

Arboricultural Report:

Woking Palace, Woking, Surrey

Produced for:

Woking Borough Council

Prepared by:

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Our Ref:

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Section</u>
<u>Instructions and Scope</u>	<u>1.0</u>
<u>Tree Survey Method</u>	<u>2.0</u>
<u>Current Legal Status</u>	<u>3.0</u>
<u>Description of Site</u>	<u>4.0</u>
<u>Tree Details</u>	<u>5.0</u>
<u>Recommendations for Works</u>	<u>6.0</u>
<u>Timescale for Works</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>Wildlife Legislation Issues</u>	<u>8.0</u>
<u>Limitation</u>	<u>9.0</u>

Appendix 1: Tree Survey Schedule

Appendix 2: Key for Tree Survey Schedule

Appendix 3: Tree Location Plan

1.0 Instructions and scope

- 1.1 I have been instructed by Woking Borough Council to carry out a re-survey of trees at Woking Palace from a hazard evaluation perspective.
- 1.2 The trees were last surveyed in April and May of 2021. A subsequent report was produced making recommendations on appropriate works.
- 1.3 The survey was carried out on a 'negative reporting' basis, whereby only those trees that require works were tagged and recorded in a Tree Survey Schedule. This is a generally accepted method of surveying trees (including by the Health & Safety Executive) and makes effective use of available resources.
- 1.4 The survey has been designed to ensure that Woking Borough Council is fulfilling its legal duty of care (in-so-far as tree inspection within the specified area is concerned) under the Occupiers' Liability Acts 1957 and 1984.
- 1.5 A Tree Survey Schedule has been produced, along with a Tree Location Plan showing the locations of the trees requiring works. The Schedule includes details of any recommended works on the trees, along with recommendations on timescales for carrying out the works.
- 1.6 In recommending appropriate works, consideration has been given to the locations of the trees and the likelihood that they would cause damage or injury were they to fail. It might for example, be considered acceptable for small dead trees or dead wood in the crowns of larger trees to be retained in the wooded parts of the site with limited access. Conversely, removal of smaller amounts of dead wood from other trees might be considered appropriate if the trees are overhanging footpaths.
- 1.7 The site is of high ecological value and it is appropriate on a site such as this to retain dead wood where it does not constitute a significant hazard. It is also appropriate to retain ivy and other features of high ecological benefit, unless there is an over-riding safety consideration.

2.0 Tree Survey Method

- 2.1 The trees in question were surveyed from ground level on 6th May 2024. No climbing of trees was undertaken, although binoculars were used where necessary to facilitate more detailed inspection of aerial features. Visual Tree Assessment was used, along with a steel probe and a sounding hammer.
- 2.2 Details of trees requiring works were recorded in a Tree Survey Schedule, with details of the works and recommended timescales for carrying them out. 3 priority categories have been identified for the carrying out of the works: Priority 1 (immediately/as soon as possible), Priority 2 (within 2 months) and Priority 3 (within 6 months). The full key for the Tree Survey Schedule is attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.3 3 trees have been identified as requiring works.
- 2.4 The heights and crown spreads of the trees were estimated as the accuracy of these measurements is generally not critical to the decision making process when recommending necessary tree works. The stem diameters were assigned to broad categories (small, medium and large) as per the Tree Survey Schedule key.

3.0 Current Legal Status

- 3.1 The site is within the administrative jurisdiction of Woking Borough Council. It is not within a Conservation Area and no Tree Preservation Orders apply. This information was obtained from the Woking Borough Council website on 8th May 2024.

The Tree Officer at the Council (James Veats) may be contacted on 01483 743739 (james.veats@woking.gov.uk).

4.0 Description of Site

- 4.1 The site largely comprises open grassland, with the ruins of Woking Palace in the south-eastern part of the site. Water features are adjacent to the northern, eastern and southern boundaries. Willow trees are the predominant tree species in these areas, which is not surprising as Willow trees survive well in riparian environments. An area of mixed woodland occupies the north-western part of the site, within which are several ponds, moats and drains. Willow, Oak, Silver Birch and Ash are the predominant tree species, with a large amount of Hazel under-storey. There is a

network of footpaths in this wooded area (shown in magenta on the Tree Location Plan at Appendix 3).

Aerial View of Site



- 4.2 There are numerous bat, bird and dormouse boxes in trees throughout the site and some effort has been made to retain features of ecological value (including dead wood within the crowns of trees, dead wood piles on the ground, ivy and water features). Conservation volunteers have carried out significant works over the years to maintain and enhance the ecological value of the site.

5.0 Tree Details

- 5.1 The details of the scheduled trees/tree groups are given in the Tree Survey Schedule at Appendix 1 and the locations are shown on the Tree Location Plan at Appendix 3.

