



Project: 21_VTA_04_14
Site: 39 Oak Avenue, Ickenham, UB10 8LR.
Client: Amol Varpe



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Document Title:	Tree Safety Survey - 3 year time cycle.
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Project Manager:	Matt Harmsworth
Project Title:	39 Oak Avenue, Ickenham, UB10 8LR

Revision History.

Date:	Version number:	Summary of changes:
21/4/2021	1.0	First Draft
21/4/2021	1.0	First Issue

Distribution.

Approved by:	Signature	Date:	Version:
Matt Harmsworth	MWH	21/4/2021	1.0
Amol Varpe	AV	21/4/2021	1.0

Re-Survey Date.

Survey Type:	Lifecycle:	Re-survey Date:
Tree Safety Survey	3-Years	N/A



Summary:

The tree survey for 39 Oak Avenue contains the details of one individual tree that is located 7.9m from the house in the rear garden. The tree is protected by a tree preservation order TPO 514 tree T13.

Our brief has been to obtain details of the tree with a view to assessing its suitability and safety in a residential environment.

The tree shows reasonable vitality given its location and the inevitable pressures of being located in a residential area. The upper crown of the tree has been reduced many times in previous years and drone imagery shows decay in the old pruning wounds.

Extensive die back was noted in sections of the upper crown together with delamination of bark on upper surfaces.

The tree appears to have been struck by lightning decades ago which has resulted in a linear vertical wound from the upper crown junctions down to 2.5m above ground level. This wound shows delamination, decay and serious cracking.

A climbing resistograph test was planned but it was deemed unsafe due to the cracking.

Given the trees location, pollarding and retention of a standing stem for habitat would seem inappropriate and therefore we recommend the tree is removed as soon as possible on safety grounds.

Given its protected status a replacement tree will be required and it would seem there is scope for this further into the garden area.



Report Author.

Matthew Harmsworth attended Merrist Wood College in Guildford, Surrey in the late 1990's studying horticulture and arboriculture as well as a National Diploma in Countryside Recreation before gaining employment as a Countryside Ranger with Surrey County Council (later Surrey Wildlife Trust).

After a number of years Matthew started an Arboricultural Contracting business serving residential and commercial clients across the SE of England and also gained his aerial NPTC certificates.

Following the sale of this business in 2009 Matthew moved to North Wales as a junior self-employed consultant for Fairley Arboriculture and studied at Myerscough online to study an FDSc in Arboriculture and become a technician member of the Arboricultural Association.

ROAVR Environmental was formed in 2010 and since then has carried out arboricultural consultancy Nationwide with directly employed consultants. Matthew has written well in excess of 600 BS 5837 2012 tree reports.





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1. Scope

- 1.1 We were instructed in April 2021 to assess the site following an instruction from the homeowner.
- 1.2 This survey is to be considered a time mark for all future inspections. The data within the report will allow us to monitor decline (or improvement) of stems.
- 1.3 To undertake this assessment we have used the visual tree assessment methodology developed by Claus Mattheck. This technique is widely recognised as the benchmark and is the most widely used approach.

It consists of the following stages:

- Visual inspection of the tree for defect symptoms and overall vitality. If there are no signs of any problems the assessment is concluded.
 - If a defect is suspected on the basis of the symptoms, the presence or absence of that defect must be confirmed by thorough examination.
 - If the defect is confirmed, it must be quantified and the strength of the remaining part of the tree evaluated.
- 1.4 It should be noted that a visual tree assessment is visual only (although it is often undertaken with the aid of a probe, a sounding mallet and a pair of binoculars). The quantification and evaluation (stage 3) may be beyond the scope of a visual inspection and require the use of diagnostic decay equipment and/or a separate climbing assessment, this was planned in this case but was abandoned due to the condition of the stem.
 - 1.5 The trees within the scope were inspected on the 16/4/2021 by Mr. Matthew Harmsworth who holds a degree in Arboriculture, a Professional Tree Inspection Certificate and is a technician member of the Arboricultural Association.
 - 1.6 The weather was clear, bright and dry allowing for a full and thorough inspection to take place.
 - 1.8 The site is a residential site, as such a risk based approach has been adopted, if a tree was to fall in this environment, the chances of it striking people or property is high.



Photographic Plates.



Photographic plate showing the tree in relation to the house.



Aerial photographic plate showing the upper crown, note old pruning wounds and delaminating limbs.



Photographic plate showing the stem wounding, delamination of bark and cracking.



Photographic plate showing the stem wounding, delamination of bark and cracking which extends from the branch unions down to 2-2.5m above ground level.



