

ARBORICULTURAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

For:	Client:	Oriel Services Limited
	Insurer:	Admiral Insurance Services Ltd
Site:	Policyholder:	
	Risk Address:	22 Wheatsheaf Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8UT
Refs:	OCA Ref:	70670
	Client Ref:	6693702
	Insurer Ref:	HH 505351325

Arborist Name:	Sarah MacKinnon	Date:	31/01/2018
QC:	Thomas Peppiatt	Date:	31/01/2018



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CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION & BRIEF 3

2.0 LIMITATIONS..... 3

3.0 DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS 4

4.0 EVIDENTIAL REVIEW AND MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS..... 5

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS..... 6

6.0 STATUTORY CONTROLS..... 6

7.0 APPENDIX 1: TREE TABLES 7

8.0 APPENDIX 2: SITE PLAN 9

9.0 APPENDIX 3: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS..... 11

1.0 INTRODUCTION & BRIEF

- 1.1** OCA Insurance Ltd has been instructed by Oriel Services Limited on behalf of the building insurers of 22 Wheatsheaf Close. We have been advised that the insured property has suffered differential movement and damage that is considered to have been caused by trees growing adjacent to the property influencing soils beneath its foundations.
- 1.2** We have been instructed to undertake a survey of the vegetation growing adjacent to the insured property in order to provide our opinion as to whether, based on the available information, any of this vegetation is likely to be influencing soil moisture levels beneath the foundations of the property, and if so, to provide recommendations as to what tree management could be implemented to effectively prevent damage continuing.
- 1.3** The vegetation growing adjacent to the risk address has been surveyed from the ground. All distances are measured to the nearest point of the risk address unless otherwise stated.

2.0 LIMITATIONS

- 2.1** Recommendations with respect to tree management are associated with the risk address as stated on the front cover of this report and following consultation with investigating engineers. The survey of trees and any other vegetation is associated with impacts on the risk address subject of this report. Matters of tree health, structural condition, and/or the safety of vegetation under third party control are specifically excluded. Third party land owners are strongly advised to seek their own professional advice as it relates to the health and stability of trees under their control.
- 2.2** Recommendations do not take account of any necessary permission (statutory or otherwise) that must be obtained before proceeding with any tree works.
- 2.3** Recommendations do not take account of any requirements for survey or mitigation relating to European or other protected species, e.g. bird nesting or bats. Land owners must obtain their own professional advice in respect of any protected species.

3.0 DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

3.1 Soils, soil water and vegetation

All vegetation requires water to live, and this water is substantially accessed from the soil within which the plants' roots grow.

If the soil is classified as a clay soil, then it will hold very much more water than sands, gravels and loam soils. As plants abstract water from the clay soil, the soil volume will "shrink" and "swell" during the summer as water is first removed and then added by summer rainfall.

In years in which rainfall during the summer is less than the total amount of water taken from the soil by plants, shrinkage will occur. This shrinkage may remove support from building foundations, leading to cracking in the fabric of the building.

3.2 Vegetation management

The control of trees, shrubs, and climbers, by removal or pruning as appropriate, are proven techniques that can control total soil water loss thereby minimising soil shrinkage and allowing repairs to proceed.

If vegetation management works are carried out promptly, then repairs can usually proceed very quickly and the duration and distress associated with the disruption that tree related subsidence brings can be minimised.

3.3 Third party liaison and statutory controls

Tree roots do not respect physical or property boundaries and can travel for many metres beyond the above ground "dripline" of the canopy of the vegetation.

The purpose of this report is to ascertain which vegetation is the most likely substantial and/or effective contributory cause of the damage witnessed to allow for liaison with third parties or with local administrative Councils as necessary.

You can learn more about tree related subsidence of low rise buildings by visiting:

www.oca-arb.co.uk/whatissubsidence.htm

4.0 EVIDENTIAL REVIEW AND MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Engineering Summary

Report dated 5th October 2017:

The engineer has described the damage to the property, its location and the likely mechanism of movement, and has concluded that the building failure is related to differential subsidence damage caused as a result of the action of vegetation.

This is a new subsidence claim and we are unaware of any previous history of subsidence at the property.

Monitoring has been instructed.

Drains have not been investigated.

4.2 Foundations, geotechnical, and root identification

Report dated 13th September 2017:

A factual geotechnical report has described the below ground foundation design, soil and geotechnical conditions, as well as any root identification where available.

Foundations are described as being 1600mm (TP1) below ground level.

Trial pit/borehole samples have been subject to laboratory analysis and the results of these tests indicate that soils have a plasticity index ranging from 24-38%.

Roots have been recovered from the trial pit(s) and subjected to laboratory analysis and the results confirm:

TP1 (USF)	1.5mm Quercus spp.	(2 roots).
TP1 (USF)	1mm Jasminum spp.	(2 roots).
TP1 (USF)	1.5mm unidentified broadleaved spp.	(1 root).
BH1 (to 2.6m depth)	1mm Quercus spp.	(2 roots).

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Recommendations

On the basis of our findings, we have considered a practical vegetation management specification.

This specification will assist in reducing the impact of the adjacent vegetation on soil moisture levels, thereby potentially stabilising foundations of the affected area of the building.

Where felling has been proposed, this will be on the basis that the vegetation in question would not respond well to a severe reduction in leaf area that would inevitably lead to decay, the development of potential hazards, and an annual or other on-going management commitment and cost.

If pruning is recommended, the specification will be designed to allow continual ease of re-pruning with a reasonable prospect of a reduction in soil water use.

5.2 Recommended vegetation management to address the current subsidence:

Tree No:	Species	Works Required
T1	Oak (English)	Fell and treat stump.
T2	Oak (English)	Fell and treat stump.
S1	Jasmine	Fell and treat stump.

