



Cheshire Tree Surveys and Arboriculture

Balancing Risk with Ecology

A report on a tree at 11A/13 Cresswell Grove, Manchester



Prepared for Dr Tariq Munif

by

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SUMMARY

An authority or any person responsible for the safety of trees is under a duty to have them inspected by a competent person at reasonably frequent intervals so that any indication of disease, possible disease, structural defect, or any other problem present at the time of inspection can be noted and acted upon. The purpose of this report is to undertake an inspection of all the significant trees at the front and rear of 11A/13 Cresswell Grove, Manchester M202NH in respect of this duty of care. It records its species, age, condition, and pertinent comments, recommended action, and priorities of said actions. The trees were given a brief inspection from ground level and any obvious significant externally discernible defects were noted.

1) INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief: I was commissioned by Dr.T.Munif to carry out this survey.

All my inspections were carried out from the ground using the visual tree assessment method. On the day of my visit, it was overcast and showery. conditions under foot were good and visibility was medium.

I carried out my inspection on 31st August 2021.

1.2 Qualifications and experience: I have based this report on my site observations and the provided information, and I have come to conclusions in the light of my experience. I have experience and qualification in Arboriculture listed in Appendix 1.

1.3 Documents and information provided: I was given no images or topographical information

1.4 Scope of this report: To establish the health and safety implications of the trees at the front and rear of my client's property and number 13 cresswell grove

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2 FINDINGS

Tree 1- Crategus monogyna (hawthorn) 6 meters in height, semi mature with a significant lean into the front wall, critically destabilizing it(see attached images) condition was fair to medium , vigour was medium, canopy CSD(colour size and density) was low to medium.

Tree 2-ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS (sycamore) It is a mature specimen and this tree measures 14.7 meters in height. It has a canopy spread of –

North-5.2 meters

South-6.2 meters

East-7.1meters

West-3.6meters

This tree belongs to number 11a cresswell grove .

The first thing I noted on this tree , were some fungal fruiting bodies, which were disintergrating on the root plate of the tree,I believed these to be Armillaria mella (honey fungus) photographs and details below. The tree has exposed roots and also what appears to be a girdling root.

The root system is lifting the driveway paving stones . moving my attention to the canopy of the tree, I noted several bad branch unions,photographs below.

High in the canopy there was some dieback and deadwood.

I also noted some form of bleeding canker ,possibly nectaria canker in a few small areas ,weeping exudite.

Canopy csd was fair to medium and I also noted the presence of tar spot of sycamore on some of the leaves.

Tree 3-ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS (sycamore)

This tree measures 13.4 meters in height. It is a semi-mature specimen, and it has a canopy spread of-

North-5 meters

South-6.1 meters

East-5.5 meters

West-7.1 meters

This tree belongs to number 13 Cresswell grove.

The tree is between the two properties touching the roofs of them, it is possible that squirrels are using the tree to ingress into the properties to nest. I noted several bad branch unions in the crown, the tree is being suppressed by tree 2. I also noted high in the canopy some bleeding cankers. I also noted some tar spot of sycamore on the foliage. This tree is extremely close to the houses and in the event of a catastrophic failure would cause some serious damage to the properties.

Canopy csd was medium to good.

Tree 4-AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM (horse chestnut)

This tree is a mature specimen, it measures 15.8 meters in height.

And has a canopy spread of –

North- 4.9 meters

South- 5.9 meters

East- 5.1 meters

West-3.8 meters

This tree belongs to number 13 Creswell grove.

The first thing I noted was that the tree had pushed over the partition wall dividing the properties (the reason why my client engaged my services) causing extensive damage to the wall beyond repair. This in turn had left some of the root system exposed, which could then lead to an infection from the armillaria fungal spores, from the fungal fruiting bodies found in the front garden. The canopy condition was extremely poor, with some evidence of Horse chestnut leaf miner in the foliage (*cameraria ohridella*).

There was a distinct lack of seed pods (conkers) on the tree.

There are several large biomechanical faults with this tree, several very bad branch unions, some historic bad pruning cuts, there is a large vertical wound on the main stem, which does not seem to have occluded very well (it is worth noting that *Aesculus* do not occlude very well) this may have been from a lightning strike.

