



**REPORT TO SUPPORT A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER
APPLICATION**

LAND ADJACENT TO
3 TREE TOPS DRIVE
COWPLAIN
WATERLOOVILLE
HAMPSHIRE
PO8 8JF

SEPTEMBER 2016

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CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	Site Visit	3
3.0	Site Description	3
4.0	Tree Assessment	3
5.0	Hazard Assessment	3
6.0	Tree Survey Data	4
7.0	Comments and Observations	6
8.0	Discussion	6
9.0	Conclusion	7
	Inspection Caveats Credentials of Author	8
	Appendix 1 Photographs	i

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report was commissioned by Mr Mount to support a Tree Preservation Order application for work on an Oak tree on land adjacent to his property Tree Tops Drive, Cowplain, Hampshire.

2.0 SITE VISIT

- 2.1 The site visit was carried out on 26th August 2016. The tree was surveyed visually, externally and from ground level only. No samples or internal decay detection reading were taken for analysis. Weather conditions at the time of survey were dry, sunny and still.

3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 The site to the rear of Forest Avenue, Cowplain is part of a new development that is still being completed. The tree stands on ground located to the east of the garage of 3 Tree Tops Drive. The land forms part of an on-going construction site and is on a piece of ground with no construction going on at present.

4.0 TREE ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The tree was assessed and the species, height, diameter at breast height, branch spread, estimated remaining contribution and general comments were recorded and are detailed at **Section 6.0**. In addition observations and comments were also detailed. These are to be found at **Section 7.0**.

5.0 HAZARD ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 A detailed hazard evaluation assessment of the tree has not been carried out in this instance but VTA (Visual Tree Assessment) has been undertaken and comments regarding these observations have been detailed in **Section 7 Observation and Comments**.

Table 1 – Tree Data

Tree Number and Species	Height (m)	DBH (mm)	Age Class	S.U.L.E	Comments	Management Recommendations
T1 Oak <i>Quercus</i> sp.	16	590	EM	>20	Sound base and lower stem with no obvious signs of defects at the time of inspection. A few clusters of water sprouts on the lower stem. Crown appears to have been over thinned historically resulting in lion tailing of the scaffold limbs. Over 80% of the scaffold limbs are covered with water sprouts. Numerous areas of die back on secondary branches throughout the canopy.	Remove and plant replacement

Key to Terms

- Identification numbers have been used and correspond to the site plan on the TPO application form at Section7.
- Vegetation type has been categorized as one of the following: Tree (T), Hedge (H), Shrub (S), Group (G), Stump (ST)
- Species are listed by common and botanical name where appropriate.
- Where possible, measurements have been made in accordance with the conventions detailed below. Where this was not possible, due to site conditions or the vegetation being in third party ownership, dimensions have been estimated. * Indicates estimated measurement.
- Height has been recorded to the nearest half metre.
- Stem diameter has been measured at 1.5m and recorded in millimetres, except where forking or swelling has meant that this is not possible, stem diameter has then been recorded at the narrowest point below these features. Multi-stemmed trees have had individual stems measured at 1.5m. Where this was not possible the actual height where the diameter was measured is recorded. G.L. = Ground Level.
- Crown spread has been recorded to the nearest half metre. Rounded up for dimensions up to 10m and the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m.
- Age class has been recorded as follows:

Y	Young recently planted or establishing tree that could be transplanted without specialist equipment, i.e. up to 12-14cms-stem girth.
S/M	Semi mature. An established tree but one that has not reached its potential ultimate height and has significant growth potential.
E/M	Early mature. A tree reaching its ultimate potential height, whose growth rate is slowing down but will increase in stem diameter and crown spread, and has a safe life expectancy.
M	Mature. A mature specimen with limited potential for any significant increase in size but with a reasonable safe life expectancy.
O/M	Over mature. A senescent or moribund specimen with a limited safe life expectancy. Possibly also containing significant structural defects with attendant safety and/or duty of care implications.
- Physiological Condition has been recorded as Good, Fair or Poor.
- Recommendations for tree management have been based on current Arboricultural Best Practice as set out by the Arboricultural profession and all relevant publications.

7.0 OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS

7.1 General Observations on the Species

Oak trees are forest species trees with the potential to grow to 30m in the right conditions.

