

Tooting Common Chestnut Avenue

Independent Survey – Gifford Tree Services, March 2016

General Comment and Recommendations:

Please find below the detailed Tree Survey for the Chestnut Avenue on Tooting Common.

The general condition of the avenue is in a dilapidated state. Most of the mature Horse Chestnuts are categorised as in a poor condition structurally and physiologically. They require extensive crown retrenchment regimes throughout and a number have been identified for Pollarding or removal.

The survey recorded compaction around most root systems and evidence of waterlogging along the whole avenue. The compaction and waterlogging may have contributed to these trees having a thin root plate as seen by the fallen Horse Chestnut no. 1852. It would appear that many mature trees on the southern end have suffered from extreme weather conditions in past. The upper crowns have a lot of old broken or 'snapped out' terminal leaders. There is evidence of trunk scarring travelling from the ground spiralling up into the crowns of most mature specimen. These scars appear to be of the same dimensions therefore I conclude that there may have been a 'flash lightning strike' in past. The consequent regrowth evident from the storm damage has now regrown by an average 6 to 8m on many specimens. These branch attachments should be considered as structurally weak in the long term.

As this area is a high target area I have recommended a cautious remedial regime on health and safety grounds.

The remaining semi mature and young trees are also in a poor condition overall. They will require a program of formative pruning over a period of years to help them into a sustainable state. The row at the northern end has been planted too close together and will not make good specimens in the future. Also nearly all of the specimens are suffering from 'Pseudomonas syringae' bleeding canker. There is the unsightly evidence of many exudations along the whole avenue.

It may be appropriate to consider complete avenue replacement within the near future to restore the long term amenity value to the area.

Picus Sonic Tomographic Test Report

Test undertaken: 14th March 2016 by Mr Kim Gifford. In the area of test and at the time of inspection.

Method: using Picus software Q72std, 10 modules in accordance with manufacturers manual.

Brief: Provide Picus Tomographic Testing and reports.

Site: Chestnut Avenue

T1030. Horse Chestnut

Test 1 @ level: 10cms ground level approximately from ground level. Test point 1 at north orientation.
Picus Test Analysis: The measuring point readings give evidence of high sound velocities results across the area of test.

Recommendation: Continue to monitor.

T916. Horse Chestnut

Test 1 @ level: 10cms ground level approximately from ground level. Test point 1 at north orientation.
Picus Test Analysis:
The measuring point readings give evidence of high sound velocities results across the area of test.

Recommendation: Continue to monitor.

T1853. Horse Chestnut

Test 1 @ level: 10cms ground level approximately from ground level. Test point 1 at north orientation.
Picus Test Analysis: The measuring point readings give evidence of low sound velocities results across the area of test.

Recommendation: This specimen appears compromised with evidence of decay in the area of test.
Pollard or removal recommended.

T1851. Horse Chestnut

Test 1 @ level: 10cms ground level approximately from ground level. Test point 1 at north orientation.
Picus Test Analysis: The measuring point readings give evidence of high sound velocities results across the area of test.

Recommendation: Continue to monitor.

T1847. Horse Chestnut

Test 1 @ level: 10cms ground level approximately from ground level. Test point 1 at north orientation.
Picus Test Analysis: The measuring point readings give evidence of high sound velocities results across the area of test.

Recommendation: Continue to monitor.

T965. Horse Chestnut

Test 1 @ level: 10cms ground level approximately from ground level. Test point 1 at north orientation.
Picus Test Analysis: The measuring point readings give evidence of high sound velocities results across the area of test.

Recommendation: Continue to monitor.

T1840. Horse Chestnut

Test 1 @ level: 10cms ground level approximately from ground level. Test point 1 at north orientation.
Picus Test Analysis: The measuring point readings give evidence of high sound velocities results across the area of test.

Recommendation: Continue to monitor.

Background Information Note by J Birtles, Chief Parks Officer, Enable Leisure & Culture:

Picus tomographic testing is a method of determining internal structural condition of a tree stem, using sonic tests.

In light of one tree falling recently and having done so, it exhibited decay in the base of the stem – although the decay was not visibly evident until after the tree fell. A random sample of mature Horse Chestnut trees were selected for test to see whether such non-visible basal decay was generally prevalent or commonplace.

Although one tree was identified as structurally compromised, the random sample does not indicate internal basal decay is commonplace, and therefore further tests were not undertaken.

The Picus tests do not give a significant contribution to the overall assessment of the avenue, and therefore the tomograms are not supplied.

