

TREE INSPECTION

Remit: To inspect two mature trees in woodland adjacent to the western boundary of 49 Haulkerton Crescent, Laurencekirk, AB30 1FB, for health, condition and risk to persons or property. Commissioned by Kevin Urquhart.

Date of inspection: 14th February 2024 pm

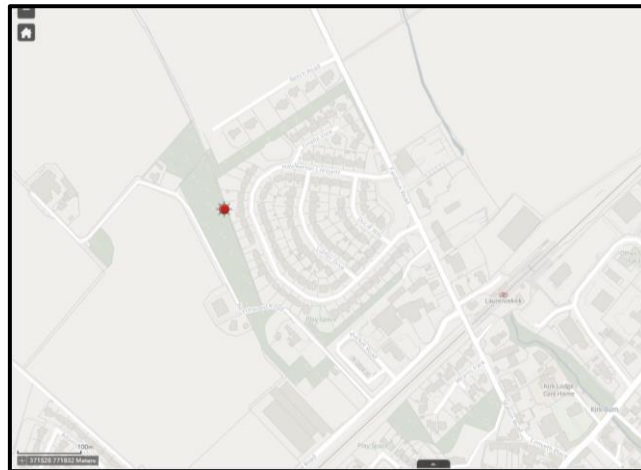
Conditions: Dry, dull

Author: Stephen Jay, NDArb, BScFor

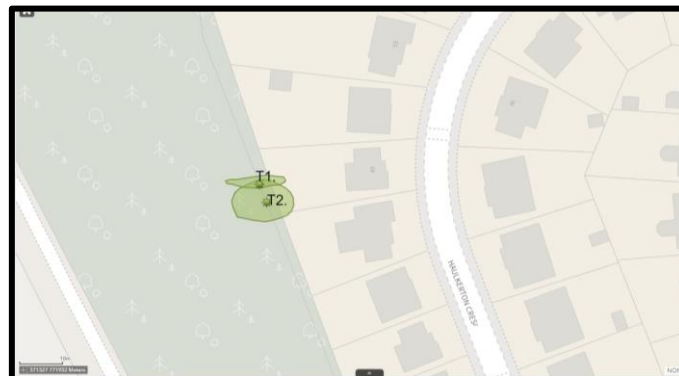
Date of report: 13th March 2024

Site description: The trees (T1 and T2 see Schedule)) are part of a line of late mature Beech trees designating an old boundary, and are partly rooted in the remains of a stone dyke. The garden fences of properties in Haulkerton Crescent run 2 metres to the east, and the trees form the Eastern edge to a 1.3 hectare strip of scrubby boggy woodland running approximately NW-SE. The three trees to the north of T1 are in the process of being removed, thus leaving T1 and T2 exposed to the north. The trees are subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

Site location: Rear of 49, Haulkerton Crescent, Laurencekirk, AB30 1FB



Tree location





T1 left and T2 right

Discussion

T1 is in declining health, with no viable long-term future. A continuous column of decay in the stem is probable due to the pruning of multiple lateral branches. The risk from failure of branches or stem to people or property is presently Moderate, but this is likely to increase over time, over weighting the environmental benefits associated with declining trees.

Recommended action: Fell

T2 is in fair condition, and poses a low risk to person or property. However, the removal of three large mature Beech trees to the north will expose the tree to unaccustomed wind forces that may result in branch failure.

#Recommended action: Reduce canopy height by up to 4m to mitigate windload.

TREE SCHEDULE

Number	Species	Botanical name	Age	Vitality	Height	DBH	Crown Spread	Risk	Safe Useful Life Expectancy	Comments	Recommended action
T1	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Late mature	Poor	15m	68cm	N-3, E-8, S-1, W-9	Moderate	0-10 years	Suppressed by T2, 4m to south; abundant epicormics on stem due to historic removal of most lateral branches; hollows and dead stubs on stem, canopy small with poor extension growth; some deadwood. Rootplate stable; no fungal fruiting bodies evident.	Fell. –
T2	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Late mature	Fair	22m	85cm	N-7, E-7, S-6, W-11	Low	20-40 years	Established epicormics forming lower crown; first scaffold branches at 5m; wide crown with over-extended branches over garden and to south; large historic pruning wounds; rootplate stable; no fungal fruiting bodies evident.	Reduce height of canopy by up to 4m.