



Tree Condition Survey

9 Hitchin Road

Letchworth Garden City

SG6 3LT



1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report was commissioned by Ana Murry and deals with my assessment of the trees at 9 Hitchin Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG63LT. The inspection was carried out on Friday 9th August 2024. The weather was warm and sunny.
- 1.2 The site falls under the jurisdiction of North Hertfordshire District Council. According to their website the site is within a conservation area, and the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. The trees on site are not covered under a TPO.
- 1.3 Under the Occupiers liability act and negligence within common law the owner of Land and trees have a duty to take reasonable care to protect those who may be affected from potential harm or damage. They must ensure they are aware of tree conditions by ensuring a regular tree survey is carried out by a profession tree surveyor.
- 1.4 Tree health and condition can change rapidly. All observations and recommendations made and contained within this report are based on the trees at the time of inspection.
- 1.5 Where trees cannot be inspected fully because of Ivy or other such issues it will be highlighted within the report.
- 1.6 The inspection was visually and from ground level only, using small hand tools and binoculars. The inspection principles are based on Lonsdale's (1999) Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management and Claus Matthecks The Body Language of Trees (1st edition).
- 1.7 The position of the trees is shown in a tree location plan in section 11.0 of this report.

2.0 Risk and Targets

- 2.1 Trees naturally shed twigs and branches, sometimes they may even uproot and snap. This is part of the natural life cycle and contributes to life cycles of other organisms and ecosystems.
- 2.2 These natural events can be classed as ‘hazards’, the potential to cause harm, when they affect people, property or the environment. Even so, trees only really require human intervention when there is a risk of harm to a ‘target’. A target is the term used for anyone or anything that may be damaged. While risk combines the likelihood of harm and severity of its consequences.
- 2.3 Main factors I have considered when assessing for tree risk and management recommendations include the probability of mechanical failure to all parts of the tree, the impact potential, and the probability that someone or something could be harmed or damaged as a consequence. My recommendations also take into the count the many benefits of trees and aim for well-balanced recommendations in helping you fulfil your legal duty of care under common law and statute.
- 2.4 I assess the target occupancy to be moderate to high (scale being low, moderate, high, and very high) due to trees being close to both property and roads.

3.0 Observations for Ongoing Management

- 3.1 T18 is a large mature Ash tree. *Inonotus hispidus* brackets were spotted on the main stem and further stems in the upper canopy. *Inonotus hispidus* is known to decay internal wood and can lead to stem failure. As the tree is wide spreading and several limbs extend towards the neighbouring direction a crown reduction would be advisable.
- 3.2 T28 is a Horse chestnut that was a triple stem tree. With Bleeding Canker of Horse chestnut present (*Pseudomonas syringae*) One stem has already been removed due to decline. The middle stem is now declining with large amounts of dead branches present. The dead branches could be removed in the short term, if an area of concern, then the tree may need to be removed completely.
- 3.3 T61 is a Cappadocian maple. The tree has had some large limbs removed leading to stem decay with poor occlusion. *Ganoderma applanatum* appears to be developing on a basal cavity. This was probed to a depth of approximately

400mm. As the tree extends out over the Hitchin road, reducing the roadside growth would help ease any low stem stress.

4.0 Work Standards

- 4.1 Any tree pruning works should be carried out by a competent qualified and insured arboriculture a contractor working to British standard BS3998:2010 tree work recommendations.
- 4.2 Any pruning works to be carried out should be done so in the correct season to prevent further problems in the future.
- 4.3 Wildlife protection - ensure that the appointed contractor has robust procedures in place to avoid harm to legally protected species and the committing of a criminal offence.
- 4.4 As a duty of care, I suggest that you should retain this report to assist future tree condition surveys and tree management and to provide a written record of duty of care measures taken.

5.0 Caveat

- 5.1 This survey does not guarantee that the trees which have not been recorded for remedial works are safe and will not fail. Extreme climatic conditions can cause serious damage to even health trees. A survey of this kind therefor seeks to lower the overall risk of trees falling and fulfils the landowners responsibility and duty of care in taking reasonable steps to manage their trees. However, regular surveys are recommended to manage the ongoing risk.
- 5.2 **Disclaimer** – The report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party only, unless agreed in writing by the author. No other party may use, make use of, or rely on the contents of this report. Evoke Tree services LTD accepts no responsibility, including negligence, to any other party and disclaims all liability of any nature whatsoever to any such party in respect of this report.

