

DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

47 HEATHERMOUNT DRIVE
CROWTHORNE
BERKSHIRE
RG45 6HJ

CLIENT: MR JOHN KELLY

OCTOBER 2024

Ref: 06517/2024

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Mr. John Kelly, Owner / Occupier of 47 Heathermount Drive, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6HJ.

I have been asked to carry out a health and safety survey of trees at the property to identify any works which may be required.

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 Thursday 19th September 2024 by Sarah Duckworth, Arboricultural Consultant.

On the day of the survey the weather was bright and sunny. Visibility was good.

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, trees surveyed area are protected by an Area Tree Preservation Order (ref TPO-0780-1996).

No works should be undertaken to trees subject of a Tree Preservation Order without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority (exemptions apply).

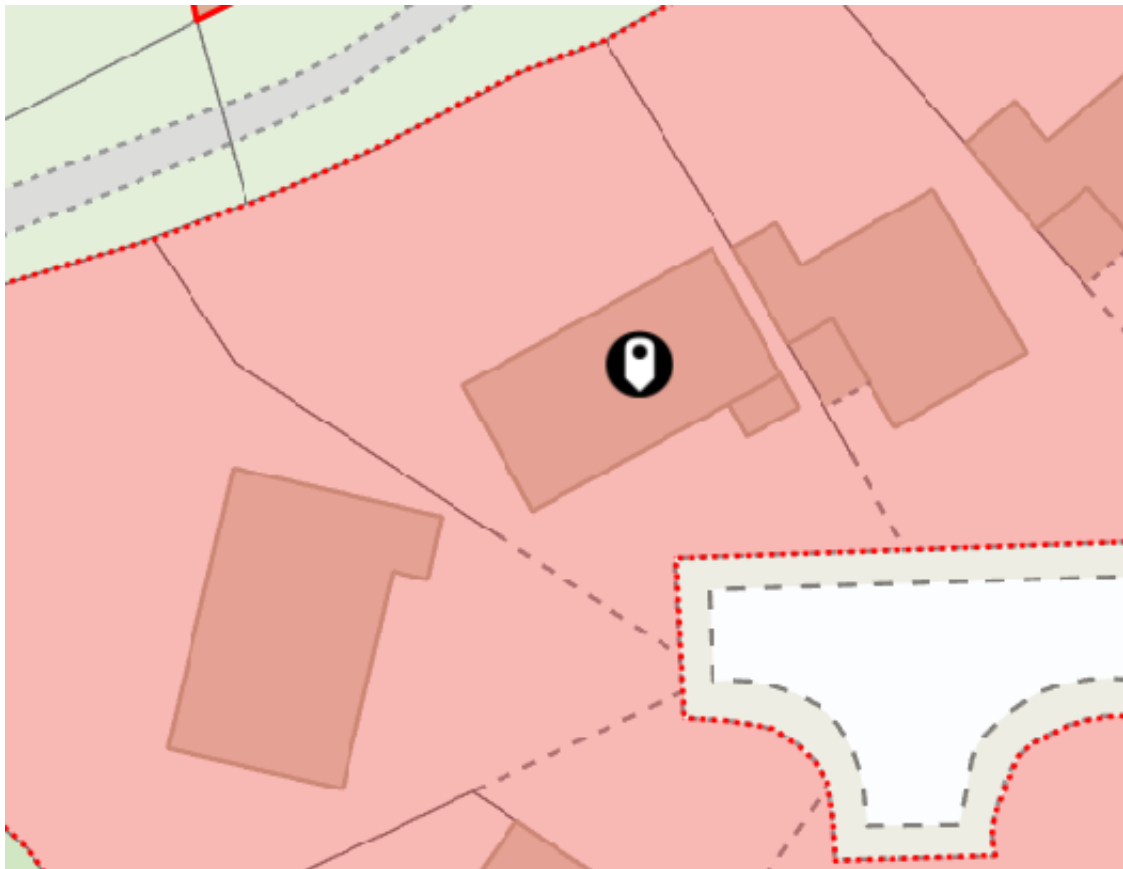


Figure 1 - Wokingham Borough Council Tree Preservation Order Map

CONSERVATION AREAS

47 Heathermount 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 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 have been retained where it is considered reasonable and safe to do so.

