

Tree Survey

1 Copper Beeches, Benfleet, Essex

Arbtech Consulting Limited were instructed to attend 1 Copper Beeches, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 3UA (site) on 4th October 2013 to document the finding of the of the tree survey and produce a tree location plan and schedule of tree works (if required).

The site is situated along the A129 Rayleigh Road; a busy main road linking the A127 Arterial Road to Thundersley, within 0.2 of a mile north of the site is Rayleigh Weir Fire station (Station No.35). The A129 is a busy main road and bus route with a continuous flow of either moving or stationary traffic.

The copper beech tree was situated within the raised front garden (approximately 850mm above the footpath and A129) of No.1 Copper Beeches and within 2.25m from the public footpath and 4.8m from the edge the A129.

Due to the condition of the tree and the proximity of the tree to the public footpath and A129 the tree fell within the High category of the Hazard Zone Categories.

The public footpath and A129 are situated along the boundary of the site and were also situated underneath the edge of the canopy of the tree. Due to the level, quantity and size of the fungal fruiting bodies (*Meripilus giganteus* – giant polypore), their spread and the below average physiology of the tree I believed the infestation of the *M.giganteus* was in the later stages and had spread from the deeper roots to the surface roots and as such the tree was at a greater risk of collapse which due to the unsymmetrical shape, the spread and the weight of the canopy over the road was likely if the tree was to collapse/uproot it would have been in the direction of the A129.

Prior to making the decision to recommend felling of this tree I did consider other options for reducing the risk of collapse/uprooting, such as a heavy reduction to the overall size and shape of the tree but did not feel that a reduction to the canopy of the tree was an acceptable option of reducing the risks in this instance due to the type and condition of the tree and also its proximity to the public footpath and the A129 as I didn't believe that the tree would the energy resources to recover from such a heavy reduction and any amenity value would be lost.

It was therefore my recommendation that the best course of action was to remove the tree and provide replacement specimen.

Where land is constantly occupied by people or by property, a moderately small tree might, by virtue of its location represent a significant risk of harm. On the other hand a large tree in a remote area will represent only a low risk of harm even where its stability is compromised.

In the first scenario trees can pose a risk to people and property. It is possible to reduce and manage the risks associated with trees through a regular programme of inspection and tree works. Like all living organisms trees are subject to decline, damage or invasion to pathogenic organisms. As a tree deteriorates the likelihood of shedding a limb or failing increases.

Trees are beautiful and uniquely valuable items for amenity value and for wildlife habitat, however good or poor the condition of the tree, remedial action may be necessary where there is a clearly quantifiable risk to life or property. This may be as simple as reducing the level of access to the areas affected, reducing a single limb to the removal of a whole tree.

Risk is related to the location of a tree, the intensity of use of the immediate area surrounding the tree and the proximity of people and buildings or other structures (targets).

Appendix 1: Tree Survey Schedule

Tree Survey Schedule

1 Copper Beeches, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 3UA

Survey Date 4th October 2013

Weather Conditions Overcast and damp

Surveyor Matthew Middle

Key:

Tree Number A unique number or reference to identify trees or groups as shown on associated plans.

Species Common and or taxonomic names.

Height The height of the tree in meters (m).

Trunk Diameter The stem diameter in millimetres (mm) taken at 1.5m above ground level unless otherwise specified.

Canopy Spread The extent of the canopy taken in meters (m) to the principle points of the compass, North (N), East (E), South (S) and West (W).

Age Class Age classification; Young (Y), Middle Aged (MA), Mature (M), Late Mature (LM), Veteran (V).

