

TREE INSPECTION REPORT AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: THE CHILDREN'S WOOD, NORTH KELVIN, GLASGOW



**Prepared for The Children's Wood
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TREE INSPECTION REPORT, THE CHILDREN'S WOOD, NORTH KELVIN, GLASGOW

General Introduction and Summary:

This tree inspection has been carried out for The Children's Wood (SC 045378), with respect to trees and woodland located at The Children's Wood, North Kelvin, Glasgow. The inspection took place on 19th and 20th January 2016. Weather conditions were dry and overcast with light winds on the 19th and wet with light winds on the 20th.

The survey included a total of 57 individual trees and several areas of woodland, the locations of which are shown on the attached drawing (Drawing Number 2016/001/01).

All survey work was carried out in accordance with the recommendations contained in BS 3998:2010 '*Tree Work – Recommendations*' and BS 5837:2012, '*Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations*'.

Standard Conditions Relating to Tree Survey Information:

1. Unless otherwise stated, tree surveys are undertaken from ground level using established visual tree assessment (VTA) methodology. The inspection is designed to determine the following:

- a. The presence of fungal disease in the root, stem, or branch structure that may give rise to a risk of structural failure of part or all of the tree;
 - b. The presence of structural defects, such as root heave, cavities, weak forks, hazard beams, included bark, cracks, and similar, that may give rise to a risk of structural failure of part or all of the tree;
 - c. The presence of soil disturbance, excavations, infilling, compaction, or other changes in the surrounding environment, such as adjacent tree removal or erection of new structures, that may give rise to a risk of structural failure of part or all of the tree;
 - d. The presence of the foregoing or any other factor not specifically referred to, which may give rise to a decline or death of the tree; and
 - e. The presence of surrounding structures, roads, footpaths, utilities, boundaries and the like where growth of the tree may present a hazard or nuisance.
2. Where further investigation is required, either by climbing or the use of specialised decay detection equipment, this will be identified in the report.
 3. The findings and recommendations contained within this report are valid for a period of twelve months. Trees are living organisms subject to change - it is strongly recommended that they are inspected at regular intervals for reasons of safety.
 4. Whilst every effort has been made to detect defects within the trees inspected, no guarantee can be given as to the absolute safety or otherwise of any individual tree. Extreme climatic conditions can cause damage to apparently healthy trees.

5. This report has been prepared for the sole use of the landowner and their appointed agents. Any third party referring to this report or relying on information contained within it does so entirely at their own risk.

General Site Description:

The Children's Wood (also known as North Kelvin Meadow) is located on former playing fields in the North Kelvin area of Glasgow. The site extends to approximately 1.43ha. The site is bounded to the south by Clouston Street, to the east by Sanda Street and to the north by Kelbourne Street and the grounds of Kelbourne Park Primary School. Tenements lie to west of the site accessed from Garrioch Road and two back lanes run adjacent to sections of the eastern and western boundaries of the site accessed from Clouston Street. The site was formerly red blaes playing fields and tennis courts but was last in use over 20 years ago. The topography of the site is generally flat, although there is a drop in levels from the former playing fields to the former tennis courts (about 50cm difference in height) and the site rises slightly towards the southern boundary. The site rises quite steeply by about a metre in height at the south eastern edge of the former football pitches to a raised area adjacent to Clouston Street. The topography of the site suggests that there has been some engineering work in the past to create levels suitable for use of the site for playing fields. There is a noticeable difference in height between the site and Kelbourne Street suggesting that the levels within north eastern part the site have been raised at some point to create the tennis courts.

A row of mature lime trees lines the southern boundary of the site bordering Clouston Street. These are protected by a Glasgow City Council Tree Preservation Order. Several other mature and middle-aged trees are found along the boundaries of the site, including a wych elm (tag number 5015), the regenerating stump of a mature white willow (tag number 5016), and a hybrid poplar (tag number 5017). Several self-set trees, mainly ash and birch are found on all boundaries of the site with the exception of the Clouston Street boundary, many of which are embedded

in the palisade boundary fence and are deformed and damaged as a result. A group of fruit trees (approximately 10) have been recently planted south of the Kelbourne Street boundary.

Since its use as playing fields was abandoned prior to 1995, the site has remained unmanaged and has been colonised mainly through natural regeneration, although some occasional planting of shrubs and trees is evident throughout the site too. Several areas of woodland dominated by pioneer species (predominately birch and willow) have established on the site (see drawing number 2016/001/01). Minor species present within the woodlands include sycamore and ash. Sapling stage ash regeneration is evident throughout the site, particularly along the western boundary and the woodland to the south east of the site. An area of neutral grassland (known as 'the meadow') with occasional young and middle-aged birch and willow has developed in the central part of the site. *Rhododendron ponticum* is invading parts of the site and will prevent colonisation by native plants. Some garden escapees area also colonising the site including *Lonicera nitida* (in the south east of the site).

Since its use as playing fields was abandoned, the site has been used for informal recreation. A network of well-used paths has developed throughout the site. One in particular, that starts at the existing pedestrian access to the site on Kelbourne Street, and ends at the south west corner of the site onto Clouston Street, is recognised as a public right of way (see Glasgow City Council's Officer's Report on planning application number 15/1223/DC).

A painted (green) metal palisade fence is found on the borders of much of the site except along the Sanda Street boundary, where it has been replaced with a chestnut pale fence. Some unmanaged privet is also well-established along parts of the Sanda Street boundary suggesting that at some stage a hedge was planted here. The fence has several holes and is damaged in places but is generally in good repair, particularly along the Clouston Street boundary. Part of the fence along the western boundary has been removed and replaced with a brick wall as part of the

development of the block of flats (on Garrioch Street) that lie adjacent to the site. A high mesh-fence set behind the remaining sections of palisade fencing extends along the western boundary. Along the western boundary of the site regeneration of various species (especially ash, birch and willow) at sapling and thicket stage is evident, some of which has been cut back. Several middle-aged birch trees are also located on this boundary, several of which are growing through the mesh fence and have been damaged as a result.

A brick building located on the south western part of the site is used by the Committee to store tools and play equipment. The building is in poor condition and requires upgrading to be made fit for purpose. A small pond has been created to the south east of the shed. Bird and bat boxes are located throughout the site as well as several bird feeders.

Since 2009 the site has been occupied by North Kelvin Meadow Green Space Initiative and since 2013, The Children's Wood, which was granted charitable status in January 2015. The site is used variously as a community garden, woodland and open space. The Children's Wood Committee promotes use of the site by the community for a range of educational and recreational activities through regular organised events as well as for informal recreational use by the wider community. The Committee has developed strong links with local schools and has regular activities for school groups run by trained Forest Schools co-ordinators. The group has recently been awarded funding for a Schools and Community Engagement Officer for one year.

The site is owned by Glasgow City Council, and lies entirely within the Glasgow West Conservation Area.