

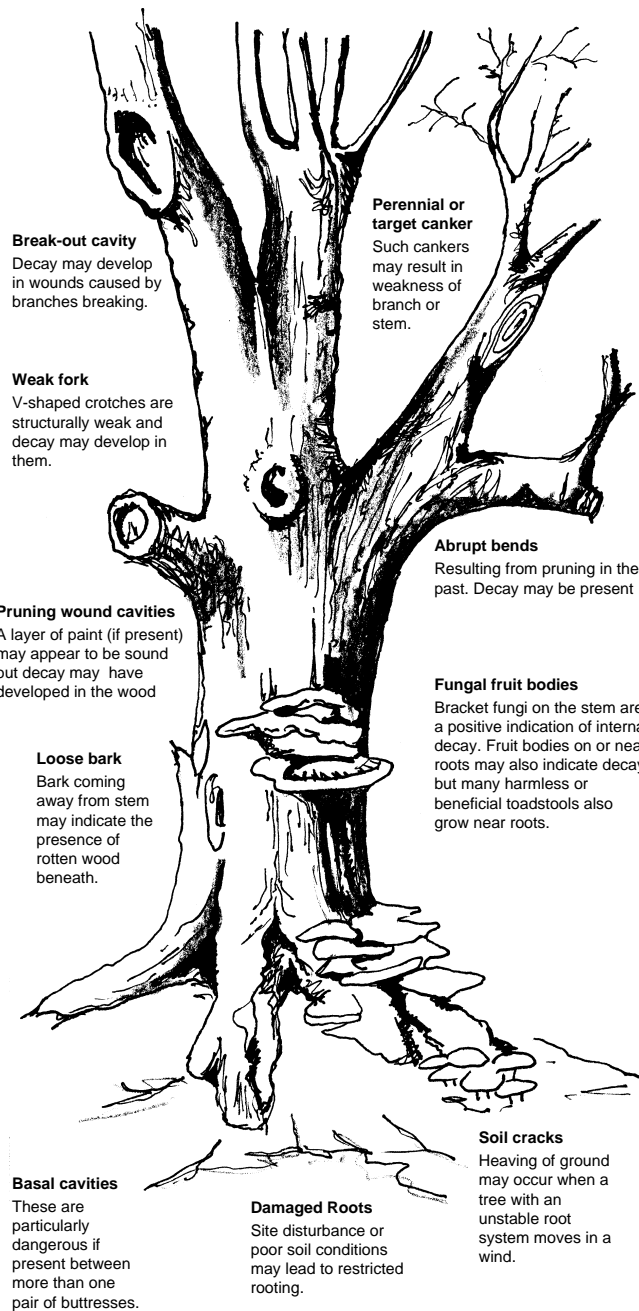
HAZARDOUS TREES RECOGNISING THE SIGNS

Pollards

Often indicated by a sudden change in stem diameter. Decay may be present but hidden by regrowth.

Crown dieback

Foliage small, sparse or pale. Tree flushes late or drops its leaves early. These symptoms often indicate root damage or decay.



Break-out cavity

Decay may develop in wounds caused by branches breaking.

Weak fork

V-shaped crotches are structurally weak and decay may develop in them.

Pruning wound cavities

A layer of paint (if present) may appear to be sound but decay may have developed in the wood

Loose bark

Bark coming away from stem may indicate the presence of rotten wood beneath.

Basal cavities

These are particularly dangerous if present between more than one pair of buttresses.

Damaged Roots

Site disturbance or poor soil conditions may lead to restricted rooting.

Perennial or target canker

Such cankers may result in weakness of branch or stem.

Abrupt bends

Resulting from pruning in the past. Decay may be present

Fungal fruit bodies

Bracket fungi on the stem are a positive indication of internal decay. Fruit bodies on or near roots may also indicate decay but many harmless or beneficial toadstools also grow near roots.

Soil cracks

Heaving of ground may occur when a tree with an unstable root system moves in a wind.

ADVICE NOTES RELATED TO TREES AND LANDSCAPING

Available from Planning and Transport

- 21 The Siting and Landscaping of Built Development in the Countryside.
- 22 The Survey of Trees on Development Sites.
- 23 The Specification of Landscaping Proposals for Development Sites.

Angus Council



ADVICE NOTE 22

THE SURVEY OF TREES ON DEVELOPMENT SITES

For further information and advice contact:

Planning & Transport
Angus Council
County Buildings
Market Street
Forfar
DD8 3LG

Telephone 01307 461460

INTRODUCTION

The Council takes the view that existing trees on development sites can make a substantial contribution towards amenity in new developments. The layout of development proposals should, where possible, accommodate trees worthy of retention.

