



Tilia Tree Consulting
28 Cragston Avenue
Grimsby
DN33 2AU

Tel - 07847 587147 e-mail - tiliajfr@gmail.com

TREE CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND REPORT ON TREES

AT

GRIMSBY GOLF CLUB
LITTLECOATES ROAD
GRIMSBY
NORTH EAST LINCS
DN34 4LU



CLIENT - GRIMSBY GOLF CLUB LTD

CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	Page 2
1.1	Purpose of the report	
1.2	Terms of reference	
1.3	Documents received	
1.4	Scope of the report	
1.5	Limitations	
2.0	SITE DESCRIPTION AND PROTECTED THE TREES	STATUS OF Page 3
2.1	Site description	
2.2	Protected status of the trees	
3.0	DISCUSSION	Pages 3 - 4
3.1	Overview and previous management history	
3.2	Tree issues highlighted by course management	
3.3	Future management approach	
4.0	Conclusions	Page 4
4.1	Concluding remarks	
5.0	RECOMMENDATIONS	Page 4
5.1	Tree management recommendations	
5.2	Future monitoring	

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	Inventory of tree locations
APPENDIX B	Survey conditions and methods
APPENDIX C	Author's qualifications and experience

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Report

This report is intended for use by my client as the Phase 2 assessment of the physiological and structural condition of trees on Grimsby Golf Course. It covers twelve locations with ongoing tree management recommendations forming an essential part of the report. It shall not apply to any other use or purpose.

1.2 Terms of Reference

I am instructed to prepare the report by my client -

Grimsby Golf Club Ltd, Littlecoates Road, Grimsby, DN34 4LU.

The instruction was confirmed in the form of an e-mail dated 14 August 2019 by Nick Cutsforth, a director of the club.

1.3 Documents Received

A site plan of the course is held in our archives from previous instructions.

1.4 Scope of the Report

I have agreed with my client that I adhere to the following brief when preparing the assessment and report;

- 1 Conduct a "walk through" inspection and assessment of trees at 12 locations on the course as identified on site by Scott Vincent (Head Greenkeeper).
- 2 Mark unsuitable or defective and dangerous trees dependent on their condition or inferior form for removal. Also consider additional trees for removal where intense shade or fungal greenkeeping problems are becoming evident. Further onsite discussions also highlighted the aims of returning some of the historic course architecture to a more open landscape on the 10th and 11th fairways.

- 3 Provide a concise report containing recommendations for the shortterm management of the inspected trees and make recommendations for the replanting of suitable species/cultivars where appropriate.

1.5 Limitations

The report is limited to the areas and individual trees identified in the report. The visual inspection was made from ground level. No other tests have been conducted, either by myself or by others under my direction, nor have I recovered any samples for testing by a third party.

3

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND PROTECTED STATUS OF TREES

2.1 Site description

Grimsby Golf Club stands to the west of Littlecoates Road on former farmland which undulates from its higher points near the clubhouse and descends towards the River Freshney along its western boundary. Rows and groups of trees clearly delineate the course layout. Two irrigation ponds were constructed in the 1990s to assist with water management. The larger pond lies at the lowest point on the course close to its western margin, with the smaller one in the centre of the site. They have provided specific wetland habitat encouraging significant improvements in the biodiversity of the site.

2.2 Protected status of the trees

Certain protected trees grow within the clubhouse car park but the trees on the wider course forming the subject of this report are not protected by a tree preservation order. This information has been retrieved from our archives. As such, the formal consent of the local authority is not required before any tree works can be carried out.

3.0 DISCUSSION

3.1 Overview

The tree stock of the course varies widely in terms of age, species selection and planting layout. The trees assessed for this report are mostly mature and were planted in the 1970s. They are mostly in good physiological condition. However, many exhibit weak or dangerous structural features or poor form. Species range from native hardwoods, mainly crack willow, to fast-growing evergreen species such as Austrian pine. They take the form of group plantings, either as linear shelterbelts to separate adjoining fairways or smaller copses which act as feature plantings. There has been a limited programme of managing the trees in the past when they were smaller. This action has seen the larger copses thinned and it has benefitted the remaining trees which are mostly growing into stronger trees with improving form.

3.2 Tree issues highlighted by course management

The concerns raised which initiated Phase 1 centred on root invasion, accumulation of leaf litter and direct shading of greens. These issues remain pertinent in certain locations. However, it is apparent from the Phase 2 inspection that various trees are in failing health or are structurally unsound or dangerous. Continued thinning will selectively remove weak, unhealthy or deformed trees within the groups. The thinning work will benefit and improve of the retainable, higher quality trees. It should not be viewed as indiscriminate felling. The removal of badly decayed trees may appear to be indiscriminately removing certain copes of crack willow. However, these trees are now becoming critically suspect as they are now reaching the end of their safe useful life expectancy.

