



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

41 CHIVERS DRIVE
FINCHAMPSTEAD
BERKSHIRE
RG40 4EW

CLIENT: STEPHEN BLINMAN

OCTOBER 2024

Ref: 06514 / 2024

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File ref: 06514/2024

Date Issued: 9th October 2024

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTION

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Stephen Blinman, owner / occupier of 41 Chivers Drive, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 4EW. I have been asked to provide a report on the condition of one Oak Tree (T1) growing within the rear garden of the property.

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 Tuesday 24th September 2024.

The weather was clear. Visibility was satisfactory.

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.

The Oak was 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

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 T1 (Oak) in this report is protected by Area Tree Preservation Order no. TPO-0283-1985.

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

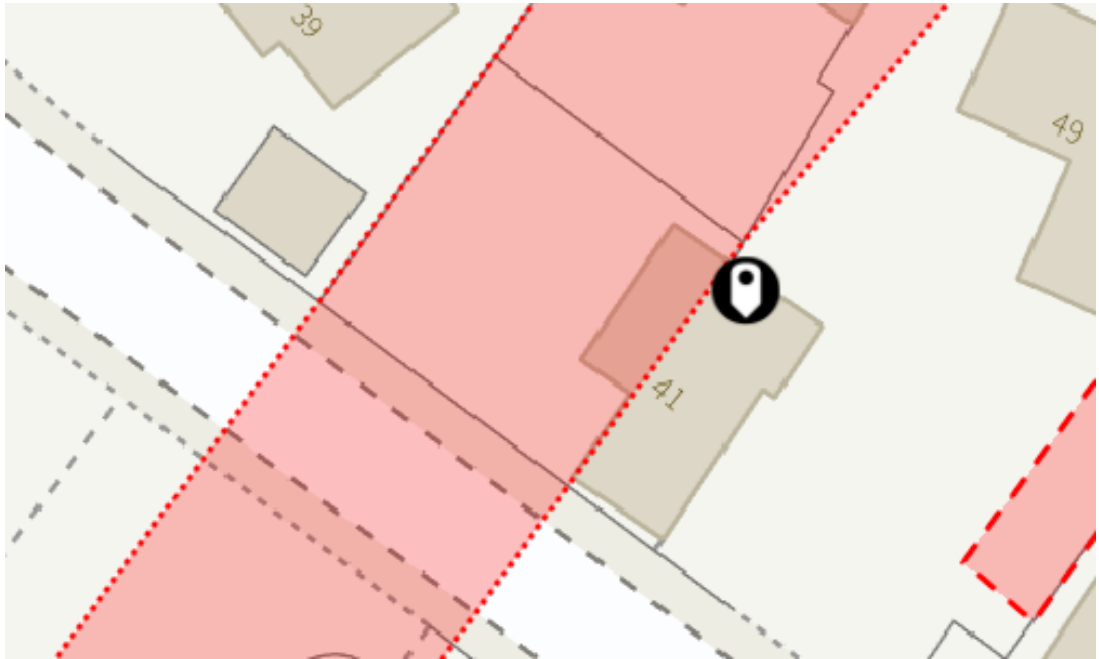


Figure 1 – Wokingham Borough Council TPO Map

2.2 CONSERVATION AREAS

41 Chivers 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'.

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 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. Tree work where birds are nesting is highly likely to damage nests or cause them to be deserted.

4. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

4.1 Scope

T1 (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. 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 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.

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.

4.2 Caveats

The extent of the survey was limited to a visual inspection of one Oak tree from ground level only.

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.

This report is a baseline survey and reflects the condition of the tree 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

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.

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 is 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. A follow-on inspection is due before 16th 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.



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5. ARBORICULTURAL INSPECTION DATA

Tree Ownership			Site Address					
Stephen Blinman			41 Chivers Drive, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 4EW					
Tree Number		T1		Tree Species			Age	Mature
Diameter:		650mm @1.5m	Height:	16m	Canopy spread	N: 4.8m	E: 7.5m	S: 6.5m W: 4m

SITUATION:

Mature Oak growing in the rear garden of the property. The Oak is 10.5m from the rear of the dwelling of 41 Chivers Drive, 5.7m from the eastern boundary and 2m from the garage of the neighbouring property. Apart from the neighbouring garage, the rooting area consists of lawn and shrub beds.

BASE:

Base clear, bark intact, pronounced buttress roots on east side. Sound intonation even and satisfactory, no fungal fruiting bodies evident, no audible decay. No defects at base or signs of rootplate movement.

STEM & UNIONS:

Single stem (feathered form) with small side branches, mostly under 200mm diameter. Nesting box east side at 3.5m above ground level. Stem and branch forks / unions well-formed and satisfactory. The upper trunk sweeps slightly to the east, towards 41 Chivers Drive.

CANOPY: Asymmetrical canopy to the south due to competition for light with a second Oak previously growing to the northeast of T1 and which has since been removed (with the consent of the local authority).

The canopy of T1 has previously been reduced and there is now around 3-4m new growth on previous reduction points. Re-growth is not overly dense, around 3-5 shoots from most average cuts. Canopy more sparse on the north side where previously crowded out by the second Oak.

Lower branches on the west side of canopy are within 100mm of neighbours' garage, and 1m from neighbouring dwelling. Foliage dense and even. Good physiological health.

