



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

19 SALMON CLOSE
SPENCERS WOOD
BERKSHIRE
RG7 1EG

CLIENT: RAJIV KAURA

FEBRUARY 2025
Ref: 06649 / 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTION

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Rajiv Kaura, owner / occupier of 19 Salmon Close, Spencers Wood, Berkshire, RG7 1EG.

I have been asked to provide a report on the condition of one Ash Tree (T1) growing within the front garden on the boundary of 19 and 26 Salmon Close.

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 Wednesday 12th February 2025.

On the day of the survey, the weather was clear. Visibility was satisfactory.

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, the Ash tree is protected as T1 of Tree Preservation Order (ref TPO-0131-1977).

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 Tree Preservation Order Map

2.2 CONSERVATION AREAS

The Ash tree is not growing 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.

4. CAVEATS & LIMITATIONS

3.3 SCOPE

T1 (Ash) 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.

3.4 CAVEATS

The extent of the survey was limited to a visual inspection of 1x Ash 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 unforeseeable, Sarah Duckworth (trading as Duckworth's Arboriculture Limited) cannot be held liable for any such failures.

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.

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 12th February 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.



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5. ARBORICULTURAL INSPECTION DATA

Tree Ownership				Site Address					
Rajiv Kaura				19 Salmon Close, Spencers Wood, Berkshire, RG7 1EG					
Tree Number		T1		Tree Species	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)			Age	Mature
Diameter:	530, 340, 330mm @1.5m		Height:	14m	Canopy spread	6.2m	5.3m	5.5m	W: 5.7m
SITUATION: Mature tree growing in the front garden of 19 Salmon Close on the shared boundary with 26 Salmon Close. The tree is situated 2.8m from the pavement and 5.3m from the public highway. There is a manhole cover for services 1.8m from base. The tree is 5.2m from the front elevation of 19 Salmon Close. Driveway to the front is being replaced. No extension proposed to the driveway area. The previous and replacement surface curves around the large surface roots directly around the lower trunk of the Ash. BASE: Very pronounced root flare with pronounced buttressing and large, exposed surface roots (see photo 1). Girdling root south side. Base clear, bark intact, no fungal fruiting bodies evident. Sound intonation around lower trunks even and satisfactory. No fungal fruiting bodies visible or audible decay. Small cavities in old stumps of cut epicormic shoots at base (see photo 2). Light ivy growth does not impair visual assessment of tree. STEM & UNIONS: Two stems from ground level and growing apart. No area of included bark. Southernmost stem closest to dwelling forks at 2m. The two smaller stems fused together with connecting side branch. Epicormic shoots present on a low side stem on the west side of the tree, 250mm diameter. The epicormic shoots are indicative of early Ash Dieback Disease. All stems topped around 7.5m. Mature growth from original reduction points are 100mm diameter. Decay pockets visible at historic topping points. Secondary growth cut at 9.5m. 2.5m new growth from previous reduction points. Established pollard knuckles in this area. Dense new growth around 60mm diameter and slightly “tortuosa” (kinked) in form. CANOPY: Buds dense and healthy throughout crown. Outer branch tips over road and number 26 touching phone lines. Reasonable crown clearance to property. Low branches to 2m over grass verge 3.5-4m over driveway. Starlings in crown and nesting starlings in cavities should be considered as likely. DISCUSSION: The British Standard 3998 (Tree Work Recommendations) advises that: <i>Once initiated, a pollard should be maintained by cutting the new branches on a cyclical basis. The frequency of the cycle should be decided according to site management objectives, species, age, condition and/or any product that might be required. Branches that grow after pollarding should normally be cut at their bases in order to encourage the formation of a knuckle after a number of cycles.</i> T1 (Ash) has been managed as a pollard on a cyclical basis with the last reduction undertake in 2017. Shoots from previous pruning cuts are now approximately 2-4m long and under 60mm diameter. Works are therefore recommended to continue to manage the tree within its established pollarded cycle in accordance with industry guidelines and arboricultural good practice. Maintaining the size of new growth will also reduce the risk of branches falling due to the decay present at the previous reduction points. Cuts should be made 1-1.5m beyond the previous pruning points to ensure pruning cuts are kept small and to minimise the impact or the reduction works on tree health. The tree is in good health and is expected to respond well to the pruning operation.									
Recommended Tree Works: • Crown lift 4m shoots off trunks • Reduce shoots on lower trunk 1-2m to clear phonelines • Reduce regrowth on previous reduction points by between 2-4m to 1-1.5m above previous cuts. Retain smaller live shoots to support canopy regeneration.						Priority		Within 6 months	
						Re-inspection due		24 Months	
						Date		13 th February 2025	

6. GALLERY



Photo 1 – Exposed surface roots at base



Photo 2 – Stumps where epicormic growth removed at base



Photo 3 – Established pollard knuckles in canopy



Photo 4 – Decay pockets in original reduction points



Photo 5 – Previous reduction points



Photo 6 – Indicative line of proposed canopy reduction and canopy lift. Smaller shoots will be retained to support tree recovery.

7. SITE PLAN

