

Resistograph Tree Report

For

Mr. Ben Tidey

At

**Lindfield Primary Academy,
Primary Academy, School Lane,
Lindfield,
Haywards Heath,
RH16 2DX**



A trading name of RG Consultancy Ltd

**Prepared by
Richard Daubeney Our Ref 0825-RD
12th August 2025**

1.0 Introduction.

- 1.1 Ruskins Tree Consultancy has been instructed by Mr Ben Tidey to undertake resistograph decay detection to 9 trees onsite at Lindfield Primary Academy, School Lane, Lindfield, Haywards Heath. The resistograph inspection was undertaken by Richard Daubeny (TechArborA) who visited the site on 7/08/25.

2.0 The Benefits of Trees

- 2.1 Trees have many benefits are integral to natural ecosystems, providing a wide range of related benefits to humankind (ecosystem services), including mitigating the harmful effects of climate change. Trees are an important part of the economy, providing timber and non-timber forest products.
- 2.2 With urban trees these benefits can often be amplified with trees contributing to the landscape and character of an area, creating a sense of place with mature trees providing a link to the past. They help reduce the impacts of extreme weather by providing shade and intercepting rainfall, help reduce air pollution by removing particulates, help absorb CO₂ whilst providing habitat for wildlife and associated bio-diversity benefits.
- 2.3 Trees can also contribute to society by having a positive impact on health, reducing anti-social behaviour and having a positive impact on the quality and value of the built environment.
- 2.4 Their importance is recognised in national and local government policies, and many non- governmental organisations have policies dedicated to conserving trees and their biodiversity.

3.0 The risks from trees

- 3.1 The risk, per tree, of causing fatality is around one in 150 million for all trees in Britain or one in 10 million for those trees in, or adjacent to areas of public use. This is clearly significantly less than the 1 in 1 million thresholds that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) considers 'broadly acceptable', within the Tolerability of Risk Framework.
- 3.2 The HSE have developed the Tolerability of Risk Framework which has been incorporated into the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) guidance. Risks above 1/10,000 per annum are generally considered unacceptable when placed on the public. Risks between 1/10,000 and 1/1,000,000 per annum are tolerable, but consideration should be given to managing them 'as low as reasonably practicable' (ALARP), where it is cost effective to do so.
- 3.3 This risk therefore represents an extremely small proportion of the background risk that we commonly accept in our everyday lives, and the ongoing removal and general management of trees is probably the most important factor in keeping this figure at such a low level. However, there can be pressure to remove trees because of a perception of risk, which may be much greater than any actual risk a tree poses.
- 3.4 Trees are growing dynamic structures. No tree is ever absolutely safe due to the unpredictable laws and forces of nature. As a result of this, natural failure of intact trees will occur; extreme climatic conditions can cause damage to even apparently healthy trees.

4.0 Statutory Protection of Trees.

- 4.1 We have been informed that there is No Tree Preservation Orders in place and is within Conservation Area protection relating to the trees tested at this site for Mid Sussex District Council. (CA)
- 4.2 Before any tree works are carried out the presence of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) or Conservation Area status should be established with the Local Planning Authority and permission obtained from the tree owners if required.
- 4.3 All tree works should be carried out by qualified, trained and fully insured operators in accordance with BS 3998: 2010 'Recommendations for Tree Works'.

5.0 Tree Inspections

- 5.1 To maintain trees in a reasonable condition and reduce the risk of personal injury to acceptable levels trees should be inspected by a suitably trained and competent person using the Basic or Professional Level tree surveying methodology, which can be undertaken by an arboriculturist as set out by LANTRA utilising visual tree assessment (VTA) methodology (Lonsdale 1999).
- 5.2 Where the visual tree assessment finds features that merit further inspection then the tree should be inspected using appropriate methodology. This might range from climbing inspections, root collar excavations to use of Resistograph and/or tomographs to help determine the structural integrity of the wood within the tree. For the trees at this site our VTA identified issues that we considered should be assessed by use of a resistograph.
- 5.3 Following the resistograph testing of T114 Western red cedar tree, the results were shown to have minor area of decay within the stem based on reading no. 1 to the North side, the remaining readings showed moderate levels of sound and live residual wood remaining throughout the stem. Old pruning wound is noted on stem at 6m to the South side, with cavity and decay within the historic wound on the stem. Slight and early onset of crown dieback noted within the canopy, but not significant at this time.
- 5.4 Following the resistograph testing of T126 Sycamore tree, the testing revealed major decay within the readings No. 6 to the Northwest side. This is linked to the (*Ganoderma spp.*) Fruiting bodies to the North and East sides of the stem at 30cm above ground level. The fruiting bodies are noted to be fresh in appearance. The remaining readings showed areas of moderate sound live residual wood within the stem. The Sycamore tree has been previously managed as a low pollard. Tree has put out dense regrowth formed from old pruning points.
- 5.5 Following the resistograph testing of T131 Sycamore tree, the results revealed major decay and cavity formation within the stem, based on readings no. 1, 3 and 4 to the North, East, and South sides. The remaining sound and residual wood within the stem surrounding the decay is at unacceptable levels to retain this tree within this setting. The basal cavity to the South side is linked to internal decay within the stem.

- 5.6 Following the resistograph testing of T138 Corsican pine, the testing indicated minor area of decay within the readings No. 2 And 3 to the West and Southwest side of the stem, but not significant at this time. The remaining readings taken for the tree highlighted good areas of sound and live residual sound wood. However, there is noted cavity on stem which require further investigation. Crown deadwood throughout canopy.
- 5.7 Following the resistograph testing of T139 Sycamore tree, the results indicated moderate levels of decay within readings No. 4 and 5 to the South and Southwest side of the stem. The remaining readings 1, 2, and 3 indicated moderate levels of sound and residual wood surrounding the decay. The stem is currently rubbing on chain link fence. The crown is suppressed due to tree group pressure from the North and South sides. Overall poor shape and form.
- 5.8 Following the resistograph testing of T140 Corsican pine tree, the testing indicated no decay within the stem based on the readings given, the readings showed good areas of sound and residual live wood throughout the stem. Crown deadwood is present throughout the canopy.
- 5.9 Following the resistograph testing of T166 Sweet chestnut tree, the results indicated sound and residual live wood throughout the readings provided. Despite the basal cavity to the East side, there is no significant link of decay to the basal cavity within the stem based on the readings provided. The crown is densely covered by adjacent tree growth and is hindering a full ground observation of the stem and canopy.
- 5.10 Following the resistograph testing of T174 English oak tree, the testing revealed areas of minor to moderate decay within the reading no. 1, 2, East side of stem, however, there is still good areas of sound and residual live wood surrounding the areas of decay within the readings No. 3, 4,5 and 6. To the North, South and West sides of stem. The tree has co-dominant stems at 5m above ground level, with multiple decayed stems at 8m and 16m above ground level to East and West sides of canopy. Crown deadwood present throughout canopy.
- 5.11 Following the resistograph testing of T206 Poplar spp, the results indicated major decay within the stem to the East and Southwest side within readings No. 1 and 7, the remaining readings indicated unacceptable levels of sound wood surrounding the decayed area of the stem to retain this tree at its current height and spread. A cavity is located on stem at 9m above ground level. The tree has been previously pollarded.
- 6.0 **Conclusion**
- 6.1 Following the results of T114, T126, T131, T138, T139, T140, T166, T174, T206 trees mentioned within this report, we now provide our conclusions.
- 6.2 The results gathered from the testing of T114 Western red cedar tree, have highlighted there is little in way of decay within the stem, based upon the readings provided. There is, however, a cavity located on stem which requires further investigation. The tree is located within an area of high risk, with school grounds, buildings, and general public all within striking distance of tree. We therefore based on the above evidence,

to carry out a climbing inspection of the cavity on the stem, if not found significant then proceed with height reduction by 3-4m and crown spread to be reduced by 1-2m. The work is to be completed within 3 months on urgent basis.

- 6.3 The results gathered from the testing of T126 Sycamore tree, have indicated there is moderate decay noted within the stem based on the readings provided, this also includes the addition of fresh fruiting bodies of *Ganoderma spp* based on the North and East sides of the two stems. However, Sycamore T126 has been managed as a low pollard. The tree is located within an area of high risk, with school grounds, general public all within striking distance of the tree. We therefore based on the above evidence, recommend re-pollard back to point of previous pruning to T126 Sycamore tree. The work is to be completed within 3 months on urgent basis.
- 6.4 The results gathered from the testing of T131 Sycamore tree, have shown there is major decay within the stem based upon the readings given, this creates an unacceptable level of sound and residual wood surrounding the decay. The tree is located within an area of high risk, with school grounds, general public and third-party properties all within striking distance of tree. We therefore based on the above evidence on recommend felling the Sycamore T131 to ground level. A replacement similar tree should be replanted within Winter 2025/2026.
- 6.5 The results gathered from the testing of T138 Corsican pine tree, highlighted good areas of sound wood present, despite the minor area of decay within the stem, this is not significant at this time. The cavity located on the stem is a cause of concern and requires further investigation. The tree is located within area of high risk, with general public, third party properties, and school grounds all within striking distance of tree. We therefore based on the above evidence, to carry out a climbing inspection for the cavity to T138 Corsican pine and report back on the outcome of this inspection. The deadwood over 100mm throughout the canopy should also be removed. The work is to be completed within 3 months on urgent basis.
- 6.6 The results gathered from the testing of T139 Sycamore tree, have shown there is an area of moderate decay present within the stem, however there is still moderate sound and residual wood within the stem to retain this tree within the current height and spread. However, the tree is not suited for this setting with wire boundary fencing growing into the stem and the tree showing a poor form due to tree group pressures to the East and West sides of canopy spread. The T139 Sycamore tree is located within a high risk, with general public, third party properties, and school grounds all within striking distance of tree. We, therefore, based upon the evidence provided, recommend felling to ground level. The work is to be completed within 6 months on High priority basis. A replacement similar tree should be replanted within Winter 2026.
- 6.7 The results gathered from the testing of T140 Corsican pine tree, indicated good areas of sound wood throughout the stem based on the readings taken. There is deadwood present throughout the canopy. We, therefore, based on the evidence provided, recommend carrying out a climbing inspection throughout the canopy. Report back on outcome of this inspection. Remove deadwood over 100mm throughout canopy. The work is to be completed within 3 months on urgent basis.

- 6.8 The results gathered from the testing of T166 Sweet chestnut tree, have shown throughout the readings that there is moderate to good levels of sound and residual wood throughout the stem, with no direct link of decay from the basal cavity. The crown inspection from ground level is hindered by adjacent tree growth, this requires further investigation. The tree is located in a rear of high risk, with forest school area, general public, third party properties and school grounds all within striking distance of tree. We, therefore, based on the evidence provided, recommend carrying out a climbing inspection throughout the canopy. Report back on outcome of this inspection. The work is to be completed within 3 months on urgent basis.
- 6.9 The results gathered from the testing of T174 English oak tree, have indicated areas of moderate decay within the stem, based on the readings provided. However, there is evidence of sound and residual live wood surrounding the areas of decay within the stem to retain this tree within its current height and spread. However, there are concerns of decayed stems further up within the canopy which require closer inspection. The tree is located in a rear of high risk, with forest school area, general public, third party properties and school grounds all within striking distance of tree. Based on the evidence provided, we therefore recommend T174 English oak to carry out a climbing inspection within the canopy, and report back on the outcome of this inspection. Remove deadwood over 100mm throughout canopy. The work is to be completed within 3 months on urgent basis.
- 6.10 The results gathered from the testing of T206 Poplar spp. have highlighted within the readings major decay within the stem, with unacceptable levels of sound and residual wood to retain this tree at its current height and spread. The tree is also noted to have cavity located on main stem at approx. 9m above ground level. Due to the location of this tree T206 Poplar spp, the tree is in an area of high risk with general public, third party properties and school grounds all within striking distance of tree, we therefore based upon the evidence provided to carry out a climbing inspection for the cavity on the main stem, if found not significant then proceed with pollard to 8m above ground level. The work is to be completed within 3 months on urgent basis.
- 6.11 All work to date is to be undertaken within the requirements of the tree table work schedule. The tree listed in this report is to be reinspected as outlined within the tree table.



Richard Daubeney TechArborA
Arboricultural Consultant
12th of August 2025

Resistograph Report for trees at Lindfield Primary Academy, School Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2DX

Tree Data

Tree No. Tree Tag.	Tree Species	Hgt (m)	Past Management	Age Class	Risk Target	TPO Status	Defects	Works	Work Priority
T114 Tree tag: N/A	Western red cedar	15- 19m	Subject to previous management	Mature	High/ reinspect July 2027	No TPO in place and Conservation Area restrictions for Mid Sussex District Council. (CA) Botanical Name: (<i>Thuja plicata</i>)	Hazardous Defect Noted. Minor cavity at ground level to West side. Hollow sounding to the South side at 1m above ground level, when tapped with sounding hammer. Recently crown lifted over school grounds. Cavity at 6m to the south side, within old historic pruning wound. Crown showing signs of thinning.	Climbing inspection to determine the condition of cavity formation within historic pruning wound. If found to be not significant then proceed with crown reduction. Reduce height by 3-4m and reduce lateral spread by 1-2m. All Tree works to BS3998 (2010)	Urgent within 3 month.
T126 Tree tag: N/A	Sycamore	5- 10m	Managed as pollard.	Mature	High/ reinspect July 2027	No TPO in place and Conservation Area restrictions for Mid Sussex District Council (CA) Botanical Name: (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Gross Defect Noted. Twin stemmed at 60cm above ground level. Fresh in appearance and small fruiting bodies of <i>Ganoderma spp.</i> located to North and East side of stem at approx. 30cm above ground level. When tapped to those areas with sounding hammer, was found to have slight hollow sound. Historic pollard.	Re-pollard to previous pruning points.	Urgent within 3 month.
T131 Tree tag: N/A	Sycamore	15- 19m	Subject to previous pruning.	Mature	High/ reinspect July 2027	No TPO in place and Conservation Area restrictions for Mid Sussex District Council . (CA) Botanical Name: (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Gross Defect Noted. Major cavity to Southwest side at ground level. Ivy on stem previously severed. Multiple pruning wounds on stem. Asymmetric canopy.	Fell to ground level.	Urgent within 3 month.