There seems to be some evidence of bacterial canker present, I would possibly say that it is *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi*, a detailed description is included below. The tree is extremely close to the property as shown in the photographs below.

Tree 5- ILEX AQUIFOLIUM (holly)

A juvenile poor specimen, that has been badly pruned historically, it is not worthy of retention.

PSUEDOMONAS SYRINGAE PV. AESCULI DETAILS

Since 2003 the incidence of stem bleeding on horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) has risen markedly in the UK. Symptoms include rusty-brown, or black, gummy liquid seeping from bark, and necrotic phloem with a mottled orange-brown colour. Some bleeding cankers have been so extensive that infected tissue encircled branches or trunks, causing dieback or tree mortality in 3–4 years. Previous episodes of horse chestnut bleeding canker were caused by *Phytophthora* spp., but considered uncommon and only recorded in southern England (Strouts & Winter, 2000). However, reports made to Forest Research Disease Diagnostic Advisory Service indicate the disorder is now present in England, Scotland and Wales, with a similar upsurge in bleeding canker also recorded in the Netherlands, Belgium and France.

ARMILLARIA FUNGI DETAILS

Armillaria spp.

(*A. gallica*; *A. mellea*; *A. ostoyae*; *A. tabescens*)



<>

A cluster of mature caps growing on sycamore roots in Billericay, Essex.











Common name

Honey fungus.

Often found on

A large variety of deciduous and coniferous trees.

Sometimes found on

None.

Location

Generally found fruiting at and around the base of the host tree.

Description

A highly variable genus comprising of various species with their own variable morphology. Usually fruiting in clusters. Crudely, the stem (sometimes with a bulbous base) is generally white to fleshy yellow-beige, which may (or may not) have a full or partial ring (initially protecting the fleshy-beige gills as a veil) and can be somewhat rough. The cap is a brownish beige to tan brown and often emerges roughened. Whitish spore. Blacken in over-maturity and [senescence](#). White mycelial sheet present beneath the bark with black (bootlace) rhizomorphs (also in the soil).

Confused with

[Pholiota aurivella](#); [Pholiota squarrosa](#).

Significance

It is important to identify the exact species of honey fungus, prior to a full diagnosis. Generally considered pathogenic and able to enter via roots from the surrounding soil. Indicative of physiological stress and often a decline in vitality. Where targets exist, management considerations are required. The ubiquitous nature of honey fungus makes control difficult. Applying mulch to encourage more bespoke [saprotrophic](#) fungal diversity is useful though will not make a difference where a tree has already been colonised and this fungus is acting as a pathogen. In some cases, entire removal of the infected tree is justified, to remove available deadwood for further attack.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Tree 1- remove entire tree and grind stump.

Tree 2- remove entire tree and grind stump.

Tree 3- remove entire tree and grind stump.

Tree 4- remove entire tree and grind stump.

Tree 5- remove entire tree and grind stump.

All trees to be mitigated by replanting of suitable species as described below.

4 Considerations.

4.1 Implementation of works: I advise that the work be carried out by a contractor who abides by BS 3998 Recommendations for Tree Work (2010) as modified by research that is more recent.

4.2 Future consideration: The remaining trees should be inspected on a regular basis by a qualified arboriculturist. Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly. The conclusions and recommendations of this report are valid only for a period of one year. This period of validity maybe reduced in the case of any change in condition to, or in proximity, of the trees.