Where trees are removed, it will benefit the local ecology to leave a high stump (ideally 2-3m) as a standing monolith where it is safe a reasonable to do so, A percentage of the wood, (particularly wood that is already decayed) should be stacked and left on site for habitat value where possible (taking care not to restrict access for future surveys).

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.

3.5 FUNGAL DECAY

Mature conifers including Larch can be colonised by a number of decay-causing fungal pathogens which usually degrade wood around the roots or base of the tree. As these fungi fruit only annually, their presence may not always be apparent in a seasonal tree survey.

The two most common decay fungi on Cedar are *Phaeolus schweinitzii* and *Sparassis crispa*.

Tree owners are advised to monitor the ground where conifer trees may be rooting. Any unusual fungal growths 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)

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 ecology of the wider area.

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 trees in the garden of 47 Heathermount Drive only. Trees were inspected from ground level and from the garden of 47 Heathermount Drive only. Fences present on site have been taken as the presumed site boundary.

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 19th September 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	Pedunculate oak (Quercus robur)	Height (m): 17 Crown Radius (m): 9 DBH (cm): 96 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Log store and stacked wood partially obscures tree base and lower trunk. Concrete raft foundation on west side of base. Where accessible hammer test even and satisfactory. Bark intact. Small wounds southeast side, 100mm above ground level. There are a number of old nails (at least 7) on the trunk from ground level to 1.5m. Three-way stem fork at 1.8m. Fork well-formed and satisfactory. Epicormic growth lacking vitality on all three trunks. Stems topped at 7/8m. One stem on North side has failed to put on any meaningful new growth. Probably due to lack of light. Remaining two stems on south and west side has mature new growth up to 300mm diameter. Asymmetrical crown to South and West. Over neighbouring garage. 1-2m clearance to roofline. Minor deadwood in crown. Foliage density normal. Moderate vitality.	Fair	Reduce lateral spread on south and west side of crown by 2m to nearest suitable reduction points to reduce overhang over garage and reasonable clearance to neighbouring residential property. Timescale: 19-Sep-2025 (1 Year)	
T002	European larch (Larix decidua)	Height (m): 23 Crown Radius (m): 3 DBH (cm): 47 Life Stage: Mature	Slender tree. Base clear, bark intact. Slightly bulbous base on west side with flat area and audible changes on North side of lower trunk. Metal probe can be pushed into trunk / bark 100mm at ground level. Areas of elevated bark are likely to be the cause of much of the uneven sound intonation in this region. Remaining trunk appears sound – no audible decay. Single, straight stem. Little tapering. Slender high crown. Minor deadwood in lower crown commensurate with species. Reasonable form and vitality.	Fair	Monitor base and rooting area for fungal growths throughout the year (see paragraph 3.5). Timescale: 19-Sep-2025 (1 Year)	

