



Tree Risk Assessment

Menheniot Playing Field & Merrymeet Communal Area

Reference: 2406-3 TRA (2023)

Site Visit Date: 24.01.2023

Report Date: 26.01.2023

Evolve Tree Consultancy

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INSTRUCTION..... 3

2 INTRODUCTION 3

3 SURVEY METHODOLOGY 3

4 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION 3

5 STATUTORY PROTECTION..... 4

6 THE TREES..... 4

7 RISK ASSESSMENT..... 4

8 FINDINGS 5

9 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS 6

APPENDIX A Site Plan 2

APPENDIX B Legal Constraints 4

APPENDIX C Tolerability of Risk Framework Diagram 5

APPENDIX D Survey Records 6

APPENDIX E Photos 8

1 INSTRUCTION

- 1.2 On behalf of Menheniot Parish Council, Mr John Hesketh asked Evolve to update the inspection and risk assessment at Menheniot Playing Field and Merrymeet Communal Area.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Evolve have undertaken three previous inspections on trees at two separate sites at Menheniot and Merrymeet in 2015, 2017 and 2020. No significant risks were identified at those times.
- 2.2 In this report I identify the risks posed to people and property by trees and where necessary recommend measures for control.

3 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 My inspection and report are prepared in a way consistent with national advice on managing the risks posed by trees. I use a system called Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) to inform my judgements.
- 3.2 I did not have access to trees outside the boundaries or on other private properties.
- 3.3 My survey is a formal visual inspection made from ground level. Trees were inspected using the Visual Tree Assessment method as described by Mattheck and Breloer. VTA is a method for tree inspection and hazard recognition which gives information about the body language and the mechanics of trees. It advises on failure criteria and instructs on the correct use of invasive testing techniques.
- 3.4 All trees have been subject to a suitable visual inspection appropriate to the use of the land around them. It did not involve any climbing or detailed investigation beyond what was visible from accessible points at ground level. If detailed assessments are necessary, they will be recommended in the report.
- 3.5 A written record has been made in Appendix D of notable trees.

4 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- 4.1 None.

5 STATUTORY PROTECTION

- 5.1 I have used the information provided by the Cornwall Council Interactive Map. The trees are not protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) nor are they situated within a Conservation Area (CA).

6 THE TREES

- 6.1 The playing field contains a single Turkey oak and one common oak tree located on the boundary of Menheniot Playing Fields adjacent to the rear garden of No. 7 Bowling Green. Two small ash trees are also present and situated between the two oaks.

I also inspected the group of trees to the west of the tennis court (G1), but this did not form part of our original instruction.

- 6.2 Merrymeet Communal Area includes several mature trees on the hedge bank and within the site.
- 6.3 Please note that the attached plans are for indicative purposes only and are not intended as an exact representation.

7 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 A hazard is something that can cause harm, in this case a tree. Risk can be expressed as a combination of an event's consequences and the likelihood of it occurring. In this case, a potential consequence is death, serious injury or damage to property. The important part of the assessment is the likelihood of either occurring.
- 7.2 When assessing a tree, owners and managers need to judge whether the measures they adopt will fulfil society's reasonable expectations. "Reasonableness" is a key legal concept when considering the risks of trees and a tree owners' obligations. Deciding what is reasonable is influenced by the trees' place within the wider management context and how that context influences local decisions. The Health and Safety Executive presented this expectation in its risk philosophy, outlined in Appendix E.
- 7.3 Where the risk falls within the 'tolerable' region, risk reduction measures may be recommended to ensure that they remain as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP). The benefits of risk reduction will be measured against the sacrifice (cost, amenity value etc).

