



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

336 FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD
WOKINGHAM
BERKSHIRE
RG40 3JP

CLIENT: MIKE CARTER

NOVEMBER 2024
Ref: 06561 / 2024

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File ref:	06561 / 2024
Date Issued:	17 th November 2024

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Mike Carter, owner / occupier of 336 Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 3JP

I have been asked to carry out a health and safety assessment of three trees at the property and an Oak on adjacent highway land.

The report is to specify any necessary remedial tree works to address identified hazards from the trees whilst acknowledging and respecting their significance to amenity and ecology of the local area.

1.2 Inspection information

The trees were inspected on Monday 11th November 2024 by Sarah Duckworth, Arboricultural Consultant.

On the day of the survey the weather was overcast with occasional rain. Visibility was satisfactory.

Trees were inspected from ground level only. Non-invasive inspection equipment (mallet and metal probe) were used to assess the structural integrity at the base and trunk of individual trees where the visual inspection identified the need.

1.3 Qualifications

Surveyor: Sarah Duckworth

- Royal Forestry Society's Professional Diploma
- Arboricultural Association's Technicians Certificate (with Distinction)
- LANTRA qualified Professional Tree Inspector
- Arboricultural Association Professional Member
- QTRA & VALID Licensed User

1.4 Insurance

Sarah Duckworth t/a Duckworth's Arboriculture Limited is insured with Hiscox Insurance

- Public Liability £10,000,000
- Professional Indemnity £2,000,000

2 STATUTORY TREE PROTECTION

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

I have confirmed on the Wokingham Borough Council website that at the time of this report, trees within the survey area are protected by Tree Preservation Order ref TPO-0265-1984.

No works should be undertaken to any trees on site without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority – Wokingham Borough Council.



Fig. 1 Wokingham Borough Council Tree Preservation Order Map

CONSERVATION AREAS

336 Finchampstead Road is not within a Conservation Area.

FELLING LICENCES

Outside of domestic gardens, you must first apply to the Forestry Commission for a felling licence if you want to cut down trees containing more than five cubic metres of wood in any calendar quarter. However, there are exceptions to this rule. For example, you do not need a licence to fell trees in enclosed gardens or removing dead or dangerous trees.

The Forestry Commission usually requires felled trees to be restocked and does not normally grant licences to clear woodland permanently or to change woodland to agricultural use.

3 GENERAL GUIDANCE

3.1 Protected Species

In accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act - 1981, Conservation - Natural Habitats - Regulations 1994 and Countryside Rights of Way Act - 2000, you must consider the timing and type of tree work operations including hedge pruning to avoid causing disturbance to any nesting or breeding birds or bat roosts that may be present within trees and hedgerows.

It is an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places.

Non-urgent major tree work involving tree removal or reduction and hedge cutting operations should not be undertaken during the bird nesting or breeding season, which is considered to be from 1 March to 31 July. However, depending on seasonal temperatures, some birds continue breeding into August and September.

All wild birds, their young, their eggs and active nests are protected under law. It is an offence to damage a nest intentionally while it is in use or being built and hedge cutting is highly likely to damage nests or cause them to be deserted.

3.2 Tree Work Good Practice

All tree works specified should be undertaken in accordance with BS:3998 2010 'Tree Work Recommendations'.

In order to limit the harm to trees caused by the pruning operations, pruning work on live trees (aside from trees to be felled) should be undertaken in the summer months (July and August) avoiding periods of drought. No tree pruning work is advisable during the period immediately before or after leaf break (February to June) when the trees' energy reserves are most depleted.

Chippings arising from the work should not be piled around the bases of trees on or off the site. Wood, brash and any other arisings from the tree work should not be burnt on site.

You are advised to use a properly qualified and experienced company who carry Public and Products Liability Insurance with a minimum of £2,000,000 cover and the relevant Employers Liability Insurance. A List of approved contractors is available from the Arboricultural Association – www.trees.org.uk.

4 SCOPE & LIMITATIONS

4.1 Scope

All Trees have been looked at in detail using the 'Diagnosis of Ill Health in trees' and Inspecting Trees for Signs of Decay' methodologies described by R.G. Strouts and T.G. Winter¹.

My visual assessment is a non-invasive method of examining the health and structural condition of an individual tree. Non-invasive inspection equipment (plastic-headed mallet and metal probe) were used to make an assessment of the structural integrity at the base and trunk of each tree where the visual inspection identified the need. The lower stems of trees were tapped with a plastic-headed mallet to check for indications of internal decay. The differing sound intonation can often reveal some types of decay or hollow trunks. Any cavities in the base of the stem were probed with a steel rod to record depth and condition of residual wood.

The report is to identify visible defects trees and to specify any necessary remedial tree works which may be required to address identified hazards from the trees whilst acknowledging and respecting their local significance to the amenity of the residential development biodiversity of the wider landscape. Specifications for works are based on an assumed reinspection within two years.

This report is a baseline survey and reflects the condition of tree(s) and an assessment of the site on the days the evaluation was undertaken. The trees were assessed from ground level only and were not climbed.

T004 (Oak) has been assessed with regards to the impact of branches where they overhang the garden of 336 Finchampstead Road. The responsibility for the condition and safety of tree rests with the tree owner.

4.2 Caveats

The report is for the sole use of the client and its reproduction or use by anyone else is forbidden unless written consent is given by the author.

The survey looks for defects which may make the failure of all or part of the tree foreseeable. The report then makes recommendations for remedial works which would reduce the probability of failure where the hazard presented poses an unacceptable risk to persons or property. Healthy trees or parts of healthy trees may fail in normal weather situations, although the risk increases with storm conditions and, as the consequences of such weather events are unforeseeable, Sarah Duckworth (trading as Duckworth's Arboriculture Limited) cannot be held liable for any such failures.

