



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

20 KERRIS WAY
EARLEY
READING
BERKSHIRE
RG6 5UW

CLIENT: [REDACTED] ELLISON

DECEMBER 2025
Ref: 06871 / 2025

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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
3.4	FUNGAL DECAY.....	7
4.	LIMITATIONS	8
4.1	SCOPE.....	8
4.2	CAVEATS	8
5.	ARBORICULTURAL INSPECTION DATA.....	10
6.	GALLERY.....	12
7.	SITE PLAN	15

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTION

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by ██████ Ellison, owner / occupier of 20 Kerris Way, Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 5UW. I have been asked to provide a report on the condition of one Oak Tree (T1) growing within the rear 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 amenity and ecology of the local area.

1.2 INSPECTION INFORMATION

The tree was inspected on Wednesday 19th November 2025.

The weather was dry and cloudy. 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, T1 (Oak) is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (ref TPO-0197-1980).

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

20 Kerris Way 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, a circle of ground around the base of the tree should be lightly tined / broken up with a garden fork to improve aeration and reduce compaction. Ideally the area should be out to the tips of the crown but this is not always practical. Even a circle radius of 2-3m will have some benefit to the tree.

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 root collar.

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.

3.4 FUNGAL DECAY

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

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).

T1 (Oak) has been identified as having Oak Maze Gill Fungus colonising a low, lateral branch on the west side of the crown. This fungus is weakly pathogenic degrading wood which is already dead / dysfunctional.

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.

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 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

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.

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 19th November 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					
██████ Ellison			20 Kerris Way, Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 5UW					
Tree Number		T1		Tree Species			Age	Mature
Diameter:		1050mm @1.5m	Height:	12.5m	Canopy spread	N 6m	E: 6.5m	S: 6.5m W: 6m

SITUATION: Mature Oak within the rear garden close to two adjacent residential properties. The Oak is 4.3m from side single storey elevation of 20 Kerris Way and there is a garden room on an existing patio area within the neighbouring garden less than 1m from the edge of the flared buttress roots.

Rooting area consists of lawn and paved areas as well as the footprints of the adjacent residential properties. There is a retaining wall within the neighbouring garden close to the tree's base.

BASE: Light Ivy growth on south side of tree. The base of the tree has a very broad, pronounced buttress skirt around the trunk up 0.9m wide on the southern side of the tree. Mossy bole. No fungal fruiting bodies visible around tree base.

Slight audible hollowing / changes in sound intonation under the buttress flare, more noticeably on the south side of the trunk which is likely to be more evident due to the thinness of the flared root. Elsewhere around the base and lower trunk - sound intonation even and satisfactory.

Historic wounding and small cavity between roots on southwest and southeast sides of trunk. Good wound wood formation – small cavities cannot be probed to any great depth.

STEM & UNIONS: Single stem with gradual tapering. Fully occluded pruning cuts on lower trunk around 200mm diameter where previous branches removed. Low wide fork 3m above ground level.

Large side limb grows more or less horizontally over neighbouring garden and outbuilding. Fungal fruiting bodies of the Oak Mazegill fungus emerging from cuts along branch 1.5m and 2m from trunk (see photo 3).

CANOPY: Previously reduced canopy with decay pockets in old pruning cuts.

Dead branch on southeast side of crown extensively decayed. Habitat holes in dead stump at top of trunk (see photo 4).

Foliage sparse. Minor deadwood throughout canopy. Limited live growth in central/lower canopy to which tree might reasonably be reduced back to.

DISCUSSION: T1 is an old and characterful Oak growing close to residential properties. The tree has been affected by historic development. The decline in canopy health may be exacerbated by construction and changes in ground levels within its rooting area.

The form of the tree's trunk & buttress roots suggests that some basal decay / hollowing of the central trunk is likely and would not be unexpected on a tree of this age. However, the even sound intonation around the trunk suggests there is sufficient healthy wood currently to support the low, compact crown of the tree.

