

Connick Tree Consultants

Specialist in Arboricultural Assessment

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT
Individual Tree Aerial Assessment

OUR REFERENCE	184115/RT
CLIENT	Mrs Innes
SITE	23 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex. BD43 5DL
REPORT BY	Mr Richard Tilling
SURVEY BY	Mr Richard Tilling and Mr Mark Haddock
DATE	9th August 2021
DATE OF INSPECTION	22nd July 2021

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTION

Connick Tree Consultants were instructed by Mrs Innes of 23 John Street to undertake an aerial, visual assessment upon a Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa)* which is situated in the communal parking area behind 21 John Street and adjacent to Ship Street and provide an analysis of the findings.

The principal objective of the survey was to assess the structural condition of the tree around the wound on the lower stem and within the crown at the historic pruning wounds and advise on any remedial action to ameliorate the risk it could represent to people and surrounding infrastructure.

1.2 SCOPE OF REPORT

The inspections were carried out using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method (Mattheck, C and Breloer, H, 1994) examining the external features of the individual tree. All measurements, proportions and assessments of age are approximate, except where stated.

The report and recommendations relate to the condition of the tree and its surroundings at the time of inspection only.

The conclusions and recommendations in this report are only valid for one year. Any changes to the site as it stands at present will invalidate this report, e.g., building of extensions, excavation works, importing of soils, extreme weather events etc.

1.3 SUMMARY OF LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

A considerable body of case law has established that, in order to be in a position to foresee and indeed to prevent harm arising from a tree failure, it is necessary to subject the tree or trees in question to ‘regular inspection’, with this inspection undertaken by someone competent both to identify any defects present and to interpret their significance for public safety.

Within the United Kingdom the landowner in which a tree stands upon has a duty in relation to the health and safety of those on or near the land. This duty is covered by both civil and criminal law and would leave the owner responsible for any liabilities arising from the falling of a tree or branch either financially or through prosecution (NTSG, 2011).

The breach of or infringement of this duty can lead to potential liabilities to pay damages within civil law under the Occupiers’ Liability Act 1957 and 1984 or to the risk of prosecution within criminal law under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

1.4 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

I have based this report on my site observations and investigations and have come to conclusions in the light of qualifications gained and experience obtained whilst working in the field of arboriculture. I have qualifications and practical experience in arboriculture and list the details of this in Appendix II.

1.5 LIMITATIONS AND USE OF COPYRIGHT

All rights in this report are reserved. No part of it may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means without our written permission. Its contents and format are for the exclusive use of the person, firm or company to whom it is addressed (and that of any other person, firm or company whose interest was disclosed to us prior to its preparation). It may not be sold, lent out or divulged to any third party not directly involved in this situation without the written consent of Connick Tree Care.

Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly and all trees, even healthy ones, are at risk from unpredictable climatic and man-made events. This report and recommendations relate to the condition of the trees and their surroundings at the time of inspection only.

DISCLAIMER: I have no connection with any of the parties involved in this situation that could influence the opinions expressed in this report.

2 ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY

2.1 SITE VISIT

Connick Tree Consultants were instructed by Mrs Innes to undertake an aerial visual assessment upon a Monterey Cypress tree located in the rear garage area of 21 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea and provide an analysis of the findings.

The principal objective of the survey was to assess the structural condition of the tree and advise on any remedial action to ameliorate the risk it could represent to people and surrounding infrastructure.

2.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

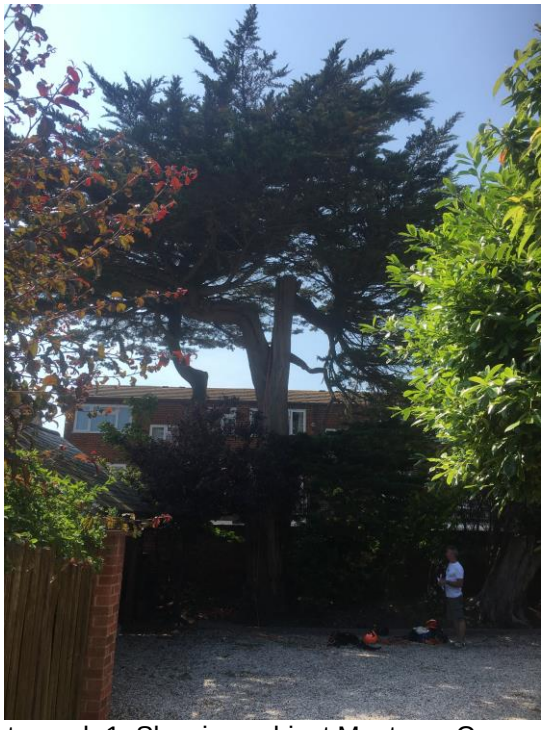
The tree is located to the rear of 21 John Street, the site is a shared parking and garage area for properties on John Street. Vehicle access is between 17 and 21 John Street with pedestrian access via a gate to Ship Street.

