

A Tree Condition Report carried out at:

**St James Church
Church Lane, Finchampstead
RG40 4LU**

Prepared for Joy Scovell



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10/06/2025

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 An instruction was received on 29/05/25 from Paul Denning to carry out a tree condition survey on 1x oak tree and 3x ash trees at the address above to identify defects and recommend mitigating works based on risk.

1.2 This survey is the first initial full survey to my knowledge with no other previous survey data provided from the client

1.3 Sam Hoar holds the ABC Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture and the Lantra, Professional Tree Inspection certificate. He is a technician member of the Arboricultural Association. He has been conducting tree condition surveys as a full-time occupation since 04/10/19.

1.4 The site was inspected by Mr Sam Hoar. (Tech.Arbor A)
The monitoring and maintenance of the clients tree stock shows a commitment from the client to maintain their duty of care and to keep their trees in a safe condition in line with the occupiers liabilities act 1957.

Report Limitations

1.5 The report highlights defects on trees identified in the survey, recommended works to mitigate risk and appropriate timescales within which recommended works should be carried out based on target area, likelihood of causing harm and extent of harm. This was assessed using the T.H.R.E.A.T.S (Tree Hazard Rating, Evaluation and Treatment System. The main body of the report is contained in the tree survey data spreadsheet (5.0 Tree Survey Data Report) A aerial map relevant to identified trees is recorded in (6.0 Site Plan).

1.6 Only 4 trees on the site was to be inspected which was requested by the client. Any other trees on the site were not inspected.

1.7 All measurements, proportions and assessments of age are estimated except for DBH (Diameter at breast height) and circumference.

1.8 All tree works recommendations will comply with the British Standard BS3998 Tree Work - recommendations (2010) unless otherwise stated in the notes of the tree survey data spreadsheet.

1.9 Trees are dynamic, living organisms, and are as such susceptible to climatic conditions and changes to the environment surrounding them. Every property owner/manager has a duty of care to maintain their trees in a safe condition in order to protect their liabilities.

2.0 Hoarticulture has checked the Wokingham Borough Council TPO map and can confirm that none of the trees included in this inspection are protected by a TPO but they are all within the conservation area TB24.

2.0 The Survey

2.1 The surveying took place on the 31/05/25. The weather conditions were sunny and calm on the day of the survey.

2.2 A total of 4 inspections were recorded for trees on site.

2.3 Trees were inspected utilising the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method devised by Claus Mattheck, an internationally recognised system for identifying tree defects (Mattheck, Breloar 1994).

2.4 The tree was inspected from ground level only using acoustic mallet testing, probe and visual tree assessment. T001 is in a graveyard within the church grounds with graves and footpaths nearby and is on a slight hill which a footpath is sunken through. T002 is on the boundary of the graveyard outside the boundary wall and has had some excavating carried out near to the rooting area to remove soil from the wall. T003 is within the boundary of the graveyard and close to the wall. T004 is outside of the graveyard in a small copse of woodland near to the road and parking area for the church.

2.5 Survey data is valid for one year from the date of inspection, after which time the trees should be reassessed. The trees should also be visually assessed if subjected to storm-force winds in between subsequent surveys. **All the trees recorded on the survey should be re-inspected every 2 years as a minimum.**

2.6 All recommended works should be carried out following BS3998: 2010 Recommendations for Tree Work.

2.7 The following data were recorded for the tree:

Ref:	Individual tree identification number
Species:	Botanical and common names.
Structure:	Singletree, Multi-stem, Group
Num. Stems:	Measured in single units. 1
Height Class:	Estimated in 1 metre (m) increments.
Stem Diameter/ Circumference:	Estimated at breast height (DBH) in centimetre (cm) increments.
Life Stage:	Newly planted, Young, Semi Mature, Early Mature, Mature, Over Mature, Veteran, Ancient, Dead
Life Expectancy:	<10 years, 10 years+, 20 years+, 30 years+ 40 years+ 50 years+
Failure Indicators:	A record of identified features that may pose a risk.
Recommended Works:	Works that are required to mitigate risks posed by identified defects.
Timescale:	The timescale within which recommended works should be carried out to ensure mitigation of risks.
Notes:	Detailed descriptions of trees, defects, site conditions etc.
Physiological Cond:	Good, Fair, Poor, Dead
Structural Cond:	Good, Collapsing, Decaying, Physical Defect, Fair, Poor
Threats risk matrix:	Failure score, Target score, Impact score, Threat category
Public amenity value:	Good, Moderate, Low

