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Tree Report
200 Seafront, Hayling Island

1.1 Test date: 21st April 2020 by Mr. Kim Gifford, undertaken in the area of test and at the time of inspection.

1.2 Method: using Picus software Q74std, 10 modules in accordance with manufacturers manual. *Visual Tree inspection references, Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management by David Lonsdale and The body language of trees by Claus Mattheck and Helge Breoer. The Arboricultural Association guidance note 7 tree surveys a guide to good practice. Lantra award Professional tree inspection.*

1.3 Instruction: I Kim Gifford Arboricultural Consultant (see profile page 7)

My brief is to carry out decay detection/assessment using a Picus Sonic Tomograph tests and VTA inspection at:

200 Seafront, Hayling Island.

The test will involve taking readings at an appropriate level determined by the requirements of the specimen defect. I am to make recommendations on the immediate and future management of the subject tree based on the test findings.

1.4 Background: I understand that there has been concerns about the safety of this specimen. As a result of this inspection, it was felt that further investigation was required to determine the extent of decay so that he could make an informed decision on the future management of the very mature Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*).

Visual Tree Assessment:

T1- Holm Oak (Quercus ilex) dbh=50cms ht=14m cs=south 4m north 7m west 5m east 5m

General description: Wind shaped crown form leaning predominately from the south west winds on the seafront. Evidence of previous severe 'topping' of major leader and lateral branches in the distant past. Low limbs on the roadside cut back and regrown over the footpath with poor branch attachments.

Root collar: Pronounced buttressing and reaction wood evident due to wind stress showing as tensile on windward side and compressed on north side. Pockets of decay visually evident on north west side. Deep impression of the southside.

Trunk condition: main union, occlusions on stem occluding and occluded poor pruning wounds from old cuts/dead limbs throughout. Many old wounds close together from regular cutting back and branch removal.

Upper Crown: occluding wounds evidence of spiral twisting and wind torsion wounds. Long overextended branches on the north east side.

Vitality: Normal

1.5 Picus Test Methodology:

The method of decay detection is based on the fact that solid wood is a better sound wave conductor than wood that is decayed or structurally damaged. The Picus Sonic Tomograph consists of a set of sensors which are strategically placed around the area of the tree previously identified as potentially having decay or a structural fault. Each sensor is connected to a nail which is tapped through the bark into contact with the wood. This process is virtually non-invasive to the tree's system. The sensors are connected by a data cable to a power supply and laptop computer. Each nail is tapped in turn and the sound wave flight paths are measured by each of the sensors. The test data is compiled by the Picus system software algorithm into a matrix of collected values. This results in a dense network of sound velocities through a cross-section of the Holm Oak.

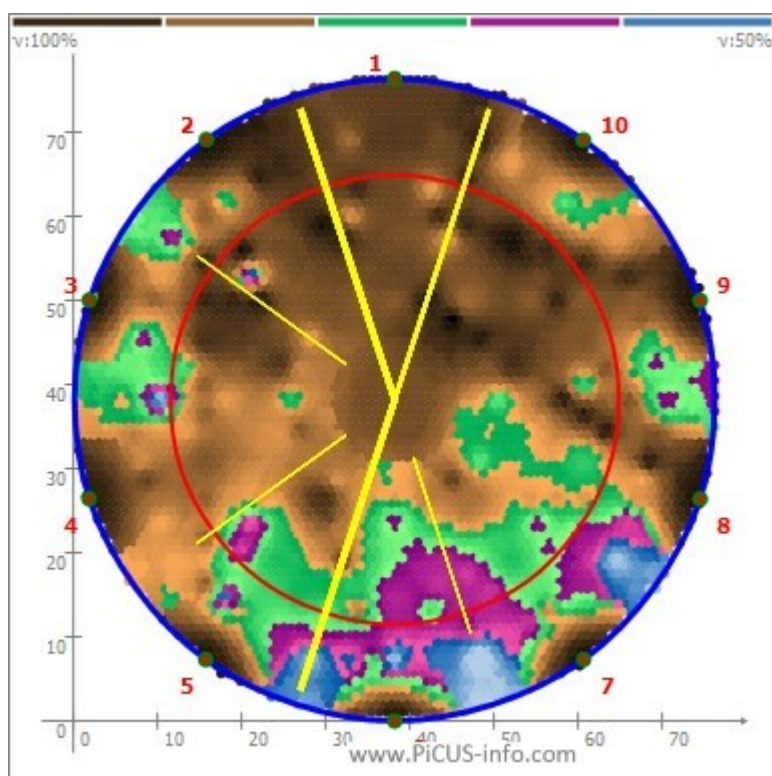
The velocity of sound through wood depends on the degree of elasticity and density of the material. Tree damage such as white rot, brown rot, soft rot, cavities, and cracks reduce the elasticity and density of the wood.