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Tree No. Tree Tag.	Tree Species	Hgt (m)	Past Management	Age Class	Risk Target	TPO Status	Defects	Works	Work Priority
T138 Tree tag: N/A	Corsican pine	20- 25m	Subject to past management	Mature	High/ reinspect July 2027	No TPO in place and Conservation Area restrictions for Mid Sussex District Council (CA) Botanical Name: (<i>Pinus nigra</i>)	Hazardous Defect Noted, Fluting of lower stem, Multiple pruning wounds on stem. Cavity on stem at 6m above ground level to Southeast side. Crown dieback to 10-20%. Crown deadwood present.	Removal of deadwood over 100mm throughout canopy. Carry out climbing inspection for cavity. Report back on outcome of inspection.	Urgent within 3 months
T139 Tree tag: N/A	Sycamore	15- 19m	Subject to past management	Mature	High/ reinspect July 2027	No TPO in place and Conservation Area restrictions for Mid Sussex District Council. (CA) Botanical Name: (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Gross Defect Noted. Stem growing into boundary wire mesh fencing. Slight hollow sound when tapped to the Southeast side of stem. Decayed branch to the West side at 5m above ground level. Poor shape and form. Tree of this size is not suited for this location.	Fell to ground level.	High within 6 months.
T140 Tree tag: N/A	Corsican pine	20- 25m	Subject to past management	Mature	High/ reinspect July 2027	No TPO in place and Conservation Area restrictions for Mid Sussex District Council (CA) Botanical Name: (<i>Pinus nigra</i>)	No gross Defect Noted. Fluting to lower stem, with pockets of soft wood between buttress roots. Multiple pruning wounds on stem. Deadwood present within canopy.	Climbing inspection throughout canopy. Report back on outcome of inspection. Removal of deadwood over 100mm throughout canopy.	Urgent within 3 months

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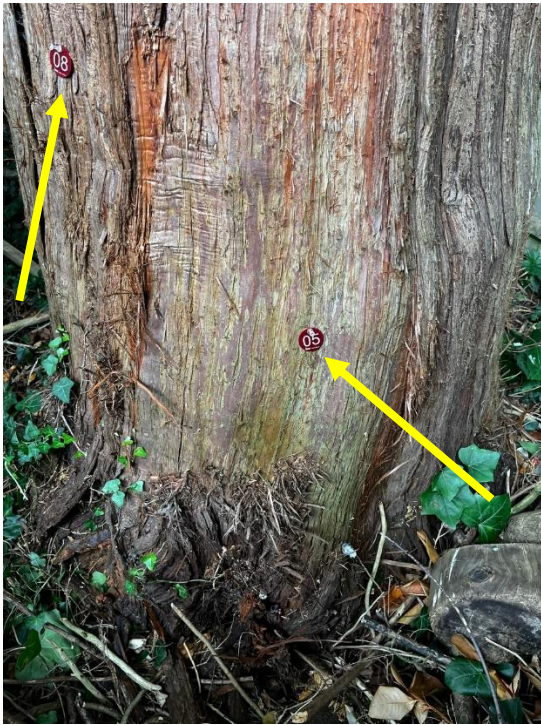
Tree No. Tree Tag.	Tree Species	Hgt (m)	Past Management	Age Class	Risk Target	TPO Status	Defects	Works	Work Priority
T166 Tree tag: N/A	Sweet chestnut	20- 25m	Subject to recent deadwood removal.	Mature	High/ reinspect July 2027	No TPO in place and Conservation Area restrictions for Mid Sussex District Council. (CA) Botanical Name: (<i>Castanea sativa</i>)	No Gross Defect Noted. Basal cavity to the East side, when probed with probing tool, was found to have depth of approx. 20-30cm, with exposed heartwood, but not significant at this time. Deadwood within canopy recently removed. Canopy inspection from ground level restricted by neighbouring tree growth. Crown weighted towards the West due to tree group pressure from South and North sides.	Climbing inspection throughout canopy. Report back on outcome of inspection.	Urgent within 3 month.
T174 Tree tag:	English oak	20- 25m	Subject to past management	Mature	High/ reinspect July 2027	No TPO in place and Conservation Area restrictions for Mid Sussex District Council. (CA) Botanical Name: (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	No Gross Defect Noted. Basal cavity to the Southeast side, with depth of 40cm approx. Slight hollow sound when tapped to that area. Multiple pruning wounds on stem. Co dominant stems at 5m above ground level. Decayed stem at 16m above ground level to East and 2 decayed stems to West sides at 8m above ground level. Deadwood present within canopy.	Climbing inspection throughout canopy, report back on outcome of inspection. Removal of deadwood over 100mm throughout canopy.	Urgent within 3 month.

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Tree No. Tree Tag.	Tree Species	Hgt (m)	Past Management	Age Class	Risk Target	TPO Status	Defects	Works	Work Priority
T206 Tree tag: N/A	Poplar spp.	20- 25m	Managed as high pollard	Mature	High/ reinspect July 2027	No TPO in place and Conservation Area restrictions for Mid Sussex District Council. (CA) Botanical Name: (<i>Populus spp</i>)	Gross Defect Noted. Major stem decay to East side, major hollow sound when tapped with sounding hammer to 30cm above ground level. Multiple pruning wounds on stem. Cavity on stem at 9m above ground level towards Southwest side. Historic pollard.	Climbing inspection for cavity on stem. Report back on outcome of inspection. Pollard to 8m above ground level.	Urgent within 3 month.

Photographs

T114 Western red cedar measurement looking Northwest towards drill location 5 and 8.



T114 Western red cedar looking West.



T126 Sycamore tree looking North



T126 Sycamore tree looking South towards Drill location No.6 and *Ganoderma* spp. fruiting bodies.



T131 Sycamore measurement looking Northeast towards drill location 1 and basal cavity location.



T131 Sycamore looking North



T138 Corsican pine looking West.



T138 Corsican pine looking North towards Drill location No.4



T139 Sycamore measurement looking Northeast towards drill location 4 and basal cavity location.



T139 Sycamore looking North



T140 Corsican pine looking North towards Drill location No.1 and 2



T140 Corsican pine looking West.



T166 Sweet chestnut measurement looking West towards basal cavity, note probing tool.



T166 Sweet chestnut looking West



T174 English oak looking West towards Drill location No.1 and basal cavity location.



T174 English oak looking North.



**T206 Poplar spp. Looking West towards
measurements drill location No.7**



**T206 Poplar spp. Looking Northeast towards
measurements drill location No.1 and 2.**



T206 Poplar spp. Looking West.

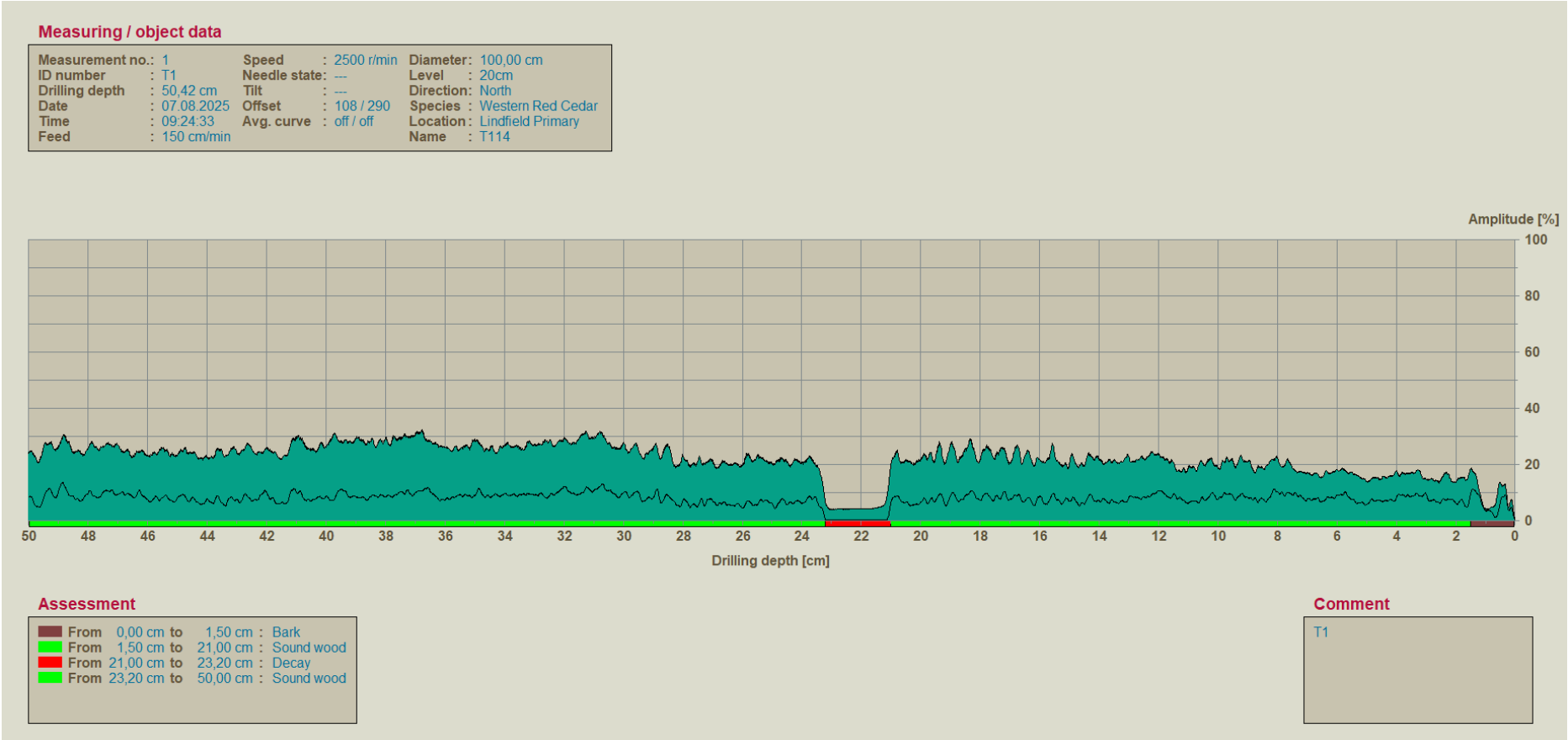


**T206 Poplar spp. looking West towards cavity
location on stem.**

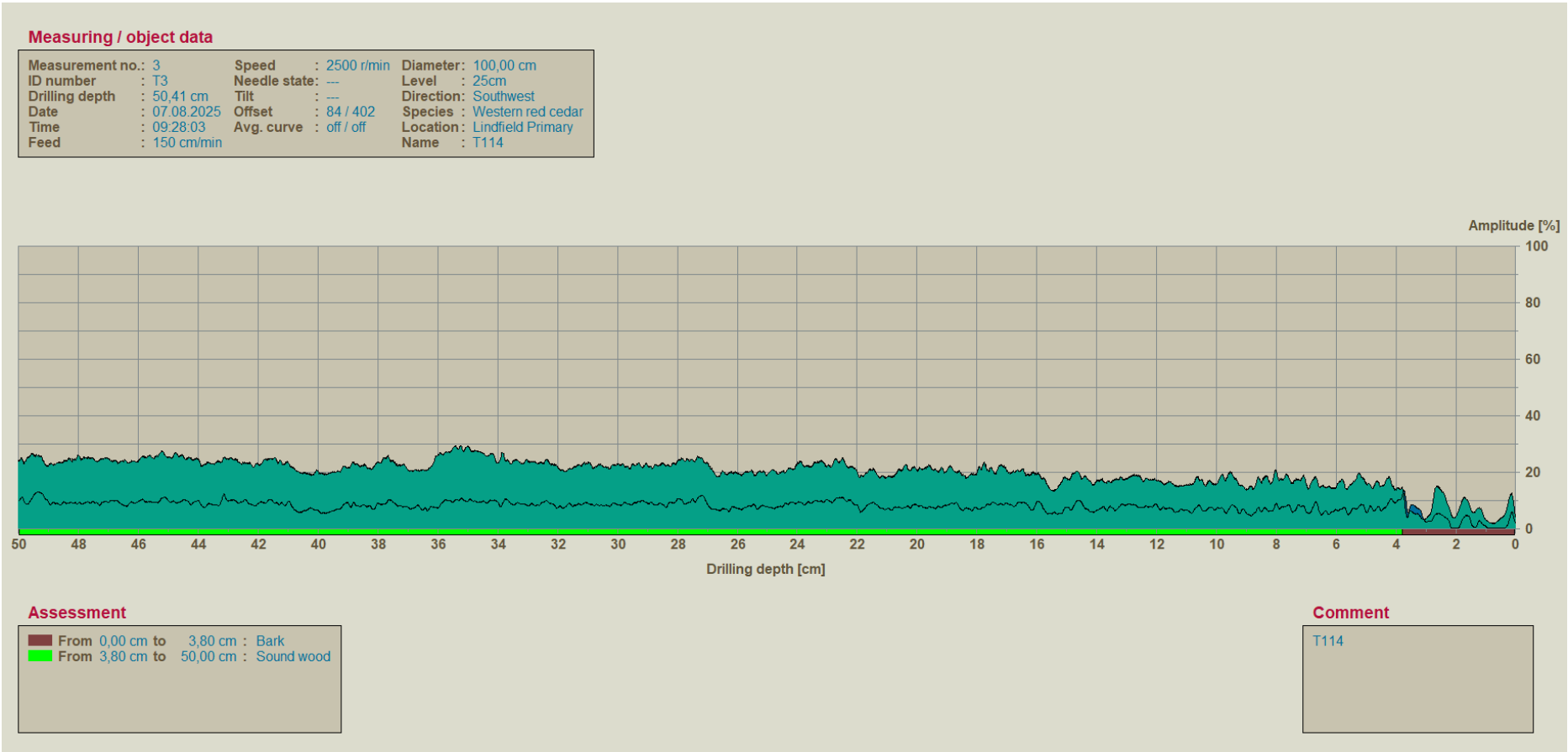


Resistograph Readings

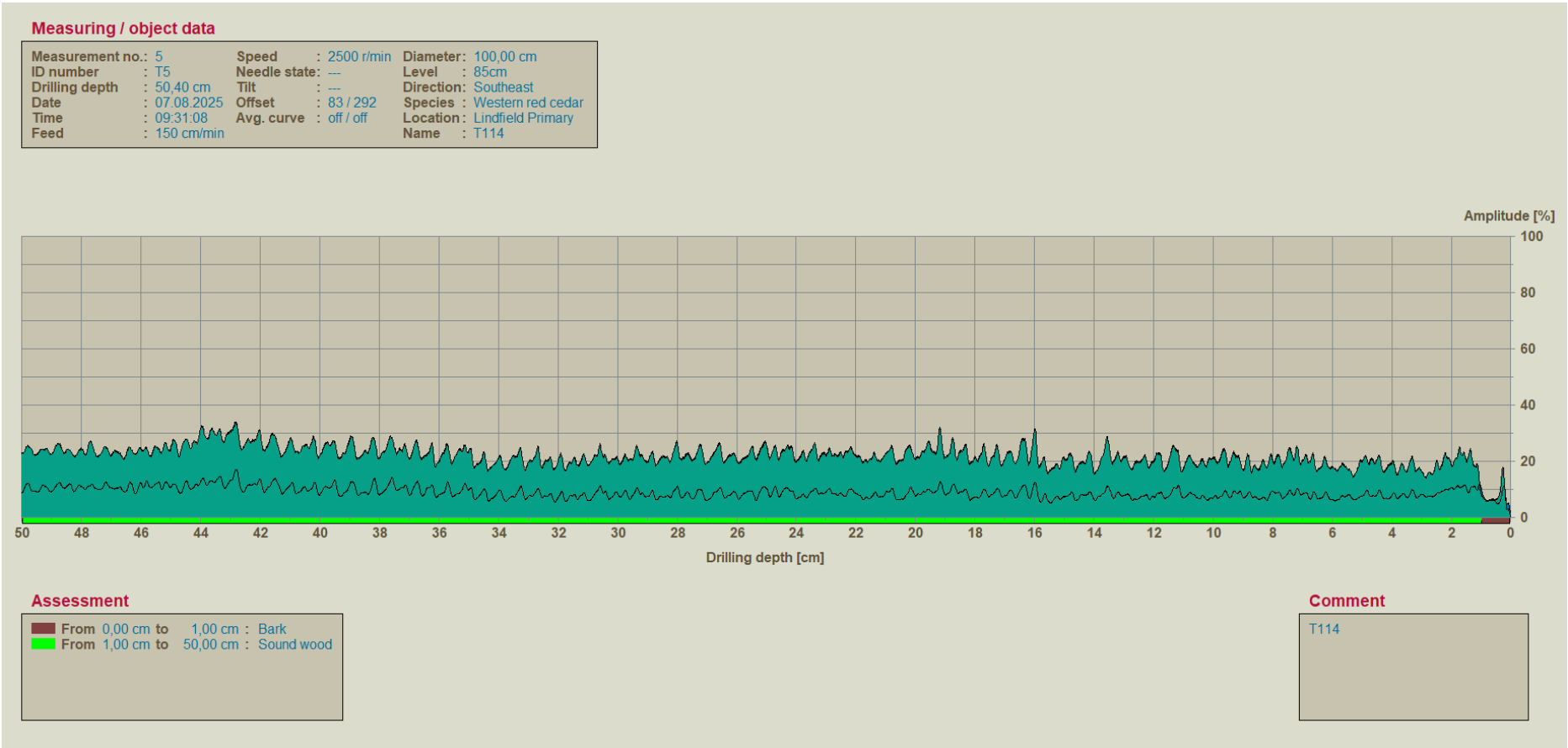
T114 Western red cedar tree measurement 1



