

Arboricultural Report:

Cintra, Pyrford Heath, Woking GU22 8SR

Produced for:

Alan Somers

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Limitations:

My assessments are based on professional experience and expert observation at the time of the site visit. No liability can be assumed to rest with APArboriculture should site conditions or features alter after my inspection.

This report is for the exclusive use of the client and those directly involved in the management of the trees at Cintra, Pyrford Heath, Woking GU22 8SR.

It may not be sold, lent, hired out or divulged to any third party not directly involved in the subject matter without the express consent of APArboriculture

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1.0 Instructions and Scope

1.1 I have been instructed by Alan Somers to provide a hazard evaluation and general condition assessment of one mature Horse Chestnut tree at Cintra, Pyrford Heath, Woking GU22 8SR.

1.2 The scope of the survey and report has been agreed as follows:

- Inspection of the tree from ground level using accepted Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) techniques
- Recommendations on appropriate works (if any)

1.3 In terms of history, the tree was last pruned in January 2024 following the granting of consent by Woking Borough Council under tree-works application ref. TREE/2024/8018 (re-pollarding back to previous points).

2.0 Tree Survey Method

2.1 The tree in question was surveyed from ground level on 27th January 2025. Visual Tree Assessment was used, aided by use of a steel probe and sounding hammer.

2.2 The height of the tree was estimated as the accuracy of this measurement is generally not critical to the decision making process when recommending necessary tree works.

2.3 The crown spreads of the tree were measured using a laser measuring device and the stem diameter was measured using a diameter tape at a height of 1.5m above ground level.

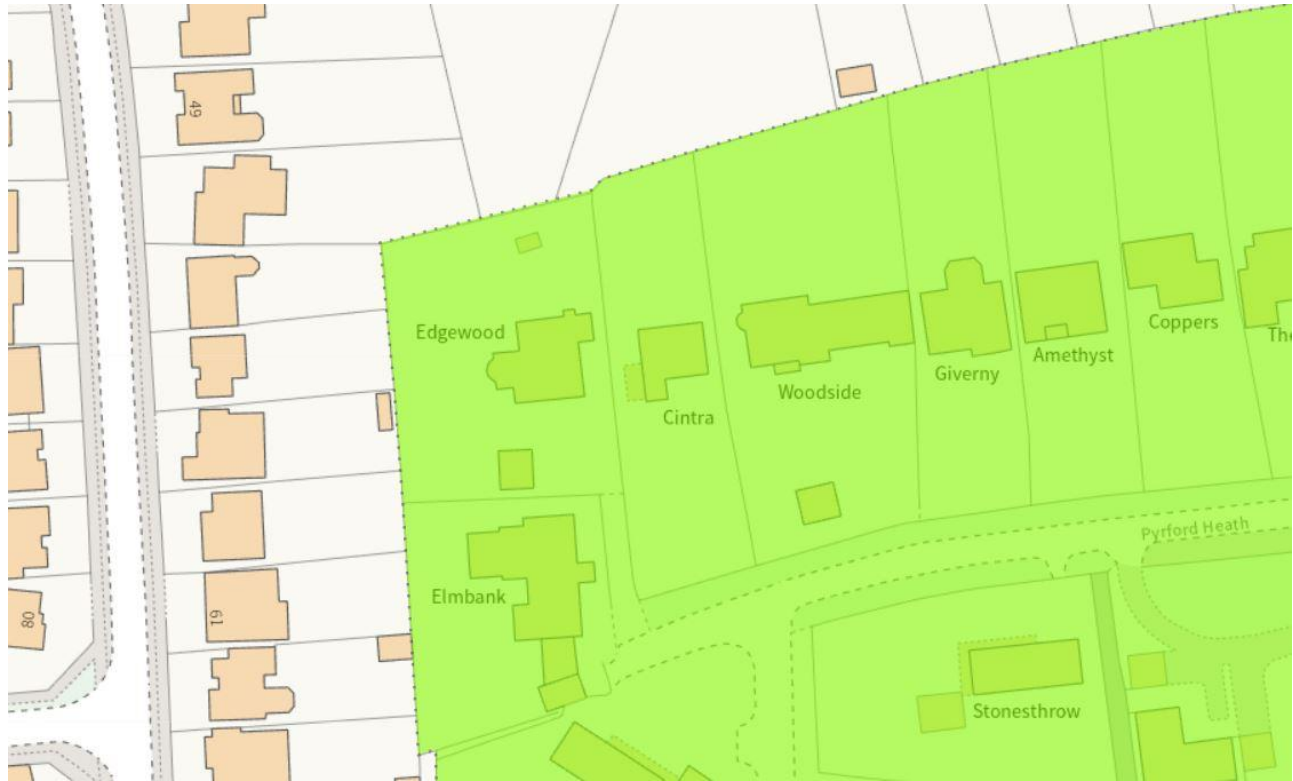
2.4 Photographs were taken on site using a digital camera.

3.0 Legal Status

3.1 The property is not situated within a Conservation Area, but the tree in question is protected by Tree Preservation Order ref. TPO 626/0071/1964 (area classification).

3.2 The implication of this is that an application to and the consent of the Council will be required for any works on the tree, subject to certain exceptions.