Minor works are recommended to reduce the exposure of elongated branches and those which are undermined by decay. The tree's crown lacks vitality therefore any pruning works should be kept to the absolute minimum to avoid causing unnecessary harm to the tree.

Recommended Tree Works:

- 1) Remove deadwood over 1m long and 50mm diameter. Reduce one large dead branch on the south side of the crown back to live spur at source.
- 2) Reduce tips of low branch on west side of tree growing over neighbouring garden by 2.5m to reduce exposure and wind loading on decaying branch.
- 3) Reduce elongated branches on south side of crown towards highway by 2-3m to reduce weight & exposure, back in line with surrounding canopy.
- 4) Reduce low branch east side of canopy by 1-1.5m to create reasonable clearance to property.
- 6) Reduce elongated limb on the north side of the crown by 2m, back in line with surrounding canopy.
- 7) Consider soil amelioration. Avoid using Lawn Weed & Feed within 5m of tree base.

Priority

Within 6 months

Re-inspection due

24 Months

Date

17th November 2025

6. GALLERY



Photo 1 – Oak (T1)



Photo 2 – Tree base

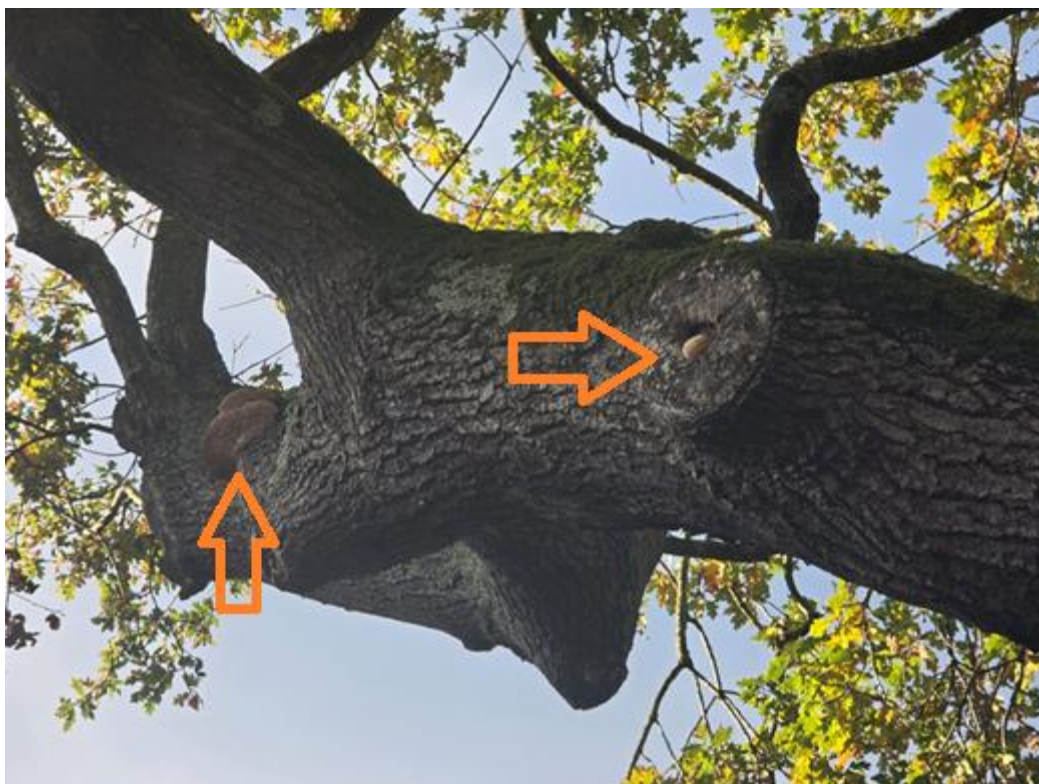


Photo 3 – Decay fungi emerging from cavities on site limb towards neighbouring property



Photo 4 – Habitat holes in trunk (central canopy)