Tooting Common Chestnut Avenue Consultant's Brief

To inspect all trees in Chestnut Avenue and provide professional assessment as indicated below. Trees identified by reference to existing survey and mapping

1. To record species, height, girth and age category.
2. To record physical and physiological condition, including (but not exclusively) pathogens, diseases, disorders, cavities, bifurcations, included bark, and hazard-beam limbs.
3. To record an assessment of amenity value of individual trees
4. To record an assessment of safe useful remaining contribution for each tree based on health and vigour, and current and anticipated physiological condition
5. To record an assessment of work necessary (if any) to maintain acceptable level of safety a) in immediate short term and b) within 5 years.
6. To provide

In addition to undertake PICUS sonic tomography tests on random sample of 7 mature trees. Tests to be undertaken as close to ground level as tree geometry allows whilst still giving reliable output. Depending upon results of sample testing, the remaining mature trees may be requested for sampling.

Survey to be completed and submitted by 17th March

To be submitted to Chief Parks Officer Enable Leisure & Culture Battersea Park SW11 4NJ

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GTS Chestnut Tree Walk Survey March 2016 (condensed version)

| ID | Species | Height | Girth | Recommendation: Action Required | Recommendation in five years time: | Condition | Age | Condition Comment | Target | Notes | Amenity Value |
|-----|----------------|--------|-------|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|-------------------------|
| | | | | NA = No Action P/R = Pollard/Remove C 2 = Crown, reduce by 2m overall CR = Crown Retrenchment R = Repollard R = Remove FP = Formative Prune | FP = Formative Prune RP = Redeadial Pruning RR = Re-reduction R = Repollard | P = Low quality F = Medium quality G = High quality | Y = Transplant SM = Semi Mature M = Mature | | | | L = Low H = High |
| 912 | Horse chestnut | 3 | 30 | N/A | FP | G | Y | | Wall or fence within crown spread | | L |
| 913 | Horse chestnut | 4 | 48 | N/A | FP | G | Y | | Wall or fence within crown spread. Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 914 | Horse chestnut | 15 | 2500 | P/R | | P | M | Major cavity 3.5m 1mX30cms | Wall or fence within crown spread. Play area within falling distance of tree. Seating area within crown spread | Die-back in some parts of crown. | H |
| 915 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2650 | C 2 | RP | F | M | Minor scaring on trunk, Main union inclusion, dense crown, overhanging path. | Wall or fence within crown spread. Footpath within crown spread. Seating area within crown spread. Play area within crown spread | Bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 916 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2000 | C 2 | RP | F | M | Main union tensile | Wall or fence within crown spread. Footpath within crown spread. Play area within crown spread | | H |
| 917 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2300 | C 2 | RP | F | M | Open crown low limb over path and play area | Wall or fence within crown spread. Footpath within crown spread. Play area within crown spread | | H |
| 918 | Horse chestnut | 5 | 3000 | N/A | RP | P | M | Pollard | Wall or fence within crown spread. Play area within crown spread. Footpath within falling distance of tree | | H |
| 919 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2210 | N/A | RP | F | M | Occluding wounds in trunk | Wall or fence within crown spread. Footpath within crown spread. Play area within crown spread. Recreational area within falling distance | | H |
| 910 | Horse chestnut | | | | | | | | Play area within crown spread. Seating area within falling distance of tree | | H |