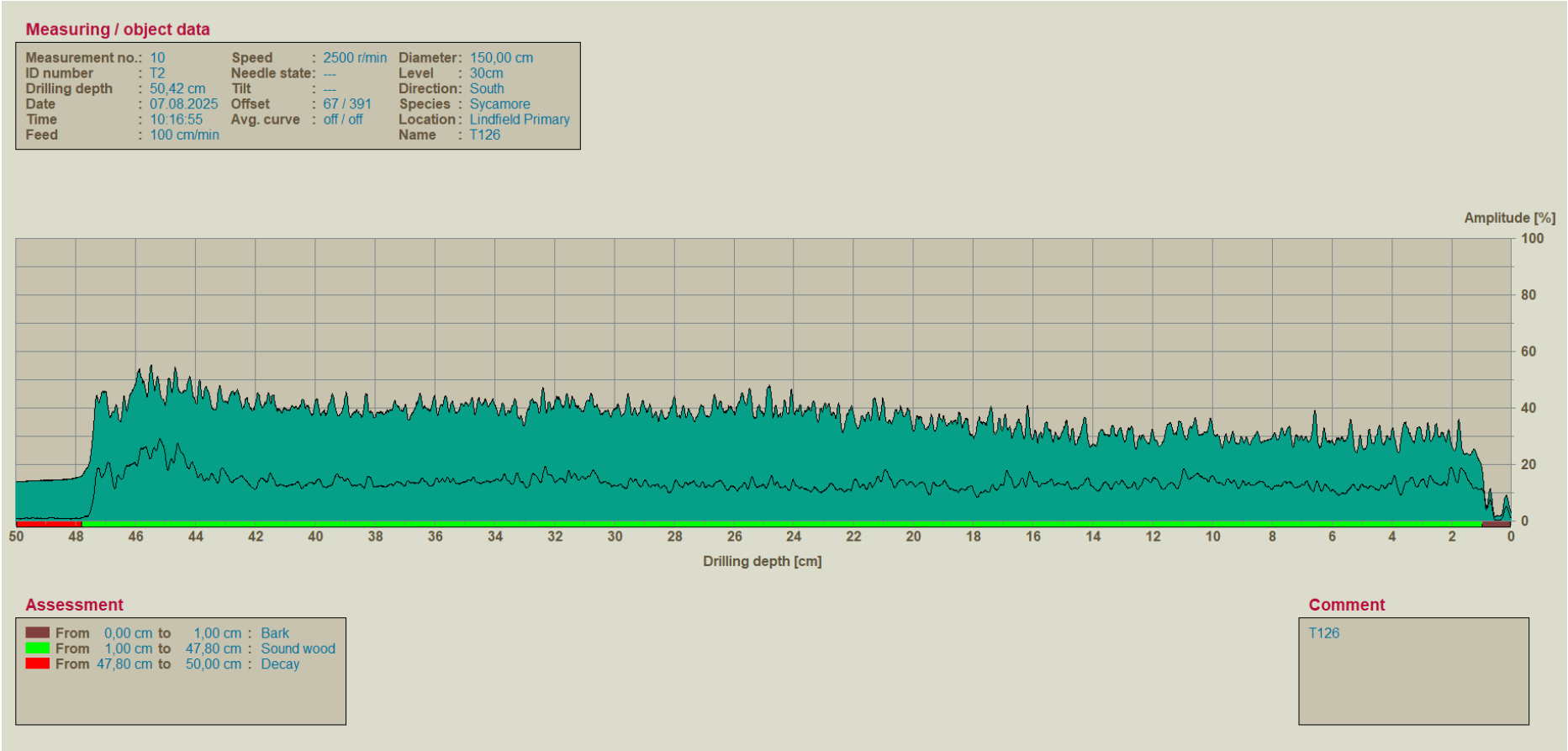
T114 Western red cedar tree measurement 2



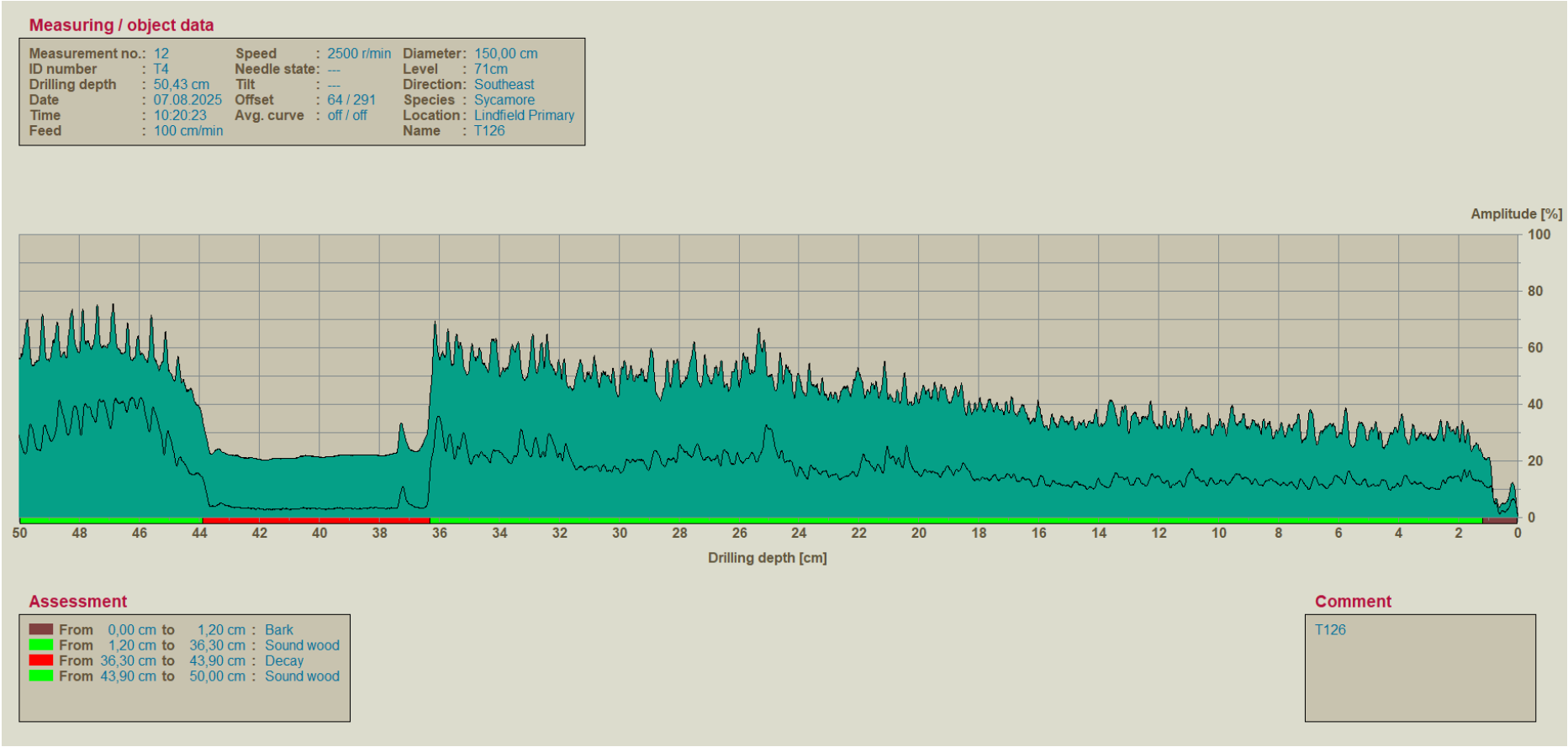
T114 Western red cedar tree measurement 3



