

West Suffolk Council Tree Management Policy

Appendix 5: Current tree stock - historic FHDC areas

GIS tree management records

A total of 8480 trees are recorded on the council's GIS tree management system on land owned by the council. The majority of these trees are in public open spaces and are individuals or groups. Few are within woodlands as such.

This figure is likely to be higher due to trees as yet not identified on the system, and in conjunction with new planting projects, public open space creation and adoptions, this figure is likely to increase over time.

A clear concentration of these trees can be seen around the main towns of the district, and figures by Parish are as follow:

Parish	Tree records
Mildenhall	2419
Newmarket	2261
Brandon	2116
Beck row etc	450
Lakenheath	407
Exning	228
Gazely	226
Freckenham	84
Red Lodge	83
Kentford	50
Moulton	50
Worlington	44
Barton Mills	35
Icklingham	15
Tuddenham	12
Santon Downham	0
Wangford	0
Elvedon	0
Eriswell	0
Cavenham	0
Herringswell	0
Higham	0
Dalham	0

Other Trees

A number of other sites contain significant amounts of trees within the district that the council has a duty of care or a maintenance requirement for. These trees are generally not included on the GIS tree management system records and should be highlighted and included in any formal regular inspection routine and are detailed below:

Aspal Close Local Nature Reserve

While this site is in fact owned by the council and managed as a local nature reserve, not all trees on the site are recorded on the GIS tree management system. Due to the extensive woodland on the site it is not practical to record and pinpoint each tree.

However, over 200 records are kept on the GIS tree management system which comprises of ancient veteran Oak population of the site. This population is nationally important and has an extremely high biodiversity value and a separate management plan is maintained for the site including detailed requirements for the veteran trees.

The extensive areas of woodland on the site benefit from regular informal inspection, with active local volunteers and volunteer wardens, and regular site work and visits by staff.

In addition to the informal inspections, a walkover survey of this site will be carried out during the formal routine inspections for the area the site falls within and appropriate records kept. The site is within area four.

All trees on this site are covered by a group Tree Preservation Order, and the site is subject to County Wildlife Status and Local Nature Reserve Status with a number of protected species present.

Barton Mills Local Nature Reserve

This site is owned by the Forestry Commission but the council has a management agreement to manage it as a Local Nature Reserve. As the trees do not belong to the council they are not recorded on GIS tree management system.

The site contains a large number of trees, primarily Willows and Poplars. Some of the Poplars are exceptionally large. Access to the site is along a right of way which follows the river bank, and a small area around a fishing pond.

The majority of trees on the site are well away from accessible areas and the primary management principle for the trees is non intervention, whereby natural tree fall as a result of storm events and natural tree decline provide valuable habitat and ecosystem functions.

As with Aspal Close Local Nature Reserve, the site benefits from regular informal inspection, with active local volunteers in the form of the Lark Angling Preservation Society who actively use the area and make regularly reports of

problems, as well as members of the public who walk the route regularly and are familiar with the area.

Areas of accessibility will be inspected as part of the council's formal routine tree inspections and appropriate records kept. This will focus on trees adjacent to the footpath and pond area, and any trees which may pose a hazard to these areas. The site is within Area 4.

Due to the size and condition of some of these trees adjacent to the footpath, and the ground condition, additional walkover surveys will be carried out after severe storm events.

Old Town Tip County Wildlife site

This site is a small area of land owned by the council and is predominately mixed scrub and Breckland grassland. It has a number of trees on the site, but they are limited in number and size.

The site is designated Open Access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, but is little used and out of the way, and has no through route for pedestrian or any form of vehicle. The majority of users are plane spotters as the site is adjacent to the runway of RAF Mildenhall.

This area is also not included on the GIS tree management system. However during the next formal inspection of the area, records will be transferred onto the GIS tree management system. The majority of larger trees on the site are not easily accessible, and overall the site poses a relatively low risk from tree related hazards.

The primary management aim of the site is to maintain the open grassland and prevent further scrub encroachment, and current levels of trees would be maintained or reduced.

Areas of accessibility will be inspected as part of the council's formal routine tree inspections and appropriate records kept. The site is within area two.

Mildenhall Woods Project

The area known as the Mildenhall Woods Project Area is owned by the Forestry Commission and is part of its Open Access Multi Use Woodland. The council leases two one hectare blocks within this area within which it has installed a BMX track and an adventure play area with associated picnic area.

Part of the scheme includes way marked trails between these two sites and around the wider area, utilising existing rides and tracks within the woods.

The area has relatively high visitor numbers and the sites remain popular as a destination. The BMX track and the adventure play area is included in the council's regular play area inspections.

While the Forestry Commission retain responsibility for the trees in the area, which is designated Open Access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way

Act 2000, the council has a duty of care for people using the play area and BMX track. As such these two sites will be inspected as part of the council's formal routine tree inspections and appropriate records kept. The site is within area two.

Land adjacent to Newmarket College

This area has a number of trees within it and has public access. This area is not recorded on the GIS tree management system. However, during the next formal inspection of the area, records will be transferred onto the GIS tree management system.

Areas of accessibility will be inspected as part of the council's formal routine tree inspections and appropriate records kept.

George Lambton Recreation Ground

This area has a number of trees within it and has public access. The site is leased by the council. As such GIS tree management system records are not kept for the trees within the site.

Areas of accessibility will be inspected as part of the council's formal routine tree inspections and appropriate records kept.

Council operated play areas

Any trees within council operated play areas are included on the GIS tree management system and will therefore be subject to the formal inspection routine as detailed above.

However, it is worth noting that the play areas are also inspected weekly by qualified play area inspectors. As such the sites are subjected to regular informal inspections above and beyond the routine formal inspections. Reports of obvious defects from such informal inspections can be investigated and acted upon.

This informal inspection would also include any trees adjacent to the sites which are not owned by the authority but could pose a threat to users of the play areas.