4.3 Images of the trees and surroundings: -

Fungal Fruiting Bodies of Armillaria









Bad Branch inclusions





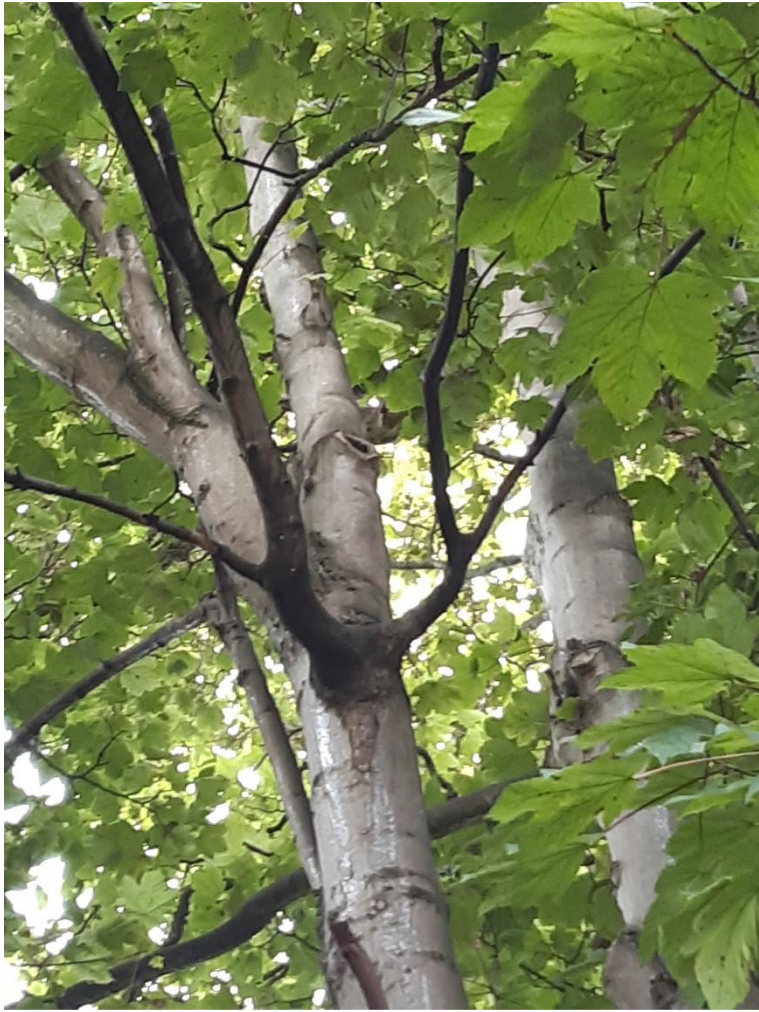


Black Tar Spot of Sycamore



Bifurcated stem on tree 3









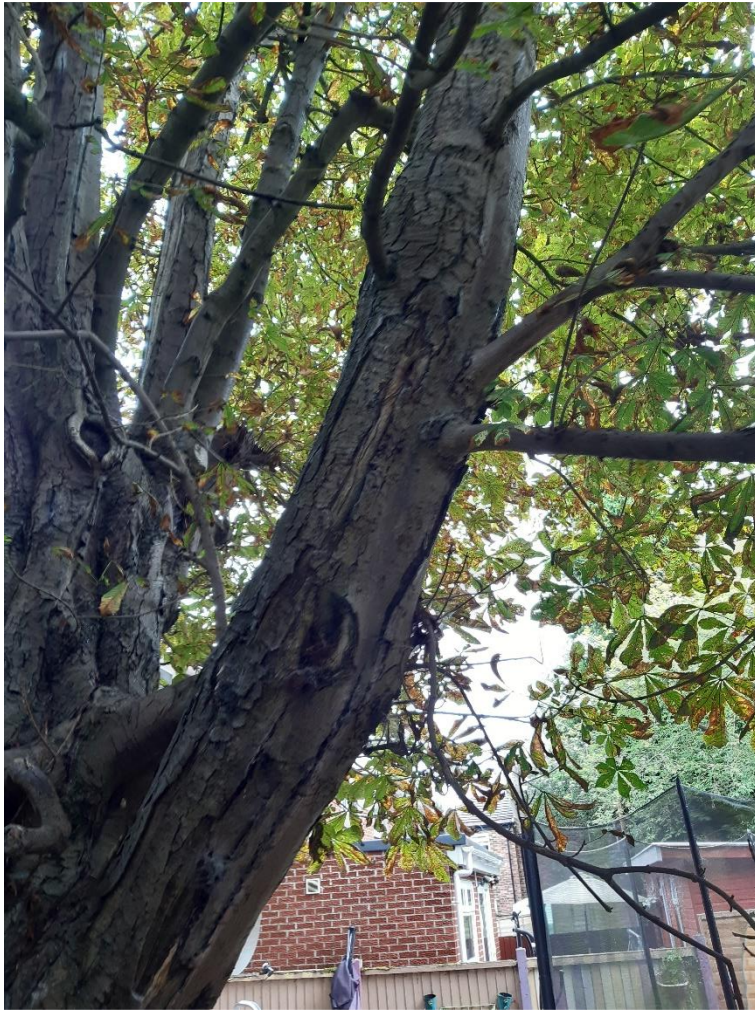








Possible Psuedomonas Syringie PV.Aesculi



Evidence of Horsechestnut Leaf miner damage















5 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Tree subject to statutory controls: If these trees are covered by a tree preservation order or located in a conservation area it will be necessary to consult the local authority before any pruning works other than certain exemptions can be carried out. The works specified above are necessary for reasonable management and should be acceptable to the local authority. However, tree owners/managers should appreciate that they may take an alternative point of view and have the option to refuse consent.

5.2 Trees outside the property: If any of the trees indicated on the tree location plan are found to be off the site and effectively out of the control

of the tree owner, it will not be possible to carry out the recommended works without the full co-operation of the tree owners. The implications of non-co-operation requires legal interpretation and are beyond the scope of this report. By common law, branches from trees on adjacent properties extending over boundaries can be pruned back to the boundary line without the permission of the owners. However, the material belongs to the tree owner and the same guidance on statutory controls apply as discussed in section 5.1.

5.3 Replacement Trees: Ideally, replacement trees should be planted in mitigation for any being lost and to supplement those existing. For the most effective impact these trees should be 'Extra Heavy Standard Trees' conforming to British Standard 'Nursery Stock BS 3936: Part 1 1992, with a stem girth of 14 to 16cm at 1m from ground level and a minimum height of 350cm. They should be secured with twin stakes and cross strut, with tie and flat back spacer. Ideally, an irrigation/aeration pipe should be installed, and the soil surface mulched at a radius of 0.5m from the base of the tree.

5.4 Wildlife: All operations should take account of wildlife needs and be planned to take advantage of weather conditions for minimum damage and disturbance.

