



# DARTMOOR TREE SURGEONS LTD

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B Sc (Hons)  
M Arbor A  
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17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Mr Spencer Jarrett  
Director & Senior Property Manager  
Harrison, Lavers & Potbury's  
Hillsdon House  
High Street  
Sidmouth  
Devon  
EX10 8LD

Dear Spencer,

## Monterey Cypress at Abbeydale, Manor Road, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8TA

I have been aware of this tree for a number of years, most recently in April 2023 where I advised that this tree have its significant and hazardous deadwood removed; this may have been possibly attributed to the bark necrosis and dysfunction that was obviously present in this immediate area, the potential presence of Coryneum Canker, *Seiridium cardinale* must not be discounted. I also recommended that the canopy be reduced to reduce loadings on the tree's limbs in order for the tree to be retained and remain safe in consideration to its surroundings.

As the tree is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (ref: 17/0135/TPO) an application to work on the tree was submitted to East Devon District Council in April of 2023, the subsequent notice issued from EDDC was a split decision that allowed the deadwood removal but refused the canopy reduction, citing the following reasons:

*"The Monterey cypress in the application is a large specimen that makes a significant contribution to public amenity and to the treescape of Sidmouth. The proposed crown reduction by 2m with 75mm diameter cuts would detract from the appearance of the tree and from the amenity it provides. Furthermore, the works would result in the removal of substantial amounts of healthy foliage that help to provide the tree with its energy requirements, and therefore would potentially impact in a negative way on the health of the tree."*

In early December 2023 the tree shed a large limb from its eastern canopy causing damage to the neighbouring property 'Sanditon'.

Following the recent limb failure of T1 – Monterey Cypress, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, in December I was asked to visit the property to assess the tree's condition and advise on any recommendations necessary in terms of risk assessment and/or reduction. I visited the site on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to make my assessment and my findings and recommendations are as follows.

The tree is situated in the southernmost part of the car park of Abbeydale overhanging multiple car parking spaces and the gardens of the neighbouring property Sanditon. Although relatively sheltered from the direct southerly winds, due to the proximity and

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location of the surrounding buildings I would consider this tree to be exposed to high and unpredictable winds.

The tree has been subjected to severe pruning in the past with multiple pruning wounds on the main stem and in the canopy of the tree over a number of years, most recently the dead wood removal in June 2023. Much of the southern canopy has been removed either by pruning or limb failure.

The recent limb failure was due to two main points in my opinion; exposure to unpredictable winds and additionally reduced structural integrity at an important structural junction of primary limb and main stem. This I believe is due to the bark necrosis and timber dysfunction on the southern aspect of the main stem.

Many of the limbs that are still present in the tree are now quite severely exposed and I would expect there to be more failures in subsequent months and years to come. Monterey Cypress trees are known to have heavy timber and foliage that can be prone to large limb failure.

I do not consider the retention of this tree suitable for the aforementioned reasons and the fact that EDDC don't consider a crown reduction a viable option. The tree is now posing a significant risk to the surrounding area. Permanent high value targets are well within range of potential falling limbs such as parked cars, the flats and gardens of Sanditon. I recommend that an application to have this tree felled to ground level and stump removed be submitted to the LPA so that the works can proceed at the earliest opportunity.

I also recommend that a replacement tree is planted in a similar location and I would suggest a tree from the following list of trees:

Scots Pine – *Pinus sylvestris*

Pedunculate Oak – *Quercus robur*

The replacement tree should be a minimum size of a standard – 8-10cms girth and 2.5-3m in height, planted between December and late February. Any planting should be undertaken to *BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations*.

Any documentation and photos of the tree in question can be supplied on request.

I hope that all of the above makes sense but please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or matters that you wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Arrow  
Cert Arb L4 (ABC)  
Cert Arb RFS  
Contracts Manager