



County Tree Surgeons Ltd

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ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY

Survey Reference: CTS-GP-0YZ4-01

Client details: Mike Boden

Site:

23 Bridgersmill, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1TF

Date of inspection: 24/11/2025

Report date: 24/11/2025

Surveyor & author of report:

Glen Poole *TechCert(ArborA)*

Arboricultural Consultant

LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector (PTI)

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1: INTRODUCTION

1.1: Scope of works

This report has been commissioned by Mike Boden. A Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) was undertaken on the 24th of November 2025 by Glen Poole of County Tree Surgeons Limited to evaluate the condition of the tree within the confines of the site as per the supplied plans as identified by the client and offer guidance on its management. In doing so, this will provide a document that identifies and evaluates any significant risks arising from the surveyed tree and will advise recommendations for implementing a reasonable system of control for those risks. The report assesses the current conditions of the tree surveyed and provides specific management recommendations that can be broken down into three categories:

- SAFETY: Recommendations for remedial tree surgery or removal as a result of the tree posing a risk of failure at either its root plate, lower trunk, principal stems, or branches;
- ARBORICULTURAL MANAGEMENT: Recommendations for remedial tree surgery or removal works to permit compliance with good arboricultural management, such as maintaining the required crown clearances above public footways and highways, or re-coppicing overgrown or lapsed coppices; and
- GENERAL: Recommendations have been made for general tree work where necessary.

In this way, the report sets out what works might be required to fulfil the client's common law Duty of Care in relation to trees under the Occupiers Liabilities Acts.

1.2: Methodology

The trees are inspected from ground level, aided by binocular where considered appropriate; using the ground based visual tree assessment (VTA) method developed by Claus Mattheck and Helge Breloer, presented in the publication "The Body Language of Trees – A handbook for failure analysis" D.O.E booklet research for amenity trees No. 4, 1994.

This involves reading the body language of the tree, considering biology and the biomechanical process of normal tree growth. The inspector will visually examine the structure, vitality and close surrounding environment of each tree for defect symptoms and potential effects to the tree's vigor. Other aids included an acoustic hammer and a steel probe, both of which were used where necessary to confirm the extent of any dysfunctional wood, cavities or other morphological defects. Observations are confined to those that were visible from ground level. Where dense ivy or ground vegetation existed on or adjacent to trees, assessments were based on the visible portions of the tree(s). These assessments may be subject to change following more detailed investigations if recommended. No boring or core sampling is undertaken and comments made are founded only on observable factors present at the time of the inspection and are based on maximizing the tree's useful life expectancy given its current location.

1.3: Objective

Landowners have a statutory duty under the Owner & Occupiers Liability Act 1984, to manage trees under their ownership and do all that is reasonably practical to safeguard against any risk to health and safety. This duty can be fulfilled by having a system in place to monitor and control the risks from trees.

2: ASSESMENT OF ARBORICULTURAL IMPACTS

2.1: Survey Sub-Headings

ID: Unique reference number for each individual tree or group (*replicated if group contains multiple species*).

TAG: The number on a metal disc attached to the stem.

TRUNK TYPE:

Single: Single stem tree

Twin: Twin stem tree

Multi: Tree with multiple stems from base

Group: Collection of a general or specific quantity of trees

AGE:

Young: At early stage of establishment, typically under 10yrs old

Early Mature: Establishing tree, usually with good vigor

Semi Mature: Established, in good vigor and increasing in height

Mature: Well established, achieving full crown potential and at least half of life expectancy

Post Mature: Fully mature, decreasing in vigor, in last quarter of life expectancy

Veteran: Tree of special age/size with exceptional amenity, cultural or conservation value

CONDITION:

Good: Tree is in a good state of health

Moderate: Tree is in an acceptable state of health with some defects

Poor: Tree is in a poor state of health with significant defects

STEM DIAMETER: An estimated diameter (mm) of the main stem at 1.5m above ground level.

SPREAD: An estimated measurement (m) of the entire canopy width.

HEIGHT: An estimated height of the tree in meters.

ID	Next Inspection	Trunk Type	Age	Condition	Stem Diameter	Spread	Height	Species	Requirement Type	Comments
1	2 years	Single	Mature	Poor - Declining	1080mm	N5m E4m S3.5m W4.75m	14m	English oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Reduction in height by approximately 50%	Heavily crown reduced in past. Significant decline in health. Honey fungus noted.

2.2: Recommendations Procedure and survey results

The English oak tree is of a mature age group.

It has an estimated height of approximately 14m measured with a clinometer. A crown spread of approximately 5m north, 4m east, 3.5m south and 4.75m west. The trees stem has a diameter of 1080mm measured at approximately 1.5m from ground level.

At the time of my inspection, there were visible fungi fruiting around the tree base on the northwestern, north and southwestern aspects of the stem. These fungi are what I believe to be Honey fungus (*Armillaria spp*). This fungi is generally considered pathogenic and able to enter via roots from the surrounding soil. Indicative of physiological stress and often a decline in vitality.

A sounding mallet was used around the base of the tree up to an approximate height of 2m from ground level where no tonal differences were recorded indicating the stem base is sound and not hollowing.

This tree has been managed in the past by way of crown reduction works due to the decline in the canopy, but it is evident from today's inspection that the tree is in a period of physiological decline with significant crown dieback and cambium necrosis noted throughout the remaining crown.

Recommendations are made to bring the trees to an acceptable level of risk only, and for this survey, not made with nominal nuisance issues in mind. They are based on my experience and knowledge of the latest accepted research and guidance. Any tree surgery works carried out following this advice should be carried out as per the British Standard Publication Tree Work – Recommendations BS 3998:2010 by a suitably qualified and insured contractor.

Due to the location of the tree and the significant decline in physiological health, I make recommendations for this tree to either be reduced down in height by approximately 50% to just under the crown break and maintained for wildlife benefit or full removal and a new tree of the same species planted as a replacement within a 6-month period from the date of this report.

3: Wildlife Legislation

It is an offence under current UK & European wildlife legislation to disturb nesting birds & bats. There is a possibility that nesting birds & bats will be encountered when working on these trees. It is recommended that the contractor carrying out the work are aware of the signs of bat activity & maintain a high level of vigilance in this regard. Should bats or nesting birds be found or their presence suspected County Tree Surgeons Ltd will be happy to liaise with Natural England and other associated organisations if necessary. The presence of bats will not prevent the work being carried out. It may, however, be necessary to carry out work to minimise the disturbance & implement mitigation measures.

4: Disclaimer

The statements made in this report do not take into account the effects of extremes of climate, vandalism, or accident whether physical, chemical or fire. County Tree Surgeons Ltd or its surveyor of this site. County Tree Surgeons Ltd cannot accept any liability in connection with these factors, nor where prescribed work is not carried out in a correct and professional manner in accordance with current good practice. The authority of this report ceases at any stated time limit within it or if none are stated, after 18 months from the date of the Inspection/Survey, or when site conditions change, or pruning or other works unspecified in this report are carried out to, or affecting the subject tree, whichever is sooner.

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5: Photographs

English oak tree with significant crown dieback



Area of Armillara noted at base of tree



Complete view of tree



Proposed reduction works approximately 50% removal to maintain as a wildlife habitat stump

