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Date of Review:	17/07/2024
Version:	V6
Confidentiality	None

Kingston University London

ESTATES AND SUSTAINABILITY

KINGSTON UNIVERSITY TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Policy Vision

Kingston University is committed to conserving and enhancing biodiversity across its estate and ensuring that all trees on its sites are managed in compliance with KU's Biodiversity policy and with all statutory requirements.

Policy Objectives

To satisfy the Tree Management Vision, trees on the KU estate will be managed to minimise risk, as is our duty under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and in compliance with KU's Biodiversity Policy and corresponding Biodiversity Action Plan.

We will:

- Preserve all trees for both biodiversity and amenity value, where safe and appropriate to do so[1].
- Increase the number of trees on Kingston University campuses for both biodiversity and amenity value where feasible to do so.

This Tree Management Policy is owned by KU Estates & Sustainability and is reviewed every two years by the Estate Committee.

Signed by:

Steven Spier
Vice Chancellor
Date: 11/12/24

Signed by:

Caroline Harris
Chief Operating Officer
Date: 11/12/24

Reviewed: September 2024

Next Review: September 2026

[1] The standards and references on how risk is classified and trees managed are outlined in Appendix 1

APPENDIX 1: STANDARDS AND METHODS FOR TREE MANAGEMENT

Definition of acceptable risk: The Health and Safety Executive (**HSE**)[2] has developed the Tolerability of Risk (**TOR**) Framework which has been incorporated into the standard guidance from National Tree Safety Group (**NTSG**)[3]). Risks should be assessed in the context of data provided by the NTSG which shows that the actual risk of a fatality from trees was calculated at 1 in 15,000,000, "15-fold less than the threshold of one death in 1 million per year that the TOR framework suggests people regard as insignificant or trivial" (NTSG, 2024). KU will use the TOR framework to define the levels of acceptable risk as follows:

- Risks greater 1/10,000 per annum are unacceptable.
- Risks between 1/10,000 and 1/1,000,000 per annum are tolerable, but should be managed to be 'as low as reasonably practicable'.
- Risks under 1/1,000,000 per annum as not regarded as an actionable risk within the operations of KU.

Survey methodology: The Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) methodology[4] will be used by licenced practitioners to assess risk.

One off surveys: In addition to the programme of annual checks in areas identified as high usage, one-off surveys for trees (identified as of concern), will be conducted by a qualified arboriculturist using QTRA.

Site usage: will be assessed and split into recommended categories by a qualified arboriculturist to allow tree risk to be quantified.

Reactive tree risk assessments: will be undertaken by our grounds maintenance contractor by an individual who holds a basic tree inspection certificate (LANTRA Awards[5]) immediately after any of the following events:

- A storm event of a magnitude equal to or exceeding Force 9 on the Beaufort Scale;
- An incident where an individual tree has been affected by mechanical injury (e.g. being driven into by a vehicle or deliberate vandalism);
- Changes on neighbouring land e.g. building works which may affect trees on our land.

Where a more detailed assessment is advised, following the basic tree assessment, this will be conducted under the QTRA method by a qualified arboriculturist.

Tree works: Will be undertaken as per the tree management plan and/or arboriculturist's recommendations following surveys/reactive tree risk assessments.

Documentation: Copies of reports and a log of any works conducted on trees governed by statutory protections will be kept for a minimum of 5 years before archiving. These will be located in the Landscaping and Biodiversity folder in the Estates/KUSCO shared drive.

Management: The management of tree maintenance is the responsibility of KUSCO. Work will be actioned as described in diagram 1.

Tree numbers: baseline information on existing tree numbers are based on trees within formal landscaping. Areas such as the KU woodland at Kingston Hill have no known tree counts as it would be a full time task to establish how many new trees are establishing (seeding) and how many saplings are failing; a large number of young trees fail each year. Trees in the woodland are only assessed where they have a potential to impact the safety of campus users and neighbouring sites.

