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**Ref: BSCB-2402-TM**

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## Tree Management Survey



## Braemar Studio, Chapel Brae

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Client: Ian & Fiona Mitchell

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# Tree Management Survey Report

## Braemar Studio, Chapel Brae

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# Tree Management Survey Report

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## Braemar Studio, Chapel Brae

### Introduction

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#### Scope of Survey

Astell Associates have been instructed by Ian & Fiona Mitchell to advise on tree health and management at Braemar Studio, Chapel Brae, Braemar.

#### Study Objectives:

- Map the location and characteristics of the trees and tree groups within the site
- Identify any trees which would be removed as part of sound arboricultural management (i.e. dead/unviable trees)
- Provide recommendations for tree surgery on retained trees.

#### 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 are valid for a period of one year only.

#### Site Visit and Tree Assessment Methodology

- A site visit was undertaken on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 by Nigel Astell.
- 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, condition 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.
- Where trees are growing as a close grown community of the same species, they may be described as a group rather than individually detailed.
- The trees have been positioned by 'pacing out' tree positions – note that while this is sufficient for the purposes of this management survey, positions cannot be considered accurate for any other purpose.
- Details of surveyed trees are provided in the Tree Survey Schedule, Appendix A.



# Site Description

## Site Location



Site location outlined in red. Postcode: AB35 5YT.

## Site Description

Braemar Studio has a woodland garden with six deciduous trees and three coniferous trees. It is located within the Braemar Conservation Area.



Aerial photo of site with boundary outlined in red.



## Tree Management

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The following tree management works are recommended:

Bird cherries 4 and 6 should be felled for safety

Noble fir trees 7 and 8 should also be felled for safety

Bird cherry 5 - Canopy should be thinned by 15% and reduced 3 – 4m to reduce weight and spread over house.

Refer to drawing BSCB-2402-TW for position of trees and showing recommended tree works.

### Bat Roosting Potential

None of the trees have bat roosting potential.

## Replacement Planting

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Following the tree felling for health and safety, the following replacement planting will be carried out:

2	Cherry ( <i>Prunus avium</i> )	1.8 – 2.1m
1	Rowan ( <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> )	1.8 – 2.1m
1	Scots pine ( <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> )	1.0 – 1.25m



## Site Photos

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Photo 1: Birch 1 & 2 growing adjacent to south boundary. Birch 2 has some shallow cavities but appears healthy.



Photo 2: Lodgepole pine 2a, showing two canopy branches now forming the trunks.



Photo 3: Lodgepole pine 2a, with two canopy branches forming main stems.





Photo 4:  
Lodgepole pine 2a.  
New main stem growing  
from adjacent to stem.  
Windblown in past with  
two canopy branches  
forming stems. Trunk  
supported by branches.



Photo 5:  
Rowan 3, multi-branched  
tree, appears healthy.



Photo 6:  
Bird cherry 5 and bird  
cherry 6.  
Bird cherry 6 was  
originally three-stemmed.  
The north limb has been  
removed with substantial  
rot. Tree leans south  
– fell for safety.





Photo 6: Tree 4 growing adjacent to dwarf wall. Tree has had canopy branches to east removed. Fell for health and safety.



Photo 7: Bird cherry 5, leaning over neighbouring property. Thin canopy 15% and reduce by 3-4m to balance tree.



Photo 10: Bird cherry 6, leans south with rot at base. Fell for safety.



Photo 11: Noble firs 7 and 8 growing within 5m of the house. Tree 7 is twin stemmed from 3.5m.



Photo 12: Tree 7 with twin-stemmed area with weak divergence angle and cracking giving instability in this area of the tree. Fell for safety.

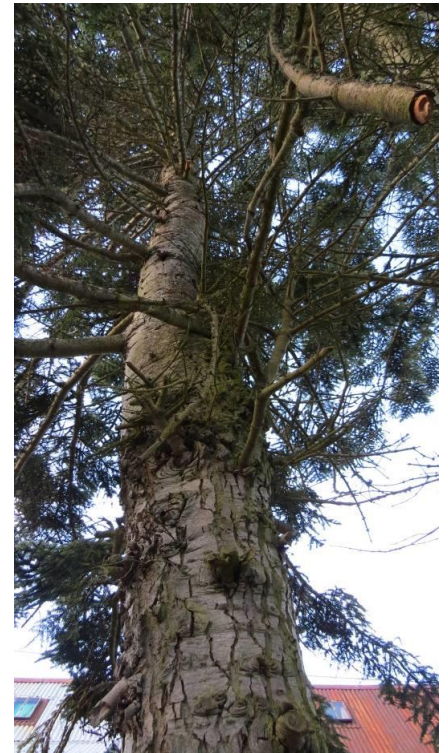


Photo 14: Noble fir 8 leans northwest, towards house, with suppressed canopy to southeast due to Tree 7. Fell for safety.





## 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	Birch	36	3	3	3	4	14	4.3	M	B	Tree leans south. Appears healthy.	Retain.
2	Birch	62	6	4	5	4	17	7.4	M	C	Twin-stemmed from 1.1m. East limb had cavity at 2m to north and 1.8m to southwest. This cavity extends 20cm down tree and contains water.	Retain and inspect at regular intervals
2a	Lodgepole pine	48 (31 & 28)	5	3	3	4	8	5.0	M	C	Tree has uprooted to south in past, supported by canopy branches. Two branches are growing up, one to the east and one to the north (diameters shown in brackets), forming the canopy. Some dead wood. Tree appears stable and healthy.	Retain and inspect at regular intervals.
3	Rowan	28, 19	4	3	3	4	7	4.1	M	B	Twin-stemmed from 1.0m, stems divide to form multi-branched canopy. Tree appears healthy.	Retain.
4	Bird cherry	28	4	2	2	3	9	3.4	M	C	Branches removed on east side over house. Tree has poor form. Tree is growing close to wall and southwest corner of adjacent house.	Fell for safety.
5	Bird cherry	28	3	3	4	2	10	3.4	M	C	Twin-stemmed from 4m. Tree leans east with canopy over house.	Thin canopy 15% and reduce by 3-4m to balance tree.
6	Bird cherry	41	5	4	6	5	9	4.9	M	C	Tree leans south. Poor condition with branch cuts having some rot. Large north stem has been cut off at base with rot apparent.	Fell for safety.
7	Noble fir	63	4	4	5	3	17	7.6	M	U	Twin-stemmed from 3.5m. Limb divergence angle weak and cracking, could fail.	Fell for safety.
8	Noble fir	40	4	3	1	4	14	4.8	M	C	Tree leans northwest, canopy suppressed by tree 7 to east. Tree will be exposed and more prone to wind blow, when tree 7 is felled.	Fell for safety.



## Appendix B: Legislation, Guidance and References

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- 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)
- 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.

## Appendix C: Contact Details

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## Appendix D: Report Authorship

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Version	Date	Content/Revisions	Report Author	Prepared by	Approved by
*	27/02/2024	Final	NA	LW	EP