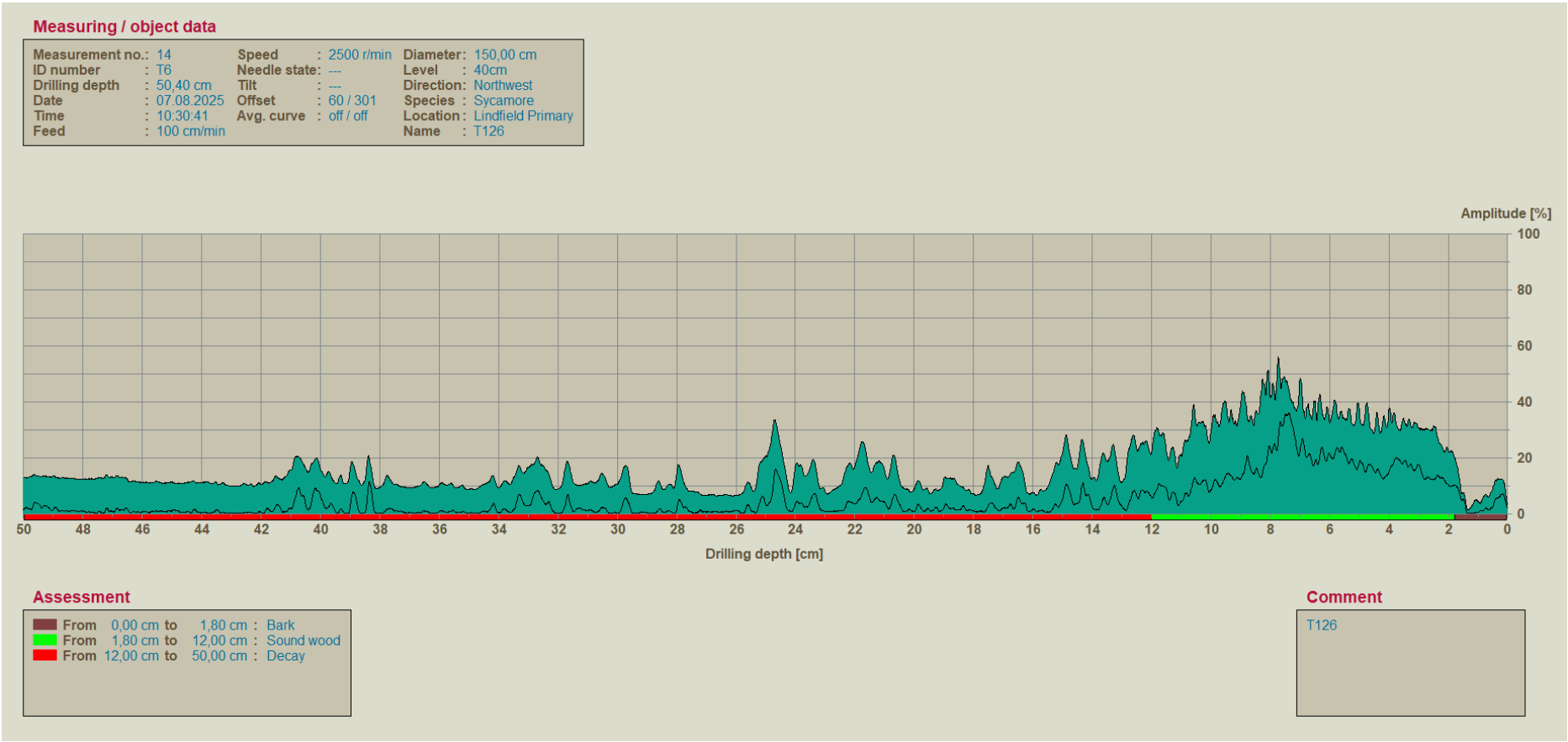
T126 Sycamore measurement 1



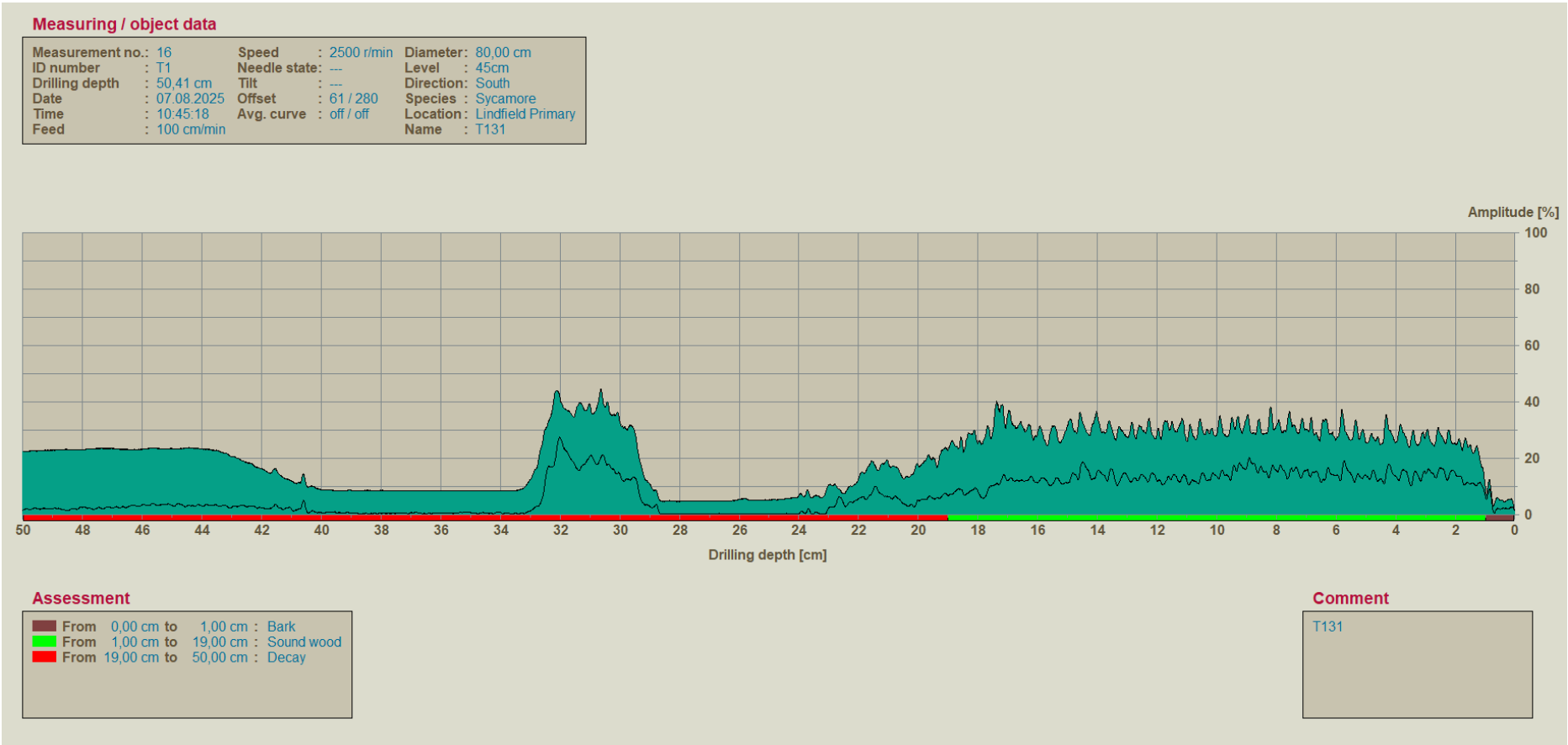
T126 Sycamore measurement 2



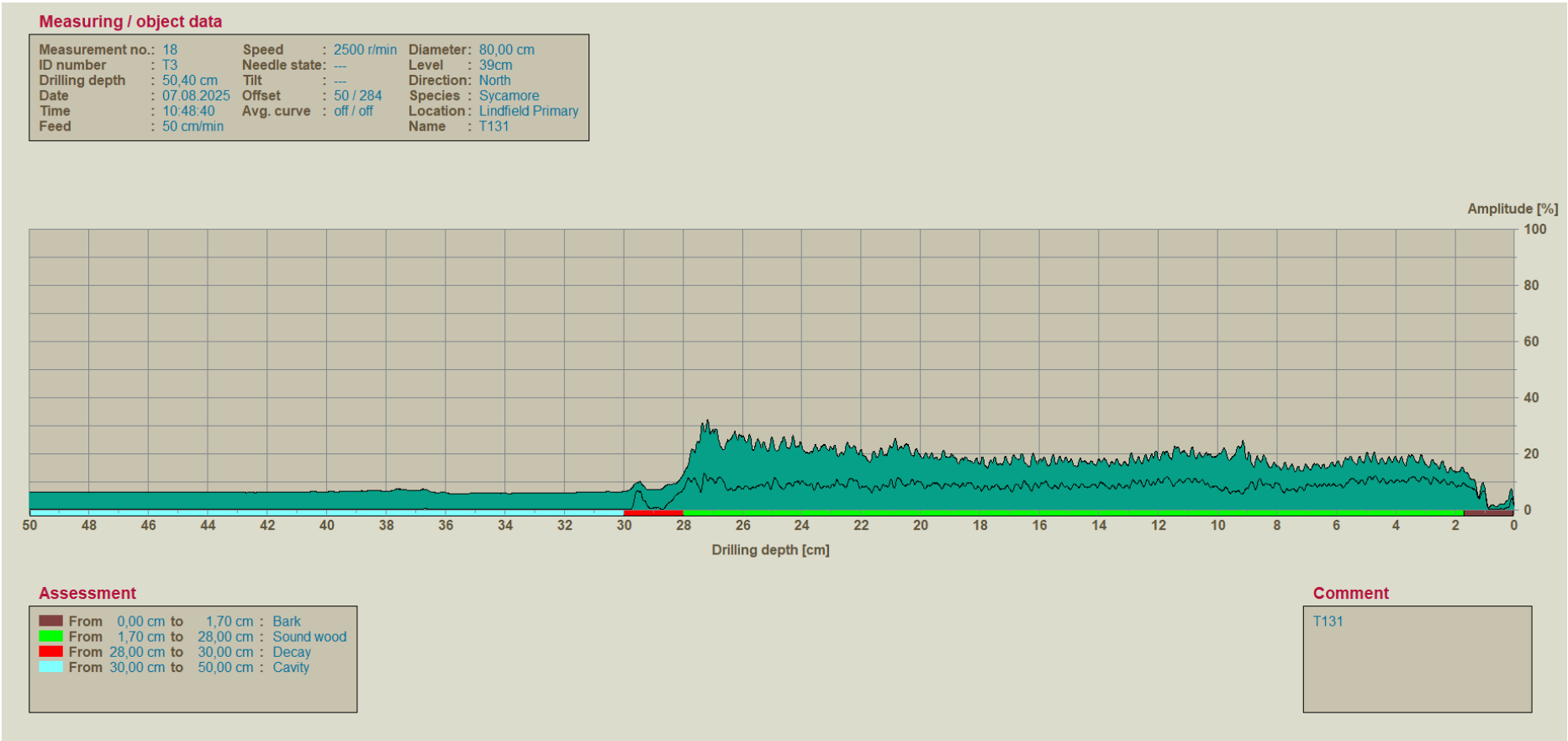
T126 Sycamore measurement 3



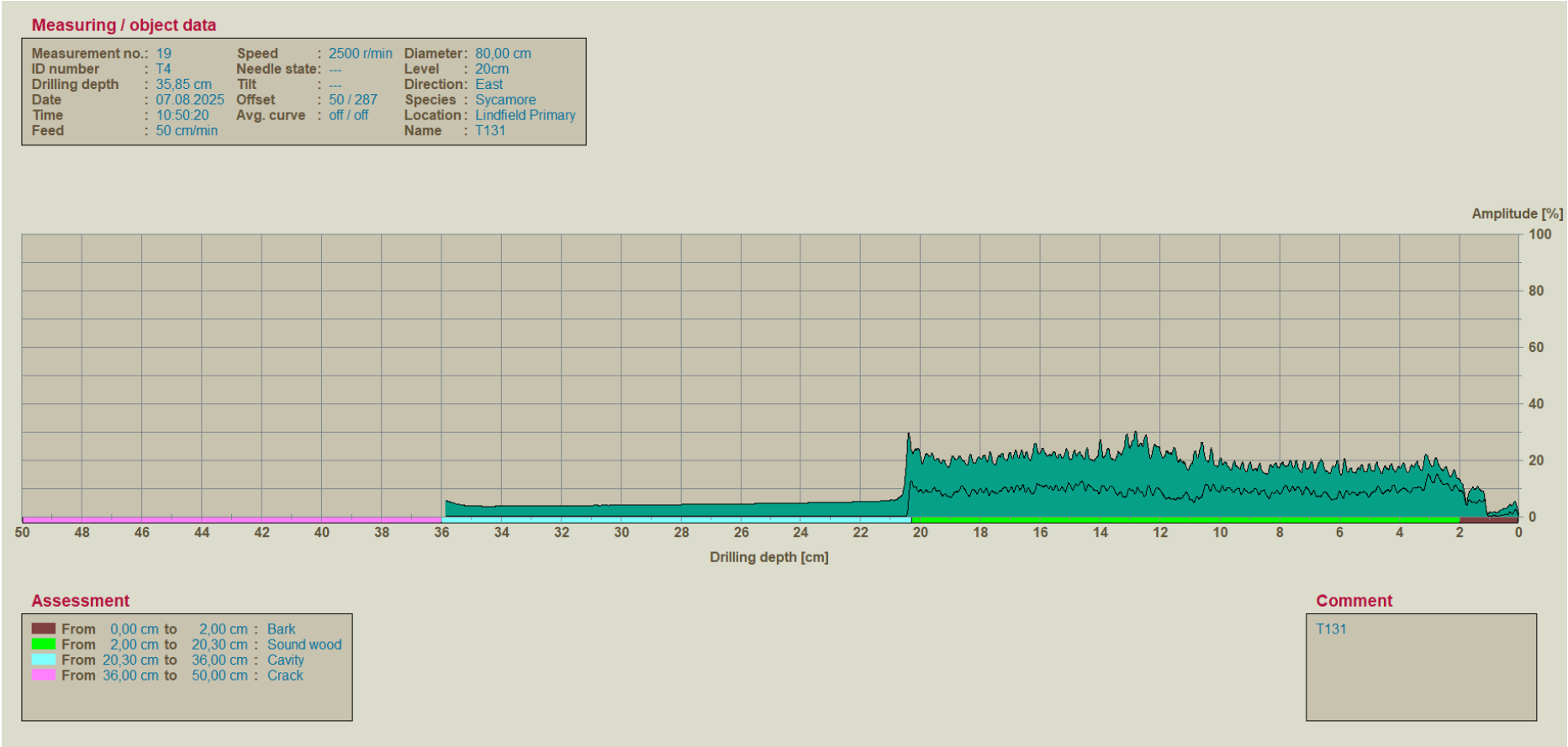
T131 Sycamore measurement 1



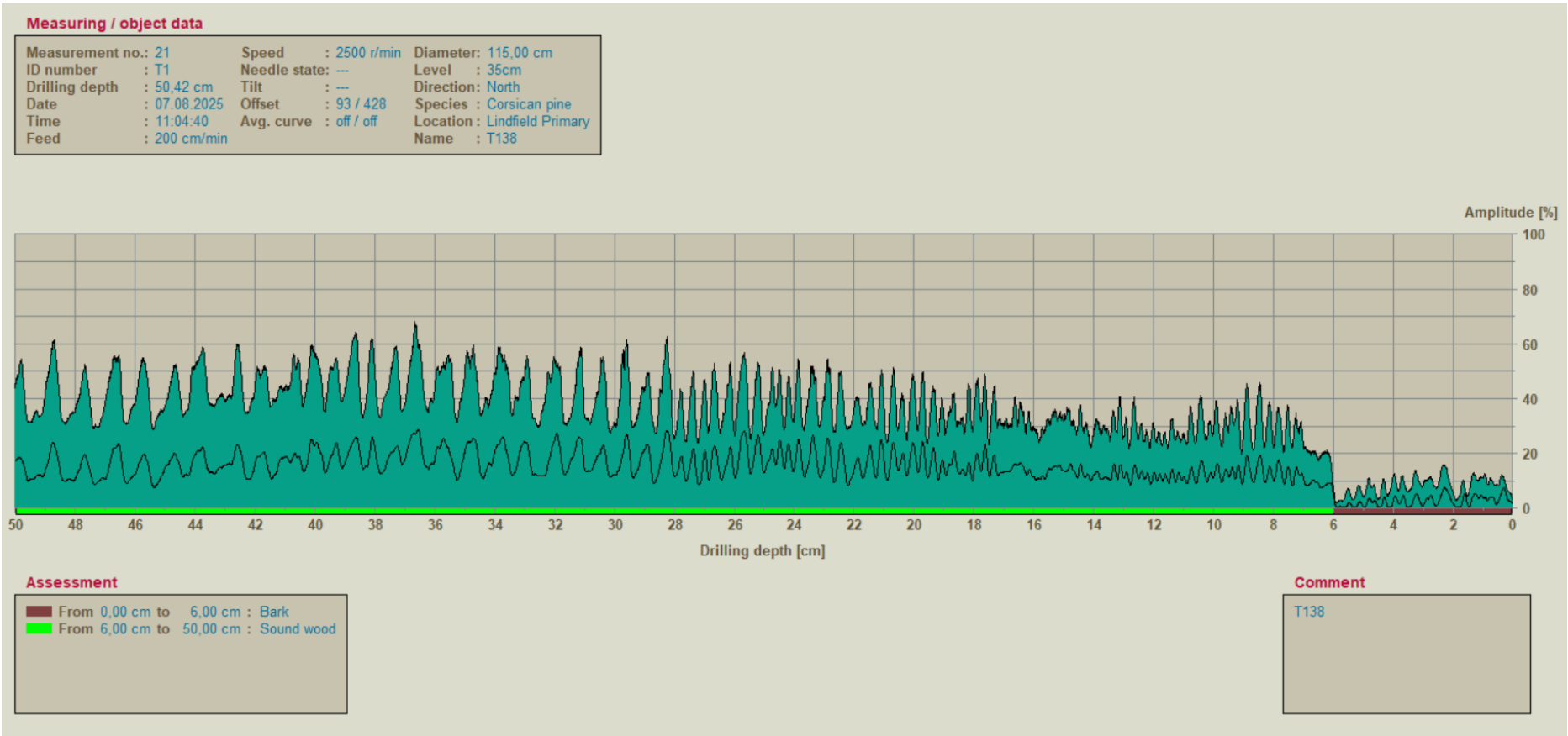
T131 Sycamore measurement 2



