Our Ref: 4Tarringgate/002716

31st July 2025

ArbTec Tree Care
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Mr and Mrs Jackson
4 Tarring Gate
St Lawrence Avenue
Worthing
West Sussex
BN14 7JT

Re: 2 x Horse Chestnut trees

Dear Mr and Mrs Jackson

Further to our recent conversation concerning the trees at the above address, I am pleased to give you the following report.

The report is based on my findings and the information supplied by you only.

I do hope that this is of assistance to you. If you would like any further information or advice please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

P Arnott

Phil Arnott (Proprietor)

HND Forestry, Cert.Arb. (RFS)

Tree Report

Our Ref:	4 Tarring Gate/002716
Owner/Agent Name/Address:	Mr & Mrs Jackson, 4 Tarring Gate, St Lawrence Avenue, Worthing BN14 7JT
Site Address:	4 Tarring Gate, St Lawrence Avenue, Worthing BN14 7JT
Date of Inspection:	31st July 2025
Weather Conditions:	Cloudy and dry
Inspection Undertaken by:	Philip Arnott - HND Forestry, Cert. Arb. (RFS), Lantra Prof. Tree Insp.

The statements in this report do not take account of the effects of extremes of climate, vandalism or accident, whether physical, chemical or fire, ArbTec Tree Care cannot therefore accept any liability in connection with these factors, nor where prescribed work is not carried out as recommended and/or in accordance with current industry best practice. The authority of this report ceases at any stated time limit within it and if any site conditions change, or pruning or other works unspecified in this report are carried out to, or affecting, the subject tree(s).

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 At the request of Mr and Mrs Jackson, ArbTec Tree Care has been instructed to inspect two trees at the above address.

2.0 Brief

I have been asked to undertake the following:

2.1 Visit the site and make a ground level and aerial inspection of the specified trees in order to assess the health and overall condition.

2.2 Submit arboricultural recommendations in relation to any remedial work that may be required.

3.0 Report Limitations

3.1 The inspection was carried out from ground level and aerial using the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breloer (The Body Language of Trees). It does not include below ground investigation.

3.2 No specialised equipment was utilised during the inspection.

3.3 No excavations were undertaken about the trees.

3.4 At the time of inspection the trees were in leaf. Leaf size, distribution and colour were therefore able to be used as indicators of tree health.

3.5 I do not have any knowledge of the past history of the site.

3.6 The report and recommendations relate to the condition of the trees and their surroundings at the **time of inspection only**.

3.7 All measurements and assessments of age and size are approximate.

3.8 I have contacted the local planning authority to determine whether any Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) are in place and can confirm that both trees are covered by a TPO.

3.9 Trees should be inspected on a regular basis as their health and condition can change rapidly due to biotic and abiotic agents.

3.10 The report is based on the information provided by Mr and Mrs Jackson.

4.0 Risk Assessment – Informatives

4.1 Within the scope of any tree inspection it is a fact that not all risks of stem or crown failure can be covered, particularly in relation to freak occurrences of weather when even healthy trees can suffer stem snap or windblow. There is also a well known propensity for mature trees to occasionally shed limbs for no discernible reason, even on calm days. Although relatively rare, limbs may occasionally be shed and this should be acknowledged as a risk that cannot be entirely mitigated.

5.0 Inspection

5.1 The two trees in question are mature Horse Chestnut trees. They are located 4m to the North of the property and overhang both the property and the highway. Epicormic growth has been removed from both trees to facilitate the inspection. **See Figs 1 & 2.**



Fig 1



Fig 2

5.2 Westerly Tree

Height – 18m approx.

Diameter at Breast Height – 0.8m approx.

Crown spread approx. – North 9m; East 4m; South 5m; West 6m

There is a bark lesion from ground to 2m and tree bifurcates at 5m. The crown has good foliage coverage with the foliage being of reasonable size and colour. Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner is present but this can be considered a normal condition for the species at this time of year.

There were three cavities visible, at 8m extending approx. 300mm into stem, at 10m extending approx. 350mm down into stem and at 14m extending approx. 300mm down into stem. **See Figs 3, 4 and 5.** Probing and sound testing was carried out in these areas and the decay appears to be localised.

There is evidence of previous crown reduction at a height of approx. 17m and a more significant reduction back from the roof of the property. There is also minor deadwood in the form of dead branches throughout the crown.