8 FINDINGS

- 8.1 Appendix B contains the data collected during the site surveys and includes comments regarding health, condition, and risk.
- 8.2 **Menheniot Playing Fields.** I inspected the large Turkey oak and its condition remains good. It presents a low risk to people or property and none that would merit the costs and risks associated with remedial work.
- 8.3 Please note that whilst the base of the tree is accessible from the east, the west side is located in the neighbouring property and therefore a close inspection was not possible. The base is visible from a distance of approx. 10 m from where no obvious visible defects were evident.
- 8.4 The smaller common oak tree to the east is an acceptable risk. The two ash trees show signs of early stage infection by the disease ash dieback, but this does not yet pose a significant risk to users of the park or the neighbouring property.
- 8.5 **Merrymeet Communal Area.** There are mature trees along the roadside boundary and within the play area. The mature beech and oak trees are in good condition. One beech tree has a branch defect but does not pose a significant risk.
- 8.6 A mature ash tree referred to in our previous report has been removed.
- 8.7 The three horse chestnut trees are not growing with good vitality but retain full crowns and show no reasons to doubt their viability over the short to medium term.
- 8.8 The easterly most chestnut (T3954) is still displaying signs of sapwood dysfunction referred to in previous reports. This includes some small stem lesions, exudation, and a small area of slime flux. The tree is sheltered from prevailing winds and occupancy rates within the target area (towards the north-east) are reasonably low.

In the unlikely event of failure, this would likely occur during strong winds when occupancy levels would be very low. The risk posed by the tree is therefore tolerable.

I advise that informal inspections are carried out by PC staff as they go about their normal duties and take note of any obvious changes or failure that would be obvious to an informed but non expert person. A formal inspection should occur again in two years' time. If informal inspections are not practicable, then a formal inspection should occur in 1 years' time.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 No works are necessary to mitigate risks.
- 9.2 Generally, the sites should be inspected again in 2025, sooner if sudden changes are observed in a tree or trees or the area around them. This inspection should be undertaken by a qualified arboriculturist.
- 9.3 The PC ought to ensure that informal inspections are carried out on an ongoing basis by staff responsible for managing or maintaining the grounds. They would do so as they go about their day-to-day routine and make themselves aware of the trees general health and condition. They would identify structural weakness or actual failure that pose an imminent threat to people or property that would be patently apparent to a non-expert.
- 9.4 Works are suggested to the beech tree 3956, which are being advised for management reasons rather than risk.



Simon Proctor
BSc Hons, Dip Arb (RFS), M Arbor A, MICFor
Evolve Tree Consultancy

I am a Chartered Arboriculturist and a professional member of the Arboricultural Association. I hold the Royal Forestry Society's Professional Diploma in Arboriculture. I have been working as a full-time, professional arboriculturist since 1998 and have experience in both the public and private sector.

