ISLINGTON

Tree Service Inspection Preliminary Report

Park View estate mulberry tree

Location: Park View Estate, Islington

Date of inspection: 16 February

Tree Seq Number: 1

Species: Mulberry (Morus nigra)

Brief:

This summary of the tree service inspection has been requested by Islington Housing New Build Team to provide a public record of the tree inspection undertaken by the Tree Service on the mulberry tree at Park View Estate, Islington. To confirm this is not based on a full arboricultural survey.

Summary

The mulberry tree on Park View Estate has a raised profile due to the level of public interest and objection to its removal to facilitate a council development. A Council tree officer undertook a visual inspection of the Mulberry on the 16th February 2021 and noted the fungal fruiting body emanating from the trunk of the tree.

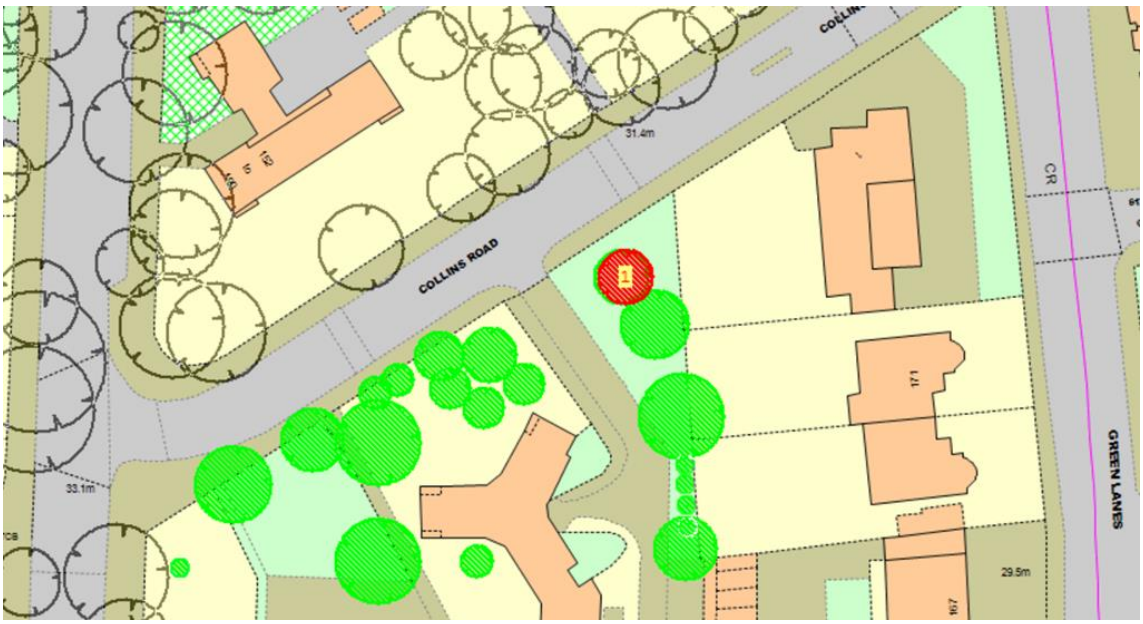


Fig.1 Mulberry tree location identified in red in the plan above.

Inspection

The Mulberry tree is located in the open lawn at the entrance to Park View Estate on Collins Road. The trees approximate dimensions are provided within Appendix 1. *Information captured on the Ezytreev database.*

The officer did not carry out a full tree inspection in line with a standard risk assessment (Visual Tree Assessment) but while carry out a visual inspection, noticed a fungal fruiting bracket on its trunk. The fungi was identified and the details were updated onto the council tree database.

The tree was found to have Ganoderma fungal fruiting bodies on the stem. This fungus is known to cause a progressive heartwood decay for which there is no treatment.

The internal decay and subsequent impact on the trees vitality does mean that its lifespan is significantly reduced. Ultimately, the decay will cause the tree to become structurally unsound and fail (fall over).

Fig.2 The Ganoderma is the amorphous white blob in the centre of the photo

While the mulberry tree may survive for a number of years with this type of decay, its health and form will decline over its remaining life.

Due to its location, the risk associated with the tree falling is low, it's extremely unlikely to hit or damage anything. At this stage, notwithstanding the planning permission for removal, the tree would normally be retained and monitored. The tree service don't remove trees at the first signs of decay or defect, we monitor and remove when the risk of failure outweighs the amenity and benefits provided.

The decay is not the reason the tree is being removed, the removal is to facilitate the approved development but the Ganoderma does have an impact upon the future management of the tree and the options being considered to mitigate the impact of the development.

Recommendations

A dying and declining tree of this size is not normally considered to be a constraint to development. Rather than designing a building to accommodate a tree with a reduced life expectancy, it is better long term tree and landscape management to remove and replace it with more trees, which will grow to have increased amenity and environmental benefits.

