DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

14 PARK AVENUE
WOKINGHAM
BERKSHIRE
RG40 2AJ

CLIENT: JOHN & GILL WRIGHT

NOVEMBER 2026
Ref: 07164 / 2026

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File ref:	07164/2026
Date Issued:	2nd November 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTION

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Mr. & Mrs. Wright owner / occupiers of 14 Park Avenue, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2AJ. I have been asked to provide a report on the condition of one Sycamore 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 the amenity and ecology of the local area.

1.2 INSPECTION INFORMATION

The tree was inspected on 14th October 2026.

On the day of the survey, the weather was dry 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, T1 (Sycamore) is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (ref TPO-1818-2021).

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

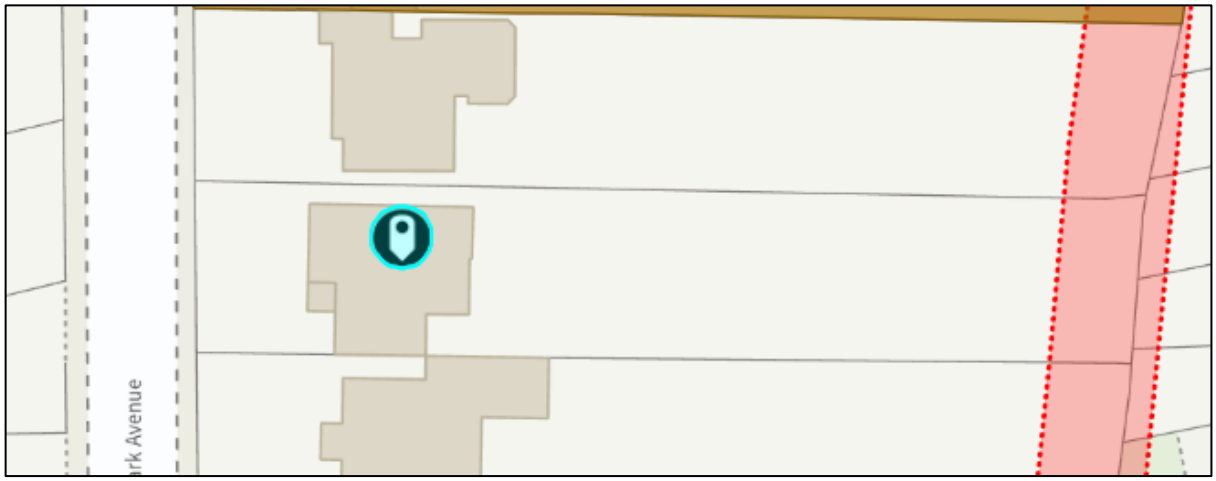

Figure 1 – Wokingham Borough Council TPO Map

2.2 CONSERVATION AREAS

14 Park Avenue 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, pruning work on live trees (aside from trees to be felled) should be undertaken during their dormant season, which is generally between late autumn and late winter (November through March). Pruning during this window helps prevent the spread of diseases, such as oak wilt, and minimizes stress on the tree. The next best time is during 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.

3.2 PROTECTED SPECIES

In accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), and the Countryside and 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 August. 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.

4. LIMITATIONS

4.1 SCOPE

T1 (Sycamore) 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[1].

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 protected 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 Sycamore 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 conditions and, as the consequences of such weather events are unforeseeable, Sarah Duckworth / Duckworths Arboriculture Limited cannot be held liable for any such failures.

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.

[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.

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5. ARBORICULTURAL INSPECTION DATA

Tree Ownership		Site Address					
John and Gill Wright		14 Park Avenue, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2AJ					
Tree Number	**T1**	**Tree Species**	Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)			**Age**	Mature
Diameter:	**930mm @1.5m**	**Height:**	**15m**	**Canopy spread**	**N: 7.3m**	**E: 8.4m**	**S: 5.6m**	**W: 8m**

SITUATION:

A mature Sycamore growing in a soft landscaped area on the rear (eastern) boundary of 14 Park Avenue. In this location, the broad canopy significantly overhangs the much shorter gardens of neighbouring properties Earle Crescent to the east.

BASE:

Base clear. Light ivy growth. No fungal fruiting bodies evident, no audible decay. Sound intonation around base and lower trunk, even and satisfactory.

STEM & UNIONS:

Swept stem to the east. Trunk resumes vertical growth 3m above ground level. Frass from wood boring beetles on trunk. Small split in bark south side 20mm wide 0.5m high. Large cavity east side 2m+ above ground level, 400-450mm diameter.

Extensive areas of Sooty Bark Disease on trunk. Multiple cuts on trunk where branches removed.

CANOPY:

Oval crown formed where canopy suppressed for light by adjacent trees. Canopy prematurely defoliated.

Extensive areas of Sooty Bark Disease throughout crown and most notably on elongated branches on the east and west side of the canopy. This disease creates brittle wood and branches which have a greater risk of failure thereby causing an unacceptable risk to neighbouring properties.

Large dead broken branch propped in central canopy over lower occupancy area of vegetation in neighbours' garden. Foliage brown in lower crown, upper crown largely defoliated but full of brown, desiccated seeds / keys. Dead branches throughout crown & over neighbouring residential gardens.

