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Tree Management Report



Tulloch House, Oldmeldrum

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Tree Management Report

Tulloch House, Oldmeldrum

Introduction

Scope of Survey

Astell Associates have been instructed by Colin Thompson, Chartered Architect on behalf of Bains Coaches to advise on tree health and management at Tulloch House, Oldmeldrum.

Study Objectives:

- Map the location and characteristics of the trees and tree groups within and adjacent to the site that may be affected by any future development proposals
- Identify any trees which would be removed as part of sound arboricultural management (i.e. dead/unviable trees)
- Identify any constraints, threats and opportunities for their future management
- Provide outline management recommendations to encourage the persistence of any high quality trees on the site

Limitations

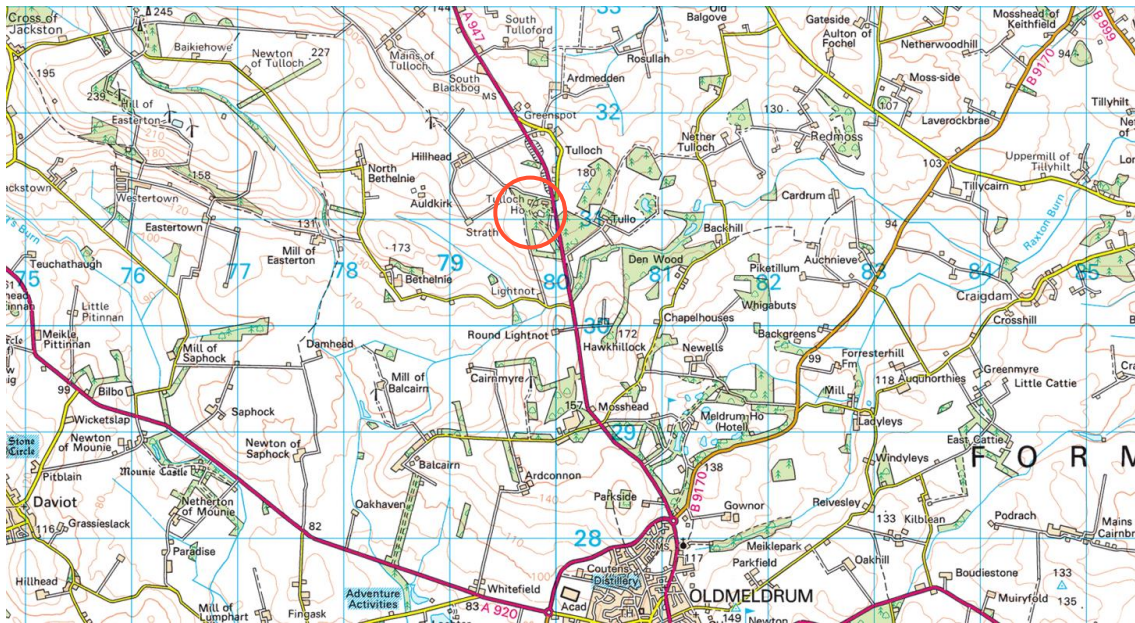
- This is a preliminary assessment from ground level and observations have been made solely from visual inspection.
- No invasive or other detailed internal decay detection instruments have been used in assessing trunk condition.
- No soil samples have been taken and no soil analysis carried out.
- The conclusions relate to conditions found at the time of inspection. The recommendations contained within this report (Tree Schedule) are valid for a period of one year only.

Site Visit and Tree Assessment Methodology

- A site visit was undertaken on 2nd August 2021 by Nigel Astell and Aaron Meijer.
- Trees have been surveyed from ground level with binoculars to survey features at height.
- The Visual Tree Assessment method (Mattheck and Breloer, 1994) has been used to assess the trees.
- All trees with a diameter of over 12cm (15cm in woodland) have been numbered with plastic 'letratag' numbers
- Trees have been surveyed for tree species, height, number of stems, stem diameter, branch spread, tree category and suitability for retention.
- Trees have been surveyed from ground level for bat roosting potential to inform of any further survey work that may be required on trees to be felled.
- Canopy spread has been estimated by pacing and dimensions given to N, S, E & W.
- Where trees are growing as a close grown community of the same species, they have been described as a group rather than individually detailed.
- The trees have been positioned by a topo survey carried out by Grampian Survey.
- Details of surveyed trees are provided in The Tree Survey Schedule, Appendix A.

