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To: Planning Department / Tree Officer, Havant Borough Council

FAO: Tree Officer

Site address: 23 Manor Close, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 1BD

Client: Mrs Riordan

Prepared by: Mr Oliver Lower

Date: Monday, 27 April 2026

Document: Arboricultural Statement in support of Conservation Area notification (tree removal)

Purpose: This Arboricultural Statement has been prepared on behalf of Mrs Riordan to support a notification to Havant Borough Council for the proposed removal of two trees located at 23 Manor Close, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 1BD, which lies within a designated Conservation Area.

Planning context: The proposed works are submitted as a Conservation Area tree works notification. The intent of this statement is to clearly identify the trees, set out the justification for removal, and describe the intended method of work and any mitigation/replacement planting proposed.

Scope: This statement is based on a visual inspection from ground level only. It is intended for the purposes of the above notification and does not constitute a full tree risk assessment unless otherwise stated.

PROPOSED TREE WORKS

Two trees are proposed for removal as part of this notification:

- **T1:** Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) – height approx. 6m; DBH at 1.5m AGL: Stem 1 = 450mm, Stem 2 = 452mm (twin codominant stems); average canopy radius approx. 2.6m.
- **T2:** Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) – height approx. 3.6m; DBH at 1.5m AGL approx. 140mm; average canopy radius approx. 1.3m.

Photographic evidence is provided in the appendix and annotated to aid interpretation.

JUSTIFICATION FOR REMOVAL

T1 – Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)

T1 has been subject to repeated heavy pruning/reduction historically, resulting in poor form and reduced amenity contribution. The tree comprises two codominant stems of near-equal diameter which form a compression-type union with obvious included bark. This type of union is inherently weak and, in this instance, shows signs consistent with progressive instability. While the tree does not appear to pose an immediate





significant risk to persons at the time of inspection, future failure of one or both stems is considered foreseeable as the union continues to occlude and loading increases over time.

Within the main union there are wounds and areas of necrotic bark (with sections of loose/flaking bark) associated with past pruning operations. These have exposed areas of underlying wood which the tree is attempting to occlude. Given the tree's heavily reduced/pollarded condition, continued cyclical maintenance would be required to manage size and loading; this ongoing requirement is likely to be disproportionately burdensome relative to the tree's present amenity value and structural condition. On balance, removal is considered a reasonable arboricultural option, particularly where replacement planting is proposed.

The tree is located on/very close to a boundary line and the stem position has constrained boundary fence reinstatement. Although this is not, in isolation, determinative arboricultural justification for felling, it is a relevant site constraint when considered alongside the tree's low amenity, poor form, and the foreseeable structural issues identified above.

T2 – Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)

T2 is a small Scots Pine with a significant lean to the north. The tree has also been subject to hedge-cutting/topiary-type trimming which has adversely affected its natural form and overall amenity contribution. Due to its size, position and screening, it has limited visibility from adjacent public viewpoints and neighbouring properties. Removal is proposed to facilitate more appropriate planting within the rear garden, which is expected to provide a net benefit in terms of garden amenity and biodiversity.

METHOD STATEMENT (SUMMARY)

- All works to be undertaken by suitably trained and insured arborists, in accordance with current industry good practice and relevant British Standards (e.g., BS3998: Tree Work).
- Works to be planned to avoid damage to retained trees, boundary features, and adjacent property. Appropriate exclusion zones and drop zones to be established as required.
- All arisings to be removed from site.
- Stumps to remain in situ unless otherwise stated/required.
- If the stump of **T1 Sweet Chestnut** is retained, an appropriate stump treatment (e.g., Eco-Plugging) will be applied to reduce the likelihood of regrowth.
- Where nesting birds or other protected species are suspected, works will pause and advice will be sought before proceeding.

Replacement planting / mitigation

To mitigate the loss of canopy within the Conservation Area, the client proposes supplementary planting within the rear garden. This is expected to comprise three to four fruit trees (final species and stock sizes to be agreed), planted generally throughout the garden. Fruit trees are anticipated to provide seasonal interest and improved ecological value, while also offering the client the practical benefit of fruit production. Planting locations can be confirmed on request and/or agreed with the Tree Officer.