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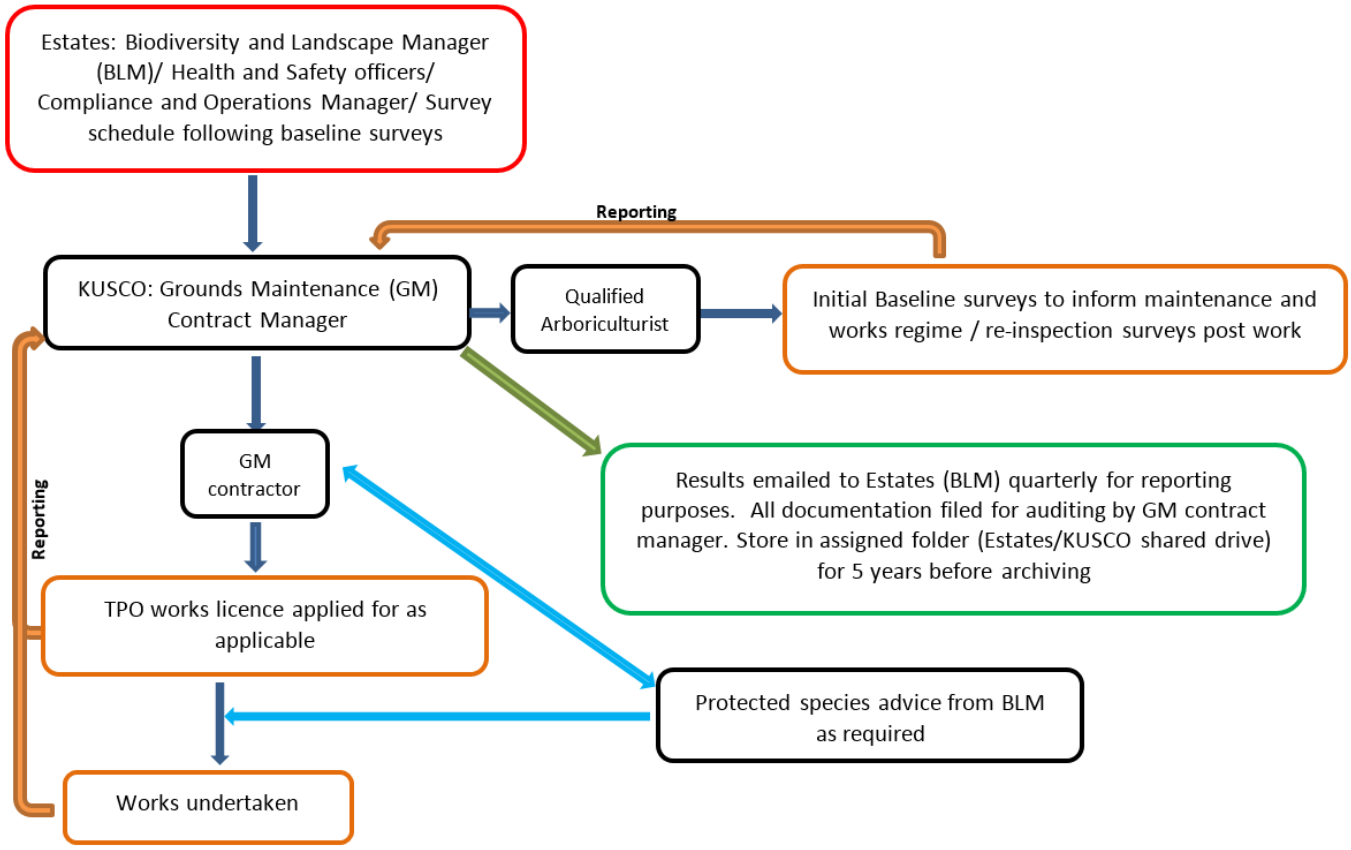
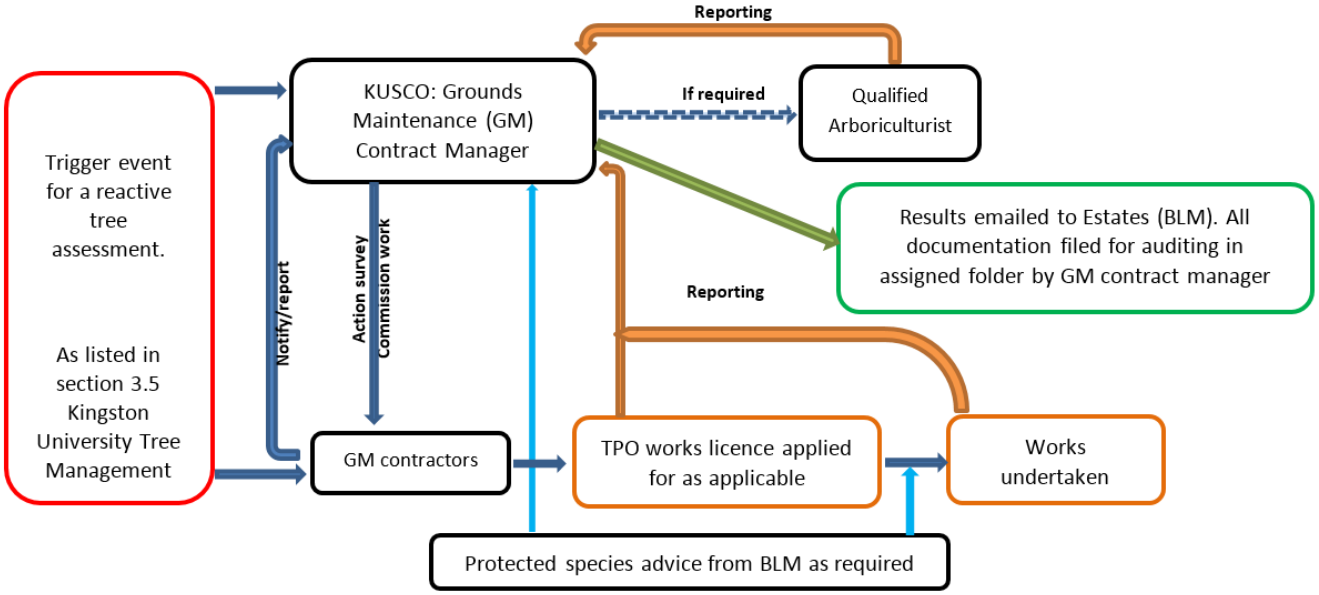
[2] https://www.hse.gov.uk/enforce/assets/docs/r2p2.pdf
[3] https://ntsgroup.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/NTSG-full-guidance.pdf
[4] http://www.qtra.co.uk/cms/index.php?section=6
[5] An awarding body for a nationally recognised tree inspection qualification. http://www.lantra-awards.co.uk/About-Us.aspx

DIAGRAM 1: FLOW CHARTS FOR TREE MANAGEMENT AT KU



Standard Tree Assessments and Management at KU

Reactive Tree Assessments and Management at KU



Key

Start point | Personnel | Action | Reporting | Auditing | Advice