

DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

1 STARMEAD DRIVE
WOKINGHAM
BERKSHIRE
RG40 2HX

CLIENT: TARA HEATH

OCTOBER 2024

Ref: 06507/2024

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Tara Heath, owner / occupier of 1 Starmead Drive, Wokingham.

I have been asked to carry out a condition survey of seven trees growing within the front and side garden of the property.

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 trees were inspected on Monday 7th October 2024 by Sarah Duckworth, Arboricultural Consultant.

On the day of the survey the weather was overcast. Visibility was satisfactory.

Trees were inspected from ground level only. Non-invasive inspection equipment (mallet and metal probe) were used to assess the structural integrity at the base and trunk of individual trees where the visual inspection identified the need.

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
- QTRA & VALID Licensed User

1.4 Insurance

Sarah Duckworth t/a Duckworth's Arboriculture Limited is insured with Hiscox Insurance

- Public Liability £10,000,000
- Professional Indemnity £2,000,000

2 STATUTORY TREE PROTECTION

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

I have confirmed on the Wokingham Borough Council website that at the time of this report, three Lime trees and one Oak are subject of a Tree Preservation Order (ref TPO-0183-1980).

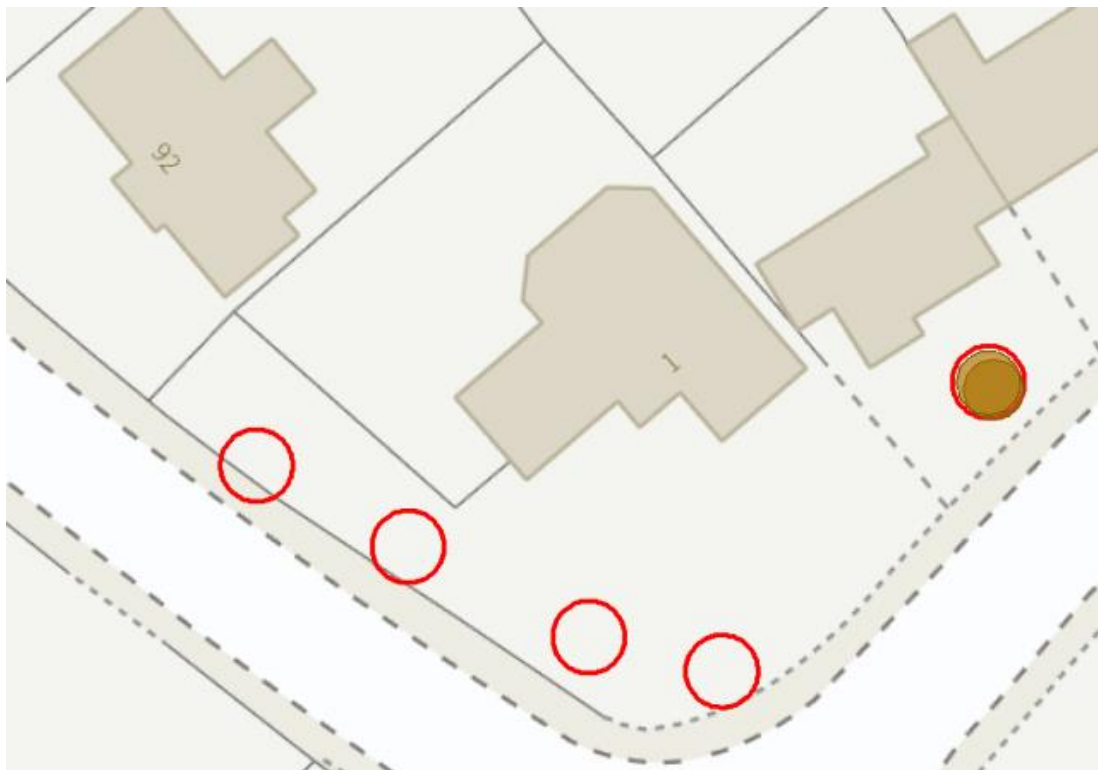


Figure 1 - Wokingham Borough Council Tree Preservation Order Map

CONSERVATION AREAS

1 Starmead Drive is not within a Conservation Area.

3 GENERAL GUIDANCE

3.1 Tree Work Good Practice:

All tree works specified should be undertaken in accordance with BS:3998 2010 'Tree Work Recommendations'.

In order to limit the harm to trees caused by the pruning operations, 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.

You are advised to use a properly qualified and experienced company will be employed 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 and 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 and hedge cutting is highly likely to damage nests or cause them to be deserted.

3.3 Fungal decay

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

The two most common decay fungi on conifers are *Phaeolus schweinitzii* and *Sparassis crispa*. As these fungi fruit only annually, their presence may not always be apparent in a seasonal tree survey.