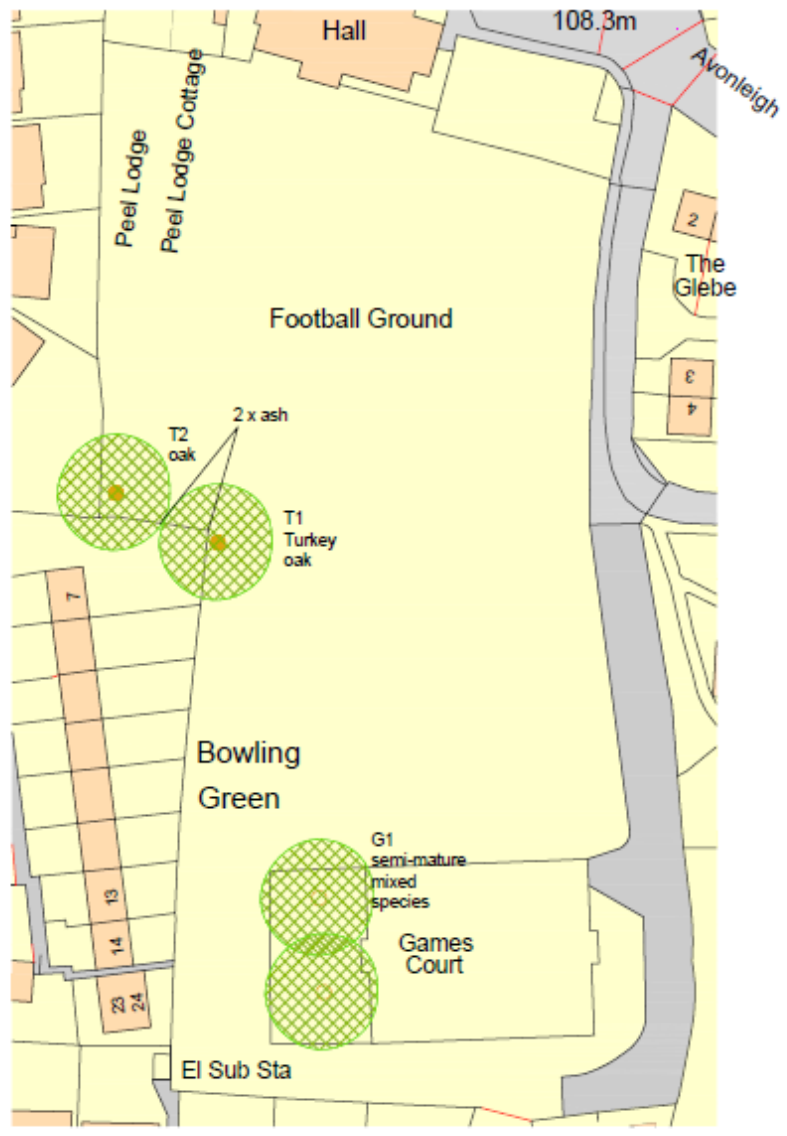


The authority of this report ceases when any site conditions change or pruning or other works unspecified in the report are carried out to, or affecting, the subject tree(s). The statements made in this report do not consider the effects of extremes of climate, vandalism, or accident, whether physical, chemical or fire. Evolve Tree Consultancy cannot accept any liability about these factors, nowhere prescribed work is not carried out in a correct and professional manner in accordance with current good practice.

The recommendations within this report remain valid for the period stated for re-inspection or twelve months from the date of survey.

The limit of Evolve Tree Consultancy's indemnity over any matter arising out of this report extends only to the instructing client; Evolve Tree Consultancy cannot be held liable for any third-party claim that arises following or out of this report. This report remains the intellectual property of Evolve Tree Consultancy.

APPENDIX A Site Plan



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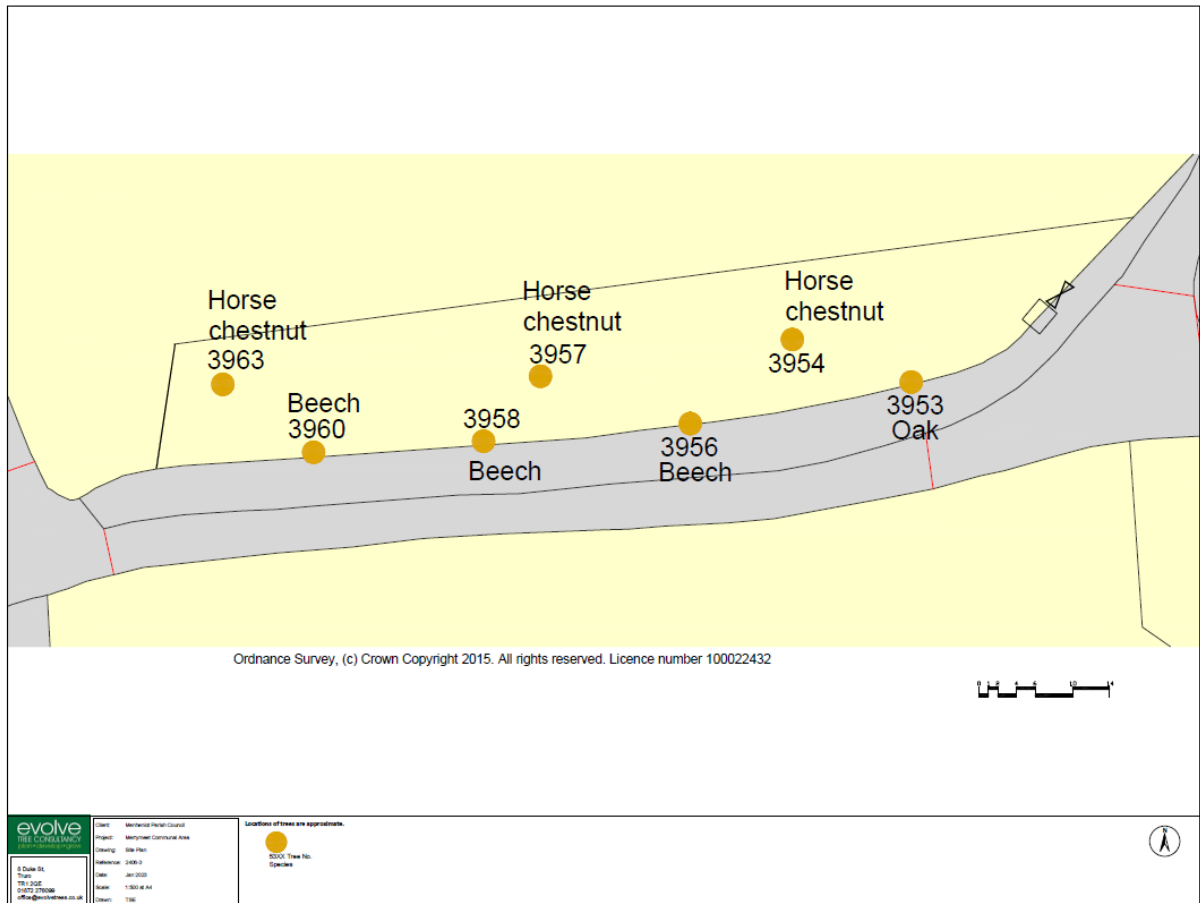


