

Land Services
Stirling Council
Allan Water House
Kerse Road
Stirling FK7 7SG

Head of Service: Stuart Carruth

Ref: FM/BW2/3

Date 26.10.15

**Tom Dickson and Finn Millard
Directors TD Trees Ltd
Platform 1, Station Road
Duns, Berwickshire TD11 3HS**

TREE WORKS BACK WALK and GOWAN HILL STIRLING

As discussed on site; Please note these works are to run consecutively until complete – thank you.

1. Start Date – TBC
2. Day rates agreed for labour and machinery

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDE;

1. Copy of felling licence approval and thinning map
2. Operations map
3. Work schedule
4. MAPS SHOWING EXTENT OF PROTECTED AREAS
5. Back Walk & Gowan Hill Public Utility Maps pdf doc

PROTECTED STATUS OF SITE

1. Conservation Area Status – YES – COVERS ALL OF OPERATIONAL SITE
2. Scheduled Ancient Monument status: YES - COVERS Compartments 3a,3b,4a,4b
3. Permissions are currently being sought to carry out tree works in these areas.

SCOPE OF WORKS

Please refer to attached schedules and accompanying maps.

This operation is a continuation of the works identified in 2015 and thinning works which has been a part of the management planning history for this site. The aspiration for this work is to enhance visitor experience of popular walks through this iconic urban woodland by carrying out overdue thinning of squirrel damaged, poor, suppressed, co-dominant trees and self-sown poorly formed thickets. Operations will seek to increase light levels available to the woodland floor encouraging understorey growth which will help stabilise soil on steeper slopes. The overall improvement to the landscaping of this historic site include exposure of significant rock features throughout the woodland, reinstatement of views onto castle wall crenellations along the skyline where appropriate, and treatment of self sown thickets directly below the castle walls. Tree works will allow retention of selected species regenerated which are suited to the local site and soils.

Due to the nature of the site and its high profile within the city centre appropriate and adequate

warning signage is a high priority as are safe working practices at all times. The site including road and path sections must be left in an acceptable condition post works.

Tree works will be carried out in the following compartments as follows;

Compt No	Treatment	Protected status
2a	Thin 10% of stocking density cut and spray regen on rocks	Cons area
2b	Thin regeneration/thickets. Cut and spray regen on rocks	Cons area
2c	Remove logs from blown tree clearance	Scheduled monument
3a	Thin thickets	Scheduled monument
3b	Crown reduce sycamore/thin 10% stocking density. Cut and spray regen below castle walls	Scheduled monument
4a	Thin 25% stocking density	Scheduled monument
4b	Thin 25% stocking density. Cut and spray regen below castle walls	Scheduled monument
5a	Coppice and prune path corridors	Cons area
6a	Thin 10% stocking density	Cons area
6h	Thin 20% stocking density	Cons area

NOTE Trees will be marked prior to thinning or removal. Numbered trees are shown on the attached operations map which help to identify specific work items in the attached schedule.

SPECIFICATIONS

Access & Cemetery Compound:

Two main access points (shown on operations map attached); one at the start of Upper Back Walk at the eastern end of the site adjacent to the Corn Exchange. The other is at the Portcullis Bar from Mar Place which also leads to the locked Cemetery Compound labelled on map. Entry is via locked Bollards and a key will be made available.

Stacking Bays: Shown on operations map attached marked yellow. Three are located within residential permitted parking zones (Area D, Zone 34) and discussion with Stirling Council will be necessary prior to extraction.

Stump treatment: An approved suitable chemical is to be applied to all cut stumps unless specified otherwise. Application to be carried out no later than 24 hrs post felling paying particular attention to

the outermost ring where active cambium layer is present.

Treatment of timber & chip arisings

1. Branchwood may be chipped and broadcast evenly on site but smaller diameter stemwood should be cut to 2 or 3m lengths and stacked separately for community firewood in designated area.
2. All other timber to be cut to 3m lengths down to a diameter which cannot be chipped and stacked in designated stacking bays.
3. Timber to be stacked no greater than 1m in height.
4. Ground fell stumps not to exceed 300mm in height.
5. Windblown trees – to be severed at rootplate and processed as above– rootplates must be left secure (winched back into place where necessary).

Site constraints

1. Steep slope working.
2. Conservation area & Scheduled Monument status.
3. Network of frequently used public footpaths throughout area.
4. The presence of ivy and/or small cavities may have potential for bats and/or birds particularly during the nesting season end of March to end of September. Cease felling operations and contact Stirling Council representative.
5. Footpaths to be left clear of debris at all times and care taken to avoid damage to path surfacing.
6. All of the site is a conservation area, Compartments 2c,3a,3b,4a,4b are protected by designation of Ancient Scheduled Monument status. Care must be taken to prevent damage to standing trees, historic stonewall walls and designated footpaths and for this reason trees in these compartments to be section felled. Extraction of timber will be via winch onto main paths and removed by low impact small alpine tractor avoiding damage to standing trees and footpaths.

Statutory wildlife guidelines -Contractors should be fully aware of the following wildlife guidelines;

- Guidance Note 1 Bats in the context of tree work operations
- Guidance Note 10 Protected Species and Arboriculture Source: www.trees.org.uk

General conditions:

1. Appropriate warning signs to be erected before work commences and access to footpaths temporarily closed if necessary.
2. ALL TREE WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH BS3998: (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations
3. The site should be left free of unprocessed timber and/or protruding branch material i.e. not visible above ground level
4. Avoid damage to standing timber and NO hung up or broken branches to be left unattended as a result of operations
5. Utilities: There are water, gas and electricity located in compartments 2a,4c and 2b,3b,4b,4c respectively- I await a utilities map showing location of these services.
6. Traffic control will be required on Balangeich Road for take down of marked trees under item 37 of attached work schedule
7. All cut stumps are to be chemically treated with approved and suitable chemical to prevent regrowth.
8. Treatment of fuels - Safe storage of fuels etc away from water courses and public footpaths

CONTACT NUMBERS Fiona Melville Tree & Woodland Officer [REDACTED] Claire Bird Countryside Ranger [REDACTED], Stirling Council Contact Centre 24/7 0845 277 7000

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED before commencement of works;

1. Competency Certification for Chainsaw Operatives, tree climbing, aerial rescue for each operator on site.
2. City & Guilds NPTC Assessment Updates where appropriate
3. LOLER Equipment check records
4. COSHH assessments
5. Site Specific Risk Assessment and Emergency Procedures
6. Method Statement

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Melville
Stirling Council Land Services Tree and Woodland Officer