



DUCKWORTHS  
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

# ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

## TREE CONDITION SURVEY

16 ERICA DRIVE  
WOKINGHAM  
BERKSHIRE  
RG40 2DU

CLIENT: MR & MRS CUTTING

MAY 2025

Ref: 06721 / 2025

REPORT BY: SARAH DUCKWORTH

DipArb(RFS), TechCert(ArborA), M. Arbor.A, BA (Hons)  
LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector

E: sarahcduckworth@hotmail.com

M: 07810 440546



---

**Prepared by:** Sarah Duckworth  
**Position:** Arboricultural Consultant  
**Qualifications:** DipArb(RFS),TechCert(ArborA),M. Arbor.A, BA (Hons),  
LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector

---

**File ref:** 06721/2025  
**Date Issued:** 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

# CONTENTS

---

|     |                                      |    |
|-----|--------------------------------------|----|
| 1.  | INTRODUCTION .....                   | 4  |
| 1.1 | INSTRUCTION.....                     | 4  |
| 1.2 | INSPECTION INFORMATION.....          | 4  |
| 1.3 | QUALIFICATIONS .....                 | 4  |
| 1.4 | INSURANCE.....                       | 4  |
| 2.  | STATUTORY TREE PROTECTION .....      | 5  |
| 2.1 | TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS.....        | 5  |
| 2.2 | CONSERVATION AREAS .....             | 5  |
| 3.  | GENERAL GUIDANCE.....                | 6  |
| 3.1 | TREE WORK GOOD PRACTICE.....         | 6  |
| 3.2 | PROTECTED SPECIES .....              | 6  |
| 3.3 | SOIL AMELIORATION .....              | 7  |
| 4.  | LIMITATIONS.....                     | 8  |
| 4.1 | SCOPE .....                          | 8  |
| 4.2 | CAVEATS .....                        | 8  |
| 5.  | ARBORICULTURAL INSPECTION DATA ..... | 10 |
| 7.  | GALLERY.....                         | 12 |
| 8.  | SITE PLAN.....                       | 14 |

# 1. INTRODUCTION

---

## 1.1 INSTRUCTION

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Cutting, owner / occupier of 16 Erica Drive, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2DU.

I have been asked to provide a report on the condition of one Oak Tree (T3) growing on the far side of the unadopted private road.

This report is to specify any necessary remedial tree works to address identified hazards from the tree whilst acknowledging and respecting its significance to amenity and ecology of the local area.

## 1.2 INSPECTION INFORMATION

The tree was inspected on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

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

For the purposes of this survey all dimensions of the tree and its associated parts are measured using a laser measure or clinometer where possible. Where access is restricted, measurements have been visually estimated unless otherwise stated.

## 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

## 1.4 INSURANCE

For your peace of mind, Duckworths Arboriculture Limited is insured with Hiscox Insurance:

- Public Liability £10,000,000
- Professional Indemnity £2,000,000

## 2. STATUTORY TREE PROTECTION

---

### 2.1 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

I have confirmed on the Wokingham Borough Council website that at the time of this report, T3 (Oak) is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (ref TPO-0647-1994).

No works should be undertaken to protected trees without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority – exemptions apply.

