



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

3 LARCH DRIVE
WOODLEY
READING
RG5 3LW

CLIENT: MS. JENNY ARMSDON

AUGUST 2024

Ref: 06452 / 2024

REPORT BY: SARAH DUCKWORTH

DipArb(RFS), TechCert(ArborA), M. Arbor.A, BA (Hons)
LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector

E: sarahcduckworth@hotmail.com

T: 01672 519 811 M: 07810 440546



Prepared by: Sarah Duckworth
Position: Arboricultural Consultant
Qualifications: DipArb(RFS),TechCert(ArborA),M. Arbor.A, BA (Hons),
LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector

File ref: 06452/2024
Date Issued: 10th August 2024

CONTENTS

- 1. INTRODUCTION4
 - 1.1 Instructuction.....4
 - 1.2 Inspection Information4
 - 1.3 Qualifications.....4
 - 1.4 Insurance.....4
- 2. STATUTORY TREE PROTECTION5
- 3. GENERAL GUIDANCE.....6
 - 3.1 Tree Work Good Practice:.....6
 - 3.2 Protected Species6
 - 3.3 Management of Deadwood7
 - 3.4 Soil Amelioration.....7
- 4. SCOPE & LIMITATIONS..... 8
 - 4.1 Scope 8
 - 4.2 Caveats..... 8
- 5. TREE SURVEY DATA10
- 6. SITE PLAN..... 12
- 7. GALLERY.....13

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instructuaction

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Ms. Jenny Armsdon, owner / occupier of 3 Larch Drive, Woodley. I have been asked to provide a report on the condition of 3 trees growing in the garden of the property.

The report is to specify any necessary remedial tree works which may be required to address identified hazards from the trees whilst acknowledging and respecting their significance to the amenity and biodiversity of the local area.

Where appropriate works have been prioritised according to the identified hazard and considering the presence of high-risk areas such as the dwelling, neighbouring properties, and the public highway.

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.

1.2 Inspection Information

The trees were inspected on 29th July 2024 by Sarah Duckworth, Arboricultural Consultant.

On the day of the survey the weather was dry and sunny. 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.

Trees to be worked on have been marked with yellow, high-viz paint where accessible.

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 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 the trees are protected by Woodland Tree Preservation Order TPO-003-1951.

