

Arboricultural Report:

Woking Palace, Woking, Surrey

Produced for:

Woking Borough Council

Prepared by:

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Appendix 1: Tree Survey Schedule

Appendix 2: Key for Tree Survey Schedule

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1.0 Instructions and scope

- 1.1 I have been instructed by Woking Borough Council to carry out a survey of trees at Woking Palace from a hazard evaluation perspective. I have been provided with plans which clearly indicate the extent of the area to be surveyed.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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 between 10th and 12th December 2012. 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 All of the scheduled trees/tree groups were tagged at a height of approximately 2m using white Latschbacher 'Arbo-Tags'. These are designed to allow the tree to continue to grow without occluding the tags. The tag numbers range from 730 to 745. 44 trees in total 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 direct from Woking Borough Planning Department on 12th December 2012.

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 and bird boxes in trees throughout the site and it appears that 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). Some trees within the site have been intentionally ring-barked, which may have been intended to kill the trees to provide valuable dead wood habitat. Unfortunately, there can sometimes be a conflict between ecological and safety considerations and the recommendation has been made to significantly reduce the height of a number of the ring-barked trees where it is felt that they constitute (or are likely to constitute in the near future) an unacceptable hazard. The trees in question comprise group G742 (5 Sycamore trees) and tree T743 (single Sycamore tree).

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.
- 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. A list of reputable local arboricultural contractors is available on the Woking Borough Council website at:
<http://www.woking.gov.uk/planning/trees/advice/care/tree-workcontractors>

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. Most of the recommended works fall within priority category 2 (to be carried out within 2 months of the date of surveying).
- 7.2 It is recommended that all works within priority category 1 be carried out as soon as possible.
- 7.3 It is recommended that the trees be inspected again by a suitably qualified and experienced arboriculturist in two years' time (from the date of this report) and after extreme weather events or reports of tree failure. October/November is an ideal time to carry out a tree survey of this nature because many fungal fruiting bodies are visible at this time.

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

Woking Palace, Woking, Surrey

Page 1

Survey by:
Andrew Pinchin
Ref: APA/AP/2012/211

Date of Survey: 10th-12th December 2012

Tree Ref.	Common Name	Height	Crown Spread	Age Class	Stem Diameter	Vigour	Structural Condition	Landscape Value	Notes and Observations
T 730	Crack Willow	13	9 5 4	Mature	Large	Normal	Poor	Medium	Twin-stemmed at base; poor union where stems diverge; tree overhanging entrance to Woking Palace
No. of trees:	1		5						
Recommended Works: Pollard both stems to 6m height								Priority: 2	
T 731	Crack Willow	10	7 7 7	Mature	Large	Normal	Poor	Low	Twin-stemmed at base; poor union where stems diverge; previously pollarded; re-growths breaking out of crown
No. of trees:	1		7						
Recommended Works: Re-pollard to 3.5m height								Priority: 2	
G732	Crack Willow	11	5 5 5	Mature	Large	Normal	Poor	Low	Approximately 16 Crack Willows; most pollarded in past; poor structures with high failure potentials
No. of trees:	16		5						
Recommended Works: Re-pollard pollarded trees to original points of pollarding; pollard remainder to 6m height								Priority: 2	
G733	Crack Willow	7-17	5 5 5	Mature	Large	Normal	Poor	Medium	Group of Crack Willows - some trees pollarded in past; poor structures with high failure potentials
No. of trees:	7		5						
Recommended Works: Re-pollard pollarded trees to original points of pollarding; pollard remainder to 6m height								Priority: 2	
G734	Ash	20	8 8 8	Mature	Large	Moderate	Poor	Medium	Both trees heavily decayed at base; bird box in 1 tree at 7m height; trees of significant ecological value
No. of trees:	2		8						
Recommended Works: Reduce both trees to 9m height and leave as standing poles for wildlife								Priority: 1	