The owners of 1 Starmead Drive are therefore advised to monitor the ground where the trees may be rooting. Any unusual 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).



Sample photos of fungal fruiting bodies of *Sparassis crispa* (left) and *Phaeolus schweinitzii* (right)

3.4 Ivy

Ivy is an attractive habitat for insects and invertebrates and consequently bird and animal life can benefit as a result of an increase in available food source. Bats, which are rare and protected by law regularly roost amongst ivy, as well as inside small cavities in suitable trees. Ivy growth is not a threat to the health of otherwise healthy trees; however, it does obscure the base, trunk and forks of trees.

Defects present on trees can be hidden by ivy and dense vegetation. It was beyond the scope of this survey to clear ivy and vegetation from around all trees and the client is advised that where present, climbing plants and dense vegetation may obscure trunk defects.

When severing ivy, it is important to use sharp hand tools only. Ivy stems should be cut at ground level and 1.5m, taking care not to damage the tree bark. Cut stems should then be removed to height of 1.5m. The ivy growth above 1.5m can be left in the canopy (unless it obscures another necessary point of inspection) from where it will die back and eventually fall from the tree.

4 SCOPE & LIMITATIONS

4.1 Scope

All trees 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.

My visual assessment is a non-invasive method of examining the health and structural condition of an individual 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 each tree where the visual inspection identified the need. The lower stems of trees were tapped with a plastic-headed mallet to check for indications of internal decay. The differing sound intonation can often reveal some types of decay or hollow trunks. Any cavities in the base of the stem were probed with a steel rod to record depth and condition of residual wood.

The report is to identify visible defects present 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 local significance to the ecology of the woodland.

Specifications for works are based on an assumed reinspection within two years.

The report refers to the condition of tree(s) and an assessment of the site on the days the evaluation was undertaken. The trees were assessed from ground level only and were not climbed.

It was beyond the scope of this survey to sever and remove ivy or clear dense vegetation. Reasonable effort was made to access the base of each tree, however in some areas, dense vegetation and ivy prevented a full visual inspection of some trees - tree canopies and physiological health were still appraised.

4.2 Caveats

The extent of the survey was limited to a survey of seven mature trees to the front and side of 1 Starmead Drive as requested by the client. Trees were inspected from ground level only. Private gardens were not entered.

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.

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.

This report is a baseline survey and reflects the condition of the trees on the day of the survey. The report is valid for normal weather conditions only.

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. 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 and recommendations from the report are based on the condition of the trees and surrounding ground conditions at the time of my visit. If the condition of the trees 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. A follow-on inspection of trees is due before 7th October 2026.

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.

5 TREE SURVEY DATA

Ref:	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations	Photo
T001	Corsican pine (<i>Pinus nigra</i> <i>laricio</i>)	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 3.5 DBH (cm): 61 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Tree growing within raised lawn area. Ground level, no sign of root plate movement or instability. Mycorrhizal fungi in lawn area around base. Base clear, bark intact. Hammer test satisfactory, no audible decay. Swept stem to southeast over Starmead Drive. Additional growth on tension side of trunk. Pronounced buttress roots on northeast, and southeast side of trunk. Remaining trunk has a smooth, gradual root flare. Single stem, excurrent form. Stem leans all the way to upper canopy. Asymmetrical crown with elongated branches over the public highway of Starmead Drive. Two dead branch stubs on trunk over low occupancy area. Needles dense, slightly browning. Reasonable vitality.	Fair	No tree works required. Monitor for fungal fruiting bodies - Ongoing	
T002	Lime (<i>Tilia</i> sp.)	Height (m): 16 Crown Radius (m): 4 DBH (cm): 54 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Prominent tree on grass bank, 1.5m from public highway. Base and lower trunk partially obscured by epicormic shoots. Historic damage to exposed surface roots. (Insignificant) girdling root. Slightly swept lower trunk to northeast. Where accessible hammer intonation even and satisfactory. No fungal fruiting bodies evident. Single stem. Cavity at 4m on southeast side of trunk, 4m above ground level. Low pendulous crown. Foliage dense and even. Good vitality. Low branches to ground level over grass verge. Wildlife Value: Good Inspection Limitations: Epicormic shoots.	Good	Crown lift to create 2.5m canopy clearance above ground level for mower access and 3m over pavement. Timescale: 07-Apr-2025 (6 Months)	

