



Tree inspection and report

Ref: SW4L29072024

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4 Lupin Ride
Crowthorne
RG456UR



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1.0-Introduction

1.1: My Name is Chris Anderson. I have been an Arborist for 23 years within the Arboricultural industry. I hold a Professional tree inspection certificate, am a technician member of the Arboricultural Association, and hold a NEBOSH managing health and safety certification, all of which have been applied to this report.

1.2-Target risk.

1.3: The area around a tree where the whole tree or parts of the tree may fail and come into contact with people or property from naturally occurring events or poor management.

1.4: If nobody is in the target zone, there is no risk of injury when the tree falls. The more people in the target zone, the greater the risk of people/property being hit by a falling limb or a whole tree. Target zones around trees can be classified as follows:

- **Low-risk target zone:** Places seldom frequented or near any Property.
- **Medium risk target zone:** Places that are visited from time to time and have a low frequency of people or are near to the property
- **High-risk target zone:** Places where people can be expected most of the time or at some times, e.g., assembly areas, footpaths, tracks, Desired lines, roads, car parks, work/activity areas, any other building/structure, or any place that is frequented by people including buildings/structures in frequent use. Because the way that premises are used may change, the assignment of target zones should be reviewed, and changes should be made if the risks change.

1.5: Scope: To inspect one large oak tree at the rear garden boundary at 4 Lupin Ride due to concerns that it is shedding leaves and small twigs and contains dead branches within the crown. To report findings and recommendations.

1.6: Inspection

Tree: English Oak (*Quercus robur*).

Height: 22 meters.

Dimensions at the breast: (DBH) 2550mm

Tree number: Tag 981 attached Southeast at breast height.

The crown has fair leaf extensions.

This tree is an excellent height feature within the rear garden and has good amenity value to the immediate neighbouring properties. See picture 1

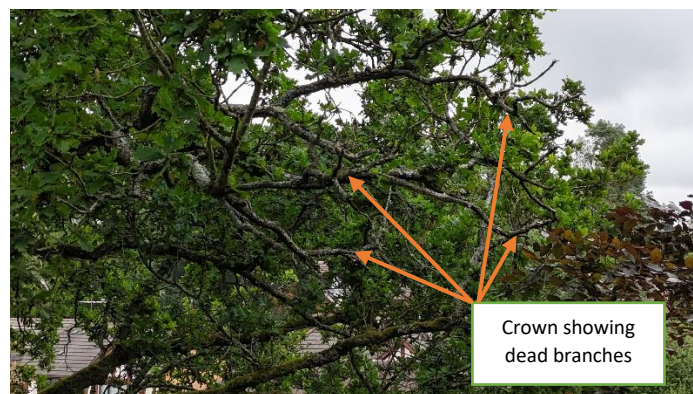


Picture 1

1.7: The tree is growing tight on the rear garden's west boundary fence line, with the root system and crown encroaching on neighbouring properties. The centre crown of this tree appears abnormal, with the centre spire area missing (picture 2). The overall crown I would class as fair, with sections of prominent dead wood showing in various locations throughout (picture 3). The crown has produced areas of epicormic growth.



Picture 2 shows the "missing" central spire.



Picture 3 shows the concentration of dead wood.

1.8: There has been historic landscaping in the rear garden, and within the root area of this tree on the east of the trunk, the slabbed patio has been raised from the original garden level approximately 300mm; there is railway sleeper-style edging with the slabs laid in between, pictures 4 and 5 with picture 5 showing how close the wooden sleepers and slabs have been laid to the trunk.



Picture 4



Picture 5

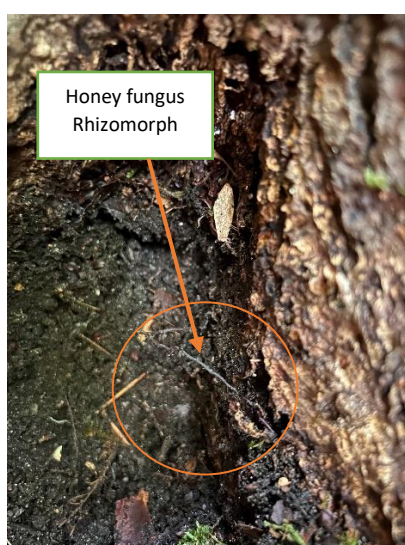
1.9: To the north, at 3 meters, there is a bare concrete sub-base for a garden structure laid for a shed or storage area; this impacts the soil to at least 100mm. See picture 6.



Picture 6

2.0: Removing away the soil around the areas of the lower trunk flair and the top root systems on the north and south sides, I found black rhizomorphs, circled in picture 7, that have entered the bark and sapwood area; these are indicative of Amilaria or Honey fungus.

2.1: I did not find any areas of dead or loose bark; in advanced stages, there may well be Mycelium present beneath this, along with the Compartmentalization of Decay in Trees (CODIT barriers) visible on the wood.



Picture 7: Southside of the trunk.



2.2: Findings.

2.3: This tree, unfortunately, has been found to have a colonisation of a honey fungus, as proven by the discovery of the rhizomorphs within the buttress on the north and south sides of this tree. This has the appearance of black or brown boot lacey strings; these can be confused with woody roots; the overall condition of the tree would fall under fair due to the tree attributes of the crown, canopy and the areas within the north and south buttresses.

2.4: Honey fungus is a "white rot" fungus, a pathogenic organism that affects trees and shrubs, this is one of the most common plant-killing fungi in the UK. Once established, it quickly enters the roots, bark, and sapwood, normally through an opening or damage to this area. It will remain in the soil and root system for many years until it begins to take hold; early signs are foliage dieback and premature leaf drop, as is happening to this tree. In the more advanced stages, due to the indiscriminate characteristics of honey fungus, whole parts of the tree will die, and the lower trunk and root area will decay with a white rott.

2.5: Oaks are resilient trees that, in my opinion, take many years and decades to succumb to fungi colonisation, even being symbiotic with others. However, this fungi, Honey fungus, causes most trees to die quickly over some years once fully established.

2.6: this tree has been infected for many years and is now advancing through the root system and causing premature leaf drop and dead branches, also evident with the sparse crown, > 20%. I am confident the introduction of honey fungus to this tree was caused by poor construction methods when laying the railway sleeper-style edging and the concrete pad. There would have been direct damage to living wood below the ground within the root system, along with possible indirect damage through laying the slabs, causing compaction on the north, east and north sides of this tree.

2.7: Currently, I do not believe there is justification for removing this tree. However, there will be a point when this decision will have to be made for the safety of people and property.

2.8: This tree may only have a few years before it becomes too dangerous to retain.

2.9: Recommendations

3.0: Remove all deadwood from the crown; this will enable close monitoring of further dieback.

3.1 This tree must be inspected yearly for further dead wood as honey fungus advances.

3.2 Disclaimer:

3.3: The tree referred to in this report is a living entity subject to natural processes. They will also be subject to environmental changes caused by human activities and weather conditions. The inspection relies on visual attributes of tree health and structure (body language of trees by David Lonsdale) which can be assessed from a ground-based inspection. Hidden defects which are not readily visible may not be detected. Therefore, I cannot wholly guarantee the condition and safety of the tree inspected beyond what can be reasonably assessed from the procedure used, and this tree should be inspected annually or after a significant wind event.

This report is valid for a period of one year.

Chris Anderson, TecArborA: 29TH July 2024

