



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

12 WALLACE CLOSE
WOODLEY
BERKSHIRE
RG5 3HW

CLIENT: Y. LAM

OCTOBER 2026

Ref: 07153 / 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTION

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Yaupang Lam, owner / occupier of 12 Wallace Close, Woodley, Berkshire, RG5 3HW. I have been asked to provide a report on the condition of one Beech Tree (T1) growing within front garden of the property.

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

1.2 INSPECTION INFORMATION

The tree was inspected on Wednesday 30th September 2026.

On the day of the survey, the weather was dry 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 (Beech) is protected by Woodland Tree Preservation Order (ref TPO-0003-1951).

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

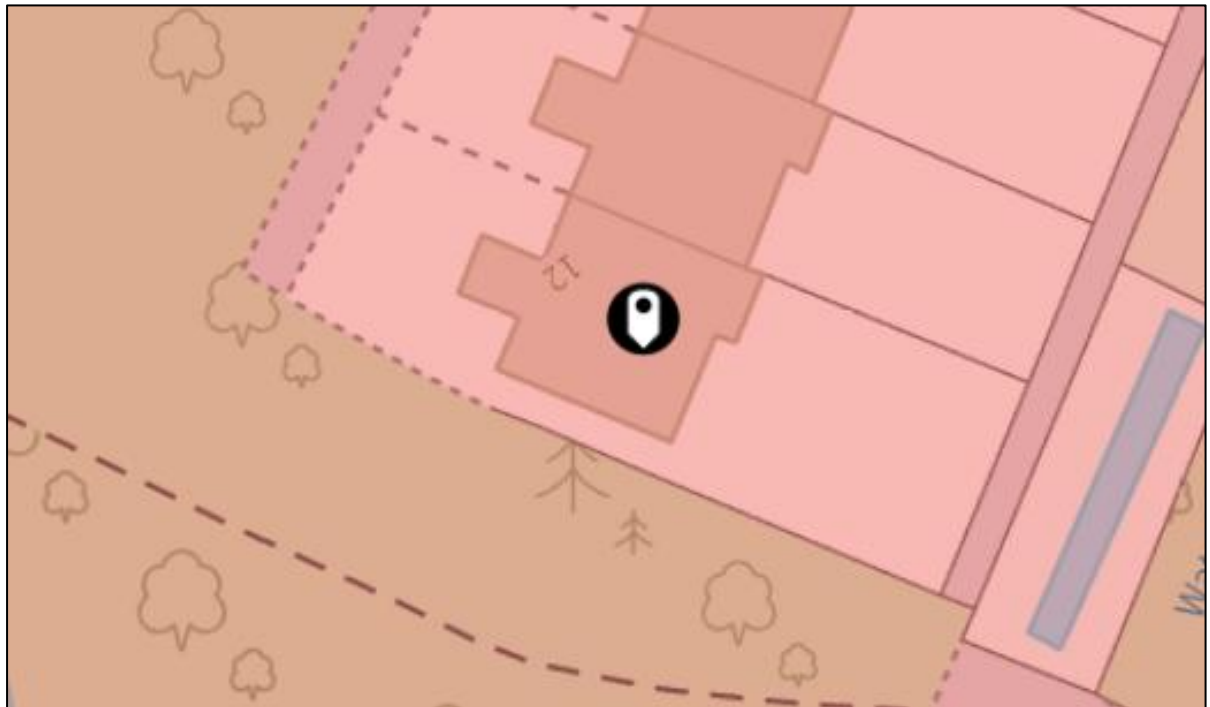


Figure 1 – Wokingham Borough Council TPO Map

2.2 CONSERVATION AREAS

12 Wallace Close 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 during their dormant season, which is generally between late autumn and late winter (November through March). Pruning during this window helps prevent the spread of diseases, and minimises stress on the tree. The next best time is during 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, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), and the Countryside and 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 August. 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.

3.3 FUNGAL DECAY

Beech trees can be colonised by decay-causing fungal pathogens which degrade wood above ground or around the roots or base of the tree.

No fungi were observed at the time of this survey, however as some fungi fruit only annually, their presence may not always be apparent in a seasonal tree survey. Tree owners are therefore advised to monitor the ground where trees may be rooting.

Any fungal growths around any tree should be photographed and forwarded to a professional arborist for identification. The fungus growth should be left in situ to mature (for identification purposes).



Figure 2 - Sample photos of fungal fruiting bodies found on Beech in the UK. Brittle Cinder (*Kretzschmaria deusta*) (left) and Giant Polypore (*Meripilus giganteus*) (right)

4. LIMITATIONS

4.1 SCOPE

T1 (Beech) 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.

