21st November 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN at CAMDEN COUNCIL

Re. Horse Chestnut 4a Carlingford Road (2019/4746/T)

I first saw the horse chestnut at 4a Carlingford Road in October while working in the area. Its owner, Susan Achmatowicz explained that she had applied for a crown reduction and we agreed to schedule work on the tree for 20th November.

The original planning application (2019/4746/T) was amended to 'reduce to point of previous reduction' and permission was granted on 22nd October 2019.

Yesterday, as planned my colleague and I visited 4a Carlingford Road to conduct work on the tree and on viewing the permission that was granted, it was decided to remove the considerable ivy that appeared to be choking the tree from top to bottom. (See Photo 1-Before ivy removal; Photo 2-After ivy removal)

Since leaf miner first started appearing in London (around 2005) I have observed a decline in horse chestnut trees. Its effect appears to result in a decline in tree transpiration and photosynthetic performance. This then causes necrosis in the tree's cambium resulting in dry rot, bleeding cankers, slower growth and die back. The tree in question has extensive necrosis in the top 3-4 metres of the original crown.

I believe the removal of these under-performing sections would improve water flow to the crown's apical section and benefit the rest of the tree by slowing the progression of necrosis due to increased water transport via the generation of growth from more functional sap wood.

There is also necrosis in significant unions of the tree. (See video) This limits the tree's ability to adaptively grow and has resulted in weakness within these unions. Due to the proximity of the tree to houses at No. 4 and No. 2 Carlingford Road, I believe that a crown reduction to reduce the load on these unions will lessen the danger of limb shedding.

I would suggest this work is undertaken promptly to avoid the enhanced danger of shedding due to winter weather, including high winds and snow.

Lastly, as an experienced tree surgeon, I know how a tree should feel. This tree does not move in the same way as a healthy tree.

Daniel Scrase
Director – Treenius
[redacted]