

Proposed Removal of Sycamore Tree
damaging boundary wall
25 Octavia Terrace, Greenock, PA16 7SP

Greenock West End Conservation Area

6th February 2024

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Introduction

This Arboricultural report is instructed by Andrew Taylor, 25 Octavia Terrace, Greenock, PA16 7SP. Ayrshire Tree Surgeons Ltd conducted a full Visual Tree Assessment of a mature Sycamore (T1) on 5TH February 2024 in accordance with BS 3998:2010 "*Tree work Recommendations*".

The site is within the Greenock West End Conservation Area.

Survey purpose and constraints.

To assess tree health and biomechanical condition. To prescribe remedial works and advise whether trees are causing damage to infrastructure. Tree reports are subject to limitations; please refer to Limitations Visual Tree Inspections on page 6. The authority of this report ceases within one year from the date of the survey or following severe weather occurrences which supersede the current validity of the report.

Survey Findings

The mature Sycamore is a former Pollard with lapsed management. Historically crown raised with multiple pruning wounds. The tree has caused structural damage to the listed stone-built boundary wall and further structural damage is likely if the tree is retained.

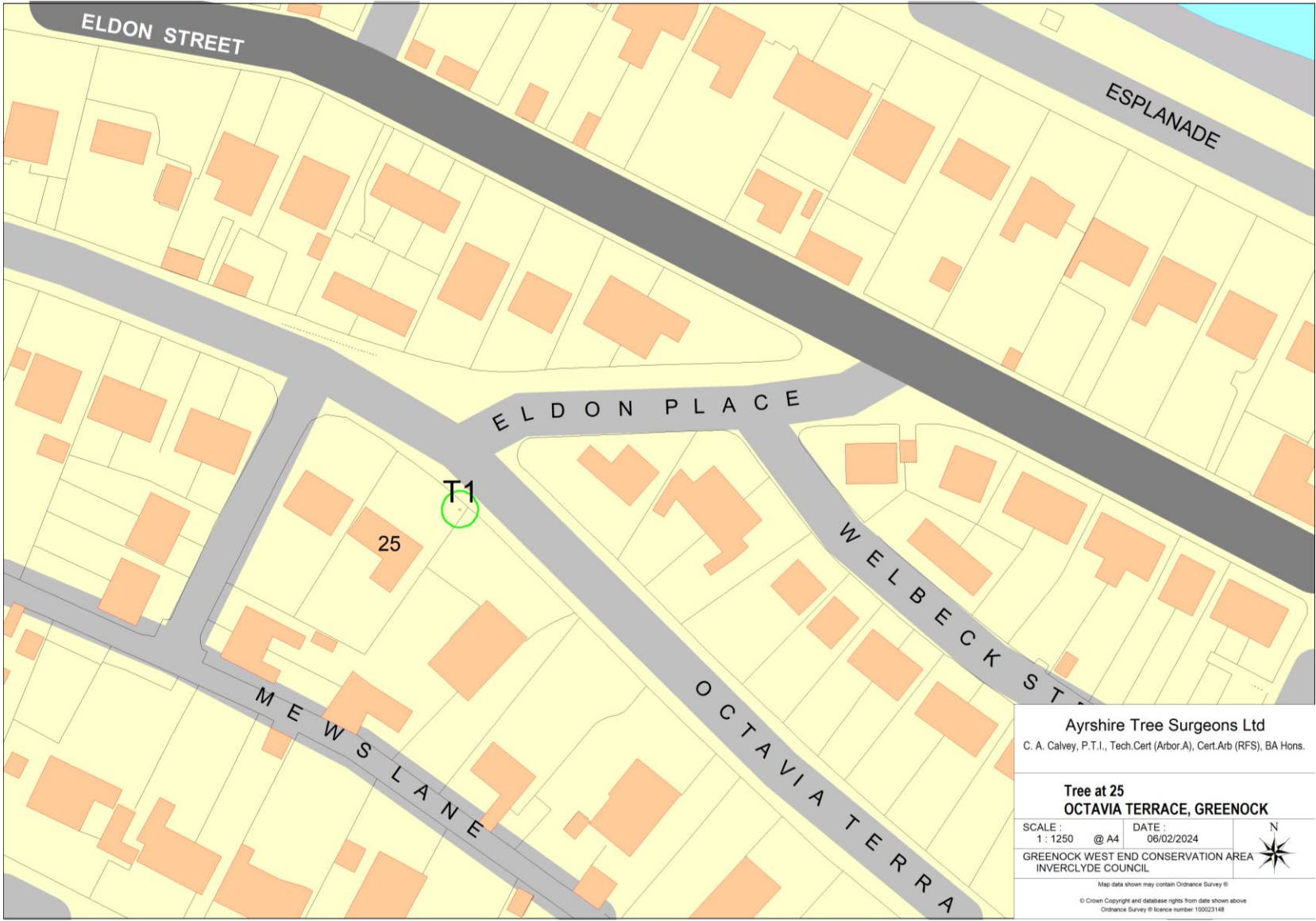
Executive Summary of Recommendations:

1. The tree is recommended for removal.

Please refer to the Photograph on page 2 and the 'Tree Schedule on page 4 for further information.







Easting Northing	Tree ID	Common Name <i>Latin Name</i>	Age Class	Likely Bat Habitat	Height (m)	Crown Height (m)	Nos. of Stems	Stem Diam. (mm)	Crown spread (m)	Quality	Life Expectancy	Cond. Class
226315.1 677661.2	T1	Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Mature	No	12	6	1	650	5	Moderate	20 to 40 yrs	Fair
Former Pollard with lapsed management. Crown raised specimen. Multiple historical pruning wounds. Causing structural damage to wall. Recommended for removal.												

Abbreviations and classifications used in the Tree Schedule

Age composition

Age Class relates to relative longevity which can vary significantly between tree species and the influence of current condition. Variation can exist to the degree such that a Prunus tree of 'Late Mature' class may be 80 years old with a life expectancy of 10 to 20 years. 80 years would be considered 'Semi-Mature' for an Oak which in normal circumstances may live for 250 years or longer.

- Young trees.
- Semi-mature - trees less than one third of life expectancy.
- Early-mature - trees between one third and half of life expectancy.
- Mature - between half and two thirds of life expectancy.
- Late-mature - In the later stage of maturity and may be in good health and condition.
- Over-mature - Senescent specimen with a limited safe useful life expectancy.
- Veteran - where a tree possesses certain attributes relating to great age.

Condition

Trees are categorised as either Dead, Dying; or in Poor, Varied, Fair and Good condition and relates to the health and structure of the tree.

1. **Good:** Healthy, full crown, long life expectancy, no significant defects.
2. **Fair:** Generally healthy, some thinning of crown, some defects of Low significance, and limited life expectancy.
3. **Varied.** Defects are confined to one aspect of the tree but may be significant to reduce life expectancy while the remainder of the tree is good condition.
4. **Poor:** Lacking vigour, short life expectancy, sparse leaf cover, significant defects.
5. **Dangerous:** Works are to be conducted within emergency timescales.
6. **Dying/Dead:** Removal required where the tree poses a risk but may be of high ecological value and be retained in woodland.

Report Limitations - Visual Tree Inspections (VTA Type 1)

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.
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.

This report has been prepared exclusively by Ayrshire Tree Surgeons Ltd for the Client and no responsibility can be accepted for actions taken by any third party arising from their interpretation of the information contained in this document. No other party may rely on the report and if they do, then they rely upon it at their own risk.



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Appendix 1 – Project Contact Details

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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