6.0 STATUTORY CONTROLS

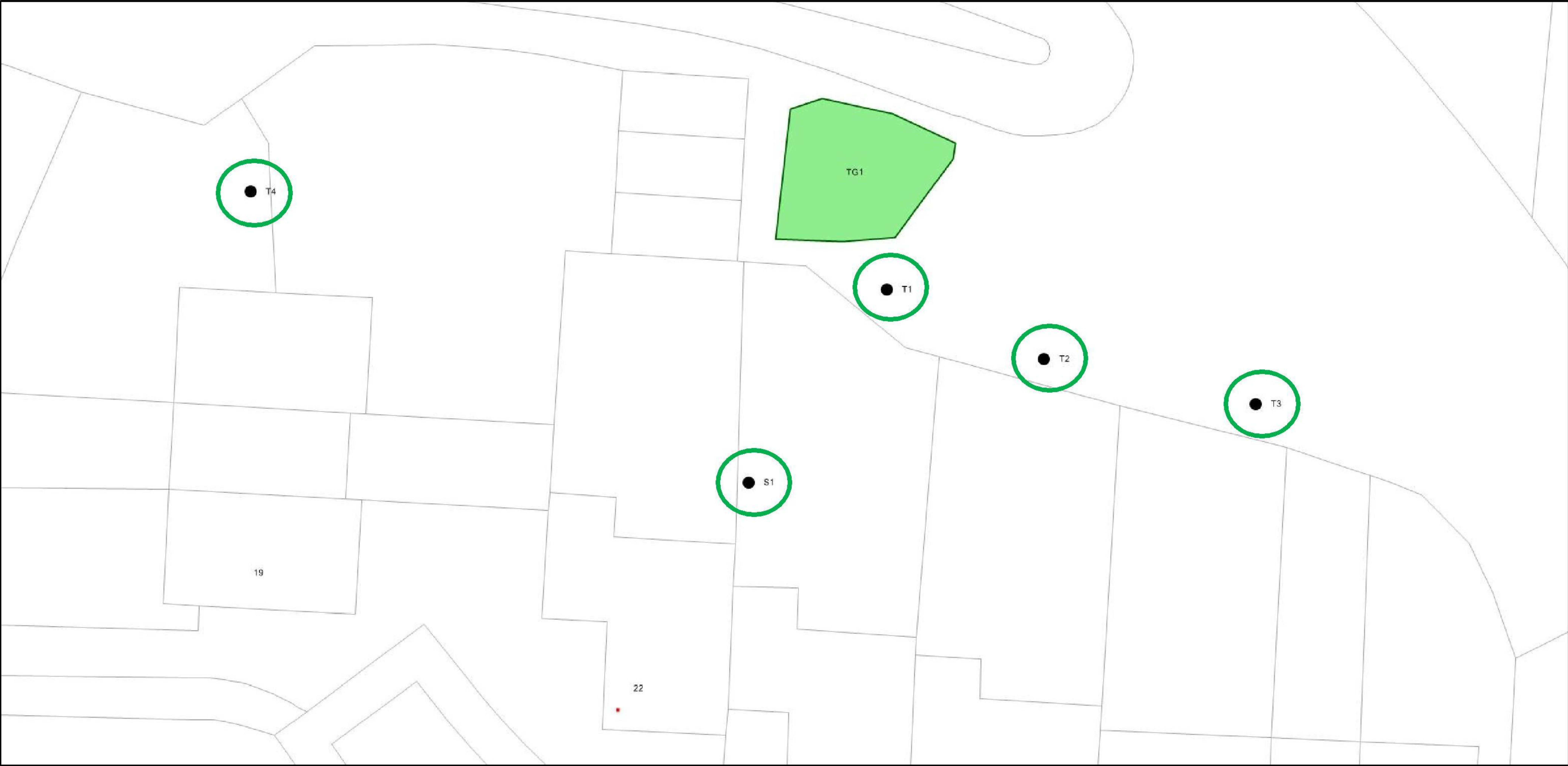
Mid Sussex District Councils Online Mapping system has confirmed that T1 and T2 Oak are subject to Tree Preservation Order BH/01/TPO/95.

7.0 APPENDIX 1: TREE TABLES



Tree No	Common Name	Age Class	Condition	Height (m)	Crown Spread (m)	Stem diam. (mm)	Dist to bldg. (m)	Pruning history	Recommendation	Tree work constraints	Notes	Owner address	Owner
T1	Oak (English)	Mature	Fair	15.5	14	650	10	No significant recent management.	Fell and treat stump.			Crest Homes	C3P
T2	Oak (English)	Mature	Fair	19	14	750	16	No significant recent management.	Fell and treat stump.	Potential/Identified bat habitat.		Crest Homes	C3P
T3	Oak (English)	Mature	Fair	19	14	750	22.5	No significant recent management.	No work required.			Crest Homes	C3P
T4	Oak (English)	Mature	Fair	17	15.0	700	19	No significant recent management.	No work required.			Unknown Ownership – Land registry required	UKN
S1	Jasmine	Mature	Fair	1.8	1.50	15	0.5	Managed as a shrub.	Fell and treat stump.	Access through building.		23 Wheatsheaf Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8UT	P3P
TG1	Mixed species group	Mature	Fair	13	7.0	200	12	No significant recent management.	No work required.		Ash and Hazel.	Crest Homes	C3P

8.0 APPENDIX 2: SITE PLAN



Location:	22 Wheatsheaf Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8UT
Job Ref:	70670
Survey Date:	31/01/2018 NTS
By OCA Insurance Limited	
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9.0 APPENDIX 3: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

	
T1 - Oak (English)	T2 - Oak (English)
	
T4 - Oak (English)	T3 - Oak (English)
	
S1 - Jasmine	TG1 - Mixed species group



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