Ref:	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations	Photo
T003	Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>)	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 4.5 DBH (cm): 60 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Slender tree on raised lawn area 2.1m from public highway. Base clear, bark intact. Mycorrhizal fungi within rooting area. No decay fungi observed. Sound intonation even and consistent around base and lower trunk but sounds tinny. This can indicate basal decay – however, usually the sound intonation would be irregular and localised in certain areas. That the sound around the base is consistent suggests it may not be caused by decay but could also be as a result of faster growth (therefore less dense wood) or thicker bark. T003 has a broader trunk than T005 although they are likely to be of a similar age. Smooth even root flare very slightly bulbous on West side at base. Single stem. Kinked trunk in very upper crown. Needle density good. Good vitality. Wildlife Value: Good	Good	Monitor for fungal fruiting bodies - Ongoing Crown lift to create 3m canopy clearance over pavement Timescale: 07-Apr-2025 (6 Months)	
T004	Lime (<i>Tilia</i> sp.)	Height (m): 14 Crown Radius (m): 4.5 DBH (cm): 56 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years	Prominent tree on grass bank, 2m from public highway and lamp column. Base and lower trunk partially obscured by dense epicormic shoots. Historic damage to exposed surface roots. Where accessible hammer intonation even and satisfactory. No fungal fruiting bodies evident. Single stem. Short stub cuts and wounds on trunk where branches removed. Foliage dense and even. Good vitality. Low branches to 1m over grass verge and obscuring lamp column. Wildlife Value: Good Inspection Limitations: Epicormic growth	Fair	Crown lift to 2.5m over verge and remove epicormic shoots at base. Selective prune back side branches to create 1m clearance to streetlight and column. Timescale: 07-Apr-2025 (6 Months)	
T005	Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>)	Height (m): 14 Crown Radius (m): 6 DBH (cm): 46 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Slender tree on raised lawn area 2m from public highway. Base clear, bark intact. No fungal fruiting bodies evident. Hammer test satisfactory, no audible decay. Smooth even root flare. Single stem. Suppressed crown with elongated branches over garden of 1 Starmead Drive. Needle density for. Good health and vitality. Wildlife Value: Moderate	Fair	No works required.	

Ref:	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations	Photo
T006	Lime (Tilia sp.)	Height (m): 13 Crown Radius (m): 3.5 DBH (cm): 40 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	On raised lawn area, 2.3m from public highway. Light ivy growth on trunk. Where accessible base clear, bark intact. Girdling root. Short epicormic shoots at base. No fungal fruiting bodies evident. Hammer test satisfactory, no audible decay. Single stem straight to 2m above which the stem kinks. Pendulous crown suppressed by adjacent trees. Collage density normal. Low pendulous crown to 1.5m. Wildlife Value: Good Inspection Limitations: Ivy	Good	Sever ivy. Crown lift to create 2.5m canopy clearance for grass cutting. Timescale: 07-Oct-2025 (1 Year)	
T007	Pedunculate oak (Quercus robur)	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 6 DBH (cm): 114 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Large bankside oak. Directly adjacent to brick retaining wall and the public highway. Light ivy growth around base and on trunk. Pronounced buttress roots on retaining wall side. Small indent between roots where metal probe can be pushed 100mm between roots with some resistance. Small cavity 300mm deep – it is not clear whether this is a cavity into the trunk or a gap between roots. No fungal fruiting bodies evident. Hammer test satisfactory, no audible decay. Epicormic shoots on trunk. Trunk obscured by ivy. Large printing cuts at 6m where side branches have been removed. Flush cuts. Partial wound wood formation. Broad canopy. Foliage density normal. Minor deadwood - not significant in canopy. Low branches to 2m above ground level. Wildlife Value: High Inspection Limitations: Ivy	Good	Crown lift to 3.5m above ground level, removing short epicormic shoots directly off trunk and shortening pendulous side branches over neighbouring driveway for access. Sever ivy Timescale: 07-Apr-2025 (6 Months)	

6 TREE WORKS IN PRIORITY ORDER

Ref:	Species	What 3 Words	Recommendations	Work Timescale
T002	Lime (<i>Tilia sp.</i>)	///goat.music.these	Crown lift to create 2.5m canopy clearance above ground level for mower access and 3m over pavement.	07-Apr-2025 (6 Months)
T003	Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>)	///chill.cheat.helps	Crown lift to create 3m canopy clearance over pavement	07-Apr-2025 (6 Months)
T004	Lime (<i>Tilia sp.</i>)	///income.behind.hidden	Crown lift to 2.5m over verge and remove epicormic shoots at base. Selective prune back side branches to create 1m clearance to streetlight and column.	07-Apr-2025 (6 Months)
T007	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	///mixed.tries.shift	Crown lift to 3.5m above ground level, removing short epicormic shoots directly off trunk and shortening pendulous side branches over neighbouring driveway for access. Sever ivy	07-Apr-2025 (6 Months)
T006	Lime (<i>Tilia sp.</i>)	///zebra.hedge.snows	Sever ivy. Crown lift to create 2.5m canopy clearance for grass cutting.	07-Oct-2025 (1 Year)

7 SITE PLAN

