



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

15 SANDFORD DRIVE
WOODLEY
BERKSHIRE
RG5 4RR

CLIENT: FRASER GOODEY

MAY 2025

Ref: 06710 / 2025

REPORT BY: SARAH DUCKWORTH

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

E: sarahcduckworth@hotmail.com

M: 07810 440546



Prepared by: Sarah Duckworth

Position: Arboricultural Consultant

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

File ref: 06710/2025

Date Issued: 18th May 2025

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	4
1.1	INSTRUCTION.....	4
1.2	INSPECTION INFORMATION.....	4
1.3	QUALIFICATIONS	4
1.4	INSURANCE.....	4
2.	STATUTORY TREE PROTECTION	5
2.1	TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS.....	5
2.2	CONSERVATION AREAS	5
3.	GENERAL GUIDANCE.....	6
3.1	TREE WORK GOOD PRACTICE.....	6
3.2	PROTECTED SPECIES	6
3.3	SOIL AMELIORATION	7
4.	LIMITATIONS.....	8
4.1	SCOPE	8
4.2	CAVEATS	8
5.	GALLERY.....	12
6.	SITE PLAN.....	15

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTION

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Fraser Goodey, owner / occupier of 15 Sandford Drive, Woodley, Berkshire, RG5 4RR. I have been asked to provide a report on the condition of one Oak Tree (T1) growing within the rear garden of 15 Sandford Drive, Woodley, Berkshire, RG5 4RR.

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

1.2 INSPECTION INFORMATION

The tree was inspected on Thursday 8th May 2025.

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.

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

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

2. STATUTORY TREE PROTECTION

2.1 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

I have confirmed on the Wokingham Borough Council website that at the time of this report, T1 (Oak) is protected by Area Tree Preservation Order (ref TPO-0143-1977).

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



Figure 1 – Wokingham Borough Council TPO Map

2.2 CONSERVATION AREAS

15 Sanford Drive is not within a Conservation Area.

3. GENERAL GUIDANCE

3.1 TREE WORK GOOD PRACTICE

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

To limit the harm to deciduous trees, 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.

When undertaking tree work, 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.

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

3.3 SOIL AMELIORATION

There is substantial evidence for the benefit of mulches to trees and particularly older trees to increase their root development and improve tree health and physiological condition. To do this, the soil around the base of the tree should be lightly tined / broken up with a garden fork to improve aeration and reduce compaction.

Once the area is cleared and tined, a suitable tree and shrub fertilizer should be applied according to the manufacturer's instructions. I would recommend a slow-release granular fertilizer such as 'Arbor Gold' or similar if available, but if you can't source this then any bonemeal, blood fish and bone or chicken manure will still benefit the tree.

Following the fertilizer application, the tree should be watered then mulched with 60-100mm of well-rotted bark chip or fully composted organic material or ericaceous compost raked over the area taking care not to obscure the newly exposed root flare.

The mulch improves Mycorrhizal growth (beneficial root fungi), stabilises soil temperature and moisture levels, reduces compaction and improves soil nutrient levels and porosity for the benefit of healthy tree root growth.

4. LIMITATIONS

4.1 SCOPE

T1 (Oak) has 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 a 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 the tree where the visual inspection identified the need. The lower trunk of the tree was tapped with a plastic-headed mallet to check for acoustic indication of internal decay. The differing sound intonation can often reveal some types of decay or hollow trunks.

The report is to identify visible defects on the tree and to specify any necessary remedial tree works which may be required to address identified hazards from the tree whilst acknowledging and respecting its significance to the local area as a Veteran status tree.

The report refers to the condition of tree(s) and an assessment of the site on the days the evaluation was undertaken. The tree was assessed from ground level only and was not climbed.

4.2 CAVEATS

The extent of the survey was limited to a visual inspection of 1x Oak tree as viewed from ground level only.

This report is not a structural report, and it does not consider the structural integrity of the property and its use as such is invalid.

It is the client's responsibility to ensure that this report covers all areas under the brief of the tree inspection and refer any concerns regarding this matter back to the Arboricultural Consultant.

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. The report is valid for normal weather conditions only. 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

¹R.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.

