

Cedarwood Tree Care

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Tree Condition Report

Client: Stuart Canham

Address: 43 Savill Road, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2NW

Date of inspection: 25 October 2025

Inspector: Scott Farmborough, Cedarwood Tree Care

Tree details

The tree is an English Oak (*Quercus robur*) located to the rear of the client's garden. It sits on a shared boundary and directly borders three neighbouring gardens. The tree is subject to a Tree Preservation Order administered by Mid Sussex District Council. It forms part of a linear row of mature oak trees, with each individual located within a separate residential garden.

Observations

At the base of the tree, on the eastern side, two large perennial bracket fungi are present. Based on their form, position and host species, these are consistent with *Ganoderma resinaceum*. The fruiting bodies are mature and weathered, showing the layered and cracked appearance typical of older brackets of this species. *Ganoderma resinaceum* is a decay fungus commonly associated with oak and is known to colonise the butt and major root system.

The crown currently shows early signs of decline, with minor dieback evident at the extremities of the upper canopy. This is considered likely to be associated with the underlying basal decay rather than recent pruning activity, as no significant pruning wounds were observed.

Condition and structural assessment

Ganoderma resinaceum causes a white rot which progressively degrades both lignin and cellulose within the wood. Its presence at the base of the tree indicates that internal decay is established within the butt and root system. While the tree currently retains reasonable vitality and continues to provide amenity value, the decay represents a structural weakness that is likely to increase over time.

The tree's position within a line of oaks means that wind loading is shared across the group, which may reduce the likelihood of sudden windthrow when compared with an isolated specimen. However, the proximity of neighbouring gardens and residential properties means that appropriate risk management is required.

Amenity value and risk balance

This oak makes a positive contribution to the character of the surrounding gardens and the wider local landscape. Its retention is considered desirable, particularly given its relationship with the adjacent oak trees and the collective amenity they provide. At present, the level of risk is considered manageable provided proportionate arboricultural intervention is undertaken.

In this context, a measured reduction of the canopy represents a balanced approach that addresses public safety concerns while allowing the tree to be retained in accordance with the intent of the Tree Preservation Order.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the tree undergoes a crown reduction of approximately 3.0 to 4.0 metres. The works should focus on reducing end weight and overall sail area while maintaining a natural and sympathetic crown form. All pruning should be carried out in accordance with BS3998 (Tree Work – Recommendations).

Following the proposed works, the tree should be re-inspected on an annual basis to monitor canopy condition and the progression of decay. Further investigative testing of the butt and root zone may be considered in the future if a more detailed assessment of internal decay is required.

Conclusion

The presence of *Ganoderma resinaceum* confirms that decay is established at the base of the tree and within the root system. While this has implications for the tree's long-term structural condition, immediate removal is not considered necessary. A moderate crown reduction, as outlined above, represents an appropriate and proportionate response, reducing risk while retaining the tree's significant amenity value.

Prepared by
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