5.3 Copyright – The copyright of this report, its text, images, and intellectual content remain the sole ownership of Evoke Tree services LTD. The report should be used for its original agreed use only and it is specifically prohibited to transmit the report to any third party, by paper or electronic means, unless agreed in writing by Evoke Tree services LTD.

6.0 References

- 7.1 British Standards (2010); BS3998:2010 Tree work- Recommendations
- 7.2 Mattheck, K. and Breloer, H. (1994); The body language of trees
- 7.3 Lonsdale, D. (2000); Hazards from trees – a general guide
- 7.4 Lonsdale, D. (2013); Principles of tree hazard assessment and management
- 7.5 National Tree Safety Group (2011); Common sense risk management of trees

7.0 Key for tree schedule.

- **Ident No.** – denotes each individual tree – T - and groups - G
- **Species** – Latin name or common name
- **Age class**
 - Young – first 10 years of life
 - Early mature – first 1/3 of life span
 - Mature – 2/3 of life span
 - Over mature – completed expected life span and starting to decline.
 - Veteran – a tree that has outlived expected lifespan but still has biological and ecological benefits.
- **Structural condition**
 - Good -few minor defects, typical of species. Showing no adverse risk of failure
 - Fair – may require work to mitigate a defect, such as Deadwood, broken branch. Poor - major structural defects such as decay or root damage
 - Dead – a tree no longer alive that may still have some ecological biological benefits. Also, a tree that is becoming dangerous or has become dangerous.
- **Physiological condition**
 - Good – generally in good health, typical of species. Showing signs of good vitality. Minimal deadwood.
 - Fair – showing some signs of stress or die back. Tree may recover given time.
 - Poor – a tree showing signs of physiological decline, stress and excessive dieback. Unlikely to return to return to good health.
 - Dead – treat no longer alive, could also apply to trees in decline with no chance of recovery, becoming dangerous.
- **Recommendations** – works in order to facilitate retention or recommendation to remove.
- **Timescale** – period in which to complete works before further problems may occur.
- **Crown Reduction** – A form of pruning in which the extent of the crown is decreased without (primarily) decreasing its density, to reduce loading, balance the crown, mitigate a nuisance, etc.
- **Deadwood Removal** – The removal of any deadwood from within the tree canopy from 40mm in diameter
- **Crown Thinning** – A form of pruning in which individual branches are removed from the crown to reduce its density without (primarily) reducing its extent.
- **Crown Lifting** – The removal of lower branches of a tree, whether complete branches or those arising from the lower limbs, to increase the headroom to the base of the crown.
- **Fell** – The cutting down of a tree, generally close to ground level, to leave a low stump.
- **Stump Grinding** – To grind stump 150mm below ground level. Unless otherwise stated.

9.0 Schedule

Ident no. on plan	Tree location	Species with dimensions	Condition and observations	Preliminary management recommendations	Reason	Priority and Timescale
T2	Driveway	Sycamore	Physiologically – Mature tree. Heavily lifted with decayed wounds. Minor deadwood present. Structural – Fair condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of Care	2 years
T3	Driveway	Hawthorn	Physiologically – Mature tree. Poor condition. Declining, basal cracks. Physiologically – poor condition, low vigour. Deadwood present	Reduce height to leave at 2m above ground level	Safety	1 year
T4	Driveway	Corsican pine	Structural – Mature tree, good condition. Physiologically – Good condition with some deadwood	Remove deadwood consisting of branches greater than 40mm in diameter.	Safety	18 months
T5	Driveway	Sycamore	Structural – Early mature tree. Heavily lifted. With decaying wounds. Physiologically fair condition. Some deadwood present	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T6	Corner of garage	Corsican pine	Structural – Early mature tree. Fair condition. Physiologically – Good condition. Broken limb partially hanging on South-eastern side.	Remove broken limb	Safety	6 months
T7	Corner of garage	Sycamore	Structural – Early mature tree. Poor form due to surrounding trees. Lower trunk wound occluded well. Physiologically – Good condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years

