

Lynne Sandbach  
49 Chapel Lane  
Butleigh  
Glastonbury  
BA6 8TA

27/01/2022

Ref No: CT\_6355.22

Dear Lynne

Re Mature Horse Chestnut, 49 Chapel Lane, Butleigh

I am writing to you to follow-up on and formalise our conversations regarding the mature Horse chestnut tree when I visited your property on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2022.

When assessing the tree, a 'basic' visual and physical assessment of the tree was carried out from ground level, using established industry standard inspection techniques and if deemed necessary a full report would be issued. On this occasion we determined that a full report was not necessary.

Please note that the visual inspections and risk assessment are made with the over-arching goal of assessing a tree's ability to withstand the range of normal weather events that might reasonably be expected to occur. The estimated risk of harm posed by the tree remains relevant for twelve months in the absence of environmental change (including but not limited to trenching works, major storms, and unapproved pruning). The Horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), situated to the Western boundary and within the grounds of 49 Chapel Lane, is a large mature tree that is approximately 19m tall and has a stem diameter of 92cm.

The tree is in a prominent location and is within the Butleigh conservation area but is not protected by a tree preservation order (TPO).

The rooting area of the tree is within close proximity to a wall on the northern boundary which separates the garden for the property and a small stream. Due to the location of the wall and stream the rooting area is limited on this aspect of the tree.

The tree is located at the far western aspect of the garden of 49 Chapel Lane, within the vicinity of the tree there are numerous targets and constraints including: Chapel Lane (South of the tree), powerlines (running through the north aspect of the crown), BT lines (running through eastern aspect of the crown), a stream with a brick wall defining the boundaries (1.5m north of the main stem).

The northern aspect of the crown has been 'through pruned' to allow the statutory clearance for the powerlines leaving a large gap in the northern aspect of the crown of the tree.

The Horse chestnut splits into 3 main stems each of which have a diameter of 48cm. The 3 primary stems are pursuing dominance. The southern stem grows horizontally before ascending to a similar height as the neighbouring stems whilst overhanging the road. A gap in the upper crown suggests that this large stem is beginning to subside and poses an elevated probability of failure. The branches on the Southern aspect of the tree overhang Chapel Lane and are often struck by passing high sided vehicles.

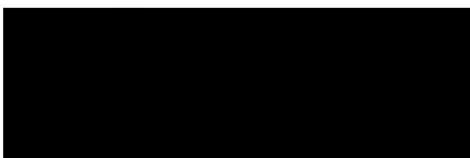
At the time of inspection, only minor defects were found. The tree has some minor deadwood within the crown, but this is deemed to be an acceptable quantity for the size, species, and location of the tree. When inspecting the tree, it was clear to see there is a significant, even amount of normal bud growth, indicating the tree has good vitality. No visible signs of significant pests or diseases were discovered.

The tree poses a tolerable level of risk. For the tree to pose a risk which is as 'low as reasonably practicable' it is recommended that the southern aspect of the tree is reduced by approximately 2m to lessen the stress on the branch union and overall weight of the branch. This is considered to be a cost-effective solution to mitigate the elevated likelihood of failure. As a site management task it is also recommended the tree is crown lifted over the road to 5.2m to avoid damage from passing high sided vehicles.

To conclude, at the time of inspection, the tree poses a tolerable level of risk. Pruning works are recommended for the tree to pose a reduced level of risk described as 'low as reasonably practicable'. The southern aspect of the tree should be reduced by approximately 2m to lessen the overall weight and probability of failure. The tree is to be pruned in accordance with the British Standard for tree pruning BS 3998 (2010). If pruning is carried out to BS 3998 (2010) it should result in only a minor impact on the health of the tree.

By way of a follow-up, I would recommend that the tree has another inspection in three years to check the structural condition and vitality of the tree.

Kind regards \_\_\_\_\_



George Tucker  
Arboriculturist

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