



DUCKWORTHS

ARBORICULTURE

TREE INSPECTION REPORT

40 KIBBLEWHITE CRESCENT
TWYFORD
READING
BERKSHIRE
RG10 9AX

JULY 2020

Ref: SCD 05410/2020

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2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Instruction

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Ms Hazel Gauterin, owner / occupier of 40 Kibblewhite Crescent.

I have been asked to provide a report on the condition of a mature Sycamore tree within the rear garden of the property. This report is to assess the future management requirements of the tree and identify any health and safety works which may be required.

The tree has been looked at in detail using the Visual Tree Assessment¹ the basis of which is the identification of symptoms produced by a tree in reaction to a defect, or area of mechanical stress.

VTA is a non-invasive method of examining the health and structural condition of an individual trees. Non-invasive inspection equipment (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 report is to specify any necessary remedial tree works which may be required to address identified hazards from the tree whilst acknowledging and respecting its local significance to the amenity and biodiversity of the wider landscape.

This is an Arboricultural Report which considers tree matters only. Please note that this is not a structural report for which the advice of a suitably qualified structural engineer should be sought.

2.2 Qualification

Surveyor: Sarah Duckworth

- Royal Forestry Society's Professional Diploma
- Arboricultural Association's Technicians Certificate (Distinction)
- LANTRA qualified Professional Tree Inspector
- Arboricultural Association Professional Member
- Consulting Arborist Society (CAS) Member and LANTRA endorsed 'Mortgage (Home Buyer) Tree Reports' Consultant.

2.3 Insurance

Sarah Duckworth t/a Duckworth's Arboriculture is insured with Hiscox Insurance

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

¹ Mattheck and Breloer 1994

2.4 Tree Preservation Orders

I have confirmed on the Wokingham Borough Council online Tree Preservation Order Map that the tree is protected as T1 of Tree Preservation Order 1432 / 2012.

The property is not within a Conservation Area.

You are required to apply to the Local Planning Authority for permission to carry out works to this tree. Certain exceptions apply (which includes the removal of deadwood).

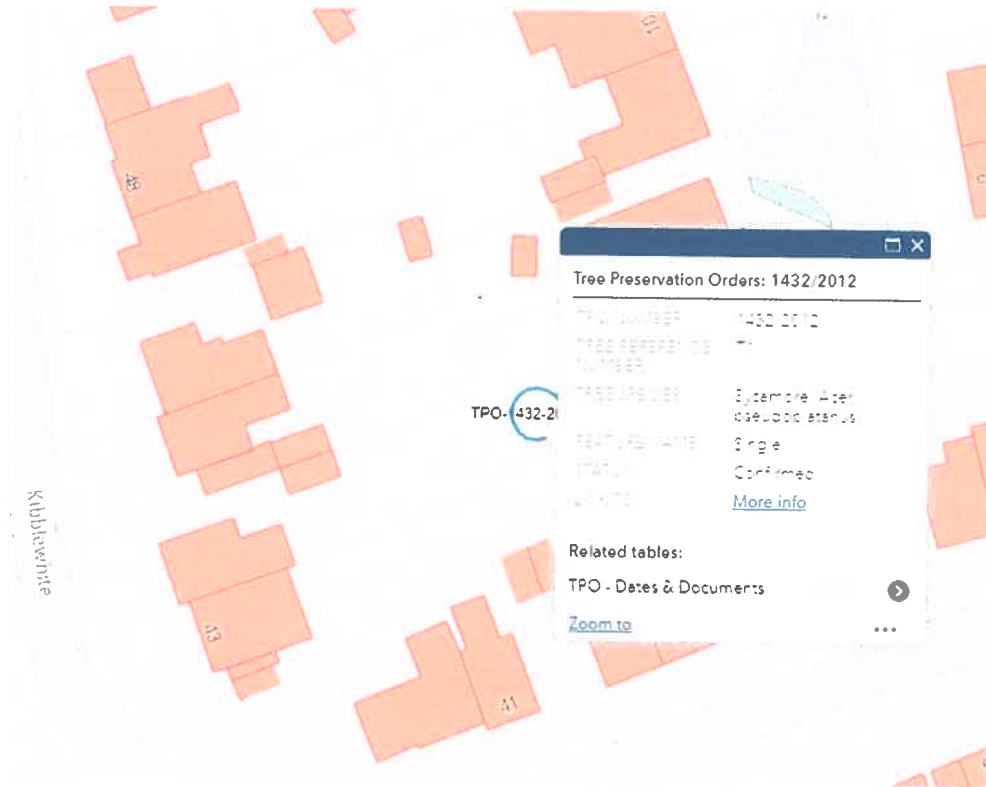


Figure 1 – Plan extracted from the Wokingham Borough Council online Tree Preservation Order Map

2.5 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.

2.6 Inspection information

The tree was inspected on Friday 24th July 2020 from the garden of 40 Kibblewhite Crescent only.

The weather was dry and bright. Visibility was considered to be good.

The tree was inspected from ground level only.

2.7 Tree Works 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 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.

You are advised to use a properly qualified and experienced company who 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.

In order to preserve the health of this significant tree, you are advised not to light bonfires anywhere under the canopy of the tree where it can cause irreparable damage to bark, branches and roots.