7.2 T1 Oak

- The tree has been overly thinned in the past and has resulted in 'Lion's-tailing'.

Lion's-tailing is over-pruning a tree by removing a large number of inner branches. The tree limbs will appear "long and slender" with a "puff" of foliage at the end like a lion's tail. Lion's-tailing can increase the risk of branch failure by weakening the tree root and eliminating the dampening effect that interior limbs provide when branches move, during storms.

<https://www.bartlett.com/tips/lion's-tailing.cfm>

- Water sprouts are endemic along all major scaffold limbs. These derive from latent buds in the bark and are indicative of a tree under stress. In this instance they may be present as a result of over-pruning. They often appear in response to stress.
- The Oak tree T1 is in irreversible decline and no amount of remedial work will rectify this.

7.3 Photographs

Annotated photographs of the tree are to be found at **Appendix 2**.

8.0 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The tree is protected under a Tree Preservation Order made by Havant Borough Council, possibly number 1614.
- 8.2 The tree is part of a tree group that enhance the visual amenity of the immediate locale. However, the condition of the tree as an individual is poor and no remedial work will reduce the rate of decline or enhance its visual contribution, given the poor past management.
- 8.3 It is considered that an application should be made to Havant Borough Council for the removal of the tree and a replacement planted.
- 8.4 The majority of the trees on and around the site are early-mature and mature Oak trees. There are very few young trees present. Given this it is considered that the planting of a replacement Oak after removal will contribute to the continuity of tree cover on the site over time, providing visual amenity for future generations.
- 8.5 The tree work will require an application to Havant Borough Council. Once consent has been obtained a fully qualified and insured tree surgeon will carry out the work in line with British Standard BS 3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations.

Notes in support of TPO application – Land adjacent to 3 Tree Tops Drive, Cowplain, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO8 8JF

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 An application for removal of the Oak tree T1 will be made to Havant Borough Council, this report will be submitted in support of the application to fell.
- 9.2 The replacement tree will be a Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) selected standard BS 3936 1992: Part 1 Specifications for Trees and Shrubs. The overall height of the tree at the time of planting will be 300cm – 350cm.
- 9.3 Planting of the tree will be in line with BS 4428 1989 Code of Practice for General Landscape Practice (excluding hard surfaces) Section 7 Amenity Tree Planting. Aftercare will include tree guard, weed control, mulching and watering. If the tree fails within 5 years after planting a replacement will be established.
- 9.4 Table 1 – Schedule of Proposed Work

Tree Number	Proposed Work
T1	Fell at ground level and remove stump. Plant replacement tree.

Inspection Caveats

The comments made with regard to the health and stability of the tree within this report were correct at the time of inspection. It should be recognized that trees are dynamic structures that can never be completely predictable and may become unstable or partially unstable even in average weather conditions. Changes can occur not only to environmental triggers but also in response to biological or mechanical events.

The inspection was carried out from ground level. Binoculars were used to observe features higher in the canopies.

Foliage, extension growth and/or bud proliferation were assessed visually.

No soil or tissue samples were taken during this inspection.

No invasive diagnostic equipment was used to detect decay.

A nylon hammer was used to test for possible decay and dead or loose bark around the lower stems and bases of the trees.

Ivy has been removed during the inspection process only where reasonable and practicable. Where this has not been possible it has been noted as a recommendation to be removed to allow detailed re-inspection.

No tree is ever absolutely safe due to the unpredictable laws and forces of nature.

CREDENTIALS OF THE AUTHOR

Sarah Johnston M. Arbor. A., B.Sc. Arboriculture has worked in the Arboricultural profession for fourteen years. Her experience has been gained from undertaking practical tree work as well as working as an Arboricultural Surveyor and Tree Officer for Eastleigh and Havant Borough Councils respectively. In addition Sarah worked as a consultant for Marishal Thompson for two years from 2005 when she became self-employed. Sarah is a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association and holds Professional Indemnity insurance cover trading as Johnston Tree Consultancy.

**APPENDIX 1 – PHOTOGRAPHS IN SUPPORT OF REMOVAL OF T1 OAK ON LAND ADJACENT TO 3
TREE TOPS DRIVE**



View of T1 Oak from the construction site
looking south



View from Tree Tops Drive looking
West

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