4

3.3 Future management approach

An economically viable approach to the tree management has been agreed in principal with Mr Cutsforth and the Head Greenkeeper, Mr Vincent. Individual trees and groups in urgent need for attention will continue to be managed proactively over the forthcoming years. The timescale is dependent on finance and labour availability, and may also possibly bring in outside expertise if necessary. However, much of the work can be carried out "in house" by Mr Vincent and his team during the winter months. Much of Phase 1 (see Tilia report of 4 January 2019) has been completed, although there are still several trees remaining which have not yet been felled. The programme is now ongoing as agreed at that time, with Tilia providing the professional assessment.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Concluding remarks

The majority of the trees assessed under Phase 2 remain in good condition. However, certain individuals are now badly decayed or are becoming structurally impaired and affected by disease. The physiological and structural condition of the trees has overridden the general thinning regime objective of Phase 1 in this instant. Decay and damage in crack willow is normal in this short-lived pioneer species. The removal of certain other trees can be considered as part of the restoration of the original course architecture where wider open spaces are part of that objective (see 11th fairway).

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Tree management recommendations

Appendix A provides an inventory of trees earmarked for removal and the reasons for that decision, together with their locations. The work should be started as soon as possible to avoid disturbing nesting birds during the breeding season [see Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Section 1, and the Conservation (Natural

Habitats &c) (Amendment) Regulations 2007]. Under these regulations, the works should stop on the 1st March and can recommence after 1 September.

5.2 Future management

The next phase of this programme should be initiated after any outstanding Phase 1 trees and Phase 2 recommendations have been successfully concluded. There is no specific time-frame by which the works should have been completed. Progress will be entirely dependent on the financial and labour resources available, although removal of the most suspect willows should take urgent precedence for safety reasons.

John F Robinson ND Arb
Arboricultural Consultant
14 October 2019

APPENDIX A

INVENTORY OF TREE LOCATIONS

Location	Individual tree details (recommendations in bold type)
1st tee	Prunus avium 'Plena' (Double-flowered gean cherry) Row of 4 fully mature trees. The northernmost tree is struggling due to infection by bacterial canker evidenced by resin bleeds and bark lesions in multiple locations. The second tree close to death and its root collar and major roots are being decayed by the fungus Shaggy Pholiota (Pholiota squarrosa). Remove both trees and preferably grind out both stumps.
Chipping green	Prunus serrulata 'Kanzan' (Japanese cherry) Crown appears physiologically healthy but exhibits multiple sites containing decay and old failure points in the major branches. Short safe useful life expectancy. Remove tree and grind out stump. An excellent semi-mature oak slightly further to the south-west makes an impressive feature tree for the future, acting as its natural replacement.
3rd fairway (Right Hand Side)	2 Cedrus deodara (Deodar cedar) and 3 Salix fragilis (Crack willow). The 2 cedars can have the crowns lifted to improve the flow of air and begin removing obstructions for players approaching the adjacent green. The 3 willows are decayed and have been marked for removal. Remove all 3 willows. Lift the crowns of both cedars by removing descending or horizontal secondary branches to head height (1.8m) above ground level. DO NOT remove major limbs emanating from the trunks.
5th fairway (RHS)	1 Crack willow. The tree heavily overhangs the fairway and is a hazard to play. It is marked for removal accordingly.
7th fairway (RHS)	2 Crack willow. The trees are part of a larger group and are decayed and dying back. Remove both trees.
10th fairway (Left Hand Side)	7 Crack willow. 5 trees contain significant decay in and around the main forks at 1.5m. The remaining 2 trees also contain smaller pockets of decay. Remove all 7 trees and replant with 9 Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam) and 9 Tilia cordata (Small-leaved lime).
11th fairway (RHS)	29 Crack willow. Evidence of decay, dieback and branch failure exists throughout the copse. 7 weakest trees have been marked for removal. The remaining trees in the group should be reviewed each year with a view to their complete removal by 2024.
11th fairway (LHS)	4 Crack willow and 4 Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan). Remove the single tree (marked) most heavily biased above the fairway. Remove the 4 rowan located to the west of the willows as part of the widening of the course at that point.

