

Tree Condition Survey March 2020



Urban-Arb
Arboricultural Consultants



The Den, Auchenblae

Callum McCutcheon
BSc (Hons), M.Arbor.A.

Principal Arboriculturist Urban-Arb LLP

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1. Introduction

Urban-Arb LLP was instructed to perform a ground based visual survey of the trees within The Den, Auchenblae. All the larger trees within the site boundaries were plotted and examined. Dense areas of smaller trees were plotted as wooded areas.

Data was only recorded for those trees which were found to have significant defects requiring remedial action or special monitoring.

The survey detailed in this report was carried out by Urban-Arb LLP on the 17th March 2020. The tree surveyor was Callum McCutcheon. Mr McCutcheon is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association. He has been a professional arboriculturalist for 15 years and holds a BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture.

2. Caveats and Limitations

The method used to assess the trees for this survey was the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA). This is the standard method used to visually examine trees. The method involves visually examining the external appearance of the tree for structural defects or physiological symptoms which are likely to have an impact on the future health or stability of the tree.

Trees are living organisms optimising their growth to the average maximum stresses they encounter. Extreme weather events or altered surroundings are likely to highlight weaknesses which were previously unforeseeable.

Within the scope of this survey, any significant structural defects which are visible externally can be identified and the condition of the trees can be assessed. However, there will be occasions when a tree which shows no visible structural defect and looks to be in good condition will fail. The purpose of the VTA is to assess any factor which is likely to increase this risk above that of a healthy tree.

Information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies with the trees or property in question may not arise in the future. This report should be viewed as an entire document; any alteration will render it invalid.

No soil samples were collected or analysed, and detailed analysis of the soil type and plasticity is out with the scope of this report.

The survey was conducted from ground level; no aerial inspection was carried out.

The weather conditions at the time of the survey were dry, winds were relatively light.

3. Risk Assessment Methodology

The method used in this report is the one specified by the International Society of Arboriculture 'Best Management Practices- Tree Risk Assessment' 2011.

This risk assessment method takes into account the likelihood of the tree or part of the tree failing, the target which may be affected by such a failure and the consequences of a failure.

The method is used by the arboriculturist to estimate the risk level within a specified timeframe (12 months).

A final risk rating is then categorised as either:

- Low: Some trees with this level of risk may benefit from mitigation measures, but immediate action is not usually required.
- Moderate: Mitigation and/or retaining and monitoring is usually recommended.
- High: Consequences of failure may result in serious injury/death or high value property damage/disruption and likelihood is 'very likely' or 'likely' so the assessor will recommend that mitigation measures are taken within a relatively short timeframe.
- Extreme: Failure is imminent and there is a high likelihood of impacting a target, and the consequences of failure could be serious injury/death or high value property damage/major disruption. Immediate action will be recommended.

4. Site description

The Den covers an area of approximately 3.4Ha and is a popular local recreational area. Facilities include a visitor's car park, a number of formal paths, two tennis courts, a bowling green and play areas and climbing frames.

In terms of trees cover, the site includes a large number of mature trees most of which are in the vicinity of commonly frequented areas.

The site is actively managed and maintained by the parks committee.

5. Structural/Physiological condition of the trees on site

The trees on the site are generally in good condition. However, in parts of the site, the trees are overhanging or shading recreational areas.

6. Recommended arboricultural works

8 defective trees were recorded in the survey. See the tree survey schedule for details of recommended mitigation works along with appropriate timescales.

In addition, a number of works have been recommended as part of the ongoing site maintenance operations, it is recommended that:

- The area of self-seeded cherry trees (Group 1) growing along the bank are thinned by 30%. This is to encourage healthy growth of the better specimens.
- The area of young self-seeded cherry and ash (Group 2) adjacent to the club house and bench are removed to open up the area, encourage ground flora and increase light levels.
- The group of 5 cherry trees (Group 3) growing on the bank and out towards the tennis courts are removed to open up the area and increase light levels.
- The row of beech trees adjacent to the playground should have their crowns raised/reduced to increase light and open up the playground area.
- Generally, shrubs which are encroaching the paths should be cut back.