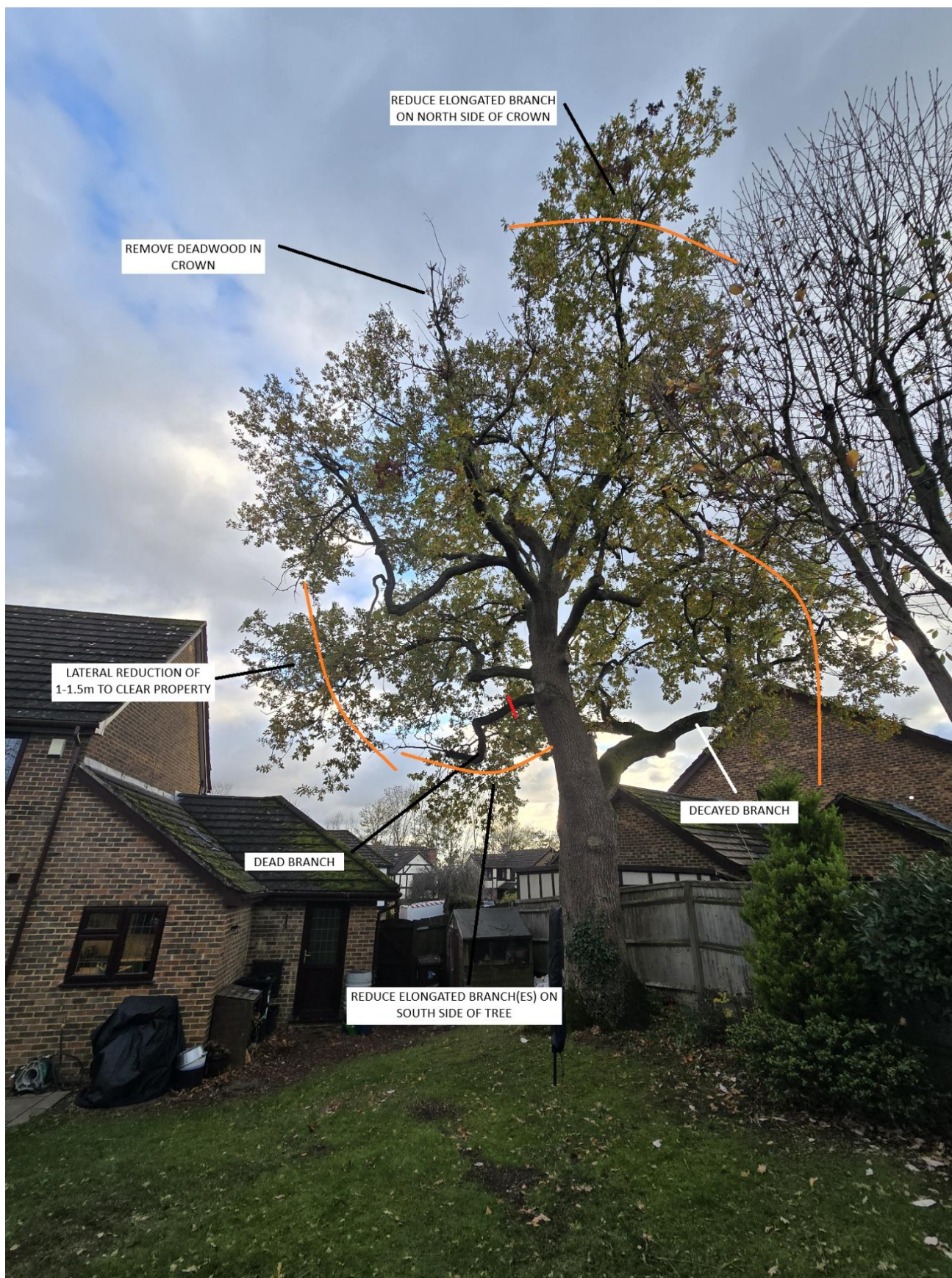


Photo 5 – Annotated photo of tree works

7. SITE PLAN

