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Mr John Hurley
27 Church Road
Catworth
Huntingdon
PE28 0PA

Our Ref: 25/00476/TRCA
Your Ref:

28th May 2025

Dear Mr Hurley
Proposal: Fell Horse Chestnut tree.

Site address: 27 Church Road Catworth Huntingdon PE28 0PA

I have inspected the tree(s) and considered the work you are proposing to carry out as described in your notification received 17th March 2025.

I confirm it is not the authority's intention to serve the tree(s) with a Tree Preservation Order and therefore you advised that you can now proceed with this work. You have 2 years from the date of your notification to complete the work.

You are reminded this decision relates only to the tree works identified in your notification; any additional tree work will be subject to a further notification and should be submitted prior to any works commencing.

This consent does not convey authority to undertake work on land owned by any other party. You are reminded that the landowner's consent is also required prior to any work being carried out and it is your responsibility to ensure that consent is obtained prior to commencement of works.

1. Note to applicant.
   Hammer testing indicated that much of the main stem of the tree is still sound, but with a column of decay running up the rear side of the stem. The tree otherwise has a full canopy and good structural integrity, so retention is preferred if possible. The fungal fruiting bodies had gone by the time of the officer's site visit. Waiting until Autumn for a certain identification of the fruiting bodies would be wise, as pruning could be an option, dependent on the type, and extent of decay. The tree is a large mature specimen and contributes significantly to the arboricultural landscape, and the local planning authority would heavily advocate replanting of a large specimen tree like English Oak or Beech to replace the lost visual amenity, canopy cover, and ecological benefits if the tree should be removed.

INFORMATIVES

1. **Work Standard:** The work should be undertaken in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 “Recommendations for Tree Work”.
2. **Felling:** Where tree felling is intended, replacement tree planting is advised to maintain the canopy cover of the district, improve biodiversity, and lessen the impact of tree removal on climate change.
3. **Trees and Wildlife:** Trees are hosts to nesting birds, many of which are protected by law. Investigations should be carried out for signs of bats (all of which are protected by law) and nesting birds and advice sought from appropriate agencies such as Natural England, the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) following any positive sightings. Tree works should be planned carefully to avoid disturbing nesting birds and roosting bats. The disturbance of protected species is an offence and could result in prosecution, a criminal record and a substantial fine.

Yours sincerely

Neil Smith
Arboriculture Officer
Trees and Landscape
Planning Services

Email: trees@huntingdonshire.gov.uk