3.0 Glossary of some arboricultural terms

Branch union:	Region formed where branches are attached to the main stem or other branches.
Compression Fork:	A compression fork with included bark occurs when the bark from each stem becomes trapped between them as they grow. This creates a weak structural point because the included bark prevents the proper formation of strong wood fibers that would normally bind the stems together.
DBH/ Circumference:	DBH, or Diameter at Breast Height, is a standard method used to measure the diameter of a tree trunk. Circumference is measured in cm around the stem of the tree. These measurements are typically taken at 1.3 meters (or about 4.5 feet) above the ground.
Deadwood:	Dead branches within the crown that pose an overhead falling risk.
Extension growth:	Extension growth in trees, specifically referring to new shoot growth, is the process by which trees develop longer stems and branches through cell division and elongation at the tips. This growth is primarily driven by apical meristems located at the ends of shoots, allowing trees to increase their height and spread. By observing new shoot growth, arborists and tree consultants can assess a tree's vitality and take appropriate action if growth appears stunted.
Mechanical Damage:	Mechanical damage to a tree occurs when external forces physically harm its structure. This can result from vehicles, construction equipment, lawn maintenance tools, or even falling objects. The damage often includes: • Bark wounds: Scrapes or gouges that remove protective bark, exposing inner layers to disease and decay. • Broken branches: Limbs snapped by impact or stress, weakening the tree's canopy. • Trunk injuries: Cracks or splits that compromise stability and water transport. • Structural instability: Severe damage may make the tree more prone to falling, posing risks to nearby property or people. Mechanical damage can reduce a tree's lifespan and make it susceptible to pests, rot, and environmental stress. Professional assessment by an arborist may be needed to determine if the tree can recover or requires removal.

- Overweight limbs in trees:** These are heavy branches that may have grown excessively large or bear too much foliage, fruit, or water, leading to increased stress on the tree's structure.
- Subsiding limbs:** These are branches that have sagged or drooped over time, possibly due to their weight, age, or weakened structural support.
- Stem/Limb decay:** The breakdown of lignin or cellulose (or both) within the wood, resulting in weaknesses or cavities. Predominantly caused by pathogenic fungi.
- Stem/trunk:** The major above ground woody structure of the tree that supports the crown.
- T.H.R.E.A.T.S:** Tree Hazard Risk Evaluation and Treatment System is a structured method for assessing and managing risks associated with trees. Developed by Julian Forbes-Laird, it focuses on identifying tree defects, evaluating the risk they pose, and determining appropriate interventions.
- TPO:** A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is a legal protection placed on trees, typically by local authorities, in the United Kingdom to prevent them from being cut down, topped, lopped, uprooted, wilfully damaged, or wilfully destroyed without consent. The primary purpose of a TPO is to safeguard significant trees that provide environmental, aesthetic, or historical value to the community.

4.0 Photos

Photo 1 (T001)

