

# Arboricultural Survey Report 2023

57 The Crescent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7AW

**For Client:** Joanna Ford, c/o 57 The Crescent, Canterbury, Kent. CT2 7AW



**Surveyor:** Paul Hegley Dip Arb, (Director, Lushland Arboricultural Consultants)

**Survey Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Report Ref:** AS0255/10-23

**Report Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (valid for one year from survey date)

# Arboricultural Survey Report

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## 1.0 Client Instruction

1.1 I was instructed by Joanna Ford to carry out a health a safety survey of two Sweet Chestnut trees growing within the rear garden of 57 The Crescent, Canterbury, Kent and a single Silver Birch tree growing within the rear garden of no. 55 The Crescent located on the northern boundary of the two properties

## 2.0 Qualifications & Experience

2.1 I have based this report on the information provided to me and my observations made at the time of my site inspection. I have come to conclusions in the light of my experience as a qualified arboriculturist and LANTRA qualified professional tree inspector.

## 3.0 Background Information

3.1 This arboricultural report fulfils the landowner's duty of care to ensure that trees growing on their land are regularly inspected by a qualified person, identifying any works needed in the interests of health and safety.

## 4.0 Documents Supplied

4.1 No documents were supplied.

## 5.0 Site Inspection

5.1 I made an unaccompanied inspection of the site on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The weather at the time of my inspection was mild, clear and sunny with a light breeze.

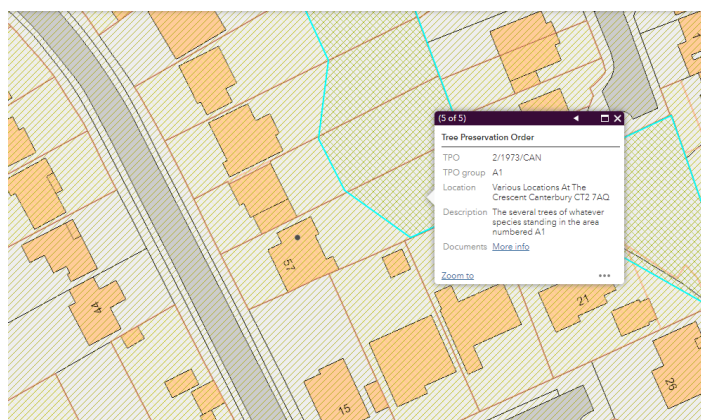
## 6.0 Scope of Survey

6.1 The survey is concerned with the arboricultural aspects of the site only and is solely in relation to the condition of 3 trees (circled yellow below) affecting the rear garden of no. 57 The Crescent, Canterbury as outlined in red on the aerial photo below.



6.2 All non arboricultural observations and comments I have made in this report are from a lay person's point of view.

- 6.3 Trees are living organisms and as such their health and condition are naturally subject to change over time. My recommendations and assessments are based upon the trees' condition on the day of inspection. This report cannot cover unforeseen circumstances such as neglect or wilful damage to the trees or severe weather conditions.
- 6.4 Within the scope of any tree survey it is a fact that not all risks of stem and branch failure can be covered, particularly in relation to freak occurrences of weather when even healthy trees can suffer from branch snap or wind throw. It is also well known that even healthy trees can occasionally shed limbs for no discernible reason, even when the weather is calm. Although, relatively infrequent branches may be occasionally shed and this should be acknowledged as a risk that cannot be entirely mitigated
- 6.5 There were no discussions between the surveyor and any other party.
- 6.6 Any recommended pruning works detailed in this report are to be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998: 2010 Tree Work - Recommendations.
- 6.7 Although trees can be of great ecological value and grow within archeologically sensitive locations, I have no specialist expertise in these disciplines, so this report does not consider these aspects.
- 6.8 My inspection of the trees for the purposes of assessing their condition and work requirements is made on the assumption that they will be annually inspected in the future to identify any changes in condition and review the recommendations. **Therefore, the tree assessment advice given in this report only remains valid for one year from the date of the site inspection (4<sup>th</sup> October 2023).**
- 6.9 Trees proposed for pruning/felling should be inspected for roosting bats and nesting birds. In the event of bats and nesting birds being present, no works are to commence until all nests and roosts have become vacant to the satisfaction of a licensed bat handler. The disturbance or destruction of nesting sites is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Further advice on bats can be advised from the Bat Conservation Trust (tel: 0845 1300 2280 / [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)) and nesting birds advice can be obtained from Natural England (tel: 0845 600 3078 [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)) or Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (tel: 01767 693690 [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)).
- 6.10 Having viewed Canterbury City Council's interactive planning maps (as part replicated below) the trees detailed in this report fall within Area A1 of tree preservation order (TPO) No. 2 of 1973. Therefore, unless otherwise specified any works recommended in this report will require the written permission from the local planning authority, by way of an application. Further guidance from the Council can be obtained on the following link <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planning-and-building/get-planning-permission-do-work-tree>