5.5 Bats: Specific consideration should be given to the possible presence of roosting bats, which are protected under British law by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended), and bats are classified as European Protected Species under The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 2010. This makes it an offence to kill, injure or disturb a bat and to destroy any place used for rest or shelter by a bat. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000 strengthens protection given by the WCA and cover 'reckless' damage or disturbance to a bat roost. Although no obvious features potentially suitable for roosting bats (such as hollows, cracks and cavities within trunks and branches) were apparent during the present survey; a thorough inspection was not undertaken by an appropriately qualified bat worker.

5.6 Nesting Birds: Any proposed tree removal should be carried out outside bird breeding season (which runs from March to September inclusive) to avoid adverse impacts to any nests present. If it is necessary to carry out the work during the breeding season, then a nesting bird survey should be carried out prior to felling/removal works commencing. This is to ensure that no active nests will be affected and to ensure legal compliance. If active nests were found, then working restrictions would

be put in place until all chicks had fledged. All wild birds and their nests, whilst in use, are protected under WCA 1981 (as amended) from harm or destruction during the breeding season.

APPENDIX 1

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

Qualifications: I am a fully qualified and insured LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector and I have 24 years' experience in the Arboricultural industry. I have worked for numerous companies including Glendale Countryside, Brophy PLC, Thames Water PLC, Nick Bailey Tree Surgeons, Monkey Business and Trafford Council

Continuous Development: I am a regular attendee of webinars and seminars of The Arboricultural Association and have regular online communication and participation with my peers on several tree consultants and tree officer's forums.

APPENDIX 3

Key References

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APPENDIX 4

Arboricultural Terms Glossary

Abiotic Factors

Non-living factors of the environment, including temperature & wind.

Age-class

A general classification of the tree into either - young, semi-mature/maturing, mature, over-mature, or senescent.

Amenity Value

A general classification based on the trees contribution to local amenity.

