



ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Client: GH Property Management Ltd

Site: 241 Simpkins Court, Chandlers Ford SO53 1AL.

Arboricultural Consultant: Alexa Monk (*NCH Arb, Tech cert Arbor A*)

Date: 27th August 2024

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 I have been instructed by GH Property Management Ltd to undertake this arboricultural report in relation to inspecting 1 (one) Oak tree (*Quercus robur*) at 241 Simpkins Court and report on my findings with any recommendations for the future management of the tree.
- 1.2 Figure 1 below (page 2) shows Oak tree to the site frontage.
- 1.3 This tree I am advised is covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).
- 1.4 The tree inspection took place on 27th August when the weather was cloudy with sunny spells.



2.0 DETAILS

- 2.1 This mature tree grows to the front of 241 Simpkins Court which is a residential building and a highway to the east aspect. The tree has a height of 18m and a DBH of 930mm measured at 1.3m above ground level. The crown spread to the four compass points were as follows:
- N: 7m
 - S: 9m
 - E: 7m
 - W: 5m
- 2.2 At the base of the tree a large fungal fruiting body of the species Artist's Bracket Fungus (*Ganoderma applanatum*) was present on the east side of the tree. This decay fungus produces rot of the butt and in to the roots. The stem of the tree was tapped with a rubber headed mallet to determine the extent of any decay from ground level to approximately 1.3m above ground level. When tapped with the hammer good solid sounding were heard on the west side. However, the south, east and north sides when tapped sounded a dull thud which would indicate either cavities or extensive decayed wood from ground level to 1.3m above ground level.

2.3 Figure 2: Image of fungal fruiting base of tree



- 2.4 An old pruning wound was present on the east side at 5m above ground level occluding with a wildlife hole. This cavity was not inspected as the general tree inspection was confined to ground level. Long stubs on the north side indicated previous crown reduction work with dead epicormic growth. The east side of the crown has also been crown reduced back from the building.
- 2.5 The crown showed low density growth with major dead wood on the north and west sides over the highway. Epicormic growth was present throughout the crown.
- 2.6 Figure 3: Image from the south aspect shown below on page 3.



3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Artist's bracket fungus is a decay pathogen of the lower stem and in to the roots. The dull soundings when tapped with the rubber headed mallet indicates that the stem from ground level to a height of approximately 1.3m above ground level is composed of decayed wood and or cavities. This has compromised the structural integrity of the stem. The root system cannot be measured for decay, although it is highly likely that decay is present but to what extent is not possible to comment on. The declining crown and major dead wood can be contributed to the decayed stem and active pathogen involved.
- 3.2 The decay is likely to increase in time and increase the risk of failure of part or whole tree failure.
- 3.3 Considering the location of the tree and the close proximity of the residential building and public highway it is highly recommended that the tree be taken down to ground level in a controlled manner by a fully qualified contractor in accordance with BS3998:2010 in the interests of good arboricultural practice. The stump should also be ground out and the resulting debris removed and burnt to prevent further contamination to other trees. The resulting hole will be filled with good quality top soil and turfed.
This work should be undertaken within 12 months of the date of this report.
- 3.4 It is also recommended that a replacement is planted to continue the green aspect of the immediate area. Suitable species that are tolerant of *Ganoderma* are the Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) and Paperbark Maple

(*Acer griseum*). Both trees have an upright growth habit so would suite the location.

- 3.5 The local authority (Eastleigh Borough Council) should revoke the Tree Protection Order on this tree and allow the tree's removal.