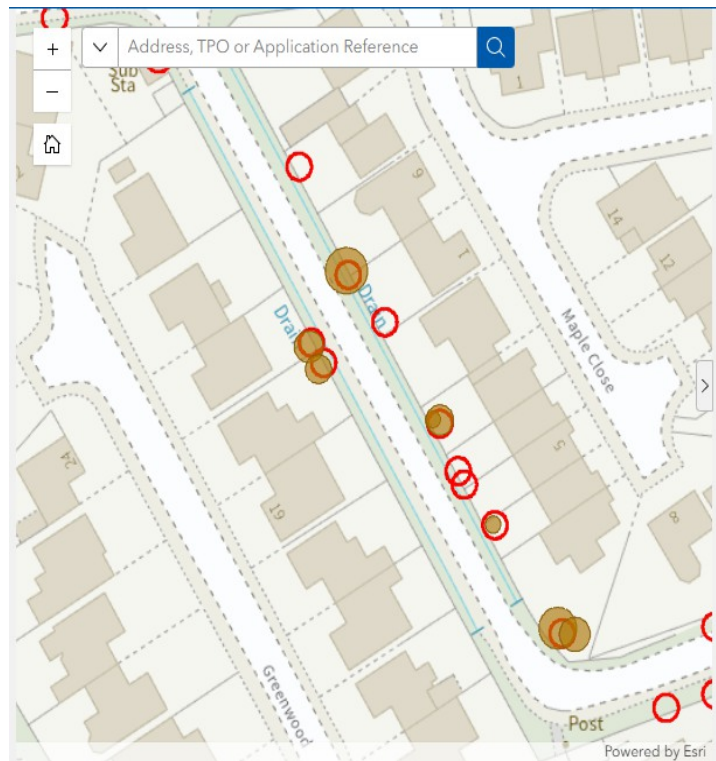


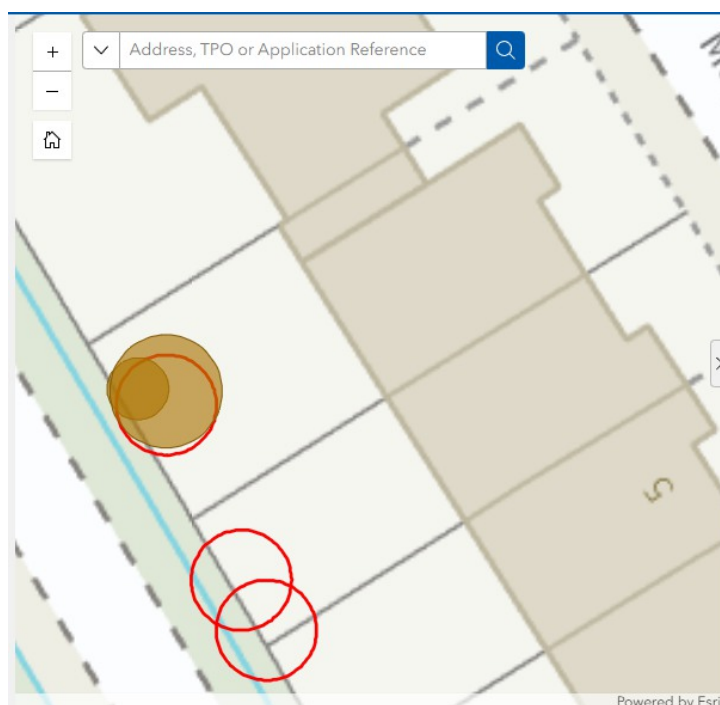
Attachment to Intended Works to a Protected Tree (3, Maple Close, Winnersh RG41 5PE)

4. Specific location of tree

- RG41 5PE Location (No 3)



- Close up of No 3, Maple Close



8. Reasons works are required:

The tree is in visible decline as has been confirmed by several tree surgeons and a local pest controller. This is evidenced in the photos attached.

The tree was pollarded to 7m under Planning Application ID 182871 in February 2019 due to safety concerns caused by a large cavity in the trunk. This hole has since become hollowed out and is in advanced decay, renewing concerns of collapse of the heavy remaining trunk above it.

In addition the tree shows various signs of stress including bacterial wetwood, slime flux and fungus growth at the base. There is also progressive loss of bark at the top where it was cut and several other holes are growing on both trunks.

Also there is delayed and discoloured (mildewed) leaf growth and shedding of dead branches. The tree retained its leaves for several weeks after all of the other oaks in the neighbourhood. There were more acorns than we have ever experienced even accepting that 2025 was a mast year. This makes the tree difficult to manage due to its boundary location in a small garden.

Since October 2025 we have had significant issues with norway rats burrowing under the tree. We have never had vermin issues in the past 30 years. A local pest controller was recently employed who treated a rat nest under the tree. He indicated that they chew on the decaying tree roots and would likely return to the tree if it remains as it is. These rats have additionally caused damage to our shed and garden since October and have recently been digging close to the house. Neighbours are also likely to be affected. A large root obstructs our boundary fence which needs to be cut around it, inevitably allowing rats to burrow into the tree.

We have been told that if the tree is left for too long it will be expensive to work on for safety reasons. Consequently, we would like to reduce the tree in size to the tree fork to help manage the future decline so that roots die back without endangering adjacent property. The fork area is known to be a structural weakness in an aging and decaying tree. We would also like the large root crossing the road boundary to be cut back without endangering the road or property, allowing a continuous fence to be erected. This fence along with less acorns and leaf litter will make it easier to keep rodents out of the garden.

TPO 92311998 on the tree was originally made '*in support of the Council's decision to refuse planning permission for a residential development at land adjacent to Winnersh Primary School (planning application no. 97/66894)*'. This development eventually proceeded in spite of this although the TPO remained which has caused us considerable inconvenience and expense over the last 28 years.