



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

11 CHIVE ROAD
EARLEY
READING
RG6 5XP

CLIENT: IAN & ISABELLE SANDY

SEPTEMBER 2025

Ref: 06852 / 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTION

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Ian & Isabelle Sandy, owner / occupiers of 11 Chive Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 5XP.

I have been asked to provide a report on the condition of two Ash trees within the rear garden of the property. These trees are part of a larger group of Ash Trees (G1) which straddle the rear boundary of the property. Residents have raised concerns regarding the stability and safety of the tree group in light of the recent failure of one of the trunks.

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

1.2 INSPECTION INFORMATION

The tree group was inspected on Thursday 11th September 2025.

On the day of the survey, the weather was dry and sunny. 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, G1 (Ash) are protected within area Tree Preservation Order ref TPO-0162-1979.

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

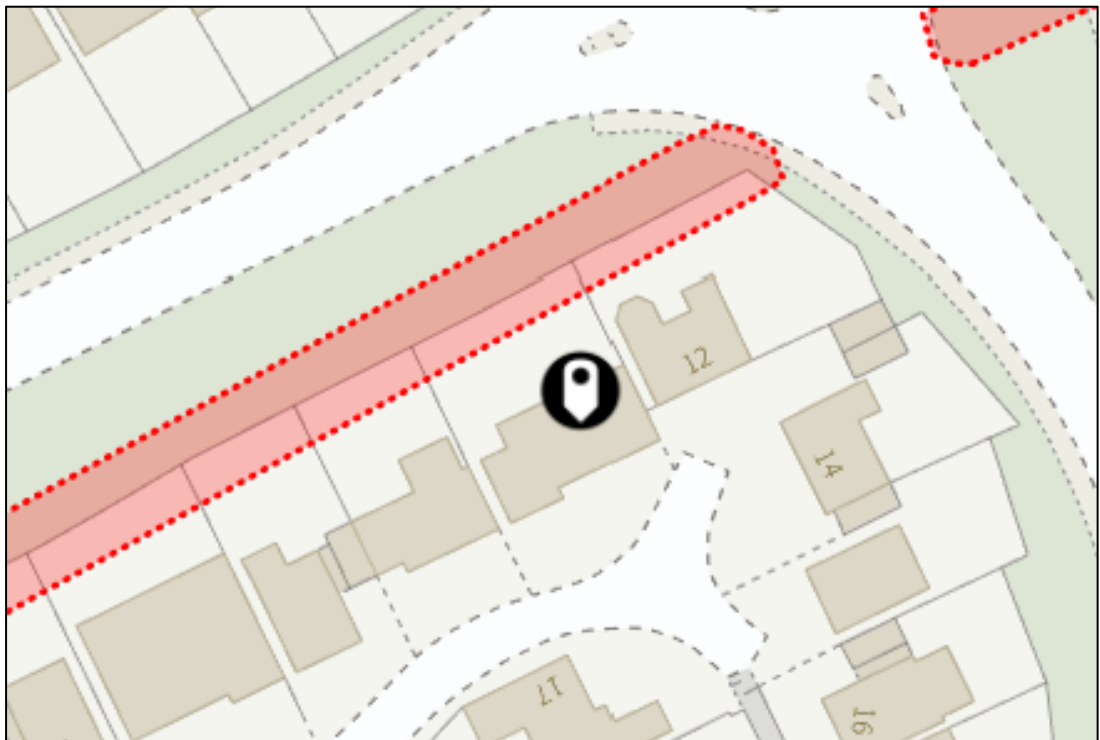


Figure 1 – Wokingham Borough Council TPO Map

2.2 CONSERVATION AREAS

11 Chive Road 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.

4. LIMITATIONS

4.1 SCOPE

2x Ash within the garden of 11 Chive Road have 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 trees were 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.

I have also viewed the offsite trees from the adjacent highway verge however, the management of these trees and responsibility for the health and safety of the offsite tree group rests with the tree owners – understood to be the highway authority.

The report is to identify visible defects on the trees and to specify any necessary remedial tree works which may be required to address identified hazards from the trees whilst acknowledging and respecting their significance as a protected tree / tree group.

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 the garden of 11 Chive Road and the adjacent highway verge only. The tree was viewed from ground level only and was not climbed.

4.2 CAVEATS

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

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.

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.

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.

As the tree is recommended for removal – no further inspections are required.

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					
Ian & Isabelle Sandy			11 Chive Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 5XP					
Tree Number		G1		Tree Species			Age	Mature
Diameter:		6x trunks of various sizes between 250 and 450mm	Height:	17m	Canopy spread	N: 9m	E: 8.5m	S: 8m W: 8.5m

SITUATION: A mature tree group formed of approximately 6 individual Ash trees growing close together to form a single canopy unit. The trunks straddle the rear (northern) boundary of 11 Chive Road. The tree group is 9.5m from rear elevation of dwelling. This survey primarily relates to two trees within the curtilage of 11 Chive Road one of which is a twin stem from ground level – however due to their proximity, it is appropriate that the management of all the trees in the group be considered collectively as the individual trees in the group will be providing each other mutual support, shelter and stability.

