



Arboricultural Safety Inspection

Martindale Place

Southwater

Horsham

West Sussex

RH13 9AS

Prepared by: Chris Anderson, TecArborA

Ref: MP20052026

Date: 20th May 2026

V1.0



**Arboriculture – Ecology – Licensing – HSQE – Supervision – Planning – Consultancy – Site
Monitoring- LOLER**

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Supporting safe, compliant and defensible arboricultural practice.

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1.0 Introduction and Experience

Chris Anderson has worked in the arboricultural industry for 27 years, delivering both operational and consultancy services across sectors including electrical utilities, railway infrastructure, Ministry of Defence (MOD) estates, local authorities, and private sector.

I hold the Professional Tree Inspection (PTI) certificate, am a Technician Member of the Arboricultural Association, and have completed the ABC Level 4 Certificate in Arboriculture. I also hold the NEBOSH General Certificate in Health and Safety.

All health and safety requirements are fully addressed to ensure each document is compliant and evidence-based.

Reference Materials:

This survey has drawn upon established arboricultural literature and professional guidance, including:

- Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment: Dr David Lonsdale
- The Body Language of Trees: Claus Mattheck & Helge Breloer
- Diagnosis of Ill-Health in Trees: R.G. Strouts & T.G. Winter
- Tree Structure and Mechanics: Dr Duncan Slater

1.1 Scope:

Tree Safety Survey:

Commissioned by: JH Tree Services Ltd

Surveyor: Chris Anderson

Date(s) of Inspection: 20th May 2026

Purpose: Identification of hazardous trees and provision of actionable safety recommendations.

The scope includes:

- Visual inspection of one stand-alone English oak (*Quercus robur*), with all observations and management recommendations recorded in the survey data sheet using a handheld GPS device.
- Identification of the tree species and confirmation of its plotted location on the supplied CAD base plan to ensure accurate spatial referencing.
- Allocation of a numbered aluminium tag to the tree, fixed to the stem at approximately 2m above ground level to support consistent identification.
- Provision of findings, recommendations, and associated timeframes based on the observed condition, defects, and site use relating to this tree.
- Clarification of survey type: this document constitutes a visual tree safety survey undertaken from ground level. It is not a full arboricultural report and does not include detailed diagnostics, decay detection, or subsidence assessment.

1.2 Site overview:

Martindale Place is a small residential development situated in Southwater, Horsham (RH13 9AS), comprising low-rise housing with associated parking and communal garden areas. The grounds are enclosed by fencing, with boundaries softened by established shrubs and ornamental planting. The gardens are well-maintained, contributing to a tidy and orderly residential character. Several trees are present within the grounds, providing visual softening to the built form and adding aesthetic value to the immediate setting.

1.3 Risk Matrix.

To assess the likelihood of structural failure in trees adjacent to dwellings, structures, and communal areas, a matrix-based approach is used in accordance with UK arboricultural guidance. This supports defensible decision-making under duty-of-care obligations and aligns with best practice outlined by the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG).

Risk ratings are derived from three interdependent factors:

- **Likelihood of Failure:** Informed by observed defects, fungal associations, and biomechanical indicators.
- **Likelihood of Impact:** Determined by target-zone classification and occupancy frequency (e.g., structures, vehicular traffic and pedestrian flow).
- **Consequences of Failure:** Evaluated in relation to potential harm to persons, property, or infrastructure within the target zone.

Risk Matrix Classification:

Risk Level	Definition
Low	No visual defects present, or defects unlikely to fail within 3–5 years. Target zone occupancy is minimal or seasonal.
Medium	Defects may lead to failure within 1 to 3 years. The target zone is intermittently occupied (e.g., footpaths, access, and roads).
High	Failure is probable within 12 months. The target zone is frequently occupied or includes high-value assets (e.g. public highways, structures).
Imminent	Failure is expected within the near term (weeks to months). Urgent action is required to mitigate the risk to structures, road users and pedestrians.

Professional Opinion: Risk Classification and Observations.

- The single tree inspected at Martindale Place is assessed as Low risk in its current condition. No defects requiring structural intervention were identified, and the tree appears to have been managed appropriately. Recommended works are limited to the routine removal of minor deadwood and minor crown works to the north and west sides of the crown to maintain appropriate clearance. No issues presently constitute an intolerable hazard.
- Considering the tree's condition, site use, and target occupancy, the overall risk level for the site is Low. This reflects a generally sound tree within a well-maintained residential setting, with no immediate or foreseeable high-risk concerns.

