

Tree Survey
39 Castlehill Road
Ayr
KA7 2HY

BS 3998:2010 *"Tree work Recommendations"*

4TH February 2024



Prepared for
Scott Thomson

Prepared by
C. A. Calvey, P.T.I., Tech.Cert (Arbor.A), Cert.Arb (RFS), BA Hons.
AYRSHIRE TREE SURGEONS LTD

Contents

<u>Introduction, Survey Findings and Recommendations</u>	<u>Page 1</u>
<u>Tree Location Plan</u>	<u>Page 2</u>
<u>Tree Schedule</u>	<u>Page 3</u>
<u>Photographs</u>	<u>Page 4</u>
<u>Tree Survey Assessment Criteria</u>	<u>Pages 5 - 6</u>
<u>Report Limitations</u>	<u>Page 7</u>

Appendix 1 – Project Contact Details

Appendix 2 – Wildlife Legislation

Appendix 3 – References

Introduction

This Arboricultural report was instructed by Scott Thomson to assess the tree stock at 39 Castlehill Road, Ayr, KA7 2HY. The negative tree survey approach is used to identify trees requiring remediation following recent storms. Please refer to Report Limitations on page 7.

Trees are identified by a numbered metal tree tag attached to the tree which corresponds to the site plan and tree schedule.

Survey Findings

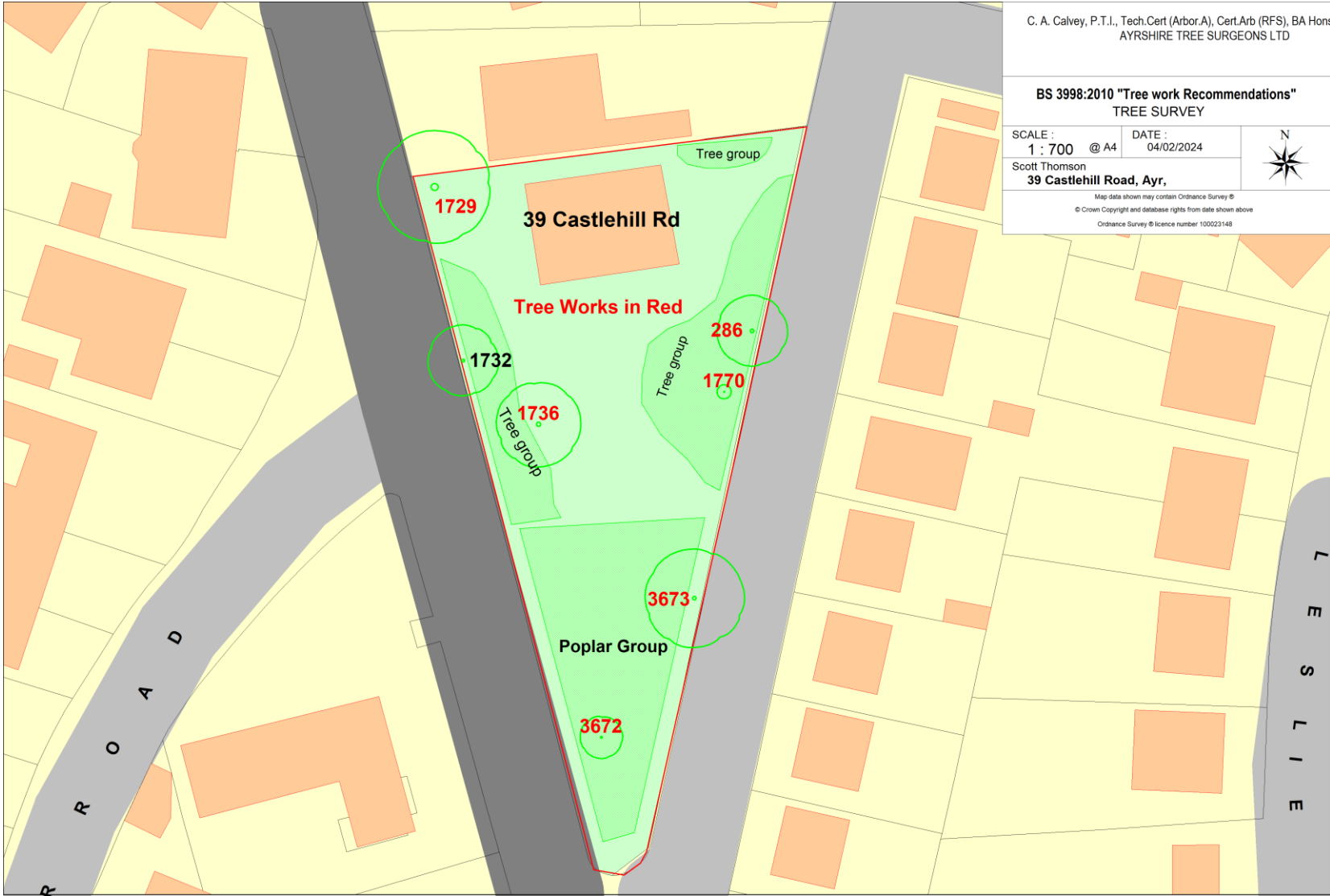
The garden has approximately 50 trees with mature trees located on the boundary. 5 trees are identified for remedial works or removal. Mature trees within the grounds comprise of Lime and Sycamore of higher value and contribute to the amenity of the urban landscape. A large group of suckering semi-mature poplar occupy the south-central garden area. These trees are tall, thin, ivy clad, mostly leaning and of low quality as identified in previous reports by Donald Roger Associates.