Woking Palace, Woking, Surrey

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Tree Ref.	Common Name	Height	Crown Spread	Age Class	Stem Diameter	Vigour	Structural Condition	Landscape Value	Notes and Observations
T 735	Oak	20	9 9 9	Mature	Large	Normal	Fair	Medium	Dead wood in crown to 75mm diameter over style and path
No. of trees:	1		9						
Recommended Works: Crown clean - removing dead wood over 20mm diameter								Priority: 2	
T 736	Silver Birch	21	8 8 8	Mature	Large	Normal	Fair	Medium	Cavity and decay in large branch on south-western side of crown at 15m height (branch 200mm diameter at base)
No. of trees:	1		8						
Recommended Works: Reduce branch to lateral growth point approximately 1.5m above decayed area (50mm diameter branch facing south)								Priority: 1	
T 737	Crack Willow	11	6 4 11	Mature	Large	Normal	Poor	Medium	Very poor structure; multiple fungal sporophores (<i>Phellinus igniarius</i>) on stems and main scaffold branches; tree close to informal path adjacent to drain
No. of trees:	1		6						
Recommended Works: Pollard to height of 6m								Priority: 2	
G738	Oak	21	8 8 8	Mature	Large	Normal	Fair	Medium	Dead wood in crowns to 100mm diameter over path
No. of trees:	2		8						
Recommended Works: Crown clean - removing dead wood over 20mm diameter								Priority: 2	
T 739	Elm	12	3 3 3	Semi-Mature	Medium	Dead	Poor	Low	Dead Elm tree
No. of trees:	1		3						
Recommended Works: Fell								Priority: 2	

Tree Ref.	Common Name	Height	Crown Spread	Age Class	Stem Diameter	Vigour	Structural Condition	Landscape Value	Notes and Observations	
T 740	Silver Birch	23	8 8 8	Mature	Large	Normal	Poor	Medium	Extensive cavity at base; tree 8m approx. from path	
No. of trees:	1									
Recommended Works:		Fell						Priority:	1	
T 741	Ash	14	4 0 9	Mature	Large	Moderate	Poor	Low	Ash coppice stool with 2 remaining stems; heavily colonised by ivy; decay at base with multiple cavities; high failure potential	
No. of trees:	1									
Recommended Works:		Reduce to 4m height and leave for wildlife						Priority:	2	
G742	Sycamore	15	5 5 5	Mature	Large	Moderate	Poor	Low	Several of the trees coppiced; substantial cavities in stems; all trees have been ring-barked and will therefore die; crowns colonised by ivy	
No. of trees:	5									
Recommended Works:		Reduce all trees to 8m height and leave for wildlife						Priority:	2	
T 743	Sycamore	15	7 7 7	Mature	Large	Poor	Poor	Medium	Large cavity at base; ring-barked	
No. of trees:	1									
Recommended Works:		Reduce to 8m height and leave for wildlife						Priority:	2	
G744	Crack Willow	10	5 5 5	Semi-Mature	Large	Normal	Poor	Low	1 tree leaning over fence with lesions and decay in stems; other tree has been pollarded at 3m height and pollard re-growths are likely to start breaking out of crown	
No. of trees:	2									
Recommended Works:		Pollard/Re-pollard both trees to 3m height						Priority:	2	

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Tree Ref.	Common Name	Height	Crown Spread	Age Class	Stem Diameter	Vigour	Structural Condition	Landscape Value	Notes and Observations
T 745	Crack Willow	13	6 6 6	Mature	Large	Normal	Poor	Medium	Pollarded at 5m height; colonised by ivy; growing adjacent to access drive to Woking Park and re-growths likely to start splitting out
No. of trees:	1								
Recommended Works:		Re-pollard to original points of pollarding at 5m height						Priority:	2

