



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

10 PALMER CLOSE
CROWTHORNE
BERKSHIRE
RG40 3EB

CLIENT: JAKE BALDWIN (9 QUEENS RIDE)

SEPTEMBER 2024
Ref: 06498 / 2024

REPORT BY: SARAH DUCKWORTH

DipArb(RFS), TechCert(ArborA), M. Arbor.A, BA (Hons)
LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector

E: sarahcduckworth@hotmail.com
T: 01672 519 811 M: 07810 440546



Prepared by: Sarah Duckworth
Position: Arboricultural Consultant
Qualifications: DipArb(RFS),TechCert(ArborA),M. Arbor.A, BA (Hons),
LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTION

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Jake Baldwin, owner / occupier of 9 Queens Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6LG. I have been asked to provide a report on the condition of one Oak Tree (T1) growing to the rear of his property and within the garden of 10 Palmer Close, Crowthorne.

The tree has been looked at in detail using the 'Diagnosis of Ill Health in trees' and Inspecting Trees for Signs of Decay' methodologies outlined by R.G. Strouts and T.G. Winter¹. This visual assessment is a non-invasive method of examining the health and structural condition of an individual trees.

Non-invasive inspection equipment (mallet and metal probe) were used to make an assessment of the structural integrity at the base and trunk of the 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 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 and biodiversity of the wider landscape.

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

1.2 INSPECTION INFORMATION

The tree was inspected on Friday 16th August 2024 from the gardens of 10 Palmer Close and 9 Queens Ride only.

On the day of the survey the weather was bright and sunny. Visibility was good.

For the purposes of this survey all dimensions of the tree and its associated parts are measured using a laser measure or clinometer where possible. Where access is restricted measurements have been visually estimated unless otherwise stated.

This report is a baseline survey and reflects the condition of the tree on the day of the survey.

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

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

For your peace of mind, Duckworths Arboriculture Limited is insured with Hiscox Insurance:

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

1.5 STATUTORY TREE PROTECTION

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

I have confirmed on the Wokingham Borough Council website that T1 (Oak) is protected as T33 of Tree Preservation Order ref. TPO-0927-1998.

No work should be undertaken to protected trees without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority – exemptions apply.

CONSERVATION AREAS

10 Palmer Close is not within a Conservation Area.

1.6 TREE WORK GOOD PRACTICE

Where possible, recommended tree works should be undertaken in accordance with BS:3998 2010 'Tree Work Recommendations'.

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.

When undertaking tree work, you are advised to use a properly qualified and experienced company will be employed 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.

1.7 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 and 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. Tree work where birds are nesting is highly likely to damage nests or cause them to be deserted.

1.8 CAVEATS

The survey looks for defects which may make the failure of all or part of the tree foreseeable. Where defects are noted, this report 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.

The report is valid for normal weather conditions only. If the condition of the trees evidently changes or the tree is subject to extreme weather conditions before this date; further inspection may be required.

The assessment, conclusions and recommendations from the report are based on the condition of the tree and surrounding ground conditions at the time of my most recent visit and are valid for 24 months from the date of survey (16th August 2024). Further assessment is required by 16th August 2026.

Any alterations to the subject site or any development could change the current circumstances and may invalidate the report, and any recommendations made.

Regular inspections by competent and / or suitably qualified arboriculturists will help identify potential problems before they become acute.

