Ben Harvey

Belmont House

Cote Lane

Thurgoland

Sheffield

S35 7AE



Jon Coe Tree Services Ltd
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7th August 2018

Trees at Belmont House, Cote Lane, Thurgoland S35 7AE

Dear Ben,

Following our meeting on site on Wednesday 1st August 2018, I attach my findings in relation to your trees. Please note that this visit was primarily in relation to the recent repeated branch shedding from ash tree 031. While on site, you asked me to briefly review the other trees in the woodland to identify any obvious safety issues – I did this over the course of one hour which does not amount to a full and thorough inspection (which was not requested). With the exception of ash tree 031, all findings are contained in the table that forms the last part of this document. Please note that any recommendation for removal of deadwood branches does not require permission from BMBC.

I shall now discuss the large ash tree, number 031.

You got in touch with me on 14th June 2018 to report the failure of a relatively large branch from this tree, onto the shared access drive directly beneath. This was during the heatwave, and you reported that it happened in the early evening, during only a light breeze. My comments to you at the time were that this could well be an example of the statistically very infrequent (and hence unpredictable) phenomenon known as ‘summer branch drop’. Ash is a species sometimes noted for this phenomenon. You were reassured by my comments on the fact that this was extremely unlikely to happen again.

Unfortunately this proved incorrect. Less than one month later, on 9th July, you got in touch again to report the failure of an even larger branch from this tree, again onto

the shared access beneath, in similar conditions. Your photographs of the debris are overleaf, along with my photographs of the broken branch stub on the tree.

This is now a tree with a history of repeated branch failure in a position where the target area is not only frequently used but is also shared by your neighbours – towards whom you have a duty of care. You are particularly concerned about the very extended and exposed east sweeping bough directly above the driveway, but I note also that the branch failures were from unpredictable locations within the tree. I understand that you very much like the tree and do not want to lose it, but I agree that significant load reduction and reduction in canopy wind loading are required if you are to feel reassured that this occurrence will not be foreseeably repeated for a third time – possibly with far more serious consequences.

My recommendation is therefore to prune the tree by a significant amount, leaving a still attractive but far more compact shape. Photographs overleaf indicate my recommended final pruning outline, with pruning points on the major east sweeping bough also specifically indicated. The extent of recommended pruning has in part been influenced by the tree's 'leggy' form in places (particularly the east bough) without suitable growth points - which limits the possibilities for pruning points. I also considered the effect of regrowth and frequency of re-pruning.My opinion is that it would be unreasonable to refuse you permission to prune this tree that has a history of recent branch shedding, and for which you have a duty of care towards your neighbours and your own family.

I note also that you are still awaiting a response to our replanting plan, submitted on 19th March of this year to BMBC in response to their correspondence.

Kind Regards



Jon Coe, BSc (Hons) Arboriculture, MArborA

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Tree 031. Photo 1 (left) and photo 2 (right) illustrate the size and target location of the first branch failure.





Tree 031. Photo 3 (above) and photo 4 (above right) illustrate the size and target location of the second branch failure, and the location on the tree from which it failed (circled). Viewed from the north.



Photo 5 (left). Tree 031. The arrow points to approximate location of the first branch failure high in crown. The very large east sweeping bough, somewhat newly exposed, is obvious on nearside of tree. It overhangs the shared drive.



Photo 6. Tree 031. The two lines indicate recommended pruning locations for the major eastwards sweeping bough.



Photo 7. Tree 031 viewed from the garden (north side). The dotted line indicates the expected final shape to which the tree should be pruned – all pruning should be to suitable growth points in accordance with BS 3998: 2010.

Reference	Common	Survey notes	Recommendations	InspectedTime
002	Beech, Common	Mid-sized deadwood branch, low centre of Crown. Not considered significant in this situation. Split hanging branch in centre of crown, only likely to fail onto bare ground below, and only in severe weather. Not considered significant in this situation, though perhaps unsightly.	Hanging split branch could be removed for aesthetic reasons - no urgency. If so, remove deadwood branch at same time.	01-Aug-2018 08:23
005	Holly	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:18
006	Sycamore	Tree canopy is weighted over neighbouring garden. This is not a structural defect. It's simply the nature of woodland edge trees, growing towards the most available light. Deadwood branches have been removed since last survey.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:34
007	Ash	Ivy obscures much of lower stem. Various decayed patches on forked limb at 5 m south side - both forks have been shortened, possibly to reduce the leverage on this decay. Various other historical branch shortenings lower in the canopy. Ivy on stem has been severed since previous survey. This tree's crown structure is significantly weighted over the neighbouring garden, but as with tree 6 this is not a structural defect, but is simply the nature of woodland edge trees, growing towards the most available light. The tree does not present a significant level of risk. Removal or pruning of this tree would not have a significant impact on the stability of the woodland corner as a whole. It is hard to know whether removal would be permitted by Barnsley MBC, but it is not something that this surveyor would feel the need to argue the case for.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:35
008	Beech	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 08:24
009	Sycamore	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:35
011	Chestnut, Horse	Some bark damage at base - animal activity?	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:35
012	Sycamore	Two rooks' nests. No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:35
013	Ash	Re-pollarded to 5 m height since last survey.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:35
014	Sycamore	Ivy severed since last survey. One mid-sized deadwood branch at half height on west side. Various small deadwood branches. Five rooks' nests.	Remove the mid-sized deadwood branch (could be made safe by throwing a line from ground and breaking off the dead part).	01-Aug-2018 08:27
015	Elm	Several dead branches, but may be indicative of shade intolerance rather than DED. Many burrs throughout stem height.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:35