A 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.

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 Beech 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 / Duckworths 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.

Carrying out tree surveys at different times of the year helps to provide a more complete assessment of tree health and condition. Some issues are more readily identified when trees are in leaf, while other defects can be

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.

more readily observed when trees are dormant and the branches are bare. For this reason, follow-on tree surveys are recommended at approximately 26-month intervals, rather than annually, so that successive inspections take place at a different time of year and seasonal changes in tree condition can be identified. This report is therefore valid for 26 months and recommendations for tree work within this report are based on a presumed re-inspection prior to 30th November 2028.

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					
Yaupang Lam			12 Wallace Close, Woodley, Berkshire, RG5 3HW					
Tree Number		T1	Tree Species	Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)			Age	Mature
Diameter:	740mm @1.5m	Height:	17m	Canopy spread	N: 8.5m	E: 8.5m	S: 6m	W: 8m

SITUATION: Mature tree growing 4.1m from nearest front elevation of 12/12A Wallace Close.

Large area of block paving within rooting area – not used for parking as there is no vehicle access. 200 mm+ clearance around base from block paving to allow for future growth. Block paving slightly undulating but no major surface damage yet caused by tree root growth.

Leaf litter built up off site within rooting area where it extends into the adjacent woodland. Underground services / manhole cover south/east side 1.4m from tree. Pedestrian footpath under canopy.

BASE: No major defects. Base clear, bark intact, one small superficial bark wound on slender buttress on northwest side of base. Enlarged prominent buttress on north-northwest side.

STEM & UNIONS: Beech bark aphids on trunk – not significant. Small wound east side 1.2m above ground level 50x25mm. Good wound wood formation. Trunk bifurcates 2m above ground level. Fork open - small area of included bark in fork – not significant.

Northwest trunk has several cavities associated with previous pruning cuts:

- 1) On northeast side of stem. Small cavity – where reachable can be probed up to 100mm deep - sides firm. Good wound wood formation.
- 2) On southwest side 0.3m above fork, inaccessible. Good wound wood formation. Small cavity may be present in protruding branch stump
- 3) 3.5m above fork. Open cavity - some damage to wound wood - depth unknown

CANOPY: Broad crown. Foliage dense & even with good vitality. Several defects associated with northwest trunk. Historic wound and large stump remains 150mm diameter in upper crown from previous branch failure. Irregular, asymmetrical canopy previously reduced creating heavily weighted branch tips and numerous kinked 'dog-leg' branches.

Low pendulous branch on northeast side of crown. Branch tips touching roof. Canopy excessively close and overbearing in relation to the adjacent property. Deadwood in crown over low occupancy woodland area. Low pendulous branch on northwest side touching lamp column.

DISCUSSION: T1 is a mature Beech in good physiological health despite recent drought conditions. Historic pruning works have created decay pockets within the structural framework of the tree. Previous reduction of the crown has resulted in dense regrowth towards the branch tips. The tree has a broad, asymmetrical canopy which is low over the front garden and in direct contact with the roof of the property. Essential formative pruning works are recommended to raise the canopy for access and to create reasonable clearance to the adjacent residential property.

Recommended works are to a small area of the crown. The long-term health and wider visual amenity value of the tree will not be affected.

Recommended Tree Works: • Reduce heavily weighted branch on northeast side of crown over front of property by approximately 4m in length & up to 2m lateral spread, removing/thinning out kinked regrowth from previous reduction points to reduce weight/overbearing nature of elongated branch back in line with surrounding canopy to provide a better structure for future growth. • Crown lift tertiary / secondary branch tips around canopy to create 4-5m crown clearance above ground level. • Selectively prune/reduce slender low branch on northwest side by 2-3m to create minimum 1m canopy clearance to streetlight / lamp column. • Remove 1x slender crossing branch in central lower crown which is resting / rubbing on the base of the elongated northwest branch • Inspect cavities on north/west stem when climbing tree. • Remove deadwood Cuts will be made back to suitable growth points in accordance with BS 3998:2010 'Tree Work Recommendations'. Pruning cuts will be kept small <60mm diameter.	Priority	Within 6 months
	Re-inspection due	26 Months
	Date	30 th September 2026

6. GALLERY



Photo 1 – T1 (Beech), lower trunk and fork



Photo 2 – T1 (Beech), cavity in old pruning cut



Photo 3 – T1 (Beech), base and lower trunk



Photo 4 – T1 (Beech), broad low canopy close to residential property



Photo 5 – T1 (Beech), elongated branches over front of dwelling

7. SITE PLAN