Site Description

Site Location



Site location circled in red. Grid ref: NJ798311 Postcode: AB51 0AE

Site Description



The site is an area of former woodland, with two buildings and a field. On the east, south, and west borders of the site are lines of trees. The site is separated from the road to the north by a mound with several trees growing on it. South of this mound, a pile of logs has been deposited for temporary storage.

Tree Preservation Orders / Conservation Areas

The area around the site is considered to be Ancient Woodland. However, no Ancient Woodland will be affected by the development as the majority of the site is not classified as such.

Tree Species in Survey Area

Common Name	Scientific name	No
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	8
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	1
Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	1
Larch	<i>Larix sp.</i>	2
Lime	<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	3
Monkey Puzzle	<i>Araucaria araucana</i>	1

Common Name	Scientific name	No
Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	1
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	3
Sitka Spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	3
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	27
Willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>	1

All trees are described in detail in the Tree Schedule (Appendix A).

Tree Management

The following trees will be felled for woodland management or health and safety:

5	<i>Birch</i>	15	<i>Sycamore</i>	22	<i>Lime</i>	35	<i>Ash</i>
97	<i>Ash</i>	103	<i>Sycamore</i>	104	<i>Ash</i>		

Appendix A: Tree Schedule

No	Species	Dia at 1.5m (cm)	Canopy Radius (m)				Height (m)	RPA (m)	Age	Class	Description	Action
			N	S	E	W						
1	Sitka Spruce	75	6	5	3	4	20	9.0	M	B	Some deadwood present. Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
2	Birch	23, 25	2	1	3	2	7	4.1	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
3	Sitka Spruce	54	5	6	5	3	21	6.5	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
4	Sitka Spruce	54	6	5	6	3	21	6.5	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
5	<i>Birch</i>	31	2	3	4	3	6	3.7	M	U	Dead tree.	<i>Fell.</i>
6	Rowan	23, 11, 8	2	2	3	3	5	3.2	M	C	Tree leans south, canopy suppressed to southwest. Appears healthy.	Retain at present.
7	Rowan	12, 10, 9	3	2	3	1	6	7.9	M	C	Some stem damage apparent. However, tree appears healthy.	Retain at present.
8	Sycamore	24, 22	6	3	3	4	13	3.9	M	C	Twin-stemmed from base. Tree appears healthy.	Retain at present.
9	Birch	19	3	2	2	1	11	2.3	M	C	Tree felled between tree and topographical surveys	
10	Birch	28, 29	5	2	2	4	13	4.8	M	C	Tree leans north, one-sided canopy to the west. Appears healthy.	Retain at present.
11	Birch	23, 29	2	1	5	4	14	4.4	M	B	North limb grows to east. Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
12	Birch	23, 26	2	3	2	4	13	4.2	M	C	Tree is damaged at its base and on the western stem at 2.5 meters.	Retain at present.
13	Sycamore	32, 30, 28	7	4	5	4	15	6.2	M	B	Three-stemmed tree, overburdened.	Retain.
14	Sycamore	35, 35, 20	3	5	3	4	16	6.4	M	B	Three-stemmed tree, overburdened.	Retain.
15	<i>Sycamore</i>	43, 31	5	3	5	4	16	6.4	M	C	<i>Twin-stemmed from base, a large branch has split off from the east limb, overburdened.</i>	<i>Fell for woodland management.</i>
16	Sycamore	50	5	3	5	4	16	6.0	M	C	Bark damaged on southwest side, overburdened.	Retain at present.
17	Sycamore	50, 28, 24	4	3	7	4	17	7.5	M	C	Three-stemmed, overburdened tree with stem damage at base.	Retain and inspect at regular intervals.
18	Sycamore	61, 45	5	6	6	5	17	9.1	M	C	Twin-stemmed from base, stem damage, overburdened.	Retain and inspect at regular intervals.