BASE: Rooting area of the tree(s) consists of lawn and dense vegetation within the highway verge. Mature ivy of trees within 11 Chive Road has been removed on the trunks prior to inspection. Bases clear, bark intact. No visible defects.

For trees offsite, tree bases and lower trunks are obscured by ivy and dense vegetation. One large stem fell out of the group approximately 18 months prior to this inspection, onto the highway verge and was cut and cleared by the Council. Dense vegetation & climbing plants may obscure defects.

STEM & UNIONS: Within the garden of 11 Chive Road, the twin stem tree has fungal fruiting bodies on trunk 4.5m above ground level of the decay fungus *Inonotus hispidus*. This fungus causes a 'simultaneous white rot' on Ash trees and causes affected branches and areas of the trunk to snap. The breakage of this trunk at this point on the trunk would cause a large part of the tree crown over the garden of 11 Chive Road to fall towards the dwelling. There is no cure or treatment and the removal of the tree is appropriate to alleviate the risk to property and residents.

CANOPY: The individual trunk undermined by decay has a high, very asymmetrical crown towards dwelling. Smaller single stem grows east over the neighbouring property. All stems growing offsite have leaning asymmetrical crowns over the verge and towards Rushey Way. Foliage dense and even with good vitality. No symptoms of Ash Dieback Disease.

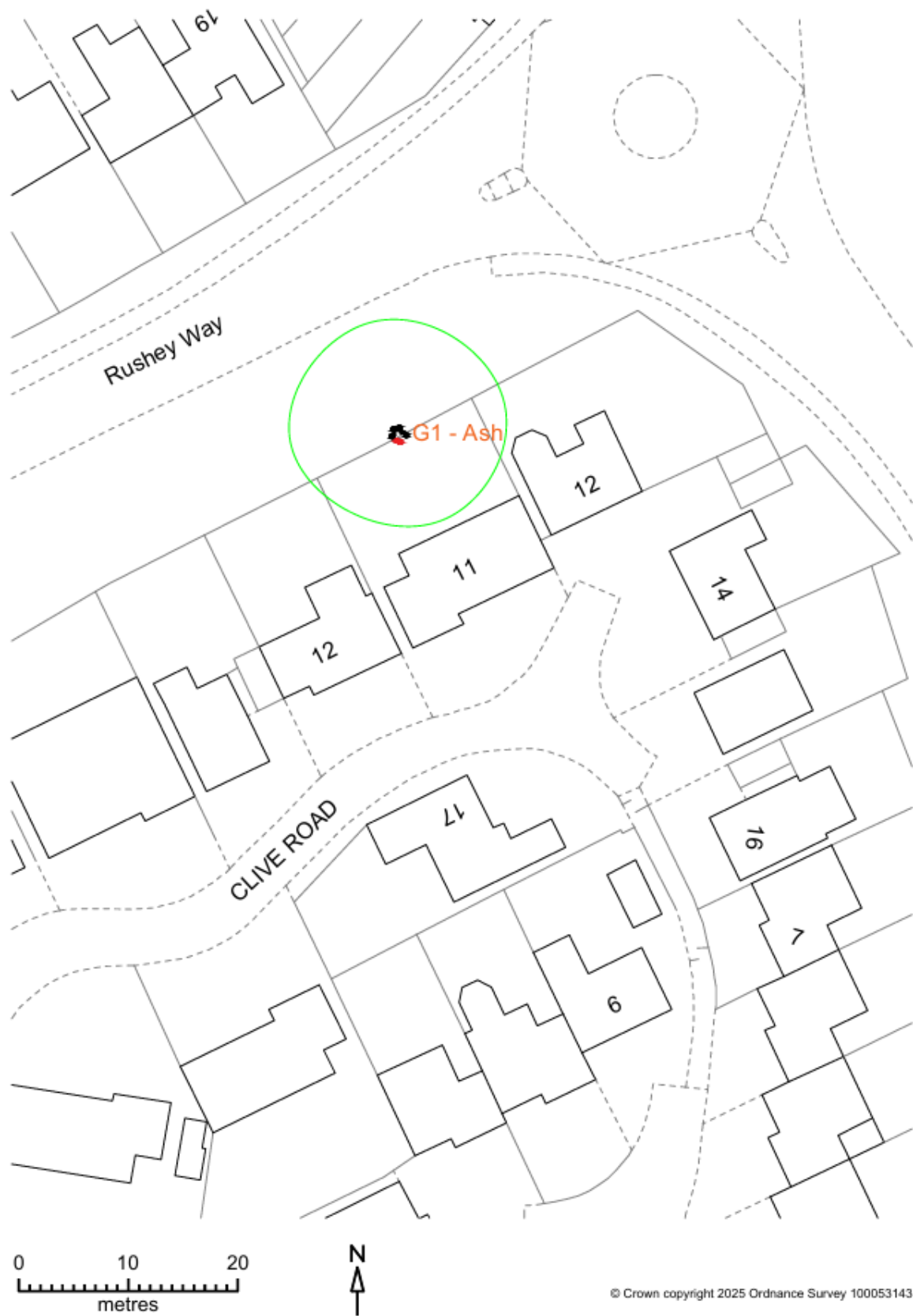
There is a substantial dead branch in the lower crown over the garden of 11 Chive Road. Much of useable garden space for this property is under canopy of the tree. Canopies of trees on highway verge weighted by ivy and Russian Vine.

