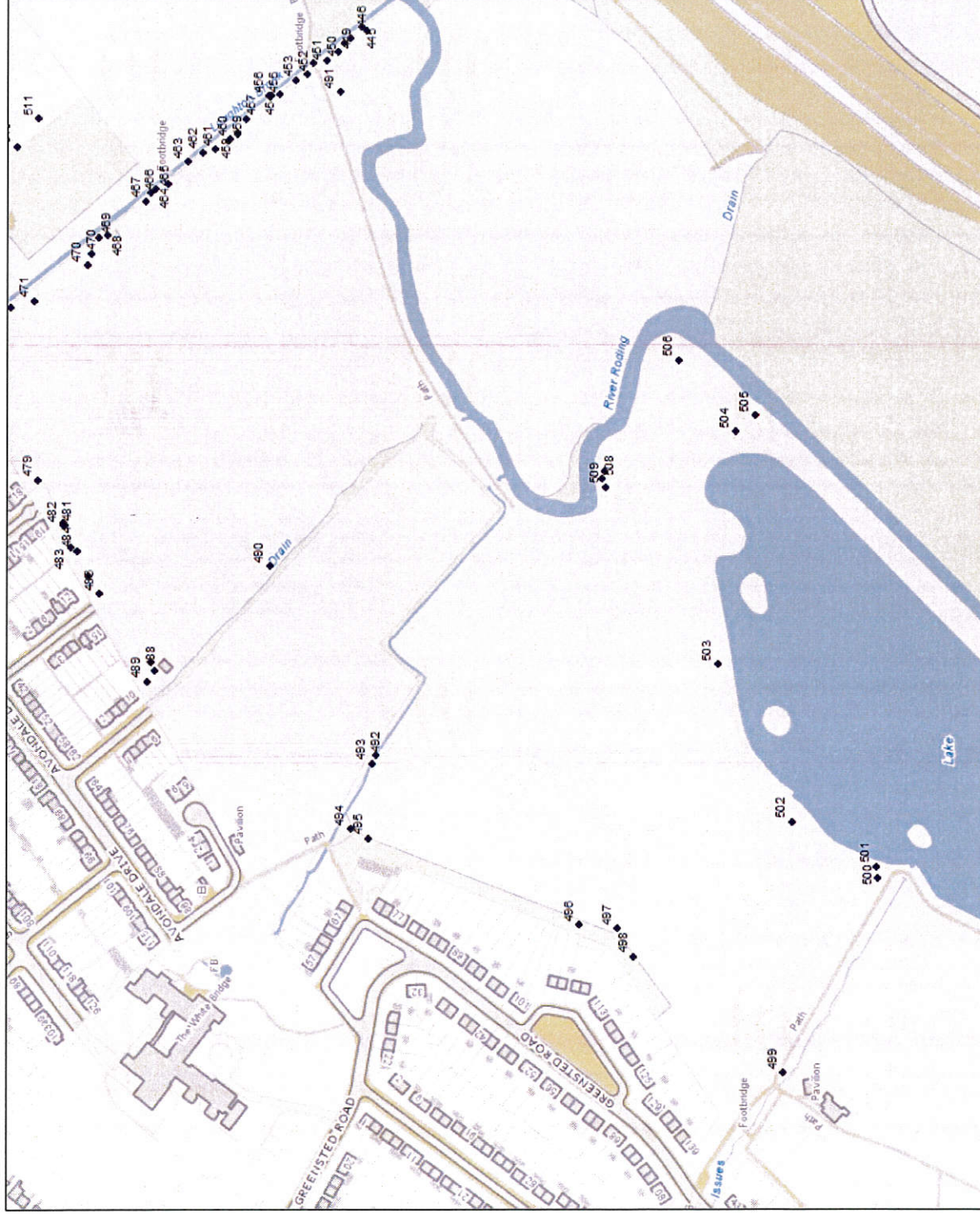
Remedial works

Tree ref.	Tag No.	Species	Age	Height (m)	Crown Spread (m)	Stem DBH (cm)	Condition	Recommendations	Works Priority	Inspection Frequency
404	0028	Oak (<i>Quercus Spp.</i>)	M	27	20	104	Fair Condition, Fruiting body located at the base of the tree facing west. Suspected <i>Girfolia frondosa</i> .	Monitor tree condition annually.	0	5
469	0090	Oak (<i>Quercus spp.</i>)	OM	19	16	90	Fair, minor deadwood throughout the crown, die back present throughout the crown of the tree- multiple cavities from old pruning wounds, evidence of historic storm damage throughout the crown where limbs have previously failed.	Monitor tree condition annually.	0	5

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486	0107	Cherry (<i>Prunus</i> <i>Spp.</i>)	M	14	10	55	Fair, multi-stemmed from ground level. Cavity present at the base, facing south. Minor Decay present within the wound good reaction present around the wound.	Monitor tree condition annually.	0	5
494	0113	Mixed broadleaf	M	16	10	45	Saprotrophic fungi present at the base, facing north. Mixed broadleaf group, all trees appear to be affected by bacterial	Monitor trees condition annually.	0	5
495	0114	Mixed broadleaf	M	12	10	40	canker. Deadwood has been removed. Mixed broadleaf group. Good condition, Some evidence of some of the trees being infected with bacterial canker of cherry.	1 x Dying Cherry tree located next to dog bin. Remove Dying tree.	3	5