Total no. of trees: 44

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

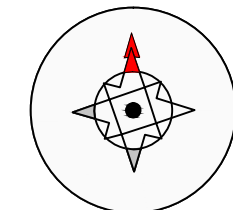
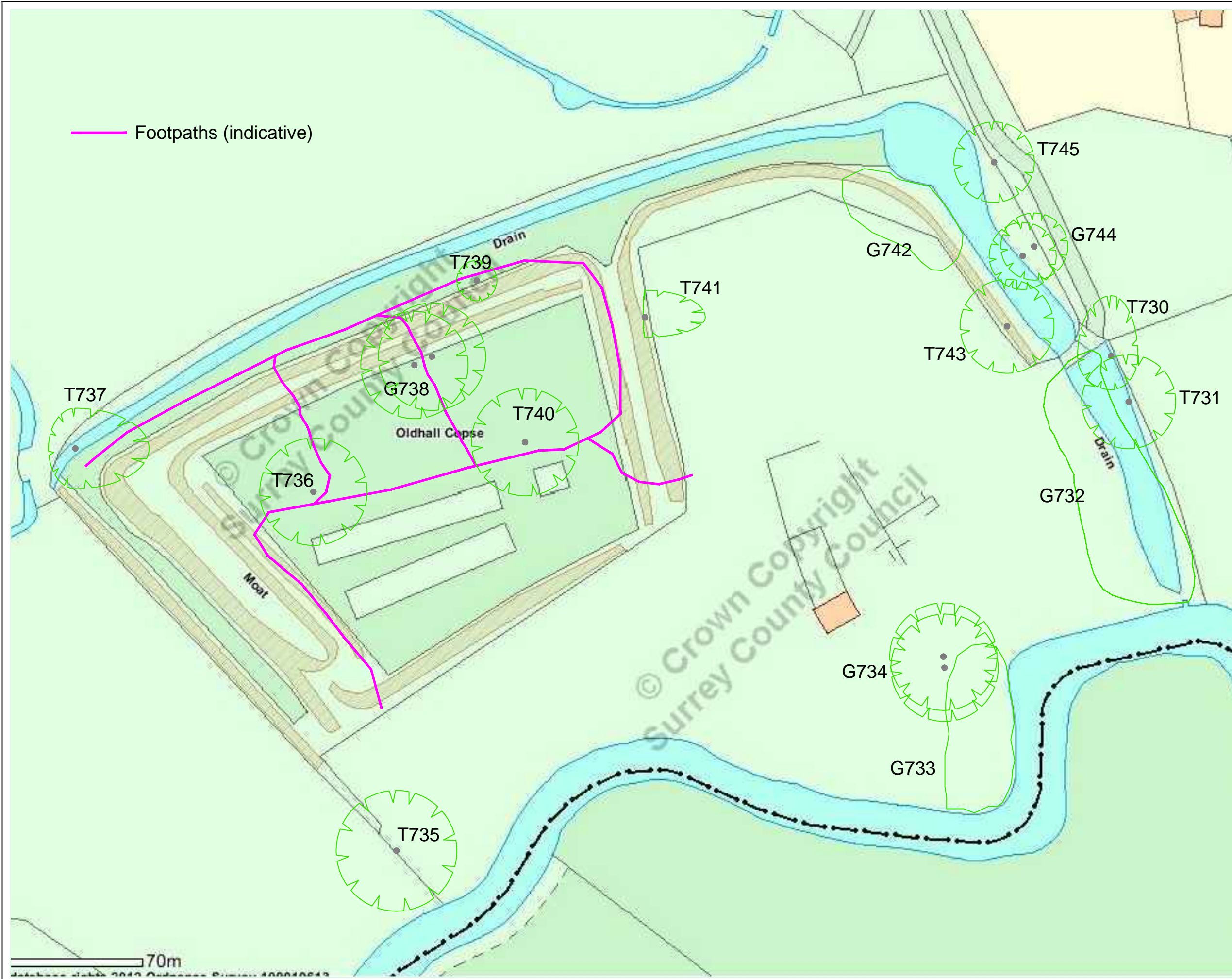
2 – Within 2 months

3 – Within 6 months

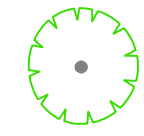
Reinspection – in 2 years' time from date of this survey

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	DATE	DRAWN BY
Not to scale	12.12.2012	AP
DRAWING NUMBER	REV	
TLP/APA/AP/2012/211		

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