Fig 3.



Fig 4.



Fig 5.

5.3 Conclusion/Recommendations

Having carried out an aerial inspection of the tree and having taken all available information into account I have come to the following conclusion.

Due to the weight and loading of the limbs that are in close proximity to the cavities highlighted I recommend that a crown reduction be carried out. This is not only to reduce the overall sail area of the tree but also to reduce the weight of the limbs that are located in these areas. As a guide, a height reduction of approx. 4m and a reduction in radial crown spread to all cardinal points of up to 3m could be carried out in order to create a lower, more compact crown. This would of course need to be agreed to in principle with the local Planning Authority. I also recommend that any deadwood be removed as a matter of routine maintenance.

5.4 Easterly Tree

Height – 18m approx.

Diameter at Breast Height – 1.1m approx.

Crown spread approx. – North 8m; East 3m; South 4m; West 5m

This tree bifurcates at 8m approx. The East stem extends to approx. 11m and the West stem continues to 18m approx. where it meets the Westerly tree.

There are multiple fruiting bodies of the wood decay fungi *Ganoderma sp.* located on the main stem between 6 and 7m with significant exudation and diseased bark between 4 and 7m in the same location. Probing and sound testing in this area has revealed significant diseased wood. **See Figs 6 & 7.**

There is also an old wound with cavity at 7m to East that extends approx. 350-400mm down and into stem and a second old wound from a previously lost limb.

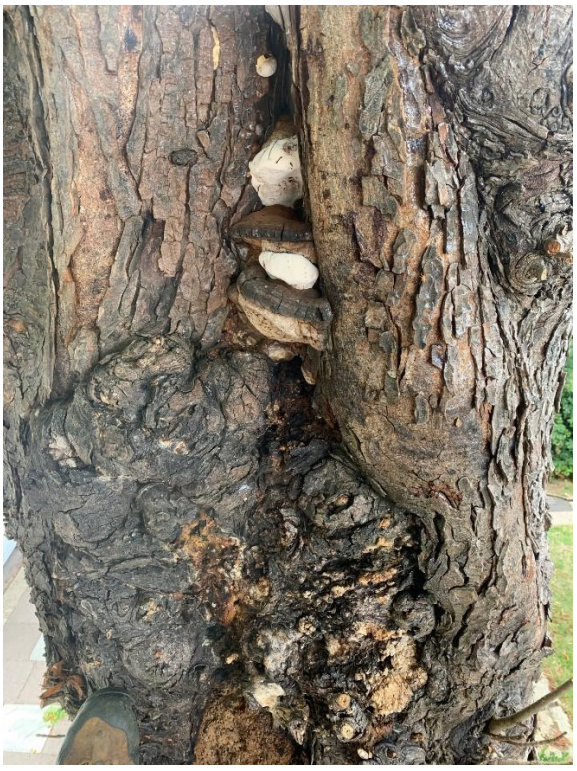


Fig 6.



Fig 7.

At 9m to South there are also numerous fruiting bodies of the wood decay fungi *Ganoderma sp.* Sound testing in this area also revealed a significant level of decayed wood. **See Fig 8.**



Fig 8.

At 11m there is a large old wound from a previously shed stem, this wound site is very heavily decayed. **See Fig 9.** Attached to the wound were two large limbs that are dead and have now separated from the main stem. These are now resting and putting pressure on the limbs below. **See Figs 10 & 11.**

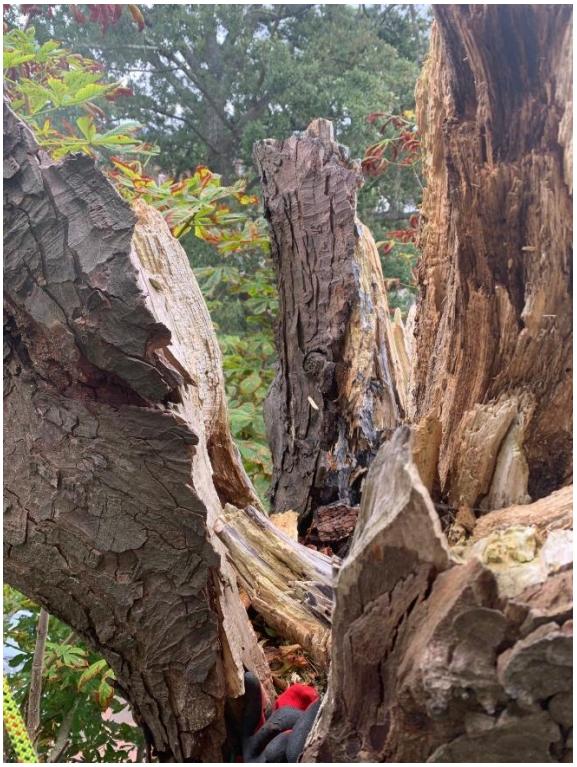


Fig 9.