Extract from Canterbury City Councils interactive planning maps showing coverage of TPO 2 of 1973.

- 6.11 When appointing an arboricultural contractor, it is important to use only suitably qualified and experienced tree surgeons. The Local Authority Tree Officer may be able to provide a select list of suitable contractors within the area. It is always essential to check that they carry public and products liability to a minimum of £5 million cover and the relevant Employers Liability Insurance.

## **7.0 Legal Obligations - Landowner Responsibility**

- 7.1 Any landowner who is responsible for a tree or group of trees has a 'duty of care' to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the risk of personal injury or damage to property arising from the presence of any tree on the site, or from its breakage or possible uprooting. This duty is defined by the Occupiers Liability Act.
- 7.2 Obligation owed by the site owners to visitors and those adjacent to a site under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 (the Principle Duty of Care) and 1984. The latter expanded the obligation to uninvited visitors, under the Principle of Common Humanity, and to those on the land for commercial reasons.
- 7.3 All tree owners have a duty to others to ensure that they are not endangered due to negligence on the part of the tree owner. Negligence in this situation would be the failure to have the tree inspected to avoid danger by collapse or breakage, or the subsequent inaction, following the identification of potential hazards defects by any such inspection. Negligence has been legally defined by precedence in Common Law.
- 7.4 Under these principles, an occupier is liable for losses (physical harm to life and/or property) arising from an accident to a third party, where the cause of the accident was both reasonably foreseeable and reasonably preventable. The circumstances of the owner are considered an important factor in determining what is reasonable.
- 7.5 In order to be in a position to foresee and indeed to prevent losses arising from tree failure, it is necessary to subject the tree or trees in question to regular inspections. These inspections should be undertaken by someone competent both to identify any defects present and to interpret their significance for public safety.
- 7.6 In order to completely carry out their duty of care, the landowner should ensure that the tree condition assessment is carried out by a qualified arboriculturalist. An arboriculturalist is trained to identify hazards and recommend appropriate remedial works, whilst aiming to retain trees in a healthy and safe condition with consideration to the context of their surroundings.

## **8.0 Survey Methodology**

- 8.1 A walk over survey was conducted within the garden area as shown on the survey plan at Appendix B. Unless otherwise stated all observations were conducted from ground level, using the 'Visual Tree Assessment' system (VTA by Mattheck, C & Breloer, H 1994) and The Body Language of Trees, Research for Amenity Trees No 4 Department of the Environment) with the aid of the following equipment:

- Binoculars For inspection of upper crown
- Sounding mallet To give a sound indication of decay/cavity extent
- Steel probe To test resistance of wood and depth of cavities
- Pair of secateurs To remove ivy/sucker growth if required
- Diameter Tape To measure stem diameters
- Digital Clinometer/  
Laser Measurer To measure tree height and canopy extents

- 8.2 All trees have been assessed from ground level and inspected for overall condition that would include presence of deadwood (over 50mm in diameter), leaf size, density and colour, shoot extension growth, weak branch/stem formation, main stem condition and signs of any root plate movement. Diagram 1 at Appendix C illustrates tree defects to be noted during a visual tree assessment, based

on the VTA system.