Proposed Tree works

1. 2 trees (Poplar 3673 and Sycamore 286) are impacting the boundary wall and will increasingly exacerbate structural damage if retained. The upper wall is displaced with structural fracturing. These 2 trees are recommended for removal.
2. Horse Chestnut 1729 has decay at union scaffold branch at 9m east. Remove branch as photograph on page 4.
3. Sycamore 1736: Sever ivy. Large dead hanging branch in central crown for removal. Clear crown of dead branches.
4. Young dead tree 1771 for removal.

Tree Management Recommendations

5. Remove basal growth on all lime trees to facilitate adequate inspection.
6. Multiple trees are ivy clad obstructing inspection. Sever ivy on trees out with the bird nesting period March to September. Please refer to Appendix 2 – Wildlife Legislation.
7. The Poplar group is recommended being thinned out at some point in the next ten years retaining the best quality trees. Dense shrubbery including highly invasive Laurel and snowberry together with suckering holly are recommended being removed to allow inspections and give prominence to trees in the garden.
8. Ivy growing on the wall should be stripped off out-with the bird nesting season early March to September.





Decay at base of primary branch – remove branch



Remove epicormic growth on Lime trees to facilitate inspections



1736 Large dead hanging branch in central crown for removal



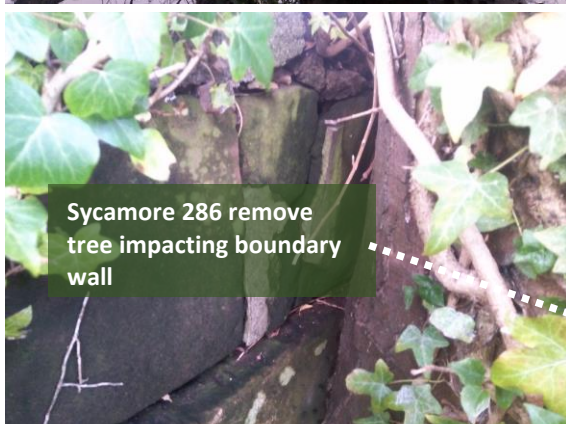
Remove invasive shrubs to facilitate inspections



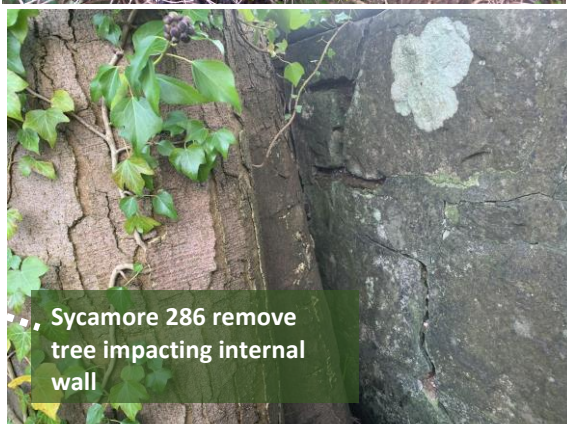
3672 remove tree with fractured stem



3673 remove tree impacting boundary wall



Sycamore 286 remove tree impacting boundary wall



Sycamore 286 remove tree impacting internal wall

Tree Survey Assessment Criteria

The tree survey is undertaken in accordance with a range of criteria listed in BS 5837:2012 *Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction-Recommendations*.

