



ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Client : Mr M. Stoneman

Mobile no: [REDACTED]

Location : Golwg y Darren, Ynysydarren Road, Ystalyfera SA9 2DY

W3W : tests.vies.proposes

Date of inspection : 20th November 2024

Consultant / Surveyor : Nick Thomas Dip. Arb, Cert. Arb. RFS



IMAGE A : Trees 1449 and 1450

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the client Mr Stoneman the two Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) shown in IMAGE A were inspected on the morning of the 20th November 2024.

The two trees are protected with individual tree preservation orders which are administered by the local planning authority of Neath Port Talbot. Prior to any tree pruning operations an application will need to be submitted and written authorisation received from the planning authority.

The trees are growing on a level lawn area in the side garden of the property with an adjacent embankment which is retained by cement block and dry stone walls. These walls support a shrub planted area and the timber boundary fence shown in IMAGE B. A section of the trees crowns overhang the adjacent Ynysydarren Road.



IMAGE B

Primarily the purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the current level of risk from the trees and the direct impact and effects of their growth on the surrounding features and infrastructure.

For accurate identification the trees have been individually tagged with the numbers 1449 and 1450. The tags have been attached at approximately two metres above ground level on the main stems north facing side.

The scope of this report is limited to a visual inspection of the tree from ground level using current good practice and the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) system which provides a consistent and systematic evaluation for the inspection of trees. The basic testing of the lower section of the main stem(s) was undertaken with a Thorax 710 sounding hammer and steel rod / probe. The adjacent area and features were also visually inspected and no excavations were undertaken.

Please note that this is a health and condition survey and is not intended as a substitute for a structural engineers report. Unless stated no information was received and no evaluation of the trees roots in relation to their effect on underground services, utilities and structures has been considered in this report.

For the duration of the inspection the weather was calm and overcast. The weather conditions did not restrict any part of the inspection or survey process.

Due to unpredictable weather conditions and unforeseen events the condition of any tree can change suddenly and dramatically therefore the information in this report is as seen at the time of the inspection and is valid for a period of one year from the date of the inspection.

TREE DETAILS

Tree ID : 1449 **Species** : Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

Age : Early mature **Height** (metres) : 17.0

Crown spread (metres) : North - South - 10.2 East - West : - 9.1

DBH (centimetres) : trunk diameter at 1.3 metres above ground level : 46

Wildlife / Biodiversity value : Low

Risk factor* : High

The tree is 10.4 metres from the residents bungalow and due to light competition from the adjacent tree it has developed an unbalanced crown with a lean and crown weight to the north east. The main stem divides into two stems at 5 metres above ground level.

Due to the trees low vigour and below average extension growth the trees physiological condition has been classified as poor. There is a small area of decay which is on the main stems northern side near ground level - IMAGE C. This decay appears to have compartmentalised. As there are no buttress roots visible near ground level it appears that the original ground level has been raised.

There is a plastic coated cable constricting the lower branch 40cms from the branches point of origin on the main stem.



IMAGE C : Area of decay at the base of tree 1449.

Tree ID : 1450

Species : Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

Age : Early mature

Height (metres) : 18.5

Crown spread (metres) : North - South - 12.3 East - West : - 9.0

DBH (centimetres) : trunk diameter at 1.3 metres above ground level : 75

Wildlife / Biodiversity value : Low

Risk factor* : High

This tree is 12.1 metres from the bungalow with a lean and crown weight to the north. Due to the trees low vigour and below average extension growth the trees physiological condition has been classified as poor but there is no significant evidence of disease or decay. As shown in IMAGE D the trees main stem divides at 1.63 metres above ground level with 1.18 metres of included bark. The trees structural condition has been classified as fair.



IMAGE D : Dividing stem with included bark.

* The risk factor is a best predicted assessment for the level of evaluated risk taking into consideration the likelihood and consequences of any tree failure. The following factors are considered as part of the risk assessment process - all static and mobile targets, the occupancy rate (the length of time the target is within the probable area of impact), any natural protection that may be present and its resistance to an impact, the physiological and structural condition of the tree, the most likely part of the tree to fail and its size and weight.

The mobile targets include the residents and visitors to the property and pedestrians and vehicles on the public highway. The static targets include the bungalow and an overhead power line.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Tree 1449. To improve its balance and form the branches on the trees northern side should be reduced by a maximum of 3 metres. The branches in the upper crown region should be reduced by 2 metres. If possible the constricting cable on the lower branch should be severed and removed.

Tree 1450. Reduce the entire crown by 2.5 to 3 metres.

Due to their size, location and condition the recommended work listed above should be completed within 12 months of the date on this report.

The trees should be inspected on an 18 month cycle. This time period will provide information on any changes in the trees physiological and structural condition and ensure that the inspections are undertaken during different seasons of the year.

CONCLUSION. On evaluating all of the above information and the trees visual impact in the local landscape my recommendations for the future management of these trees is as stated above. The recommended work will reduce the trees overall wind resistance which will result in a stress and loading reduction of the trees branches, main stems and root systems.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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