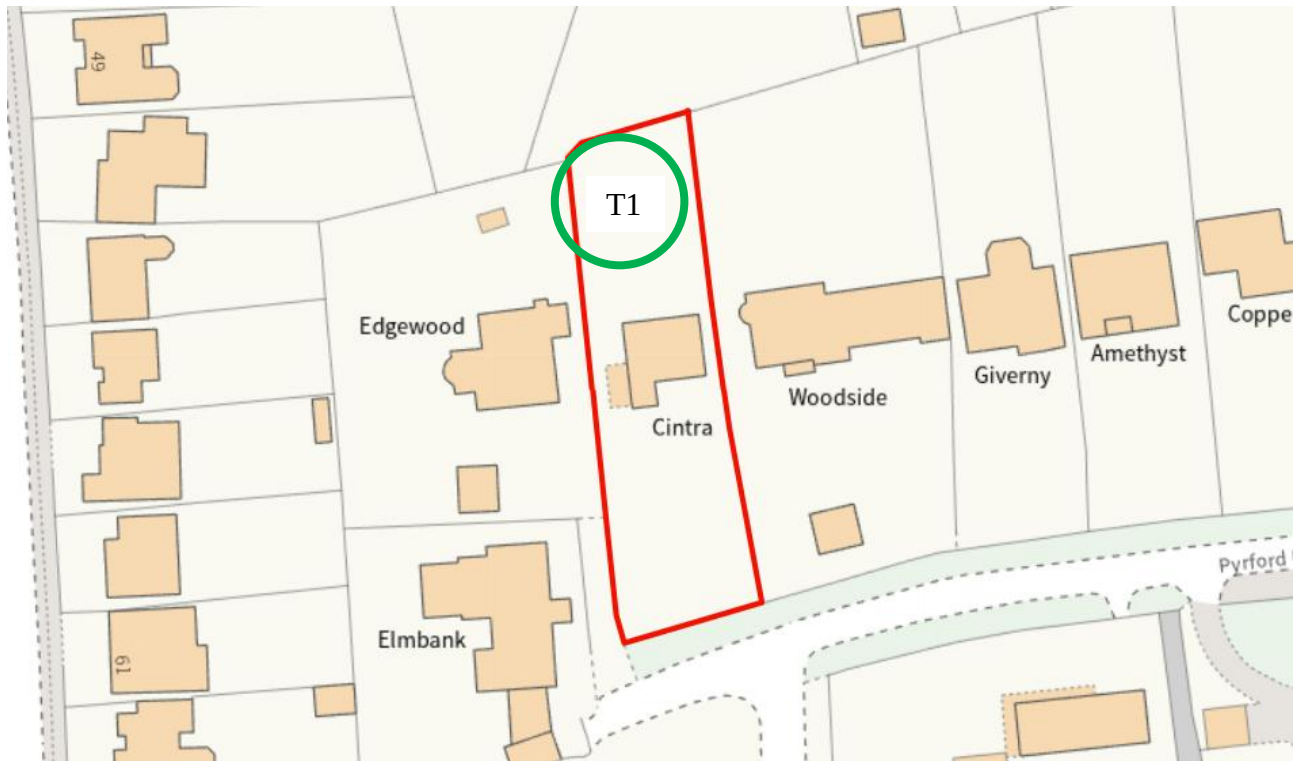
Screenshot from Woking Borough Council website showing Tree Preservation Order ref. TPO 626/0071/1964 in green:



4.0 Description of Site

- 4.1 The site comprises a residential property situated in Pyrford Heath, Woking.
- 4.2 A plan showing the location of the property within a wider context is reproduced below. The location of the surveyed tree (T1) is also shown on this plan.

Cintra, Pyrford Heath GU22 8SR – Horse Chestnut T1



5.0 Appraisal of Tree

5.1 The key details of the tree are as follows:

Ref.	Species	Age	Height	Crown Spreads N-E-S-W	Diameter at breast height	Vigour and Structure
T1	Horse Chestnut	Mature	16m	4-4-5-3 (m)	840mm	Normal/Fair; crown break at 7-8m ht. Multiple areas of bud proliferation, sounds hollow at base on southern side; sporophores noted at base and on roots in December 2024

- 5.2 The tree in question is a mature Horse Chestnut of approximately 16m in height, growing within the rear garden of the property at a distance of 20m from the house. There is a mature Oak to the north-west. The tree was initially pollarded some years ago and has been periodically re-pollarded since then (last carried out approximately a year ago in January 224).

View of tree from south-east:



- 5.3 The tree appears to be of essentially normal vigour, although this is difficult to assess with accuracy with the tree not being in leaf and having been re-pollarded relatively recently.

- 5.4 There are no sporophores at the base of the tree at the present time and there is no indication of root plate movement or heave.
- 5.5 The owner of the tree noted sporophores at two separate locations at the base of the tree in December 2024 and further sporophores emanating from the roots approximately 2m from the stem base.
- 5.6 Upon examination of the photographs it appears likely that the fungus in question is Honey Fungus. This is also consistent with the recent failure of an adjacent tree and that the tree sounds hollow on the southern side upon use of a sounding hammer.
- 5.7 Honey fungus is known to affect the structural roots of trees and render them liable to wind-throw (being blown over in high winds).

Fungus noted at base of tree on southern side in December 2024:



- 5.8 As the tree has been re-pollarded and is not currently in leaf the risk of it failing at the present time is considered to be relatively low.
- 5.9 The tree is likely, however, to have a limited safe life expectancy and if it were to be retained it would be difficult to assess the extent to which structural roots and the integrity of the lower stem may have been compromised.

6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 6.1 On balance, the recommendation is to remove the tree as soon as possible. Whilst it could be retained in the short term (potentially with some pruning works to reduce the likelihood of failure) it would have a limited life expectancy and removal and replacement with a new tree is considered to constitute the most sensible course of action.
- 6.2 It is further recommended that the stump be removed/ground out. This will help prevent the fungus spreading to other adjacent trees (including the Oak to the north-west).
- 6.3 As the tree is protected removal will require the consent of the Council (either by way of a tree-works application or confirmation that it may be removed under an exception to the usual requirements of the legislation).