Quality Category

Category A: (HIGH quality, trees with particular merit with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years).

Category B: (MODERATE quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years).

Category C: (LOW quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years).

Category U: (UNSUITABLE quality, in such condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use. Life expectancy less than 10 years).

Sub Categories: The BS 5837 subcategories: 1 - mainly Arboricultural Qualities, 2 - mainly landscape qualities, 3 - Cultural qualities.

Tree Condition

Defects or diseases and relevant observations have been recorded under condition of Crown, Stem, Basal area and Physiological condition. It is important to appreciate that in BS5837 criteria only basic condition categories are recorded and the inspection process does not constitute a tree safety survey.

The overall condition of a tree has been referred to as one of the following:

- Good: A sound tree needing little if any attention at the time of survey.
- Fair: A tree with minor but rectifiable defects or in the early stages of stress, from which it may recover. The tree may have structural weaknesses which might result in failure.
- Poor: A tree with clear and obvious major structural and or physiological defects or stressed such that it would be expensive to retain and necessarily requires to be inspected on a regular basis for safety purposes.
- Decline: Irreversible with death inevitable in the short term.
- Dead. To be removed unless stated to the contrary.

Age Class

Age Class and Life Expectancy are clearly related but the distinction is necessary due to the variation among tree species. Knowledge of the longevity of individual species has been applied to determine the relative age and life expectancy categories in which trees are placed.

Age class is classified as:

- Y: Young trees up to 15 years of age.
- SM: Semi-mature trees less than $\frac{1}{3}$ rd life expectancy.
- EM: Early Mature trees between $\frac{1}{3}$ rd and $\frac{1}{2}$ of life expectancy.
- M: Mature trees between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of life expectancy.
- LM: Late mature - A senescent or moribund specimen with a limited safe useful life expectancy.
- V: Veteran status – a tree of significant age and character such that even in poor condition the tree has a value for retention for arboricultural or ecological reasons.

Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE)

The survey schedule identifies a Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) for each tree. This is a subjective assessment of the number of years that the tree can be expected to survive without deteriorating to the extent that safety is compromised. The estimated remaining contribution is given in ranges of years (<10, 10 to 20, 20 to 40, >40).

It is important to note that SULE does not in any way suggest that regular inspection and remedial work can be ignored. SULE does not take into account routine management that will be required to deal with minor structural or cultural problems, or damage that may arise from climatic or other physical intervention. The SULE value given for each tree reflects the following opinion based on current tree condition and environmental considerations:

<10 years. The tree has very limited prospects, due to terminal decline or major structural problems. Its removal should be planned within the next 10 years, unless immediate removal is recommended for safety reasons.

10-20 years. The tree has obvious structural or physiological problems that cannot be rectified, and decline is likely to continue. Removal or major tree surgery work may be necessary, or the species is approaching its normal life expectancy and decline due to senescence can be expected within this timeframe.

20-40 years. Relatively minor defects may exist that are likely to increase safety risks or general tree health over a longer period of time. At this stage it is not possible to fully predict the impact of such defects. Or the species is approaching its normal life expectancy and due to senescence decline can be expected within this timeframe.

>40. There is currently no health or structural problems evident, and the tree can be expected to survive safely for 40 or more years.

Survey & Report Limitations – negative tree survey method

The negative tree survey method allows for a large number of trees to be assessed but does not allow for the recording of every tree. Ayrshire Tree Surgeons Ltd accepts responsibility for fully inspected trees only. The survey is only concerned with the arboriculture aspects of the site. Any observations that are made regarding the condition of built structures and hydrology are from a laypersons view. The legal property on which the trees stand is not assessed. The survey is only concerned with the arboriculture aspects of the site. Any observations that are made in regard to the condition of built structures and hydrology are from a laypersons view. The legal property on which the trees are located is not assessed.

The authority of this report ceases within one year from the date of the survey or when any site conditions change, soil levels are altered close to trees, tree work undertaken, or during and following severe weather occurrences which supersede the current validity of the report.

