



Ribston Lawn
Much Marcle
Ledbury
Herefordshire HR8 2ND
Tel: 01531 660557

Email: office@adrianhopetreeservices.co.uk

Holme Lacy House Hotel
Holme Lacy
Hereford
HR2 6LP

27 July 2023

Ref: 17349r
(Please quote)

Dear

Re: Holme Lacy House Hotel – Health & Condition Inspection of Trees

Further to your recent instruction, I have now visited the above site and have pleasure in submitting the following report.

REPORT

1.0 BRIEF

Carry out general health and condition inspection of all trees within the grounds and make recommendations for the safety and long term management of the site. Any tree found to require tree surgery to be numbered with an aluminium tag. Any tree found to require felling to be marked with a pink spray number. Trees found to require attention to be listed, marked on accompanying sketch plan and categorised:

- Category 1: Urgent, as soon as practical
- Category 2: Urgent, within 6 months
- Category 3: Safety remedial maintenance, within 12 months
- Category 4: Long term maintenance
- Monitor: Inspect annually

2.0 REPORT LIMITATIONS

- 2.1 The inspection has been carried out from ground level using only visual observation methods as this is a preliminary report. Should a more detailed inspection be required then this will be highlighted in the recommendations. A climbing inspection was not undertaken, therefore possible defects to the upper sides of the branches were not detected from ground level.

- 2.2 Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly; the health, condition and safety of trees should be checked on a regular basis, preferably at least once a year. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are only valid for a period of one year. The period of validity may be reduced in the case of a change of conditions to or in proximity to the tree.
- 2.3 I have not contacted the local planning authority to determine whether any Tree Preservations Orders (TPO) cover the trees, nor to determine if the site is in a Conservation Area. It would be advisable to check whether either of these planning controls are in operation; if they are, it would be necessary to obtain consent (or in the case of a Conservation Area give six weeks notice of intent) before undertaking any work. In the event of tree felling it may be necessary to obtain a licence before commencement of work.
- 2.4 This report does not deal with the effect trees and vegetation may have or have had on the structural integrity of property and the possibility of structural movement, subsidence and heave.
- 2.5 No investigation was made into the presence of any protected species in the trees surveyed. Before any works commence, this must be undertaken.

3.0 THE TREES

<i>Tree No 1</i>	Lime, seventh tree on west side of drive from main gate entrance and opposite entrance to conservation area
<i>Condition:</i>	Bracket fungi at base and on the main stem at 1m indicating significant central stem decay. Longitudinal scar on main trunk. Major dead wood in upper canopy also.
<i>Recommendation:</i>	Reduce canopy weight loading by 50%, reducing in height by 10 metres and shortening lateral branches to correspond.
<i>Category:</i>	2

<i>Tree No 2</i>	Beech, first tree on left hand side of drive when entering from main gate.
<i>Condition:</i>	Decline in upper canopy, dead wood not liable to fall onto road. Ivy establishing on main stem. No obvious signs of decay at base.
<i>Recommendation:</i>	Sever Ivy and continue to monitor upper canopy dieback.
<i>Category:</i>	2



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Tree No 3 Yew situated at lower end of Yew avenue leaning towards golf area.
Condition: High risk of collapse.
Recommendation: Fell to as near ground level as possible.
Category: 2

Tree No G4 Group of Ash situated at east end of lake.
Condition: Showing some signs of Chalara dieback of Ash. Limited dieback at present. No immediate safety concerns. Ivy establishing on a number of stems.
Recommendation: Sever Ivy to aid future inspections. Continue to monitor Ash decline.
Category: 2

Tree No 5 Lime situated on right hand side of main terrace to the south of the house and adjacent to golf course.
Condition: Showing significant deterioration in leaf colour and cover. Heavily Mistletoe infested. No evidence of central stem decay however decline may be attributed to *Armillaria* within the root system underground and not visible. No immediate safety concerns.
Recommendation: Monitor closely over the next few years.
Category: Monitor

All trees within the grounds were inspected. Other than those listed no others were found to have any major physical defects or require any attention at this stage.

I have prepared quotations for the safety works and general maintenance.

4.0 GENERAL COMMENTS

A large number of the Lime trees along the main avenue leading to the hotel, now have Ivy establishing on their main stems. Ivy can hide defects. Although no immediate safety works were identified within these trees, the Ivy should be severed to aid future inspections and show an ongoing duty of care and management. The undergrowth around a number of trees, particularly behind the Rhododendron bushes, obscures the base of the trees. Fungi associated with major root and stem rot invariably are at ground level, therefore it is important to maintain a clear view of the base of the trees.

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Ivy is also establishing significantly on a number of trees within the main grounds. Ivy severing and clearance around the base of the trees to aid future inspections is recommended. I have prepared a separate quotation for this work should the in-house team not have the time capacity to carry out these works.

As mentioned on previous occasions, the trees in the Yew avenue leading down to the main lake from the main house are showing signs of decline in a number of trees. There are dead branches within the crowns. This dead wood is low risk safety concern, however from an aesthetic point of view it may be decided that a long term maintenance plan is drawn up. One tree has now failed (T3 above).

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Work to be completed to comply with British Standard 3998:2010 - Recommendations for Tree Work, where possible, unless specified otherwise.



PLEASE NOTE

Work of this nature may result in some degree of collateral damage to the ground on which we are working, and possibly to surrounding vegetation and landscaping. We will do all we possibly can to avoid or minimise such damage, and will ensure that we bring to your attention issues that have not been foreseen or arise during the course of our work.

If the above quotation is accepted, before commencement of any work, we would apply for any necessary permissions from the local authority on your behalf.

Yours sincerely

ADRIAN HOPE