



ArbTS - Arboricultural Technician Services Ltd

(Tree Consultancy Services)

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Tree Condition Inspection and Management Work Recommendations

2 Ffawydden, Cwmavon, Port Talbot, SA129BJ



Project Reference – ArbTS_1099.1_2 Ffawydden

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give a condition and quality assessment of one beech tree located within the rear garden of 2 Ffawyddden, Cwmavon, Port Talbot, SA129BJ.
- 1.2 The findings of this report provide Arboricultural management work recommendations for the inspected tree.
- 1.3 All tree work should be carried out in accordance with the British Standard BS3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.

2.0 The Tree Inspection

- 2.1 The tree inspection was conducted by Stephen Lucocq *BSc (Hons), Tech Cert (ArborA), MArborA* on the 1st March 2021.
- 2.2 All tree inspections were conducted from ground level with the use of an acoustic sounding hammer and probe. No invasive decay detective instruments were used.
- 2.3 All tree inspections were carried out in accordance with current best practise (Visual Tree Assessment) to give a systematic, consistent and transparent evaluation method to tree inspecting.

(Limitations of the report: Whilst every effort is made to ensure an accurate assessment of the trees condition is made during survey no responsibility can be taken for resultant damage or injury occurred by a failing tree. The survey only gives a snapshot of what is visible and is not obscured on the day of survey.

This report relates ONLY to the condition and quality of the one beech tree (T263) on this site.

Please note that the findings of this report are only valid for 24 months from the date of the tree inspection)

3.0 The Trees

3.1 A Tree Location Plan is found in Appendix 2 of this report.

3.2 **Tree ID – T263**

Tree Species - *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech)

Age – Mature

Tree Height – 20 metres

Physiological Condition – Normal

Structural Condition – Fair/Poor

Current Useful Life Expectancy – 10 - 20 years

Tree Quality – Moderate

Comments:

Surrounding area – T263 is a large tree located within the rear garden of the property and is close to an adjacent south eastern beech tree (T1) of a similar size. Further beyond this a large south eastern Sycamore tree has been recently felled. T263 is additionally surrounded by medium to larger trees further to the east, south and west. T263 is located some 10 metres south from the dwelling and mainly surrounded by open ground with some recent landscaping of surface soil noted to the west.



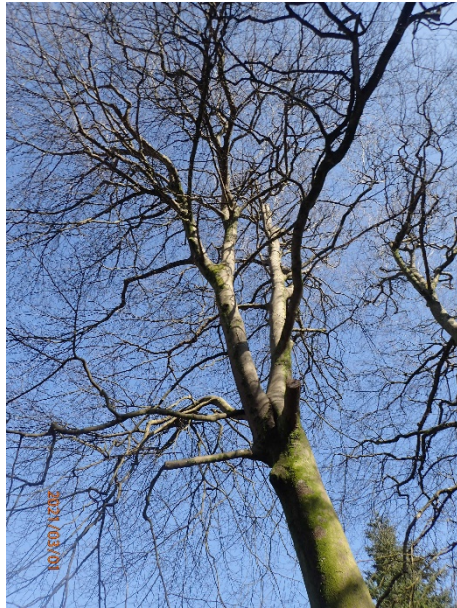
Buttress and Lower Trunk – Normal buttress formation. Small area of western surface bark damaged noted on trunk at 3.5 metres above ground level. Occluded vertical rib noted (right photograph below) on southern side of trunk from 0.5 metres to 3 metres above ground level, possibly due to a historic internal crack formed within the trunk. Rib formation closed and appears stable in form.



Trunk/Stem – Large upright trunk that divides into two main leader stems at approximately 7 metres above ground level. Stem union appears to be bark included between the two stems on the southern side (left picture below) with no significant reactive surrounding growth evident. Northern side of union has side branch growing from union area (right picture below).



Primary/Secondary Branches – The crown is of fair to good form with no evident crossing, rubbing or grafted branches between the two stems.



Leaf Bud Cover – Appears in Good health with normal leaf bud cover, density, and size.

Amenity Value – Moderate - The tree offers moderate amenity value in the wider landscape due to other surrounding larger trees.

4.0 Arboricultural Management Recommendation

- 4.1 **T263 Beech – Sectional fell and replant in 6 months from date of the tree survey.** This recommendation is due to the structural form of the union (bark included) between the main stems, the tree species, size, age, and proximity of the tree in relation to the dwelling. Beech tree species have a history of losing bark included stems and T263 is mature in age with a more limited future compared to other longer lived tree species. Coupled with the fact T263 is near the dwelling then the safe future retention of this tree is limited.
- 4.2 **T1 Beech - Reduce only overextended lateral branches by no greater than 3 to 4 metres in branch length to suitable pruning points** . This recommendation is due to the removal of T263 where T1 will be left out of crown balance with an increased risk of overextended branch failure from intensified exposure.