Reference	Common	Survey notes	Recommendations	InspectedTime
016	Sycamore	Branch removal wound at 4 m south-east - appears to open to small cavity - not considered significant enough to merit climbing inspection. Several small deadwood branches over rarely visited land.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:35
017	Chestnut, Horse	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:19
018	Sycamore	Ivy severed since last inspection. Various deadwood branches over stream and stream edge - very low risk. Two crows' nests.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:21
019	Sycamore	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:36
020	Whitebeam	Ivy severed since previous survey. Several bark scars on lower stem.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:19
021	Oak	Various stable deadwood branches over seldom visited land.	The large deadwood branches are relatively stable, because they are oak, and they have good wildlife value (for woodpeckers etc). If they concern you, they could be shortened by two-thirds of length, which would greatly reduce the already low risk.	01-Aug-2018 09:38
022	Sycamore	Extensive bark scarring (probably initiatedby squirrels) has left much exposed wood that is gradually degrading. Various deadwood branches including one recently dead mid-sized branch on north side of canopy. Two crows' nests.	Have the more significant dead branches removed at next occasion when a tree surgeon is on site.	01-Aug-2018 09:23
024	Sycamore	Split branch at 12 m East - not considered significant in this situation.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:39
025	Sycamore	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:24
026	Beech	A poor and suppressed specimen, but no significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:39
027	Ash	Two subsidiary stems have been re-pollarded since previous survey. Deadwood branches have also been removed.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:40
029	Elm	August 2018 - small/mid-sized dead branch high on south side - probably not significant enough to merit removal. Hollow internally at base, but below the upper ground level of the sloping land on which tree is situated - entrance hole to this, 15 cm diameter, appears in use by animal. Hanging split branch at 15 m height, above rarely visited land. Neither issue considered significant in this situation.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:27

Reference	Common	Survey notes	Recommendations	InspectedTime
030	Chestnut, Horse	Suppressed by ash tree above. Various decay associated with branch losses and bark damage. Now in foliage, the condition of this tree appears better than previously.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:29
031	Ash	Various pruning works recommended - see communications.	Various pruning works recommended - see communications.	01-Aug-2018 09:32
032	Beech	Ivy recently severed since previous survey.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:40
033	Chestnut, Horse	Now in foliage, appears in better condition than at previous survey.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:29
034	Chestnut, Horse	Poor growth form due to suppression	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:29
035	Sycamore	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:41
036	Sycamore	Ivy severed since previous survey . Branch removals with associated pockets of decay, at 3 m south-east and 6 m south - not considered significant in this situation. Two mid-sized deadwood branches centrally at mid-height. Not considered significant in this situation.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:42
038	Sycamore	No nests No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:42
039	Sycamore	Branch removal wound at 2 m south opens to small cavity 10 cm diameter x 10 cm depth. Various nails on stem south side. One part-built nest.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:43
040	Chestnut, Horse	Minor bark damage at base - animal activity? No significant issues observed Suppressed.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:43
042	Sycamore	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:52
044	Sycamore	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:52
045	Chestnut, Horse	Deep vertical fluting slot at base south, may lead to a developing cavity. Not considered significant in this situation. Major branch previously removed at 8 m south-west, poor woundwood formation.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:44
046	Beech, Common	Tree has been felled to leave standing stem only	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:51
047	Chestnut, Horse	Lesions on lower stem south-east, indicative of onset of bleeding canker. Tree may decline or die as a result.	No action required at present.	01-Aug-2018 09:52
048	Chestnut, Horse	Major branch loss at 5 m south-west. Ivy severed since previous survey.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:44
050	Elm	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:50
051	Beech	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:50

Reference	Common	Survey notes	Recommendations	InspectedTime
052	Beech	August 2018 - recently dead large branch over neighbour's duck shelter - not yet unstable. Ivy obscures much of tree. Heavily weighted over pond. Large branch loss wound with internal decay at 2.5 m east (on main union). Small quantity exudates between basal buttresses south side. Tight main union with included bark at 2 m height. One large branch is nearly dead - east side at mid-height - not considered significant at present.	At some point the large dead branch will need removing.	01-Aug-2018 09:48
053	Sorbus	Ivy severed since previous survey. No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:51
054	Sycamore	Ivy severed since previous survey. No significant issues observed.	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:49
056	Lime	No significant issues observed	No action required	01-Aug-2018 09:49
057	Chestnut, Horse	One rook's nest. Various nails in lower stem. 3 or 4 lesions on lower stem indicate possible onset of Bleeding Canker.	Monitor for possible Bleeding Canker	01-Aug-2018 09:48

Site: Belmont House

** Note - stated scale is only correct when viewed at A3 size

20 m
100 ft

Scale = 1 : 1250
Page size: A3

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