APPENDIX

- **Appendix:** Annotated photographs.





Photo Ref	Photograph	Description / Observations
Photo 1		T1 Sweet Chestnut (<i>Castanea sativa</i>) heavily reduced/pollarded.



Photo 2



Location of tree, codominant stems and proximity to boundary. Note obstruction to fence line orientation and difficulty in construction.



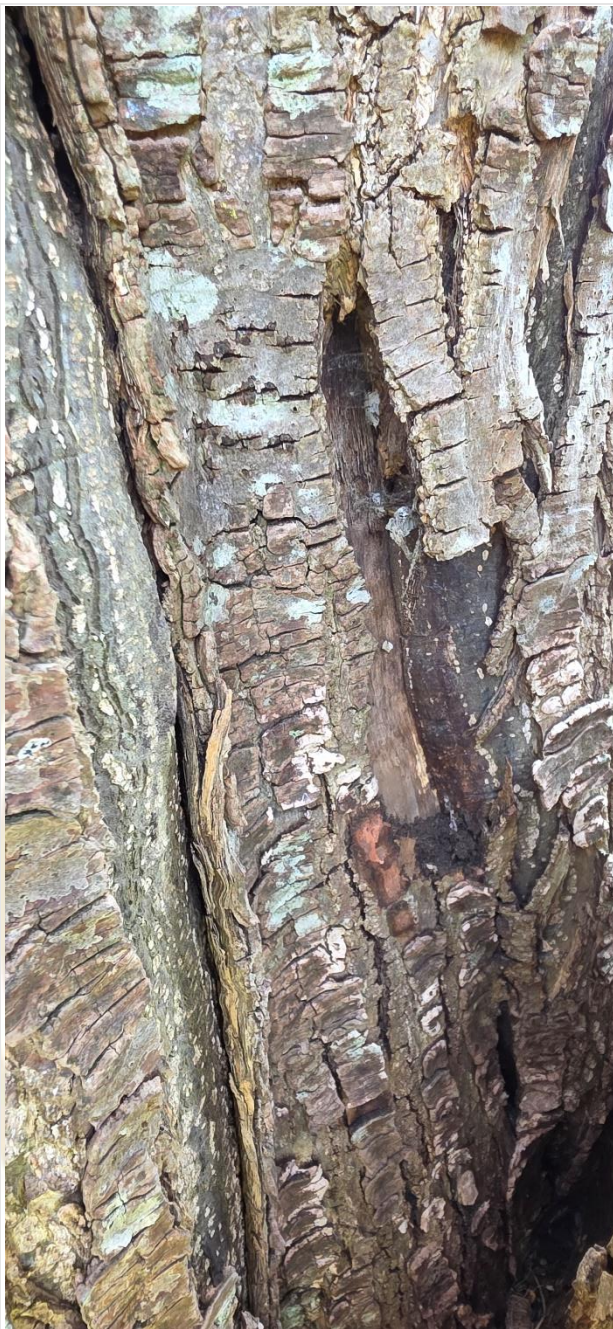
Photo 3



Included bark compression type fork between codominant stems. Note fresh incremental bark growth indicating instability.



Photo 4



Exposed heartwood resulting from injury to inner/uppermost portion of tree stems within fork.



Photo 5



Necrotic bark on adjacent stem surface likely caused by same instances during previous tree work operations. Note, loose bark can be removed by hand as it has become necrotic.



Photo 6



Small leaning Scots Pine tree previously
hedge cut into a ball shape.



This report was constructed and written by



Oliver Lower *ND Arb L3, Dip Arb L4, Dip Arb L6*

Founder & Principal Arboricultural Consultant

I have 27yrs experience in the Arboricultural industry having worked in both the UK and New Zealand during that time. and have attained the following accreditations a Level 4 Diploma (ABC) & Level 6 Diploma (ABC) in Arboriculture as well as a LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection Qualification. I provide consultancy service to several local government authorities and a wide range of private commercial and domestic clients. I am a professional member of the International Society of Arboriculture, Consulting Arborist Society and Professional Tree Inspection Expert. A comprehensive list of my qualifications, experience and training can be found on LinkedIn using this link: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/oliver-lower-527a7377/>

Qualifications:

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