

Client: Burntwood Town Council

Location: Coulter Lane Burial Ground

Junction of Coulter Lane and St Mathews Road, Burntwood

Date: 14.4.09

Remit: Initial walkover inspection of trees within the burial ground.

Recommendation:

- All trees to be plotted using GPS and the plan to be used as the basis for a detailed condition report and inspection diary.
- Survey required establishing the presence or absence of bat maternity roosts and hibernacula in tree cavities, before tree works can be initiated.
- Design plan to inform the removal of declining trees as required and replacement with appropriate species in the correct positions.
- Phase 1 habitat survey to identify locations of protected or desirable flora/fauna – for use in tree works Site risk assessment (site constraints).

Condition of 3 Horse Chestnut trees identified as in poor/declining condition:



T1: Late-mature Horse Chestnut.

Condition:

Evidence of bleeding canker of Horse chestnut and Honey fungus infection.

Both pathogens will destroy the tree vascular system resulting in crown dieback and eventual death. The loss of foliage volume will reduce the trees capacity for compensatory growth response to decay. The species lacks durable heartwood and is therefore at risk of structural failure in the advanced stages of decay.

Evidence of recent storm damage to 2nd order limb in the upper crown.

Risk assessment: The tree is open grown with a relatively unrestricted rooting zone which will prolong stability. Public access to the site is restricted.

Recommendation: the tree is in a spiral of decline. Complete a bat inspection and consider dismantling the tree a the end of the bird nesting season 2009

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T1: Bleeding canker lesions and honey fungus rhizomorph



T1: Denatured fungal fruiting bodies, probably of Honey Fungus



T2: Late-mature Horse Chestnut.

Condition:

Evidence of bleeding canker of Horse chestnut and Honey fungus infection. Both pathogens will destroy the tree vascular system resulting in crown dieback and eventual death. The loss of foliage volume will reduce the trees capacity for compensatory growth response to decay. The species lacks durable heartwood and is therefore at risk of structural failure in the advanced stages of decay. Multiple pruning wounds have resulted in death of vascular tissue in the scaffold limbs.

Risk assessment: The tension side of the tree root zone is infected with Honey fungus and the tree is weighted to the south. Public access to the site is restricted.

Recommendation: the tree is in a spiral of decline. Complete a bat inspection and consider dismantling the tree at the end of the bird nesting season 2009



T2: Forms part of an avenue of alternating yew and H. chestnut.

(Insufficient growing space between the two lines has resulted in a phototropic growth response)

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T3: Localised decay in underside of limb aligned parallel with the boundary wall.

Risk assessment: potential for structural failure

Recommendation: Close inspection by climber, review risk assessment and consider end reduction of limb to relieve loading stress



T3: Localised decay in underside of limb aligned parallel with the boundary wall. Evidence of longitudinal crack in exposed wood and woundwood response