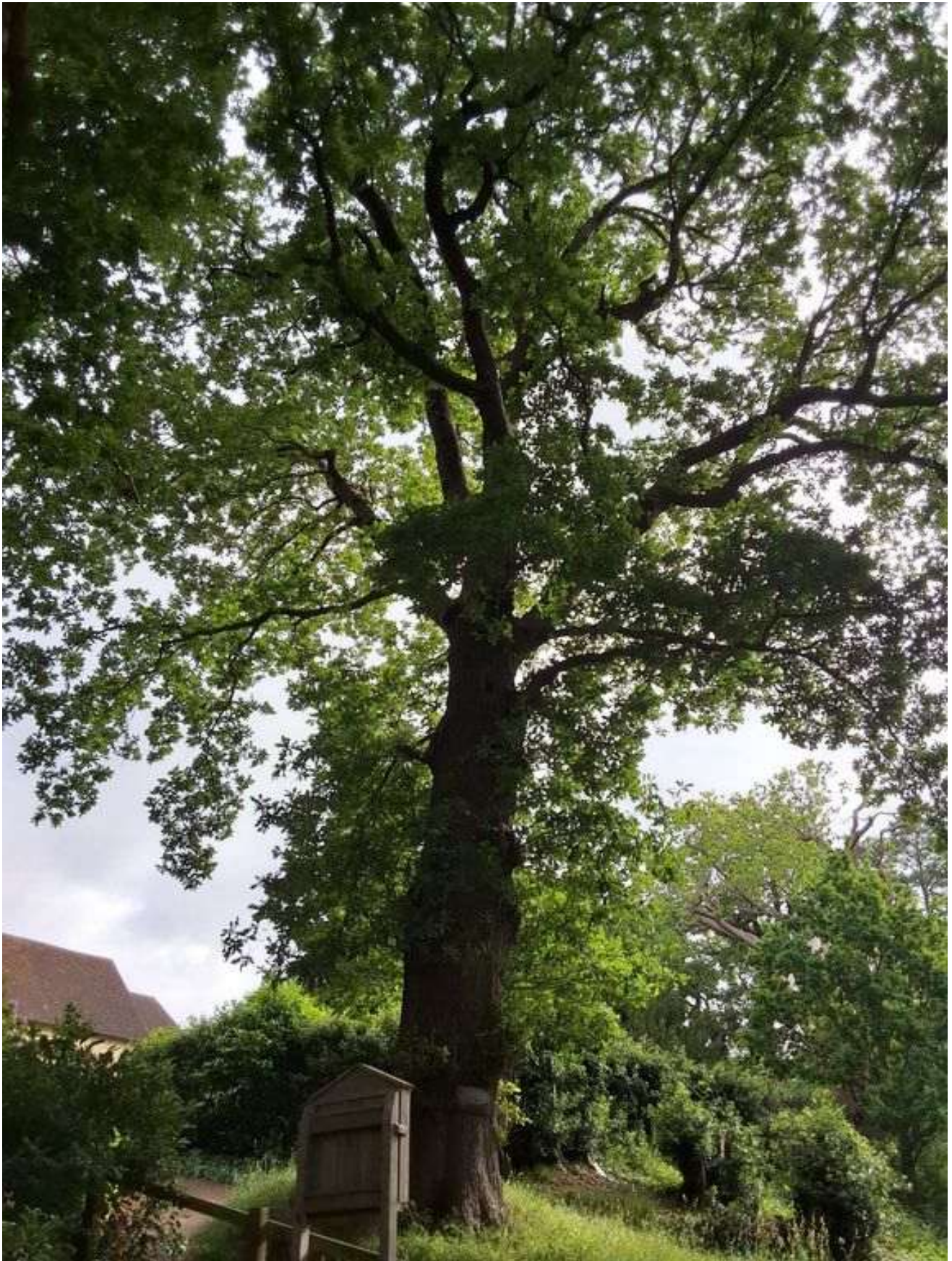


Photo 2 (T001)



Photo 3 (T001)



Photo 4 (T001)



Photo 5 (T001)

