

BLAKES WALK LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Subject to the annual arboricultural inspection, the poplars will be managed by pruning on a three yearly basis or as necessary. Where possible this will be to the height of the second leader to reduce tree height and manage the canopy's diameter and wind-sail potential. The aim will not be to encourage thicker regrowth but maintain the fastigate growth of the trees. All works to be carried out to BS 3998:2010.

The poplars on the east side of Blakes Walk will be the first to be managed in this way early in 2024. This will act as an example to the public and developer of the long-term management intention and visual and mechanical results of it. It will also prevent any damage to these trees from winter storms once the scaffolding adjacent to the building is removed.

All poplar trees on the west side of Blakes Walk will subsequently be managed in the same way during winter 2024/25. They will then be inspected annually by the designated arboriculturist and this will inform the frequency of a pruning regime (likely to be every three years). Any abnormal, drastic, or unscheduled operations over and above this will be discussed with all interested parties before being carried out.

If necessary, after the first tranche of works, during the 2024/25 period a penetrometer will be used to assess for areas of compaction within the root zones of all trees. Air tilling may be applied where compaction is present. Mulching (2-4 inches) will help encourage and maintain tree health. This can be carried out every 10 years or as required by the annual inspection.

The lime trees will be managed from 2025 onwards on a four yearly cycle as determined by the annual arboricultural inspection. Their pruning will not be pollarding, but a structural pruning to reduce the size and shape to allow the limes to grow healthily between the poplar trees. All work to be carried out to BS 3998:2010.

Undergrowth will be managed according to the annual arboricultural inspection. Hedging should only be carried out a minimum of every three years. Coppicing should only be carried out a minimum of every five years.

All other works should be carried out as stated in the Management Plan for Blakes Walk – Appendix 2 of the S106 agreement.

The below timetable of works is to be used as a guide. All works required will be dictated by the results of the annual arboricultural inspection.

Any tree showing signs of hazardous defects during the annual arboricultural inspection will have a mitigating works plan approved by ESCC before works are carried out unless the work is required urgently to remove the risk. If from the annual inspection a defect or danger is spotted that can only be removed by the felling of the tree, detail of this will be provided to the Blakes Walk Tree Specialist Group for consideration. If the removal of the tree is confirmed, communication should be sent to all other stakeholders to avoid incorrect public perception.

Year	Poplar	Lime	Hedging and coppicing	Undergrowth/litter picking
2023/24	All trees on east side of Blakes Walk to be pruned		Every three years or as necessary	Annually as necessary
2024/25	All trees on west side of Blakes Walk to be pruned			
2025/26		Cyclical Structural Pruning		
2026/27			Every three years or as necessary	
2027/28	Poplar requiring pruning			
2028/29				
2029/30		Cyclical Structural Pruning	Every three years or as necessary	
2030/31	Poplar requiring pruning			
2031/32				
2032/33			Every three years or as necessary	
2033/34	Poplar requiring pruning	Cyclical Structural Pruning		
2034/35				
2035/36			Every three years or as necessary	
2036/37	Poplar requiring pruning			
2037/38		Cyclical Structural Pruning		
2038/39			Every three years or as necessary	
2039/40	Poplar requiring pruning			