



Arboricultural Contractors & Consultants

Specialists in the preservation and maintenance of trees

Access Hire | Grounds Maintenance | Tree Maintenance & Reports

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Health and Condition Survey

62 Woodlands Park Drive

Cadoxton

Neath

SA10 8AW

Grid reference : SS75279 98427

Date: July 2025

Client: Mr & Mrs Morgan

Consultant: Nick Thomas Dip.Arb, Cert.Arb RFS

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.0 BIODIVERSITY

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

TABLE 1 : TREE SPECIES LIST

TABLE 2 : TREE SCHEDULE

TABLE 3 : RECOMMENDED WORK

KEY TO TREE SCHEDULE

IMAGES (2)

SITE AND TREE LOCATION PLAN

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 On the instructions of the client a tree survey was undertaken on a small section of woodland which is to the rear and due north of 61 to 63 Woodlands Park Drive, Cadoxton. The survey was completed on the 16th July 2025.

1.2 The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the biological health and structural condition of the trees. The species and number of tagged trees inspected consist of the following species.

TABLE 1

TREE SPECIES – English / Botanical	NUMBER OF TREES
English Elm / <i>Ulmus procera</i>	1
Horse Chestnut / <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	1
Holly / <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	3
Sycamore / <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	12
Sessile Oak / <i>Quercus petraea</i>	1
TOTAL	18

1.3 For the period of the survey the weather was calm and dry with sunny periods. The weather conditions did not restrict or influence any part of the survey.

1.4 For accurate identification all the individual trees listed in Table 1 and the Tree Schedule in Table 2 have been individually tagged and plotted on the site and tree location plan. The tags have been attached to the tree's main stems on their south facing side at approximately two metres above ground level.

1.5 Please note that this is a health and condition survey and is not intended as a substitute for a structural engineers report. Unless stated, no information was received and no evaluation of the tree's roots in relation to their effect on underground services, utilities or structures has been considered in this report.

1.6 This report is a basic tree survey with its conclusions and recommendations drawn from the visual evaluation as seen at the time of the inspection / survey.

1.7 Unless stated otherwise, all inspections were undertaken from ground level in accordance with current good practice using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) system. This provides a consistent and systematic evaluation for the inspection of trees. A steel rod was used to probe and an acoustic sounding hammer was used for identifying possible areas of decay. Due to

undergrowth, Ivy on the tree's main stems and branches, the terrain and the proximity of other trees, some parts of the trees were not fully visible from ground level.

1.8 Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is an important plant for a wide range of birds, mammals and insects. Its benefits include providing shelter for birds and bats, nectar for bees and pollinating insects and nutritious berries for feeding birds. Its severance and removal will only be recommended if dense Ivy growth on a tree's main stem and branches has become excessive. Excessive Ivy growth can reduce the trees ability to photosynthesis, increase the tree's sail area and wind resistance and may hide structural defects such as open cavities and fungal fruiting bodies.

1.9 All Ash trees infected with Ash dieback disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) are evaluated for the level of infection and crown dieback. There is a possibility that some Ash trees have varying degrees of natural resistance to the disease. For ecological and amenity reasons these trees should be retained. Except in high risk areas or if the tree has other safety issues only trees with crown dieback which is in excess of 50% are recommended for removal.

1.10 Due to unpredictable weather conditions, unforeseen events and pest and disease attack it is not possible to guarantee the safety of any tree and no such guarantee is given or implied in any part of this report. The information in this report is as seen during the time of the inspection and is valid for a period of one year from the date of the inspection. Due to their form and structure the health and condition of any tree can change suddenly and dramatically therefore any observations and recommendations may require modification or a complete reappraisal.

1.11 It is advisable that recorded tree inspections are undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced arborist. Any tree(s) in high risk locations should be regularly inspected especially after a storm and high winds.

1.12 The frequency of the inspections will depend on a number of factors such as the size, location and general health of the tree. It is the landowners responsibility to decide on the time period between inspections but in areas of low pedestrian and traffic volume or where there are low value targets the time periods between inspections can be extended. The time periods are usually between one and three years and for maximum accuracy and benefit, consecutive surveys should be completed during different seasons / times of year.

1.13 If there are any legal constraints such as tree preservation orders and planning conditions or the trees are in a conservation area prior to the start of any work, permission must be obtained from the local planning authority. Felling licence requirements can be checked via the relevant statutory body which in Wales is Natural Resources Wales and the Forestry Commission in England and Scotland.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The woodland was accessed from the rear garden of 62 Woodlands Park Drive. The woodland has a significant south facing slope. The larger woodland trees consist of a mixture of deciduous species and are protected with a tree preservation order which is administered and enforced by the planning authority of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

2.2 Due to their size and location the trees are a prominent feature in the local landscape and are visible from the surrounding area and highways.