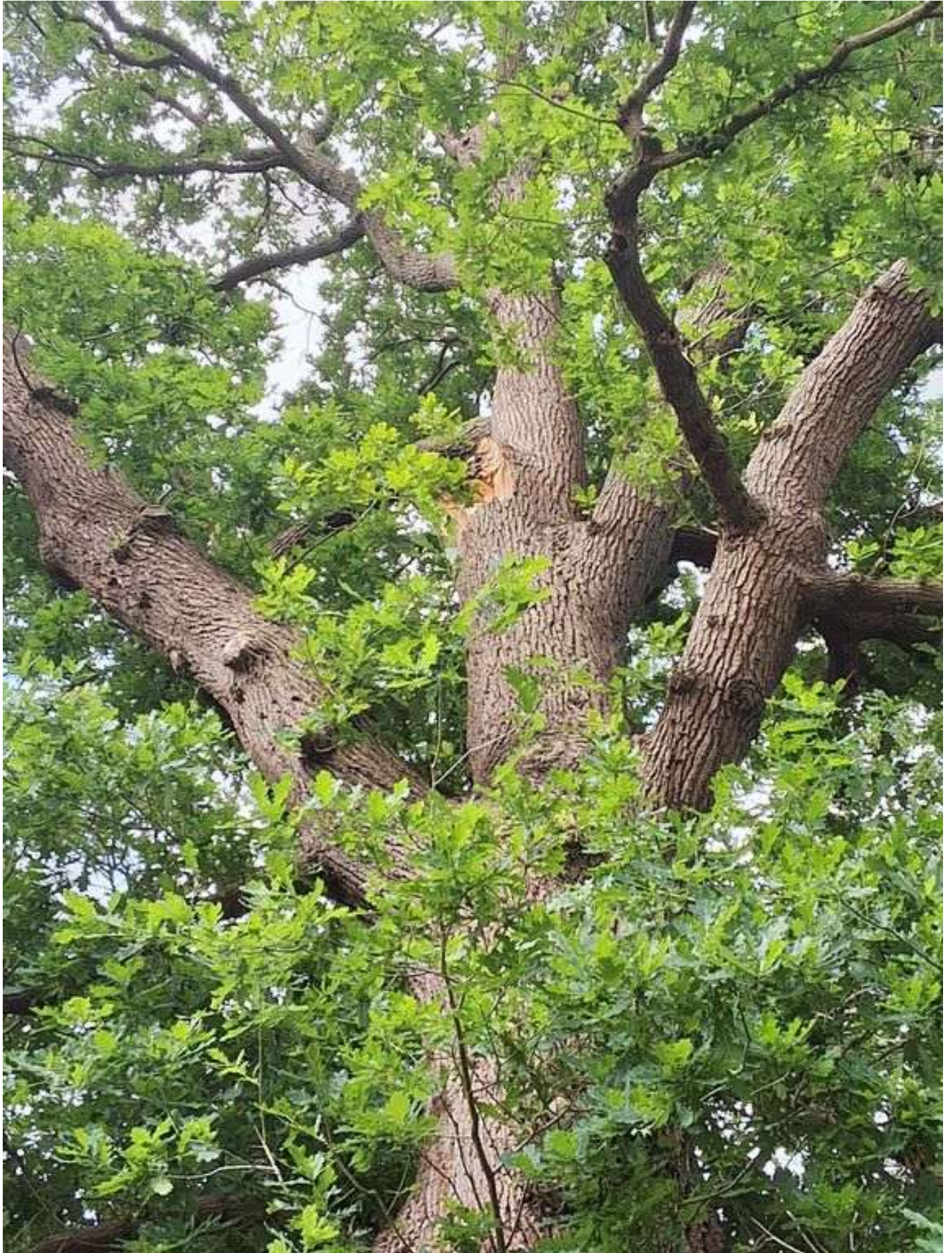


Photo 6 (T001)

