TREE INSPECTION REPORT

Land adjacent & to the East of
'Edward House'
4, Mill Common, Huntingdon

Client: Adrien and Jennifer Ducarre

Robert C. Yates

13th August 2026

1.0 Instruction & Remit

We are instructed by Mrs Kate Evans, on behalf of Adrien and Jennifer Ducarre, to undertake an inspection and risk assessment of four Horse Chestnut trees. We are informed that the trees in question are the subject of a Preservation Order Ref. L/TPO/72. By way of historical reference, we have been issued with a copy of a report by Dr. P. G. Biddle, dated November 2007.

2.0 Inspection Methodology

A ground level inspection of the trees was conducted by Robert C Yates, in accordance with the principles of Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) – a methodology devised and popularised by Mattheck & Breloer, now generally adopted as the industry standard for preliminary tree inspections. The weather at the time was dry and bright with excellent visibility.

3.0 Report Limitations / Caveats

3.1 The conclusions and recommendations mentioned in this report are valid only until the recommended date for re-inspection – See section 4.6.

3.2 It should be noted that any tree, irrespective of its current condition, can be subject to a major failure, given sufficiently severe weather conditions e.g. storm force winds, heavy rain or snow falls.

3.3 Robert Yates holds the formal qualification, Tech.Cert.(Arbor.A), and has gained the LANTRA Certificate in Professional Tree Inspection. He is also a professional member of the Consulting Arborist Society and member of the Arboricultural Association and Royal Forestry Society, with over 35 years' combined industry experience.

4.0 Findings, Conclusions & Recommendations

4.1 The subject trees are all over-mature Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), and are situated adjacent the private road of Mill Common, to the East of Edward House – See Appendix 1 for locations.