6.0 Recommendations for Works

- 6.1 Recommended works are given in the Tree Survey Schedule at Appendix 1. 3 trees have been identified as requiring works, a summary of which is as follows:

Oaks T1 and T2: These trees are adjacent to a path and stile and have dead wood in the crowns to a diameter of 75mm. It is recommended that the dead wood over 20mm in diameter be removed (T1 only on the side of the path as the other side overhangs the river).

Ash T3: This tree has significant die-back throughout the crown and several cavities and Woodpecker holes in the stem and main scaffolds. A path lies to the east. It is recommended that the height of the tree be reduced by approximately 9m and that the long extended lateral limbs on the south-west side be reduced by a similar amount. The tree is of high ecological value and the objective of the recommended works is to enable it to be retained as an ecological resource with an acceptable degree of safety. An illustration of the recommended works is shown below:

Recommended works – Ash T3



Leave large
Dead stub
on north
side

- 6.2 All works should be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced arboricultural contractor with an appropriate level of insurance cover. Works should be carried out to the standard of BS 3998: 2010 (Tree Work – Recommendations) and to current arboricultural best practice.

7.0 Timescales for Works

- 7.1 Recommended timescales for the works are given in the Tree Survey Schedule. The priority categories are summarised in Section 2.2 above and are given in the key to the Tree Survey Schedule at Appendix 2.
- 7.2 It is recommended that the trees be inspected again by a suitably qualified and experienced arboriculturist in 3 years' time (from the date of this report) and after extreme weather events or reports of tree failure.

8.0 Wildlife Legislation Issues

- 8.1 There is a possibility that bats will be encountered when carrying out some of the works. It is recommended that the contractor carrying out the works be aware of the signs of bat activity and maintain a high level of vigilance in this regard. Apart from actually seeing bats (they are unlikely to be heard owing to the high frequency of their calls), evidence of their presence includes oily patches around woodpecker holes and cavities and droppings (small and dark – reminiscent of mouse droppings but friable and crumbly).
- 8.2 If the presence of bats is suspected when carrying out the works, professional advice should be sought from Natural England. The Surrey Bat group is another useful source of information and expertise.

9.0 Limitation

- 9.1 My assessments are based on professional experience and expert observation on the dates and at the times of the inspections. No liability can be assumed to rest with APArboriculture should site conditions or features alter after my inspections.
- 9.2 This report has been prepared for the sole use and benefit of the client (Woking Borough Council). Any liability of APArboriculture shall not be extended to any third party.

- 9.3 Attention is drawn to the scope of the report and the tree survey method as detailed in sections 1 and 2 of this report. The limitations inherent in these sections should be noted.

Appendix 1

Tree Survey Schedule

Tree Survey Schedule - Hazard Evaluation

Tree Ref.	Common Name	Height	Crown Spread	Age Class	Stem Diameter	Vigour	Structural Condition	Landscape Value	Notes and Observations
T1	Oak	20	11 11 12	Mature	Large	Normal	Fair	Medium	Substantial mature Oak adjacent to river; scattering of dead wood in crown to 75mm diameter - including over path
No. of trees: 1									
Recommended Works: Crown clean - removing dead wood over 20mm in diameter on side of path (unnecessary over river) Priority: 3									
T2	Oak	20	10 11 11	Mature	Large	Normal	Fair	Medium	Mature Oak adjacent to path and stile; scattering of dead wood in crown to 75mm diameter - including over path
No. of trees: 1									
Recommended Works: Crown clean - removing dead wood over 20mm in diameter Priority: 3									
T3	Ash	24	8 9 7	Mature	Large	Poor	Fair	Medium	Mature Ash with extensive die-back throughout crown; several significant cavities in stem and main scaffolds and multiple Woodpecker holes; path to east; bat box on stem on east side at 6m ht; of high ecological value
No. of trees: 1									
Recommended Works: Reduce height by approximately 9m to limb on western side with circa 250mm basal diameter; reduce length of long extended lateral limbs on south-west side by approximately 9m; leave remainder as Priority: 3									
Total no. of trees: 3									

Appendix 2

Key for Tree Survey Schedule

Key to Tree Survey Schedule – Hazard Evaluation

Tree Ref. – Consecutive numbering. T = Individual Tree: G = Tree Group: H = Hedge

Common Name – Most commonly used English name for tree

Height – Height of tree in metres (estimated)

Crown Spread – Radial crown spread in metres at the four cardinal points (N E S W)

Age Class – Young, Semi-Mature, Early-Mature, Mature, Over-Mature

Stem Diameter – Measured at 1.5m above ground for single stemmed trees or just above root flare for multi stemmed trees. Small (up to 200mm), Medium (200 to 500mm), Large (over 500mm)

Vigour – An indication of the physiological health of the tree. Normal, Moderate, Poor, Dead