5.0 Legal Constraints

- 5.1 **TPO (Tree Preservation Orders)/Conservation Areas** – The Tree Preservation Officer from the Local Planning Authority **MUST** be consulted before any tree work is carried out on this tree as it's protected by a TPO.
- 5.2 **Protected Wildlife** – Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to destroy or disturb nesting birds, if nesting birds are discovered or suspected no works can proceed and the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Local Wildlife Trust must be notified for advice as to how to proceed. Further to this, wildlife such as Bats are protected under European legislation (Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Habitat Regulation 2009) it is an offence to recklessly, or intentionally, kill, injure or capture bats, to disturb them, or destroy, obstruct or

damage any bat roosts found. If any bat activity is found then the bat conservation trust should be contacted as soon as possible (<http://www.bats.org.uk/> or 0845 1300 228). Further guidance relating to the protection of wildlife within development design is given in Welsh Assembly Government Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009).

- 5.3 Tree Felling Licence** – Depend on the designation of the land where the trees are located a Tree Felling Licence may be required if more than 5 cubic metres of timber are being extracted per one quarter a felling license must be obtained from Natural Resources Wales.
<https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/tree-felling-and-other-regulations/tree-felling-licences/?lang=en>

6.0 Further Information and Qualifications

Stephen Lucocq has been involved in Arboriculture within South Wales for over twenty years. He has worked as an Arborist for many of these years and has a good working knowledge of the practical side of the profession. He has always taken an active interest in all areas of Arboriculture and kept up to date with current research and developments.

Qualifications

- First Class BSc (Hons) Degree
- Arboricultural Association Technicians Certificate (Merit)
- PTI - Professional Tree Inspection (Lantra Awards)
- 2D Computer Aided Design (City and Guilds - Level 3)
- Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) – Mike Ellison
- Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) – Mike Ellison
- Arboriculture and Bats (Lantra)
- Industrial Rope Access Trade Association (IRATA)
- Practical Arboriculture Qualifications (NPTC)

Membership

- Arboricultural Association Technicians Member (Tech.Arbor.A)

7.0 Web Information & Bibliography

Web Information

- Arboricultural Association
<http://www.trees.org.uk/index.php>

Bibliography

- British Standards 3998 (2010) *Tree Work - Recommendations UK*; British Standards Institution
- Lonsdale, D (1999) *Principle of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management* Edinburgh; Forestry Commission
- Mattheck, C (2007) *Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment* Germany; Karlsruhe Research Centre
- Shigo, A.L (1991) *Modern Arboriculture* USA; Shigo and Trees, Association
- Sterry, P (2007) *Collins Complete British Trees* London; Collins
- Strouts, R.G (2000) *Diagnosis of ill-health in trees* Edinburgh; Forestry Commission
- Weber, K & Mattheck, C (2003) *Manual of wood decay* UK; Arboricultural Association

8.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 Tree Survey Key

- **Species** - Scientific tree name and common tree name in brackets.
- **Age** -
 - **Y** - Young – First 10 years of growth
 - **SM** - Semi Mature - Less than 1/5 of life completed
 - **EM** – Early Mature – Less than 2/5 of life completed
 - **M** - Mature – 2/5 – 5/5 of life completed
 - **OM** - Over Mature - more than 5/5 of life completed and declining
 - **V** - Veteran – Veteran trees have no precise definition but are trees considered to be of biological aesthetic or ecological value because of their age
- **Tree Height** – Measured from the base of the tree to the upper branch tips.
- **Physiological Condition** - The physiological condition of the tree/s.
- **Structural Condition** - The structural condition of the tree/s.
- **Current Useful Life Expectancy** – An estimated of how long the tree can currently survive.
- **Comments** – Observations and comments made about different parts of the tree and surrounding area.

8.0 Appendices

Appendix 2 Tree Location Plan



Tree Location Plan

Site - 2 Ffawyddden

Project Ref - 1099.1

Scale - 1:500 @ A4

Tree Label

T3-Beech ← Tree Species
(Common Tree Name Shown)

Tree ID# (T- Individual Tree, G-Tree Group, A-Tree Area, W-Woodland, H- Hedgerow)

Tree Work Priority

- Urgent (Within 7 days) or Urgent/High (Within 31 days) Work Priority
- High (Within 3 Months) or High/Medium (Within 6 Months) Work Priority

(*Please see Appendix 2 - Tree data for all tree survey details including all management recommendations*)

T263 Beech

T1 Beech