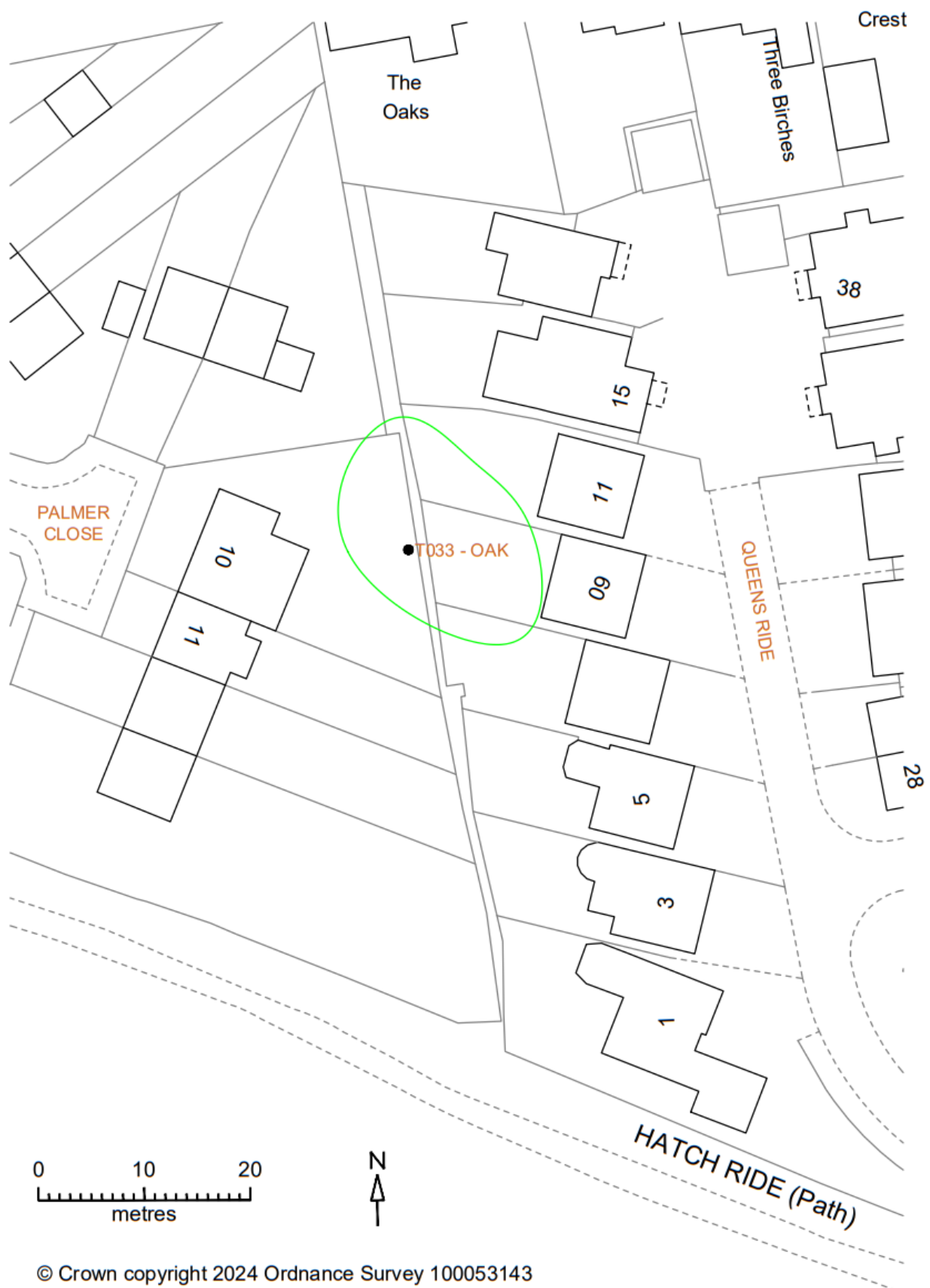


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2. ARBORICULTURAL INSPECTION DATA

Tree Ownership				Site Address					
Jake Baldwin, 9 Queens Ride, Crowthorne				10 Palmer Close, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG40 3EB					
Tree Number		T33		Tree Species	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)			Age	Mature
Diameter:	860mm @1.5m	Height:	18m	Canopy spread	N: 12m	E: 11m	SW: 12.5	W: 4	
SITUATION: A mature Oak growing within the garden of 10 Portland Close, 10.5m from rear elevation of 9 Queens Ride. The tree is growing as part of a larger, linear group of Oaks to the rear of properties in Queens Ride. Trees in the group are mature specimens which predate the surrounding residential development and collectively, they make a significant contribution to the amenity of the local area. The rooting area of T033 (Oak)has been partially covered with astroturf within the garden of 9 Queens Ride. BASE: Cavity on east side of tree base (See photo 3), 300mm above ground level. The wound is 250mm deep horizontally and 200mm deep vertically downwards towards the base. The cavity opening is now approximately 100mm diameter and there are strong ribs approximately 100mm wide around the wound site. STEM & UNIONS: Trunk above 2m sweeps south. Epicormic shoots on lower trunk. Trunk forks at 5m. Substantial pruning cuts on south side of fork – 350mm diameter. Eastern trunk is dominant and supports the larger volume of canopy which is asymmetrical over the garden of number 9 Queens Ride. Western stem suppressed and foliage on western stem formed of mature epic shoots. On the main eastern trunk over the garden of number 9 Queens Ride there is a large, elongated side branch from approximately 7.5m which grows southwest towards 9 and 7 Queens Ride. Changes in bark ridge width on the underside of this branch suggest rapid wood growth on the underside of the branch which occurs in response to decay or an internal fracture of wood fibers (See photo 5). Rather than gradually tapering in diameter, this branch widens in the first 2m over an area where three secondary branches have been removed. Two of the three cuts are fully occluded. Widening of the branch suggests decay or dysfunctional wood in this area (See photo 5). The tips of the large limb extend out beyond the surrounding canopy. There is excessive weight and wind loading on this branch which is a concern due to symptoms of decay present lower down the stem. CANOPY: Broad, asymmetrical canopy. Foliage is dense and even indicates good physiological health and vitality. No major deadwood in crown. Above the leaning trunk, the upper canopy resumes vertical growth. Approximately 4.8m canopy clearance above ground level over the garden of 9 Queens Ride.									
Recommended Tree Works: 1) Remove secondary branch approximately 4m long (as circled in Photo 6) and reduce tips of surrounding secondary branch tips 2-3m (as per Photo 6). Reason: To reduce weight & exposure of elongated branch due to defect present lower down this stem. 3) Northwest quadrant – selectively reduce outer branch tips 1-1.5m back to suitable reduction points to reduce overbearing nature of canopy in relation to 9 Queens Ride and to create a small area of useable garden which is not directly under the tree's canopy. 3) Crown lift to create 4m canopy clearance above ground level removing small shoots over garden of 10 Palmer Close back to the trunk. The proposed works are minor pruning works to address concerns regarding the form of a large branch over the garden of Queens Ride and to create reasonable clearance to the property. The asymmetrical canopy covers the entire garden of 9 Queens Ride which is oppressive. The proposed minor pruning works will go some way to improving this relationship. Cuts will be graded into the surrounding canopy to leave a sympathetic, natural looking canopy shape. Cuts will not exceed 80mm diameter. The health and amenity of the tree will not be impaired in any way.					Priority	Within 3 months			
					Next inspection due	24 Months			
					Date	16 th August 2024			

