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20170038 5 Beechfield Close Report  
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## Report of Findings at 5 Beechfield Close, S63 8EY

As requested I conducted a visual inspection from ground level of a large Beech tree in the garden of 5 Beechfield Close. The tree sits roughly in the middle of the garden, surrounded by a small circular area planted with bulbs. The rest of the garden is grass with a few small bushes and shrubs. There is a line of trees just beyond the western boundary fence, primarily Ash and Oak trees.

The Beech tree is a very large late-mature specimen and its crown fills the entire north-west quadrant of the garden.

- Roots - No signs of damage to the visible root area.
- Stem - There is a large wound on the north-western side of the stem from ground level to approximately 1m. The tree looks to have compartmentalised well around the wound and there is good callus growth on all sides. No signs of secondary infection or decay into the heart of the stem.
- Crown – Due to the time of year there were no leaves on the tree. The crown has clearly been reduced in the past and has recovered well from this. The lower branches have been crudely pruned back at approximately 3m above the ground. The resulting stubs are starting to die back and this seems to be why the tree is shedding small branches.

Overall the tree is in good structural and physiological condition. The only major defect is the wound on the stem. The shape and structure of this suggests that it is from many years ago and the tree seems to be coping well with it.

The main recommendation for works would be to remove the lower branches that have been poorly pruned in the past. They are likely to die back and fall at some point in the future so removal would be prudent. The tree is very large considering its proximity to a busy road, a bus stop and housing. A reduction by up to 30% of the live crown would be a good management technique to maintain the tree while retaining the visual amenity that it provides.

It was also noted that one of the Oak trees (labelled T4 on the plan) overhangs the garden of 5 Beechfield Close. The furthest reaching limb has clearly had 3 sections snap out in the past. Further inspection and remedial pruning of the limb is recommended to reduce the risk of further failure.

Yours Sincerely,

Dave Farmer.

Arboricultural Consultant.