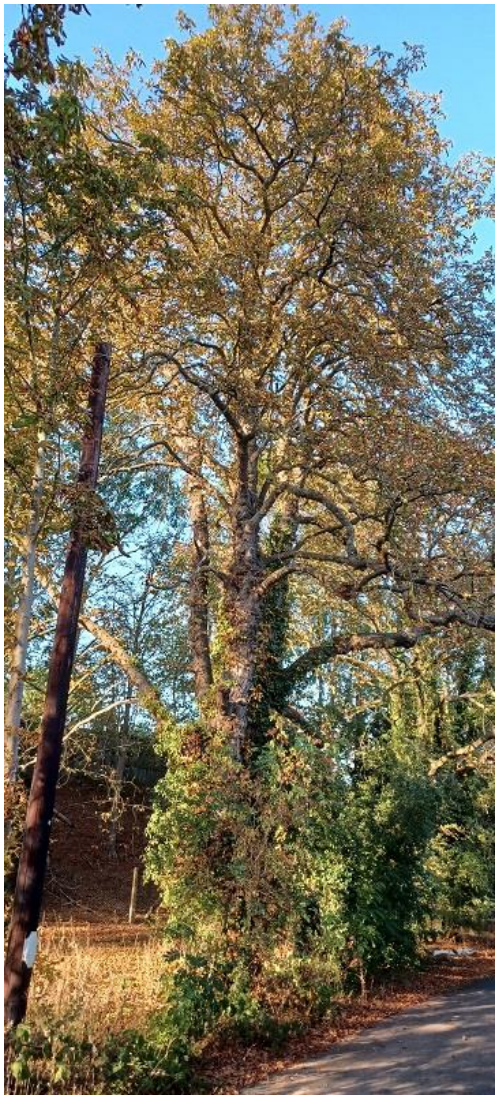

Fig.1 Tree T2, looking Northeast

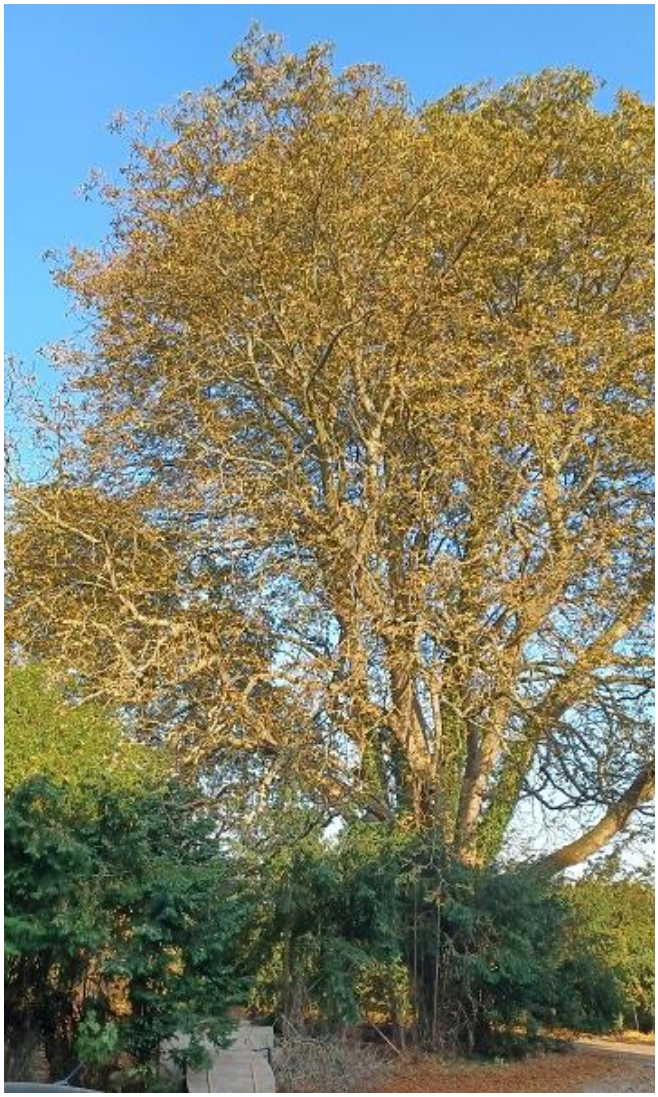

Fig.2 Tree T4, looking Southeast

4.2 **T1 & T3** were assessed to be in moderate to good condition, with no significant structural defects, hence, the risk that they pose can be concluded to be relatively low, notwithstanding the species inherent risk of 'Summer Branch Drop'.

4.3 **T2** is approximately 27 metres in height, with an overall spread of 16 metres and a stem diameter of 1200mm. The primary observable defect in this tree, relates to the long-standing presence of a *Ganoderma* fungal bracket at its base to the Northwest aspect; this suggests established internal wood decay, which if it has not already, will ultimately lead to compromised structural integrity, and thereby, a high risk of catastrophic stem failure.

4.4 **T4** is approximately 27 metres in height, with an overall spread of 20 metres, and a stem diameter of 1250mm. The primary concern with this tree, is the high risk of 'Summer Branch Drop', largely due to the form of the crown, which consists of multiple stems originating from a common union at 3 metres above ground; some of these stems, extend laterally up to 11.5 metres from the centre of the tree, and these are the most likely to fail when certain weather conditions conspire.

4.5 We can conclude that both T2 and T4 pose a significant risk of harm to persons and/or property, and thus, we recommend the following action:

- Remove tree T2 to ground level, within 6 months of the date of this report
- Reduce crown of T4 by 20-25% by volume, equivalent to a height reduction of 5.5 metres, and lateral reduction to each aspect of 3 metres
- Replanting, with an alternative large tree species, is to follow the removal of T2.

This work must only be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced professional, in accordance with current industry best practice and guidance, taking into account all relevant protected species legislation, and subject to having obtained consent from the local planning authority.

4.6 As regards a professional re-inspection of the remaining trees T1, T3 & T4, this should take place in 3 years' time.

APPENDIX 1: Location Plan (Not to Scale)