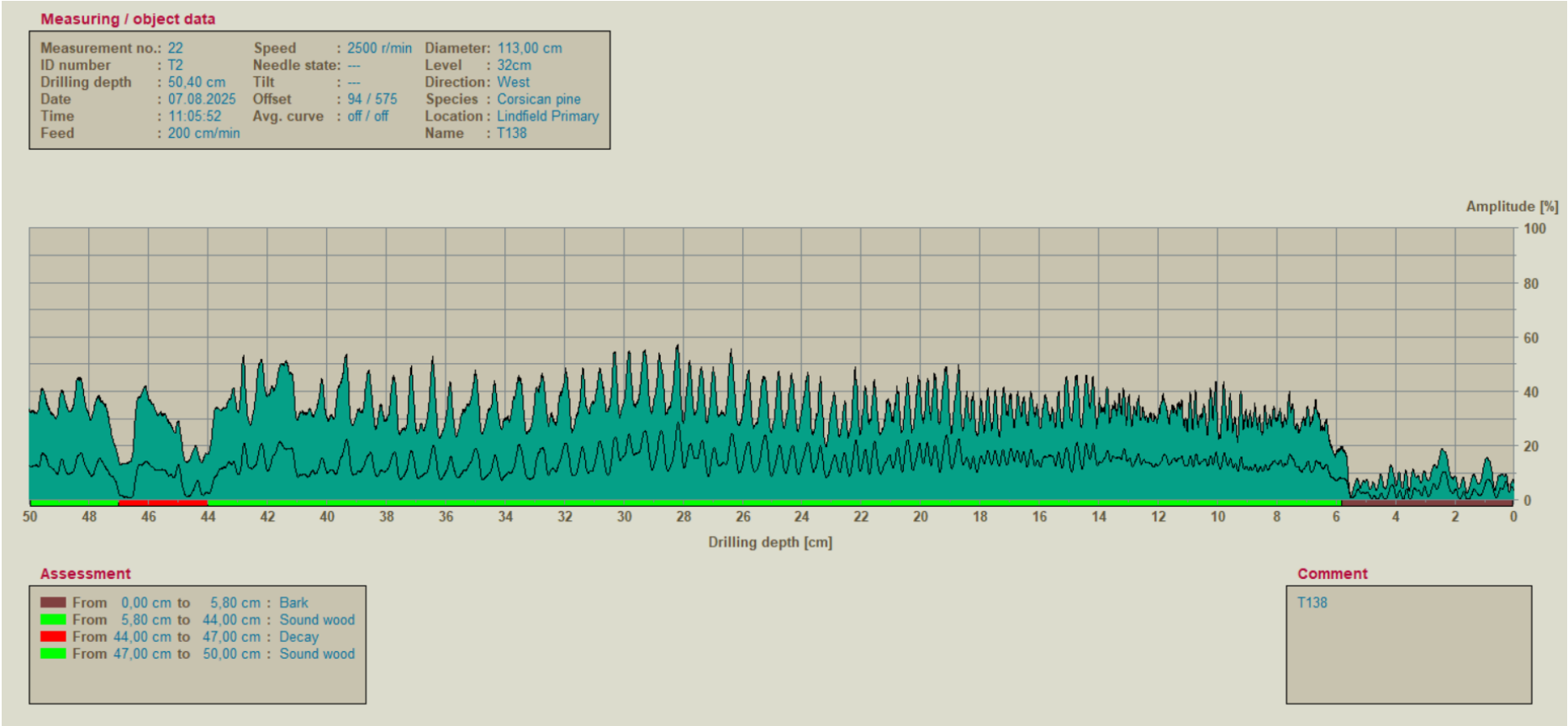
T131 Sycamore measurement 3



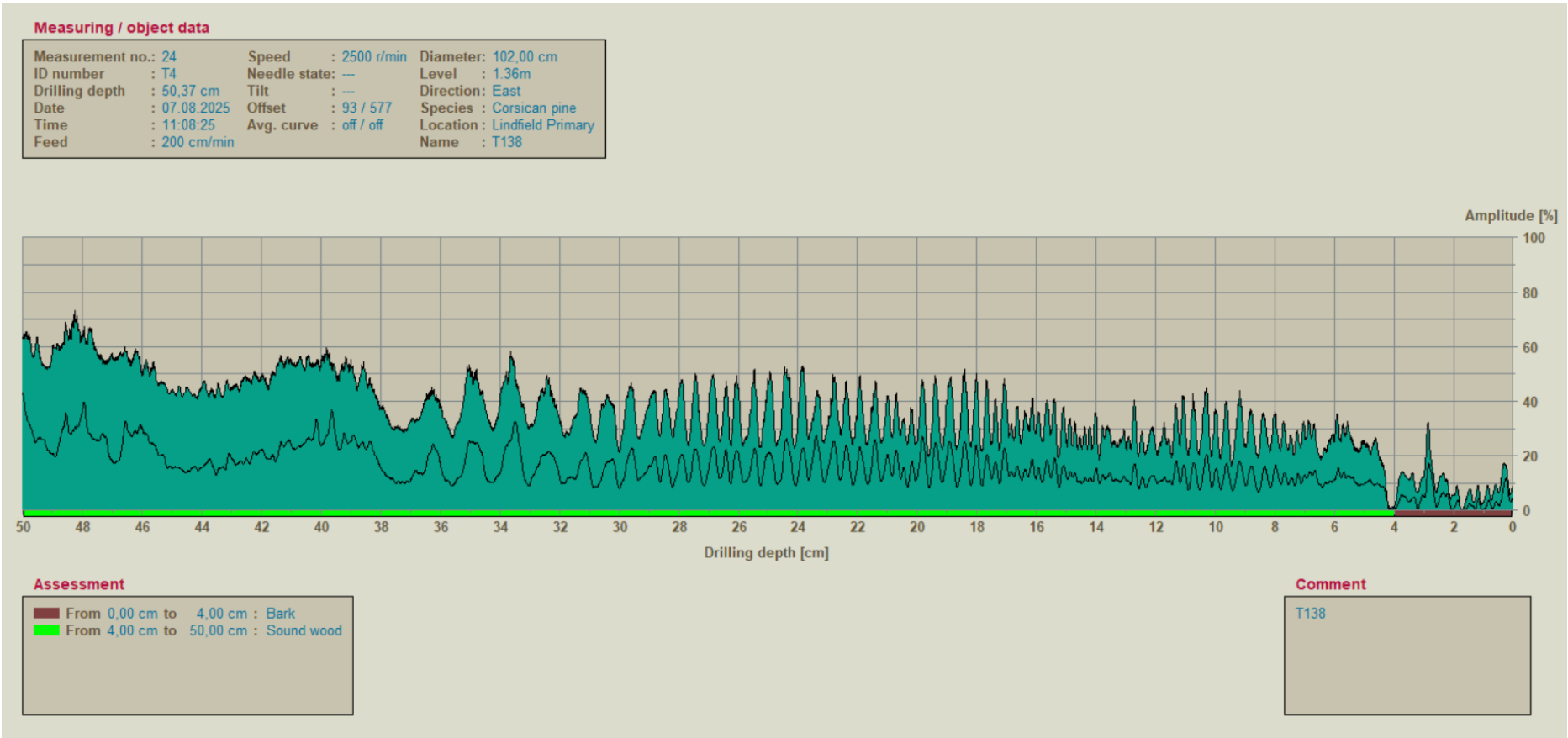
T138 Corsican pine measurement 1



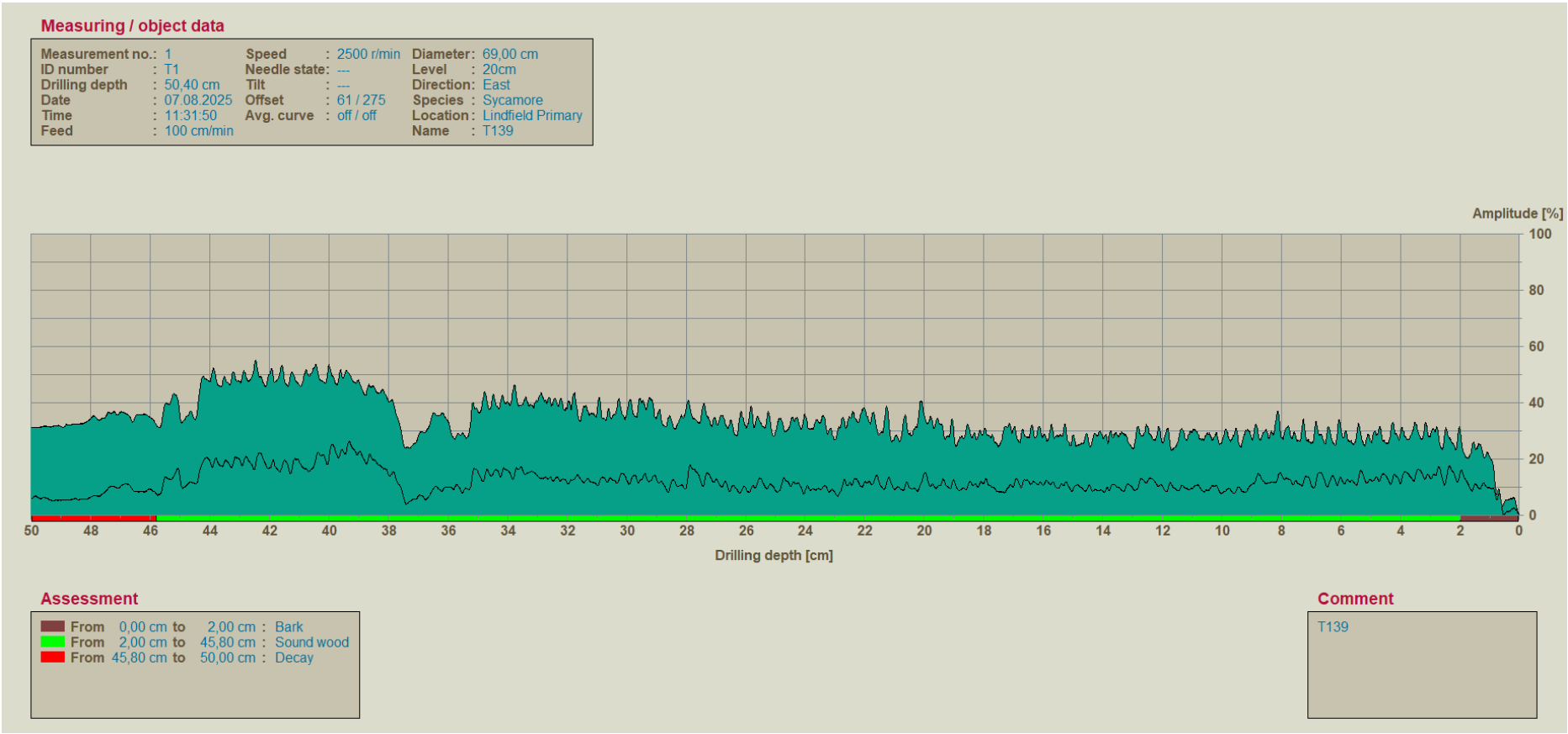
T138 Corsican pine measurement 2



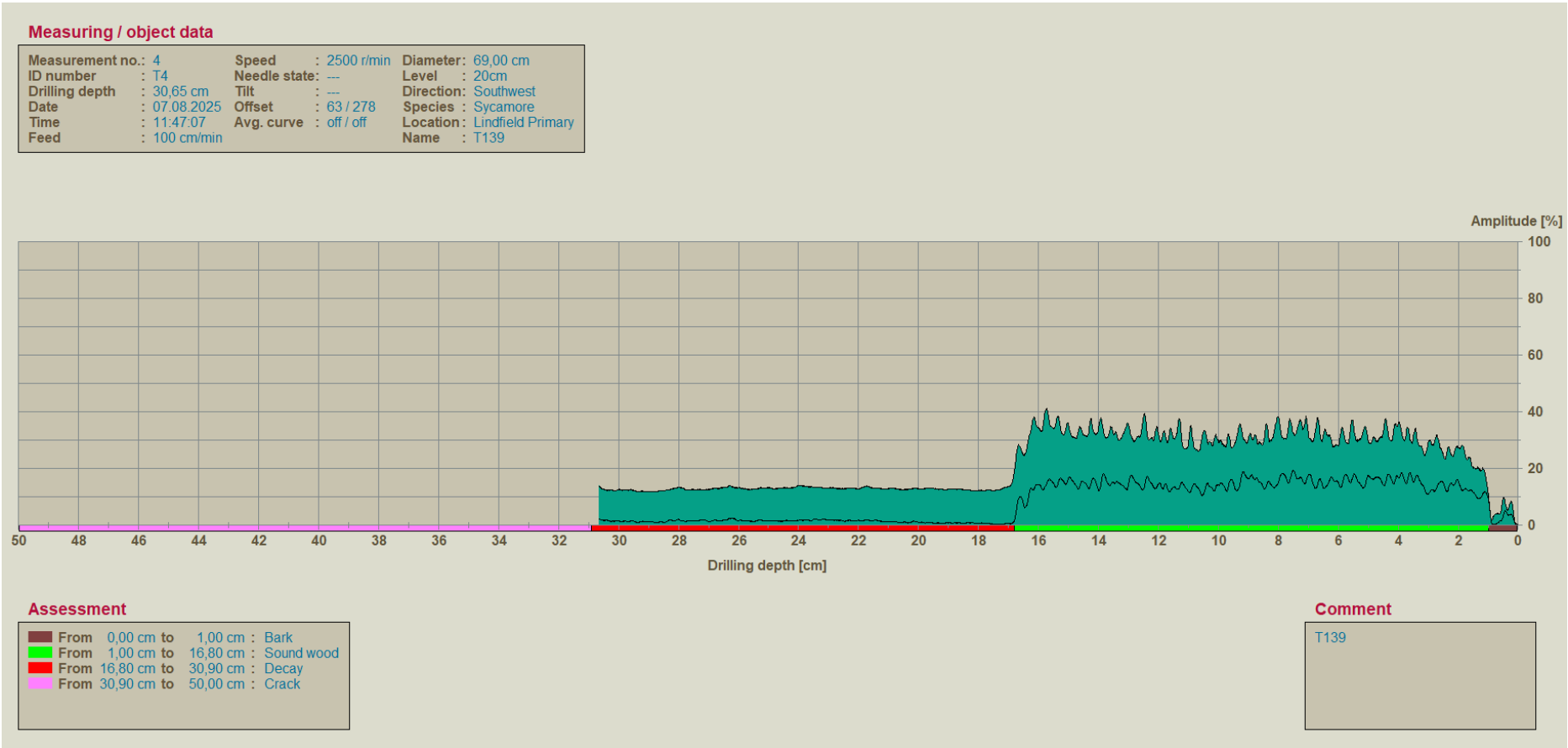
T138 Corsican pine measurement 3



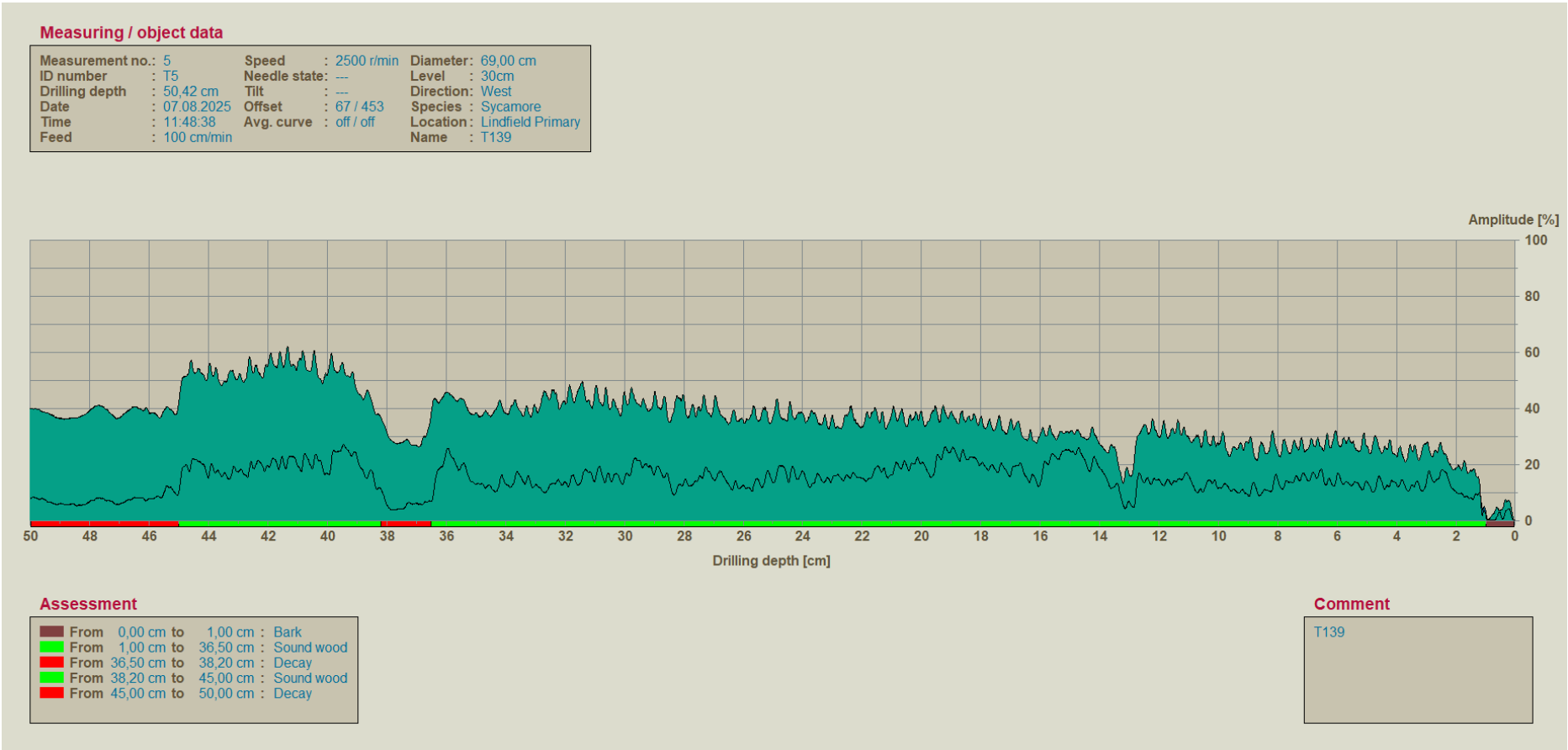