DISCUSSION:

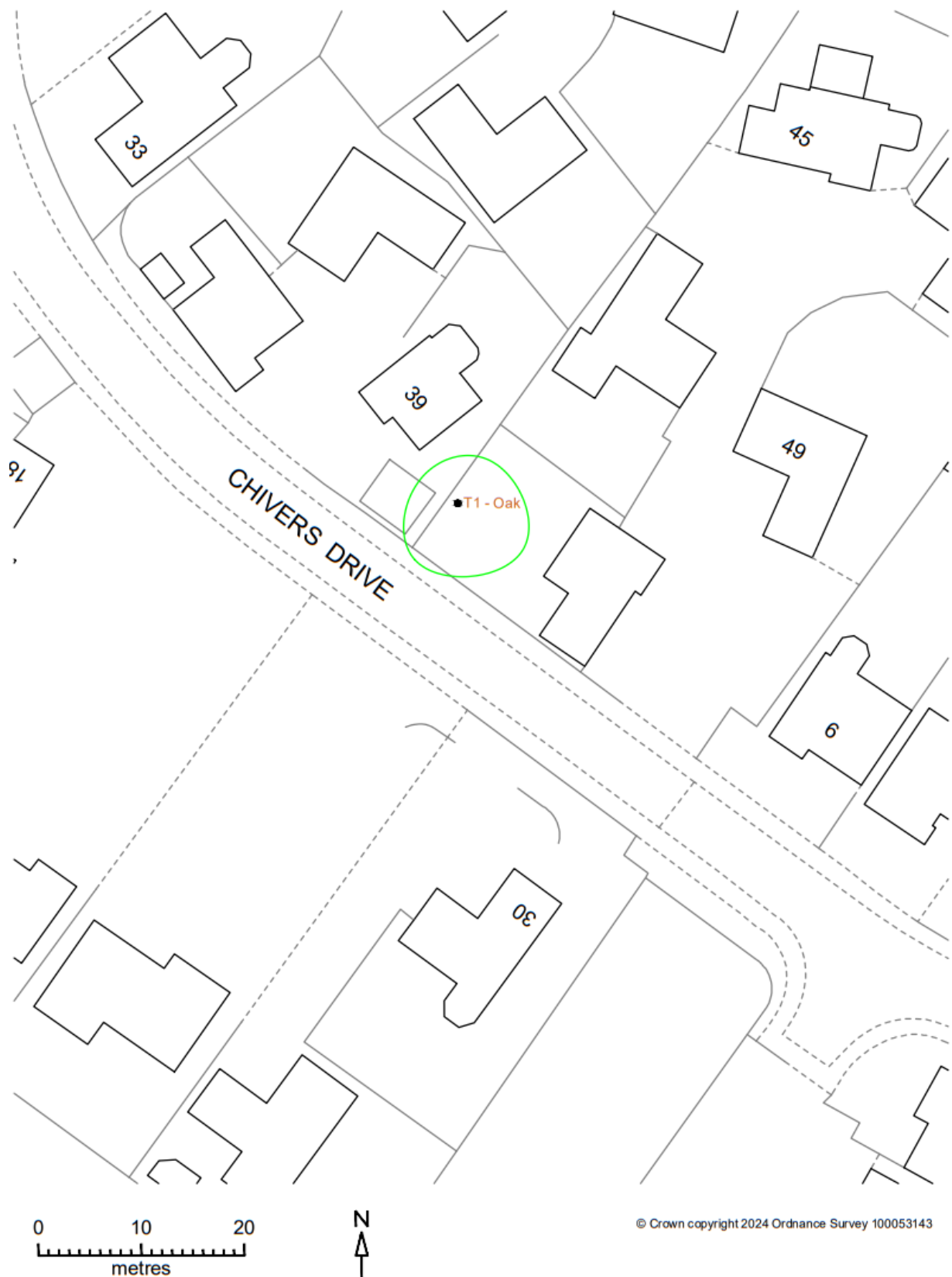
T1 is a healthy mature Oak growing in the garden of 41 Chivers Drive. The tree has a slight lean on the stem and an asymmetrical crown as a result of having grown adjacent to another Oak which has since been removed. With the second Oak felled, T1 will over time produce more additional canopy growth on the north of the crown to reduce this aesthetic imbalance.

The tree is in good health and appears structurally sound. Minor works are recommended to create reasonable clearance to neighbouring property and gardens. A light reduction of the tips off an elongated branch over the garden of 41 Chivers Drive will also improve the form of the tree and reduce the risk of exposed elongated branches breaking in high wind. These are minor works, and the health and visual amenity of the tree will not be affected.

I have been advised by the client that the Oak tree was previously pruned in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2015.

Recommended Tree Works: - Crown lift to create 1.5-2m clearance over neighbouring garage & reduce lateral spread on north side to create 2m clearance to neighbouring dwelling back to nearest suitable reduction points. - Crown lift to create 3.5m canopy clearance above ground level by removing epic growth from lower trunk and shortening secondary and tertiary branches in the outer crown. - Selectively reduce regrowth of previously reduced, elongated lateral branch east side of canopy by 1-2m back to within prevailing canopy outline (see photo 3). This will require the thinning out of two of the longer shoots (approximately 2m long) and reducing other tips off the same branch by up to 1m to bring the elongated branch back to within the surrounding canopy profile.	Priority	Within 1 year
	Re-inspection due	24 Months
	Date	16 th September 2024

6. SITE PLAN



7. GALLERY



Photo 1 – T1 (Oak)



Photo 2 – Base of T1 (Oak)



Photo 3 – Previously reduced, elongated lateral branch east side of canopy to be thinned / reduced



Photo 4 – Indicative line of proposed 3.5m canopy lift.