T8	Corner of garage	Corsican pine	Structural – Mature tree. Heavy lean over garage. Good condition. Physiologically – Good condition. Some small deadwood present. Lifting paving slabs.	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T12	Side of garage	Multi stem Horse chestnut	Structural – Fair condition. Large, occluded wound on east stem. Physiologically – Fair condition. Cameraria present (Horse chestnut leaf minor).	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T14	Front left corner	Scot's pine	Structural – Mature tall slender tree. Good condition. Physiologically – Good condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T15	Front left corner	Horse chestnut	Structural – Mature tree good condition. Good union around 8m. Physiologically – Good condition. Cameraria present (Horse chestnut leaf minor).	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T15a	Rear of garage	Group of small Hollies	Structural – early mature tree. Topped historically around 1.8m above ground level. Physiologically – Good condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T16	Rear of garage	Yew	Structural – Early mature tree. Good condition. Physiologically – Good condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T17	Rear of garage	Horse chestnut	Structural – Poor condition. Large cavity on east side. Reaction wood present. Physiologically – Good condition. Heavily reduced with new growth developing. Cameraria present (Horse chestnut leaf minor).	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years

T18	Rear of garage	Ash	Structural – Large mature tree. Fair condition. Lower trunk wound occluding well. Some deadwood present. Physiologically - Fair condition. Large Inonotus hispidus on southeastern side around 6m with further brackets on eastern stem around 9m.	Reduce by 1.5m height and 2.5m width.	Safety	1 year
T19	Right side of garage	Leyland Cypress	Structural – Mature tree good condition. Growing under ash and pine. Physiologically – Good condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
G1	Right side of garage	Holly and Hawthorn	Small mature trees. Hawthorn is in poor condition with copious amounts of deadwood and decayed base. Close to patio area	Remove decayed stem. Remove deadwood over patio. Holly nearest house to lift to 2.4m above ground level	Safety	1 year
T20	Right side of garage	Corsican pine	Structural – large mature tree. Lower wound with possible canker. Crown heavily biased on house side. Physiologically – Good condition. Some deadwood present	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T21	Left boundary	Sycamore	Structural – Young tree. Good condition. Small wound on Northwest side, occluded well. Physiologically – Good condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years

27a	Left boundary	Cherry plum	Structural – fair. Twin stem entwined. Small tree. Physiologically – Good condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T28	Left boundary	Horse chestnut	Structural – Mature tree. Two remaining stems in poor condition. Lots of deadwood on western stem. Physiologically – fair condition. Possible <i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> present.	Further signs of <i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> present on remaining stems. Remove deadwood with the possibility of removal in the next few years.	Safety	1 year
T29	Left boundary	Sycamore	Structural – Mature tree. Good condition. Physiologically – Good condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T31	Left boundary	Black locust	Structural – Good condition. Bifurcates around 4m, fair union. Deadwood present. Physiologically - fair condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T32	Left boundary	Box elder	Structural – Mature tree. Poor condition. Large lower trunk cavity Physiologically – Fair condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T33	Left boundary	Black locust	Structural – Mature tree Fair condition. Some decay on smaller limbs. Physiologically – Fair condition. Some deadwood present. Limited access to base.	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
G3	Left boundary	Sycamore	Structural – Group of mature trees. Most in good order fourth tree to the right has possible signs of sooty bark disease. Physiologically – fair condition. Deadwood present.	Reinspect for decline.	Duty of care	2 years

G4	Left boundary	Sycamore	Structural – Two mature trees. Fair condition. Physiologically – Good condition with some large deadwood accumulating.	Remove large dead limbs	Safety	1 year
T34	Left boundary corner	Sycamore	Structural – fair condition. Physiologically – Fair condition.	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T35	Left rear boundary	Yew	Structural – early mature tree. Good condition Physiologically – Good condition.	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T35a	Outside rear boundary	Sycamore	Structural – twin stem bifurcation around 600mm above ground, appears strong, heavily leaning over the road. Tree rubbing on fence post, rail nailed to stem. Physiologically – fair condition. Deadwood present	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T36	Rear boundary	Red chestnut	Structural – mature tree. Fair condition. Heavily reduced to approximately 5m above ground level, responded well with vigorous regrowth Physiologically – fair condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T37	Rear boundary	Norway maple	Structural – Early mature tree. Good condition. Physiologically – Good condition No real change	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T39	Rear boundary	Lime	Structural – Mature tree. Good condition. Possible compression bulge on southern side. Physiologically – Good condition, some major deadwood present especially over roadway	Compression bulge seems stable, continue to monitor. No change in condition Reinspect	Duty of care	2 years

