Conservation Area Notification

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Prepared for Mr & Mrs V Measuria

25th April 2025

I hereby confirm that the tree details contained within this report were captured to the best of the surveyor's ability and with no prejudice.

[redacted]

Notice

This report and its contents have been prepared and are intended solely for the use of and use in relation to trees within the rear garden of property no. 76 Common Lane, Hemingford Abbots owned by Mr & Mrs Measuria. If used by any other person(s) in attempting to apply the contents for any other purpose renders the report invalid.

Document history

Job number: N/A			**Document ref: Horse Chestnut_Hook**			
Revision	Purpose description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
Rev 1.0	Issue for Information	TD	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.04.25

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1. Instructions

1.1 Terms of reference

I have been commissioned by Mr & Mrs V Measuria (the Client) to undertake a tree survey and produce an accompanying report as part of **notification** of intended works to trees in a Conservation Area. The trees are under their ownership. This report provides details of the trees and an assessment of their condition and is to be submitted to Huntingdon District Council (HDC).

The Client is notifying HDC for the removal of 4no. trees within the rear garden of their property no. 76 Common Lane, Hemingford Abbots (PE28 9AW).

See insert 1.1 for the Site location. The trees are within the red outline. They are growing at or just beneath the crest of the sloping garden which falls away to the north. The garden is laid to lawn in this location.



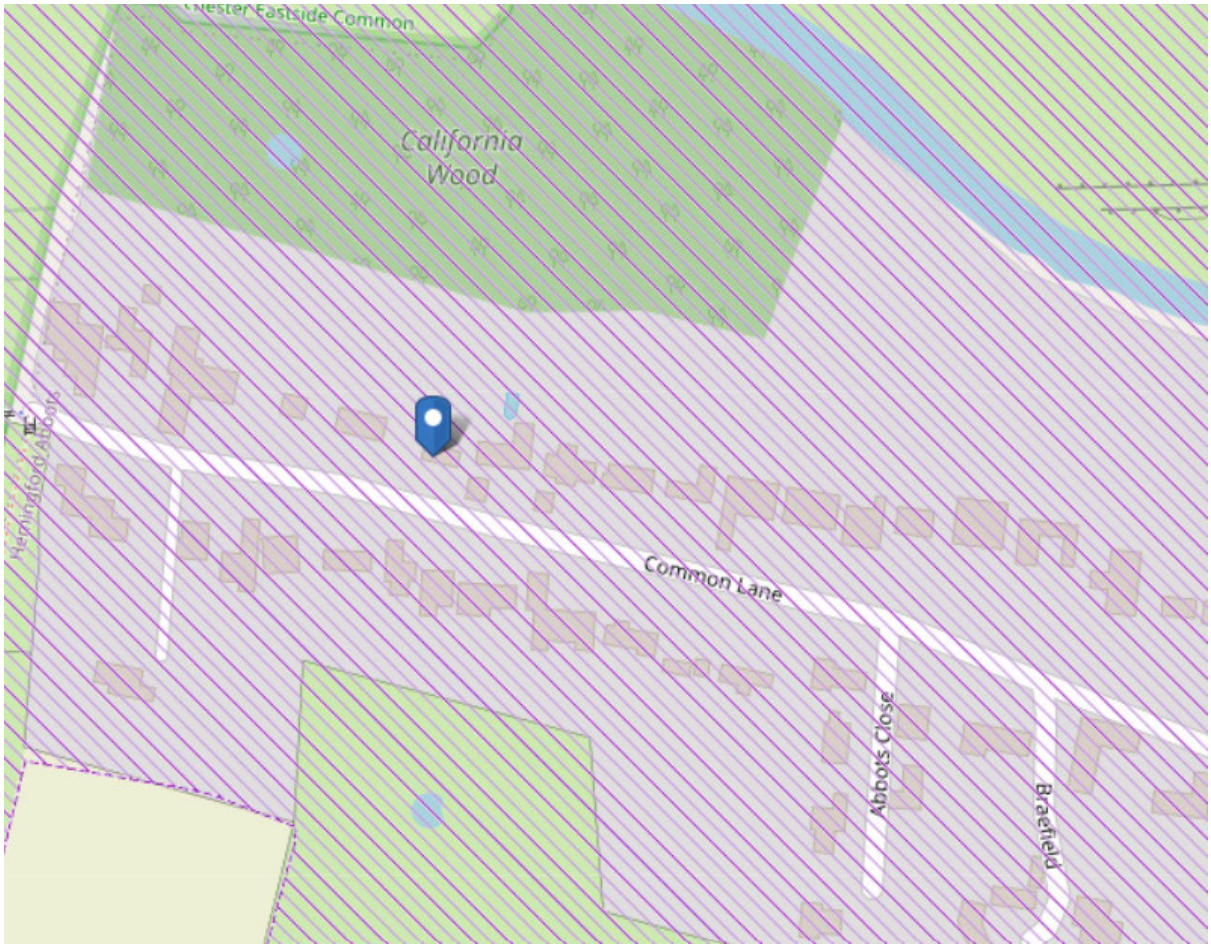
Insert 1-1: Tree and site location. (red circle for tree locations and red marker for property entrance)

1.2 Survey requirements

As part of this notification a Site visit has been undertaken to visually inspect the trees.

