

Plot 47, 34 Copenhagen Rise,
Spencers' Wood, RG7 1YT

Arboricultural report

Inspection carried out on 4th June 2025
by David White

LANTRA-approved Professional Tree Inspector
White Knight Tree Care & Consultancy

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1. Instruction

This arboricultural survey and report have been commissioned by [REDACTED] The site in question is located at Plot 47, 34 Copenhagen Rise, Spencers' Wood, RG7 1YT (what3words: ///rams.dock.supply) and consists of a residential dwelling with attached garden. The trees inspected are located just outside the boundary fence of Plot 47, 34 Copenhagen Rise. The group includes 5 Scots pine in total, the northern 2 - closest to the property – are the objects of this report.

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

The inspection was carried out on 4th June 2025 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

The weather conditions were mostly overcast 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 identified that at the time of writing, the trees are subject to a Tree Preservation Order, 1931/2023 (G3). Trees covered by TPOs and/or located in a Conservation Areas require permission from the Local Planning Authority before any work is carried out, as such consent from the Council will be required prior to carrying out any remedial work recommended in this survey.

4. Limitations

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 releasing nutrients into the soil whilst improving water retention into the soil and reducing evaporation.

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. Survey findings, conclusions and recommendations

Tree reference: T1

Species: Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)

Location: Approx 7m south of number 34
What3words: ///edits.pumps.prom

Life stage: Mature

Measurements:

Diameter at breast height (DBH): 54cm

Approximate height: Approx 15m tall

Crown spread: North: 6m, West: 2.5m, South: 1m (limb is approx 3.5 m), East: 2m

Survey findings:

- Normal-good vitality, dense, dark green canopy
- Some major deadwood
- Tree leans approximately 14° (from vertical) North-North East towards house
- Main unions satisfactory
- Significantly extended major limbs in upper crown on Northern side
- Multiple relatively recent poor pruning wounds on main stem oozing sap
- New fence on North and West side
- Large historic wound on North side of main stem, open wound from 0.6-1.1m above ground level, approx. 400mm wide, exposed wood is solid with no visible or audible decay. Column of dysfunctional cambium to approx. 2.5m above ground level, resulting in flattened cross section. Significant pillars of reactive growth to either side of wound.
- Significant rounded bulge/thickening of main stem below wound
- No significant audible defects around base, not conclusive due to flaking bark.

Tree reference: T2

Species: Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)

Location: Approx 7.5m south of number 34
What3words: ///brick.lists.pill

Life stage: Early Mature

Measurements:

Diameter at breast height (DBH): 51cm

Approximate height: Approx 13m tall

Crown spread: North: 4m, West: 2m, South: 1.5m, East: 3.5m

Survey findings:

- Normal vitality, dense, dark green foliage
- Some major deadwood
- Main unions satisfactory
- Multiple poor pruning wounds on North side of main stem oozing sap
- No visible significant defects at base.
- Possible audible defect, East side of stem at ground level, no significant penetration with probe.
- New fence within 2m to North and North East.

Conclusions:

T1, the larger of the two trees, whilst displaying good vitality and general health, has some issues that are a cause for concern given the new proximity of a residential dwelling. The main stem leans very approximately 14° from vertical toward the house. A lean of over 10° from vertical is usually considered significant.

Compounding this is the historic wound at its base, which looks to have encompassed approximately 50% of the tree's circumference when the wound was originally inflicted. The wound is located on the compressive (under) side of the leaning stem. Pine trees are conifers and so tend to support themselves when required by building up layers of compression wood on the underside of a limb or leaning stem, due to this wound, T1 is unable to do this. The wound has also resulted in a flattened cross-section acting as a focal point for mechanical stress in the main stem increasing the likelihood of stem failure.

There is also significant bulging around and below the wound suggesting that the cambium is experiencing notable force/stress in this area in order to stimulate so much isolated reactive growth, further suggesting a non-negligible risk of potential stem failure.

The admittedly healthy (and therefore heavy) but asymmetric crown, heavily weighted to the North, will also be applying a significant torque (turning force) to the compromised main stem. Shortening the extent of the canopy spread to the North may be enough to mitigate the risks posed by reducing the weight and leverage applied as well as reducing the sail area presented to the wind. However, due to the significant lean combined with the size and extent of the wound near the base, this would not satisfactorily deal with the risk in the medium-long term. As such I would recommend removing or monolithing this tree.

T2 is largely free from significant defects. The potential audible defect at its base is not deemed significant due to a lack of penetration when probed and is most likely due to flaking bark.

However, once T1 is removed, T2 will be exposed to unfamiliar wind loading as it will no longer be sheltered by T1. As such, reducing the crown may be prudent to lessen the sail area. Given the pruning wounds on the main stem, it is likely the overall sail area is already significantly less than before the crown was raised. Ideally the sail area would have been reduced in the upper crown where the leverage exerted by the wind is greatest, but to do so now may put the tree under excessive stress having already lost a significant portion of its photosynthetic area. Consequently, no work is deemed necessary for T2 at present.

