



Broad Oak Tree Consultants Limited

REPORT ON INSPECTION OF OAK TREE

AT

NO. 15 APPLE GROVE
ALDWICK BAY ESTATE
BOGNOR REGIS
WEST SUSSEX
PO21 4NB



By

Tim Laddiman
B.Sc.(Hons) M.I.C.For. M.Arbor.A.

J46.99
27th June 2013

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1. TREE LOCATION PLAN, DRAWING NO. J46.99/01
2. TREE INSPECTION SHEET

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Broad Oak Tree Consultants Ltd. received instructions from Mr. and Mrs. Sturrock to undertake an inspection of a twin stemmed oak tree located in the rear garden of No. 15 Apple Grove, Aldwick Bay Estate, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 4NB. The purpose of the inspection was to assess the condition of the tree and advise on any safety works required and any general maintenance works considered appropriate.
- 1.2 At the time of reporting it is understood verbally that there are no Tree Preservation Orders in place and that the tree does not stand in a Conservation Area. There are therefore believed to be no statutory constraints on undertaking any works recommended in this report.
- 1.3 The tree was inspected on Wednesday 26th June 2013 by Tim Laddiman, BSc.(Hons) M.I.C.For. M.Arbor.A., Chartered Arboriculturist and Principal Consultant of Broad Oak Tree Consultants Ltd.

2. TREE LOCATION

- 2.1 The tree is located towards the south-west corner of the rear garden where the boundaries of four properties converge. Beneath the canopy are various sheds and structures in at least three of the gardens. The base of the tree has paved surfacing to the west; a paved path to the north; lawn to the east and a timber fence to the south.
- 2.2 The approximate location of the tree relative to its surroundings is indicated on the attached Tree Location Plan, drawing no. J46.99/01 in Appendix 1.

3. TREE DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 A detailed Tree Inspection Sheet is included in Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The tree is a Common Oak, twin stemmed from a shared root mass with one stem dominant. The tree is still relatively young for the species and was previously heavily crowded to the north by a tree removed in recent years due to advanced basal decay. Due to its growing circumstances the tree now has a dense crown of young developing branches to the north utilising the increased light availability since the decayed tree was removed. To the south and west the two stems have formed long near horizontal, relatively large limbs as it developed to where light was more readily available. Sections of the lower canopy to the south have been removed by the neighbour.
- 3.3 Overall the tree has a reasonable form and is prominent in its setting. It is currently less than half its potential mature height although salt laden winds tend to restrict vertical development compared to more inland locations.

4. CONDITION ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 Inspection of the lower stems did not indicate the presence of any dead bark, decay fungi or signs of root plate instability. The tree is therefore considered to be stable under normal wind loading and weather conditions. The larger stem has an old completely sealed wound at the base to the south but this is not considered a problem.
- 4.2 A ground based visual inspection of the canopy did not indicate the presence of any weak branch unions, decayed wounds or signs of mammal damage. Of the long, over extended limb to the south-west on the smaller stem there is a hanging split limb that has been cut back in the past. This represents a very low risk of failure.
- 4.3 To the south past reduction works have created tear wounds on the remaining branches but these do not represent an issue.
- 4.4 On the smaller stem there is a decaying secondary stem stub at circa 2.1m height. This does not represent a hazard. It could be cut back to sound tissues if required.
- 4.5 Inspection of the overall canopy indicated some localised fine dieback to the west/south-west. The cause of this is unconfirmed and could be salt exposure from prevailing winds or minor root damage. Given the overall vigour of the crown, the good leaf size, general density and shoot extension, this is not considered an issue.
- 4.6 Within the crown there are small dead branches which typically develop in a tree of this size and a constant rain of small dead twigs and branches can be expected. A few are of sufficient size to possibly damage the felt roof of a shed but nothing more and deadwooding of the crown would alleviate any minor risk.
- 4.7 Overall the tree is considered to be in reasonable health with no significant health or stability issues.
- 4.8 Within the scope of any tree survey it is a fact that not all risks of stem or crown failure can be covered, particularly in relation to freak occurrences of weather when even healthy trees can suffer stem snap or windblow. There is also a well known propensity for trees to occasionally shed limbs for no discernible reason, even on calm days. Although relatively rare, limbs may occasionally be shed and this should be acknowledged as a risk that cannot entirely be mitigated.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The long over extended limb to the south-west on the smaller stem is disproportionate for the stem size and ongoing growth could eventually cause it to partially fail. To reduce this future risk it would be recommended to reduce its overall length by upto 50%. This would reduce end loading and balance up the stem.
- 5.2 Whilst having a tree surgeon in it would be prudent to remove all the deadwood from the canopy with the potential to possibly damage a shed roof.