1.4 Survey Overview.

A total of 1 tree was inspected.

1.5 Observed Pathogens, pests and diseases:

None found

1.6: Maintenance Recommendations for Healthy Trees.

- The maintenance actions are scheduled within 3 months to ensure timely intervention due to the impact of tree branches and deadwood.
- Recommendations include clearing branches from adjacent roads and parking bays.

- The person who controls or occupies the land or premises owes a duty of care to all individuals entering the site, including trespassers, in relation to hazards arising from its condition. Reasonable steps must be taken to prevent injury or damage, including erecting warning signage to alert individuals to potential dangers or perceived risks. This duty is established under the Landowners' Liability Acts 1957 and 1984.
- All works recommended in this report should be undertaken in accordance with the above legislation and within the specified timeframes to ensure compliance and mitigate liability.

1.7 Contractor and legal requirements:

Suitably qualified (especially for working over live electrical apparatus), insured, and experienced contractors must conduct tree works and should conform to the guidelines set out in British Standard 3998; however, we can professionally advise on recommendations for contractors who hold professional accreditation.

Trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or located within a Conservation Area (CA) require permission or consent from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) before any living material is removed. It is essential to confirm with the LPA whether any TPOs or Conservation Area designations apply to the site and to follow the required application process if pruning or felling is proposed for protected trees.

If you remove dead wood from a protected tree, you do not require consent from the local Planning Authority (LPA); however, I always advise informing The LPA out of courtesy and professionalism.

If felling/removing more than five cubic meters of timber in one quarter of a year, a felling license application to the Forestry Commission may be required.

All recommendations are subject to compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Therefore, try to avoid carrying out significant tree work during the bird nesting season, which typically runs from mid-March to the end of July; this is not an indicative time scale. Also, ensure that trees are professionally surveyed for signs of bat roosts and Bat activity before starting any tree work. However, all trees can be potential bat habitats and are not always easy to spot.

1.8: Disclaimer

The trees referred to in this document are living organisms and are subject to natural processes, environmental change, and weather-related impacts. This assessment is based on a ground-level visual inspection, as described by David Lonsdale in *The Body Language of Trees*.

Hidden or internal defects that are not externally visible may not be detected, and the condition or safety of any tree cannot be guaranteed beyond what can be reasonably assessed.

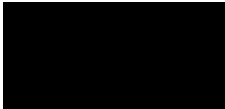
Most trees can be managed on a 4–5-year inspection cycle. However, where

early signs of decline, reduced vitality, or developing structural concerns are present, a shorter re-inspection interval may be required.

This may involve monitoring for several months to a year or more, depending on the nature and progression of the observed issues.

These recommendations reflect the landowner's statutory duty of care under the Landowners' Liability Acts 1957 and 1984, which require reasonable steps to ensure that trees do not present an unacceptable risk to people or property.

END OF REPORT.