2.3 The static targets include houses, a bungalow, garden structures, neighbouring properties and boundary fencing. Mobile targets include the residents and visitors to 62 Woodlands Park Drive and the neighbouring properties.

2.4 Due to dense Ivy growth on their main stems and branches the inspections of trees 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 968, 970, 972 and 974 were restricted.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Due to their location and condition, all recommended tree work should be completed within the recommended time periods and in accordance with BS3998: 2010 Tree Work - Recommendations. All trees which have been recommended for removal have been marked with red spray paint.
2. If the recommended work is undertaken on trees 961, 962, 966, 967, 972, 975, 976 and 977 their high risk category can be downgraded to a medium risk. The pruning work will reduce the wind resistance of the trees which will reduce the risk of future branch, stem and root failure.
3. Prior to any tree pruning or removal a tree work application must be submitted to the local planning authority and written permission received from Neath Port Talbot CBC.
4. To evaluate any change in their health and condition and the effects of any tree pruning work all the trees should be re-inspected every two years or as decided by the property owners.
5. Prior to any tree pruning or removal the structure of the trees should be checked for roosting, nesting or hibernating species such as bats and birds. (Refer to the biodiversity section below).
6. Where the severance of Ivy has been recommended to avoid any damage to the bark of the trees this work should be undertaken with hand tools and the use of a chainsaw should be avoided.

4.0 BIODIVERSITY

4.1 Trees have the potential for bat roosts and nesting birds. Various legislation such as the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981(as amended), Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 make it a criminal offence to interfere with protected species such as bats, birds or their roosts and nests.

4.2 Prior to any tree work all trees and the land around them must be checked for protected species by a suitably qualified and competent person. If protected species are identified all work must stop and the appropriate authority contacted e.g. Natural Resources Wales for further advice. Where bats or their roosts are present, no works shall take place unless a licence has been granted in accordance with the relevant legislation.

4.3 Where work has commenced and bats or any evidence that bats are using the site as a roost are found, work must cease and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) contacted immediately. NRW can be contacted at Ty Cambria, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0TP. Tel. 0300 065 3000. Further advice can also be obtained from the Bat Conservation Trust, 5th Floor, Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane, London. SE11 5DR. Tel. 0345 130 0228.

TABLE 2 : TREE SCHEDULE

Tree #	Species	Age	Size	Pc	Sc	Observations / Recommended works	Cat.	Risk
961	Horse Chestnut	M	VL	F	F	An asymmetric crown with the main growth to the south above the garden. Heavy leaf miner (<i>Cameraria ohridella</i>) infestation. Reduce the upper crown by 2 to 3 metres.	2	H
962	Sycamore	EM	VL	F	F	Reduce the upper crown by 2 to 3 metres.	2	H
963	Sycamore	SM	L	F	P	A whip type tree, suppressed by the adjacent trees.	0	M
964	Sycamore	M	VL	F	F	Main stem divides into two at three metres above ground level, with a large bark wound on the south side of the lower stem.	0	M
965	Sycamore	SM	L	F	P	A whip type tree, suppressed by the adjacent trees.	0	M
966	Sycamore	EM	VL	F	P	An asymmetric crown with a bark wound at 1.5 metres above ground level on its south side.	2	H

						Reduce the upper crown by 2 to 3 metres.		
967	Sessile Oak	SM	VL	P	D	Sparse foliage and a very poor form. Two metre vertical bark wound with decay on north side of the main stem at 2.5 metres above ground level - IMAGE 1. Reduce crown by 5 metres.	1	H
968	Sycamore	SM	L	F	P	NC	0	M
969	Holly	EM	M	D	P	Low vigour and sparse foliage with advanced crown dieback. Suppressed by the adjacent trees. Remove tree.	2	M
970	Sycamore	EM	M	F	P	A very poor form and suppressed by the adjacent trees. Reduce the crown on the south and west side by 2 to 3 metres.	2	M
971	Holly	EM	S	D	D	Advanced crown dieback and suppressed by the adjacent trees. Large areas of bark necrosis on the main stem. Remove tree. Prior to removing, check that this tree is not in direct contact and possibly supporting tree 970.	1	H
972	Sycamore	M	VL	F	F	Stem divides at 2.5 metres above ground level. Included bark in the main fork. Reduce the crown by 2 to 3 metres.	2	H
973	English Elm	SM	M	F	P	A very poor unbalanced form. Twin stems dividing from ground level. Reduce the branches on the south side by 2 metres.	2	M
974	Sycamore	SM	L	F	P	An asymmetric crown with a very poor form. Reduce crown by 2 to 3 metres.	2	M
975	Sycamore	EM	L	F	D	A regrown pollard with an asymmetric crown and a very poor form. Branch shedding occurring due to decay around the old pruning wounds, small diameter branch suspended in the lower crown on south side. Re-pollard and remove all decayed sections.	1	H