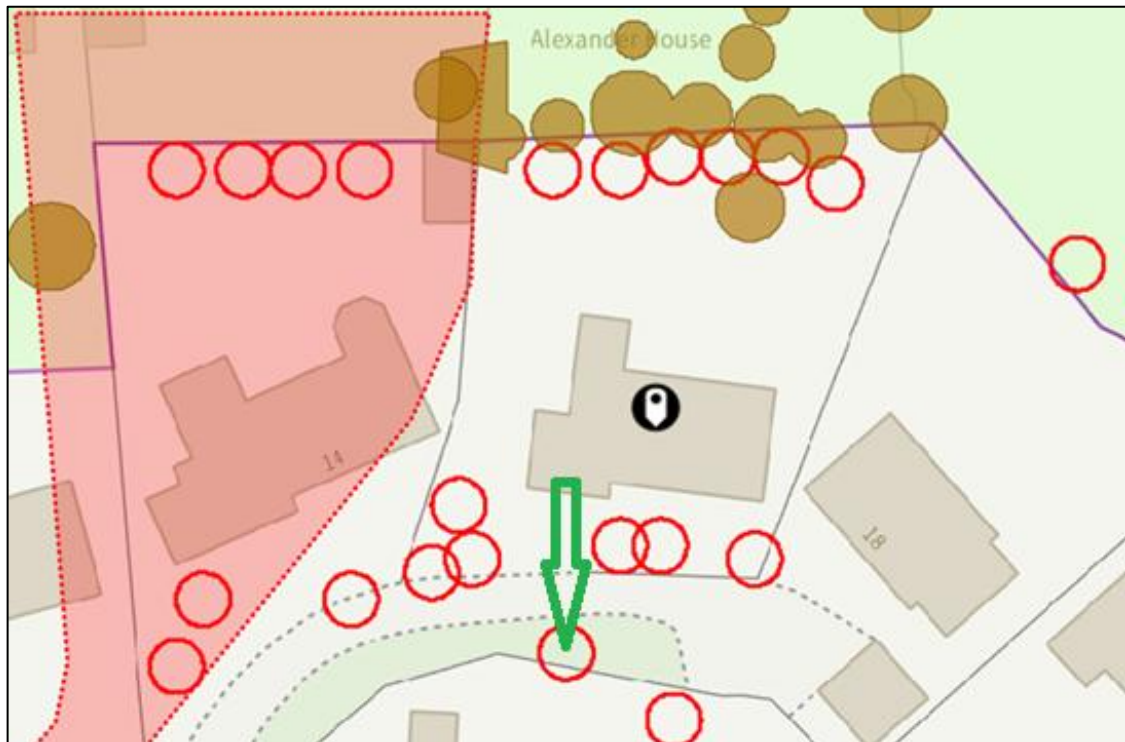


Figure 1 – Wokingham Borough Council TPO Map

### 2.2 CONSERVATION AREAS

16 Erica Drive is not within a Conservation Area.

### 3. GENERAL GUIDANCE

---

#### 3.1 TREE WORK GOOD PRACTICE

Where possible, recommended tree works should be undertaken in accordance with BS:3998 2010 'Tree Work Recommendations'.

To limit the harm to deciduous trees, major 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.

When undertaking tree work, you are advised to use a properly qualified and experienced company 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](http://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 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. Tree work where birds are nesting is highly likely to damage nests or cause them to be deserted.

### 3.3 SOIL AMELIORATION

There is substantial evidence for the benefit of mulches to trees and particularly older, veteran trees to increase their root development and improve tree health and physiological condition. To do this, the soil around the base of the tree should be lightly tined / broken up with a garden fork to improve aeration and reduce compaction.

Once the area is cleared and tined, a suitable tree and shrub fertilizer should be applied according to the manufacturer's instructions. I would recommend a slow-release granular fertilizer such as 'Arbor Gold' or similar if available, but if you can't source this then any bonemeal, blood fish and bone or chicken manure will still benefit the tree.

Following the fertilizer application, the tree should be watered then mulched with 60-100mm of well-rotted bark chip or fully composted organic material or ericaceous compost raked over the area taking care not to obscure the newly exposed root flare.

The mulch improves Mycorrhizal growth (beneficial root fungi), stabilises soil temperature and moisture levels, reduces compaction and improves soil nutrient levels and porosity for the benefit of healthy tree root growth.

## 4. LIMITATIONS

---

### 4.1 SCOPE

T3 (Oak) has 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. Winter<sup>1</sup>.

My visual assessment is a non-invasive method of examining the health and structural condition of a 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 the tree where the visual inspection identified the need. The lower trunk of the tree was tapped with a plastic-headed mallet to check for acoustic indication of internal decay. The differing sound intonation can often reveal some types of decay or hollow trunks.

The report is to identify visible defects on the tree and to specify any necessary remedial tree works which may be required to address identified hazards from the tree whilst acknowledging and respecting its significance to the local area as a Veteran status tree.

The report refers to the condition of tree(s) and an assessment of the site on the days the evaluation was undertaken. The tree was assessed from ground level only and was not climbed.

### 4.2 CAVEATS

The extent of the survey was limited to a visual inspection of 1x Oak tree as viewed from ground level only.