DISCUSSION:

T1 - Sycamore exhibits crown dieback, deadwood and extensive areas of sooty bark disease (*Cryptostroma corticale*). The Forestry Commission guidance describes this disease as usually fatal, with extensive sooty areas on the main stem characteristic of dead or dying trees. Further deterioration and eventual death of T1 (Sycamore) is therefore likely, although the remaining life expectancy cannot be reliably determined.

The fungus makes the affected branches and trunk brittle and predisposed to failure in high winds and there is a foreseeable risk of branch failure which would impact on the neighbouring residential gardens. Furthermore, the airborne spores of Sooty Bark Disease can be harmful when inhaled, particularly following repeated or prolonged exposure, can cause serious respiratory reactions for humans and the extent of the disease on this large tree is widespread and significant.

I therefore conclude that T1 (Sycamore) should be removed. The tree is in a state of terminal decline, and it poses an unacceptable risk to neighbouring residents from falling deadwood and exposure to fungal spores which cannot be reasonably managed through pruning.

Recommended Tree Works:		
• Fell to ground level or reduce trunk to a high stump and retain stem as a 3-4m monolith for habitat value.	**Priority**	Within 3 months
	Re-inspection due	n/a
	Date	14th October 2026

6. GALLERY



Photo 1 – Canopy foliage prematurely dead / brown



Photo 2 – Sooty Bark Disease on trunk and branches throughout crown

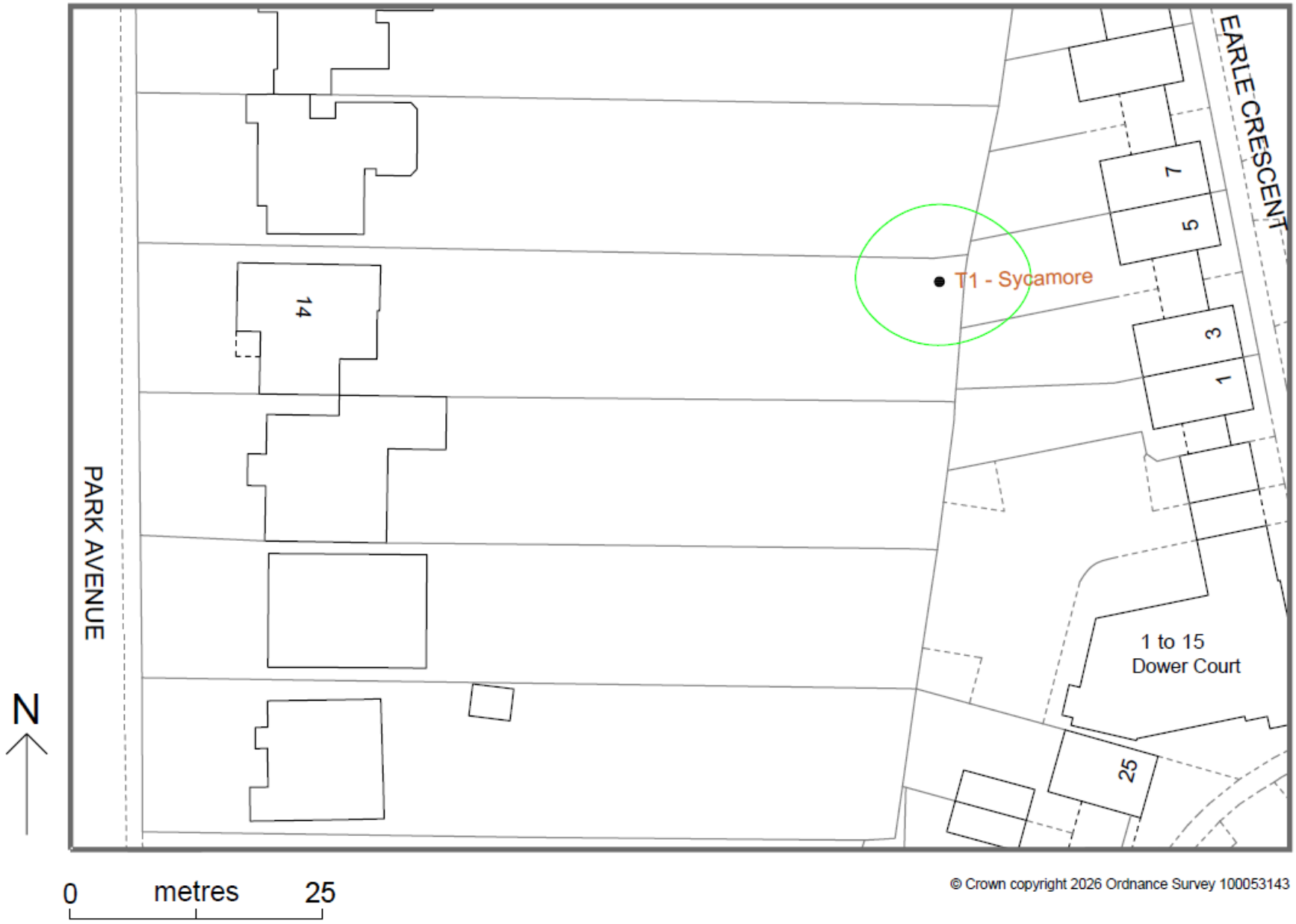


Photo 3 – Large cavity in old pruning cut on trunk



Photo 4 – Dieback and deadwood in crown

7. SITE PLAN


EARLE CRESCENT
PARK AVENUE
T1 - Sycamore
14
7
5
3
1
1 to 15
Dower Court
25
N
0
metres
25
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