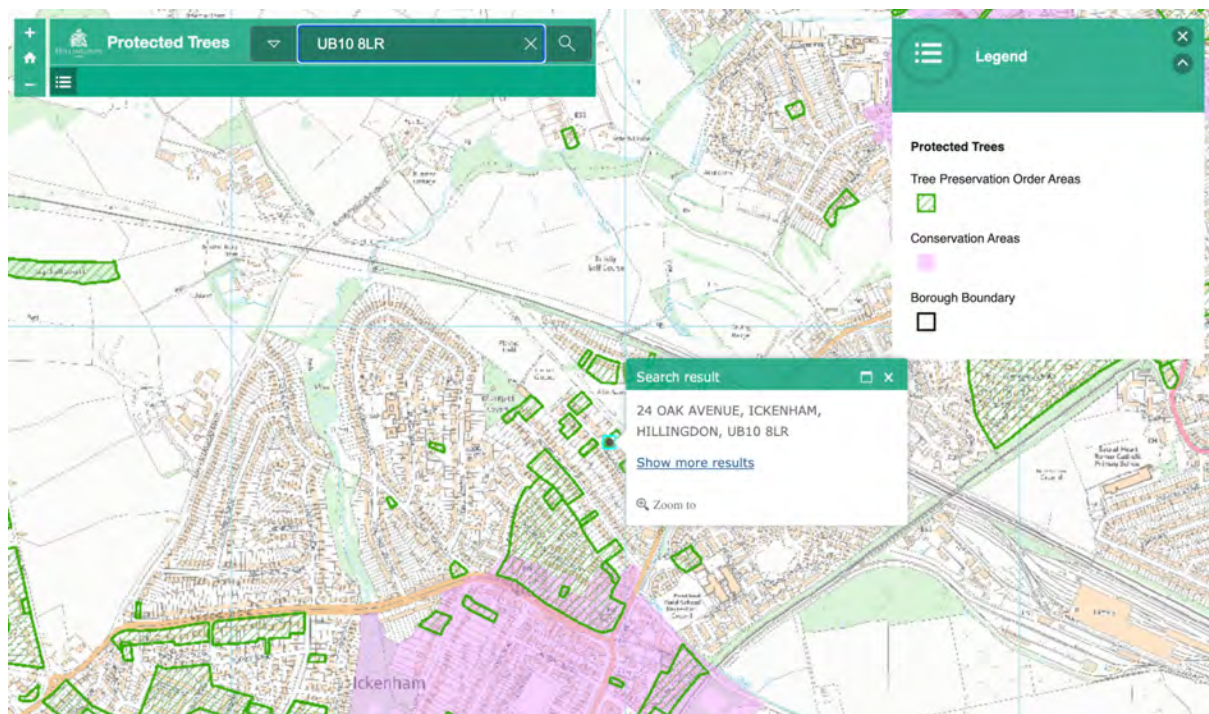
Aerial photographic plate showing the crown of T1.



2. Site Conditions & Site Surroundings

- 2.1 The site is situated in Ickenham in the London Borough of Hillingdon Council control area.
- 2.2 The site is home to a residential dwelling house with associated hard and soft landscape.
- 2.3 The wider locality is predominantly residential housing. The site is accessed via a private entrance driveway and a pedestrian gate.
- 2.4 A desktop assessment has shown the site is not in a Conservation Area but that T1 is protected by a tree preservation order.
- 2.5 All desktop assessment data was cross checked and validated on the 19/4/2021 using the web portal provided by the local planning authority and cross checked with the DEFRA MAGIC database.

<https://lbhillingdon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=7b18f60872a94d38a0c9bf1aea032760>



- 2.6 Works to protected trees require consent from the local planning authority. In the case of TPO's an application must be made. In the case of conservation areas a notification must be made. TPO applications take up to eight weeks, conservation area notifications take six weeks.



2.7 Certain exemptions apply; for example the removal of deadwood. In the case of dangerous trees 5-days written notice should be given to the local authority (in the cases of immediate danger the work should proceed, but the local authority contacted as soon as possible afterwards) with the works evidenced by photographs and video where possible.

3. The Trees

3.1 Tree cover at the site is limited to the single surveyed oak tree T1.

3.2 Data was recorded within our mobile GIS database and then exported in a desktop exercise to form the appended arboricultural data tables. Work within the tables is prioritised over a three-year period from ASAP to <3 years. Additionally, tree condition has been classed in a colour coded system with red being poor or dangerous, fair being orange and good being green.

3.3 Tree positions were captured with our survey handset and have been applied to a Google Map extract to enable contractors to locate and price the works. Budget estimates can be found within the data tables as a labour requirement.

3.4 Full details of the surveyed trees are located within the data tables with general comments in the paragraphs below and in the summary.

3.5 T1 requires removal on safety grounds. The tree shows reasonable vitality given its location and the inevitable pressures of being located in a residential area. The upper crown of the tree has been reduced many times in previous years and drone imagery shows decay in the old pruning wounds.