The soil area around the base of the T1 (Sycamore) is compacted through garden use and footfall. The tree owner may like to consider applying a mulch or well-rotted compost within the tree's rooting area to improve soil condition taking care not to obscure the natural root flare of the tree. This work is optional for the benefit of the tree's long term health.

2.8 Tree in Relation to 40 Kibblewhite Crescent

The Institute of Structural Engineers 'Subsidence of Low Rise Buildings' August 2000, identifies that for the majority of occasions where Maples / Sycamores have caused indirect damage to trees through soil desiccation, the tree is less than 12m from the property. On this occasion the tree is over 12m from the property therefore the proximity of the tree to the dwelling is considered to be good and sustainable.

However, in all cases provided the depth of foundations is appropriate for the site conditions, the risk for tree-related subsidence damage is usually within acceptable margins. This applies to all tree species and all types of soil, however shrinkable. This usually entails constructing foundations so that the footing extends to a greater depth than the influence of the tree roots.

The tree has a high canopy and is growing near the northern boundary of the property. Shadows are cast, broadly speaking, in an arc which moves from north east to east during the course of a summer's day. The largest area of shade therefore created by the tree will be north over the boundary and away from the dwelling of 40 Kibblewhite Crescent.

2.9 Caveats

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 as assessed at the time of inspection and is valid for 24 months.

A Tree Inspection takes into consideration predictable seasonal variation of weather but cannot predict the response of the trees in the event of unpredictable (extreme) weather conditions. If the condition of the tree evidently changes or the tree is subject to extreme weather conditions before this date; further inspection may be required. No tree is ever absolutely safe due to the unpredictable laws and forces of nature.

For the purposes of this survey all dimensions of 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 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 in relation to the tree only. It is not a subsidence risk assessment as this is an impossible task to perform. I have not been shown any information regarding the structural integrity of the property or adjacent buildings and I am not aware of any concerns regarding property movement at this time.

The appearance of any defect should always be investigated promptly. If vegetation is implicated then early removal of relevant trees may stabilise the situation at little cost. In such circumstances, always contact a qualified structural engineer and obtain the necessary consents from the Local Planning Authority before considering tree removal.



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3. ARBORICULTURAL INSPECTION DATA

Tree Ownership		Site Address					
Ms. Gauterin		40 Kibblewhite Crescent, Twyford, RG10 9AX					
Tree Number	T1	Tree Species	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)			Age	Mature
Condition: GOOD	Diameter @ 1.5m:	1040	Canopy spread	N: 6.3m	E: 7.3m	S: 6.9m	W: 6m
Context		Target, setting, position in landscape. SITUATION: Attractive mature tree within private residential garden, 3.4m from rear boundary fence and approximately 15.8m from brick property. Based on girth measurements, the tree is calculated to be in the region of 120 years old. A high amenity tree whose broad canopy crosses over four adjacent private residential gardens.					
Roots & Surrounding Ground		Cracking, heave, compaction BASE: Full access was available around the base and trunk of the tree. Compacted soil around base, exposed surface roots. There is a wound on the northern side of the lower trunk, 640mm high and 240mm wide commensurate with historic fire damage. No associated cavity, audible decay / fungal fruiting bodies frass or other indicators of decay. Good ribs of wound wood around the wound. Elsewhere, base clear, bark intact.					
Buttresses		Decay, ffb, physical damage, structural integrity STEM: Single stem to 2.3m above which the stem forks. Union filled with some composted organic matter in which small sycamores had rooted (these were removed during my inspection). Slight bark inclusion but good 'cup' union forming. Metal probe does not extend into cavity further than 100mm.					
Trunk		Ffb, biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness Pruning wound on south side, 0.9m above ground level and fully occluded. No audible decay. Crown lifted to 5m with a number of pruning cuts all fully occluded.					
Main Union		Canopy: Habitat hole on westernmost stem, 4.5m above ground level. Rood surrounding ribs of wound wood.					
Primary Ascending Stems		Ffb, decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity High canopy. Foliage dense, clustered towards branch tips moderate vitality, commensurate with age and species. No evidence of any previous major branch failure or storm damage. Three medium sized dead branch stubs, 1.2m, 1.5m and 2m long in canopy – do not exceed 100mm diameter.					
Main Branches		Two slender crossing / rubbing branches within canopy on east side over neighbouring garden.					
Twigs and Leaves		Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity DISCUSSION: This is a fine specimen tree of considerable age for the species. The tree has been well maintained in the past with only essential tree works being undertaken as and when required. As a result of this careful management, the tree has an excellent natural form and no topping points in the canopy which can arise from excessive pruning works to trees.					
Work Required		T1 – Sycamore - Remove 3 small pieces of deadwood – - Remove smaller of two crossing / rubbing branches over neighbouring property				Priority	Within 24 Months
						Re-ins	24 Months
						Date	24 th July 2020

4. GALLERY



Figure 1 -South side of T1 (Sycamore)



Figure 2 – Historic wound on north side of lower trunk



Figure 5 - Upper view of stem fork.



Figure 4 - Habitat hole associated with old pruning cut



Figure 6 – Location of 3x Small dead branches and a small crossing / rubbing branch identified for removal. (Low priority)