Tree Report, 8 Haverfield Road, Spalding, 9 April 2024

1. Introduction

8 Haverfield Road is a residential property with a large garden and a population of mature broadleaf trees, all the trees are believed to be protected by tree preservation orders (TPOs). This report was commissioned by Dr Michael Tedbury and concerns a Red Horse Chestnut *(Aesculus x carnea)*.

2. Findings

The tree is 12m tall with a stem diameter at breast height of 69cm and a crown spread of 5m to the north, 7m to the east, 7m to the south, 6m to the west. The tree has a cavity at 1.4m on its south-west side, the cavity is in an old pruning wound and extends into the stem and downwards following the root of the branch that was removed. A fungal fruiting body appeared on this wound in 2023, the remains of the fruiting body remain (Photo 2) but are too decayed to positively identify the fungus, also Dr Tedbury reported fungal fruiting bodies sprouting from the ground around the base of the tree in 2023 but no visible remains of these fungi were visible at the time of inspection. The presence of these fungi indicate the presence of decay in the tree and prompted this inspection and report.



Photo 1. Red Horse Chestnut tree

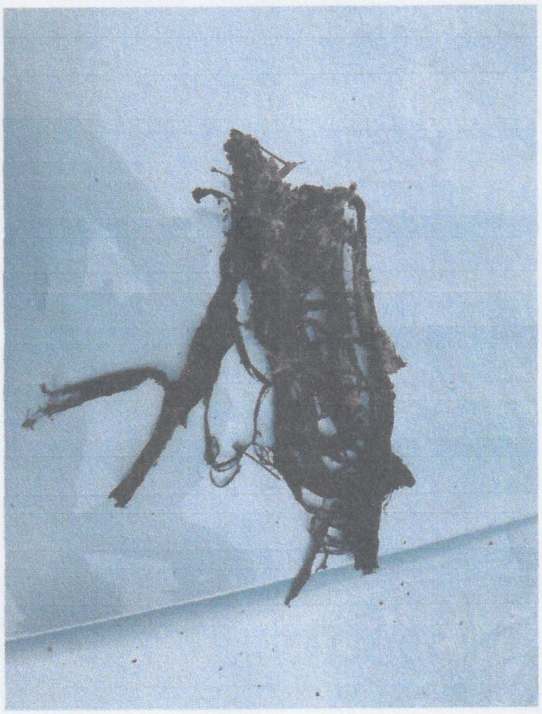


Photo 2. Remains of fungal fruiting body

The tree was coming into leaf at the time of inspection but the upper crown and some of the extremities were not in leaf and did not appear to have live buds.

The tree stands 8m to the north of the house and the property drive is 40cm to the west of the base of the tree and 120cm to the south, the drive has recently been resurfaced. The area beneath the tree is frequently used by residents of the house and staff and by vehicles.

The tree has swellings on its stem caused by bud proliferation that are characteristic of Red Horse Chestnut.

There is a large wound in the fork of the crown at 7m height.

There was a broken branch 10cm diameter on the west side of the tree at 6m height over the drive.

The tree was investigated using a Resistograph drill to check for the presence of decay or cavities. It was drilled to 40cm depth at 50cm above ground from the south, at 90cm from the east and 100cm from the west and at 120cm from the north, the resulting traces are shown in Figure 1. No significant decay or cavities were found.

3. Assessment

No cavities or decay were detected in the lower stem of the tree by the Resistograph indicating that decay has not spread beyond the root of the pruned branch at 1.4m so there is no evidence that the stem is structurally weakened.

The dieback of the upper crown and extremities indicate that the tree is "retrenching" that is restricting its growth above ground, this can indicate loss of roots as a result of physical damage such as compaction or by fungal attack.

The remains of the fungal fruiting body look superficially like the rhizomorphs of Honey Fungus *(Armillaria mellea)* but are softer.

4. Recommendations

The broken branch above the drive should be removed as a priority, the deadwood in the upper crown should be removed and if it does not come into leaf, its removal will be exempt of the need for TPO consent. It is recommended to reduce the height of the tree from 12m to 8m, this will also remove the weight on the fork with the large wound at 7m, as some of the crown above 8m is live this will require TPO consent.

The tree should continue to be monitored for fungal fruiting bodies and if they appear it is recommended that they be photographed.

5. Protected Species

Removal of deadwood is unlikely to disturb nesting birds which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 but tree surgeons should check for occupied birds nests as well as well as bat roosts and avoid work which will disturb them.

6. Inspector's Qualifications

Nigel Sardeson has worked with trees and woodlands since 1987 and is a Chartered Forester and Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association, he holds the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection Certificate.