DISCUSSION: Multiple small trees have grown close together to form a single canopy unit. The individual trees which make up the group therefore have leaning and asymmetrical crowns. Unfortunately, the larger twin-stem tree within the garden of 11 Chive Road is undermined by decay at a point where there is an unacceptable risk of the trunk failure towards the dwelling. The removal of this tree will leave the second single stem tree within the garden of 11 Chive Gardens overly exposed and with an unbalanced asymmetrical crown over the neighbouring residential garden. I consider the second smaller tree within the garden of 11 Chive Road cannot be safely retained following the removal of the decaying tree and therefore my recommendation is that this tree also be removed.

The Council is advised that essential works to the trees at 11 Chive Road will impact on the stability of offsite trees on the highway verge, and that a reduction of these trees is likely to be required. The management of these trees and responsibility for the health and safety of the offsite tree group rests with Wokingham Borough Council as the Highway Authority.

Recommended Tree Works: - Fell two trees within the garden of 11 Chive Road to ground level due to presence of decay and potential instability of adjacent trees. - Request Council to carry out appropriate works to manage the remaining trees within the group which are offsite within the highway verge.	Priority	Within 2 months
	Re-inspection due	n/a
	Date	11 th September 2025

6. SITE PLAN



7. GALLERY



Photo 1 – G1 (Ash) as viewed from rear garden of 11 Chive Road



Photo 2 – Stems of Ash with Ivy cut within garden of 11 Chive close



Photo 3 – Decay fungi – *Inonotus hispidus* on trunk



Photo 4 – Point of previous stem failure – trees within highway verge

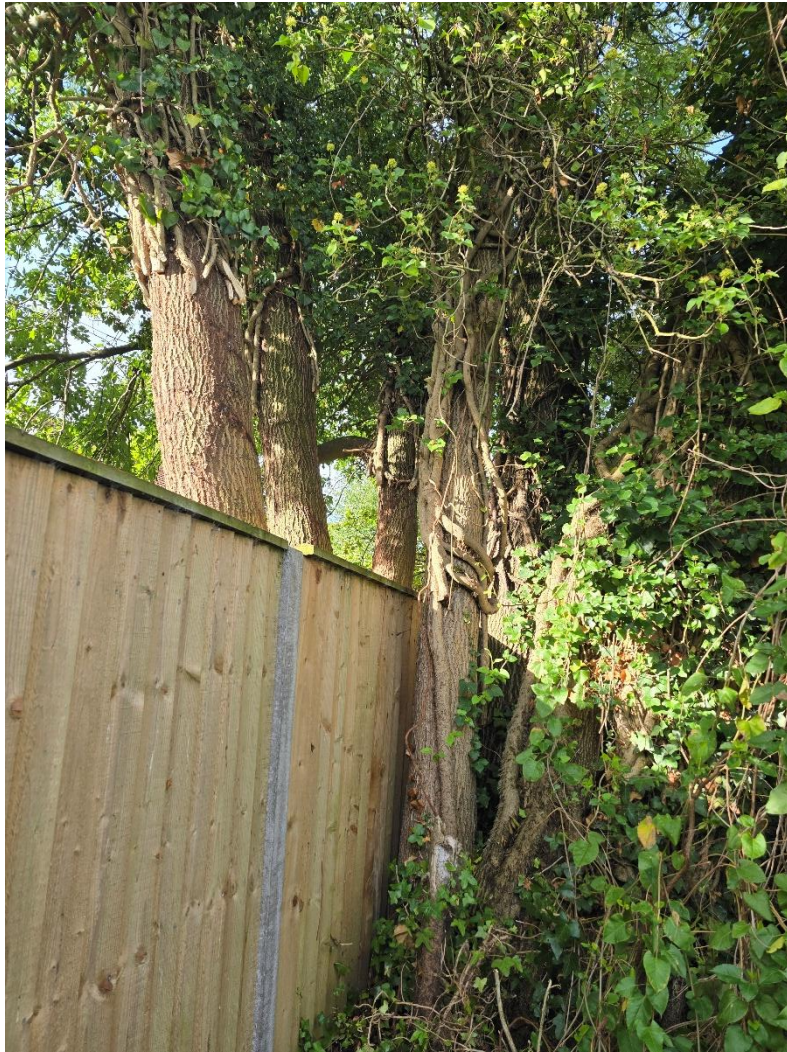


Photo 5 – Stems of individual trees within G1 (Ash) straddle boundary



Photo 6 – Trees in verge lean towards the public highway at Rushey Way (note gap forming between two halves of the crown).