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, conclusions and recommendations from the report are based on the condition of the tree and surrounding ground conditions at the time of my visit. If the condition of the tree 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. Further inspection is recommended prior to 8th May 2027.

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.



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE

5. ARBORICULTURAL INSPECTION DATA

Tree Ownership			Site Address					
Fraser Goodey			15 Sandford Drive, Woodley, Berkshire, RG5 4RR					
Tree Number		T1		Tree Species			Age	Mature
				Oak (<i>Quercus Robur</i>)				
Diameter:	380 / 400mm @1.5m	Height:	16m	Canopy spread	N: 5.5m	E: 6m	S: 5.8m	W: 2.5m

SITUATION: A mature Oak tree growing 2.2m off the rear (northern) boundary of 15 Sandford Drive and 1.4m off the eastern boundary shared with 17 Sandford Drive.

Possible soil changes within rooting area with a shallow area of soil recently removed north of trunk. There are occasional thin, fibrous roots visible on the surface of the soil. Horticultural fleece / membrane visible under soil on east and west side of trunk.

BASE: T1 consists of two trunks and is likely to be two trees growing from a single growth point. Superficial bark damage to buttress roots. Part of a paving slab is stuck between the two stems and impacting on the shape and growth of the lower trunks.

STEM 1 – (Northern stem)

Historic linear vertical wound 300mm long on west side of the trunk 1.3m above ground level. Large area of necrotic bark on the south side on trunk above included bark between the two forks. Area of necrotic bark extends from 0.3m to 1.2m above ground level. Damaged areas is approximately 300mm wide. Some new wound wood formation around the site – more noticeable on the east side but not vigorous and wound does not appear to be well compartmentalised.

Additional area of necrotic bark on the east side of the trunk, 80mm wide x 300mm high. In addition, bark on the south east side of the trunk 1m above ground level is lifting & there is audible hollowing beneath the bark indicating dead or dysfunctional areas of the vascular cambium.

There are several visible rhizomorphs within the bark wounds on the east side of the trunk. Rhizomorphs are tough, leathery strands formed by fungal hyphae of Honey Fungus (*Armillaria*). Honey fungus spreads from living trees, dead and live roots and stumps by means of rhizomorphs. There are several species of Honey fungus some of which are pathogenic (colonise live plants), however those with larger rhizomorphs tend to be only weakly pathogenic, living on deadwood and / or declining trees. It is likely therefore that the *Armillaria* affecting the northern stem of T1 is a secondary pathogen of a tree which is already in decline rather than being the primary cause of the decline.

Deadwood in canopy. Canopy approximately 50% defoliated. Live foliage clustered and uneven.

STEM 2 - Southern Stem

Base clear, bark intact, concrete slab pushed into trunk. Sound intonation around base even and satisfactory. No fungal fruiting bodies evident or audible decay. Area of fibre buckling 2m above ground level on south to west quadrant of trunk. Swept stem northeast.

Suppressed asymmetrical canopy due to proximity of crown of northern stem. Some deadwood in crown over neighbouring garden. Emerging epicormic shoots on trunk. Foliage density normal. Moderate vitality.

DISCUSSION: T1 is formed of two mature Oak from a single growth point. The northern trunk has historic wounding to the trunk with honey fungus present. The canopy above the defects is in an advanced state of decline. My recommendation is that the northern stem be removed. Following this work, a reduction of the crown of the southern stem (2) will be required to reduce the asymmetry of the crown and exposure following the removal of stem 1.

Recommended Tree Works: - Fell Stem 1 leaving a 2-3m high stump for habitat value and to maintain the stability of Stem 2 - Stem 2 - Reduce canopy height and lateral spread on the north and east side of crown by 1-1.5m to reduce exposure and asymmetry following the removal of Stem 1. Cuts should be graded into the surrounding canopy to leave a sympathetic and natural-looking canopy shape. - Mulch rooting area to cover exposed fibrous roots & prevent desiccation.	Priority	Within 6 months
	Re-inspection due	24 Months
	Date	8 th May 2025