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|-----|----------------|----|------|-----|----|---|----|---|---|--|---|
| 956 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2200 | N/A | RP | P | M | Hole 10X10 2.1m,exudation 4m, occluding wounds intrunk, bark wound 4m. | Footpath within crown spread. Recreational area within crown spread | Bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 957 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2890 | CR | RR | P | M | Hazard beam over path, previous storm damage in upper crown, recent pruning from tennis court, exudation 2m. | Footpath within crown spread. Recreational area within crown spread. Seating area within crown spread | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 958 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2600 | CR | RR | P | M | Upper crown previosly storm damaged, wound at 2m cavity 20cmsX1m NW + wound at 3m MU tensile serveral occlusions instem. | Footpath within crown spread. Recreational area within crown spread | | H |
| 959 | Horse chestnut | 10 | 1250 | N/A | FP | G | SM | | Recreational area within crown spread. Footpath within crown spread | Bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 961 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 2400 | CR | RR | P | M | Inclination 10% SW, cavity 3.5m 600X700, Lower limb hazard beam, upper crown previously storm damaged. | Footpath within crown spread. Seating area within falling distance of tree | | H |
| 962 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 3040 | CR | RR | P | M | Central leader compremised, storm damaged upper crown, re-growth form previous pruning. | Footpath within crown spread | | H |
| 963 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2300 | CR | RR | P | M | Scaring up 6m, trunk wound 1m 20X20cms, previous storm damaged upper crown, broken branches. | Footpath within crown spread. Seating area within crown spread | Bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 964 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 3170 | CR | RR | P | M | Main union compressed 3m, exudation form MU, scare northside,cavity 4m, storm damaged upper crown. | Footpath within crown spread. Seating area within falling distance of tree | | H |
| 965 | Horse chestnut | 8 | 4000 | R | R | P | M | Previosly pollarded at 8m | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | H |
| 966 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 2560 | CR | RR | P | M | Inclination 5%, several wounds occluded and occluded S, broken branch 6m, torsion scare N 3m, Spiraling buttress, Main Union 5m inclusion compressed, Upper crown cavity, old storm damage. | Footpath within crown spread. Seating area within falling distance of tree | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 967 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 2900 | CR | RR | P | M | Bark Wound NW 20cmsx2.5m, deadwood, Storm damage in upper crown, several wounds occluded and occluded. | Footpath within crown spread | | H |
| 968 | Horse chestnut | 5 | 95 | FP | FP | F | SM | Main union compressed | Footpath within crown spread | | L |
| 969 | Horse chestnut | 5 | 95 | FP | FP | F | SM | Main union compressed | Footpath within crown spread | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | L |
| 970 | Horse chestnut | 5 | 95 | FP | FP | F | SM | Compressed union at 2.5m, bark damge, scaring, exudation | Footpath within crown spread | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | L |

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|------|-------------------|----|------|---------------------------------------|----|---|----|---|--|--|---|
| 971 | English oak | 3 | | Check stake and tie | FP | F | Y | | | | L |
| 1027 | Small leaved lime | 3 | | Check stake and tie | FP | | Y | | | | L |
| 1028 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 2900 | Crown reduce lower limbs 2m over path | RP | F | M | Broken branches and deadwood in crown, low limb over path. | Seating area within falling distance of tree | | H |
| 1029 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 2400 | Crown reduce lower limbs 2m over path | RP | F | M | Broken branches and deadwood in crown, low limb over path. | Footpath within crown spread. Seating area within falling distance of tree | | H |
| 1030 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 2500 | Crown reduce lower limbs 2m over path | RP | F | M | Broken branches and deadwood in crown, low limb over path. | Footpath within crown spread. Seating area within falling distance of tree | | H |
| 1131 | Horse chestnut | 6 | 500 | FP | FP | F | SM | | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1134 | Horse chestnut | 8 | 500 | FP | FP | F | SM | Dead bark north, main union inclusion. | Footpath within falling distance of tree | Bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | L |
| 1139 | Horse chestnut | 12 | 1700 | R | | F | M | Cavity 50cms 20X20cms, main union inclusion. | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | H |
| 1140 | Horse chestnut | 12 | 1200 | Remove dead wood | RP | F | M | Dead wood in crown, main union inclusion. | Footpath within falling distance of tree | Bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 1141 | Small leaved lime | 3 | | FP | FP | | Y | | | | L |
| 1142 | Horse chestnut | 12 | 1800 | R ASAP | | P | M | Fungal brackets at base, compromised condition over all dying back. | Footpath within crown spread | | H |
| 1148 | Small leaved lime | 3 | | FP | FP | F | Y | | | | L |
| 1149 | Horse chestnut | 3 | | FP | FP | F | Y | | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1150 | Horse chestnut | 3 | | FP | FP | F | Y | | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1151 | Horse chestnut | 8 | 160 | FP | FP | F | SM | Broken branches 2m | Footpath within falling distance of tree | Die-back in some parts of crown. | L |
| 1152 | Horse chestnut | 15 | 1600 | R ASAP | | P | M | Cavity 1m 40x15cms, 70%decay probe penetrated N deep into root plate. | Footpath within crown spread | Die-back in some parts of crown. | H |
| 1153 | Horse chestnut | 8 | 160 | FP | FP | F | SM | | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1154 | Horse chestnut | 15 | 2240 | Remove dead wood | RP | F | M | Barkwound 1.3m 15x15, dead wood over path. | Footpath within crown spread | Bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 1155 | Horse chestnut | 4 | 150 | FP | FP | P | Y | Suppressed | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1156 | Horse chestnut | 12 | 1600 | Crown reduction | RR | P | M | Dead wood in crown, 3m main union inclusion, cavity 2m 30x15cms, broken branches. | Footpath within crown spread | | H |
| 1157 | Horse chestnut | 7 | 170 | FP | FP | F | SM | | Footpath within crown spread | | L |