T139 Sycamore measurement 1



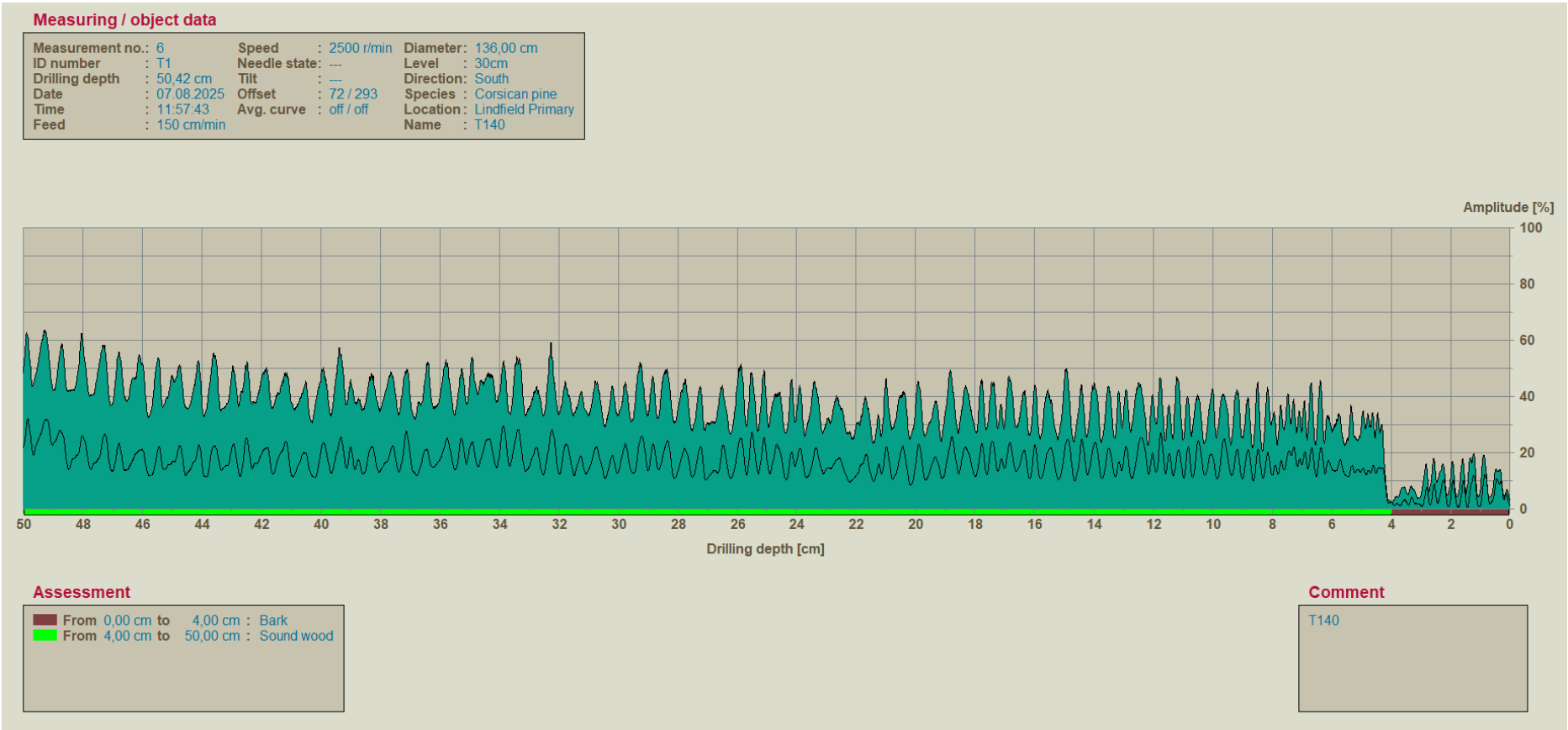
T139 Sycamore measurement 2



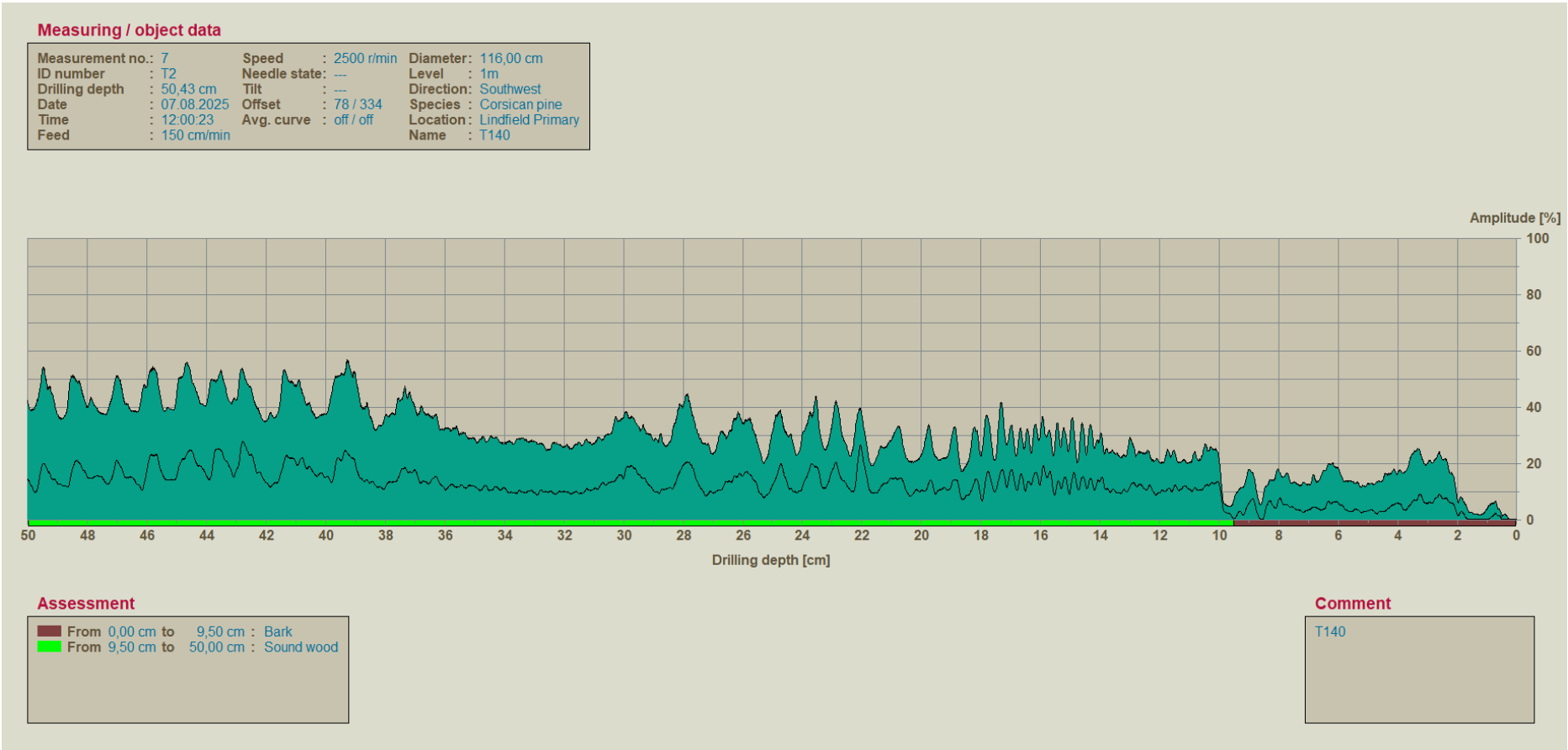
T139 Sycamore measurement 3



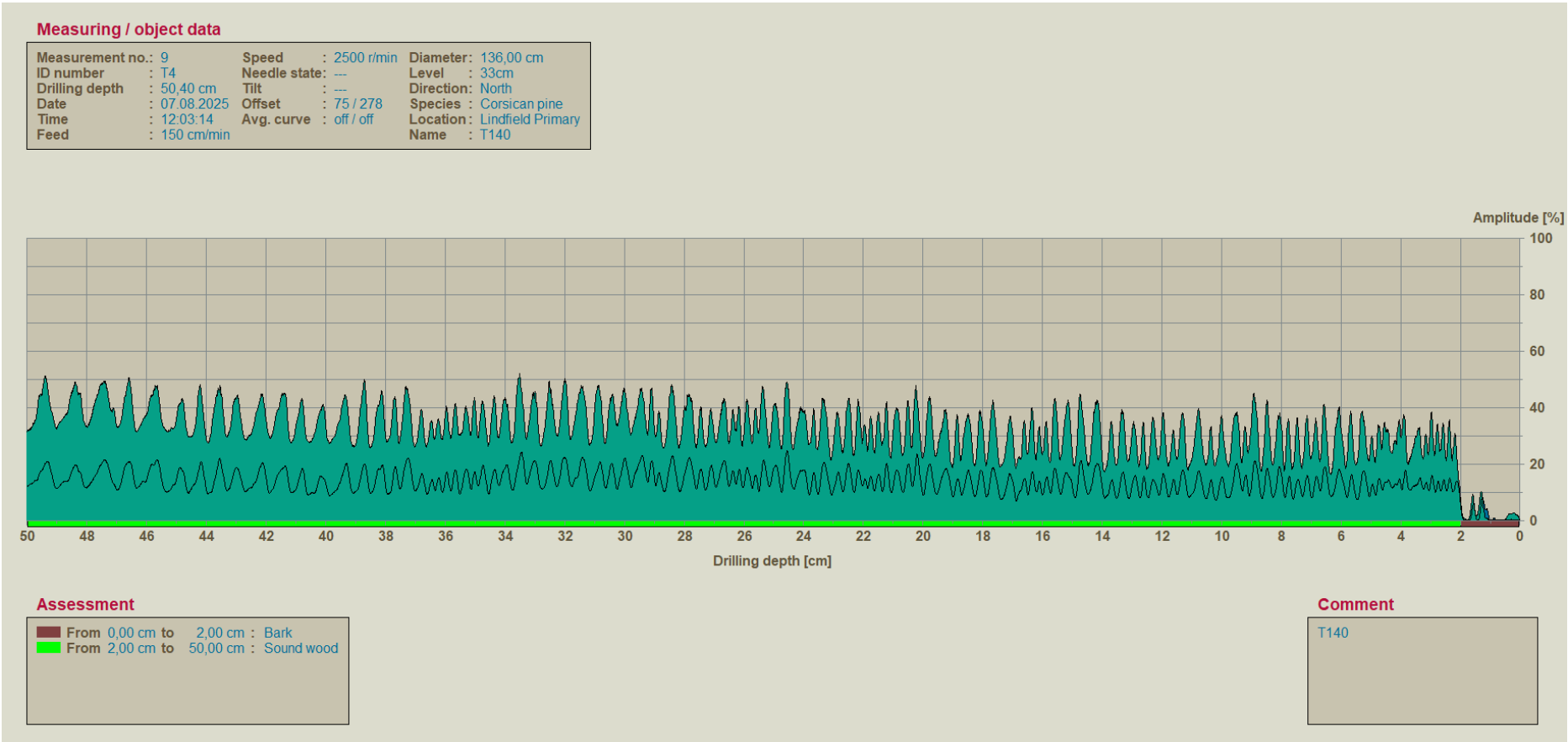
T140 Corsican pine measurement 1



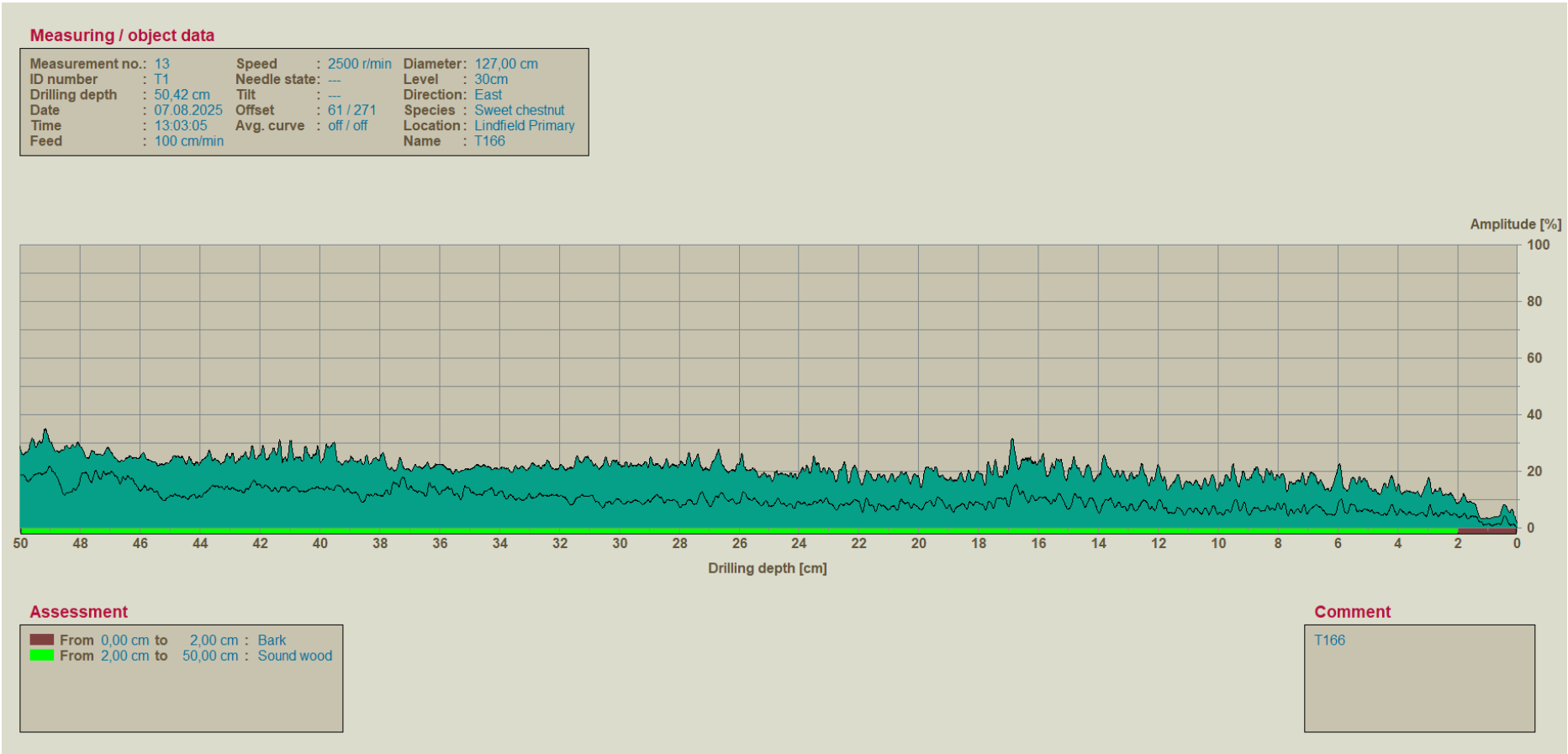
T140 Corsican pine measurement 2



