

10 Basil Close, Earley, RG6 5GL

Arboricultural report

Carried out on 9th November 2024

by David White,

LANTRA-approved Professional Tree Inspector

White Knight Tree Care & Consultancy

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1. Instruction

This arboricultural survey and report has been commissioned by [REDACTED]. The site in question is located at 10 Basil Close, Earley, RG6 5GL and consists of a two storey residential dwelling with attached garden.

The aim was to identify any health and safety-related risks and to recommend remedial work where necessary. The trees were inspected using VTA (visual tree assessment), the industry standard, non-invasive technique for assessing the health and condition of trees.

The inspection was carried out on 9th November 2024 by David White, ABC Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture, LANTRA approved professional tree inspector, of White Knight Services Ltd (company number 12694619, registered address 5 Cressingham Road, Reading RG2 7RS, trading as White Knight Tree Care & Consultancy).

2. Site and survey conditions

Five trees were surveyed. The weather conditions were overcast & still, with good visibility.

The recommendations contained in this report are based on the findings on the days of the survey. If the site usage changes, this site may need to be reassessed.

3. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

A check for protected trees has revealed that at the time of writing, the trees are covered by TPO 1288-2009 (Wokingham Borough Council), thus permission will need to be sought from the Local Planning Authority to carry out the recommended works if the trees are protected.

4. Limitations

The trees have been inspected from ground level and, where deemed necessary, non-invasive equipment has been used to identify the presence and assess the extent of decay and therefore the structural integrity of individual trees. If a further climbing inspection is required, this will be specified in the report.

Although every effort has been made to accurately assess and predict the risks posed, trees are living, dynamic systems that can be influenced by many biotic or abiotic factors. As such, events such as extreme or unpredictable weather conditions, vandalism, accidents, chemical or fire damage render the findings of this report unreliable and reinspection will be required. Even the healthiest tree in ideal conditions is not risk-free as there are always complex forces and stresses at play. Ivy, although it has significant ecological value, severely hinders the effectiveness of VTA and makes accurate assessment of the entire tree impossible as the areas beneath the ivy cannot be seen. Where necessary, it is advised that the ivy should be

severed to make a fuller reinspection possible; the severance of ivy should be conducted using hand tools only (NEVER using a chainsaw), paying careful attention not to cut into or damage the tree's bark. The ivy should be severed at ground level and again higher up at approximately 1.5m to allow the base of the stem to be cleared once the ivy has died off.

5. Recommended works

Any of the remedial works carried out should be done so in accordance with BS:3998 wherever possible. Adding organic mulch to a thickness of 100mm, making sure not to pile it up around the stem as this can cause rot, and up to the drip line of trees, is considered good practice and is always recommended where practicable as it helps slowly release nutrients into the soil as it decomposes whilst improving water retention and reducing evaporation. It reduces soil erosion by slowing heavy rains that can then percolate into the soil rather than washing it away. It encourages mycorrhizal fungi and worms, which further aid with nutrient uptake and soil decompaction and aeration.

The recommended work should be carried out within the time frame specified in order for the findings to remain valid.

6. Ecological considerations

There are many species of invertebrates that live, breed or grow exclusively in deadwood making it of critical importance in the ecosystem as many of these species are predated on by birds and animals. This means that various forms of deadwood, including a range of vertical and horizontal, high and low level, standing and fallen deadwood needs to be retained in order to support biodiversity (not just a pile of logs on the ground). The aim should never be to totally sterilise the environment by removing the deadwood. With this in mind, if the site conditions and occupancy allow for it, wherever possible deadwood should be retained. This is reflected in the survey report.

Trees, both living and dead, are extremely important keystone species in the environment/ecosystem. They provide innumerable benefits such as carbon sequestration, reducing urban heat island effect, reducing stress and improving people's mental health, reducing soil erosion, adding aesthetic interest and amenity in the landscape, reducing flooding through transpiration and precipitation interception, providing food and shelter for many species of birds, mammals, insects and invertebrates. Whenever possible, I have recommended remedial work that would allow for the retention of trees.