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SITE PLAN	
Project:	Menheriot Playing Fields
Client:	Menheriot Playing Fields
Reference:	24063
Date:	Jan 2023
Scale:	1:1000 at A4





APPENDIX B Legal Constraints

Trees outside the site/property

Landowners and managers have a duty of care not to damage trees on the neighbouring land. The common causes of damage (root damage, compaction, physical damage, and inexpert pruning) must be avoided through good planning and site management.

However, branches and roots from trees on adjacent properties that extend over boundaries can be pruned back to the boundary line without the permission of the owners. However, the branch material belongs to the tree owner and should be returned where appropriate.

Statutory wildlife obligations

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees. All wild birds are protected by law under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, and it is an offence to disturb injure or kill a nesting bird intentionally or to take damage or destroy an occupied nest or egg. If nesting birds are discovered works on the trees should be deferred until the nests are abandoned. Care should be taken during any felling operation, or surgery works to trees to avoid damage or disturbance to birds during the nesting season.

Tree Preservation Orders

Advice can be found at:

<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/tree-preservation-orders/tree-preservation-orders-general/>

Conservation Areas

Where trees are within a Conservation Area, six weeks prior written notice should be served on the LPA before carrying out any felling or pruning work. During this period, the LPA may serve a TPO if they wish to prevent the proposed work or control it through conditions.

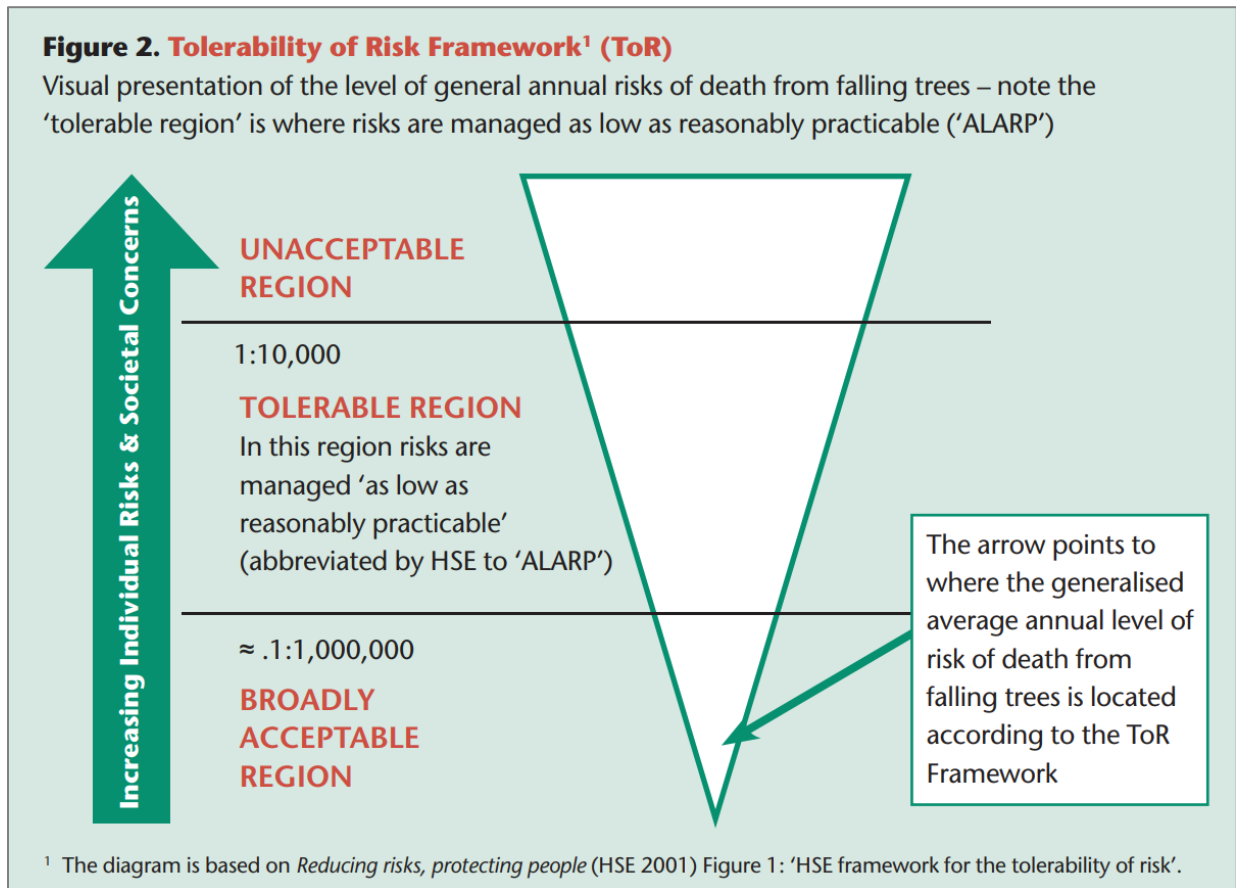
Exceptions within a Conservation Area: Unless there is an immediate risk of serious harm, anyone proposing to carry out work on a tree in a Conservation Area because it is dead must give the authority 5 days' notice before carrying out the proposed work. Where such a tree requires urgent work to remove an immediate risk of serious harm, written notice is required as soon as practicable after the work becomes necessary. We recommend strongly that you gather thorough evidence of the trees' condition before you undertake the work. Carrying out works without having served six weeks' notice and where exemptions do not apply is an offence.