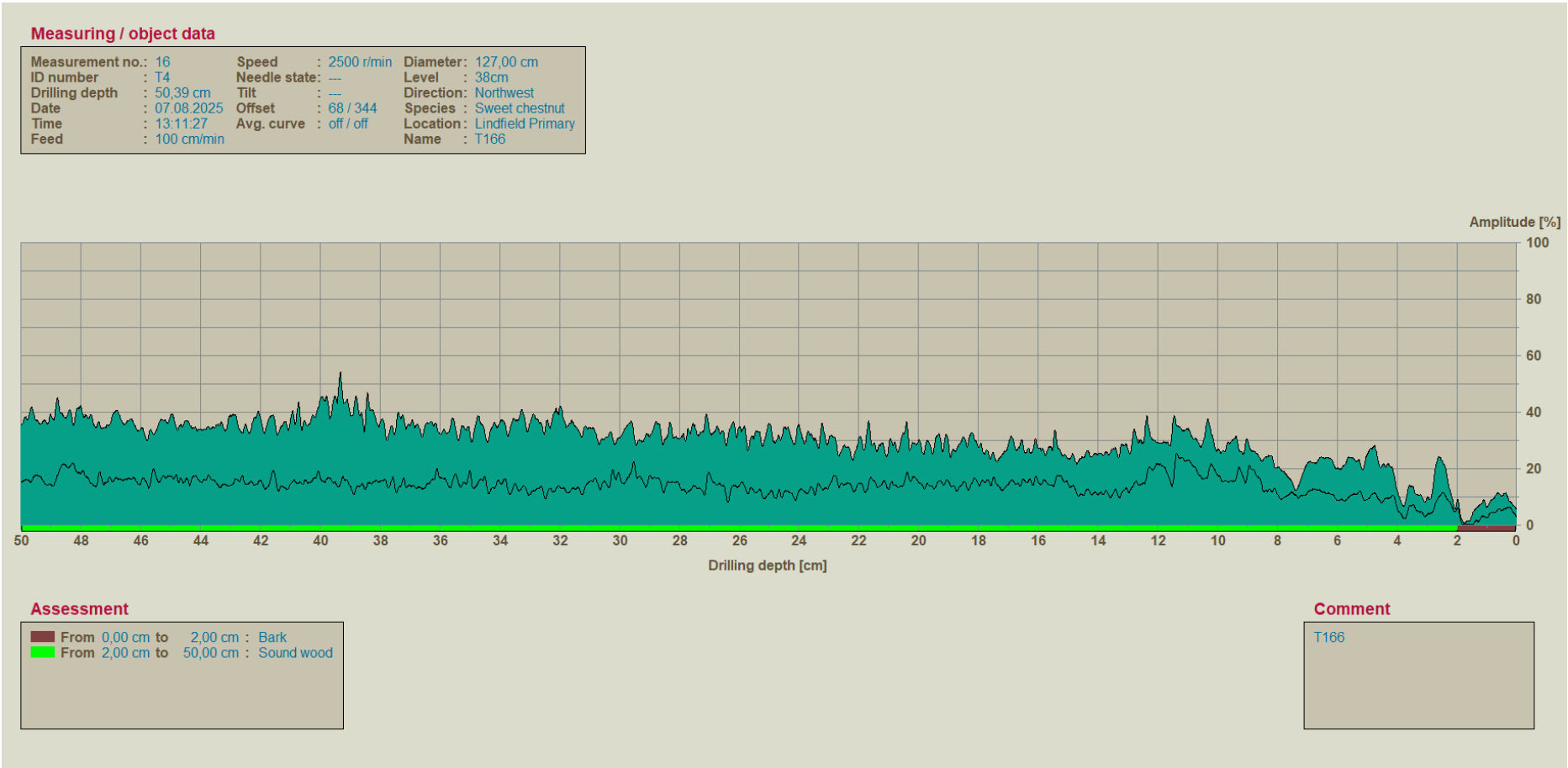
T140 Corsican pine measurement 3



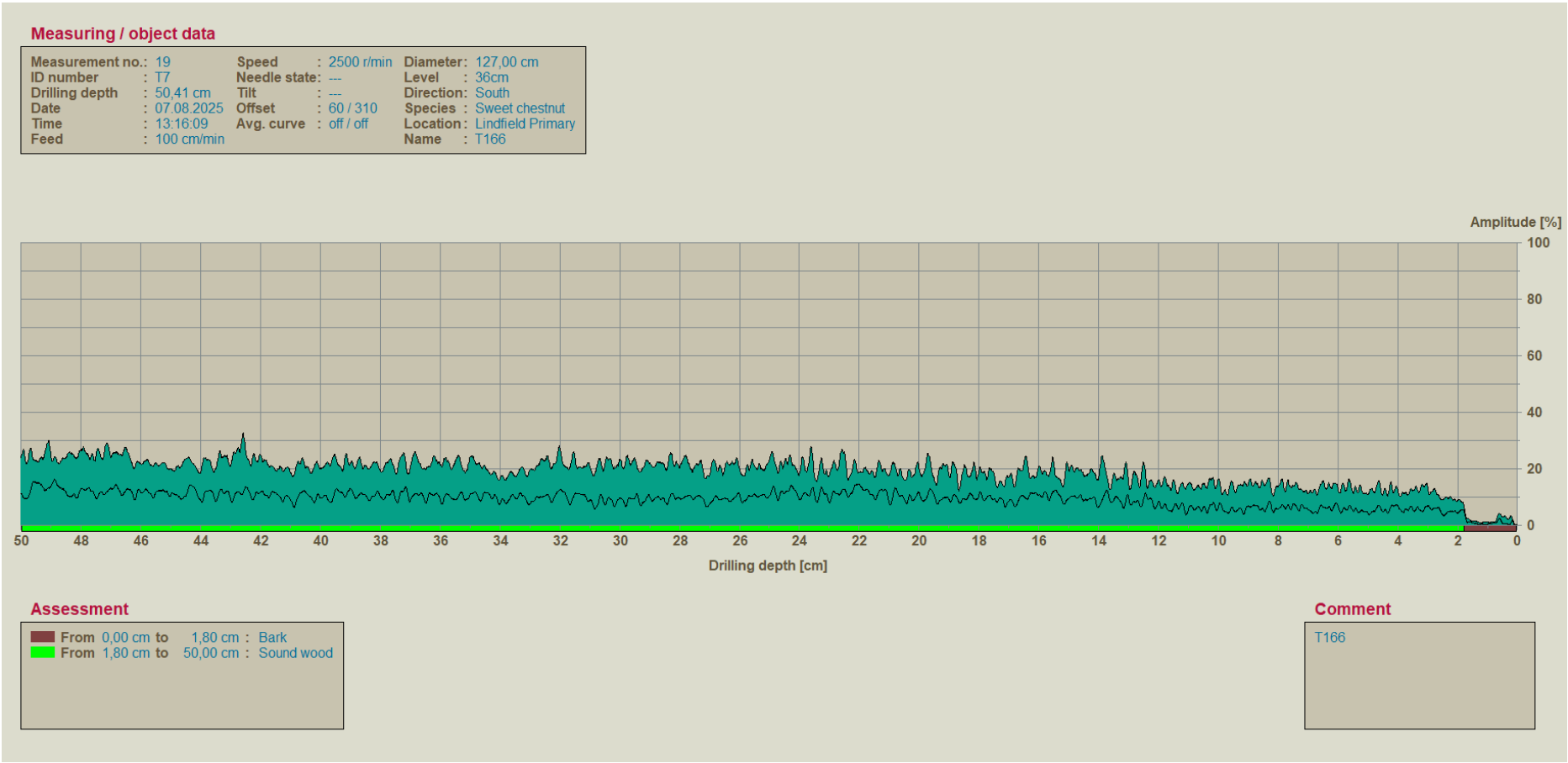
T166 Sweet chestnut measurement 1



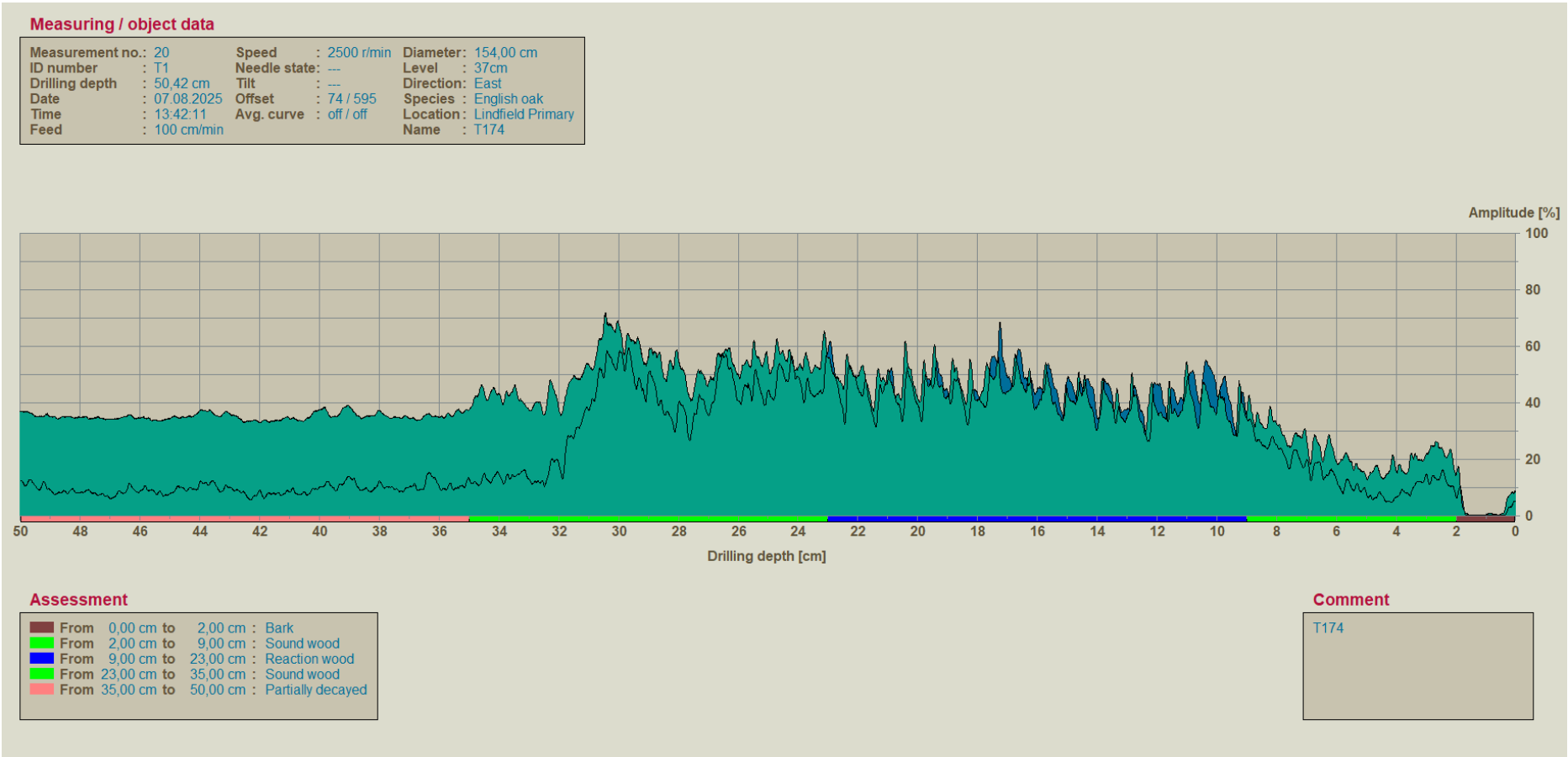
T166 Sweet chestnut measurement 2



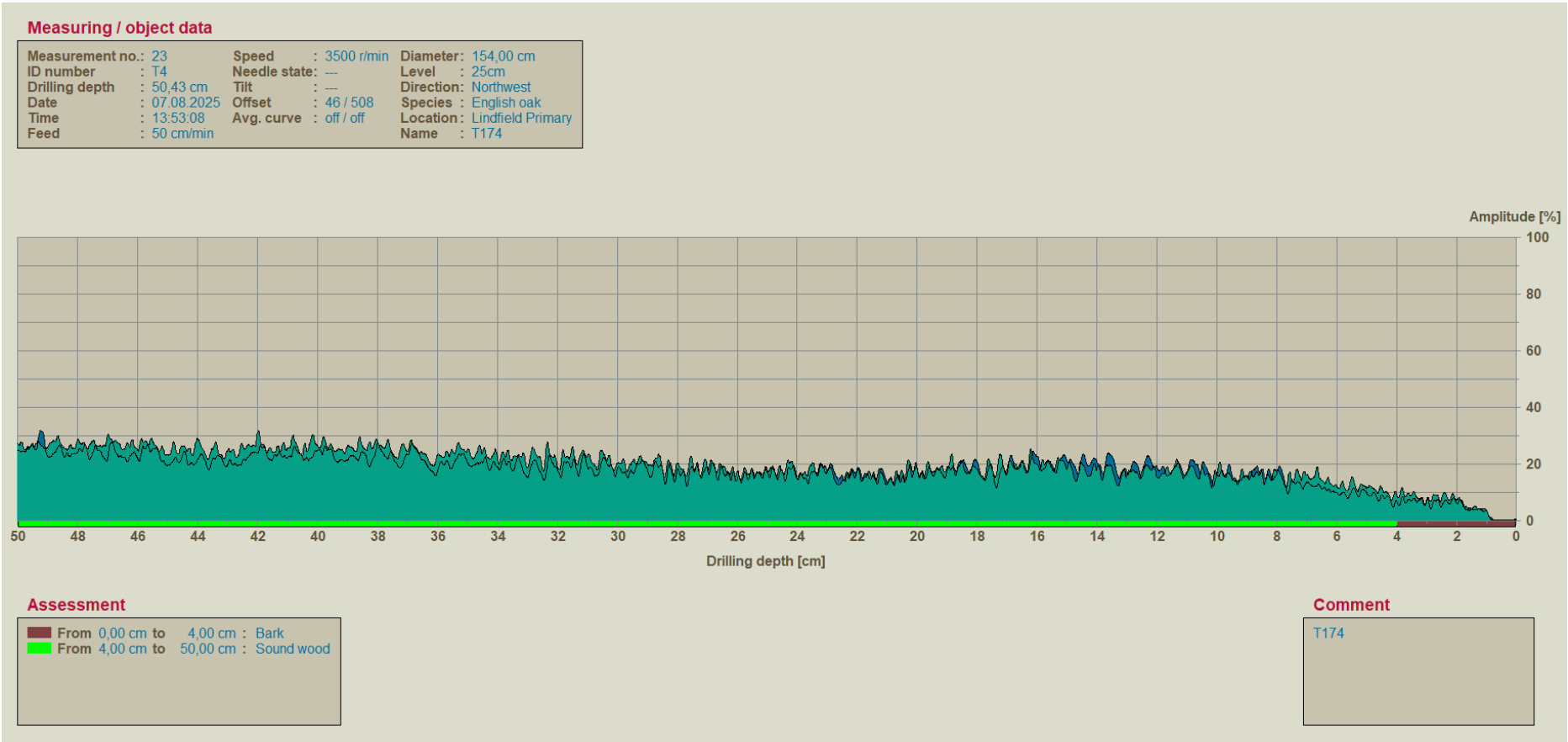
T166 Sweet chestnut measurement 3



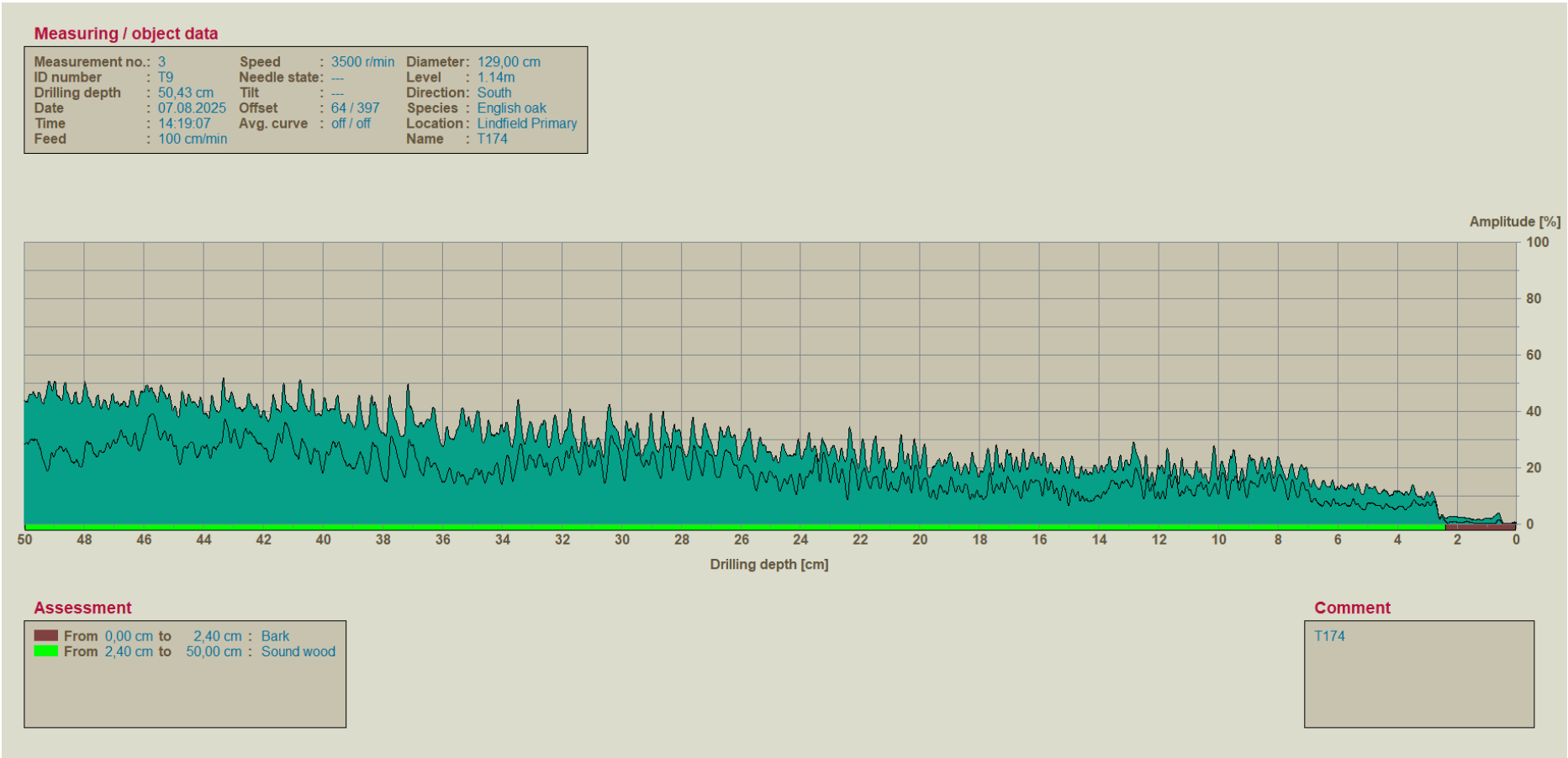