All pruning work should be done in accordance with BS3998:2010.

No protected species were observed during the tree survey. However, it is possible that due to the size and age of the trees, bats, squirrels etc may be present. Working methods should take this into account during any tree felling/pruning operations.

7. Future inspections/Risk mitigation strategy

It is recommended that the site is subject to a formal inspection every two years by an arboriculturist. The area should also be kept under informal observation by the users of the site. Should any defects become apparent, an arboriculturist should be consulted.

8. Tree survey schedule

Please see below

Tree Survey Schedule

Easting	Northing	Survey reference	Species	Common Name	Age class	Height (m)	Dbh (mm)	Crown Spread	Comments	Recommendations	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Target (s)	Likelihood of failure	Likelihood of impact	Consequences of failure	Risk level	Recommended timescale
372488.4	778892.3	T830	Fagus sylvatica	Beech	Early-Mature	14	400	6	Main stem previously removed. Kretzmaria deusta bodies on dead stump.	Monitor remaining stem.	Fair	Good	People and cars using car park	Possible	Medium	Severe	Low	N/A
372459.4	778943.8	T831	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	Mature	16	600, 460	12	Cavity at base of stem where old stem previously detached.	Tree could be removed to give neighbouring trees more space or retained and monitored.	Good	Fair	People using paths, play area	Possible	Medium	Severe	Low	N/A
372452.4	778949.8	T832	Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse Chestnut	Mature	16	760	9	Black exude at various points on stem and roots. Probable Pseudomonas syringae pv.aesculi infection.	Monitor. If tree is pruned in the future sterilise tools before using on other trees.	Fair	Good	Play area	Improbable	High	Severe	Low	N/A
372344.4	779154.1	T833	Salix caprea	Goat Willow	Mature	10	650	8	Stems previously collapsed and removed. Fungal fruiting bodies at breakage point.	Low target area. Monitor	Good	Poor	People using area	Probable	Low	Minor	Low	N/A
372420.4	779058.5	T834	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	Mature	15	700, 400	14	Black exude on stem. Bark necrosis. Leaning heavily over path. Limited life expectancy.	Remove tree.	Poor	Fair	People using path.	Possible	Medium	Severe	Low	Within 12 months
372433	779060	T835	Ulmus glabra	Wych Elm	Early-Mature	9	400	1	Dead standing tree	Tree appears to be robust. Retain for deadwood habitat. Monitor during future inspections.	Dead	Fair	People using path	Possible	Low	Severe	Low	N/A
372491	778966.7	T836	Prunus avium	Cherry	Mature	12	300	15	Leaning severely over grassed area.	Remove tree for safety reasons	Good	Poor	People using path and tennis court. Fence	Probable	High	Severe	High	Within 3 months
372492.6	778970	T837	Prunus avium	Cherry	Mature	17	600	13	Large branch with crack overhanging path.	Prune defective branch off.	Good	Poor	People using path. Fence.	Imminent	Medium	Severe	High	Within 3 months
See plan	See plan	Group 1	Prunus avium	Cherry	Middle-Aged	Varies	Varies	Varies	Densely spaced	Thin by 30%								
See plan	See plan	Group 2	Mixed		Young	Varies	Varies	Varies	Dense area of young trees	Remove to open up site								
See plan	See plan	Group 3	Prunus avium	Cherry	Early -Mature	Varies	Varies	Varies	Overhanging path and grassed area	Remove 5 trees marked on site plan to open up site.								
See plan	See plan	Group 4	Fagus sylvatica	Beech	Mature	Varies	Varies	Varies	Crows overhanging play area	Raise crowns by 4m. Reduce by 2-3m to open up area								

Urban-Arb LLP
11 The Muir
Bogmoor
Spey Bay
Fochabers
Moray IV32 7PN

Tel: (01343) 821763
Mob: 07766 735488

E-mail: info@urban-arb.com
Web: www.urban-arb.com