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

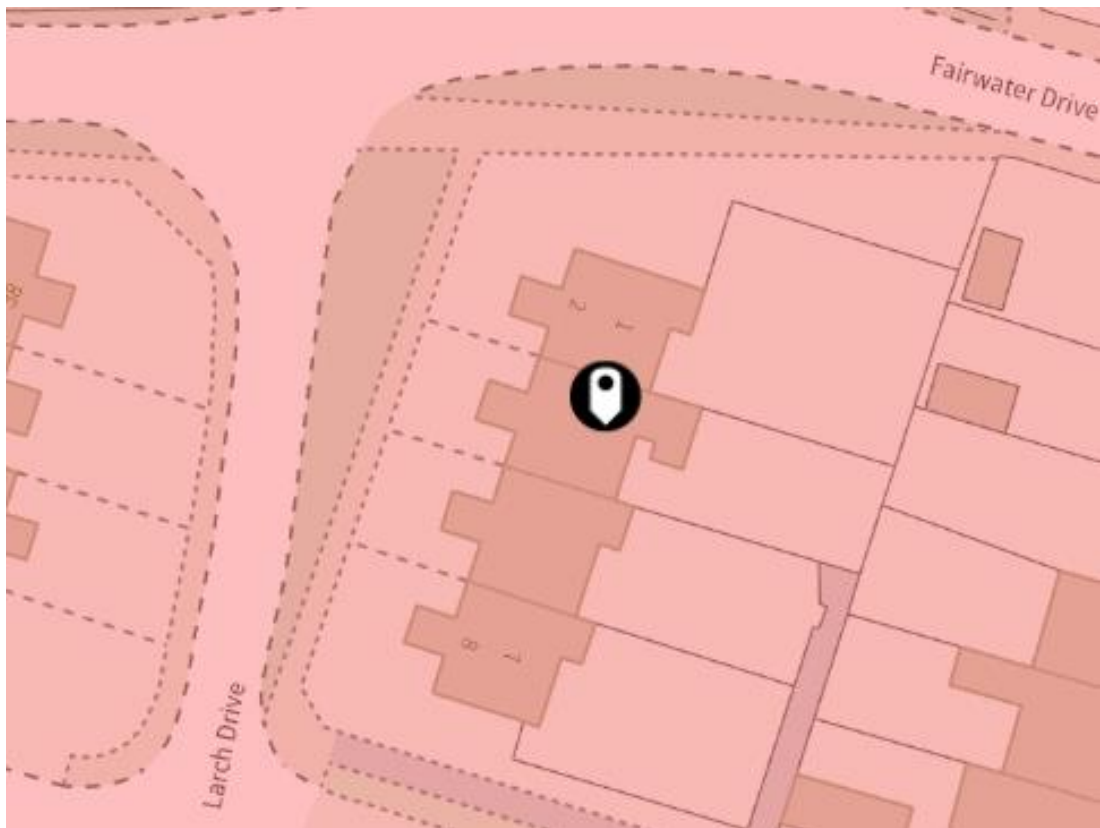


Figure 1 - Wokingham Borough Council TPO Map

CONSERVATION AREAS

3 Larch 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 and branches (aside from trees to be felled) should be undertaken in the summer months (July and August) avoiding periods of drought. No tree pruning work to live growth 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 Management of Deadwood

Dead and decaying trees are vital components of a properly functioning wooded ecosystem and play a key role in sustaining biodiversity and soil fertility. A balanced and healthy tree ecosystem features deadwood in various locations both on the ground and in the canopy. It is therefore undesirable to remove all areas of dead or decaying wood from the tree groups as this would harm the natural ecosystem. Standing deadwood, dead branches and other defects with ecological value should be retained where it is considered reasonable and safe to do so.

3.4 Soil Amelioration

Trees at 3 Larch Drive may have been adversely affected by the installation of block paving over a significant percentage of their rooting areas. Removing an area of the block paving at the bases of trees will benefit the trees by improving the rooting environment. It may also improve tree health and physiological condition.

To do this, block pavers and sub-base around the base of the tree should be removed by hand. The radius of the mulched area should be as large as possible – out to the edge of the canopy would be best but any mulched area, however small, will benefit the growing conditions for the tree.

Once the paving and subbase has been removed, the ground can be loosely tined using a garden fork to break up any surface crust and improve water and oxygen penetration. A mulch of good-quality topsoil topped with **well-rotted** bark chip or fully composted organic material should be raked over the area 60- 100mm deep taking care not to obscure the natural root flare around the base of the tree.

The mulch will improve mycorrhizal growth (beneficial root fungi), stabilise soil temperature and moisture levels, reduce compaction and improve soil nutrient levels and porosity for the benefit of healthy tree root growth.

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 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 amenity of the residential development biodiversity of the wider landscape. 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 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.

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

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.

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 recommended before 29th July 2026.

