



Tree Top Arborists



95 KIDMORE ROAD
CAVERSHAM
BERKSHIRE
RG4 7NH



CF0010

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1. Introduction/Brief:

1.1) Client

The clients for this survey are Mr. and Mrs. Garth and Jessica Wright who instructed on behalf of themselves.

1.2) Brief

This report was commissioned to establish the current condition of the beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica*) at 95 Kidmore Road, Caversham, RG4 7NH, focusing on the current state of the installed cable bracing, included unions and any further hazards present within the crown. In addition to the report any works required/recommendations are to be provided within.

1.3 Scope

The scope of this work was determined by the client's brief and as such consists of both an aerial inspection and ground inspection of the tree and a tabled report detailing any required works.

The tree was assessed from both ground level and aurally using the VTA (Visual Tree Assessment) methodology to establish the current health and condition. No further investigations, such as internal were required at this stage.

1.4) Site

The site of this survey is 95 Kidmore Road, Caversham, RG4 7NH. The report will be focusing solely on the Beech tree located on the Northeastern boundary line, as shown on the provided map (Appendix A.1). The tree is located in the front garden of the property, to the north and northeast runs Kidmore Road approximately 3m from the stem of the tree, to the South is Number 93 and west is number 97.

The details of the report are contained within the Tree survey table and consist of **Tree/Group Ref, Species, Description, Measurements, Survey notes, Overall condition and Recommendations.**

The classification of **Age** is Young (Y), Semi-mature (SM), Mature (M) and fully mature (FM)

The Classification of **Overall Condition** is Good, Fair, Poor and Dead.

See appendices for site maps (A) and photographic portfolio (B)

2. TREE SURVEY RESULTS

Ref.	Species	Description	Measurements	Survey Notes	Overall Condition	Recommendations	Inspect Period
T001	Common beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	Owned by the client. Roadside tree. Roadside tree near house. Target # - building Target # - footpath. Target # - overhead wires. Target # - road.	Height (m): 20 DBH (cm): 94 Stems: 3 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 30+ Years	Codominant stems at 2m. Leaning stems growing out towards road and neighbours' property. Limbs growing into phone mast and road. Fused branches at 10m on main stem causing damage to eastern side of lateral limb growing over clients parking area. North facing limb over road at 11m has a rot pocket approximately 6 inches deep from previous pruning wound, some compartmentalisation but significant decay present. Lateral limb growing next to it has significant squirrel damage on tension side over road, increasing the chances for failure. Some signs of the cable bracing deteriorating over time, with single snapped cable in the middle of the line and fraying at central stem attachment point. Union at 2.5m has signs of organic material build up and decay, unsure if causing internal issues due to tight nature of the union. Fungus: None present at current time	Fair	To install a new bracing system at approximately 9 m on northern stem and 13m on central stem, leaving the previous cable bracing installed due to unknown additional risk factor of removal, leading to potential union failure. Lift all roadside limbs below 5m and cutback from cables by up to 1m. Remove all major deadwood throughout the crown. Remove lateral limb on northern stem at 11m over road with squirrel damage and reduce upright leader growing from old pruning wound site on the north stem over road by up to 2m. Fused limb originating at 10m on main stem to be reduced by up to 3m to reduce end weight due to rubbing damage. Timescale: 08-Apr-2025 (3 Months)	1 Year (08-Jan-26)

3. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, from the inspection, the tree appears to be in relatively fair condition with hazards previously identified having some remedial work to help try and mitigate the risks that they pose. Firstly, both included unions at approximately 2m, show no signs of recent disturbance or movement and the Northern most stem has already been statically braced. There are now signs of some damage to the bracing (Appendix B.2), likely due to age and so installing a new system above the previous one will help to mitigate the risk of failure at the union into the road.

Due to previous pruning of the northern stem at 10m, likely as a means to reduce the weight, has resulted in a rot pocket approximately 6 inches deep with a large upright limb growing from the same area (Appendix B.4). Due to the significant loss of holding wood, it is recommended that the upright be reduced by up to 2m to help reduce the risk of failure into the road. Additionally, at the same point there is a lateral limb with significant damage to the tension side that should be removed due to risk of failure into the road (Appendix B.5).

Secondly there are limbs growing down into the road which will likely become an issue for traffic in the near future. Additionally, there are multiple limbs in close proximity to the phone mast (Appendix B.6) which will need to be pruned away before they cause damage, on the Western side at approximately 7m there is a limb already pressing down onto the wire and will likely cause damage (Appendix B.7).

Finally, there is a large lateral limb originating at approximately 10m from the most eastern stem that grows directly into the central stem (Appendix B.8/9). There are some signs of fusing, but mostly the limb has grown in a curved shape around the stem and as such poses some risk of failure down into the front garden/parking area of number 95 due to the potential for decay and its structural integrity being deteriorated due to its shape. As such it is suggested that the limb be pruned by up to 3m to reduce the weight out over the garden.

Unfortunately, due to the tree's location and the multiple included unions present, there is an increased risk to the public and the homeowner. It is believed that with continued regular inspections and remedial work, retaining the tree for an extended period is possible. It is suggested that the client maintain a regular inspection of the unions to ensure no changes or movement is missed and that regular professional inspections are carried out on a maximum of a yearly basis to ensure that there is no unnoticed structural change to the tree, it is suggested that the next inspection be done during fungal fruiting body season (Oct 25) to ensure that there is not an undetected fungal presence.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

To carry out the recommendations listed above in the 'Tree survey results' section and for the client to continue with their regular inspections of the tree.

5. APPENDICES: A – SITE MAPS



A.1 – Site Map – Showing the tree position

5.APPENDICES: B–SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



B.1 – Image of tree in relation to road, Phone mast, driveways and residences.



B.2 – Image of installed cable bracing with single broken cable.



B.3 - Image of cable deterioration near central stem attachment point.



B.4 - Image of rot pocket on Northern stem at 11m from previous pruning.



B.5 – Image of decay and squirrel damage at 11m on north stem lateral limb.



B.6 – Multiple limbs in close proximity to the telephone cable pole. Highlighted limb rubbing on pole.



B.7 – Limb rubbing on phone cables over front garden side (South) approximately 7m.



B.8 – Image of lateral limb at 10m rubbing/fusing with main central stem.



B.9 – Image of lateral limb at 10m rubbing/fusing with main central stem.



B.10 – Image of above included union showing buildup of decomposing organic material.