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Arboricultural Survey and Tree Hazard Assessments.

Commissioned by : Rhayader Town Council
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Site: Rhayader fire Station Carpark

Inspected by: Andrew Mills

Date of Inspection : 25th May 2022

1. INTRODUCTION:

The following report was commissioned by Fire Station and is intended to provide an assessment of the condition of Mature Oak Tree.

a. The tree in this area will be inspected, but only the tree exhibiting hazards, defects or other noteworthy characteristics will be recorded. Trees adjacent to and potentially influencing the survey area would be assessed, but as such inspections will usually be made from within the site only, conclusions will be provisional. In any event, trees outside the survey area would only be recorded where it was felt that they represented significant problems, either actual or potential, in relation to the site and/or those using its premises.

b. The report is based upon data collected on a visit to the site made on the 25th May 2022. Weather conditions were dry and visibility was adequate for the purposes of this inspection. The tree assessment comprised a visual inspection carried out from ground level , using hand tools such probes and a sounding hammer where appropriate. The inspections were intended to identify distinct defects and other failure-prone characteristics of the trees and the sites in which they are growing, where these features might give rise to hazard. It must nevertheless be recognised that no tree is entirely safe, given the possibility that an exceptionally strong wind or other unusual circumstances could damage or uproot even a mechanically 'perfect' specimen[1].

c. While every attempt has been made to provide a realistic and accurate assessment of the trees' condition at the time of inspection, no responsibility can be accepted for damage or injury sustained as a result of the failure of any tree due to faults not apparent upon a visual, ground level inspection carried out at this season, or to faults developing subsequent to the survey. Similarly, no liability can be accepted for the condition of trees that are obscured in part or in whole (e.g. by dense Ivy or other foliage), nor for any that proved inaccessible to the inspector. Certain features which might provide evidence of ongoing decay or decline (such as seasonal fungal fruiting bodies, damage to foliage, insect emergence holes etc.) may not have been in evidence: Only those features that *are* apparent at the time of the inspection could be assessed.

d. Where significant defects have been identified some recommendations for action may be provided. It should be appreciated that any such recommendations are in outline form only and do not constitute a detailed specification of any works that may be required. It is assumed that any tree surgery would be carried out by qualified and skilled arborists who would be able to interpret the recommendations in order to carry out necessary works in accordance with current best practice.

2. Methodology

As noted above, the inspection is intended to identify distinct defects and other failure-prone characteristics of the trees in question. However the identification of a 'defect' associated with a tree does not tell us anything about the
actual risk that it represents to person or property. In order to make a realistic risk assessment one needs to consider three distinct aspects of the situation, namely:

a. The likelihood that a failure, should it occur, will actually lead to any injury or damage. (i.e. are there vulnerable buildings or other structures within the potential 'target area'? If the tree is near a road, a driveway or a footpath, what is the frequency of use? How often are people, cars, bicycles etc. actually present in the area immediately around the tree?

[1] Lonsdale (2000: *see list of references and relevant texts provided at the end of this report*)

b. The size of the defective part (or, more specifically, how much damage would it cause were it to fail);

c. The likelihood that failure will actually occur (i.e. what is the *realistic probability* that the dead limb, decayed tree etc. will actually break in the foreseeable future)

d. With regard to point (i), when one considers the length of time that a pedestrian or a moving vehicle is actually within the area likely to be affected by a tree failure, this frequently amounts to no more than a matter of seconds. Furthermore, tree failure can occur at any time of the

day or night throughout the year and for much of that time the frequency of occupation may be negligible. Although dependant upon the frequency of traffic within the 'target area', it is often the case that total time that a 'target' is present and potentially vulnerable to tree failure will be a very small proportion of the overall time during which a failure might occur. It may also be of significance that site usage rates, particularly by pedestrians, will be reduced at times of bad weather, when tree failures are more likely to occur. While the risk posed by trees should never be wholly disregarded, the level of safety that a situation demands must be set within the context of its environment. A tree at some distance from any building situated in a quiet side street will require considerable less stringent safety margins than would one growing in a town centre or alongside a busy road. b. Within the methodology used in this report attempts are made to assess each of the three aspects described above. Point (i) is defined by a "Target Status" code allocated to each tree, determined by its location in relation to features that could prove susceptible to harm. Where a hazard has been identified in a tree, it's magnitude is defined by a "Hazard Code", while the "probability of hazard failure" is also designated a code. These factors are defined in more detail, along with the other parameters assessed, in section 4 below. There are subjective elements to each of these factors, but the intention is to use them to provide an informed assessment of the priority that should be given to dealing with any given hazard.