Where any significant trees are present on site, a tree survey should be undertaken before development begins in order to safeguard trees of high amenity value. This survey should normally accompany any application for planning permission which may affect trees. The inclusion of a tree survey with a planning submission can save a considerable amount of time in processing the application. The survey is used to determine which trees are suitable for retention on development sites and are indicated on a plan of the site. If a survey does not accompany the planning application, it may be requested by the Planning Department and thus delaying the processing of the application.

Tree surveys can be complicated and some technical information is essential, accordingly IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT A TREE/LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL IS ENGAGED TO UNDERTAKE THE SURVEY.

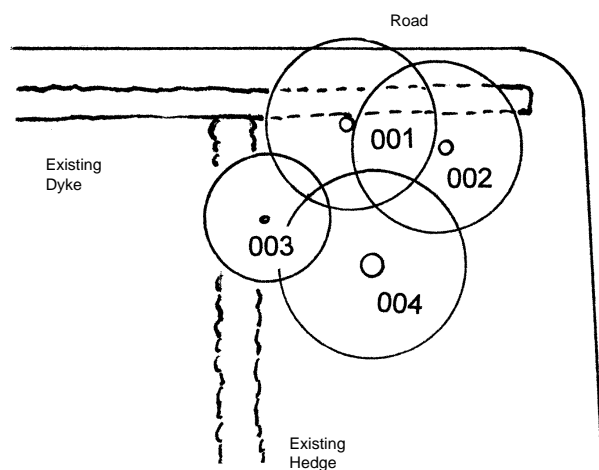
THE SURVEY

The plan should accurately depict all existing features, such as buildings, roads, ditches, trees, hedges and, where there are significant changes in level, contour levels. A plan will be necessary showing the trees in relation to the development including cross sections where changes in levels are proposed. The scale of the plan should be large enough for these features to be clearly identified. 1:500, 1:200 or 1:100 should be used.

It is important that the tree trunks and the crown spread of the tree be accurately plotted on the plan.

The tree positions on the plan should be numbered so that each tree can be surveyed and the information recorded. Where there is potential for confusion e.g. where there are numerous or closely sited trees, it will be necessary to identify the trees. The most common way to number trees is to use numbered metal tags which are stapled to the tree. They should be placed on each tree at a regular height and position so that no time is wasted looking for the tag.

DETAIL FROM A TREE SURVEY



The information obtained should be recorded on a survey schedule (which may be designed to fit individual needs), an example of which follows:

Tree Number	Species	Height	Clear Trunk	Breast Height Diameter	Crown Spread		Condition	Vigour	Age	Action	Code	Forecast	
					Plan	Size						Height	Crown spread

TREE NUMBER

As on the plan and as tagged (if required).

SPECIES

Botanical name and common name.

HEIGHT

Indicate the full height of the tree.

CLEAR TRUNK

Height to first major branch. This is important where roads and buildings are being built.

DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (DBH)

The diameter (using a rounded down diameter tape) measured at 1.3m from the ground. If the tree forks below this, the tree should be treated as more than one with regards to the diameter.

CROWN SPREAD

This distance is measured from one edge of the tree to the other. As a tree is not usually symmetrical then the crown spread may be shown in the form of a diagram with dimensions written on it (Plan) or as radii from the centre of the main stem to the four points of the compass (north, south, east, west or north-west, south-east etc.) whichever is more suitable. The crown spread should usually be shown on the survey plan

CONDITION

A recording of the overall condition of the tree e.g. healthy, crown die-back, dead, requires tree surgery, climbing inspection etc.

VIGOUR

This will strongly indicate the ability of a tree to recover from damage. It should be recorded as either 'normal' or 'low'.

AGE

It is impossible to determine the exact age of a tree and the following categories are therefore used.

YT Young Trees (age less than $\frac{1}{3}$ life expectancy).

SM Semi-mature ($\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ life expectancy).

M Mature.

FM Fully mature.

OM Over mature.

ACTION

Brief information as to what needs to be done to the tree.

CODE

Based on the tree species, size, age, condition and situation, the trees can be categorised in various groups

and each group can be represented by a code symbol. Several systems of coding may be used. Examples are as follows:-

A Important tree, retention highly desirable.

B Sound trees, less important than A.

C Suspect trees requiring further inspection or treatment before final categorising.

D Dead, dangerous trees or trees of little consequence on the site.

E Transplantable trees.

Or The British Standards Institute Landscape Drawing Practice Code:-

E Essential.

D Desirable.

I Inessential.

U Undesirable.

Surrounding features (wire, posts etc.) may be included on the survey schedule.

FORECAST HEIGHT AND CROWN SPREAD

The expected ultimate height and crown spread of the tree dependant upon species and local conditions.