

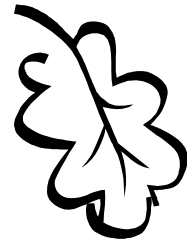
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TREE REPORT

Relating to the Health and safety of a tree growing in the garden of
2 Hall Drive, Gosberton

Client: Mr L J Chuter
2 Hall Drive
Gosberton
Spalding
Lincolnshire
PE11 4LX

Date of Inspection: 26th March 2026

1. Instructions

- a) The authority for a preliminary report was given by Mr L Chuter
- b) The objectives of this report are as follows:
 - To inspect the tree, above ground, in respect of its health, condition and safety.
 - To identify any hazards and assess the level of risk associated with any hazards found.
 - On the basis of the information gathered, to provide recommendations for any works required to reduce the level of risk to an acceptable level.
 - To provide recommendations based on information gathered.

2. Report Limitations

- a) As trees and shrubs are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly, conclusions and recommendations are only valid for one year. The health, condition and safety of trees should be checked regularly, preferably annually and following a weather 'event' such as gales.
- b) I did not examine the soil or take samples for analysis, as this is a preliminary report. Should soil samples be required, this will be highlighted in the report.
- c) The tree was examined from the ground, as this is a preliminary report. Should further, more detailed information be required, this will be highlighted in the report.
- d) No electronic or boring equipment was used to determine the condition of the tree.
- e) No tree can be guaranteed to be safe. So long as trees are retained, zero risk cannot be achieved. The recommendations in this report are based on a reasonable and proportionate response to risk.

3. Site Information

The tree is in the South West corner of 2 Hall Drive, Gosberton

4. Tree Inspection

- a) I only inspected the Ash tree.

5. Statutory Protection

- a) Trees and other vegetation can often provide nesting, roosting and feeding opportunities for protected species, including bats. More information and guidance on these issues can be found through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- b) The tree is covered by a TPO

6. Criteria for Risk Assessment

- a) The species of trees can be significant in the following ways:
- More prone to drop deadwood
 - More significant effect of a decay fungus
 - Brittle wood
 - Short safe useful life
 - Undesirable qualities- prickly leaves, poisonous etc
- b) Ivy is often thought to affect the health of the trees. This is incorrect. Ivy however, greatly increases the risk of structural damage to the tree through increased wind resistance; it also can prevent a proper inspection

from taking place. Generally if controlled, ivy can be a good habitat for nesting or a late food source for bees.

- c) Trees can often grow with two (or more) trunks called co- dominant stems. These stems are generally structurally solid. Sometimes however though, a fault will develop which may cause one or both of the trunks to collapse. These faults are internal and can be difficult to recognise although the main external symptoms can be identified by included bark. This may appear as a crack in the bark between the trunks and may be on one side or right through the trunk/ stem union. When included bark is found in between co- dominant stems or the branch unions, it usually is a strong indicator that the union will eventually split and a stem will fall. The risk can sometimes be less serious when pruning one stem but in the case of co- dominant trees removing one stem removes up to half the trees canopy which may be detrimental to the tree for several reasons:
- Loss of too many leaves which produce food for the tree
 - Expose the remaining stem to high winds
- d) The National Tree Safety Group have produced a document, 'Common sense Risk Management of Trees' in which it describes the actual risk posed by trees against public perception:- There were more cases treated in A&E due to accidents with wheelie bins(2200) than being struck by trees(55). However this is not mentioned to encourage complacency but to simply put the risk into some context.
- e) There is a duty of care under the English Common Law to ensure neighbours and people entering their land (invited or not) are not at risk from dangers that could have been foreseen by a reasonable person.
- f) People are the highest value targets and you cannot reasonably place a value on human life but the likelihood of a person being killed by a tree is very low. However in certain situations it may be justifiable to commit resources to remove hazards and minimise risk.

7. Tree Inspection Findings

- a) The Ash is a mature specimen of upright form, approx 23metres tall.
- b) The tree has 2 co-dominant Stems with a potential weak union and included bark at ground level.
- c) There are two large wound areas around the base of the trunk where the heartwood is visible and showing signs of decay.
- d) There has been some historic pruning.
- e) The stem divides at ground level
- f) The tree is approx 7metres from the house on the south west side.

7. Recommendations

- a) **Ash-** Fell
- b) Tree work is skilled and potentially dangerous work, which must be carried out by trained and certificated staff working to BS3998 and working in accordance with the various regulations within the health and safety at work act 1974.
- c) Contractors must have Public Liability (preferably 5 million) and Employer's Liability insurance (preferably 10 million).



Ash Tree in garden



Damage to base



Weak union at ground level



Decay in exposed heartwood