Factors

such as location and visibility from public spaces, size, maturity and species are taken into account.

Apical Bud/Shoot

The apical bud, also known as the leading shoot, is responsible for shoot extension and is dominant.

Apical Dominance

A singular, leading shoot remains dominant.

Biotic factors

Living factors. For example, animals and pathogens.

Bottle Butt

Term used to describe shape of stem base, usually associated with an internal defect – refer to ‘Reaction Wood’ below.

Branch union/junction

The point at which a branch joins a larger stem. Can be a point of weakness, especially in certain species.

Cambium

A lateral meristem (see below) in vascular plants located just beneath the bark responsible for secondary growth, e.g. production of annual growth rings.

Canker

A clearly defined area of dead and sunken or malformed bark, caused by bacteria or fungi. Can have a bearing on structural integrity of infected limb(s) depending on size and location.

Chlorosis/Chlorotic

Abnormal yellow or yellow-green coloration of usually green leaves. Essentially a reduction of chlorophyll levels often as a result disease or nutrient deficiency.

Co-dominant stems

A growth characteristic, where two or more stems of similar size grow from the same point. Can create an inherent weakness.

Coppice

The method of managing trees by cutting the stems at between 1.0 inch and 1.0 foot from the ground level on a regular cycle, the cut stumps of the trees or shrubs are allowed to regrow many new stems.

Crown spread

Gives distances between extreme limits of the crown and the stem, usually along the four compass points. Helps to show crown symmetry.

Crown Reduction

The removal of branch ends to reduce the extreme limits of a trees branch spread and height.

Crown Thin

The removal of selected branches within the crown to thin the internal branch structure.

D.B.H.

'Diameter at Breast Height', an industry standard to gauge tree stem size and development. Within arboriculture, breast height is taken to be 1.5m above ground level.

Dieback

The reduction in crown vigour and extension growth progressing to death of distal parts; often associated with decline.

Epicormic/ adventitious growth

New growth from dormant buds that can often form tenuous attachments. Although some species readily form such shoots, it can be an indication of stress.

Hanger

Term used to describe a branch that has become detached and is being supported by other branches. Can be a hazard to persons and property below.

Hazard Beam

After the loss of a distal part, a limb concentrates growth upwards creating adverse end weights that can render the limb susceptible to failure.

Included bark

Growth characteristic usually caused when two or more stems/branches growing in close proximity 'fuse' together entrapping the bark from when the parts were separate in the middle, creating a potential structural weakness.

Meristem

The undifferentiated plant tissue from which new cells are formed, such as that at the tip of a stem or root.

Meristematic Disorder

A growth disorder caused by a disruption of the meristem (see above) from any of a number of biotic factors (see above). Manifests as growths such as 'Witches Brooms' & 'Galls'.

Necrosis/Necrotic

Death of tissues usually characterised by a blackening in colour.

Occlusion/Occluded Death of tissues usually characterised by a blackening in colour.

Occlusion/Occluded

Normally used to describe the overgrowth of a wound. Also, immoveable foreign objects in contact with a tree part can become encased or 'occluded' by the tree as it grows incrementally.

Pathogen

An agent that causes disease, especially a living micro-organism such as a bacterium or fungus.

Pollard

The removal and subsequent regular re-removal of the crown of a tree above animal browsing height. Can be an effective method of controlling the size of trees in urban areas. This is ideally begun in the trees early stages and maintained throughout its life.

PSULE

Potential Safe Useful Life Expectancy. A general classification as to the trees life expectancy. 0-10; 10-20; 20-40; 40+ years.

Reaction Wood

Essentially additional wood laid down by the tree to compensate for structural defects such as a cavity.

Ring barking/Girdling

The removal of bark around the entire circumference of a stem or branch, causing the death of all distal parts.

Saprophyte

An organism which exists on dead plant material.

Scaffold branches

The main structural branches within the crown.

Veteran tree

Tree that, by recognised criteria, shows features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of, but not exclusive to, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species concerned.

Vigour

A general classification, as to the present and future potential growth and development of a tree. A comment regarding the health status of the tree specific to its species.