The Monterey Cypress is growing opposite White Lion Court which is in Ship Street. The subject tree overhangs Ship Street and over sails a detached garage within the site.

The surrounding area is residential, with narrow roads and on street parking.

2.3 SURVEY SUMMARY

Tree Number – T1
Species – Monterey Cypress *(Cupressus macrocarpa)*
Height (**m**)– 10



Photograph 1: Showing subject Monterey Cypress to centre of image

A visual inspection and recommendation for further inspection was recommended by a Connick Tree Care estimator following a site visit to the subject tree following an appointment with the residents.

The crown of the tree was accessed via rope and harness and the aerial inspection undertaken using basic tree inspection equipment.

2.4 INSPECTION IMAGES

Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*)



Image 1 Lower stem wound



Image 2 Upper stem



Image 3 Historic Reduction wound

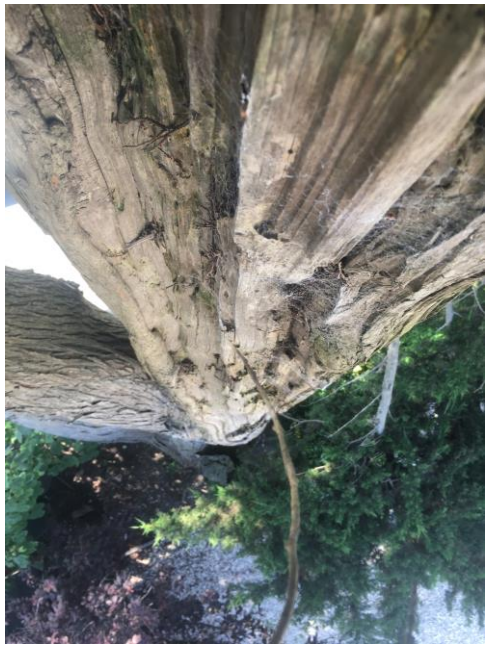


Image 4 Close up of stem wound



Image 5 View of limb over Ship Road



Image 6 View of Occluding wound on south limb



Image 7 Close up of south limb

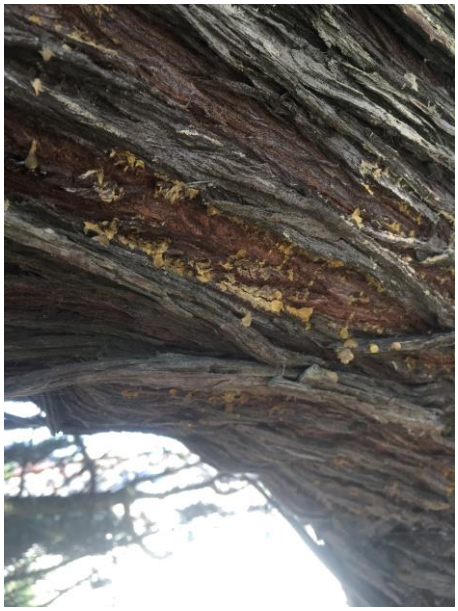


Image 8 Close up of resin exudation on north limb

3 DISCUSSION

The subject Monterey Cypress is believed to have suffered damaged in the 1987 Hurricane where gusts of up to 134 mph were recorded. It is thought that the main lower stem wound dates from this event. **(Image 1)** The stem wound is located to the north east of the main stem where a primary scaffold failed. The union appears to have had included bark, evident from the stem shape between 1.6 metres and 2.5 metres in height which may have led to the failure in the hurricane. The lower wound extends from 0.4 metres to 2.5 metres above ground level with superficial decay probed to a depth of 120 mm where the stem diameter is 1030 mm. A report from 2007 states that 'the remaining bulk is supported by less than 50 percent of the trunk'. The visual inspection undertaken on the 22nd July 2021 recorded over 50 percent of the stem as supporting the remaining tree.

