



Mr & Mrs Connor
1 Fleatham Gardens
St Bees
CA27 0BX

3rd July 2025

Dear Craig & Lindsay

Following our recent discussions, I make the following observations regarding a Birch tree growing in your garden.

This young tree is growing on the garden boundary and overhangs the adjacent property. The owners of this property claim it is causing a tangible nuisance and are concerned for its safety and the potential for damage it may cause in the event of failure. I am aware of communication between yourselves and your neighbours.

I visually inspected the tree approximately one year ago and concluded that it was a young, healthy, vigorous specimen which was unlikely to become a health and safety risk to either property.

You have now provided me with photographs and it is clear that the tree is suffering upper crown dieback with minor deadwood, indicating some form of dysfunction. The tree's health has therefore altered rapidly since my last inspection.

There has been no change in the tree's environment, which means that the only likely causes of such a rapid decline are root damage, soil contamination around the roots or a noxious substance contacting part of the vascular system.

I recommend removal of the minor deadwood and flushing the soils around the tree with water to remove any possible contaminant. If this work is carried out immediately, I should be able to make a visual appraisal of the tree at the end of the summer to ascertain whether its decline is ongoing or if recovery is possible.

I do not consider the tree is any more likely to fail and there is no current health and safety issue.

If you require any further information, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Hatton
DipArb(RFS) FArborA MICFor