Recommendations:

T1: Dismantle T1 to a high stump, approximately 1-2m above ground level, to retain as much habitat value as practicable.

Time scale: work to be completed within 3 months – by the 11th September 2025

T2: Re-inspect T2 within 3 years

9. Photographs



Figure 1: T1 on right of photo, T2 on left of photo



Figure 2: T1, asymmetric crown

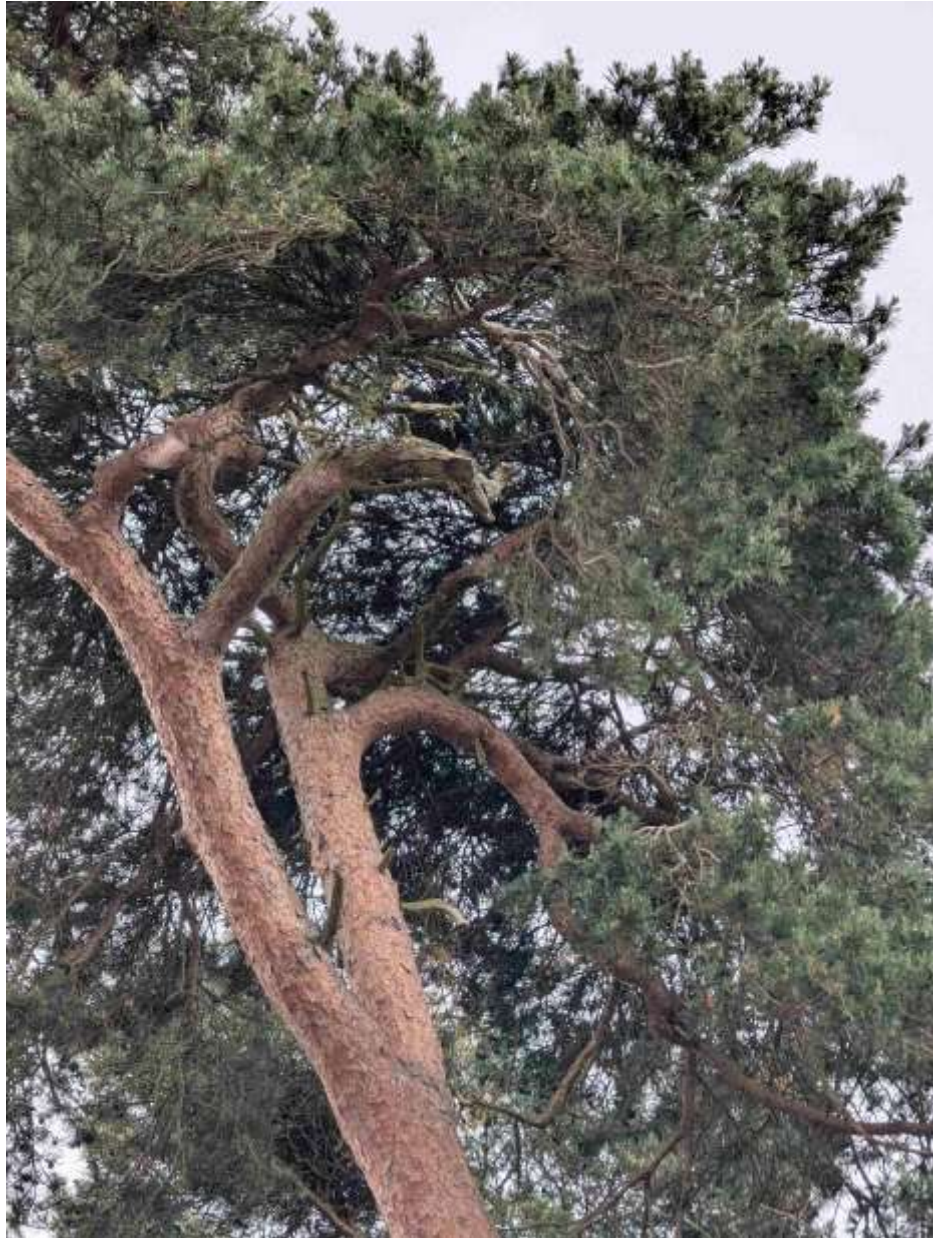


Figure 3: T1 deadwood



Figure 4: T1 lean towards house



Figure 5: Recent pruning wounds



Figure 6: East side of T1 base



Figure 7: south side of T1 showing bulging stem



Figure 8: West side of T1 base



Figure 9: North side of T1 base showing extensive historic wound

10. Map