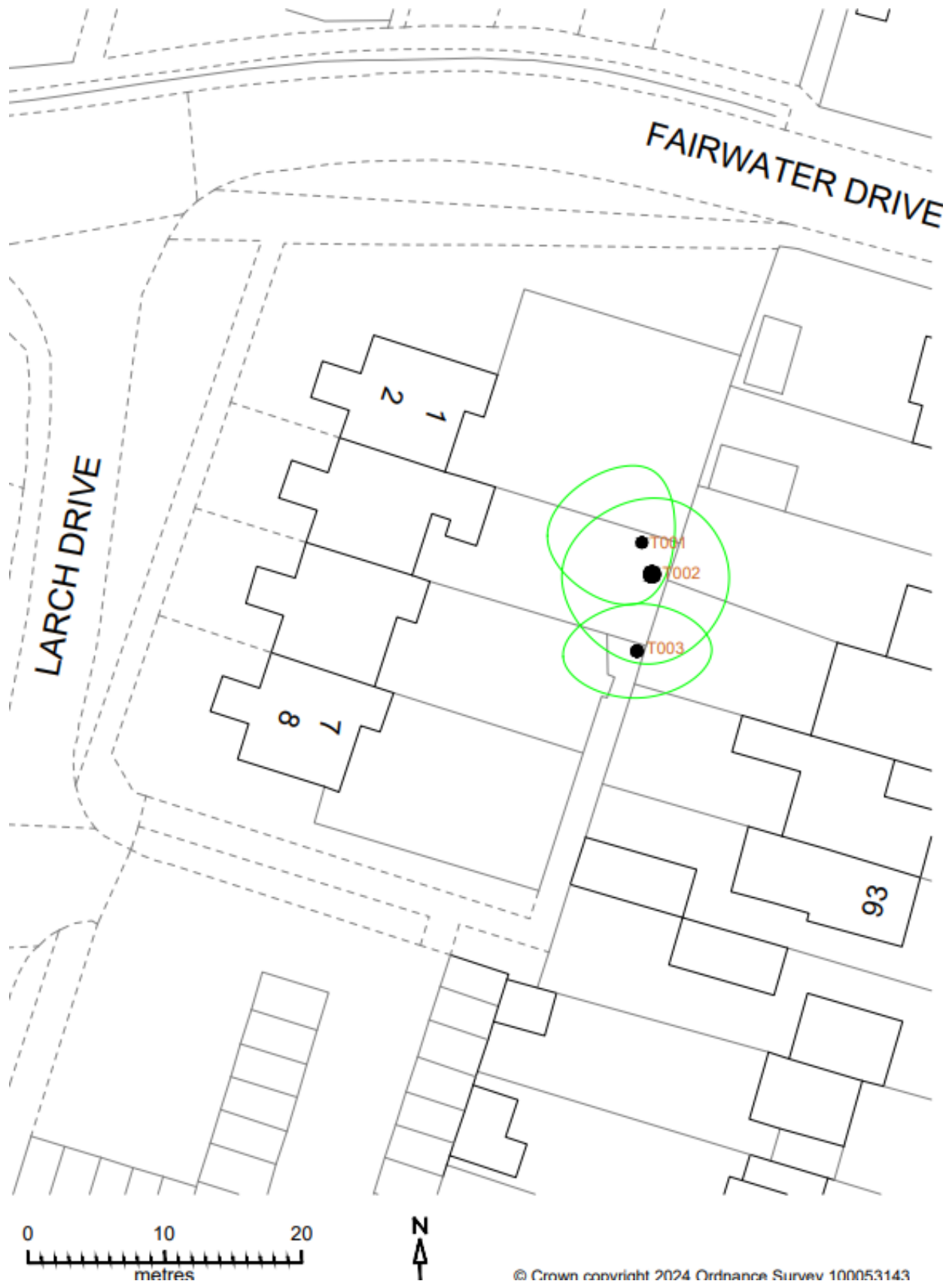
Trees can never be guaranteed 100% safe. Regular inspections by competent and / or suitably qualified arboriculturists will help identify potential problems before they become acute.

5. TREE SURVEY DATA

Ref.	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations	Tree Base
T001	Sweet Chestnut	Measurements: Height (m): 19 DBH (cm): 770 Canopy Size/Spread: North: 5m East: 2m South: 4m West: 6.5m Life Stage: Over Mature Life Expectancy: 20+ Years	Situation: Over mature tree growing 11.5 metres from the Conservatory. Base: Previous owner block paved garden. Block paving extends to within 0.6 metres of tree base. Base clear, bark intact, no fungal fruiting bodies evident, no audible decay at base. Tree impacted by block paving - age unknown. Sound intonation even. Trunk: Bud proliferation and early epic shoots on trunk. Multiple pruning cuts on trunk 200mm diameter to 10m above ground level. Mixed rates of occlusion around wounds – 10% to no wound wood formation. Canopy: Canopy has been heavily crown lifted with much of primary branch structure removed. Canopy 50% dead, 20% in decline, 30% foliage stunted. Chlorotic, low vitality.	Poor	Remove deadwood back to live growth. Reduce remaining side branches to 1-2m stumps. All healthy small branches and epic shoots growing on the lower trunk will be retained to support new growth from which point the tree can be retained in a reduced form as a pollard. Consider soil amelioration (see Section 3.3)	
T002	Sweet Chestnut	Measurements: Height (m): 20 DBH (cm): 1200 Canopy Size/Spread: North: 5m East: 5m South: 6m West: 6m Life Stage: Mature Life Expectancy: 40+ Years	Situation: Mature tree growing 13 metres from the dwelling on the rear boundary. Base: Base partially obscured by fence. Broad gradual root flare. Small crust of white fungus (mycelium) at base 20mm high x 10mm – too small to identify, was under leaf litter. Elsewhere, where accessible, base clear, bark intact, sound intonation even and satisfactory, no audible decay. Trunk: Large trunk with strong pronounced buttressing. Slight helical growth on trunk, feathered form with mature epic growth. Canopy: Canopy from 2.5m. Large asymmetrical/elongated brunch on the southwest side 9m long. Epicormic shoots throughout canopy. Foliage dense and even, good vitality.	Fair	Reduce elongated limb on southwest side by approximately 2-3m to reduce exposure / weight following essential works to T001 and T003.	