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|------|----------------|----|------|--------------------|----|---|----|---|--|--|---|
| 1158 | Horse chestnut | 7 | 170 | FP | FP | F | SM | | Footpath within crown spread | | L |
| 1159 | Horse chestnut | 7 | 180 | FP | FP | F | SM | Exudation from stem, bark wound. | Footpath within falling distance of tree | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | L |
| 1837 | Horse chestnut | 6 | 150 | FP | FP | F | SM | Main union inclusion | Footpath within crown spread | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | L |
| 1838 | English oak | 3 | | FP | FP | | Y | Check stake and tie | | Die-back in some parts of crown. | L |
| 1839 | Horse chestnut | 3 | | R | | D | Y | Remove and replace | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1840 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 2700 | CR | RR | P | M | Previous pruning and 8m regrowth from storm damage decay in upper crown | Footpath within crown spread. Desire line within crown drip line | | H |
| 1841 | Horse chestnut | 3 | | FP | FP | G | Y | | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1842 | Horse chestnut | 6 | | FP | FP | P | SM | Dying back 1.3m | Footpath within falling distance of tree | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). Dog damage. | L |
| 1843 | Oak | 3 | | Remove and replace | FP | D | Y | Dead | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1844 | Oak | 3 | | Remove and replace | FP | D | Y | Dead | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1845 | Beech | 3 | | FP | FP | G | Y | | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1846 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 2600 | CR | RR | P | M | Low W limb compromised attachment, extensive storm damage regrowth 6m>, main union inclusion, scaring 2m into upper crown, trunk swelling. | Footpath within crown spread. Desire line within crown drip line | Historic end weight reduction over path. No target directly beneath subsiding limb. Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 1847 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 2800 | CR | RR | P | M | Extensive bark wound and dead bark separation from trunk at base, E limb hazard beam 3m, deadwood /decay in upper crown, previous storm damage throughout | Footpath within crown spread. Desire line within crown drip line | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 1848 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2600 | CR | RR | P | M | Crown separation 2 low limbs hazard beams, dead wood/crossing limbs, previous storm damage throughout the upper crown,occlusion wounds | Footpath within crown spread. Desire line within crown drip line | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae), however, no current bark exudations noted. | H |

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|------|----------------|----|------|--------------------|----|---|----|--|---|--|---|
| 1849 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2500 | CR | RR | P | M | Major cavity 3m 60x60cms in main union | Footpath within crown spread. Seating area within falling distance of tree. Desire line within falling distance of tree | Historic end weight reduction. | H |
| 1850 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2500 | CR | RR | P | M | High buttress, occluded wound 2.5m, low limb hazard beam 2.3m 20cms, occluding wound 20x20cms | Footpath within crown spread. Seating area within falling distance of tree | Bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). No target directly beneath subsiding limb. | H |
| 1851 | Horse chestnut | 20 | 2300 | CR | RR | P | M | Main union 5m, crossing limbs/dead wood, hazard beam limb 3m SW, hazard beam lim 6m, decayed snag at 3m | Footpath within crown spread. Desire line within crown drip line. Seating area within falling distance of tree | | H |
| 1852 | Horse chestnut | | | Remove and replace | FP | | M | Fallen, evidence of stem decay and decayed roots, thin root plate possibly due to waterlogging and high water table. | Footpath within crown spread. Desire line within crown drip line. Seating area within crown spread | Bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 1853 | Horse chestnut | 18 | 2300 | CR | RR | P | M | Upper crown previous storm damage, scare 3m E, cavity at base N, dead wood, occluding bark wound, low NW limb over path. | Footpath within crown spread. Desire line within crown drip line. Seating area within crown spread | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 1854 | Horse chestnut | 4 | 110 | FP | FP | F | SM | | Desire line within crown drip line. Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1855 | | | | Remove and replace | FP | | Y | Dead | | | L |
| 1856 | Horse chestnut | 4 | 300 | FP | FP | F | SM | | Footpath within falling distance of tree | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | L |
| 1857 | Horse chestnut | 4 | 300 | FP | FP | F | SM | Bark scare 20cms | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1858 | Horse chestnut | 15 | 1300 | FP | FP | | M | Dead bark E, main union inclusion and scaring 3m | Footpath within falling distance of tree. Seating area within falling distance of tree | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | H |
| 1859 | Horse chestnut | 4 | 300 | FP | FP | | SM | | Footpath within falling distance of tree | | L |
| 1860 | Horse chestnut | | | | | | | | Desire line within crown drip line. Footpath within falling distance of tree | Bark splitting from bleeding canker (causal agent Pseudomonas syringae). | |
| 1861 | Horse chestnut | | | | | | | | Desire line within crown drip line. Footpath within crown spread | | |