23 Offington Gardens, Worthing BN14 9AU – Beech – TPO No. 4 of 1994

1.0 Location

- 23 Offington Gardens, Worthing BN14 9AU
- North-west corner of back garden on boundary with 36 Offington Lane.

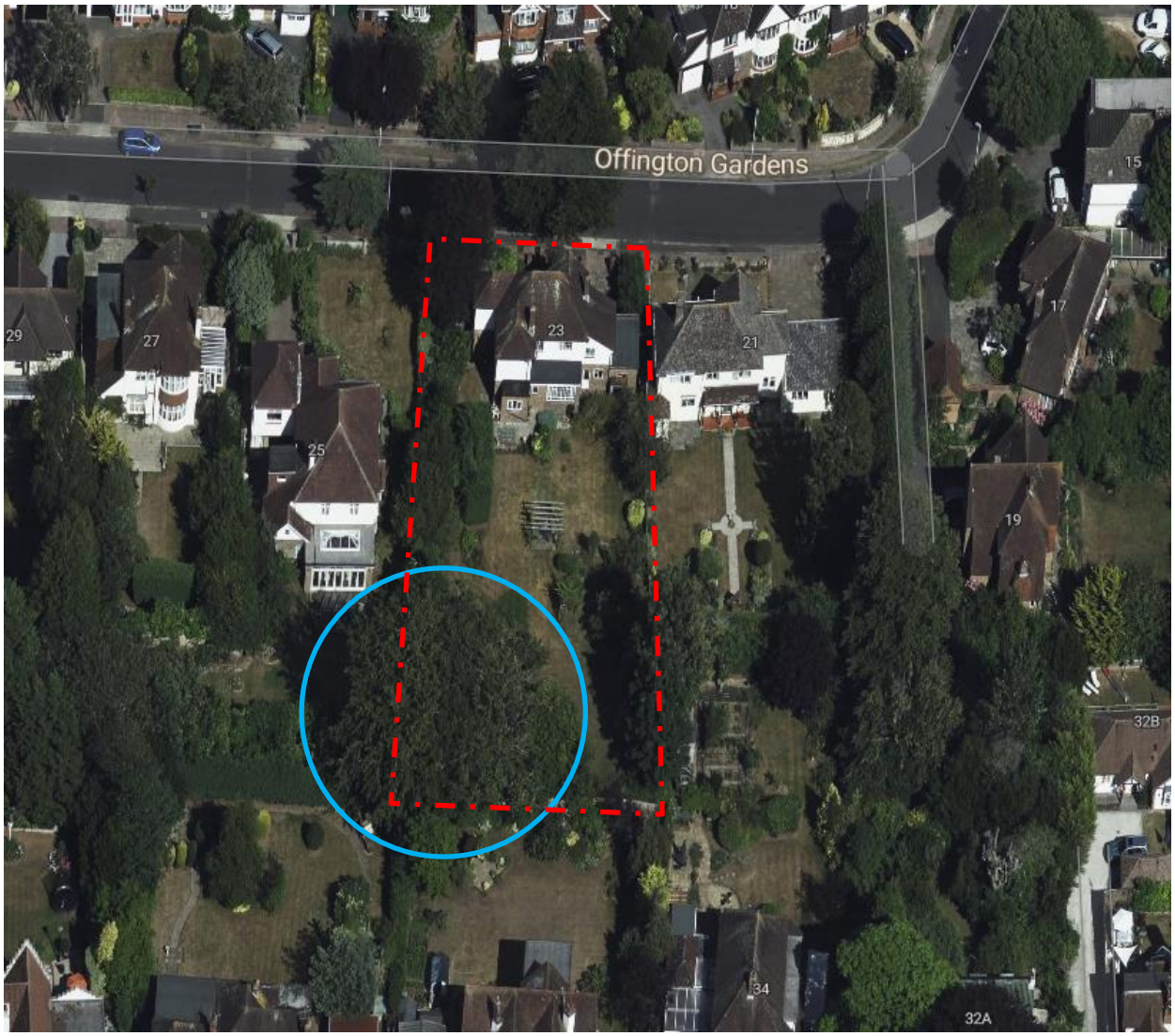


Fig.1 – 23 Offington Gardens (Microsoft product screen shot reprinted with permission from Microsoft Corporation) – subject tree circled in blue with noticeable apical dieback in the southern sector of the crown

2.0 Tree Details

- **Species** Beech *(Fagus sylvatica)*
- **Height** 15m
- **Stem diameter** 960mm at 1.5m above ground level
- **Crown spread** N-7m
  E- 7m
  S- 11m
  W-9m
- **Age class** Mature

- A mature, single-stemmed tree with a broadly-spreading crown. The tree is included in tree preservation order **No. 4 of 1994**.

3.0 Appraisal

- ***Foliage and branch tips*** – a reasonably full crown of live foliage in the north and north-east quadrants of the upper crown but significant loss of foliage and apical dieback in the south and south-west quadrants and the central upper crown (**Fig. 2**).



Fig.2 – sparse chlorotic foliage and apical dieback.

- ***Branches*** – apical dieback, minor deadwood and death of entire branches throughout the crown but more noticeable to the south and west (**Fig.3**).



Fig.3 – apical dieback, minor deadwood and entire dead branches.

- ***Main stem*** – loose, lifting and missing bark to around 2.5m above ground level in a broad strip from the north quadrant to the south-west quadrant. (**Fig. 4**).



Fig.4 – bark loss extending around the majority of the lower stem.

- The loose and lifting bark exposed large areas of dysfunctional and degraded cambium but no fungal fruiting bodies were present. (**Fig.5**).



Fig.5 – exposed dysfunctional and degraded cambium.

4.0 Conclusions

- There were no signs of new cambium/bark development at the margins of dysfunctional tissue exposed by bark loss and the continued loss of cambium and vascular tissue will lead to a rapid increase in the decline of the tree.
- There were no obvious fungal fruiting bodies present or signs of heartwood decay that would indicate a loss of structure or an increased potential for sudden stem failure but there is an increased risk of falling dead branches.
- Further pruning to remove dead and dying branches may temporarily reduce those risks but will result in an unattractive, one-sided form that will continue to deteriorate with an increased risk of total failure

5.0 Recommendations

- Fell tree and plant suitable replacement.

6.0 Details

- Inspection date - 18th September 2023
- Date of report - 10th October 2023

References

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