Chris Anderson, TechArborA

20th May 2026

Tree Survey Report

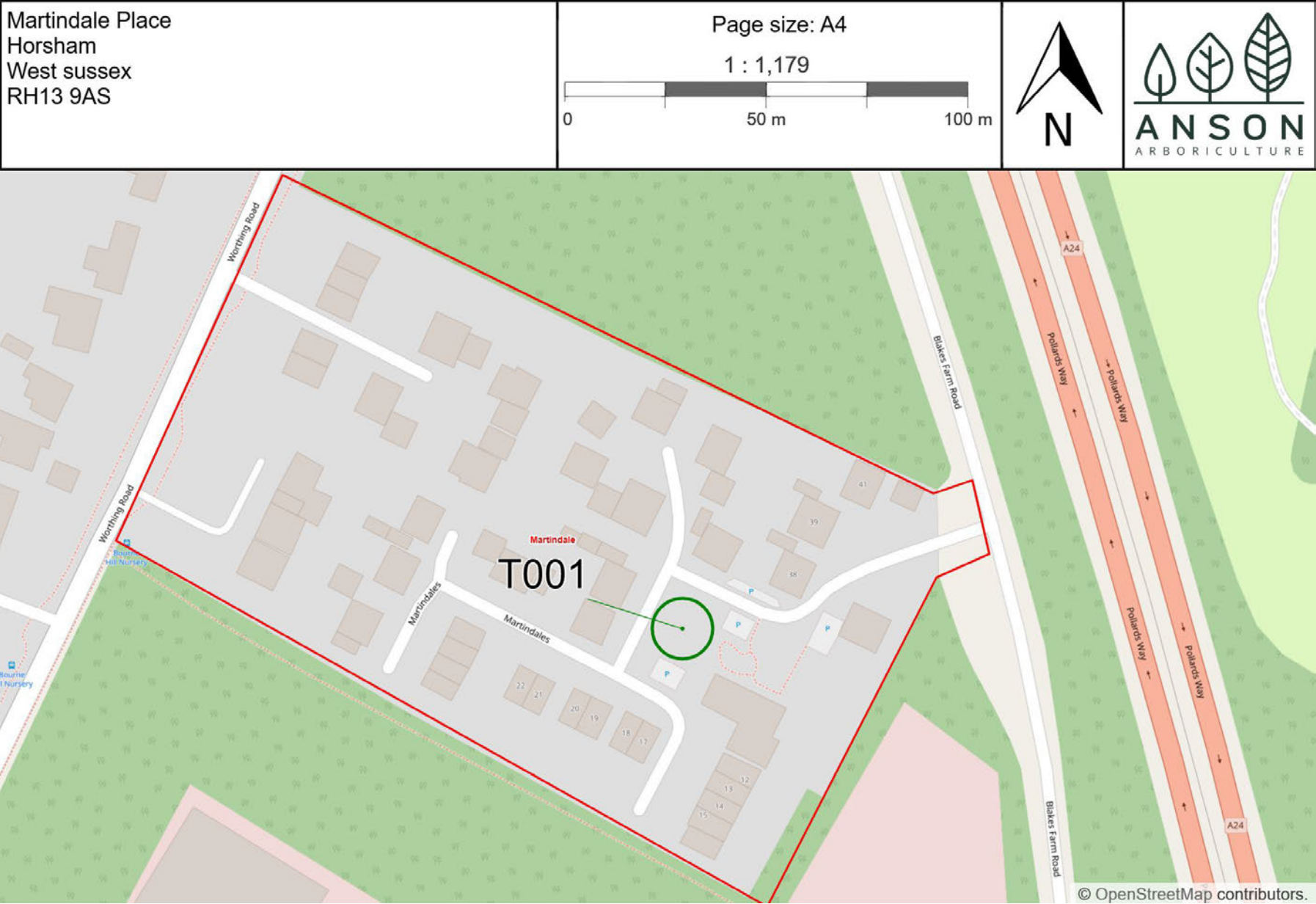
Client: First Port
Site: Martindale

Overall Condition	No. trees
Good	1
Total	



Tree Number	Tree Tag	What 3 Words	Species	Description	Measurements	Survey Notes	Overall Condition	Risk Category	Inspected	Inspect Period	Recommendations	Photo
T001	1495	///churn.debit.liberated	Oak (Quercus sp.)	Open space, parking bays, access road and dwellings.	Height (m): 15 Crown Radius (m): 9.3 Life Stage: Mature Life Exp.: 50+ Years	The tree is located within an open green space at the centre of the complex, with ample room for continued growth. The main stem shows evidence of historic branch removal, including several poorly executed cuts that have left dry, dysfunctional pegs; some are partially occluded, while others are fully occluded. A larger historic branch removal on the west side at approximately 2 m has formed a small decay pocket extending down the retained branch stub. This represents normal wound development and is not considered a concern. The crown is dense and in full leaf, though there is a notable volume of epicormic growth along many limbs, likely influenced by environmental and soil conditions. Deadwood is present throughout the crown. The crown is lightly encroaching over the access road to the southwest and marginally into the parking bays to the southeast Two bat boxes are fixed to the main stem just above the crown flare at approximately 2.5 m. Fungus: None Found Pests and Diseases: None found	Good	Low	20-May-2026	4 Years	Remove deadwood greater than 25 mm. Crown-lift the Southwest side to 5.2 m to achieve highway clearance, including the southeast crown over the visitor parking bays; this requires up to 0.5 m of branch reduction to facilitate vehicle access. Reduce the branch over the west parking bays by up to 1 m to maintain safe clearance for vehicles Timescale: 20-Aug-2026 (3 Months)	

2.0 Map



2.1 Blank page for notes.