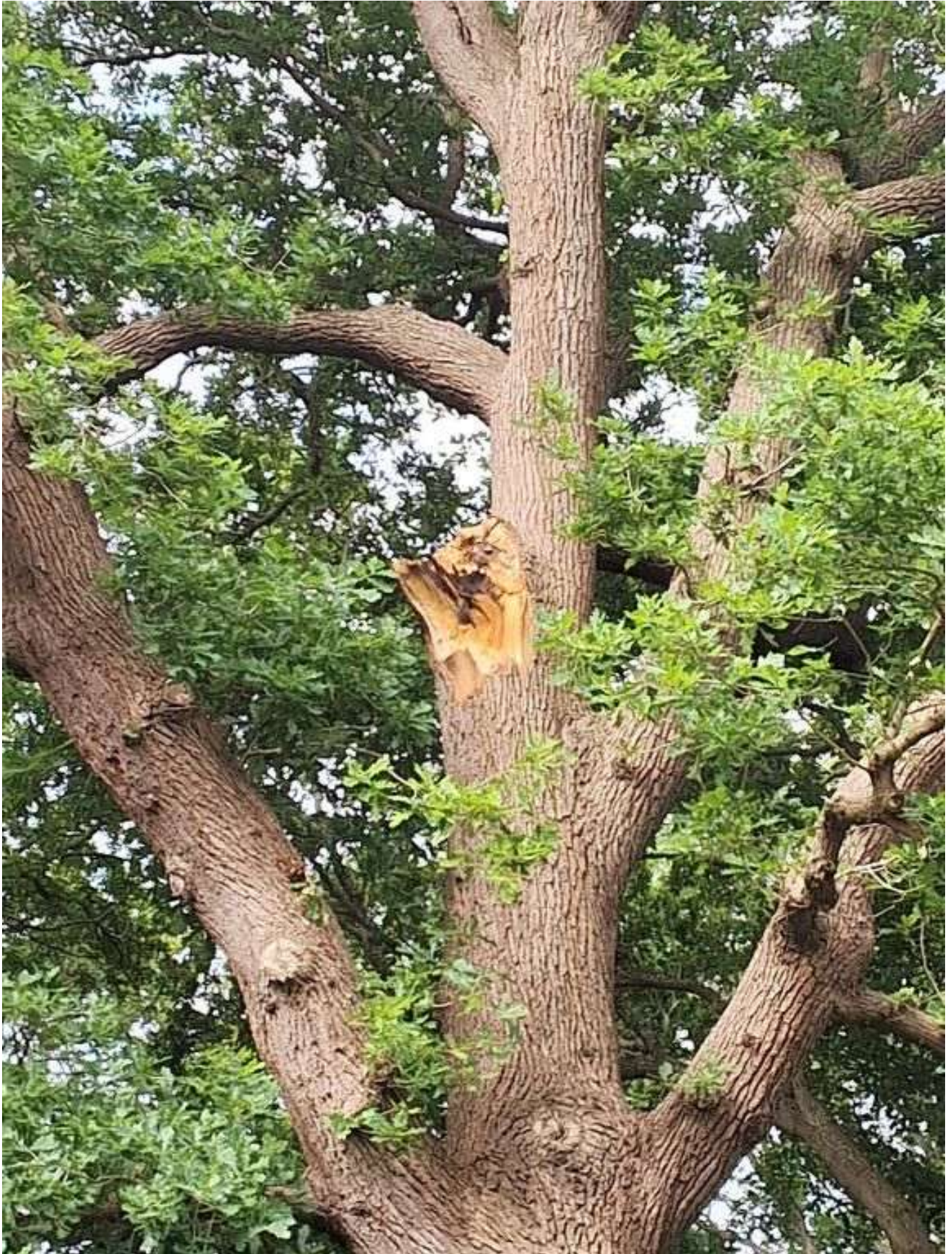


Photo 7 (T001)



Photo 8 (T002)

