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ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANT

Mr & Mrs Green
1 Vicarage Close
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17 October 2018

Dear Arrian & Katie

Re: Sycamore tree – T2, Survey 17 September 2015

Further to my visit to your property to consider the above tree, I would confirm the following observations.

The tree was originally inspected in September 2015 at which time it was considered to be in healthy and acceptable condition with no major defects.

Since that period, the site has been developed but as far as I am aware, protective fencing was erected around the expected root protection area and as such, no physical damage would have been caused.

Regardless, the tree is now effectively dead and from its appearance, it did commence leaf flush in spring but then simply died off.

There is no evidence of any physical damage to the tree or holes/wounds where poison may have been introduced to destroy it and the grass sward is developing well around the base suggesting that there are no herbicides or pollutants present in the soil.

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There are also no fungal fruiting bodies evident or areas of decay that would suggest natural infection and at present, we are not aware of diseases specific to Sycamore that would cause such as rapid decline.

We state "specific to Sycamore" because of course the adjacent Horse Chestnut appears healthy, which also supports our observation that soils/roots have not been damaged and/or any pollutants deposited.

In consideration of all such evidence, therefore we can only reasonably conclude that the tree has died from a sudden change to its rooting environment – most probably soil water availability.

If this is the case, it probably occurred as a result of construction works where possibly a natural watercourse or an old leaking drain or water pipe or similar which the tree's roots had encountered and exploited, was interrupted or cut off or, simply changes in the natural ground water movement across the site by the formation of foundations, roads and service routes.

The tree could survive for a period after this occurrence due to its own natural moisture content and any remaining soil moisture, but when it flushed this spring and required vast quantities of moisture, it simply failed due to lack of supplies and its inability to adjust sufficiently quickly to the new environment.

If indeed this is the case, it appears that the Horse Chestnut must have either been at a greater distance from the water source and / or was not so reliant on soil water movements and had obtained sufficient moisture supplies from adjacent soils/natural precipitation.

Unfortunately, at this time there are no reasonable steps that can be taken that would be of any value to the tree and as such, removal and replanting would be the only reasonable way forward.

We trust that this note covers the various issues raised but should there be any queries or if clarification of any points is necessary please do not hesitate to call.

Alternatively, if any information becomes available that would question my consideration, I would be pleased to review the situation.

Yours sincerely

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