Ref:	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations	Photo
T003	Pedunculate oak (Quercus robur)	Height (m): 20 Crown Radius (m): 10 DBH (cm): 71 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Healthy, pronounced even buttress roots. Slightly stilted on north side with indents in between buttress roots. Bark intact. No evidence of cavities or decay. Hammer test even and satisfactory. No fungal fruiting bodies evident. Single stem. Multiple nails on trunk. Historic sound from 4m to 5.5m where large stem failed at the trunk fork. This has created a large wound on the trunk, possible cavity and small wound wood formation. Crown now consists of growth on southern large stem. Some widening of the trunk where the trunk kinks, but the trees' ability to put on extra supporting wood is greatly undermined by the wound on the tension side of the stem. Tree topped around 11m with decay visible at topping point. Asymmetrical canopy formed of new growth under 300mm diameter on south side of crown from previous reduction points. Canopy over roof of 47 Heathermount Drive. Nylon rope restricting low branch over garden and well occluded into the trunk. Minor deadwood in crown. Foliage dense and even. Good vitality.	Fair	Reduce lateral spread on south side of crown by 2-3m to nearest suitable reduction points to reduce weight and exposure of asymmetrical crown above large stem wound. Timescale: 19-Mar-2025 (6 Months)	
T004	Pedunculate oak (Quercus robur)	Height (m): 17 Crown Radius (m): 6.5 DBH (cm): 47 Life Stage: Mature	Slender tree. Root flare obscured. Possible ground level changes at base. Where visible, base clear, bark intact. Small area of bud proliferation and epicormic growth at base and where branches have been cut on the trunk. Bark intact. Sound intonation even and satisfactory. No audible decay. Vertical scars on trunk bark from previous stem wounding. Heavily crown lifted. Deadwood on crown over low occupancy area. Vertical stem. Small suppressed crown. Foliage slightly sparse. Moderate vitality. Inspection Limitations: Root collar buried	Fair	No works identified.	

Ref:	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations	Photo
T005	European larch (<i>Larix decidua</i>)	Height (m): 25 Crown Radius (m): 4 DBH (cm): 49 Life Stage: Mature	Slender tree. Base clear, bark intact. Hammer test even and satisfactory. No audible decay. Single stem with limited tapering. Slender dead branches in crown commensurate with species - over low occupancy area (reasonable to retain). High overall canopy suppressed by adjacent trees. Needle density normal. Reasonable form and vitality.	Fair	No action required.	
T006	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Height (m): 22 Crown Radius (m): 10.5 DBH (cm): 71 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Small but healthy, pronounced even buttress roots around base. Bankside tree. Stilted buttressing on North side of trunk. Base clear, bark intact. No evidence of cavities or decay. Hammer test even and satisfactory. No fungal fruiting bodies evident. Single stem. Historic wounds on trunk from branch removal fully occluded. Major stem fork around 11m above ground level. Appears open and under tension although form suggests it may be formed of regrowth from an old topping point and decay may be present. Broad, asymmetrical crown formed of multiple large limbs on south side over garden of 47 Heathermount Drive. These have previously been reduced and gave 3-4m new growth on previous reduction points. Deadwood over garden and prow. Broken, split stem on south side 200mm diameter resting on lower branches. Foliage dense and even. Good vitality.	Fair	Remove split limb. Reduce lateral spread on south half of crown (towards dwelling) by 3-4m back to previous reduction points where present or nearest suitable reduction points to reduce overbearing nature of tree in relation to 47 Heathermount Drive. Remove deadwood. Timescale: 19-Mar-2025 (6 Months)	

Ref:	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations	Photo
T007	European larch (Larix decidua)	Height (m): 25 Crown Radius (m): 3 DBH (cm): 43 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years	Slender tree. Base clear, bark intact. No fungal fruiting bodies evident. Hammer test sound extremely hollow on lower trunk up to around 1.5m above ground level. Three vertical cracks / ridges on trunk. Resident advises that this tree moves more in high winds than any of the others on the property. High, slender crown. Minor deadwood. needle density normal.	Poor	Fell to ground level. Timescale: 19-Dec-2024 (3 Months)	
T008	European larch (Larix decidua)	Height (m): 25 Crown Radius (m): 4 DBH (cm): 48 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years	Bankside tree partially obscured by boundary fence. Chain-link fence wire occluded into trunk. Hammer test even and satisfactory. No fungal fruiting bodies evident or audible decay. Single stem. Asymmetrical canopy due to suppression from adjacent trees. Needle density slightly sparse. Slender dead branches in crown over neighbouring garden and row. Inspection Limitations: Access	Fair	Remove deadwood. Timescale: 19-Oct-2024 (1 Month)	

6 SITE PLAN