- 8.3 No topographical plan showing the position of any trees was provided, so the approximate position/location of the trees surveyed in this report has been plotted to the nearest metre using surrounding features such as paths, fences and buildings as datums.
- 8.4 No soil samples were taken.
- 8.5 No internal investigations or tissue samples were taken from the subject trees.
- 8.6 Tree species identification was based on a visual observation. In the tree survey at Appendix A, the common English name of what the tree appeared to be was detailed first with the botanical name, if appropriate in brackets.
- 8.7 The height of the subject tree(s) were estimated to the nearest metre using a digital clinometer.
- 8.8 The average crown spread(s) of the subject tree(s) were measured from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches with average diameter in metres.
- 8.9 Tree age is estimated from visual indicators and should only be taken as a provisional guide. Age estimates often need to be modified based on further information such as historical records or local knowledge.
- 8.10 The tree(s) physiological condition has been categorised either: good / fair / poor / moribund or dead.
- 8.11 **All recommendations highlighted in red should be carried out as soon as possible.**  
Recommendations made in **green** denote secondary inspections or further investigations are warranted before appropriate works can be recommended.
- 8.12 All tree positions can be seen on the plan at Appendix B.
- 8.13 Survey results and recommended works can be seen detailed in Appendix A.

## **9.0 References**

- 9.1 "The Body Language of Trees" by Claus Mattheck & Helge Breloer
- 9.2 "Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment & Management" by David Lonsdale
- 9.3 British Standard BS3998: 2010 "Tree Work" – Recommendations
- 9.4 Google Earth Pro
- 9.5 Canterbury City Council Planning Interactive Maps

# Appendix A

## **Tree Survey Details & Work Recommendations**

57 The Crescent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7AW

## Key to Tree Survey Details

### Tree No:

Tree numbers relate to the position of the trees as shown on the plan at Appendix B:

- T** = Single Tree
- G** = Group of trees
- W** = Woodland

### Physiological Condition:

- G** = Good – Showing no adverse risk of failure/defects
- F** = Fair – showing minor signs of deterioration.
- P** = Poor – Unlikely to be returned to a good condition
- MB** = Moribund – Nearly dead
- D** = Dead

### Tree Age:

- N** = A new or recently planted tree established for no more than 5 years in its present location.
- Y** = A young tree planted/established for no more than 10 years in its present location.
- SM** = A semi-mature tree which is well established but with some growth to make before reaching its potential maximum size.
- EM** = A early mature tree approaching its ultimate height whose growth is slowing, but it will still increase considerably in stem diameter & crown spread.
- Mat** = A mature tree at/near maximum size with limited potential for further significant size increase, but still considered to have a safe useful life expectancy.
- O** = An over mature tree in decline.
- V** = A veteran tree that shows features characteristic of, but not exclusive to, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species.

### Recommendations:

Recommendations in **red** should be carried out as soon as possible.

Recommendations in **green** denote secondary inspections or further investigations are warranted before appropriate works can be recommended.

Recommendations in **black** are low-medium priority or no works required.

### Work Priority:

Following the date of inspection, tree surgery works should be undertaken:

<b>IMM</b>	– Immediate works required in the interests of safety (within 24hrs)
<b>High</b>	– within the next month
<b>Med</b>	– within the next 3 months
<b>Low</b>	– post 6 months

### Next Inspection:

Due to the current condition of the tree, the next tree survey is required within the following timeframe:

**6** = Within the next 3-6 months\*

**12** = Within the next 6-12 months\*

**18** = Within the next 12-18 months\*

*\*or following adverse weather*

Although most trees require an annual inspection, if a disease (such as Ash Dieback) has been found, some trees may require an earlier re-inspection to check on the progression of the disease in the interests of health and safety.