3. SITE PLAN



4. SITE PHOTOS



Photo 1 – Tree as viewed from garden of 9 Queens Ride



Photo 2 – Tree base as viewed from garden of 10 Palmer Close



Photo 3 – Small cavity at base of tree with good ribs of adaptive growth



Photo 4 – Large, low lateral branch grows horizontally over garden of 9 Queens Ride – branch tips assuming apical growth beyond the surrounding canopy line.

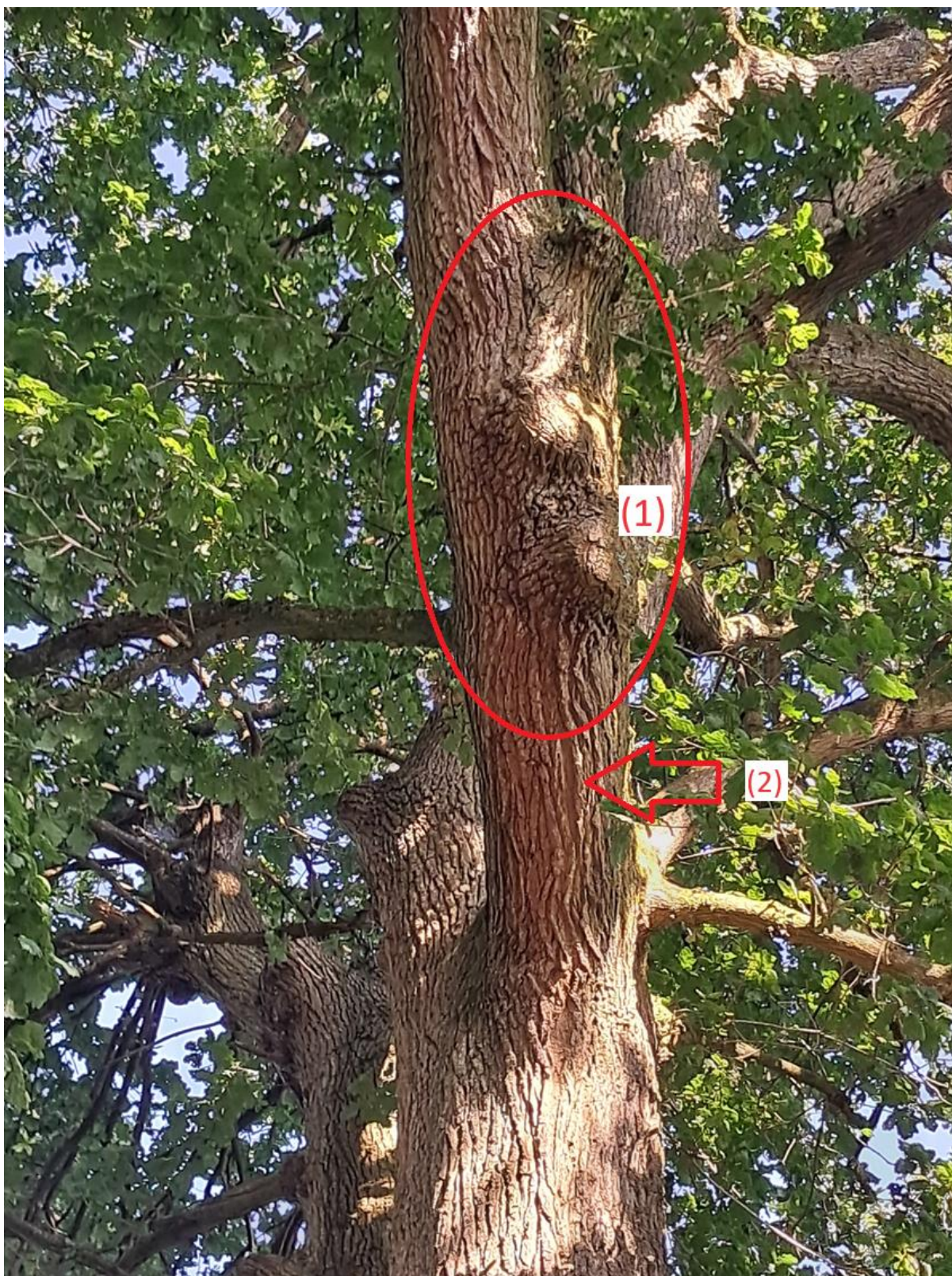


Photo 5 – Reverse tapering of large extended, horizontal branch – note included