



DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

3 CREWS LEA
BINFIELD
BERKSHIRE
RG42 5BH

CLIENT: MR JOHN THOMPSON

AUGUST 2023

Ref: SCD 06106 / 2023

REPORT BY: SARAH DUCKWORTH

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2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Instruction

This Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by John Thompson. I have been asked to inspect the trees growing on 3 Crews Lea, (Plot 29 on the Burrington Estates Plan), Binfield, RG42 5BH and to recommend works to cut back trees growing low over the garden and close to property which may be acceptable under the Tree Preservation Order.

2.2 Inspection information

The trees were viewed on Tuesday 15th August 2023 by Sarah Duckworth, Arboricultural Consultant.

The weather clear and bright. Visibility was good.

Trees were 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 the trees where the visual inspection identified the need.

2.3 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

2.4 Insurance

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

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

2.5 Statutory Tree Protection

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

A number of Oak and one Horse Chestnut to the rear of 3 Crews Lea are protected within Tree Preservation Order No. TPO 1172. The Tree Preservation Order Map shows one Oak within the garden of 3 Crews Lea but this is not the case and the tree may have been removed during the course of the development. There has been no Oak in the garden of 3 Crews Lea in the time that Mr. Johnson has owned the property.



Figure 1 – Bracknell Forest Council Online Tree Preservation Order Map

No works should be undertaken to the protected trees on site without the prior authorisation of the Local Authority (Bracknell Forest Council)

CONSERVATION AREAS

The property is not within a conservation area.

FELLING LICENCES

Outside of domestic gardens, you must first apply to the Forestry Commission for a felling licence if you want to cut down trees containing more than five cubic metres of wood in any calendar quarter. However, there are exceptions to this rule. For example, you do not need a licence to fell trees in enclosed gardens or removing dead or dangerous trees.

The Forestry Commission usually requires felled trees to be restocked and does not normally grant licences to clear woodland permanently or to change woodland to agricultural use.

2.6 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 and hedge cutting is highly likely to damage nests or cause them to be deserted.

2.7 Ivy

Ivy is an attractive habitat for insects and invertebrates and consequently bird and animal life can benefit as a result of an increase in available food source. Bats, which are rare and protected by law regularly roost amongst ivy, as well as inside small cavities in suitable trees. Ivy growth is not a threat to the health of otherwise healthy trees; however, it does obscure the base, trunk and forks of trees.

Defects present on trees can be hidden by ivy and dense vegetation. It was beyond the scope of this survey to clear ivy and vegetation from around all trees and the client is advised that where present, climbing plants and dense vegetation may obscure trunk defects.

I have specified for the removal of ivy from the base of individual trees if the visual appearance of the tree (its structural form or canopy vitality) meant a more detailed inspection of the lower trunks and forks is prudent.

When severing established ivy it is important to use sharp hand tools only. Ivy stems should be cut at ground level and 1.5m, taking care not to damage the tree bark. Cut stems should then be removed to height of 1.5m. The ivy growth above 1.5m can be left in the canopy (unless it obscures another necessary point of inspection) from where it will die back and eventually fall from the tree.

2.8 Tree Work 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 (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.

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.

2.9 Scope

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.

The extent of the survey was confirmed by the client on site. 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.

2.10 Caveats

The trees have 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 (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 works which may be acceptable under the Tree Preservation Order in order to create reasonable clearance over the garden of 3 Crews Lea and to cut back to clear the detached garage.

¹R.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.

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 trees on the day of the survey. Regular inspections are recommended within 24 months or as recommended in the most recent survey.

This report is valid for two years from the survey date. A follow-on inspection of trees is due before 15th August 2025.

The condition of offsite trees remains the responsibility of the tree owner which is understood to be Bracknell Forest Council.

In the event of any changes or decline in the condition of the trees, or presence of new fungal growths etc., the advice of a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant should be sought.

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 (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 trees and surrounding ground conditions at the time of my visit. If the condition of the trees 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.

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.