Map 1. Chestnut Tree Location

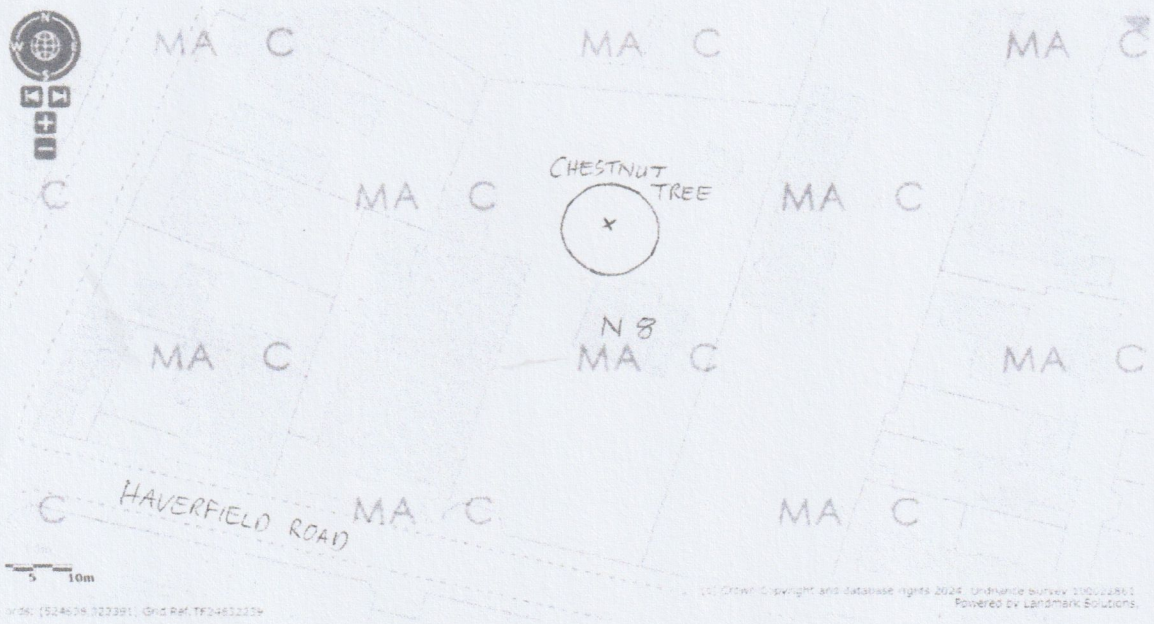
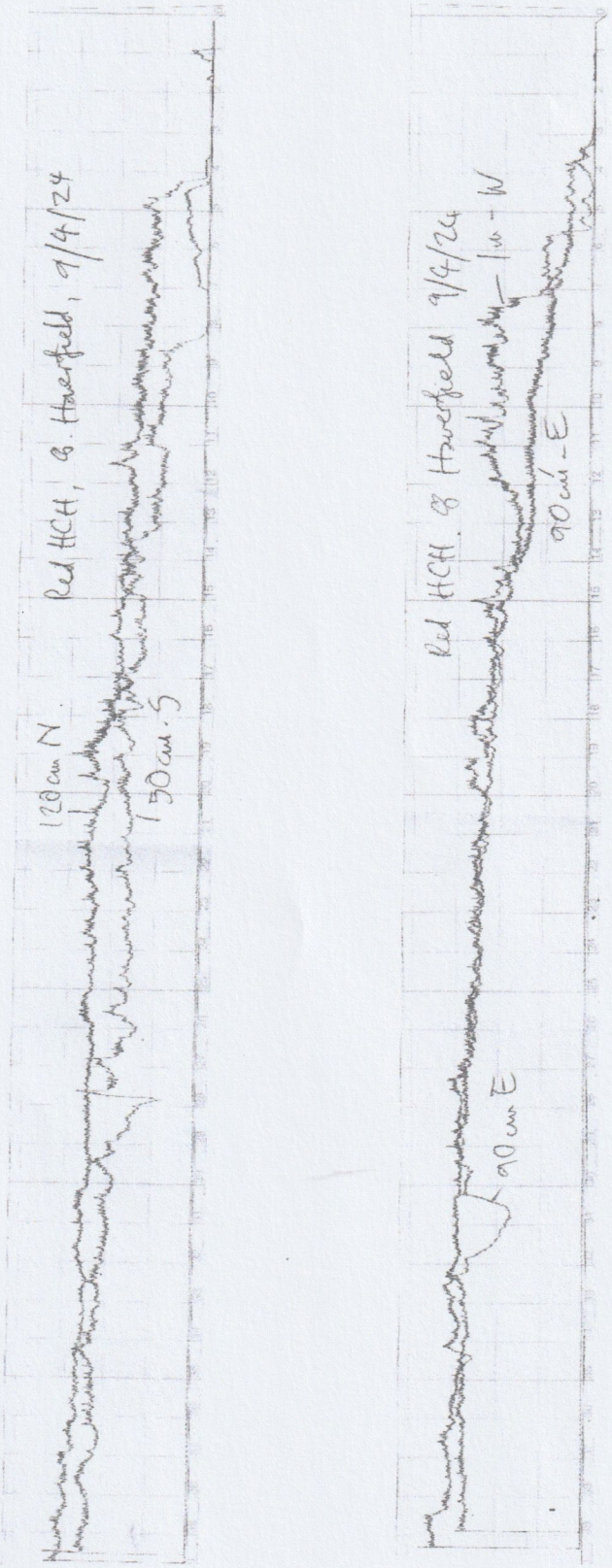


