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Mr J Brown
9 Waterloo Road
Crowthorne
Berks
RG45 7PB

29th March 2021

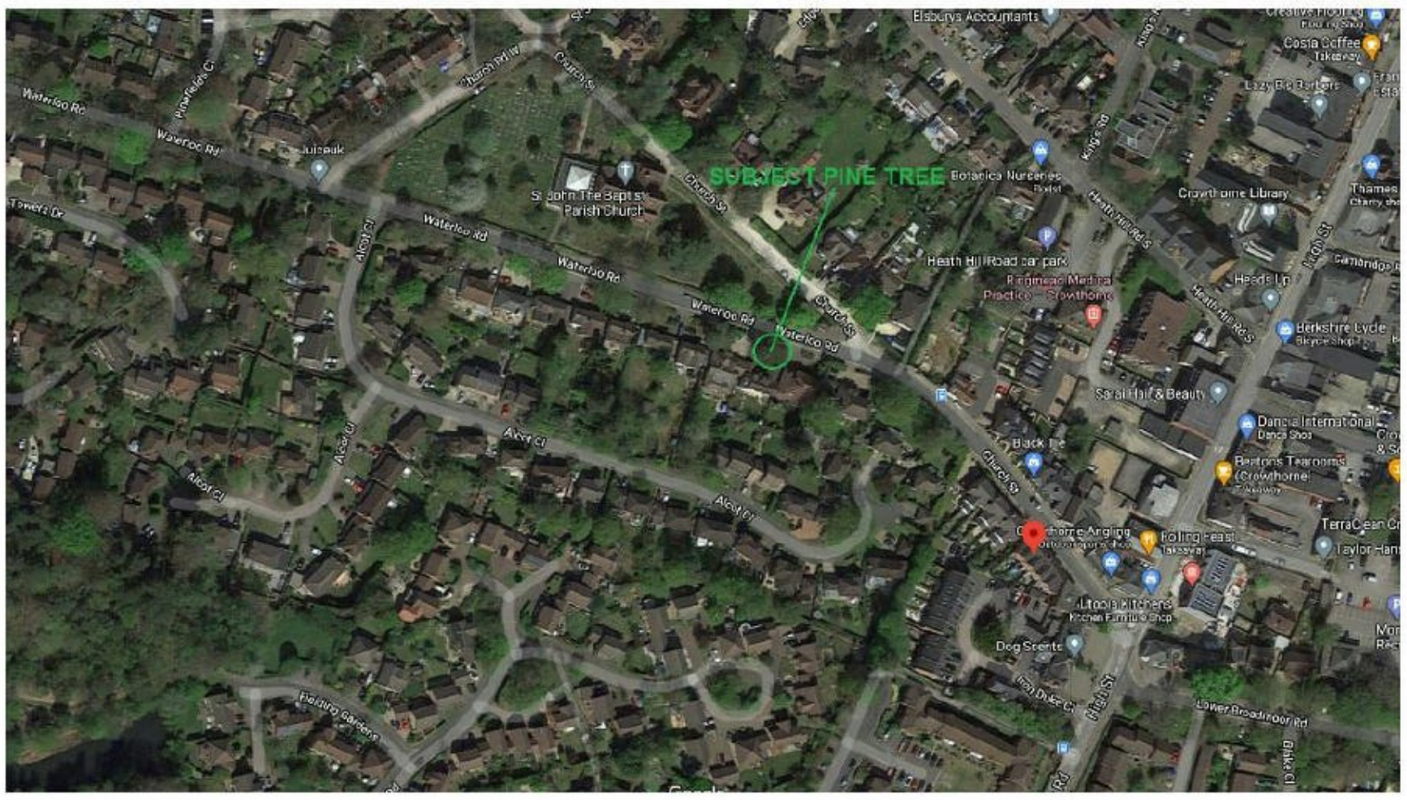
Dear Mr Brown,

RE: Trees at 9 Waterloo Road, Crowthorne, Berks, RG45 7PB

Instructions:
Thank you for your instruction to undertake an assessment of the pine tree at the above site. You asked me to undertake a visual assessment of the trees health and make recommendations for its future management. I duly visited the site on the 25th March 2021 and can now advise as follows.

