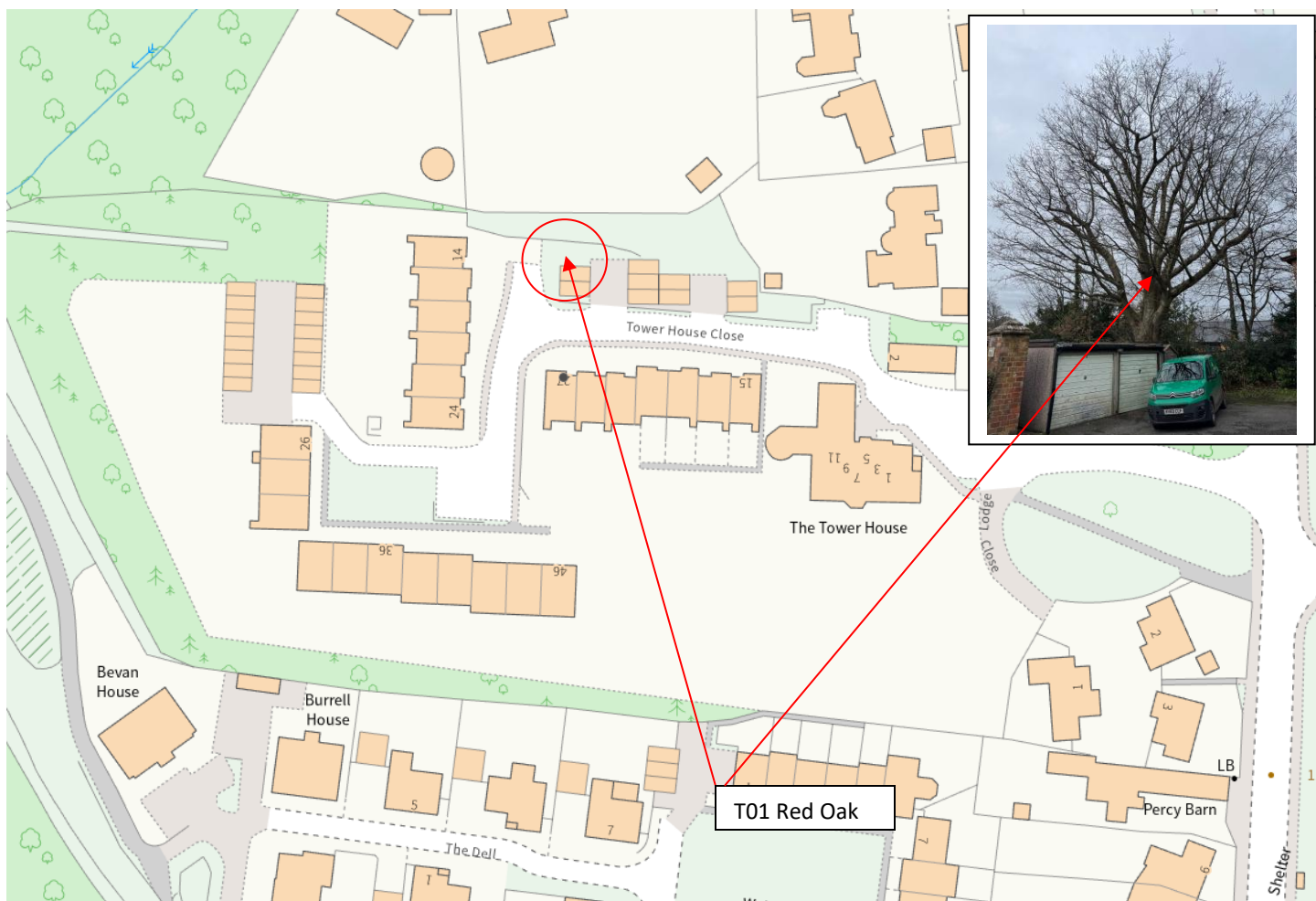




Services Limited

Resistograph Test of T01 Quercus Rubra (Red Oak).