7. Insurance

Works covered by White Knight Services Ltd Public Liability Insurance to the value of £10,000,000.00

Professional indemnity insurance to the value of £2,000,000.00

8. Copyright

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9. Survey findings

Ref.	Species	Measurements and life stage	Condition	Location	Survey Notes	Recommendations	Inspect Period
T001	Oak (<i>Quercus sp.</i>)	Crown spread: North-East: 5m North-West: 1.5m South-West: approx. 6m South-East: 3m Height (m): 15 DBH (cm): 49 Life Stage: Early Mature	Fair	In line with Southern wall on main building, approx. 2m South-West of building, against Western boundary fence, against fence to North	- Historic wound on North-north-west side of base, almost fully occluded, no significant penetration - No significant audible defects at base - Main union at 2m above ground level, stems fuse at 3m above ground level. The smaller Northern stem arches West at 50° from vertical over public footpath & neighbours' property. - Multiple historic fully occluded wounds on main stem - Major deadwood, particularly in lower crown. - Main unions are satisfactory. - Normal vitality - Within 1m of roof - Historically topped at approx. 10m above ground level	- Recommendations 1: Tree appears to be in reasonably good health However, given the location, proximity to the house, extensive overhang into neighbours' property combined with the fact the tree will continue to grow significantly larger, it is worth: - Removing majority of crown to encourage the formation of pollard knuckles, using the historic topping point at approximately 10m above ground level as the highest knuckle and then shaping the remainder of the crown to suit whilst pruning to appropriate forks as the basis for pollard knuckles This would effectively curtail the size of the tree whilst allowing it to be retained and continue to provide important habitat and wildlife corridor for many years to come. Timescale: 09-Nov-2025 (1 Year) - Long term Recommendations: - Repollard 2-5 years after initial pollard	2 Years

Ref.	Species	Measurements and life stage	Condition	Location	Survey Notes	Recommendations	Inspect Period
T002	Oak (<i>Quercus sp.</i>)	Crown spread: North East: 4m North West: 2m South West: approx. 6.5m South East: 1m Height (m): 15 DBH (cm): 48 Life Stage: Early Mature	Fair	Almost in line with Southern wall on main building, approx. 2m South West of building, against Western boundary fence, against fence to South	- No significant visible or audible defects at base - Main stem leans to North approx. 45° from vertical up to 2m above ground level, then corrects to vertical for 1.5m, the sweeps West for 2m, then vertical. - Main unions are tension forks - Within 0.5m of roof, possibly touching but cannot see clearly - Major deadwood - Historically topped at 9-11m above ground level - Normal vitality - Significant spread over public footpath & neighbours' garden	- Recommendations 1: Tree appears to be in reasonably good health. However, given the location, proximity to the house, extensive overhang across public footpath and neighbours' property combined with the fact the tree will continue to grow significantly larger, it is worth: - Removing majority of crown to encourage the formation of pollard knuckles, using the historic topping point at approximately 10m above ground level as the highest knuckle and then shaping the remainder of the crown to suit whilst pruning to appropriate forks as the basis for pollard knuckles This would effectively curtail the size of the tree whilst allowing it to be retained and continue to provide important habitat and wildlife corridor for many years to come. Timescale: 09-Nov-2025 (1 Year) - Long term Recommendations: Repollard 2-5 years after initial Pollard	2 Years

Ref.	Species	Measurements and life stage	Condition	Location	Survey Notes	Recommendations	Inspect Period
T003	Oak (<i>Quercus sp.</i>)	Crown spread: North East: 3.5m North West: 1.5m South West: approx. 5.5m South East: 2m Height (m): 15 DBH (cm): 40 Life Stage: Early Mature	Fair	In line with chimney breast on main building's West wall, approx. 1.5m West of building, against Western boundary fence	- No significant visible or audible defects at base - Steel cable subsumed into base on North West side - Multiple fully occluded historic wounds on main stem. 2nd major limb on South West side resting on/rubbing 1st major limb - Major deadwood - Historically topped around 10m above ground level - Within 0.5m of roof, touching aerial - Main unions satisfactory - Normal vitality	- Recommendations 1: Tree appears to be in reasonably good health However, given the location, proximity to the house, extensive overhang across public footpath & into neighbours' property combined with the fact the tree will continue to grow significantly larger, it is worth: - Removing majority of crown to encourage the formation of pollard knuckles. Using the historic topping point at approximately 10m above ground level as the highest knuckle and then shaping the remainder of the crown to suit whilst pruning to appropriate forks as the basis for pollard knuckles Timescale: 09-Nov-2025 (1 Year) - Long term Recommendations: - Repollard 2-5 years after initial Pollard	2 Years

