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Glen Harding
TECH CERT (ARBOR. A)

Mr Simon Gough
Leavesden Cottage
Branch Hill
NW3 7LY

23rd May 2016

Dear Mr Gough,

RE: Leavesden Cottage, Branch Hill, NW3 7LY

Instructions:

Thank you for your instruction to undertake an assessment of the sycamore tree at the above site. You asked me to undertake a visual assessment of the trees health and make recommendations for its future management.

I duly visited the site on the 20th May 2016 and can now advise as follows.

The tree:

The tree in question is a sycamore and is approximately 20metres in height. It has a stem diameter of approximately 800mm (measures at 1.5metres in height). The tree would have been self-sown originally.

The tree is located approximately 8m from the nearest elevation of the house and given that its canopy extends approximately 8m in all directions, the rear garden is completely dominated by the tree; the photo below shows the overhang when looking from the rear elevation.



An inspection of the base of the tree reveals that there is a large wound on the eastern side of the tree which extends from ground level to 2m. This is of major concern as it seems to have been present for many years and the wound does not seem to be occluding. It is likely that the decay is progressive and extending a long way into the centre of the stem and reducing the structural integrity of the tree. This is of particular concern, as failure of this tree would be catastrophic.

This cavity can be seen below:



The tree is growing close to several nearby properties and poses a risk to these houses through root damage and also the branches growing in close proximity to the superstructures. The tree is seeding into nearby gardens too, which is an issue for the maintenance of these area.

Conclusion:

Given the size of the tree, it is ruining the reasonable enjoyment of the gardens of several nearby houses. The tree is unsuitable for its location.

Of more concern is the quickly deteriorating condition of the tree in relation to the significant stem defect which poses a threat to the nearby houses and their occupants. This needs attention and I would suggest that pruning would only provide a short term solution.

Recommendations:

I would recommend that the tree is removed to eliminate the risk it poses to the nearby properties.

The work should be undertaken by a suitably qualified tree surgeon with appropriate levels of insurance. The work will require discussion with the local planning authority as the tree is within a conservation area.

I hope this is of assistance to you, however should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glen". The letters are cursive and connected, with a stylized "G" and "H".

Glen Harding
For and on behalf of GHA Trees