5. GALLERY

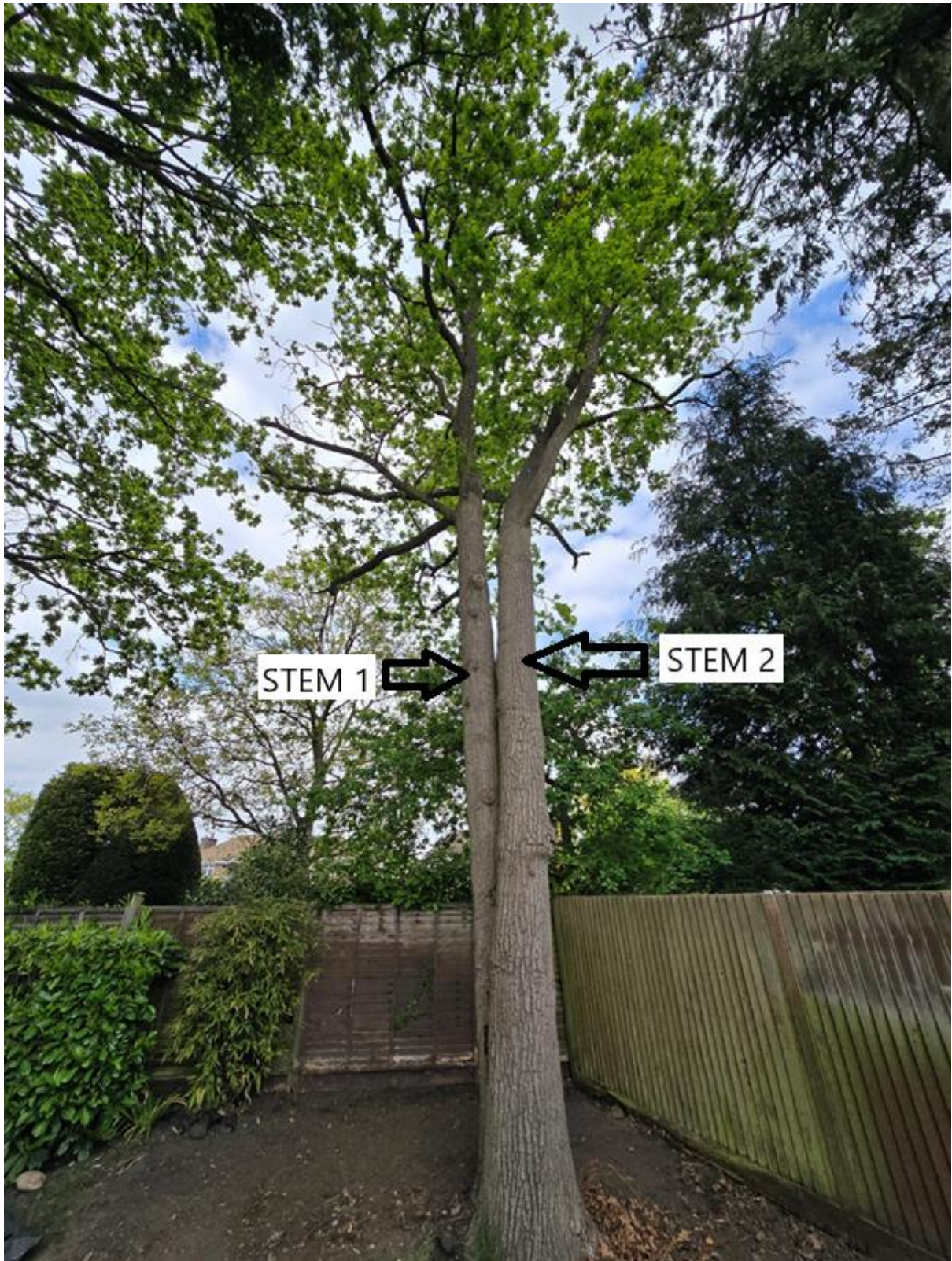


Photo 1 – T1 formed of 2x Oak (*Quercus robur*)



Photo 2 – Deadwood and declining crown of T1 (Oak) – Northern stem



Photo 3 – Rhizomorphs removed from wound on east side of Stem 1



Photo 4 – Historic wounding on trunk of Stem 1 (Northernmost trunk)



Photo 5 – Historic wounding east side of trunk with rhizomorphs

6. SITE PLAN