Tree details:
The tree in question is a Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and is approximately 18 metres in height. It has a stem diameter of 740 mm (measures at 1.5metres in height).

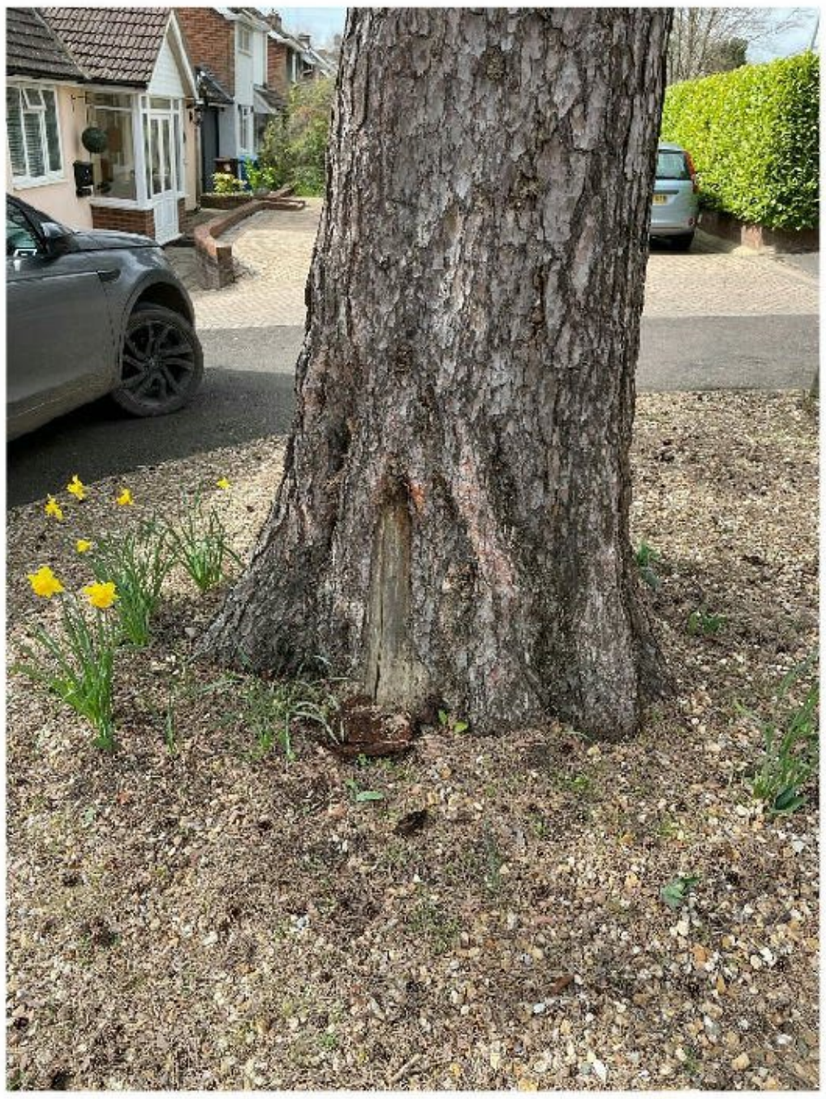
Tree location:
The tree is located 6 metres away from the nearest part of the house and 6.6 metres from Waterloo Road to the north. It is highlighted on the plan below.