Fig 10.



Fig 11.

These limbs are weakly attached and are in danger of rolling away from the limbs beneath that are supporting them. This section also overhangs the highway and car parking bays.

5.5 Conclusion/Recommendations

Having carried out an aerial inspection of the tree and having taken all available information into account I have come to the following conclusion.

As a matter of priority, the two dead limbs should be removed to make the area safe. Communication with the Local Planning Authority should made in order to initiate this.

Horse Chestnuts have very limited resistance to internal decay. Taking that into account and given the condition of the remainder of the tree along with the high level of internal decay and diseased wood, I recommend that this tree should be felled to ground level. I also recommend the stump should be ground out and a suitable replacement tree planted to satisfy any planning conditions that the Planning Authority may specify.

In addition to this, the remaining Westerly tree should also be monitored on an annual basis if possible and if anything significant be noticed by the resident/s in the meantime then a further assessment could be arranged.

Glossary of Terms

Abiotic	Pertaining to non-living agents; e.g. environmental factors.
Ash Dieback	A serious disease of Ash trees caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus.*
Bark	A term usually applied to all the tissues of a woody plant lying outside the vascular cambium, thus including the phloem, cortex and periderm; occasionally applied only to the periderm or the phellem.
Bracing	The use of rods or cables to restrain the movement between parts of a tree.
Branch	Primary - A first order branch arising from a stem. Lateral - A second order branch, subordinate to a primary branch or stem and bearing sub-lateral branches. Sub-lateral - A third order branch, subordinate to a lateral or primary branch, or stem and usually bearing only twigs.
Crown	The main foliage bearing section of the tree.
Crown Lifting	Removal of limbs and small branches to a specified height above ground level.
Crown Thinning	The removal of a proportion of secondary branch growth throughout the crown to produce an even density of foliage around a well-balanced branch structure.
Crown Reduction/Shaping	A specified reduction in crown size whilst preserving, as far as possible, the natural tree shape.
Deadwood	Branch or stem wood bearing no live tissues. Retention of deadwood provides valuable habitat for a wide range of species and seldom represents a threat to the health of the of the tree. Removal of deadwood can result in the ingress of decay to otherwise sound tissues and climbing operations to a access deadwood can cause significant damage to a tree. Removal of deadwood is generally recommended only where it represents an unacceptable level of risk.
Dieback	The death of parts of a woody plant, starting at shoot-tips or root-tips.
Epicormic Growth	The growth that emerges from dormant buds along the trunk and branches of a tree.
Fungi Fruiting Body	The reproductive structure produced by some fungi. Fruiting bodies are distinct in size, shape and colouration for each species.
Minor Deadwood	Branches of a diameter less than 25mm and or unlikely to cause significant harm or damage upon impact with a target beneath the tree.

Pollarding	The removal of the tree canopy, back to the stem or primary branches. Pollarding may involve the removal of the entire canopy in one operation, or may be phased over several years. The period of safe retention of trees having been pollarded varies with species and individuals. It is usually necessary to re-pollard on a regular basis, annually in the case of some species.
PiCUS Tomograph	A PiCUS test is used for tree risk assessments to determine the extent of internal decay or cavities throughout the stem of a tree. This is done by sending soundwaves through the wood; the density of the wood (extent of decay) is determined by how fast the sound travels through the wood.
Removal of Deadwood	Unless otherwise specified, this refers to the removal of all accessible dead, dying and diseased branch wood and broken snags.
Saprophytic Fungi	Fungi that inhabits dead organic matter such as deadwood.
Stem/s	The main supporting structure/s, from ground level up to the first major division into branches.
Wood Decay Fungi	Any species of fungi that digests moist wood, causing it to rot.