

TREE CONDITION ASSESSMENT OF BEECH TREE LOCATED AT REAR OF 1 ST DENYS CROFT, CLITHEROE

Client: Mrs R Mckenzie 1 St Denys Croft, Clitheroe (The resident property owner)

Date of Tree Inspection: 11.8.15

Weather conditions: Clear and dry.

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE.

1. The Tree in question is located to the rear of the property within 300mm of a 2m high mortared random stone wall being the boundary with 7 Pimlico Road. The tree is covered by Tree Protection legislation administered by Ribble Valley Borough Council and any planned works will have to be discussed with the Local Authority and no works carried out without formal permission from the council.
2. The client has wanted to remove a suppressed but mature field maple within their garden and located close to the beech. The council may be concerned that tree cover is retained in the area and may require reassurance that the beech is sound and able to be retained should the maple be removed.
3. Our remit is to carry out an inspection of the beech tree to determine any indicators of ill health, to determine the nature and extent of any decay or disease and to recommend appropriate action. Matters relating to its future management will also be touched on.



The Tree Inspector

I am Ken Linford, a consulting arborist, trained in Pre-development Tree assessment, Quantified Tree Risk Assessment and Tree Defect identification. I have experience as a tree care contractor for more than 25 years and have been providing a consulting service for Local Councils, private persons and architects for 16 years. My CPD record is open to inspection if required. I am covered by PI insurance by AXA Insurance to £2m.

The Tree

1. The mature Beech tree is located 300mm from the rear garden boundary wall and has a height of 19m and a girth Diameter at 1.5m of 1460mm. The tree is twin stemmed from 2m from ground level with a further co-dominant minor fork at 7m from ground level. Ivy infestation is present up to 8m and this has inhibited visual inspection.
2. We would regard the tree as being mature and predating the development of St Denys Croft. The tree may be consistent in age with the property to the rear of 7 Pimlico Rd the end gable of which is some 3m distant. No significant boundary wall distortion is visible and we are not aware of any concerns from adjacent property owners
3. The tree has a canopy spread extending 6m towards the end gable of the neighbouring property and some 10-12m over the garden and rear elevation of 1 St Denys Croft. The tree is located 6m from the development foul drain line of 1 St Denys Croft. Given the time since the development work no negative effects appear to be present in terms of canopy dieback caused by root range damage.
4. The canopy was in early bud burst at the time of the inspection and less than 5% of the canopy tipped showed any sign of dieback. There was no indication or Twig 'crooking' or other signs of senescence. The lower fork showed no signs of an included bark union.
5. The root plate appeared free from any Ganoderma fungal fruiting bodies and there is no past evidence of Meripilus from last November. A digital microprobe tests at two locations around the root plate (Blue spot marked) showed sound timber to a depth of 350mm.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The tree has no visible signs of structural defects or internal butt decay or root dysfunction

RECOMMENDED WORKS

1. The ivy should be severed at ground level and at 1000mm and allowed to die back allowing the upper branch attachments to be inspected more clearly in future years
2. A secondary branch pruning to achieve a weight reduction of 25% on the limb extending over 1 St Denys Croft would reduce the risk of limb failure. A reduction of the canopy spread by 2m would also be achieved.
3. The lower canopy of the tree is very low over the multiple chimney stack of the adjacent property. Secondary branch pruning to achieve a clearance of 3m is recommended.



Yours sincerely

Ken Linford
CONSULTING ARBORIST

TREE CHECK LTD
252 LEYLAND LANE
LEYLAND
LANCS

01772 621435
treecheck@blueyonder.co.uk