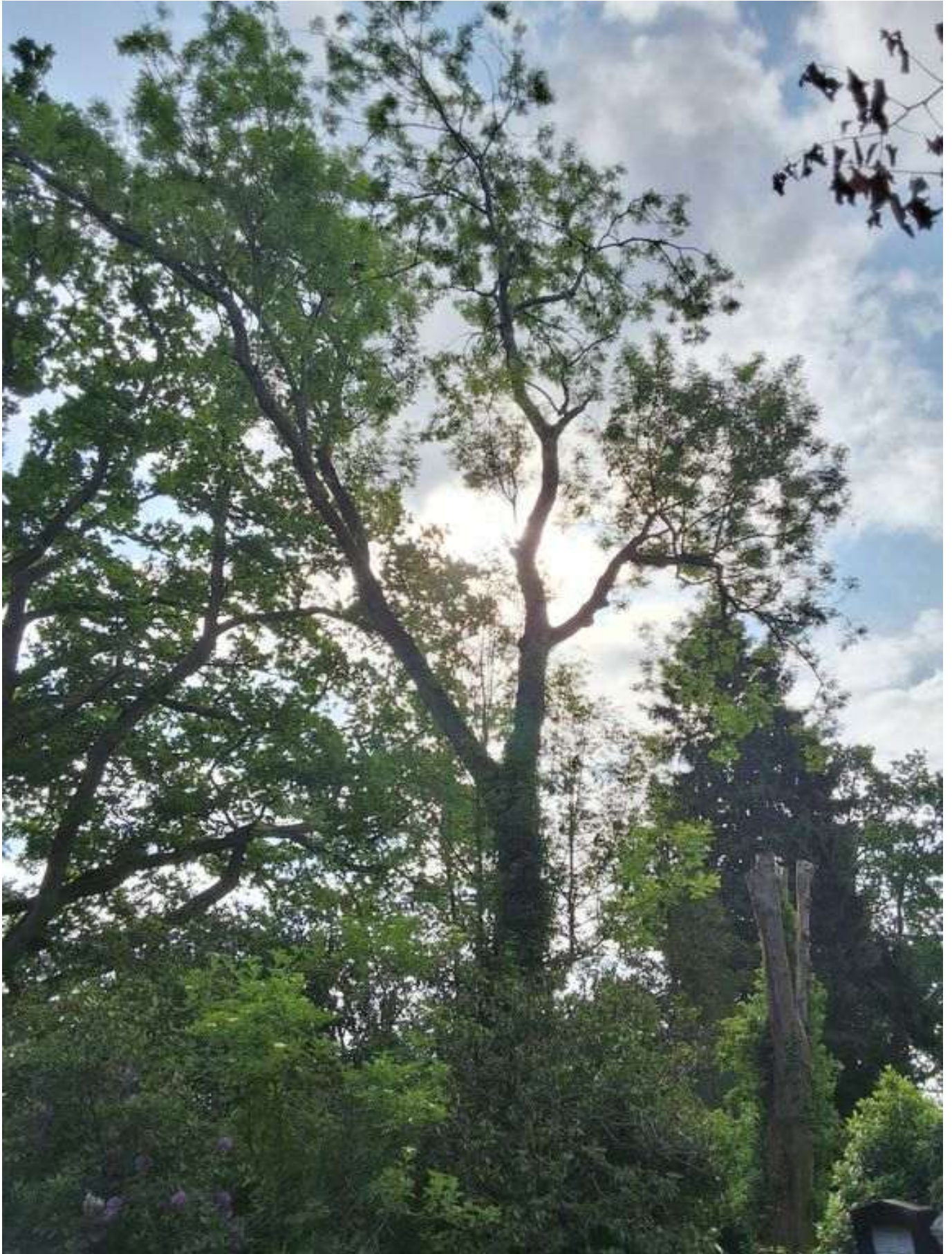


Photo 9 (T002)