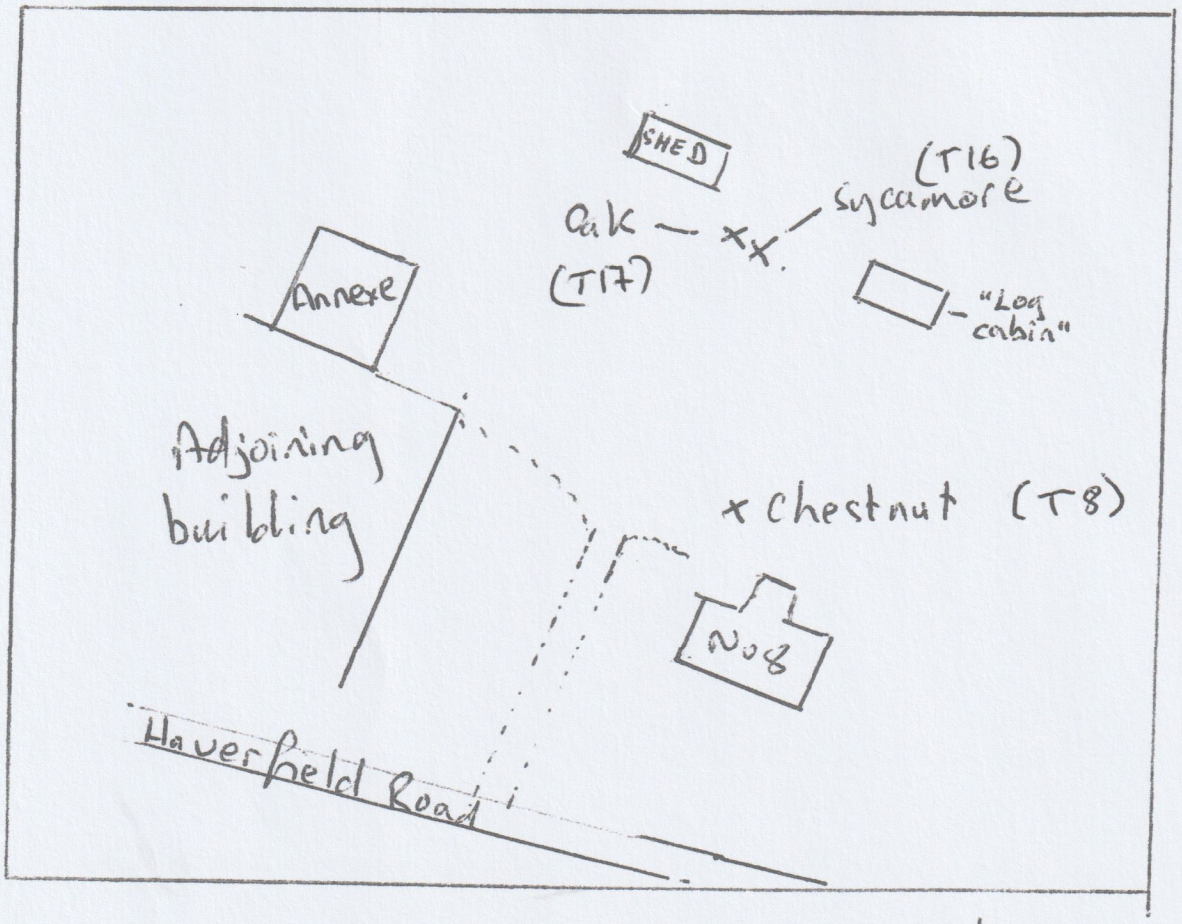
Figure 1. Resistograph traces from Red Horse Chestnut



Map 2

N

SHDC Council Car Park



The T numbers are those used in the TPO in 2008

5/7/2024