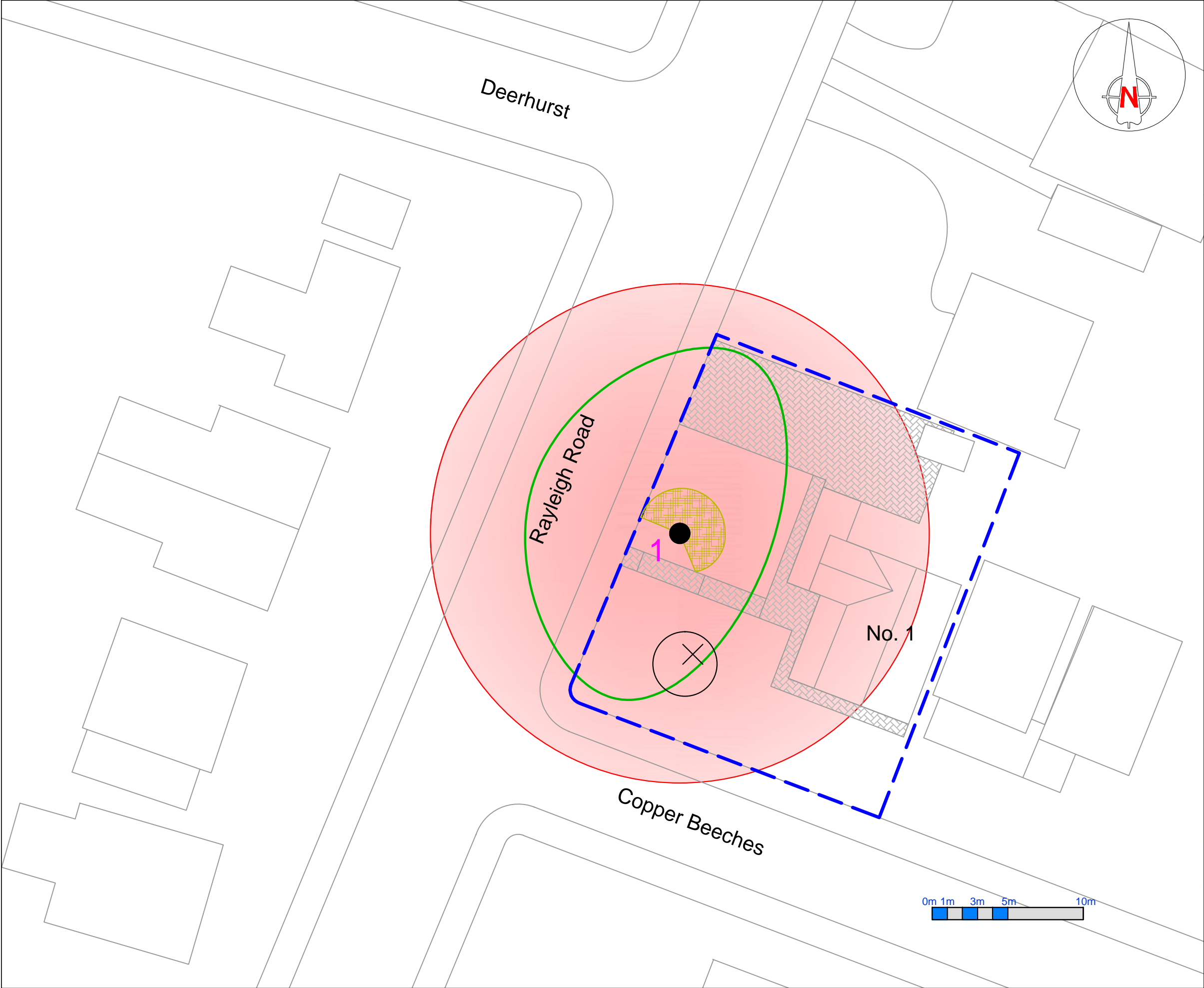
Physiological Condition The general physiological condition of the tree; Average, Below average, Low, Dead.


Structural Condition The general structural condition of the tree; Good, Moderate, Indifferent, Poor, Hazardous.

Comments Notes and general comments on the structural condition of the tree, its environment and it estimated remaining contribution.

Tree No.	Species	Height (M)	Trunk Diameter (MM)	Canopy Spread (M)	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments
1	Copper Beech	16m	1350mm @ 0.25m	N 12.5m E 6m S 11.7m W 10.25	M	Below Average	Hazardous	<p>Situated within the raised front garden of No.1 Copper Beeches, immediately adjacent to the A129 Rayleigh Road; sunken footpath (approx. 700mm below base of trunk) situated within 1.3m from S side of the trunk, public footpath is within 2.25m from W side of trunk (approx. 850mm below trunk), sunken drive situated 6m from N side from trunk (up to 800mm below trunk); multiple (approx. 24) large fruiting bodies, (<i>Meripilus giganteus</i> – giant polypore) situated between the buttress roots and across the ground around $\frac{3}{4}$ of the diameter of the stem extending out by up to 3m radius from the stem; fruiting bodies range young recently emerged to dying and decayed and between 50mm X 50mm up to 1000mm; short squat trunk growing on a mound of earth within a reasonably level garden; appearance of a graft point at approx. 0.5m above ground level; multiple stemmed from 1.25m; security light fixed to the trunk on the E side of the trunk which is partially occluded; large wound on west side of N limb at union with trunk, hollow sounding when struck with acoustic hammer, metal probe pushed into wound with no resistance up to 300mm (approx. half depth of limb); one sided canopy to the N, S & W, E canopy has been reduced; above average dead wood and hung up deadwood in canopy; slightly sparsely foliated; below average leaf size; tip dieback throughout canopy; of low quality, of moderate to high value; of only limited potential.</p> <hr/> <p>Fell to ground level.</p>








Appendix 2: Tree Location Plan





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Key:					
Tree Nos.:	1	Tree Canopies:		Trunks:	
Site boundary:		Hard surfacing:		Target zone:	
Area of fungal growth:		Replacem'nt tree:			

All dimensions should be checked on site. No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing.
Please notify us of any discrepancies found. Arbtech Consulting Ltd. cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies in the base drawing in which this plan is based.
This drawing is designed to reflect the principles of the layout or design only, and relates only to the protection of retained trees.
This drawing is not to be read as a definitive part of the engineering or construction designs or method statement. An architect or structural engineer should be contacted over any matters of construction, detailing or specification and for any standards or regulatory requirements relating to proposed structures, hard surfacing or underground services.
This drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

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Appendix 3: Photos

Photos





