As stated, the trees are located within the rear garden of the property. They are shielded from views along Common Lane and do not form part of the street scape in this location.

The Site is set within a the Hemingfords Conservation Area. See insert 1.2 showing the extents of the Conservation Area which is the purple hatch.



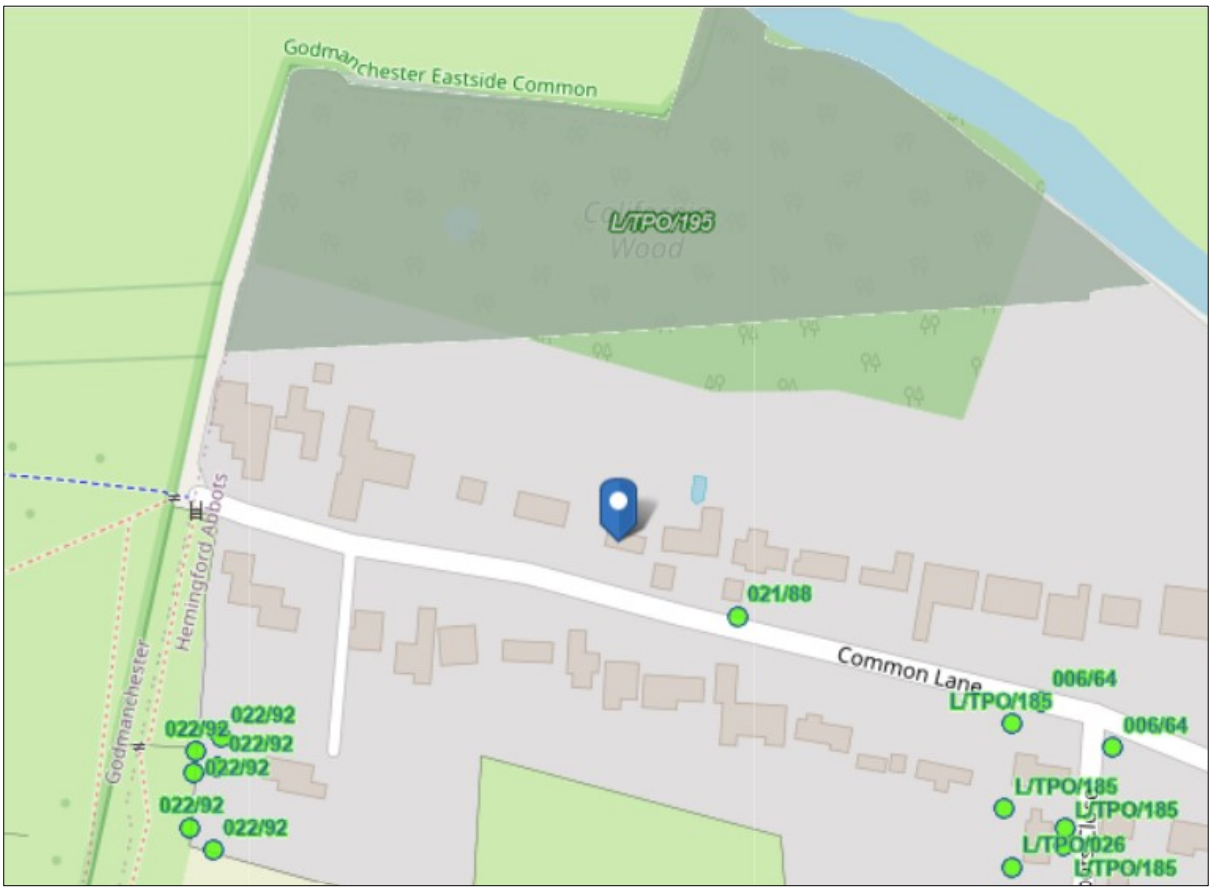
Insert 1-2: Conservation Area confirmation, the purple hatch signifying the extents of the area. The blue marker identifies the property (extract taken from Huntingdon District Council online mapping resource)

The Hemingfords Conservation Area Character Assessment (as provided on the HDC website) does not identify these trees as 'Significant'. See insert 1.3 showing an extract of the character assessment, with any significant trees being specifically identified with a green tree marker.



Insert 1-3: Conservation Area Character Assessment extract, confirming the trees are specifically noted as significant (extract taken from HDC online mapping resource)

Beyond the toe of the sloped garden is California Wood, which is covered by a Woodland TPO order, the trees are outside of this woodland area. See insert 1-4 for the TPO extents.



Insert 1-4: Woodland TPO extent reference L/TPO/195 (extract taken from HDC online mapping resource), the blue marker identifies the property location.

2. Report limitations

2.1 Limitations

I undertook a **ground level only inspection of the trees**. The trees were not climbed because the inspection was based on a ground level survey.

