



October 2022
CBA11678 v1

Jonathan Sparkes

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Site:
63 Lakewood Road
Chandlers Ford
SO53 1EU



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The Complete Arboricultural Consultancy



ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Client: Jonathan Sparkes
Site: 63 Lakewood Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 1EU
Principal Consultant: Stefan Rose *BSc (Hons), Tech Cert ArborA, TechArborA*
Date: October 2022

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 CBA Trees has been instructed by Jonathan Sparkes to visually inspect a single Beech tree growing within the front garden at 63 Lakewood Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 1EU, in relation to assessing the health of the tree and advising on future management of the tree as considered necessary for health and safety reasons as well as from a long-term tree retention perspective, if appropriate.
- 1.2 The tree grows within the rear garden of the property and is approximately 5m south of the northern garden boundary with Hiltingbury Road where a bus stop is located.
- 1.3 The online interactive mapping facility on the Eastleigh Borough Council website indicates that the tree is legally protected by a TPO 250-E.
- 1.4 To assist in our assessment of the tree and enable a recommendation to be made, a site visit was undertaken on 13th October 2022 during which the following on site observations were made.

2.0 TREE DETAILS

- 2.1 The tree is a Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) of a mature age class with a trunk diameter of approximately 1100mm at 1.5m above ground level. The tree is approximately 19m tall. It is understood that historically a gravelled driveway was located immediately to the east of the tree. This driveway has been removed and is now grassed over. The tree grows in a raised bed or at least has a raised bed positioned around the trunk.

Photograph 1: Showing the Beech tree viewed from the eastern side



2.2 **Roots and lower trunk:**

Where rooting is close to the surface, damage, most likely caused historically from mowing the lawn has occurred. This is more evident on the south eastern side of the tree.

There are ten clumps of *Meripilus giganteus* fungal fruiting bodies that have emerged this year on the southern side of the tree up to a distance of approximately 5m away from the trunk.

Meripilus giganteus is a decay fungus that displays in early autumn and is easily degraded by the first frosts. The fungus forms a white rot decay causing a brittle fracture having had the cellulose and pectin degraded (pectin helps glue the wood cells together, without it, wood is liable to split apart). This fungus is often symptom free within the crown, but the roots of the tree can be seriously decayed with loss of mechanical support, particularly in Beech trees. The decay of roots can be fast, and the trees are liable for wind throw (failing at the base)*.

Buttress rooting is well formed and when tapped the lower 2.0m of the trunk has a solid percussion sound suggesting that any decay that may be present in the lower trunk is not significant at this time.

There are no obvious wounds or structural weaknesses to the lower trunk at this time.

Photograph 2: Showing the fungal fruiting bodies to the southern side of the Beech



Photograph 3: Showing a closer view of the fruiting bodies



Photograph 4: Showing the fruiting bodies at the base of the trunk on the south western side



2.3 **Trunk and structural branches:**

The trunk grows upright and naturally divides into the structural branches forming the crown. The majority of unions appear to be well formed but there are several tight forks but with the maturity of the tree these are unlikely to be of significant concern.

Old pruning wounds are present from historical past management of the tree with the majority occluded over.

Epicormic branches (advantageous buds beneath the bark that have burst into leaf) are growing on the branches on the inner crown. This can often be a sign that the tree is under stress or is responding to stress and trying to produce more leaf coverage to in turn, produce more energy.

2.4 **Crown:**

The crown is well formed with a minor imbalance with a shorter crown spread on the western side compared to the other three cardinal directions.

The leaves are considered to be of a normal size and density for a tree of this age and size given the autumnal time of year the survey was undertaken.

Epicormic branches grow within the crown. As previously stated, these can often be a sign that the tree is under stress or is responding to stress and trying to produce more leaf coverage to in turn, produce more energy.

There was only minor deadwood observed in the crown at the time of the survey.