Tree No	Species	Ht (M)	Crown Spread (M)	Age	Phys Cond.	Condition/Comments	Recommendations	Work Priority	Next Insp
T1	Sweet Chestnut (Castanea sativa)	13	7	Mat	F	Twin forked at ground level. Stem to south heavily Ivy clad hindering full assessment. <b>(please refer to photo 1 below)</b> Slight lean towards the north. Partly suppressed by adjacent Ash tree to north and larger Sweet Chestnut T2 to west, causing asymmetric crown towards the east. General foliage/leaf size, density and colour reasonable for the species although Ivy coverage has smothered much of the lower foliage/branches.	Cut and remove Ivy growth from around main stem/trunks using hand tools only, allowing inner Ivy growth to die to aid in fuller inspection. <b>Note:</b> Removal of Ivy growth from a protected tree does not require any formal consent from the Local Authority.	Med	12

Photo 1 – View of base of tree T1 showing Ivy Growth.



Continued.....

Tree No	Species	Ht (M)	Crown Spread (M)	Age	Phys Cond.	Condition/Comments	Recommendations	Work Priority	Next Insp
T2	Sweet Chestnut (Castanea sativa)	14	8	Mat	G	Twin forked at 1m. Large basal suckers and Ivy growth on main stems hindered a full inspection. Very one-sided asymmetric crown towards south over garden of no.19 Moorfields, due to growth of adjacent Ash tree to the north. Moderate sized dead branch in crown centre and Lower dead branch over garden of no. 19 Moorfields. <b>(Please refer to photo 2 below)</b> General foliage/leaf size, density and colour good for the species. Crown generally becoming low and suppressive over garden of no 19 Moorfields.	*Cut and remove Ivy growth from around main stem/trunks using hand tools only, allowing inner Ivy growth to die to aid in fuller inspection.	Med	12
							**Remove major dead branches* in crown over 25mm dia or 1m+ in length.	High	
							***Reduce crown over garden of No. 19 Moorfields (south) by no more than 2.5m leaving a crown spread of not less than 5.5m. Reduce overextended branch to west back to red line as shown in Photo 2 below. No height reduction.	Med	

Photo 2 – View of T2 from the adjoining garden of 19 Moorfields.



Continued.....

**ADVISORY NOTES TO RECOMMENDATIONS:**

\*The removal of Ivy Growth from protected trees does not require any formal consent from the Local Authority (LA).

\*\*Under section 14 of the current tree preservation order regulations the removal of dead branches from a protected tree can be undertaken as an exemption, although at least 5 working days written notice has to be given to the LA before such works can commence.

\*\*\***No** pruning works can commence until formal written permission has been granted by the LA by way of a formal TPO application. Please refer further to section 6.10 of this report.

Tree No	Species	Ht (M)	Crown Spread (M)	Age	Phys Cond.	Condition/Comments	Recommendations	Work Priority	Next Insp
T3	Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	15	6	Mat	G	Located in garden of no. 55 the Crescent. Twin forked co-dominant stems at 0.4m with stem to the east being more upright in habit. <b>(Please refer to photo 3 below)</b> Twin fork displays no indication of any significant compression associated with weak forks (please refer to VTA diagram at Appendix C) and when probed the fork centre did not reveal any signs of internal or surface decay. Typical pendulous crown for species with no associated visible defects noted.	No immediate works required.	N/A	12