The findings of the report will be valid for 12 months from the date of survey. As the trees are growing within a Conservation Area this report forms part of the notification to the Local Planning Authority for the intended works.

The trees were assessed in line with the **Visual Tree Assessment (VTA)** method as developed by Mattheck and Breloer (1994). This method is based on the axiom of uniform stress, whereby a tree will grow in response to environmental stimuli to produce a structure that bears forces evenly across its surface. As such an internal defect, such as decay, would initiate a noticeable change in the stem's shape to accommodate the physical change.

The inspection was undertaken using a mallet, binoculars, probe and tape measure. The survey **did not involve any use of internal decay detection equipment** which may form a recommendation of this report in order to confirm the defects' existence and measure their extent and provide an assessment of these internal defects with estimation of residual strength.

Tree details are approximations made to a level that is required for the purposes of this report. These tree details include species identification, tree dimensions, age range and vitality entered within the report.

3. Introduction

3.1 Site survey

I visited the Site on 9th April 2025 to undertake a formal inspection of the trees and making note of their condition including a detailed visual inspection their surrounding site, buttress roots, trunks and branches.

In order to prove a degree of competence it is to be noted that I am a Lantra accredited Professional Tree Inspector, I hold a Level 6 Certificate in Arboriculture (ABC), I have been a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association (Since 2008) and an experienced Arboriculturist with 20years in the arboricultural industry.

3.2 Inspection methodology

The root zones, root flares and buttressing were inspected and, where necessary probed using a hand probe. The stems, main scaffold limbs were visually inspected and probed where required. The crowns, main branch framework and shoot extension were inspected from the ground with the aid of binoculars. Any accessible limb or stem union suspected of having decay or cracks were also probed.

4. Observations from inspection

4.1 Tree T001

The tree is a horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) growing close to the western boundary of the rear garden. See insert 4-1 for tree photograph. Tree data approximations and detail:

- Height – 14m
- Stem – 300mm; 440mm; 330mm
- 6.5m radial spread
- Early mature
- Fair vitality



Insert 4-1: T001 photograph.

The tree has three stems from ground level. These unions demonstrate slight included bark junctions. At present these are not significantly increasing the risk of full or partial failures. However, over time as the stems continue to grow the increase in loading capacity of these unions from above ground wind stresses is likely to increase the potential for failures.

See insert 4-2 for a close-up photograph of the eastern union between the central and east stems, showing a build-up of detritus and bark inclusion.



Insert 4-2: close up of tree T001 central and eastern union

4.2 Tree T002

The tree is a Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) growing close to the eastern boundary of the rear garden. See insert 4-3 for tree photograph. Tree data approximations and detail:

- Height – 14m
- Stem – 460mm
- 2.5m radial spread
- Semi mature
- Good vitality



Insert 4-3: T002 photograph

The tree has multi stems from 500mm. These unions demonstrate slight included bark junctions. At present these are not significantly increasing the risk of full or partial failures. However, over time as the stems continue to grow the increase in loading capacity of these unions from above ground wind stresses is likely to increase the potential for failures.

See insert 4-4 for close up photograph of the multi stem unions at approximately 500mm above ground level.



Insert 4-4: T002 close up photograph of multi stem unions

4.3 Tree T003

The tree is a domestic apple (*Malus spp.*) growing close to the eastern boundary of the rear garden. See insert 4-5 for tree photograph. Tree data approximations and detail:

- Height – 14m
- Stem – 200mm; 200mm
- 4m radial spread
- Semi mature
- Good vitality



Insert 4-5: T003 photograph

The tree has co-dominant stems from ground level. These are fused together up to 200mm above union. There is evidence of basal decay with the tree partially windblown with a pronounced lean to the north. The tree has a limited useful remaining life expectancy.

See insert 4-6 for close up photograph of base of the tree and its co-dominant union.



Insert 4-6: T003 close up photograph of co-dominant union

4.4 Tree T004

The tree is a holly (*Ilex aquifolium.*) growing centrally within the rear garden. See insert 4-7 for tree photograph. Tree data approximations and detail:

- Height – 12m
- Stem – 340mm
- 3.5m radial spread
- Mature
- Good vitality



Insert 4-7: T004 photograph

The tree sits in a central position and has attained a typical mature height of approximately 12m for holly specimens.

The base of the tree has no significant structural defects. See insert 4-8 for close up photograph of base of the tree. The dense evergreen canopy has shaded out the grassland underneath the tree and is one of the reasons the Client wants to remove the specimen.



Insert 4-8: T004 close up photograph of base of the tree

5. Notification

5.1 General

The Client is hereby notifying the Local Planning Authority that the intention is to fell all 4no. trees (Tree refs T001 to T004) and grind out their stumps to return the area to lawn. The trees are located outside of the TPO woodland but set within the Conservation Area. The trees are not cited as ‘significant trees’ within the Conservation Area Character Assessment. The condition of the trees has been detailed above and has influenced the decision for their removal in some cases, in line with tree risk management.

APPENDIX A

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