Photograph 5:

Showing the crown
from the southeast



3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Beech is clearly important to both the owner and to the street scene and it is therefore important, to firstly look at managing the tree to enable its retention for as long as reasonably practicable, where possible, without undue risk of harm to the owners, visitors or members of the public.
- 3.2 However, with the *Meripilus giganteus* fungal fruiting bodies and considering the future spread of these decay fungi, it is my opinion that the structural integrity of the base of the trunk will not be sustainable for any reasonable amount of time and that the retention of the diseased tree is a false economy both in terms of financial outlay and the retention value of the tree.
- 3.3 It is thought that by the time large fruiting bodies of *Meripilus giganteus* appear, especially on Beech trees, there is a high chance of wind throw and at this stage symptoms within the crown may not be present. Upper roots may be largely sound; however, deeper roots can be extensively decayed and due to this pattern of decay and symptom development this decay is thought to be one of the most dangerous decay fungi to be found on Beech. *Meripilus giganteus* causes significant internal decay prior to being evident without obvious signs or symptoms of decline*. Therefore, the damage cannot be seen externally, and an apparently healthy tree can be significantly decayed and compromised.
- 3.4 There is no gain to be had from excavating and exposing the roots to establish the extent of decay in our opinion. Decay will be present, and excavations could lead to instability and undermining of the root system that in turn increases the risk of wind throw and failure of the tree. It will not be possible to remove and then replace the soil to achieve the same degree of adherence around the roots, as roots use friction against the soil to secure themselves in the ground. Furthermore, this type of investigation does not remove the decay, but merely delays or prolongs the retention of a tree with known and serious decay causing fungi; a tree that has a very limited life expectancy and that stands within a residential area with properties on all sides.
- 3.5 There is a risk of sudden wind throw with inherent safety risks associated with a very large tree falling in an urban environment. The fungal fruiting bodies are present on the south side of the tree which will reduce the trees resilience to wind loading. The UK has generally south westerly winds which would suggest if the tree were to fail it would fall north easterly.
- 3.6 A failure of this tree would likely damage third party property and could result in injury to persons or road users given that Hiltingbury Road is a regularly used public road.
- 3.7 The tree will continue to require investment from the owner to meet their duty of care, which is an unfair burden on the applicant as a direct result of the Tree Preservation Order, given that the eventual outcome will be that this tree will need to be removed due to the already present and established decay fungi at the base.
- 3.8 There are no control measures to cure or remove the decay from the tree; the tree will always have the decay and as the decay grows and spreads it weakens the tree both physiologically and structurally. In line with current best practice (BS3998: Tree Work

Recommendations) a maximum 30% crown volume reduction would only reduce the longest lateral branches by around 1-2m in length which, whilst leaving a crown that has plenty of shoots and foliage, would not significantly reduce the stress at the base of the stem nor the sail effect of the crown (which would be the purpose of a reduction). A reduction of more than the recommended amount would not be healthy for the tree, nor would it be in keeping with generally approved TPO applications; it would disfigure the tree to a point where the visual amenity of the tree is destroyed.

- 3.9 Crown reductions are costly and require cyclical maintenance of the regrowth, perhaps every 5 years, dependent upon how the tree responds. This will pull energy resources away from compartmentalising or restricting the spread of decay to produce new foliage and compartmentalise the pruning wounds. The tree would remain a large tree and still be a threat to the occupiers, the public and third-party land.
- 3.10 Reducing the crown would potentially enable the retention of the tree for a longer period of time, although the long-term retention of this tree is not considered possible given the root decay present and should the tree survive the shock of the pruning. This requires the expenditure of on-going costs of maintaining the reduction points and the costs of on-going assessments of the tree. It is also dependent upon the reaction of the tree to further reduction work. The decay at the base of the tree will still be present.
- 3.11 Reductions to the crown of the tree are, in my opinion, likely to accelerate the progression of the disease in the roots and therefore be a costly and meaningless exercise as the tree would still require felling in the short term.
- 3.12 The purpose of a TPO is to ensure that trees worthy of protection are protected for the greater good of the immediate area. However, trees are living entities and have a life expectancy that can be cut short due to ill health as with the Beech, subject to this report. In this instance the owner is burdened with the cost of maintaining such a tree. It is the responsibility of the LPA to consider all aspects, which includes the financial burden, the act of imposing a legal constraint on private persons for the benefit of others and the health of the tree itself.
- 3.13 Taking into consideration all of the above factors and the risk posed by retaining the tree, it is our recommendation that the tree is felled.

** Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management, David Lonsdale, 2001*

Appendix

CB1 Qualifications and Experience







The Professional Arboricultural Consultancy

Company Profile, Qualifications and Experience

CBA Trees is acknowledged as one of the UK's leading arboricultural consultancies offering a full range of tree related services from BS5837 tree surveys, arboricultural impact assessments and method statements to health and safety audits. Based near Southampton in Hampshire with easy access to the motorway network and transport links, we provide a professional solution to your tree problem throughout southern England and nationwide across the UK.

Whether the instruction is in respect of a single tree in a garden, a mortgage report, a development site or a new settlement that needs a full arboricultural report for a planning application, CBA Trees has the tree expertise to provide a professional solution.

We employ a team of qualified and experienced arboricultural consultants and as a company, CBA Trees is committed to investing in its well-trained and qualified professional associates and skilled and helpful administrators to ensure that at every stage of the arboricultural process our clients receive the very best in expert knowledge and the highest standard of professional service.

Stefan Rose *BSc (Hons), TechCert (Arbor.A), TechArbor.A* joined CBA Trees in 1998 as a junior surveyor and having gained extensive knowledge and a wealth of experience over the years including the Professional Tree Inspectors Certification (LANTRA), has progressed to Principal Consultant. His vast experience in working as a locum for local authorities, assessing new and extant Tree Preservation Orders, as well as working on some of the largest development sites nationwide enables him to provide expert advice and guidance on initial feasibility site assessments to full scale planning applications, working with individual home owners and within multi-disciplinary teams to achieve successful arboricultural outcomes.

Dominic Poston *F.Arbor.A. MICFor, CEnv, Prof Dip (RFS), BSc (Hons), HND* joined CBA Trees as a Senior Consultant and brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience. Having attained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture, a Higher National Diploma in Landscape Management and the Royal Forestry Society's Professional Diploma in Arboriculture, Dominic is a fellow of the Arboricultural Association and a Chartered Arboriculturist and Chartered Environmentalist. Through local authority experience he has been involved as a supervising officer and advisor to planning teams on many developments near trees. Through private sector experience he has provided arboricultural advice, ranging from feasibility through to implementation on many development projects near trees. He has extensive experience in the management of large tree stocks, implementing the recommendations within BS5837 and acting as an expert witness. He has considerable experience working closely with clients and as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Alexa Monk TechCert (Arbor.A), NCH.Arb has a background in tree surgery, running her own small business for many years. Working with CBA Trees for over 10 years, Alexa has experience of pre-planning work for developers, Tree Preservation Order legislation work, tree inspection including decay detection with sophisticated decay detection equipment and general arboricultural health and safety surveys.

Joe Beznosiuk Dip Arb L4 (ABC) the newest member of our team, Joe started his career as a tree surgeon before he made the transition into consultancy 10 years ago, where he has worked for both local authorities and private consultancies, providing a wide range of arboricultural advice, which has involved tree stock management, development projects in relation to BS5837, planning advice and Health and Safety risk assessment surveys.

Listed below are some of the services we provide:

- Arboricultural consultancy
- BS5837 tree surveys (for individual residential sites and development projects)
- Arboricultural Impact Assessments and Method Statements
- Advice on Tree Preservation Orders including objections
- Arboricultural Health and Safety Surveys
- Arboricultural site and project management

CBA Trees is very proud of its client base which includes the following companies:

Acorn Tree Specialist Ltd
Ampfield Parish Council
Bursledon Parish Council
Contractual Ltd
Crest Strategic Properties
Croudace
David Wilson Homes
Dhand Construction Ltd
Drew Smith Group

Draycott Chartered Surveyor
Eastleigh Borough Council
English Heritage Trust
Genesis Design Studio
Gillings Planning
Knight Architectural Design
Lakewood Tree Surgeons
NHS Property Services
Portsmouth City Council

Radian
Southampton City Council
SLR Consulting Ltd
Taylor Wimpey
University of Portsmouth
University of Winchester
Unsted Design
West Wittering Parish Council
Whiterok Architectural Services Ltd

CBA Trees can be found at:

Chesil House
Arrow Close
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For further information visit our website at www.cbatrees.co.uk which provides more detail on our expertise, and of course, our team are always willing to help answer any queries you may have.

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