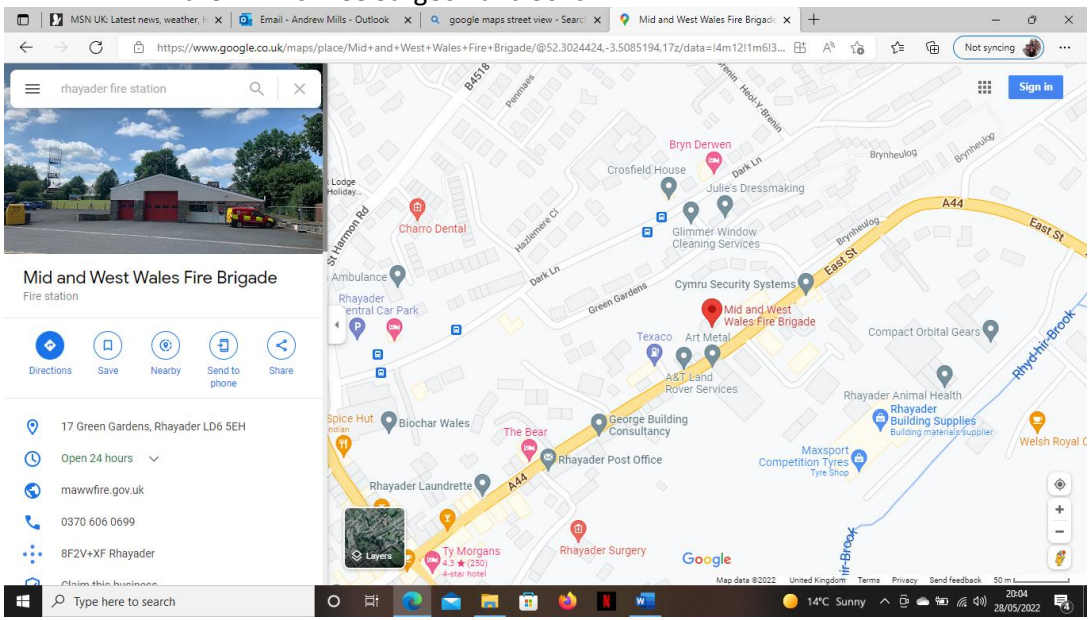
e. Unless otherwise stated, the trees must be re-inspected in five years or after any period of extreme wind condition

3. General observations on the site and the trees:

a. **The Oak tree is located within the boundary of Rhayader Fire Station.**

b. **.The tree has a whole in the base of the main trunk.**

c. **The tree is showing no deadwood at all in the main crown**



See google map of area

d. Any work carried out on the strength of this report must be done using properly qualified and insured arborists to B.S.3998 2010. Permission for any work must be given by the local planning authority if any legal restraints are found to be in force on this tree. Care must be taken to ensure that there is no disturbance or damage to any wildlife that is present at the time of any work being carried out,(bats, nesting birds, etc.).

Ref	Species	Measurements	Recommendation	Photos
Oak Tree	Fully Mature Oak Tree	15 – 20m Tall	Reduce tree by 50% . The tree has a whole in the base but showing no deadwood at all in the main crown so by reducing the weight on the tree it will be safe for several years to come.	

7. Conclusion :
The Mature Oak Tree can be reduced by 50%.
Survey tree every two years to check safety of the base of the trunk.

Signed

Andrew David Mills
26 / 05 / 2022

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