- 5.3 No other works would be considered necessary but general shaping/crown lifting can be considered based on personal choice. Provided reduction or lifting did not remove more than 30% of the live crown the works would not affect the overall viability of the tree. However it should be noted that typical growth response to overall reduction is to produce very dense areas of new shoots that can affect the visual appearance of the tree.

6. INFORMATIVES

- 6.1 Instructing a firm to perform tree work should only be carried out once it has been established that the tree is not covered by a Tree Preservation Order or stands within a Conservation Area. In either case it would be necessary to obtain local authority consent if the tree is covered. Heavy fines are imposed for transgression of TPOs.
- 6.3 The tree works should be carried out by a competent tree surgeon to comply with BS3998:2010 "Tree Work - Recommendations".
- 6.4 The oak tree recommended for surgery works should be checked for the presence of bats or nesting birds prior to works commencing. Disturbance to bats or nesting birds could contravene the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and result in prosecution.

Tim Laddiman
Chartered Arboriculturist
Broad Oak Tree Consultants Ltd.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 2

TREE INSPECTION SHEET

LOCATION: No. 15 Apple Grove, Aldwick Bay Estate, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 4NB

BOTC Job No: J46.99

Height (m): 8m

Tree Reference No: 1

Crown radius (m):

Species: Common Oak

Stem diameter at 1.5m (cm): 48/38

Age Class:
Mature

N	E	S	W
4.5	5	c.5.5	c.5.5

TYPE OF INSPECTION:

Visual. Ground based.

COMMENTS ON: BASE AND LOWER STEM

Two stems from ground level with shared root stock. Larger stem forms dominant portion of crown. Old sealed wound to S. on larger stem. No visible signs of decay fungi or dead bark. No visible signs of root plate instability. Larger stem slight lean to S. Smaller stem slight lean to W.

COMMENTS ON: CROWN

Crown formed mainly of long large diameter limbs to S. and W. off the two stems with no obvious signs of weak unions, mammal damage or other defects. One low hanging previously cut limb off the large long limb to the SW on the smaller stem is part torn and hanging. Lower crown to S. has been cut back to 3m length by non-professional as stubs have tear wounds. Decaying stub on smaller stem at 2.1m to E.

COMMENTS ON: FOLIAGE

Dense internal fine branch structure and good leaf size. Good shoot extension particularly to N. where new growth is filling out the area previously shaded. Some fine dieback in crown to SW and S. with no obvious cause.

GENERAL NOTES:

Large tree previously present circa 3m to N. hence crown mainly developed to S. and W. due to past crowding. Small fine deadwood typical for size, age and coastal location.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION REQUIRED:

None.

SAFETY WORKS:

Removal of dead wood.

MAINTENANCE WORKS:

The overextended long limb to the SW off the smaller stem could be reduced in overall length by up to 50% to reduce end loading. Include removing torn hanging limb. The decaying stub on the smaller stem could be cut back by circa 50cm length to sound wood..

Inspected by: Tim Laddiman, Chartered Arboriculturist, Broad Oak Tree Consultants Ltd.

Date: 26th June 2013