12 fairway (RHS)	4 Crack willow. 4 trees within the larger copse have been marked, 3 to be felled and the large splitting branch on the fourth tree will be removed cleanly back to the trunk.
15 fairway (LHS)	2 Crack willow and 1 Pinus contorta (Lodgepole pine). The 2 willows stand alone. The northernmost tree has extensive decay with three differing species of fungi affecting the root collar and trunk. The neighbouring tree is also hollow. It would be badly exposed if retained and prone to failure under storm conditions. The pine is part of a group of 9 trees and is partially uprooted. The root and butt decay fungus Phaeolus schweinitzii indicating it is further structurally weakened. Remove all three marked trees.
15th green (rear of)	1 Pinus nigra nigra (Austrian pine) and 1 Pinus sylvestris (Scots pine). Part of a larger copse of mixed pines. They are of poor form and their removal will assist in improving conditions of light and air-flow for the adjacent green below. Remove both marked trees.
16 fairway (RHS)	19 Salix fragilis (Crack willow). 5 trees are marked to be removed which are either decayed or the crowns are dying back.

APPENDIX B

TREE SURVEY DETAILS

GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS USED

AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

Mature	Tree exhibiting moderate vigour and aged between 50% - 80% of projected normal life expectancy.
--------	---

CONDITION

Description	Physiological	Structural
Good	Tree exhibiting robust vitality with vigorous growth and healthy foliage. No discernible pathogenic (especially fungal) activity. Long projected life expectancy exceeding 25 years.	Tree in sound state with no discernible weaknesses or pathogenic activity. No alteration in adjacent ground conditions.
Good/Fair		
Fair	Tree of moderate or low vigour and reasonable health. No discernible pathogenic activity. Projected life expectancy of 10 - 25 years.	Tree in generally sound state with occasional minor rectifiable defect or storm damage. No discernible pathogenic activity or alteration in adjacent ground conditions.

Fair/Poor		
Poor	Tree of declining vitality with abnormally small or discoloured foliage. Fungal pathogens may/may not be present. Projected life expectancy of less than 10 years.	Tree exhibiting significant structural defects, storm damage and/or fungal pathogens. Crown can also be of poor form. Ground conditions may have been significantly altered so as to impair or weaken root structure.

Butt	The lower trunk above the root collar.
Dieback	The death of branch endings in the upper and outer crown, symptomatic of ill health or root dysfunction.
Failure	The sudden breakage or collapse of a branch or trunk.
Root collar	The trunk base where the root buttresses begin to flare outwards and descend into the soil.

APPENDIX C

SURVEY CONDITIONS AND METHODS

- 1 Date and time of inspection
Thursday 11 October 2019, 9.00am - 11.00am

- 2 Persons present

John Robinson	- Tilia Tree Consulting
Scott Vincent	- Head Greenkeeper, Grimsby Golf Club Ltd
Nick Cutsforth	- Director, Grimsby Golf Club Ltd

- 3 Weather conditions
Weather conditions at the time of the inspection were cool and sunny with a moderate south-westerly breeze.

- 4 Survey methods
The trees have been visually inspected from ground level. Trees identified as suitable for removal have been marked with a red or orange paint spot around 1.5m above ground level.

APPENDIX D

John Fraser Robinson

Professional qualifications and experience

Qualifications

National Diploma in Arboriculture (BTEC)
Professional Tree Inspection Award (LANTRA)

Experience

John Robinson has been working with trees since 1976.

1976 - 1978 Earl of Yarborough, Brocklesby Park, Lincolnshire Forestry
Department trainee woodman.

1978 - 1981 Merrist Wood College, Worplesdon, Guildford
Whilst on industrial placement during the second year of the 3 year course, he gained further experience as an arboricultural trainee with Sheffield City Recreation Department. Individual placements within the department yielded specific experience in tree surgery operations, tree inspections and surveys, plant material handling and nursery practices.

1981 - 2018 Lindsey Tree Services Ltd.
He established the company as a sole trader on leaving Merrist Wood College. Based in Grimsby, the firm served the northern parts of Lincolnshire and surrounding districts as arboricultural contractors and consultants and became a partnership in 1982. He successfully expanded the business and became managing director when the firm incorporated in October 2001. It continues trading to date. The daily organisation of the business yielded routine experience in hazard tree evaluation, decay detection assessments and in compiling arboricultural method statements and risk assessments. He retired from Lindsey Tree

Services Ltd in September 2018 to concentrate on his own arboricultural consultancy under the name Tilia.

2018 Tilia Tree Consulting

He has established his own consulting business, drawing on over 40 years of experience and knowledge of the specialist field of arboriculture.

He has advised and prepared reports on a wide range of tree issues since 1981. Clients include social housing providers, local authorities, utilities, health authorities, architects, developers and conservation organisations. Further wide experience has been gained in reporting for householders, landowners and their agents, consulting engineers, loss adjusters and solicitors. He has been called as an expert witness on a number of occasions, giving evidence both in court and to planning inquiries on matters involving trees and tree preservation order appeals.

Professional Association

He has been an Associate member of the Arboricultural Association since 1981 and subscribes to its programme of Continuing Professional Development. He served on the Association's Northern Branch Committee from March 2001 until February 2014.