The main stem was found to have delaminated bark from 2.5 metres to a height of 7.5 metres **(Images 2 and 4),** the height where the main stem was reduced to in 2002 according to the 2007 TPO application report.
The stem wound appeared dry and solid with no significant decay nor any low resonance wood present. The Pruning wound at 7.5 metres (**Image 3)** was probed and was not found to contain soft or wet wood. As with many coniferous species, a new crown does not develop from the pruning wound, but instead the highest side branches become co-dominant often forming a 'U' shaped appearance to the new crown.

The upper crown has developed to the north and north west and to the south west. The south west stem grows over the garage roof and Ship Street extending approximately 7.3 metres. There is a horizontal occluded wound with good wound wood evident. (**Images 6 and 7)** A small split branch of 300 mm diameter rests on adjacent branches one metre from the branch ends. The north west limb extends from the large stem pruning wound and has an elbow approximately 3 metres from the stem with dense branch structure **(Image 5)**. Some extended branches emanate from this location. There is also a small hanging branch within the crown located over the road. The underside of the 'elbow' limb **(Image 8)** has some dry resin exudation which, due to the crown form and prevailing wind is likely to have developed from wind stress.

The rooting area showed no signs of fungal infection, compaction or recent disturbance. The adjacent 2 metre high flint wall shows no signs of deflection or cracking. The size of the Monterey Cypress stem and lack of wall damage would indicate few or deep roots towards Ship Street and a low possibility of direct damage to the wall over the next 5 to 10 years.

From documentation supplied by the client, it appears that the initial damage occurred to the tree in 1987. The damage had become a concern by 1997 when the tree was reported to the local council. The tree was subsequently reduced in height in 2002 and reassessed as part of a TPO application in 2007. It is unknown if further work or assessment has been undertaken since this date.

An internet search of Adur and Worthing Councils website did not show any Tree Preservation Orders present on the subject tree, but the search was not in depth. Further searches can be made through the following;
https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/planning-policy/conservation-and-heritage/trees/tpo-register/

4 CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS

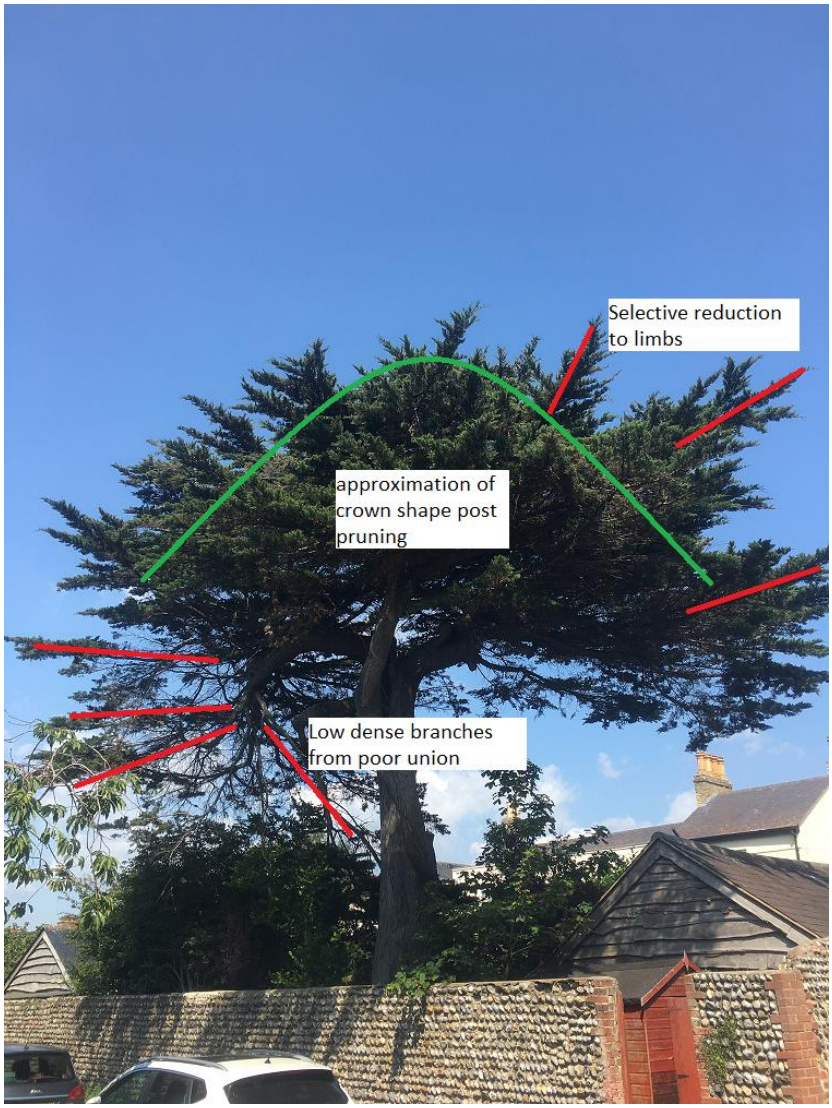
On completion of the visual tree assessment, it is believed that overall, the tree is in a good physiological condition and a fair structural condition.