Consequently, our advice is should you wish to remove any trees that are not directly required in order to implement planning permission you must submit an application for those works.

Advice can be found at:

<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/tree-preservation-orders/protecting-trees-in-conservation-areas/>

APPENDIX C Tolerability of Risk Framework Diagram



APPENDIX D SURVEY RECORDS

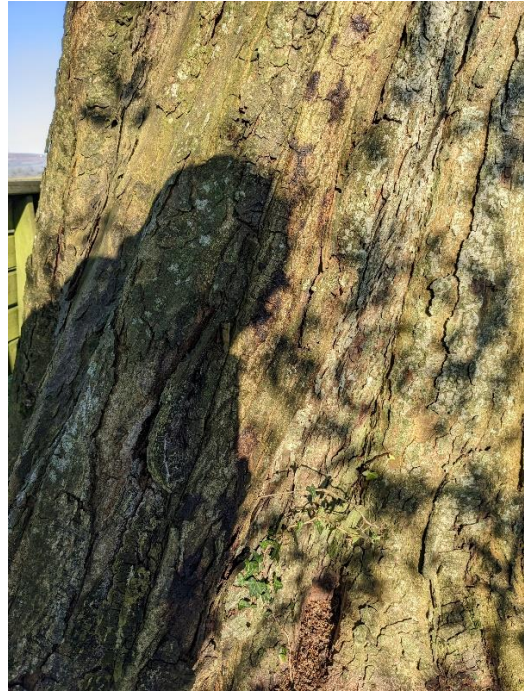
Menheniot Playing Fields													
T1	Turkey Oak (QuCe)	20 -2	1100 -1	8	8	7	9	3	M	A1	Hedgerow tree that dominates the field and adjacent housing. A fine specimen with vigorous growth to all sides; dominant asymmetrical crown to the west where previous utility pruning may have occurred. Primary branch structure is covered in ivy as is the stem. It appeared structurally sound. Some minor deadwood in the crown. Western part of stem is in neighbouring property at a lower level preventing a close inspection.	40	Good
T2	Common Oak	18	750	8	8	8	8	3	M	A1	No visible significant defects. Large long standing wound at 1m high on its west side where a codominant stem was removed many years ago. There is a generous amount of sound, sufficient to maintain structural stability.	40	Good
	2 x Ash trees	12	250	3	3	3	3	3	SM	-	Two small ash tree located between T1 and T2 have the early stages of ash dieback. Ownership is unclear. No action required at present.	10	Fair
G1	Oak, birch, lawson cypress, beech	7-12	100-600	4	4	4	4	2	SM	B2	No action required.	40	Good
Merrymeet													
T3953	Sessile Oak (QuPe)	10 (2)	600 (1)	2	5	4	4	2	SM	B1	Major deadwood as noted on last survey is still there. Asymmetrical crown due to overshadowing.	40+	Fair
T3954	Horse Chestnut (AeHi)	10 (2)	700 (1)	4	4	4	4	2	SM	B1	Black exudate on stem remains - see photos. Long scar tissue from ground to 3m is occluding. Monitor annually.	40+	Fair