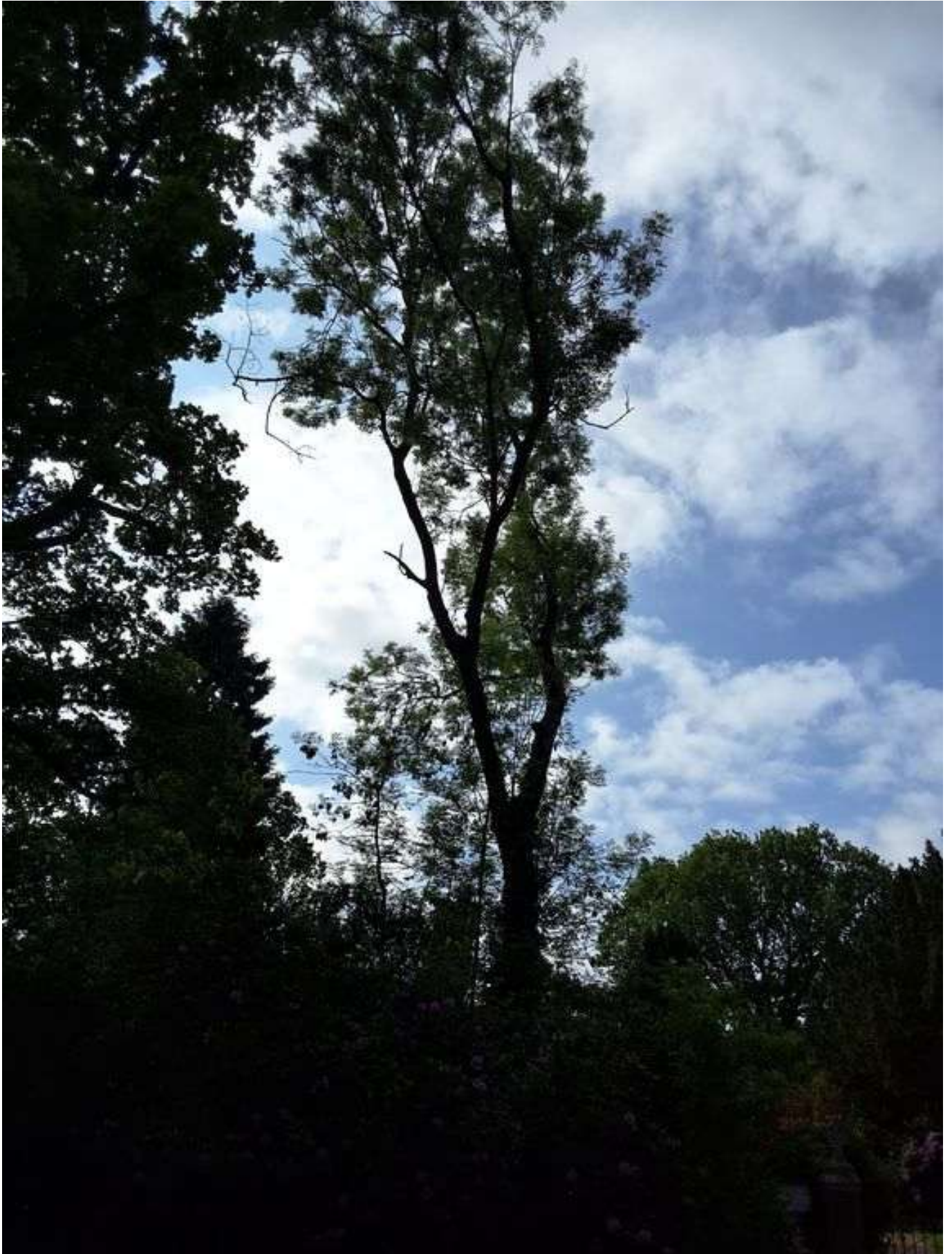


Photo 10 (T002)



Photo 11 (T002)



Photo 12 (T003)



Photo 13 (T003)