T174 English oak measurement 1



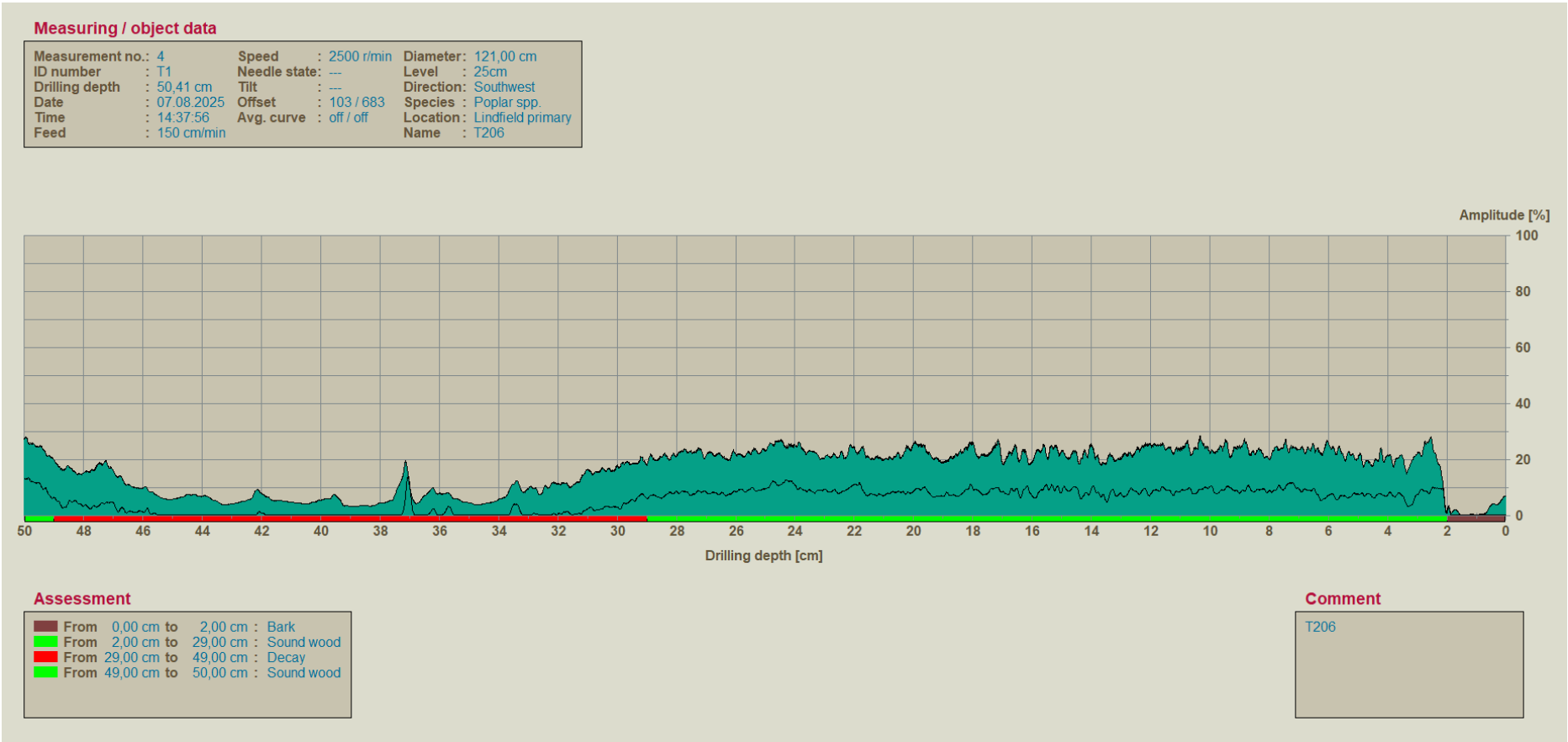
T174 English oak measurement 2



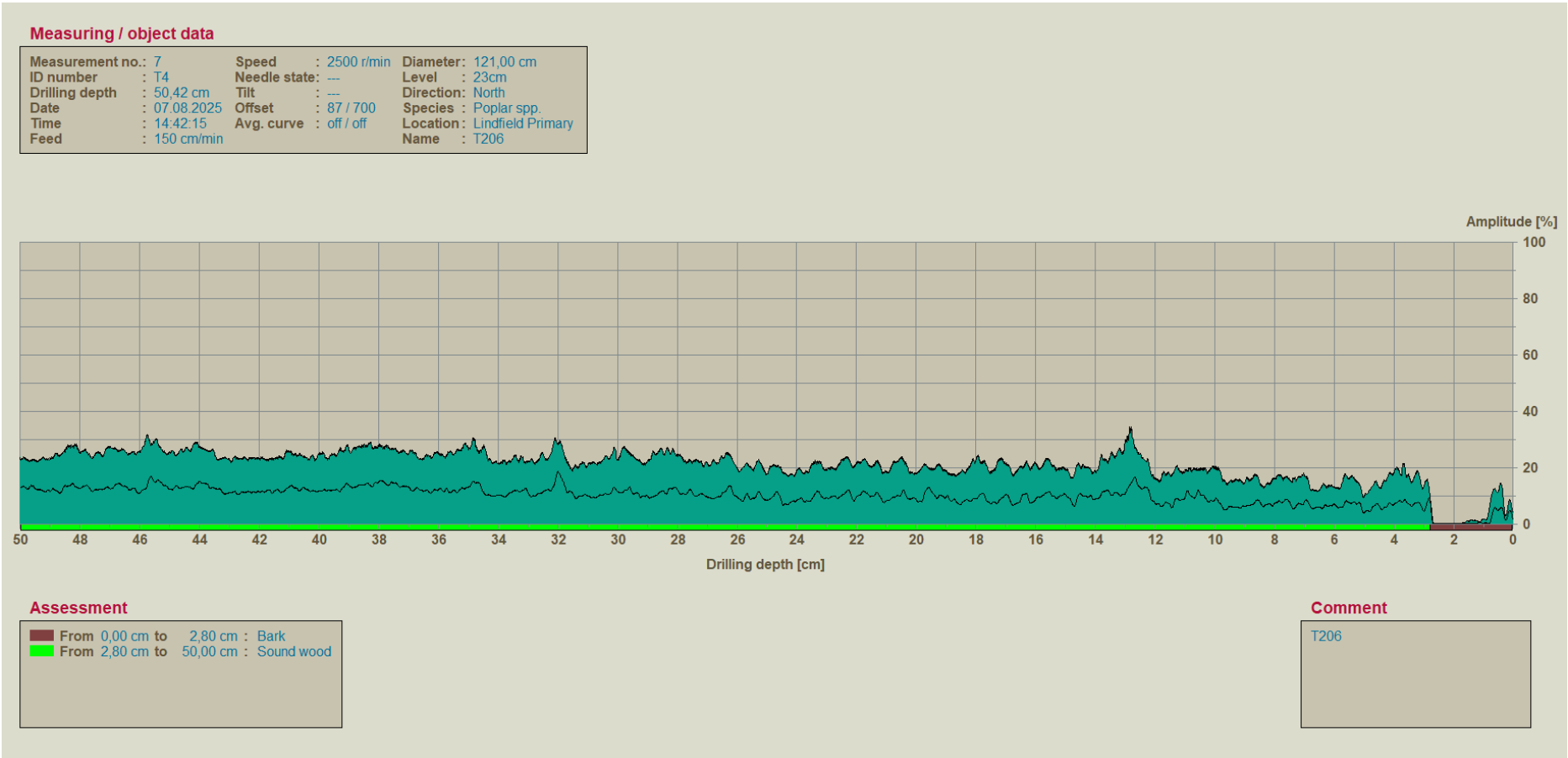
T174 English oak measurement 3



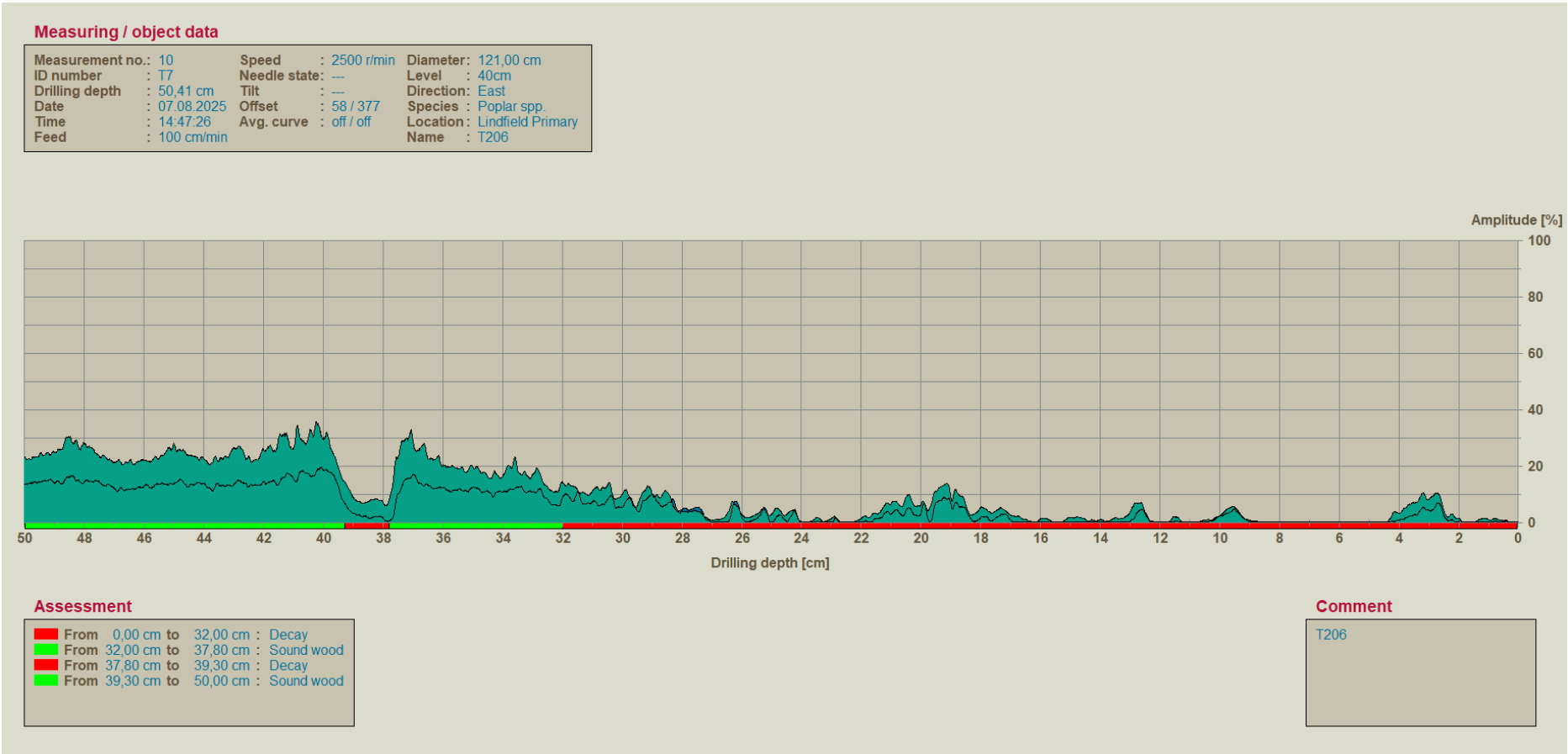
T206 Poplar spp. measurement 1



T206 Poplar spp. measurement 2



T206 Poplar spp. measurement 3



Site Plan