Site Map

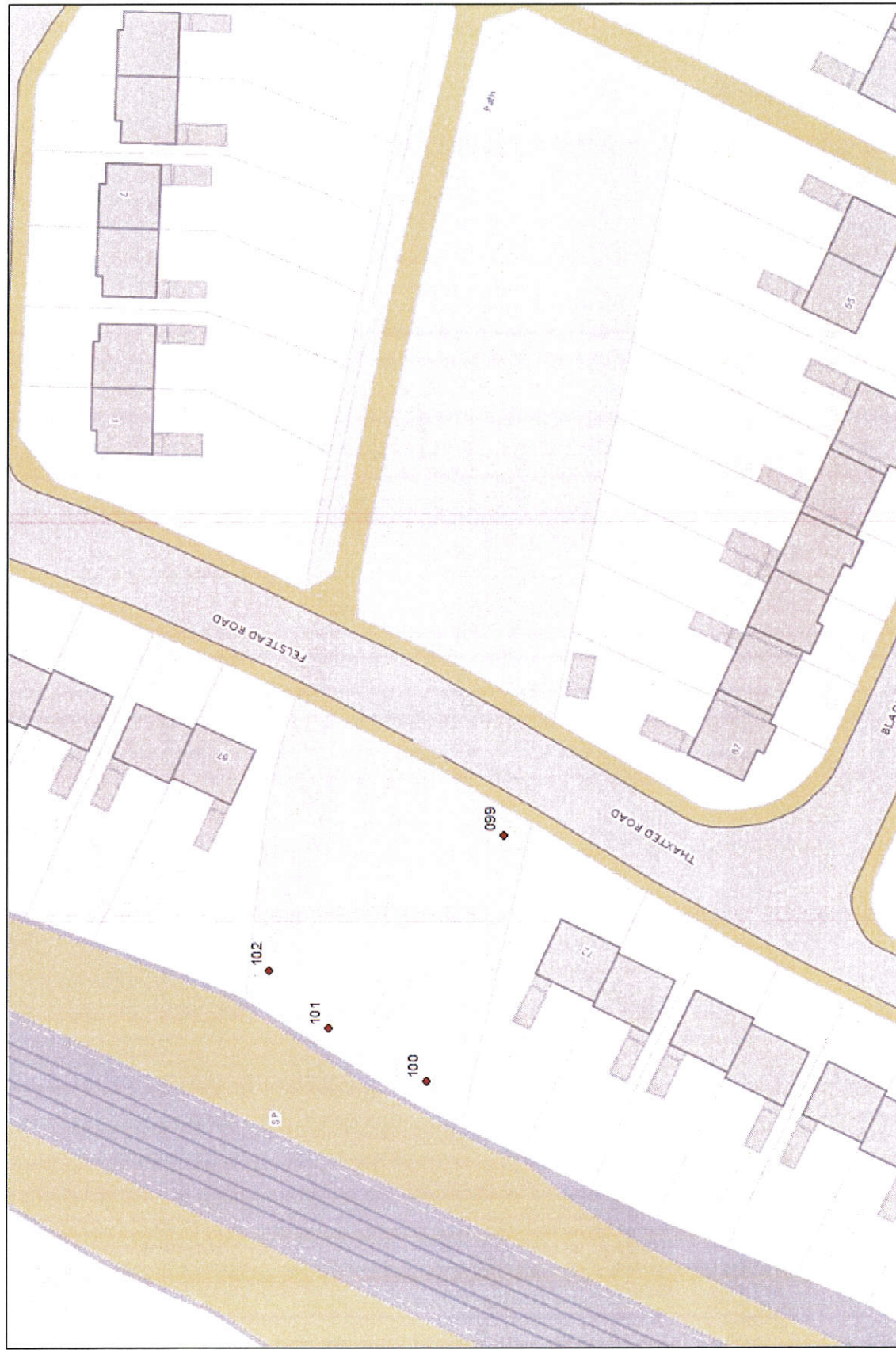


8 Felstead Road

Site Description Green space/park located between 67 and 72 Felstead Road.

Remedial works

Tree ref.	Tag No.	Species	Age	Height (m)	Crown Spread (m)	Stem DBH (cm)	Condition	Recommendations	Works Priority	Inspection Frequency
102	001195	Oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.)	M	6.5	1	15	Tree previously monolithed, large cavity present at the base of the tree. Sound test confirmed evidence of severe decay within trunk.	Fell to ground level.	3	0



9 Photographs

Roding Valley Nature Reserve



Tree number 404



Tree number 404



Tree number 486



Tree Ref 495



Tree Ref 495

Felsted Road



Tree Ref
102