**Photo 3** – View of the main fork of T3 taken from the garden of 55 The Crescent.



**SURVEY END**

# Appendix B

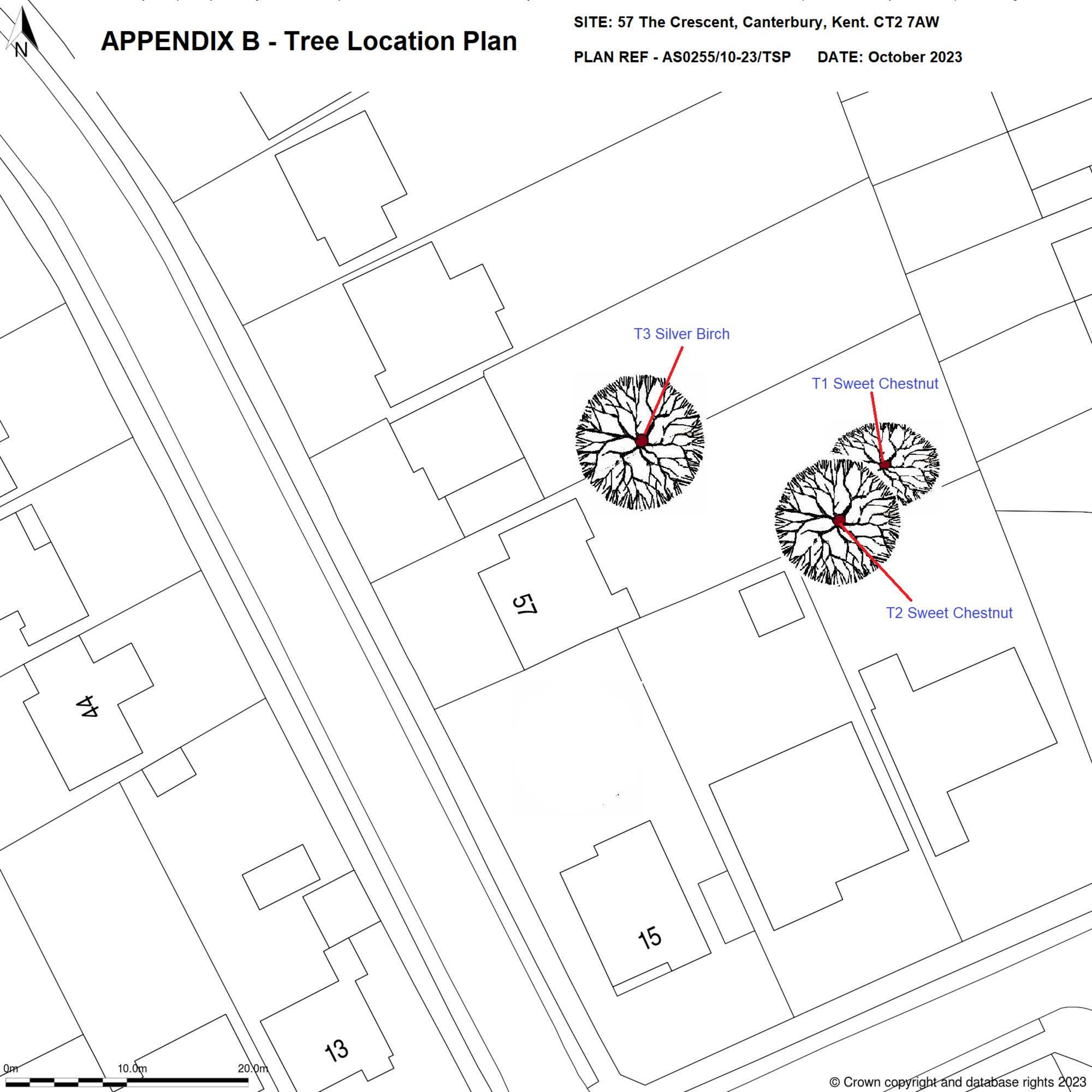
## Tree Survey Plan

57 The Crescent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7AW

# APPENDIX B - Tree Location Plan

SITE: 57 The Crescent, Canterbury, Kent. CT2 7AW

PLAN REF - AS0255/10-23/TSP    DATE: October 2023



T3 Silver Birch

T1 Sweet Chestnut