976	Sycamore	SM	L	F	D	A regrown pollard with an asymmetric crown and a very poor form. Branch shedding occurring due to decay around the old pruning wounds. Re-pollard and remove all decayed sections.	1	H
977	Sycamore	SM	L	F	D	A regrown pollard with an asymmetric crown and a very poor form. Bark necrosis and a small compartmentalising basal cavity - IMAGE 2 on the south facing side due to previous branch removal. Branch shedding occurring due to decay around the old pruning wounds. Re-pollard and remove all decayed sections.	1	H
978	Holly	EM	S	D	D	Dead, remove tree.	1	M

KEY TO TREE SCHEDULE

Tree / Group # Numerical order - tag numbers 961 to 978
u/t - untagged

Species Table 1 – Common English name followed by botanical title.
Table 2 – English name only.

Age Assessed by considering the tree species and its current environment.
Y - Young trees SM – Semi mature EM - Early mature M – Mature
OM - Over mature V - Veteran

Size S - Small - trees less than 10 metres in height
M – Medium - trees 10 to 15 metres in height
L – Large - trees 15 to 20 metres in height
VL – Very large - trees over 20 metres in height

PC - The general physiological condition of the tree. This assessment is based on bud and leaf density, leaf size and colour, annual extension growth and wound closure indicators.
G – Good F – Fair P – Poor D – Dead, dying or / and dangerous

SC - The general structural condition of the tree. This assessment is based on the trees biomechanical strength and involves the evaluation of visible defects and their indicators in the trees rooting area, trunk, branch unions and limbs.
G – Good F – Fair P – Poor D – Dead, dying or / and dangerous

Observations / Recommended works – As and when stated. NC - No comment.

Cat. Recommended time periods for works :-

Category 1 (Red) – If combined with a high risk (H) due to the possibility of imminent failure or danger, all recommended works should be completed as soon as possible / practicable.

Category 2 (Blue) – Trees with various structural weaknesses or problems which require remedial works. Works should be completed within one year of the date of this report or sooner if possible.

Category 3 (Green) – Trees with minor defects and problems which require remedial or aesthetic work. These works should be completed within two years of this report or as budgets allow.

Category 0 – No works specified or recommended.

Risk This is a best predicted assessment for the level of evaluated risk taking into consideration the likelihood and consequences of any tree failure. The following factors are considered as part of the risk assessment process - all static and mobile targets, the occupancy rate (the length of time the target is within the probable area of impact), any natural protection that may be present and its resistance to an impact, the physiological and structural condition of the tree, the most likely part of the tree to fail and its size and weight.

L – Low

M – Medium

H - High



IMAGE 1 : Bark wound and cavity on tree 967



IMAGE 2 : Bark necrosis and basal decay on tree 977

Table 4 : Recommended work (Tree numbers)		
Category / Risk	Tree identification numbers	Total
1H	967,971,975,976,977	5
1M	978	1
1L		0
2H	961,962,966,972	4
2M	969,970,973,974	4
2L		0
3H		0
3M		0
3L		0
TOTAL		14

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

D. Lonsdale Principles of Tree Hazard & Management (1999)

N. Fay, D. Dowson & R. Helliwell Tree Surveys – A guide to good practice (2005)

C. Mattheck Field Guide to Visual Tree Assessment (2007)

British Standards Institution BS3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations

National Tree Safety Group Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (2011)