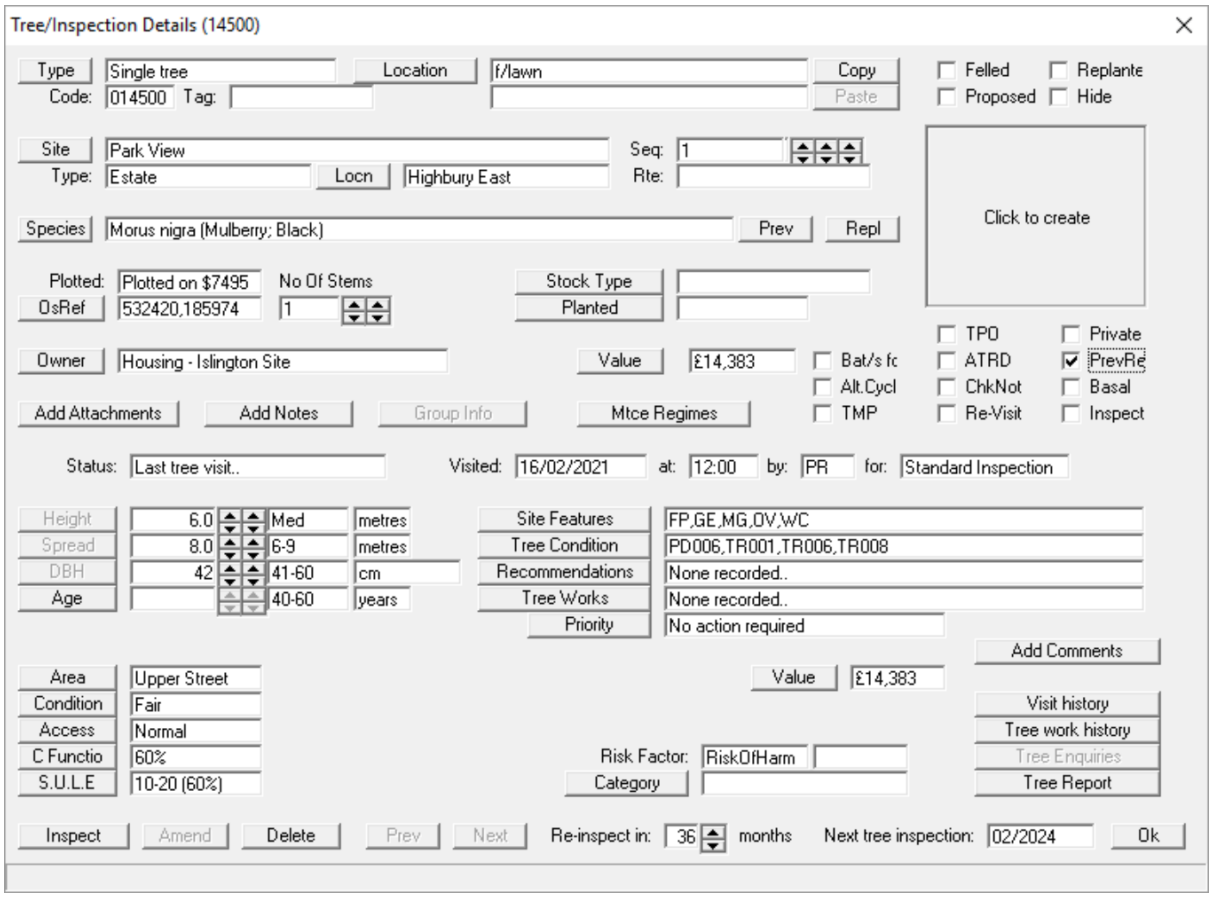
The transplanting of the tree to a new location, was being considered, however the fungal decay and lowered vitality mean that the chances of successfully transplanting (moving) the tree are reduced considerably. The funds used for trying to transplant would be better used for re-planting.

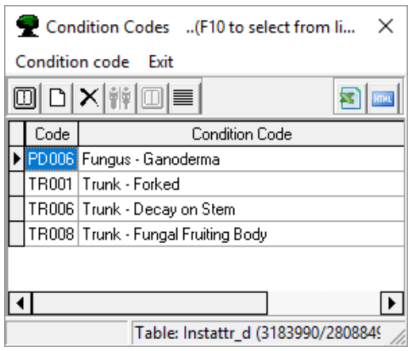
Andrew Bedford
Head of Greenspace & Leisure

11th March 2021

Appendix

1. Information captured on the Ezytreev database





Interpretation of data captured:

- The tree is in fair condition
- The tree has a crown function of 60%.
- Ganoderma heartwood decay fungus has been found on the stem.
- There are no works attached to the tree.
- No recommendations for tree management were made at this stage.
- The tree has a predicted safe useful life expectancy (SULE) of 10 -20 years. Far shorter than a healthy tree of this species.

2. Photographs of the Mulberry and Ganoderma

The Ganoderma is the amorphous white blob in the centre of the photo

Fig.3