3. TREE SURVEY DATA

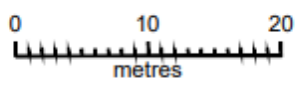
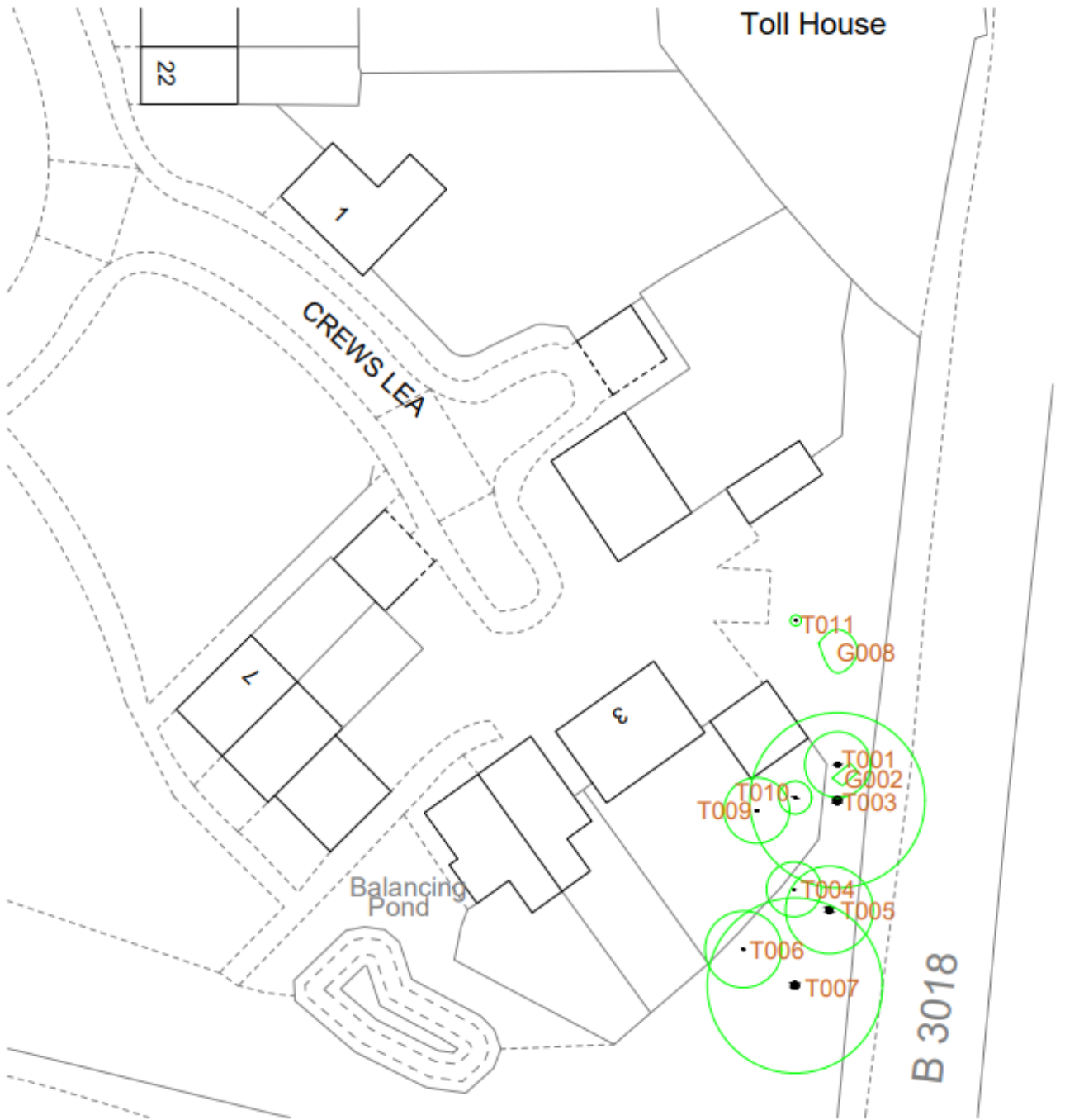
Ref:	Species	Description	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations
T001	Common Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	Owned by local council.	Height (m): 15 Crown Radius (m): 3 DBH (cm): 32 Life Stage: Early Mature Life Exp.: <10 years	Swept stem, historic wounding on underside of trunk to 2.5m above ground level. Habitat hole at 1.5m. Fungi on ground. Canopy sparse, retrenching. Significant dieback. Fungus: Inonotus hispidus (Shaggy Polypore) Pests and Diseases: Ash Dieback Infection Level 3: 50% to 75%	Poor	Fell tree to 3m monolith and retain for habitat value. Timescale: 15-Aug-2024 (1 Year)
G002	Common Ash x3 (Fraxinus excelsior)	Owned by local council. Roadside tree.	Height (m): 17 Crown Radius (m): 4 DBH (cm): 35 Trees: 3 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 20+ Years	Slender trees, high canopies. Barbed wire included into lower trunk. Wound at base of one tree from removal of second trunk. Light ivy growth. Foliage slightly sparse. Deadwood on crown over low occupancy area. One stem rubbing against branch on adjacent Oak. Pests and Diseases: Ash Dieback Infection Level 1: 0% to 25%	Fair	No works required.
T003	Pedunculate Oak (Quercus robur)	Owned by local council. Roadside tree.	Height (m): 19 Crown Radius (m): 8 DBH (cm): 67 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Light ivy coverage. Single stem. Horizontal scars on trunk where barbed wire included into trunk. Asymmetrical crown where crowded by adjacent T2. Low canopy over garden of 3 Crews Lea, down to 1.5m above ground level and within 1m of garage roof.	Good	Crown lift from 1.2m over garden to create 3m canopy clearance above ground level. Reduce branches on north west side of canopy by 1-1.5m to create a minimum of 2m clearance to garage roof. Timescale: 15-Feb-2024 (6 Months)
T004	Common Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)	Owned by local council.	Height (m): 5 Crown Radius (m): 2.5 DBH (cm): 8 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Small, multi-stem Hawthorn. Shrubby form. Foliage dense and even. Good vitality.	Fair	No works required.
T005	Horse Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)	Owned by local council. Roadside tree.	Height (m): 13 Crown Radius (m): 4 DBH (cm): 55	Ivy cut at base. Crack on south side at base. Helical ribs on lower trunk caused by torsional movement in high winds. Uneven stem diameter, the trunk gets wider 4m above ground level which may indicate decay. Large open cavities at 7 and 8m. Stem hollow. Upper canopy foliage sparse, stunted and in decline. Low lateral branch dying back.	Poor	Remove branches and top off at 1m above cavities. Retain as standing monolith for habitat value. Timescale: 15-Nov-2023 (3 Months)