This report is not a structural report, and it does not consider the structural integrity of the property and its use as such is invalid.

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.

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.

The report is valid for normal weather conditions only. Healthy trees or parts of healthy trees may fail in normal weather situations, although the risk increases with storm

---

<sup>1</sup>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.

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 tree and surrounding ground conditions at the time of my visit. If the condition of the tree 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. Further inspection is recommended prior to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2027.

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.



DUCKWORTHS  
ARBORICULTURE

## 5. ARBORICULTURAL INSPECTION DATA

---

|                  |             |         |                                                |                                 |       |       |       |        |
|------------------|-------------|---------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Tree Ownership   |             |         | Site Address                                   |                                 |       |       |       |        |
| Mr & Mrs Cutting |             |         | 16 Erica Drive, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2DU |                                 |       |       |       |        |
| Tree Number      |             | T3      |                                                | Tree Species                    |       |       | Age   | Mature |
|                  |             |         |                                                | Oak<br>( <i>Quercus Robur</i> ) |       |       |       |        |
| Diameter:        | 550mm @1.5m | Height: | 17m                                            | Canopy spread                   | N: 7m | E: 5m | S: 6m | W: 7m  |

#### SITUATION:

An early mature tree growing on the far side of an unadopted private road. The tree is 12m from the front of the dwelling. There is a significant amount of development and hard landscaping within the tree's immediate rooting area. T3 (Oak) is growing within a semi-circular raised planter around 1.5m diameter supported by a low-level brick retaining wall which has recently been constructed to replace rotting timber sleepers. Beyond the retaining wall there are cobbles and block paved parking areas.

There is horticultural fleece topped with slate chippings around the base. A mature Yew tree and other broadleaf shrubs share the same raised bed.

#### BASE:

Possible ground level changes at base. The root-flare of the Oak is not visible and may have been obscured by a buildup of soil levels within the raised planter.

Where accessible, trunk bark is intact. Sound intonation even and satisfactory. No audible decay. No fungal fruiting bodies are visible.

#### STEM & UNIONS:

Single stem with slight gentle curve in the trunk to the east as a result of phototropic growth (towards the light) away from the Yew. No visible defects on the trunk. Epicormic growth on trunk from 2m above ground level. Branch forks well-formed and satisfactory.

#### CANOPY:

Light epicormic growth on many branches throughout the tree's canopy, some of which is dead or dying back. Minor dead twigs and occasional dead/declining branches in crown. Foliage dense, slightly clustered. Low branches to 2m over the private road. Slight asymmetry in lower crown due to Yew.

Well-formed crown, slightly asymmetrical on the lowest 8m around the northwest quadrant. Tips of branches in this area are elongated extending low over the road and beyond the outline of the main crown by 2-3m (see photo 3).

#### DISCUSSION:

T3 is an early mature Oak. The tree's canopy is showing some signs of physiological stress with dead epicormic shoots and branch tips throughout the crown. Although the cause is not clear, it is likely to be exacerbated by the extent of development and hard landscaping within the tree's rooting area.

To improve the tree's health and rooting environment ground works are recommended to lower soil around the base of the tree in order to expose the natural root flare. In addition very minor works are recommended to raise the crown over the road to prevent vehicle strikes and a selective reduction of elongated branches on the northwest quadrant of the crown to bring these elongated branch tips back in line with the remaining canopy. This will reduce their exposure and risk of breakage as the tree matures. The proposed pruning works are minor works and will not impact on the health or wider visual amenity value of the tree.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                   |                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Recommended Tree Works:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gently excavate around base with hand tools / brush to reveal natural root flare taking care not to damage tree bark.</li> <li>Crown lift to create 4m crown clearance above ground level to create adequate canopy clearance over road and gardens.</li> <li>Reduce tips of one/two main branches on the lower northeast quadrant of the crown by 2-3m to reduce lateral spread back in line with the surrounding canopy (see photo 3).</li> </ul> | Priority          | Within 6 months             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Re-inspection due | 24 Months                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Date              | 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 |

## 6. GALLERY

---



Photo 1 – Raised brick retaining wall at base



Photo 2 – Low canopy over highway



Photo 3 – Indicative line of proposed lateral reduction of low branch on northwest side of tree canopy

## 7. SITE PLAN