Ref.	Species	Measurements and life stage	Condition	Location	Survey Notes	Recommendations	Inspect Period
T004	Oak (<i>Quercus sp.</i>)	Crown spread: North East: 6m North West: 3.5m South West: approx. 7m South East: 3m Height (m): 16 DBH (cm): 49 Life Stage: Early Mature	Fair	In line with North wall on main building, approx. 2m West of building, against Western boundary fence	- No significant audible defects at base - Historic wound on South East side of base, no significant penetration with probe - Atypical crescent shaped line in bark at approx. 1.5m above ground level on South East side - Adjacent Holly tree limiting access - North side of main stem at 2m above ground level, area of historically damaged bark 20cm diameter, exposed wood decaying with active insect activity, fresh frass visible, limited penetration 50mm at deepest point with defined edge, limited reactive growth around area. - Twin stem from 2m above ground level - Normal vitality - Suspect historically topped around 11m above ground level - North main stem is very asymmetric with majority of crown significantly off set to South West over footpath & neighbours' property.	- Recommendations 1: Given the location, proximity to the house, extensive overhang across public footpath & into neighbours' property combined with fibre buckling and a poorly optimised crown (significant offset resulting in substantial lever arm and weight) and the fact the tree will continue to grow significantly larger, it is worth: - Removing majority of crown to encourage the formation of pollard knuckles. - Using the historic topping point at approximately 10m above ground level as the highest knuckle and then shaping the remainder of the crown to suit whilst pruning to appropriate forks as the basis for pollard knuckles - Timescale: 09-Nov-2025 (1 Year) - Long term Recommendations: - Repollard 2-5 years after initial pollard	2 Years

Ref.	Species	Measurements and life stage	Condition	Location	Survey Notes	Recommendations	Inspect Period
					Therefore poorly biomechanically optimised. • Fibre buckling on underside of 1st major limb • Rubbing branches • Major deadwood • South stem is much more upright • Possible open historic wound/cavity at 3m above ground level on South East side of stem • Major deadwood, including large central stem • Within 1m of aerial		

Ref.	Species	Measurements and life stage	Condition	Location	Survey Notes	Recommendations	Inspect Period
T005	Oak (<i>Quercus sp.</i>)	Crown spread: North West: 7m North: 8m North East: 8.5m East: 6m South East: 5m South West: approx. 5-6m Height (m): 16.5 North stem DBH: 29.5cm South stem DBH: 63cm Life Stage: Early Mature	Fair	Against west boundary fence, 2m south of northern boundary fence, 8.5m North West of building	- No significant visible or audible defects at base - Pronounced/well defined bark ridge between North and South stems, suspect 2 different trees originally, then fused - Dense ivy throughout - Main union is a tension fork - Historically topped around 10m above ground level - North stem arches North mainly over neighbours' garden - Isolated major deadwood - Main unions obscured by ivy - Normal vitality - South stem - Ivy obscuring main union - Major deadwood - Normal vitality	- Recommendations 1: Tree appears to be in reasonably good health However, given the location, proximity to the house, extensive overhang across public footpath & into neighbours' property combined with the fact the tree will continue to grow significantly larger, it is worth: - Removing majority of crown to encourage the formation of pollard knuckles. Using the historic topping point at approximately 10m above ground level as the highest knuckle and then shaping the remainder of the crown to suit whilst pruning to appropriate forks as the basis for pollard knuckles Timescale: 09-Nov-2025 (1 Year) - Long term Recommendations: - Repollard 2-5 years after initial Pollard Timescale: 2-5 years after initial Pollard	2 Years