Ref:	Species	Description	Measurements	Survey Notes	Condition	Recommendations
T006	Elm (Ulmus sp.)	Owned by local council.	Height (m): 5 Crown Radius (m): 3.5 DBH (cm): 10 Life Stage: Semi Mature Life Exp.: <10 years	Young tree, swept stem. Foliage dense and even. Good vitality. Health currently good but short life expectancy due to Dutch Elm Disease.	Fair	Crown lift to 3m over garden to facilitate new tree planting. Timescale: 15-Feb-2024 (6 Months)
T007	Pedunculate Oak (Quercus robur)	Owned by local council. Roadside tree.	Height (m): 15 Crown Radius (m): 8 DBH (cm): 64 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Single stem. Sound intonation on lower trunk indicates advanced decay and dysfunctional wood. Frass caught in webs around trunk from wood boring insects. Remains of tree house on two low branches. Asymmetrical crown where crowded by adjacent trees. Canopy mostly dead. Limited footage autumnal. Canopy in advanced decline, beyond recovery.	Good	Top at around 8m and retain trunk and low branches for habitat value. Timescale: 15-Feb-2024 (6 Months)
T008	Elm (Ulmus sp.)	Owned by local council. Roadside tree.	Height (m): 4 Crown Radius (m): 5.5 DBH (cm): 8 Life Stage: Young Life Exp.: 10+ Years	Multi-stem swept stems growing towards garage. Foliage dense and even. Health currently good but short life expectancy due to Dutch Elm Disease.	Fair	Cut back from 6m to 5m to create reasonable clearance to garage. Timescale: 15-Aug-2024 (1 Year)
T009	Elm (Ulmus sp.)	Within private residential garden.	Height (m): 6 Crown Radius (m): 3 DBH (cm): 10 Life Stage: Semi Mature Life Exp.: <10 years	Young tree, single stem. Foliage slightly sparse. Asymmetrical crown due to T3. Health currently good but short life expectancy due to Dutch Elm Disease. Pests and Diseases: Dutch Elm Disease (Ophiostoma novo-ulmi)	Fair	No works required.
T010	Common Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)	Within private residential garden.	Height (m): 2.5 Crown Radius (m): 1.5 DBH (cm): 2 Life Stage: Young Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Small tree heavily suppressed by T3 (Oak).	Fair	Consider transplanting elsewhere in garden away from Oak. Timescale: 15-Aug-2024 (1 Year)
T011	Turkey Oak (Quercus cerris)	Owned by local council.	Height (m): 2 Crown Radius (m): 0.5 DBH (cm): 1 Life Stage: Young Life Exp.: 40+ Years	Very young tree. Undesirable species for long term retention.	Fair	Fell to ground level. Timescale: 15-Aug-2024 (1 Year)

4. TREE WORK SUMMARY - IN PRIORITY ORDER

Ref:	Species	Description	Recommendations	Work Timescale	Status
T005	Horse Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)	Owned by local council. Roadside tree.	Remove branches and top off at 1m above cavities. Retain as standing monolith for habitat value.	15-Nov-2023 (3 Months)	TPO
T003	Pedunculate Oak (Quercus robur)	Owned by local council. Roadside tree.	Crown lift from 1.2m over garden to create 3m canopy clearance above ground level. Reduce branches on north west side of canopy by 1-1.5m to create a minimum of 2m clearance to garage roof.	15-Feb-2024 (6 Months)	TPO
T006	Elm (Ulmus sp.)	Owned by local council.	Crown lift to 3m over garden to facilitate new tree planting.	15-Feb-2024 (6 Months)	-
T007	Pedunculate Oak (Quercus robur)	Owned by local council. Roadside tree.	Top at around 8m and retain trunk and low branches for habitat value.	15-Feb-2024 (6 Months)	TPO
T008	Elm (Ulmus sp.)	Owned by local council. Roadside tree.	Cut back from 6m to 5m to create reasonable clearance to garage.	15-Aug-2024 (1 Year)	-
T001	Common Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	Owned by local council.	Fell tree to 3m monolith and retain for habitat value.	15-Aug-2024 (1 Year)	-
T010	Common Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)	Within private residential garden.	Consider transplanting elsewhere in garden away from Oak.	15-Aug-2024 (1 Year)	-
T011	Turkey Oak (Quercus cerris)	Owned by local council.	Fell to ground level.	15-Aug-2024 (1 Year)	-

5. SITE PLAN



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CLIENT: J Thompson

Survey Date: 15th August 2023
(Tree locations are approximate)