Structural Condition – Good, Fair, Poor

Landscape Value – High, Medium, Low

Priority ratings for implementation of recommended works:

1 – Immediately

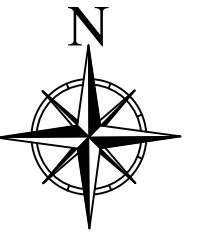
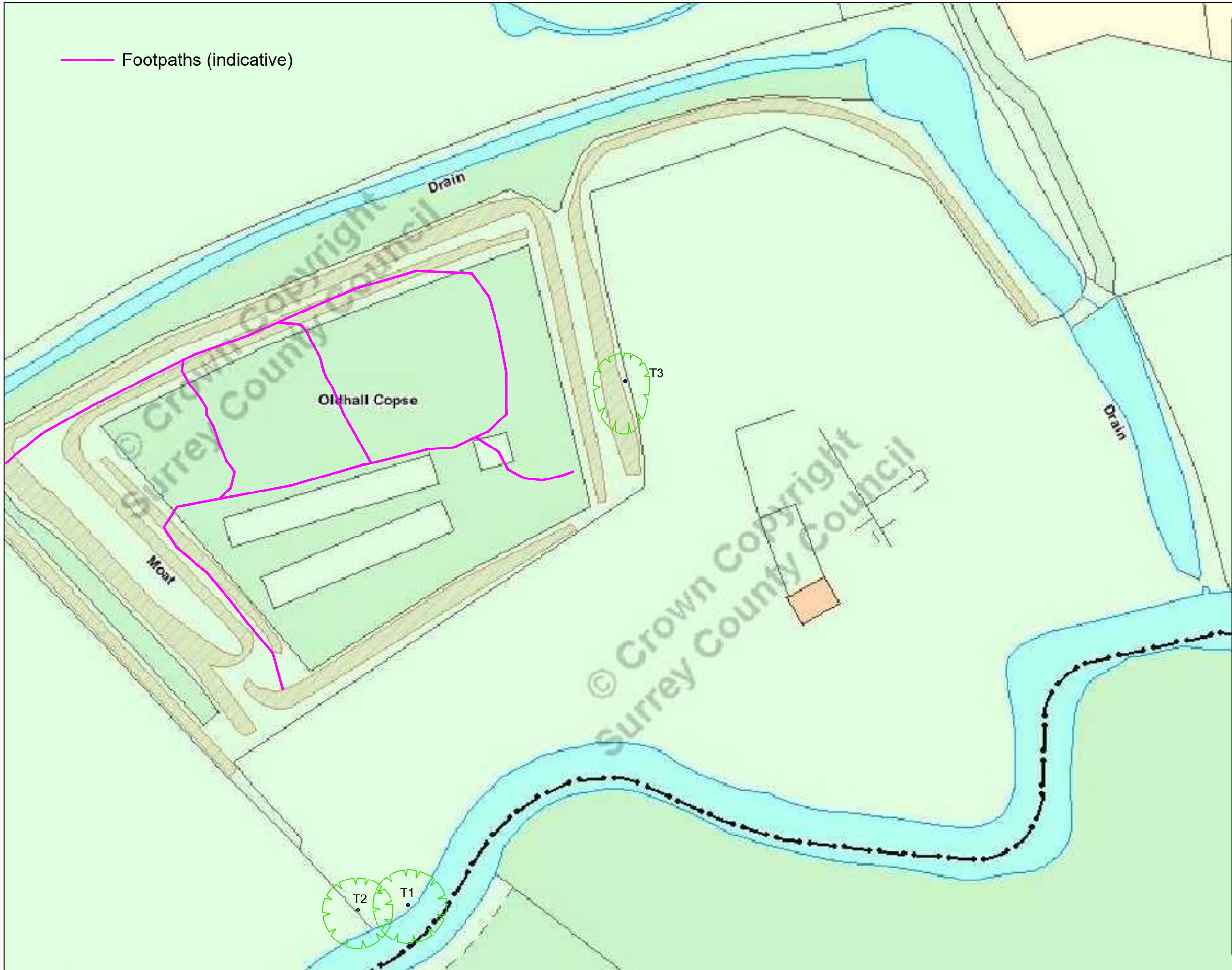
2 – Within 2 months

3 – Within 6 months

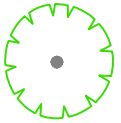
Reinspection – in 2 years' time from date of this survey

Appendix 3

Tree Location Plan



INDICATIVE



Surveyed tree
(works required)

Print in Colour and to Scale

PLAN DESCRIPTION

Tree Location Plan

SITE

Woking Palace
Woking
Surrey

SCALE

Not to scale

DATE

08.05.24

DRAWN BY

AP

DRAWING NUMBER

TLP/APA/AP/2024/054

REV

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