Ref.	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations	Tree Base
T003	Sweet Chestnut	Measurements: Height (m): 19 DBH (cm): 840 Canopy Size/Spread: North: 3m East: 5m South: 3m West: 5m Life Stage: Over Mature Life Expectancy: 20+ Years	Situation: Block paving on all three sides. within 0.5m of tree base. Base: Boletus fungus at base (not significant). Warty bole, bud proliferation. Base and trunk partially obscured by prolific epicormic growth. Where accessible, base clear, bark intact, no fungal fruiting bodies evident, no audible decay. Trunk: Single stem, feathered, excurrent form to approximately 10m. Foliage on stem consists of dense green shoots. Canopy: Cuts visible where branches have been cut in upper crown. Main upper canopy mostly dead. Live growth sparse, browning and stunted – past the point from which they might reasonably recover.	Poor	Remove deadwood back to live growth. Reduce remaining side branches to 1-2m stumps. All healthy small branches and epic shoots growing on the lower trunk will be retained to support new growth from which point the tree can be retained in a reduced form as a pollard. Consider soil amelioration (see Section 3.3)	

6. SITE PLAN



7. GALLERY

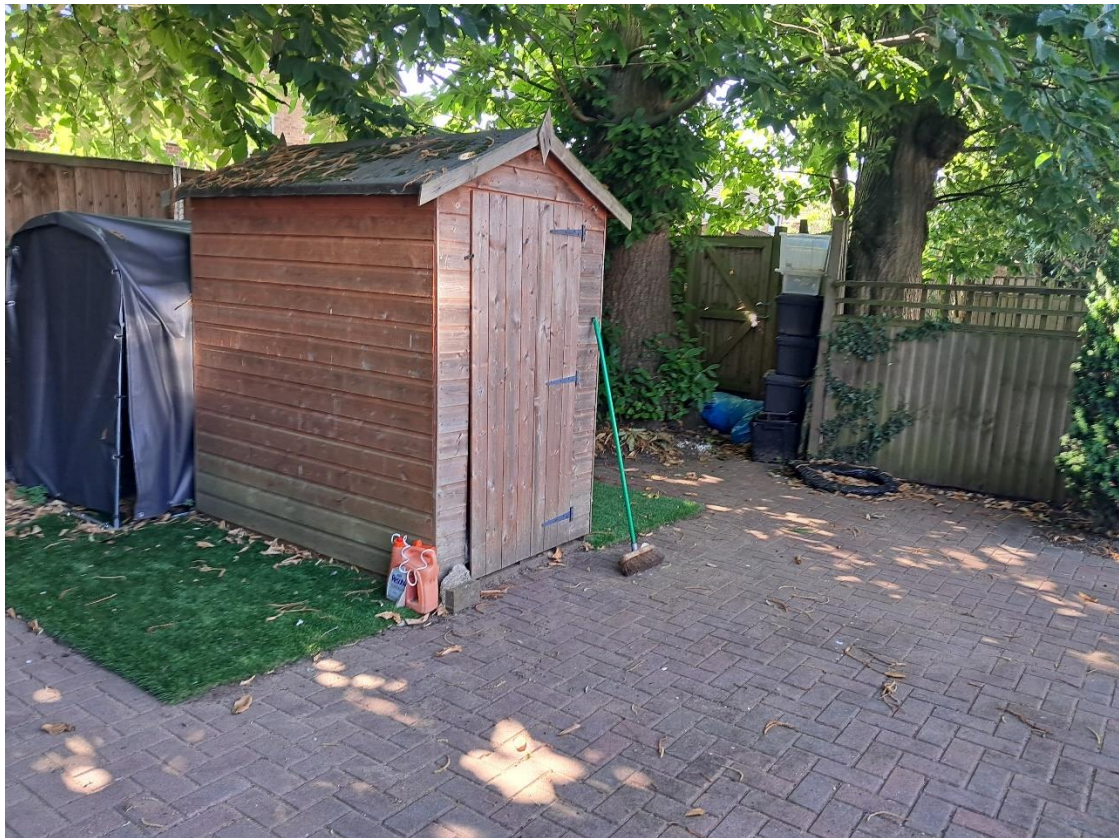


Photo 1 – Block paving over trees' rooting areas



Photo 2 – Deadwood in upper canopies of T001 & T003



Photo 3 – Dead / declining upper canopy of T001 (Sweet Chestnut)



Photo 4 – Dead / declining upper canopy of T003 (Sweet Chestnut)