3.6 Extensive die back was noted in sections of the upper crown together with delamination of bark on upper surfaces.

3.7 The tree appears to have been struck by lightning decades ago which has resulted in a linear vertical wound from the upper crown junctions down to 2.5m above ground level. This wound shows delamination, decay and serious cracking.

3.8 A climbing resistograph test was planned but it was deemed unsafe due to the cracking.

3.9 Given the trees location, pollarding and retention of a standing stem for habitat would seem inappropriate and therefore we recommend the tree is removed as soon as possible on safety grounds.



4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Recommendations for safety works are included within the data tables.
- 4.2 There is scope for some new higher quality tree planting but any planting must be robust, sustainable and protected to climate change.

5. Contractors

- 5.1 Tree works should be carried out by suitable qualified and insured operators who are preferably members of the Arboricultural Association which demonstrates commitment to best practise.

6. Limitations

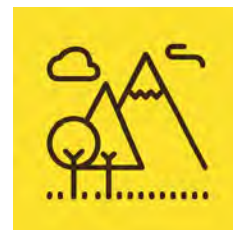
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Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Mr. M Harmsworth tech.arbor.a, DipRS
Consultant Arborist

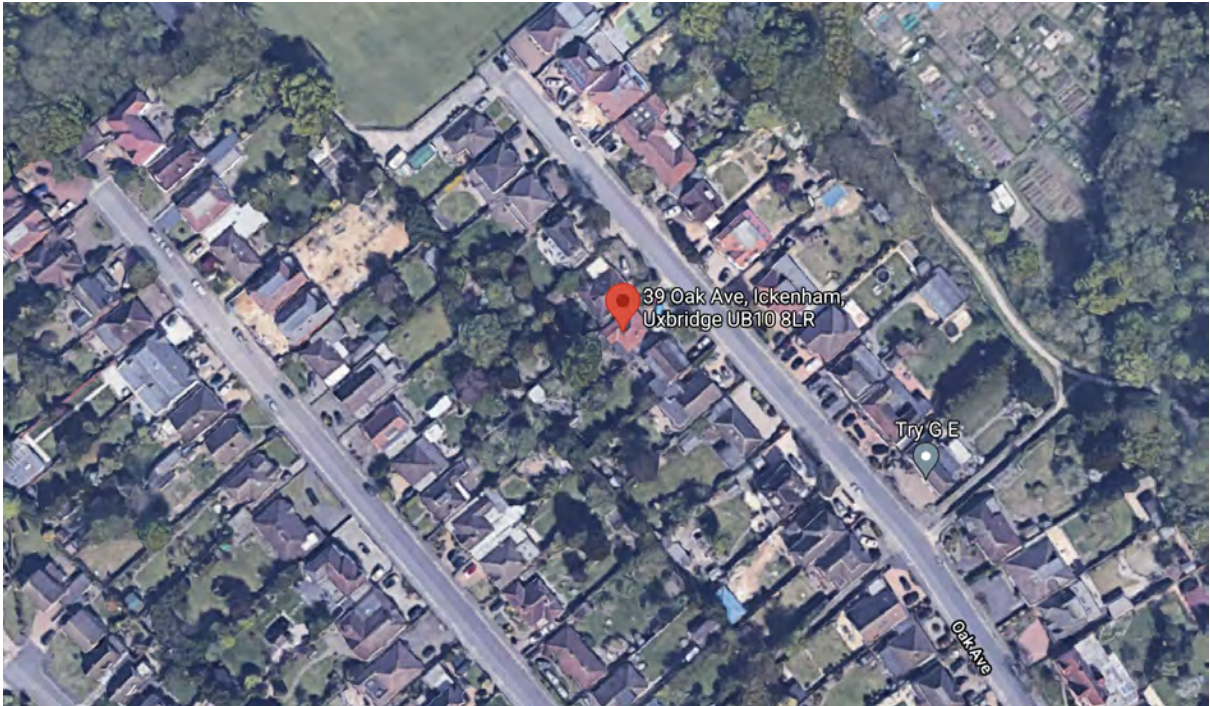
Matt Harmsworth

Prepared by: Matthew Harmsworth.
Checked by: Ffion Maguire.





Appendix 1 – Site Location





Appendix 2 – Arboricultural Data Tables

Tree Number	Species	Age Class	DBH	Height (crown height)	N	E	S	W	Condition	Life Expectancy	Physical Description	Comments	Managment Recommendations	Category Rating
T1	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	M	1250	15(4)	8	8	8	8	Poor	<10	Large prominent oak tree protected by a TPO; extensive crown die back noted; large vertical wound and delamination at 3m extending up to the crown height; stress crack within stem indicating a previous lightning strike; real risk of upper crown failure.	Not safe to climb for a climbing inspection with the resistograph.	Dismantle and fell ASAP.	U