T2 Sweet Chestnut

0m    10.0m    20.0m

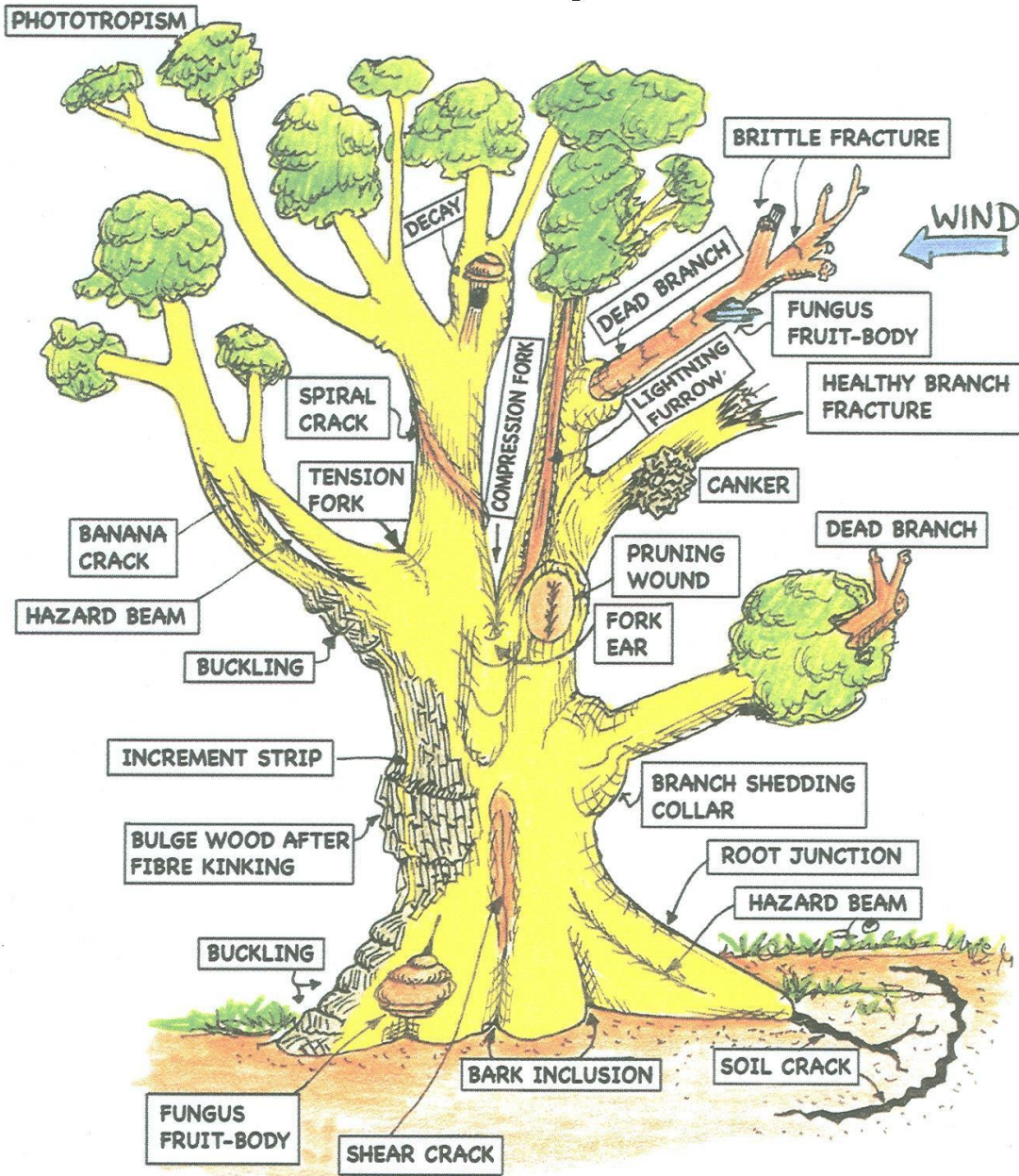
# Appendix C

## Visual Tree Assessment Diagram

## Appendix C - Defects to be noted during a Visual Tree Assessment

Taken from Updated Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment by Claus Mattheck (ISBN 978-3-923704-59-0)

### VTA at a glance



Extract from Updated Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment by Claus Mattheck