No	Species	Dia at 1.5m (cm)	Canopy Radius (m)				Height (m)	RPA (m)	Age	Class	Description	Action
			N	S	E	W						
19	Sycamore	42	4	4	4	5	18	5.0	M	B	Divides into three at 7 m. Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
20	Lime	36	5	4	2	3	15	4.3	M	C	Canopy damage on west side, overburdened.	Retain and inspect at regular intervals.
21	Lime	43, 23	5	3	5	4	13	5.9	M	C	Canopy suppressed to south by neighbouring tree. Appears healthy.	Retain at present.
22	Lime	33	3	2	3	5	12	4.0	M	C	Canopy damage on west and on north side, overburdened.	Fell.
23	Sycamore	60, 36, 26	4	6	5	6	17	9.0	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
24	Larch	42	3	5	6	3	12	5.0	M	C	Canopy one-sided to the south and west. Tree appears healthy.	Retain at present.
25	Larch	53	4	7	4	8	11	6.4	M	C	Twin-stemmed from 7 m, damage from splitting branch at 10 m. Tree appears healthy.	Retain at present.
26	Sycamore & Ash	42, 39, 33, 29, 24, 38	9	8	7	8	18	9.1	M	B	Growing together as one tree. Both appear healthy.	Retain.
27	Sycamore	35, 33, 33, 27, 24	3	5	5	5	16	8.2	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
28	Sycamore	45, 41, 39, 18	5	7	11	6	16	8.9	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
29	Sycamore	37, 17	4	4	2	6	16	4.3	M	C	One-sided canopy. Branch snags. West limb damaged, northeast limb suppressed. Tree appears healthy.	Retain at present.
30	Monkey Puzzle	15	1	1	1	1	10	1.8	SM	C	Suppressed canopy. Tree appears healthy	Retain at present.
31	Rowan	21	2	2	3	2	9	2.5	M	C	Suppressed canopy, tree appears healthy.	Retain at present.
32	Ash	30	4	4	3	5	18	3.6	M	C	Tree appears healthy.	Retain at present.
33	Ash	22	5	3	3	4	13	2.6	M	C	Tree leans northwest, one-sided canopy to northwest. Ash dieback in 3 further stems.	Retain at present.
34	Sycamore	34, 31, 29, 24, 14, 13, 11	3	4	4	4	15	7.6	M	C	Multi-stemmed from base. Tree appears healthy.	Retain at present.

No	Species	Dia at 1.5m (cm)	Canopy Radius (m)				Height (m)	RPA (m)	Age	Class	Description	Action
			N	S	E	W						
35	Ash	24, 20, 19, 19, 15, 13	5	2	2	5	12	5.5	M	C	Multi-stemmed, overburdened, suffering from ash dieback.	Fell for management.
36	Ash	26, 21	2	3	2	3	14	4.0	M	C	Twin-stemmed from base, deadwood is apparent.	Retain and inspect at regular intervals.
37	Ash	38	4	5	5	6	15	4.6	M	B	Twin-stemmed from 5.0m, tree appears healthy.	Retain.
38	Sycamore	33, 20, 19	4	4	3	5	19	5.2	M	C	Twin-stemmed from base, south limb divides into two at 1.25m. Canopy is suppressed but tree appears healthy.	Retain at present.
39	Sycamore	43	4	3	5	5	15	5.2	M	B	Tree divides at 3.0m into two main stems, appears healthy.	Retain.
40	Sycamore	27, 17	5	3	2	4	14	3.8	M	C	Twin-stemmed from base, tree appears healthy.	Retain at present.
41	Sycamore	23, 24	2	6	2	2	14	4.0	M	B	Twin-stemmed from 0.3m, tree leans south with one-sided canopy to south.	Retain.
42	Sycamore	33	3	4	5	3	14	4.0	M	C	Twin-stemmed from 5.0m, tree leans southeast, appears healthy.	Retain at present.
43	Ash	28	3	2	3	5	15	3.4	M	C	Tree leans north, appears healthy.	Retain at present.
44	Sycamore	22, 36, 26	3	4	3	5	16	5.9	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
45	Sycamore	30	4	1	3	4	16	3.6	M	B	Canopy one-sided to northwest. Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
46	Sycamore	40	2	3	2	5	16	4.8	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
47	Sycamore	30	3	5	4	3	14	3.6	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
90	Sycamore group	20-30					9	3.6	SM	C	Group of mostly sycamore with an average canopy radius of 3m. Trees leaning in several directions but appear healthy.	Retain at present.
91	Sycamore & Ash group	20-30					11	3.6	SM	C	Group of ash and sycamore with an average canopy radius of 5m. Trees leaning in several directions but appear healthy.	Retain at present.
92	Ash group	15-25					10	3.0	SM	C	Group of ash, with an average canopy radius of 4m. Trees leaning in several directions but appear healthy.	Retain at present.
93	Sycamore group	30					12	3.6	SM	C	Group of sycamore, with an average canopy radius of 4m. Trees leaning in several directions but appear healthy. Growing close to telegraph pole.	Retain at present.