Trees are dynamic living organisms subject to change, whose health and condition can be subject to significant change influenced by internal and external factors. The assessment,

¹ R.G Strouts & T.G. Winter, 'Diagnosis of Ill Health in Trees' Published for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, under license from the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright 1994.

conclusions and recommendations from the report are based on the condition of the trees and surrounding ground conditions at the time of my visit. If the condition of the trees evidently changes or where tree(s) are subject to development or ground works within their rooting areas or extreme weather conditions, further inspection may be required.

This report is valid for two years from the survey date. A follow-on inspection of trees is due before 11th November 2026.

Trees can never be guaranteed 100% safe. Regular inspections by competent and / or suitably qualified arboriculturists will help identify potential problems before they become acute.

5 TREE SURVEY DATA

Ref:	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations	Photo
T001	Pedunculate oak (Quercus robur)	Height (m): 16 Crown Radius (m): 6N, 6.5E, 5.5S, 5.5W DBH (cm): 66 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years	Behind low raised sleeper retaining wall. Broad base with pronounced buttress roots on northeast side. Historic wounds on aforementioned buttress roots fully occluded. Historic wounding at base on south side. Very small cavity 30mm diameter at ground level. Larger wound 300mm high and 150mm wide 150mm above ground level. Desiccated heartwood exposed. Build-up of frass and organic matter. Good wound wood formation. Slight bulging around wound area from adaptive growth. Hammer test even and satisfactory. No audible decay. Metal probe cannot be inserted far into either wound site. Elsewhere base clear, bark intact. No significant defects. Epicormic shoots on trunk from 0.5m. branching from 5m. 3m canopy clearance over garden. Single stem swept slightly to north. Canopy slightly sparse, lacking vitality. Major dead branches on northern half of crown including dead branches over highway. Asymmetrical crown. Upper canopy sparse and stunted. Wildlife Value: Good	Fair	Remove deadwood. Tip reduce low branches to create 5.5m canopy clearance over road. Timescale: 11-Feb-2025 (3 Months)	

Ref:	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations	Photo
T002	Pedunculate oak (Quercus robur)	Height (m): 17 Crown Radius (m): 6.5N, 7E, 7S, 6W DBH (cm): 70 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Two large buttress roots of northeast and East side at base, elsewhere around trunk 6 smaller buttress roots evenly distributed. Base clear, bark intact. No fungal fruiting bodies evident. Small area of potential decay on east side between buttress roots but very small and not considered significant. Hammer test elsewhere even and satisfactory, no audible decay. Historic scars from where ivy has previously been removed. Single vertical stem to approximately 7.5m where trunk forks. Epicormic growth on trunk from 2m. Historic pruning cuts on trunk from previous branch removal around 100mm diameter. Good wound wood formation. Broad crown slightly overhanging property. Small to medium sized deadwood including a dead branch 1.5m long and around 80mm diameter over patio. Foliage dense. Good vitality. Wildlife Value: Good	Good	Remove deadwood. Cut back branch tips on east side of crown by 1-1.5m to reduce overhang of property. Cut back tips of small branch under streetlight by 1m to remove future obstruction. Tip reduce low branches to create 5.5m canopy clearance over road and 3.5m over pavement. Crown lift to create 3m canopy clearance over garden. Timescale: 11-Feb-2025 (3 Months)	

Ref:	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations	Photo
T003	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Height (m): 15 Crown Radius (m): 3.5N, 5E, 6S, 3.5W DBH (cm): 64 Life Stage: Over Mature Life Exp.: <10 years	Swept lower trunk. Historic sound on south side in a crack 0.6m long. Frass from wood decay. Fungal fruiting bodies evident of <i>Kretzschmaria deusta</i> around wound site. Prolific fruiting bodies on larger tension buttress roots in east side of trunk. Metal probe can be pushed into trunk up to 120mm. 1.8m from side of house. Dead ivy stems and fairy lights on trunk. Longer branches over roof. Upper crown mostly dead and decaying. Lower canopy foliage slightly sparse. Fungus: <i>Kretzschmaria deusta</i> (Brittle Cinder) Wildlife Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Fence	Potentially hazardous	Fell to ground level. Timescale: 11-Dec-2024 (1 Month)	 
T004	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 8N, 8.5E, 7S, 10W DBH (cm): 90 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Off-site tree. Responsibility for tree condition rests with tree owner / highways authority. Single stem to 5m. Forks and branch unions appear well formed and satisfactory. Individual branches on North side lack vitality. Small to medium sized dead branches over the garden of 336 Finchampstead Road. Wildlife Value: High	Good	No action required.	

6 TREE WORKS IN PRIORITY ORDER

Ref:	Species	what3words (Location Identifier)	Recommendations	Work Timescale
T003	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	///fast.bound.fame	Fell to ground level.	11-Dec-2024 (1 Month)
T001	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	///soap.then.engine	Remove deadwood. Tip reduce low branches to create 5.5m canopy clearance over road.	11-Feb-2025 (3 Months)
T002	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	///assist.lance.alert	Remove deadwood. Cut back branch tips on east side of crown by 1-1.5m to reduce overhang of property. Cut back tips of small branch under street light by 1m to remove future obstruction. Tip reduce low branches to create 5.5m canopy clearance over road and 3.5m over pavement. Crown lift to create 3m canopy clearance over garden.	11-Feb-2025 (3 Months)

7 SITE PLAN

