

Steven Martin
Prime Central Properties (Management) Ltd,
UK House, First Floor Offices,
11-20 Sentinel Square,
Brent Street,
London, NW4 2EL

Our reference: G54

Date: 19/05/17

Dear Mr Martin

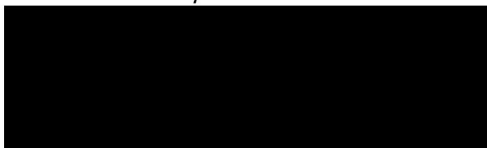
Horsechestnut tree at 2 Ornan Road, London, NW3 4PT

I refer to your instructions asking me to inspect a Horsechestnut at 2 Ornan Court and report on its health and make recommendations for future management.

I inspected the tree on 11th May 2017 having previously examined it for the purposes of a planning application in 2014. At that time the tree was in good health and was found to be Category A (BS5837: 2012) and in good health with high amenity value. Unfortunately, since that time the tree has become infected with a canker-forming bacterium called *Pseudomonas syringae*. The bacterium has spread across the UK in the last two decades to cause significant problems for horsechestnuts.

The pathogen has caused bark death at the base of the trunk of the tree which has resulted in girdling of one of the two co-dominant stems and its consequent death. The dead stem will have to be removed on safety grounds and permission from the local authority is not required in order to do this. However, it seems very likely that the infection will spread into the live stem in the foreseeable future and therefore the tree has a very short safe useful life. My recommendation is that the tree should be felled and a replacement planted as the remaining single trunk will have an entirely one-sided crown. The council will need to be notified of the intention to fell.

Yours sincerely



Dr Martin Dobson
BSc (Hons) Biol, DPhil, FArborA, RArborA, MEWI