No	Species	Dia at 1.5m (cm)	Canopy Radius (m)				Height (m)	RPA (m)	Age	Class	Description	Action
			N	S	E	W						
94	Sycamore	36, 33, 23	4	3	5	4	15	6.5	M	B	Several adventitious stems growing close to telegraph pole, appears healthy	Retain.
95	Sycamore	33	1	2	3	4	10	4.0	M	B	Canopy one-sided due to powerline.	Retain.
96	Birch	27	0	4	2	3	8	3.2	M	C	Canopy one-sided to south. Suppressed to north	Retain at present.
97	Ash	22	0	2	3	2	10	2.6	M	U	<i>Suffering from ash dieback.</i>	<i>Fell.</i>
98	Sycamore	27, 25	5	5	5	4	12	4.4	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
99	Willow	27, 21, 20	4	3	4	2	9	4.8	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
100	Birch	17, 16, 16	2	4	4	1	10	3.4	M	C	Tree leans east.	Retain at present.
101	Birch	17, 11	2	4	3	3	8	2.4	M	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
102	Beech	35, 35	7	5	4	5	12	5.9	M	C	Some damage from nearby branch.	Retain at present.
103	Sycamore	14, 14, 13	2	3	3	2	7	2.8	M	C	<i>Damage to north stem.</i>	<i>Fell for management.</i>
104	Ash	18	1	3	1	1	8	2.2	M	U	<i>Damage to branches on north side. Suffering from ash dieback.</i>	<i>Fell.</i>
105	Sycamore	18, 16	1	3	2	1	12	2.9	SM	C	Suppressed to the west.	Retain at present.
106	Sycamore	24, 17, 17	2	3	2	1	13	4.1	M	C	Damage at base and in the west side of the canopy.	Retain at present.
107	Sycamore	18	3	1	3	2	11	2.2	SM	B	Growing on mound. Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
108	Sycamore	14	3	1	0	2	8	1.7	SM	C	Tree leans west.	Retain at present.
109	Sycamore	24, 21, 17	4	7	5	3	10	4.3	M	C	Growing on mound.	Retain at present.
110	Oak	20, 14, 12	3	4	4	3	7	3.3	SM	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
111	Sycamore	24, 22, 18, 10	3	4	3	3	9	4.6	SM	B	Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
112	Birch	14, 13	3	1	3	2	5	2.3	M	C	Both stems are damaged.	Retain and inspect at regular intervals.
113	Sycamore	27, 26	4	3	5	2	10	4.5	M	C	Twin-stemmed from base. Tree appears healthy.	Retain at present.

Appendix B: Tree Life Stages from BS 5837

Table 1: Cascade chart for tree quality assessment				
Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
<p>Category U Trees which cannot be retained long-term (for longer than 10 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees that have a serious structural defect which puts them at risk of collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other trees Trees that are dead or dying Trees infected with pathogens which could affect the health and/or safety of nearby trees, or very low-quality trees which suppress trees of better quality <p><i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which might be desirable to preserve.</i></p>			DARK RED
TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION				
	1 Mainly arboricultural values	2 Mainly landscape values	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
<p>Category A Trees of high quality and value: in good condition; able to persist for long (a minimum of 40 years).</p>	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue).	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance.	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, or other value (e.g. veteran trees)	LIGHT GREEN
<p>Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years</p>	Trees downgraded from category A because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of minor defects, including unsympathetic past management or storm damage).	Collections of trees (in groups or woodlands) with a higher rating than they would have as individuals.	Trees with some conservation or other cultural value	MID BLUE
<p>Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm</p>	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, without significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary landscape benefits	Trees with no conservation or other cultural value	GREY

Appendix E: Legislation, Guidance and References

- BS5837:2012 - Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations (BSI, 2012),
- Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 7 Tree Surveys: A Guide to Good Practice Aberdeen Local
- Development Plan Supplementary Guidance: Trees and Woodlands (2017)
- Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)
- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974
- Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015
- Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal

Appendix F: Professional Qualifications

Nigel Astell has been involved in arboriculture for over 40 years. He holds degrees in Botany and Zoology and is a member of the Arboricultural Association and The Chartered Institute of Environmental and Ecological Management.

Aaron Meijer has a BSc in Applied Biology and has worked in the ecology field for several years, both in the UK and in the Netherlands.

Appendix G: Contact Details

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