Due to the form of the upper crown and continued co-dominance of the structural limbs it is recommended that the northwest main limb is reduced by 1.5 m to 2 m removing the longest over extended branches, including the removal of any hanging, or snapped branches and low dense branches running parallel with the flint wall.

The southwest limb is to be reduced by 1.5 m removing long extended branches, the snapped branch is to be removed and the crown left with a balanced appearance.

This work should be carried out within six months of the date of this report.

The subject tree should be subject to a full ground level visual survey within 5 years of the date of this report.



Annotated Image of final pruning cuts

5 TREES SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CONTROLS

Before undertaking any work to any of the trees, statutory controls will need to be checked. It is believed that a Tree Preservation Order (TPO's) may still cover the subject tree, and that the site is in a Conservation Area, so no works can be undertaken without the relevant statutory processes being followed.

6 REFERENCES and BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anon, British Standard BS 3998 (2010), "Recommendations for Tree Work", British Standards Institute. London.

DOE, "Tree Preservation Orders - A guide to the law and good practice", Department of Environment, 1994.

David Lonsdale. (2001), Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management. London, HMSO.

Mattheck, C. and Breloer, H. (1994) The body language of trees, Research for Amenity Trees No.4 HMSO.

Anon, Adur District Council (2007) Tree Preservation Order Application ADC/0533/07

National Tree Safety Group. (2011), Common sense risk management of trees, Guidance on trees and public safety in the UK for owners, managers and advisers. Edinburgh, The Forestry Commission.

APPENDIX I TREE LOCATION IMAGE



Google Image of Tree Location

APPENDIX II QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Richard Tilling

1. QUALIFICATIONS

Subject	Level	Date
Microdrill Training	Pass	November 2019
Getting to grips with subsidence	Pass	March 2019
Undertaking Aerial Inspections	Pass	February 2019
Lantra Accredited Professional Tree Inspection	Pass	May 2010 - Refreshed May 2018
CMI Level 3 certificate in First Line Management	Pass	July 2017
NPTC Level 3 Certificate of Competence in the Thorough Examination of Arboricultural Equipment	Pass	April 2006 – Refreshed May 2016
IOSH Training - Managing Safely	Pass	April 2013
Higher National Diploma in Arboriculture	Pass	September 1992 – June 1995

2. CAREER SUMMARY

I began my career in the Arboricultural industry in 1995 following the successful completion of a Higher National Diploma course at Houghall Agricultural College in County Durham. The Course included three placements. Three months with Guildford Borough Council's Arboricultural Department, three months at the National Trusts Winkworth Arboretum and twelve months working for an independent Tree Surgery company.

Upon leaving college I worked for a sole trader Tree Surgeon for two years working mainly for domestic customers. This was followed by sixteen years working for larger tree surgery firms carrying out both domestic and commercial work where I completed certification in climbing and chainsaw use, risk assessments and health and safety.

I progressed from climbing supervisor, followed by two years of quoting for private work, through general management to Contract Management in one of the largest UK tree firms where I managed Council tree contracts including Sutton, Bromley, Bexley, Richmond upon Thames, Hounslow and Islington councils.

During my career within the Arboricultural industry I have built up valuable practical based Arboricultural knowledge, in depth contract management skills and gaining certification including Professional Tree Inspection Course over ten years ago and LOLER inspection: Certificate of Competence in the Thorough Examination of Arboricultural Equipment over fifteen years ago.

My qualifications have allowed me to carry out varied tree survey work including a full survey of Camden Councils tree stock, 'dead, dying and dangerous' surveying for The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Council, Health and Safety surveying for Transport for London (Southern) and climbing bat roost inspection surveying for Chiswick House and Gardens.

My Contract Management role has giving me experience of Health and Safety, Asset Management and Contract meetings.

I joined Connick Tree Care in January 2018 to expand my knowledge in tree assessment and to get back to a closer relationship with trees and woodland as a whole. I now work as an Arboricultural Consultant with a wide experience of individual tree assessments including Micro drilling, health and safety surveying, Climbing inspections, full site surveying, Insurance or Mortgage surveys and woodland inspection.