

Arboricultural inspection record for one oak tree



**Site Address: 69 Merdon Avenue,
Chandlers' Ford, SO53 1GD**

Date: 13th June 2022

Kiss
Tree
Management
Limited



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Summary.

This is a record an inspection of one oak tree growing in the rear garden of 69, Merdon Avenue, Chandlers' Ford.

The tree has survived various interventions over the past decades but is now in a condition that will deteriorate at an unknown rate and eventual failure is foreseeable.

The tree is not of an age or size that it can realistically be retained for ecology reasons at a smaller size, and continued reductions will be burdensome.

The recommendation is to fell and replace this will remove some limited amenity from the road, Merdon Avenue, but trees to the frontage have greater visual impact.

Replacement planting can be of a tree suitable for the location and with a mind towards delivering ecological, screening and amenity value.

Location. (North to top of clip)



Aerial image courtesy of Imagery ©2022 Google, Imagery©2022 CNES/Airbus, Getmapping PLC, Infoterra Ltd. & Blueskyu Maxar Technologies, Mapdata©2022 United Kingdom

Key findings.

Tree Species	Oak – <i>Quercus robur</i>
Location	Rear garden of domestic dwelling.
Key measurements	Stem diameter at 1.5m - 410mm Height c.11m Spread N4, E5, S3, W2
Ground conditions	Historic soil level changes: anecdotally, the house was built in 1992 on land that used to be a car park. Tree would have been growing for some decades at this time. It is likely the basal flare was buried at this point. Subsequent changes with installation of a boundary fence close to the stem base with fence post positions within 0.4m of base.
Stem Base	Extensive necrosis at soil level: tree measures c.1700mm in circumference at stem base and c. 85% of the bark is detached exposing non-functioning sapwood. Only 2 narrow strips of functioning sapwood are supporting the canopy (which is looking surprisingly good). The onset of degradation is at present on the west-southwest side underneath the soil level and behind the functional strip of xylem. Fungal fruiting bodies have been recorded (client supplied photos of a spongy black residue in March but it was impossible to identify the genus from the images). There are <i>Armillaria spp (Honey Fungus)</i> rhizomes on the dead cherry stem within 1m of base.
Stem	Single straight stem at slight incline to neighbouring property to NE. Tree probably feels more imposing from the other side of the fence.
Crown break	Not fully inspected due to Leyland cypress and other shrubs growing close by but appears usual for species.
Main scaffolds	Historically reduced. Dense, short extension reaction growth.
Canopy	Reduced in 2020 under consent reference T/20/89393 to reduce overhang 1.5-2.0m. Canopy is showing signs of stress response: leaves are very tightly packed, though size and physiology appear normal. Many recent epicormic shoots growing densely along all remaining scaffold branches.

Overall	Tree will be unable to compartmentalise the extensive necrotic tissue at the stem base, and in time will degrade and lose its physical properties. Unable to determine condition of roots: clearly what remains of the vascular system is functional, but the long-term viability is in question from a structural perspective.
Other factors	TPO under EBC . Replant required if fell is consented.
Management recommendations	Fell to near ground level. Replace in next planting season. Replant with one of the following evergreen species near the position of T1: (several options discussed for biodiversity, screening and visual interest). • Strawberry Tree (<i>Arbutus unedo</i>) • <i>Osmanthus x burkwoodii</i> • Highclere holly (<i>Ilex altaclerensis</i>) variegated - 'Golden King' with creamy margin • Mimosa (<i>Acacia dealbata</i>) - frothy yellow flowers in very early spring • Yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>) Stock type: 10/12 or 12/14, or 1.5 multistem depending on species chosen.

Photographs taken during inspection



T1 viewed from road – visible above and to right end of roof line



T1 in situ (note the retained pole of a dead cherry is to the left of the image – this isn't T1)



South side of stem base – small section of vascular attachment to west side of stem.



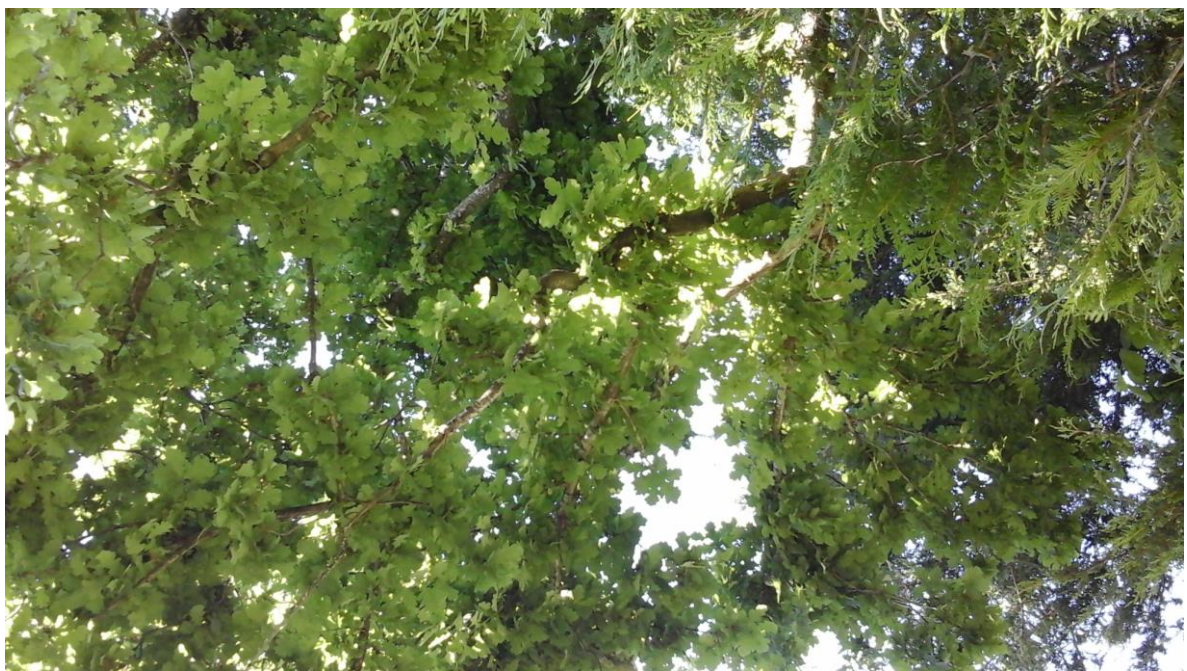
Degradation of exposed heartwood present on tension side and below the functional section.



Tension side of stem base viewed from west-northwest. Fence support visible to left of image. Soil level changes apparent.



Bottom section of stem showing slight lean to northeast. Dead cherry pole in front.



Canopy in good physiological condition, but extension growth is very short and leaves are tightly packed along branch length including a high volume of epicormic growth.

Ends