Produced for:

Mr Daniel Ford
Tower House Close
Cuckfield
Haywards Heath
East Sussex
RH17 5EQ

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Wednesday 04th December 2024

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Appendix: 1 Tree Drilling Readings

INTRODUCTION

- 1.0 T01 Red Oak was initially inspected using a Visual Tree Assessment “VTA” where there were concern for decay due to the large sections of deadwood and die back from the old reduction points and along with the multiple sections of Bracket Fungus found on the main stem of the tree at ground level to a height of 500mm on all sides of the main stem identified as Ganoderma Australe. Upon further inspection was noted a hollowing sound from the acoustic test carried out using a nylon sounding mallet to listen out for any change in tone and note whilst gently tapping around the main stem.
- 1.1 The Resistograph was carried out again to enable measurable data to provide accurate recommendations based on the results. Resistograph investigation was deemed necessary in light of Health and Safety as the Quercus Rubra (Red Oak) overhangs the driveway of the site and the garage block on the north boundary of the site as well as the neighbouring property/ Gardens to the north. We have also been asked to provide recommendations for work, dependant on the findings to bring the tree to a level considered to be an acceptable standard for health and safety given it location within the grounds and the target areas.
- 1.2 Report scope: The principal concern of this report is to identify as far as is reasonably possible the extent of decay present in the main stem of the Quercus Rubra (Red Oak) with the use of a Resistograph F400, Treeline Services Limited are to provide recommendations which will reduce the potential for harm or damage, which could result from failure attributed to decay. This report is only concerned with the Quercus Rubra (Red Oak) located on the north boundary of the site Garage block/ Driveway.

2.0 SITE VISIT

- 2.1 Date of second visit: 04th December 2024.
- 2.2 Site Description: Tower House Close is a private residential retirement property complex. The property is located within a reasonably built-up area of Cuckfield and contains a few species of trees within the property on the whole being mature in age class. The site is accessed via London Road to the east of the site.
- 2.3 Tree species: Quercus Rubra (Red Oak)
- 2.4 Height: 16.6 metres
Stem size: 1910cm at 0.5m from ground level.
- 2.5 The Red Oak is located adjacent to the North boundary within the treeline boundary between the garage block/ driveway and the neighbouring gardens. Noted on the north, east, south and west sides of the main stem can be found multiple sections of Fruiting bodies identified as Ganoderma Australe. Following this inspection was highlighted sections of deadwood in the crown in range of 25mm and greater and multiple sections of dieback from the old, decayed pruning points as well as a deceased central upright stem.
- 2.6 To investigate the extent of decay further, drilling was carried out at the base of the main stem.

Drillings were carried out in the following location and height,

1. North at 400mm on the main stem from ground level.
2. East at 400mm on the main stem from ground level.
3. South at 400mm on the main stem from ground level.
4. West at 400mm on the main stem from ground level.

The readings show a significant reduction in wood strength in the central main stem from the bark layer heading into the centre of the main stem of tree as shown in appendix 1 form all orientations.

3.0 METHOD OF INSPECTION

- 3.1 This tree was assessed from ground level in line with Visual Tree Assessment guidance (VTA) prior to resistograph being carried out. A nylon sounding mallet was used when decay was suspected combined with a metal probe to aid diagnosis. No samples of any kind were taken.
- 3.2 The tree is not tagged as it is easily identifiable within the grounds.

- 3.3 The height, stem diameter and crown spread of the trees were estimated as the accuracy of these measurements is generally not critical to the decision-making process when recommending necessary tree works.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are based on findings from the drillings and observations on the day of the inspection. Using the data from the drilling investigation and Claus Mattheck mathematical approach to trees and decay, and under guidance of British Standards, the level of decay found within T01 Red Oak is as shown in the below diagram. With evidence of significant heartwood decay computational assumption, it is deemed unacceptable to remain without any remedial safety works.

- 4.1 On forming an opinion in regard to this tree I have tried to balance the requirements of the client to retain the tree, Health, and Safety obligations and that of the Local Planning Authority. Knowledge of decay organisms as well as a balanced knowledge of the species.
- 4.2 There is significant decay in the main stem of the tree as can be seen in Appendix 1 the Resistograph carried out in the main stem, high levels of decay at the old pruning points and decay at the bifurcated stem union.
- 4.3 The crown has extensive levels of deadwood in the range of 25mm and greater. The smaller upper twigs do also show signs of clawing that would indicate root and or systemic problems.
- 4.4 Following interpretation of the data from the test drillings I would recommend. Carefully felling to near ground level as the levels of decay are beyond that of a safe level to retain with remedial safety works i.e. reduction, pollard, monolith etc. The target area for this tree is considered high.