The report contains Visual Tree Inspections undertaken from ground level. Visual inspections relate only to those parts of the tree which are visible. Roots are not inspected and during summer when trees are in leaf parts of the canopy may not be visible. Where a tree or parts of a tree could not be inspected due to such visual obstructions such as, but not limited to, snow, epicormic growth, ivy, restricted access or unsafe terrain; liability is not accepted. Only the visible pathogens are recorded; this does not confirm the absence of other pathogens but that no fungal fruiting bodies, or other signs, were visible at the time of the survey.

The surveyor cannot accept any liability in connection with the following:

1. A tree which has not been subject to a full and thorough inspection.
2. Ivy covered trees and trees with dense basal growth obscuring inspection.
3. Trees which are unreasonably challenging to access.
4. For any part of a tree that is not visible from the ground near the tree.
5. The structural stability of steep banks on which trees grow.
6. Where excavations have taken place within the rooting area of a tree at any time.
7. Branch or limb failure resulting from conditions associated with Summer Branch Drop.
8. The effect of extreme weather events, and branches failing during high winds.
9. Trees failing due to high winds; sometimes referred to as wind blow or wind throw.
10. Tree failure caused by loss of adhesion in waterlogged soil and root decay. Underground roots are not inspected.

Felling licenses are the responsibility of the tree owner. The Forestry Commission controls tree felling by issuing felling licences. In any calendar quarter, you may fell up to 5 cubic metres without a licence as long as no more than two cubic metres are sold. Timber volumes are not assessed.

Planning restrictions applying to tree works remain the responsibility of the tree owners.

No failsafe guarantees can be given regarding tree safety because the lightweight construction principles of nature dictate a natural failure rate of intact trees. Trees are living organisms and can decline in health rapidly due to biotic and abiotic influences. Therefore, failure of intact trees can never be ruled out due to the laws and forces of nature.



Christopher Calvey, Ayrshire Tree Surgeons Ltd

Appendix 1 – Project Contact Details

Scott Thomson
39 Castlehill Road,
Ayr,
KA7 2HY

scottthomson1969@talktalk.net
Tel. 07926 903836

AYRSHIRE TREE SURGEONS LTD
Christopher Calvey,
North Hourat Farm,
Kilbirnie, Ayrshire KA25 7LJ

Tel. 01505 681898
Mobile: Mo. 07920 763132
E-mail: chris@ayrshiretreesurgeons.co.uk

Appendix 2 - Wildlife Legislation

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive) in Great Britain. It is complimented by the Wildlife and Countryside (Service of Notices) Act 1985, which relates to notices served under the 1981 Act, and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), which implement Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive).

The Act received royal assent on 30 October 1981 and was brought into force in incremental steps. Amendments to the Act have occurred, the most recent being the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 (in England and Wales) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (in Scotland). There is also a statutory five-yearly review of Schedules 5 and 8 (protected wild animals and plant respectively), undertaken by the country agencies and co-ordinated by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Containing four Parts and 17 Schedules, the Act covers protection of wildlife (birds, and some animals and plants), the countryside, National Parks, and the designation of protected areas, and public rights of way.

The Act makes it an offence (with specific exception to some species listed in Schedule 2) to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests. Special penalties are available for offences related to birds listed on Schedule 1, for which there are additional offences of disturbing these birds at their nests, or their dependent young.

The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed in Schedule 5, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places.

Appendix 3 - References

British Standards Institute (1989)

BS 3998 "Tree Work"

BSI, 2 Park Street, London

British Standard 5837: 2012

Guide for Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition
and Construction: Recommendations.

BSI, 2 Park Street, London

Dr D Lonsdale, DETR London,

Forestry Commission (1999)

Research for Amenity Trees No 7.

STROUTS R.G. & WINTER T.G. (1984)

Diagnosis of ill health in trees

HMSO Publications, London

MATTHECK C. (1994)

The Body Language of Trees

HMSO Publications, London

SHIGO A.L. (1991)

Modern Arboriculture

Shigo and Trees Associates

MATTHECK C. & WEBER K. (2003)

Manual of Wood Decay in Trees

Arboriculture Association

Sources of Information

The Consulting Arborist Society

<https://tree-expert-finder.co.uk/contact.php>

The Arboricultural Association

<http://www.trees.org.uk>

Hazards from Trees – A General Guide ISBN 0-85538-514-6

Tree Felling – Getting Permission

Forestry Commission and free to download from their website www.forestry.gov.uk

Trees and the Law ISBN 0-900978-15-5 Published by the Arboricultural Association Tel:
01794 68717