



## Contents

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## 1. Instructions

The owner of the tree, Mr Andrew Ashworth has concerns over the condition of the tree and its location to a neighbouring house and has requested a visual tree assessment (VTA).

## 2. Date of inspection

The tree was inspected on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 by Aaron Bailey of AB Forestry, Hull.  
The weather conditions were slightly overcast and dark.

## 3. Location

The location of the tree is in the rear garden of 4 Walnut Close, Cottingham. East Riding. HU16 4PR.

## 4. Survey findings

On the eastern side of the stem from ground level up to approximately 1.5 metres high is an area of complete bark stripping. Upon removing some sections of loose bark it is possible that Armillaria fungus was present. A small section of the white mycelium was visible and the typical black bootlace rhizomorphs associated with the fungus were present leading all the way up the damaged section. (Picture 1). (No toadstools present).

As Sycamore is a highly susceptible to Armillaria species fungus and the location of the tree with its weighted canopy to the South it would be advisable to remove the tree.

## 5. Table contents

- Number
- Species - English common name.
- Age class - Y-young, SM-semi mature, M-mature.
- Physiological condition - these are the structure of the tree and any findings including but not limited to any weak and strong points.
- Recommended work - recommended remedial work that may or may not be carried out.
- Essential work - any work that is required to rectify any weakness found in the tree and to keep the report valid.

| Tree no. | Species  | Age class | Physiological condition  | Recommended work                                   | Essential work           |
|----------|----------|-----------|--|--|--------------------------|
| 1.       | Sycamore | M         | Multi stem from base with large epicormic growth stem growing and rainwater cavity forming. (Picture 2). Possible Armillaria fungus. (Picture 1). Twin stem from 7 metre with broad open crown and south side heavy. Some major dead wood. Some poor pruning cuts on eastern side. | As a minimum all major dead wood should be removed | Fell and grind out stump |

## 6. Environmental considerations

On the day of the survey there was no evidence of nesting birds, and the tree has a medium potential for roosting Bats.

Bird nesting season runs from 1st March until 31st July. Under section 1 of the wildlife and countryside act 1981, it is an offence to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or been built.

If the presence of Bats is suspected when tree works commence then advice will need to be sought from Natural England on 0845 1300228 or The Bat conservation trust on 02076272629.

The tree is protected by a tree preservation order (TPO) so all work should first be applied for in writing to East Riding Council.

## 7. Future inspections

Under the occupier's liability act I would recommend future inspections. In the months following an inspection, the condition of trees inevitably changes. It is therefore essential that trees should be inspected regularly and after any event such as a severe storm which may have caused a sudden change. A visual tree assessment (VTA) can only assess the tree above ground and normally includes but not limited to any damage in the tree, dead branches, weaknesses, and weak branch junctions. A VTA cannot predict root plate movement and decay in roots or inside the tree so storm damage cannot be predicted.

I would therefore suggest a bi-annual inspection, or sooner if required.



**Picture 1.** Possible evidence of Armillaria. Black bootlace rhizomorphs and white mycelium.



**Picture 2.** Tight union at base of tree with rainwater cavity forming.