pruning cuts (1) and changes in ridges in bark on underside of limb (2) indicating rapid growth of limb and possible indication of decay.

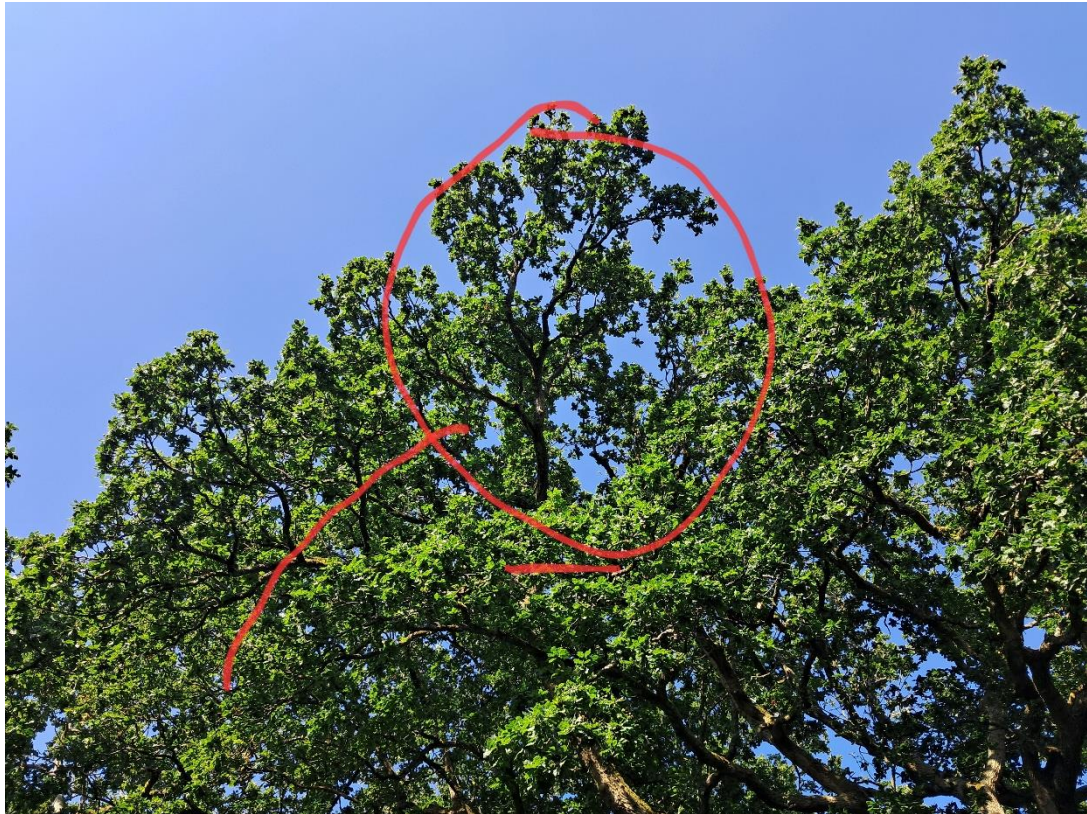


Photo 6 – Tips of large extended, horizontal branch now assuming apical dominance. Indicative lines of pruning cuts and secondary branch removal to reduce weight and exposure of the branch and associated risk of breakage.



Photo 7 – Google aerial photo shows the entire rear garden of 9 Queens Ride under the canopy of T033 (Oak).