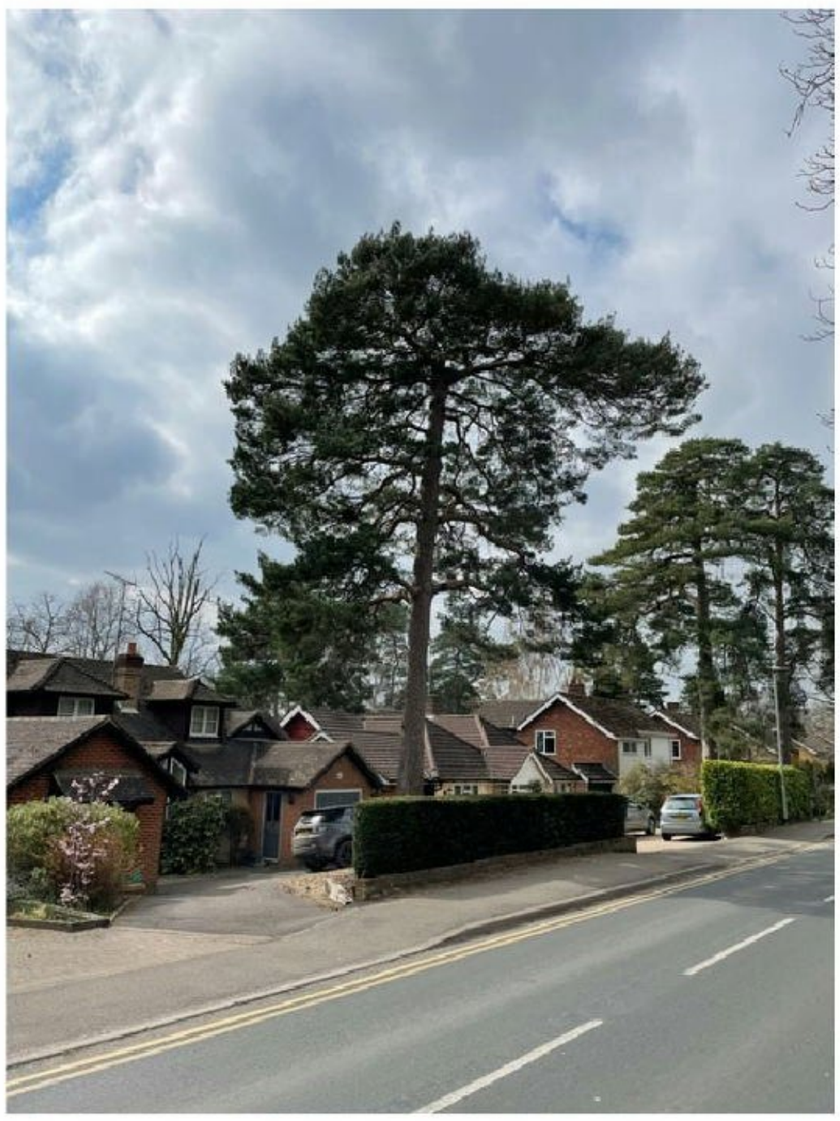
Tree assessment:
During my visit I observed the following:

The tree has a large basal wound at ground level on the south side of its stem, extending to a height of 0.75m. The cause of this wound is not clear but it has clearly been present on the tree for many years.

At the base of the above wound there is the remnants of the fruiting bodies of *Phaeolus schweinitzii* (see left hand photo below). A smaller bracket was also noted on the other side of the stem (as seen in the right hand photo below). This fungus has likely colonised the tree following the creation of the aforementioned wound. The decay begins in the root system and often follows honey fungus (*Armillaria ssp*). The fungus will degrade the wood and, over a period of time, will cause a brown rot which reduces the tensile strength of the trees wood tissue. This decay can eventually lead to a brittle fracture. A resonance test (with a sounding mallet) of the affected area revealed significant decay in the area of the fungus.



The tree crown is also more sparsely foliated that neighbouring trees of the same species to the west, as shown in the photo below. I estimate the subject tree to have 20% less crown density / vitality than these trees.



Conclusion:

The tree is in the onset of decline and I expect the crown to slowly deteriorate further as the basal decay progresses. The tree is located next to a busy road and near to several nearby houses. Therefore, action must be taken to avoid the risk posed by the tree.

Pine trees do not crown reduce well and I therefore conclude that removal and replacement would be the most appropriate action.

I hope this is of assistance to you, however should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards

[redacted]

Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
For and on behalf of GHA Trees