5.0 COMMENTS

- 5.0 Whilst the tree is important within the area and highly visual within its location, new planting is always a good idea and would go some way to mitigating the loss of this tree. I would recommend if planting were an option, a tree replacement minimum of 12 - 14cm heavy standard, 2.5 – 3m in height.
- 5.1 The above work has been issued a works priority 3 and should be carried out within 6 months of this report.

6.0 TREES SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CONTROLS

- 6.1 Prior to any tree work being undertaken, Treeline services Ltd will verify whether there are any Tree Preservation orders, Conservation Area status or Planning Restrictions affecting the works. Should any or all of these be the case, formal Local Authority Planning Consent should be obtained in writing unless the works are deemed to be of an exempt nature.
- 6.2 It is recommended that the work is undertaken by an Arboricultural Association Approved Contractor, All works should conform to British Standards (BS) 3998:2010 Recommendations for Tree Work and to current Arboricultural best practice.

Timing of operations should be carried out to cause minimum disturbance to wildlife.

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by The Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000) and The Habitat Regulations 1994 place a legal obligation on the owners and Arboricultural Contractors working on their behalf to protect wildlife species and their habitats.

In particular, care should be taken to avoid disturbing all wild birds, bats and badgers (including nests, roosting sites and setts). This normally dictates that pruning and felling should not be carried out during bird nesting season (from March to October) unless safety is an issue.

7.0 REPORT LIMITATIONS

- 7.1 The assessments are based on professional experience and expert observation at the time of the inspection. No liability can be assumed to rest with Treeline Services limited should site conditions or features alter after our inspection.

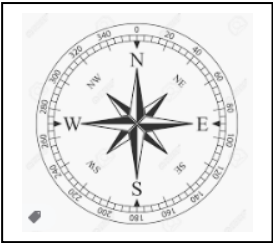
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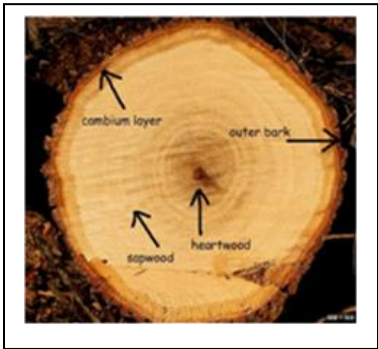
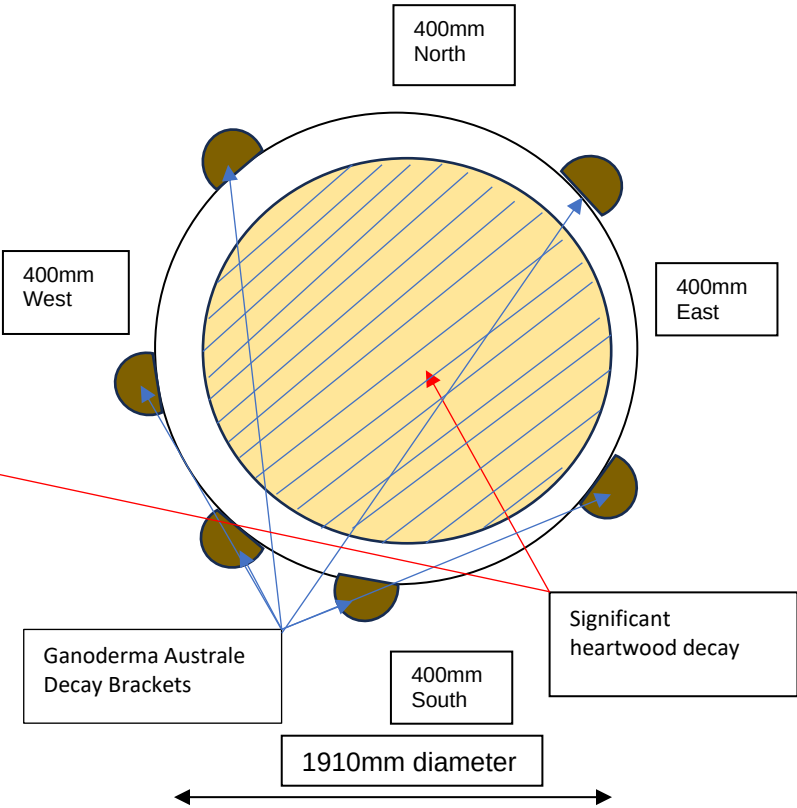
Appendix 1



Illustration purposes only not to scale:



Drilling Around the main stem.



Bark and Cambium Layer

No:1

No:2

No:3

No:4

Photos taken from site visit 2024:





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