

Arboricultural Report

Date: 18/03/2025

Site Address: 14 Lucastes Road, Haywards Heath

Survey conducted by: Adam Lowndes-Butler *TechArborA, Lantra Professional Tree Inspector*

Definition and Scope:

All information gathered within this survey was observed at time of inspection. Re-inspection dates should be observed to ensure knowledge of tree conditions are as current as is practicably possible.

Trees are living organisms and their health and condition will change over time. Therefore, this assessment remains valid for **12 months** from the date of inspection, or until a severe storm event occurs. For the purposes of this report, a severe storm is defined as a period of violent weather, involving rain, hail, wind, snow, lightning or any combination of these, likely to cause damage to trees.

“Priority” Refers to the time frame within which the prescribed works should be carried out. If they are not then it is understood that risk may increase in relation to the noted condition of the tree. In some cases further surveying may be recommended by means of *“Aerial Inspection”*, *“Sonic Tomograph”/“PICUS”*, *“Resistograph”*, Or *“Increment Borer”*. This is to provide information not attainable from the standard Visual Tree Assessment (VTA).

Description:

Mature Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* “*purpureum*”) 14m in height, 1100mm stem diameter at 1.8m with an even crown spread of 14m, situated on boundary at rear of property. Tree is 8m from decked/patio area of 14 Lucastes Rd and approximately 6m from decking area of neighbouring property 16 Lucastes rd.

The crown appears to have been “thinned” with multiple pruning wounds throughout. Flexible “cobra” bracing kit has been installed between the two major stems at 10m.

An open cavity is present on the North of stem at 0.5m. I was able to insert probe to full extent here 750mm. This also extends upwards 500mm. Cavity appears to extend the full width of the stem North-South. Use of a sounding mallet reveals noticeable tonal differences in both stem and several major buttress roots.

There are numerous *Ganoderma* spp. fungal fruiting bodies around entirety of the stem (pictured). Notably in the large union joining the two major stems of the tree (assumably the initial reason for the bracing work).

There are also some areas of *Kretschmeria deusta* present at base/rootplate and on the stem at 2.5m, a fungi particularly associated with failure in Beech trees.



Cavity in North of stem

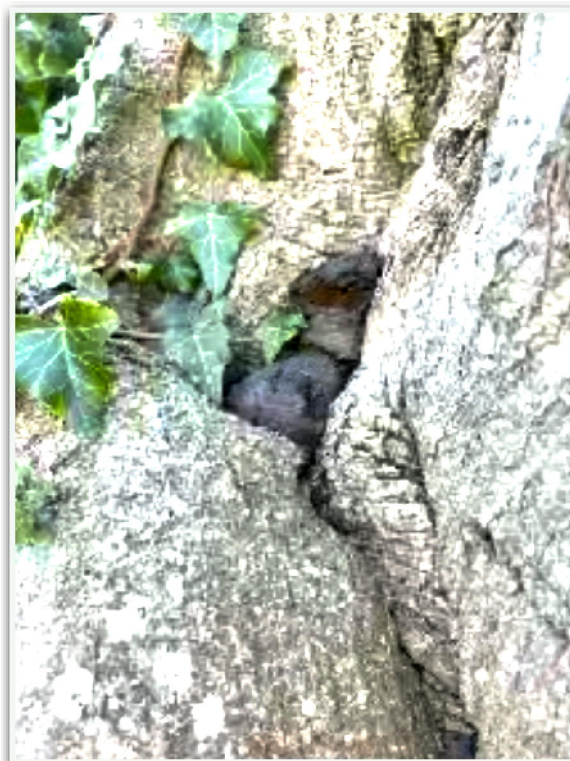


Ganoderma ssp. fungal fruiting bodies.





Image showing open cavity.



Kretschmeria fungi at 2.5m

Work Recommendations:

Although the tree has already undergone reduction, thinning and bracing work I don't believe this is significant enough to mitigate the risk to life and property in this situation.

The bracing of the limbs may help with the separation of the crown but not with the structural defects in the base of the stem and root system.

The significance of the fungal colonisation from multiple species will only lead to further decline of the trees structural integrity and health.

I therefore recommend that the tree is felled within 6 months.

Method Statement: All tree work should be carried out by appropriately qualified and insured contractors in accordance with the British Standard *BS3998 2010 "Tree Work Recommendations"*.

Arisings:

Where possible arisings should be retained in situ. If it is necessary to remove the waste from site care should be taken in regards to biosecurity. Tree diseases and fungi can be spread via the transportation of organic matter.

Risk Management of Dead Wood:

- All deadwood features should be managed in accordance with BS 3998-2010: *Tree work Recommendations*.
- Safety needs should be balanced against wildlife habitat protection.
- Dead branches should be shortened or if necessary, removed if they pose an unacceptable risk to people or property and if other options (e.g., diverting a footpath) are not practicable.
- When deciding whether dead branches or dead trees should be retained and, if so, to what extent they might need to be pruned, a balance should be made between mitigation of risk and the maintenance of wildlife habitats. The unnecessary loss of deadwood habitats should be avoided when specifying pruning or other works, particularly if legally protected species are using the tree. Deadwood is a crucial component of forest ecosystems. Not only does it play an essential role in sustaining biodiversity, but it also delivers important ecosystem services.