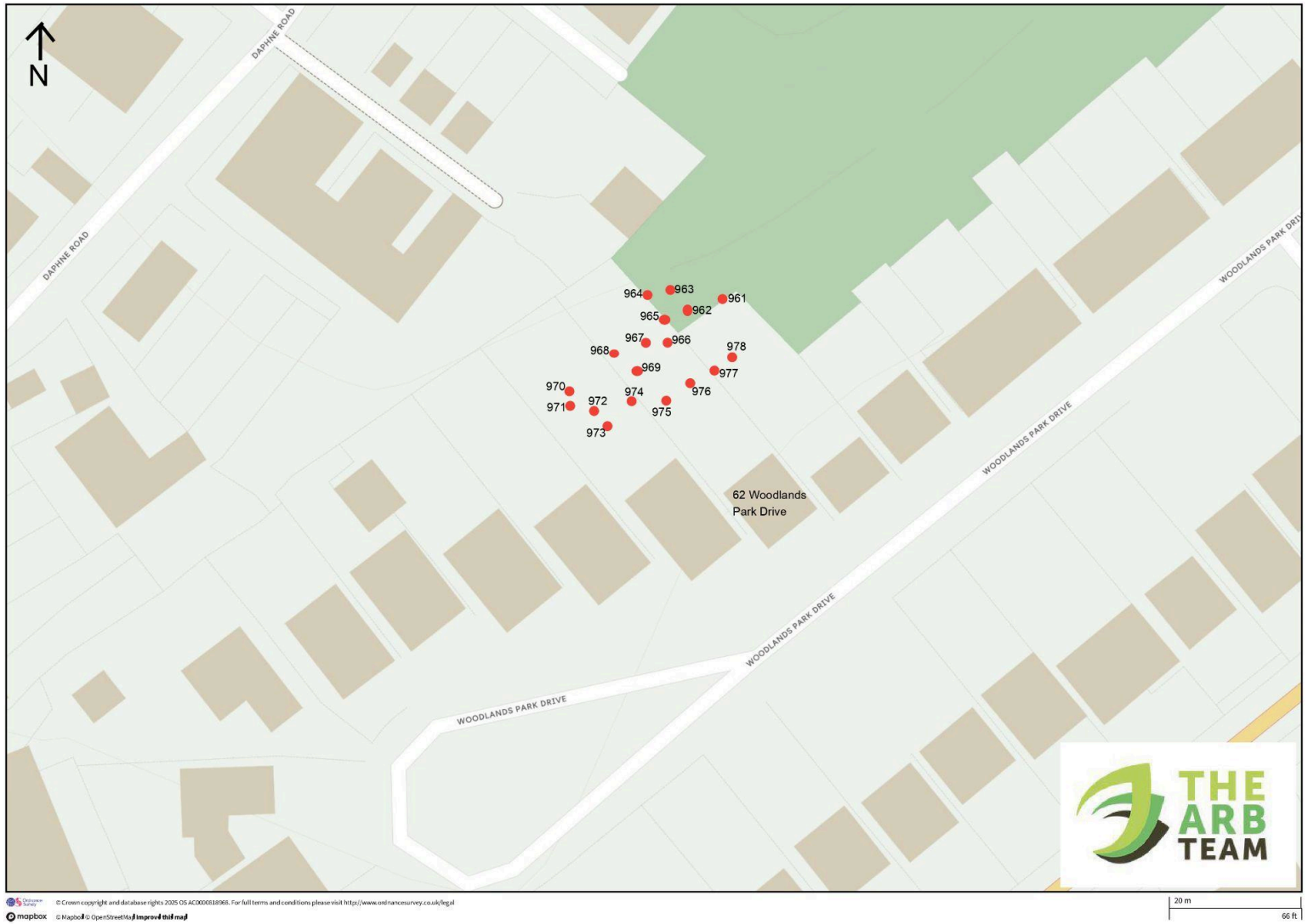
C. Mattheck The Body Language of Trees (2015)

D. Slater Assessment of Tree Forks. Assessment of junctions for risk management (2016)

S. Cox & P. Malarange Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 11 - Aerial inspections A guide to good practice (2017)

<https://treeterms.co.uk>

SITE AND TREE LOCATION PLAN



TERMS & CONDITIONS

Copyright 2025 **The Arb Team**, Trem y Dderwen, Llanedi, Pontarddulais, Swansea. SA4 0YT. All rights reserved.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior permission from **The Arb Team**. If you have received this report in error please destroy all copies in your possession or control.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party and unless otherwise agreed in writing by **The Arb Team** no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of this report.

No liability is accepted by **The Arb Team** for any use of this report other than for the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Opinions and information provided in this report are on the basis of **The Arb Team** using due skill, care and diligence in the preparation of the same and no warranty is provided as to their accuracy.

Surveys are undertaken on the understanding that nothing in the final report will be omitted, amended or misrepresented by the client or any other interested party.

This report and its contents remain the property of **The Arb Team** until payment has been made in full. It should be noted and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to **The Arb Team** has been made.