10. Photographs



Figure 1: T1



Figure 2: T1 base

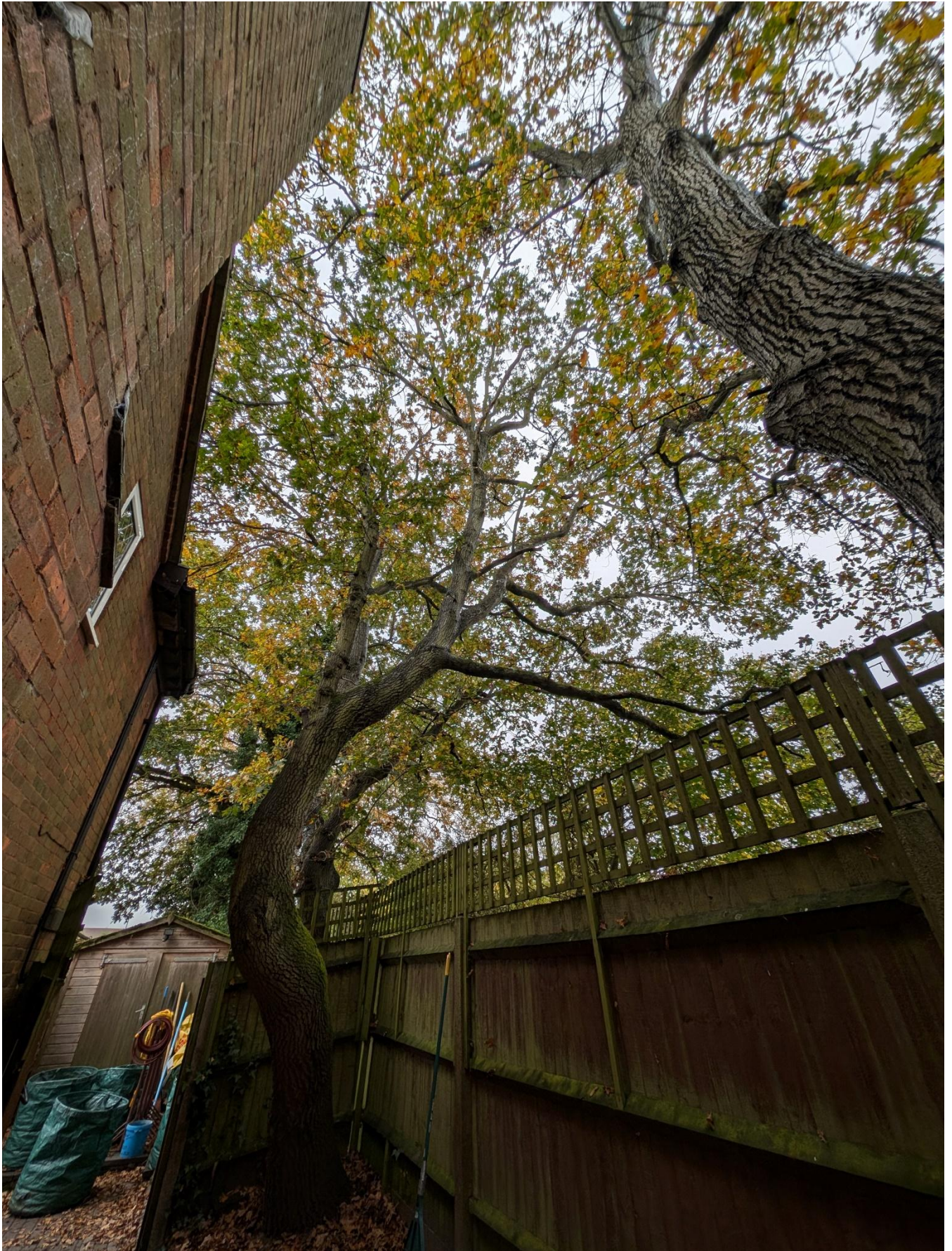


Figure 3: T2 North side



Figure 4: T2 South side



Figure 5: T3 South side



Figure 6: T3 South side crown



Figure 7: T3 North side



Figure 8: T4 asymmetric crown



Figure 9: T4 fibre buckling (first major limb)



Figure 10: T4 cavity



Figure 11: T4 Southern stem



Figure 12: T5 overview



Figure 13: T5 base 1



Figure 14: T5 base 2



Figure 15: T5 overhang into neighbours' garden



Figure 16: showing significant overhang across public footpath and into neighbouring properties 1



Figure 17: showing significant overhang across public footpath and into neighbouring properties 2



Figure 18: showing significant overhang across public footpath and into neighbouring properties 3

11. Map

T001-T005

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