

Climbed Inspection Report

Client: Burgess Hill Girls School

Date of Inspection: 28/08/2025

Site: Burgess Hill Girls School, Keymer Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 0EG

Scope: Carry out climbed inspection to T296 Oak

Oak Tree (296)

Dominant, mature and notable specimen in grassed courtyard area in centre of school grounds. Tree exhibiting veteran features. Immediately prior to the climbing inspection, the tree had extensive and more than average deadwood in its upper crown early stag-heading. All deadwood removed.



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1. Knothole on S side on trunk at 5m AGL. External dimensions 100mm high x 80mm wide. Internally probed horizontally 150mm. The feature slightly extends above and to both sides forming a bowl line structure. Minor decay evident, but localised. Good wound-wood formation. Bat potential.



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2. Historical tear out scar (900mm long x 600mm wide) on south side of crown at 7m AGL. Scar from entire stem failure. Advantageous regrowth at top of old failure point, with the largest stem being 240mm in diameter and forming significant portion of the lower south side of crown. Branch etiolated in nature and extends beyond crown. Significant heartwood decay as expected from such a large wound, but good wound-wood formation. As expected differences in tone heard when tapped with an acoustic hammer. Branch recently reduced back from phone cables.



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3. Knothole on W side of primary stem at 7m AGL. External dimensions 110mm high x 100mm wide. Internally probed horizontally 120mm. The feature extends above and to both sides approximately 12mm. Decay evident, but localised. Good wound-wood formation. Bat potential.

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Recommendations

Reduce long advantageous branch growing from top of large historical tear-out wound, by up to 2m from current tip, leaving a finish branch length of 9m. Reduce back to suitable side branches to leave as natural a shape as possible. Similarly reduce back branch beneath as above to match and leave a more balanced crown. Re-assess at next inspection Summer 2028.

This tree assessment was carried out by: Vincenzo De Iacovo BSc (Hons) MArborA

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