b) Conclusions and Recommendations

The tree is undesirably close to the house and there is an immediate need for its crown to be cut back to restore an appropriate clearance. Consideration also needs to be given to the integrity of the attachment of the principal stems that are supporting the regenerated crown. Whilst there was no indication that these are at imminent risk of failure, it is apparent that decay is developing from the old topping wounds immediately below their point of origin. For the tree to be retained, the upper crown will need to be substantially cut back to reduce the loading on the principal stems. Such pruning would significantly diminish the visual amenity provided by the ash tree and there would be a need for further work to be undertaken on a periodic basis.

In view of the impaired condition of the ash and its proximity to the house, it may be more appropriate to consider its removal. In view of the presence of the adjacent sycamore, this would have a limited detrimental impact on the amenities of the conservation area. Furthermore, the sycamore would benefit from the removal of the competing influence of the ash.

I trust that this information will prove helpful; please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries. Photographs of the tree are appended illustrating features referred to in the text.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



Mick Boddy F Arbor A FICFor CEnv