

Tree report for Mr & Mrs Houldsworth, of 80 Brownhill Road, Chandlers Ford to support a planning application to fell 2 x Scots Pines at this address.

Report by Ivan Gurdler.

Date of report: 11th February 2022

This report describes inspections which has been carried out to 2 *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots Pine) at 80 Brownhill Road Chandlers Ford with regards to the structural condition and health of the two trees, in order to satisfy the requirements in accordance with the tree owners duty of care laid out within the Occupiers liability ACT 1957 & 1984.

Introduction

This report has been produced to give advice that was requested by Mr and Mrs Houldsworth

This is due to their concerns regarding the condition of two *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots Pine), trees that are located in the front garden of their property.

Experience and qualifications of Mr Ivan Gurdler

My experience is based on being involved in the arboriculture industry over the last 40 years; this includes obtaining a National Certificate in arboriculture at Sparsholt College Hampshire in 2001, ABC level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture at Merrist Wood College 2014. I have also obtained the Lantra Award in Basic tree survey and inspection 2005 and the Lantra award in professional tree inspection (PTI) 2006, with refresher training in 2015.

Instructions

I am instructed by Mr & Mrs Houldsworth to carry out a visual tree inspection of two *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots Pine) that are located to the front left hand side of the property and to make any recommends for work to be carried out to reduce the associated risks arising from tree failure at their property.

Date of visits

First Visit was on 18/ 12/21 to carry out this instruction.

This inspection was a visual tree assessment using a nylon sounding mallet and probe.

Second Visit was on the 23rd December 2021 using a Resistograph Drill

Description of the site

The two Scots Pine trees that this report refers to, are located to the front eastside of the property next to the left hand drive entrance from Brownhill Road. Both trees have grown as a cohesive group with a closed canopy.

To the south of the trees is the dwelling of No 80 Brownhill Road and the neighbouring dwelling. The owners and families of both properties park their cars to the front of their properties. To the east of the trees is a parked camper van. To the North is the public highway with a new development located opposite. Both trees are in close proximity of these targets and are within striking distance in the event of whole tree failure.

Eastleigh Borough Council has previously granted consent for the removal of two adjacent Scots Pines, directly behind these trees as both trees had become colonised with a brown rot wood decay fungi (*Phaeolus schweinitzii*) causing both trees to become structurally unsafe

My observations of T1 & T2.

Both trees are mature specimens of approximately 20m high. Both trees have formed a closed canopy where they growing in close proximity to each other. The vitality of both trees appears to be fair but both canopies of the trees appear to be thinning.

T1 is the first tree growing next to the drive entrance on to Brownhill way. From VTA inspection no decay fungi was found or indication was noted that the tree has internal decay.

T2 is growing in close proximity of T1. The lower stem of the tree has swelling entirely around the lower stem of the tree up to a height of 3m above ground level. The swelling is similar to the symptoms shown in trees by bottle butt fungi. Although it's my professional opinion that the swelling is caused by the effects of the trees heartwood becoming colonised with *Phaeolus schweinitzii*.

Please see separate attachment of Resistograph Drill findings which clearly shows the heartwood of T2 is degraded.

Conclusion.

T2 is a mature specimen in very close to the public highway and is within striking distance of neighbouring property. The decay at the base of T2 is in the form of degraded heartwood which will reduce the trees structural integrity under wind loading rendering it liable to whole tree failure from brittle fracture at the base of the tree.

As both trees have grown as a cohesive group, T1 has relied on the shelter of T2 canopy to reduce the effects of wind loading on its canopy. The prevailing wind at the address comes from the south west. When T2 is removed it will expose T1 canopy to forces it is unaccustomed to, which will result in T1's complete failure.

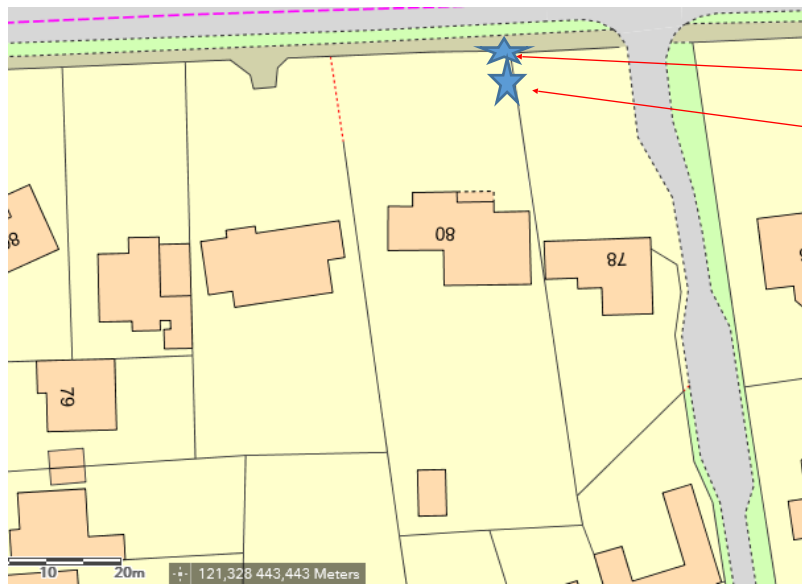
I would not recommend any form of crown reduction to these as this type of pruning is not appropriate for this species of tree.

Recommendation

I would strongly recommend the removal of T2 as soon as possible because of the high level of risk T2 now poses to the adjacent highway and neighbouring properties. In addition I would recommend at the same time as the removal of T2, the removal of T1 because of its vulnerability of wind throw if retained.

A recommendation of a replacement tree *Liquidambar styraciflua* (sweet Gum) is planted near to the area where these trees are being removed from.

Both trees are protected by a tree preservation order and therefore permission must be obtained from the Local Planning Authority at Eastleigh Borough Council before felling of the tree. The Local Planning Authority should issue a decision notice within 8 weeks of validating the application.



T1

T2

Map showing the
location of T1 & T2 at
80 Brownhill Road
Chandlers Ford



T1

T2

10:45 22/JAN/2022



Lower stem of T2
showing swelling.



Close up image of lower stem swelling of T2



Canopies of
T1 & T2



T1

T2

View of trees from
Brownhill Road

10:47 22/JAN/2022