T3956	Beech (FaSy)	20 (2)	600 (1)	4	6	6	6	3	EM	B1	<p>Primary branch south side at 4m has included bark present on east side. Defect does somewhat increase the likelihood of failure, which would cause it to fall onto the road. The defective side of the fork is situated opposite the prevailing winds and the road has relatively low levels of use. As such the defect does not warrant action on grounds of safety.</p> <p>QTRA</p> <p>Occupancy 3 x Size 3 x PoF 5 = 1/1M Risk of Harm (Broadly acceptable).</p> <p>Failure of the branch is not likely because the defective part is sheltered from prevailing winds. It is more vulnerable to easterly gales, which are not common. Failure would be arboriculturally significant due to the size of the wound it would leave. Included in Appendix E is a picture of the tree with a suggested crown reduction which would significantly reduce the likelihood of failure. This can be implemented as a management recommendation at your discretion.</p>	40+	Fair
T3957	Horse Chestnut (AeHi)	8 (2)	600 (1)	3	3	3	3	3	EM	B1	Bifurcates at 3m, a sound union.	40+	Fair
T3958	Beech (FaSy)	12 (2)	600 (1)	9	7	4	4	3	EM	B1	A thinner crown than 3960, maybe due to root pruning prior to last survey.	40+	Fair
T3960	Beech (FaSy)	10 (2)	700 (1)	4	7	5	5	3	EM	B1	Asymmetrical crown due to group congestion. Epicormic at base.	40+	Good
T3962	Ash	10 (2)	800 (1)	5	7	5	5	3	EM	B1	Barbed wire grows through stem. Leans South.	40+	Fair
T3963	Horse Chestnut (AeHi)	9 (2)	500 (1)	4	4	3	4	3	EM	B1	Bifurcates at 3m with strong union. Girdling roots at base.	40+	Fair

APPENDIX E PHOTOS



Horse Chestnut (3954)



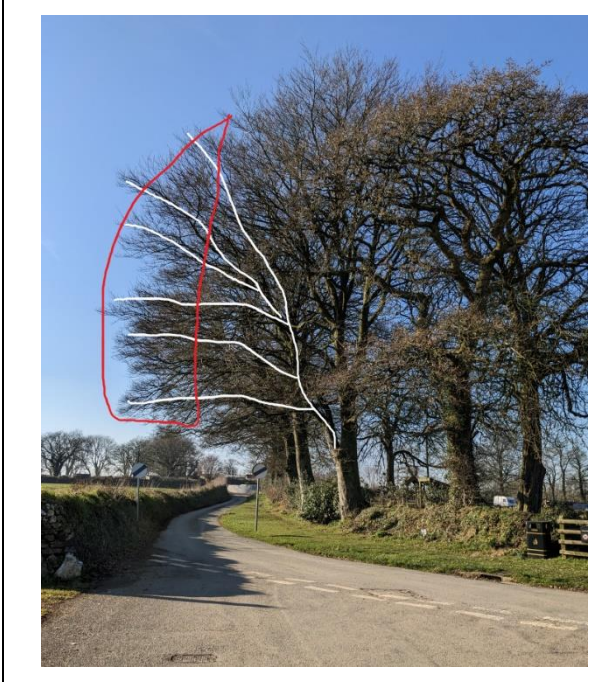
Horse Chestnut (3954)



Beech (3956) fork east side.



Beech (3956) fork west side.



Beech (3956).

The white lines show the approximate tracery of the branch affected. The red line gives an indication of the amount of crown to be removed.