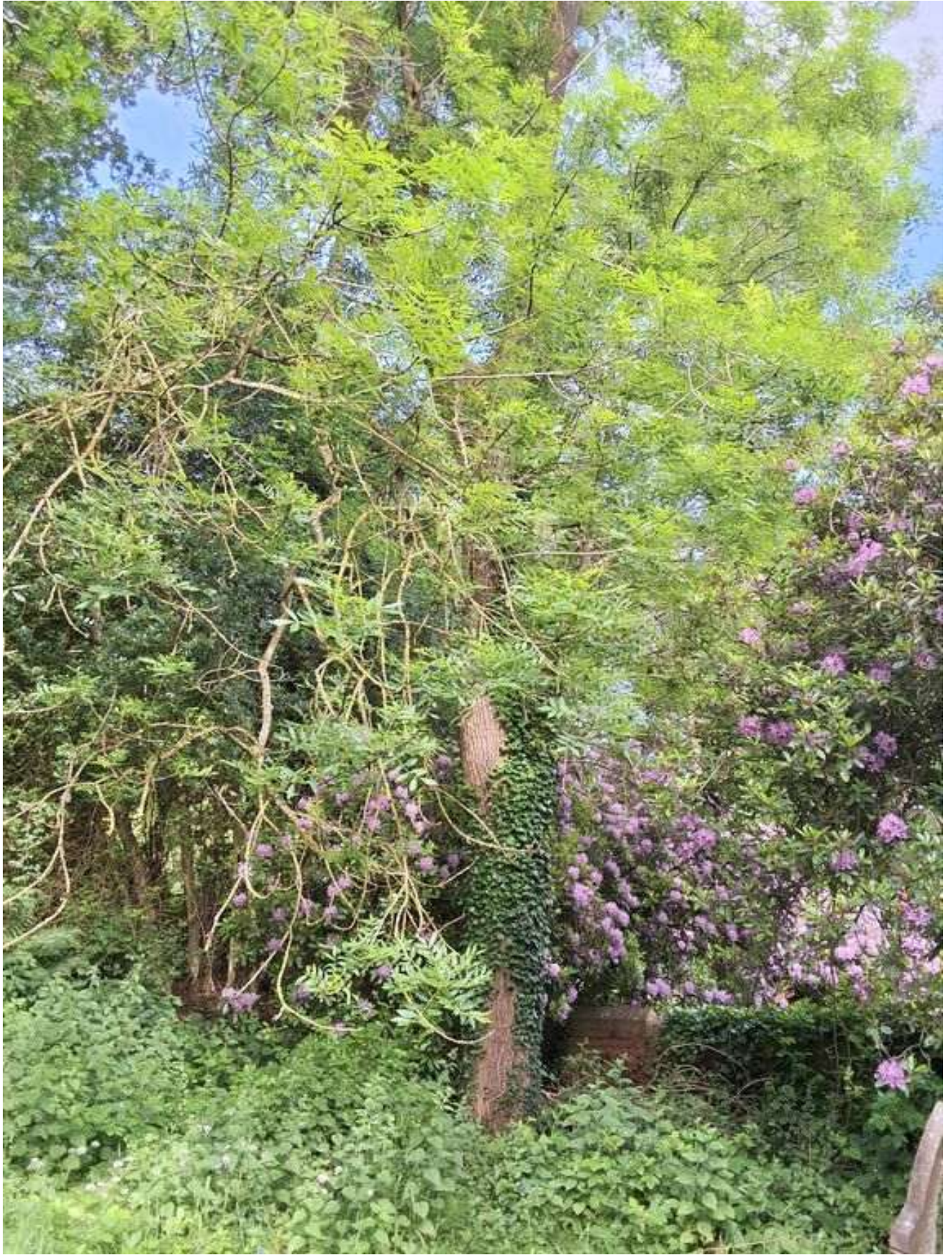


Photo 14 (T003)



Photo 15 (G001)



Photo 16 (G001)



Photo 17 (G001)



5.0 Tree Survey Data



Tree Survey Recommendations							
Client:		St James Church					
Site:		St James Church					
	Timescale	No. Recommendations					
	1 Year	2					
	No Action	4					
	Total	6					
Ref.	Species	Description	Measurements	General Observations	Overall Condition	Recommendation	Work Timescale
G001	Common ash x4 (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Owned by the estate. Target # - car park. Target # - footpath. Target # - road.	Height (m): 19 Crown Radius (m): 10 DBH (cm): 30 Trees: 4 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: <10 years	Pests and Diseases: Ash Dieback Infection Level 2: 25% to 50%	Poor	Fell triple stemmed ash within group. Monitor remaining ash	18-July-2025 (1 Month) for fell. 31-May-2025 (1 Year) for reinspection
T001	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Owned by the estate. Target # - footpath. Target # - graveyard	Height (m): 19 Crown Radius (m): 9 DBH (cm): 131 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 50+ Years	Aerial decay (good reactive growth) localised decay Historical failure north 10m Dead wood.	Fair	Crown reduce by 3m over east, 3m south, 1-2m west, 3m off the height	31-May-2026 (1 Year)
T002	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Owned by the estate. Target # - graveyard. Target # - footpath. Target # - road.	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 7 DBH (cm): 40 Life Stage: Early Mature Life Exp.: <10 years	Overweight, subsiding or lion-tailed limbs. Pests and Diseases: Ash Dieback Infection Level 2: 25% to 50%	Fair	No action required.	No Action
T003	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Owned by the estate. Target # - graveyard. Target # - footpath. Target # - road.	Height (m): 18 Crown Radius (m): 7 DBH (cm): 40 Life Stage: Early Mature Life Exp.: <10 years	Overweight, subsiding or lion-tailed limbs. Pests and Diseases: Ash Dieback Infection Level 2: 25% to 50%	Fair	No action required.	No Action

6.0 Site Plan



7.0 THREATS Risk Matrix

T001

Failure Score

Potentially with tim ▼

Target Score

Low ▼

Impact Score

Severe ▼

Risk Score

120

Threat Category

2: Minimal

T002

Failure Score

Likely, foreseeable ▼

Target Score

Low ▼

Impact Score

Moderate ▼

Risk Score

180

Threat Category

3: Slight

T003

Failure Score

Likely, foreseeable ▼

Target Score

Low ▼

Impact Score

Moderate ▼

Risk Score

180

Threat Category

3: Slight

G001

Failure Score

Probable/Soon ▼

Target Score

Medium ▼

Impact Score

Severe ▼

Risk Score

1,600

Threat Category

5: Significant

8.0 Further Notes

G001- 1x triple stemmed ash tree within G001 has been assessed via the THREATS risk matrix. All other trees were of no significance for risk analysis although in early stages of the ash die back disease. The progression of the disease within this group is to be monitored in line with the recommendations in this report.

9.0 Conclusion

T001- Due to the vitality of the tree currently, pruning is a viable option as the tree is likely to respond well.

T002- No work currently recommended. Reinspect in 1 year.

T003- No work currently recommended. Reinspect in 1 year

G001- Due to the split stem separating at the fork junction from ground level to 1m and evidencing movement in photo 17 this tree should be removed.

References:

Mattheck, Breloar (1994). *The Body Language of Trees: A Handbook for Failure Analysis*. London, HMSO.
David Lonsdale 2009, Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management
Fungi on Trees, An Arborists Field Guide 2020. Guy Watson and Ted Green (Arb Association Publication).