T40	Rear boundary	Sycamore	Structural – Early mature tree. Good condition. Physiologically – Fair condition. Lots of deadwood, low risk area. crown crowded out by neighbouring trees	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T41	Rear boundary	Sycamore	Structural – Good condition, bifurcates around 6m, good union. Physiologically – Good condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T42	Rear boundary	Lime	Structural – Early mature tree. Good condition Physiologically – Good condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T43	Rear boundary	Hawthorn	Structural – Mature tree. Poor condition with lots of movement when pushed. Physiologically – Poor condition	Reduce stems to live growth points around 1.5-2m Low risk area	Safety	1 year
G7	Left of tennis court	Yew, Cypress, Thuja	Structural – Early mature trees. Good condition	Western red cedar is still sparse, sever ivy at base.	Management	6 months
			Physiologically – Fair condition			
G8	In front of patio	Willow leaved pear x2	Structural – Mature trees. Good condition. Grafts look strong. Plenty of natural bracing. Typical amounts of deadwood present. Physiologically – Good condition.	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T54	Right boundary by cat run	Hawthorn	Structural – Mature tree. Fair condition. Twin stem. Some dead ivy in upper crown. Physiologically – Fair condition starting to considerable overhang cat run	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T55	Right boundary by cat run	Hawthorn	Structural – Mature tree. Fair condition. Large amounts of dead ivy in crown, not causing harm. Again, overhanging cat run. Physiologically – Fair condition	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years

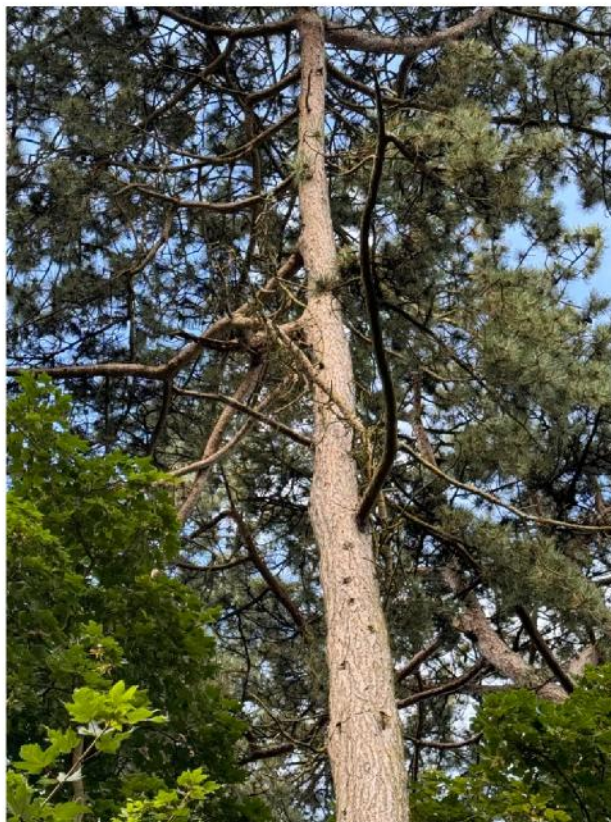
T56	Right side of house	Ash	Structural – Early mature tree. Heavily pruned on Northern side at 3m above ground level, vigorous regrowth present. Southern side remains around 6m. Close to fence and gravel board. Physiologically – Good condition	Tree has put on lots of growth since last inspection. Gravel board damaged due to growth. Remove tree	Prevent damage	1 year
T57	Front drive left side	Robinia	Structural – Mature tree. Good condition. Lower trunk swelling typical of species. Small deadwood present. Physiologically – Good condition. Small amounts of deadwood	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
T61	Next to drive entrance	Cappadocian maple	Structural – Mature tree. Poor condition. Cavity at base of tree with Ganoderma ssp bracket present Decaying cavities from old pruning wounds. Large amounts of deadwood present. Physiologically – Fair condition	No works carried out since last inspection. Remove deadwood, reduce lateral growth on roadside by 1.2-1.5m	Safety	1 year
T62	Next to drive entrance	Robinia	Structural – Mature tree. Good condition. Bifurcation around 7m, Physiologically – Good condition. Some deadwood present	No works necessary, reinspect	Duty of care	2 years
63	Front of house	Cherry	Structural – poor condition. Physiologically – poor condition. The tree is in sever decline with basal growth symptomatic of stress.	Remove	Safety	1 year

10.0 Gallery

T3 Hawthorne



T6 Corsican pine



T12 Horse chestnut



chestnut

G3 Sycamore

11.0 Site plan