The data from the sensors is translated by the computer software into a representative colour tomographic image of the cross-section of the tree. This tomogram gives information about the presence of decay, cavities, and faults in the tree. Features such as remaining wall thickness, the opening angle of cavities and percentage of solid, decayed or altered wood can be measured by the computer.

Final analysis of the tomogram has been undertaken to see the following recommendation below. *Note: All recommended works should be undertaken in accordance with British Standard Institutes Recommendations for Tree Works B.S.3998:2010*

1.6 Holm Oak (Quercus ilex) front garden 200 Seafront, Hayling.
Test undertaken in fine weather conditions.

Test 1 @ level: 30cms approximately from ground level.



Test point 1 orientation North.

Picus Test Analysis:

The measuring point readings give evidence of medium sound velocities overall in the area of test representation showing as altered timber. The tomographic image shown above has a percentage amount of altered/ decayed timber (detailed on the top graph bar of the image). With reference to the 'colour chart see figure 2', the slower sonic speed of sound is represented by three bands of data representation blue/violet/white being the slowest altered/decayed timber, green being faster not altered timber, brown being fast sonic-speeds solid timber.

(see Picus sonic representation chart figure 2).

The yellow lines are indicators of possible internal cracking or splitting timber in the area of test.

The resulting Holm Oak Picus test of acceptable limits in relation the remaining timber. This ratio called a 'trunk ratio' TR (*reference Claus Mattheck*) has been calculated to be a guideline in terms of stability and rigidity of cylindrical structure. Although a debated theory in arboriculture in general terms the TR of 30% is an average.

1.7 Recommendation:

This specimen is overall in a poor condition structurally. The combination of defects render the Holm Oak comprised in relation to its size and position close to the road and footpath. It has outgrown its position and has a low potential, regarding amenity value.

The existing crown needs to be severely cut back from the footpath and the overextended branches reduced on the northeast side. The Picus testing shows the stressed areas in the trunk at 30cms from ground level.

These defects will become progressively more pronounced in future growth increments. Holm Oaks have been historically removed along the Sea front area because of their low environmental value.

It is appropriate to recommend that the Holm Oak is removed entirely and mitigated with a new semimature transplant. I would recommend a Fastigate Oak (Quercus robur Fastigate).

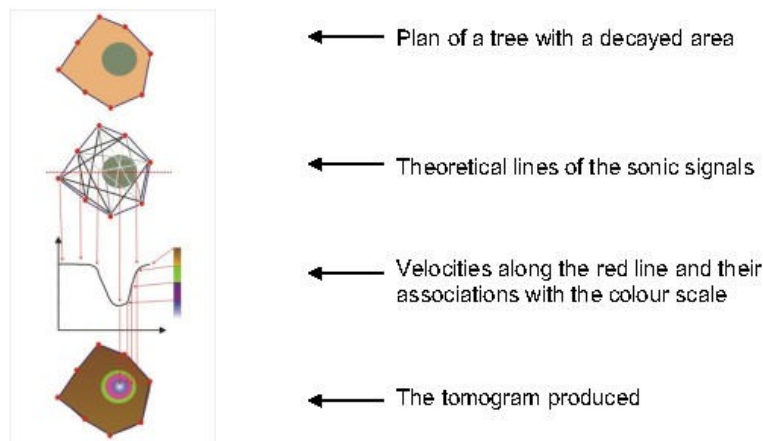
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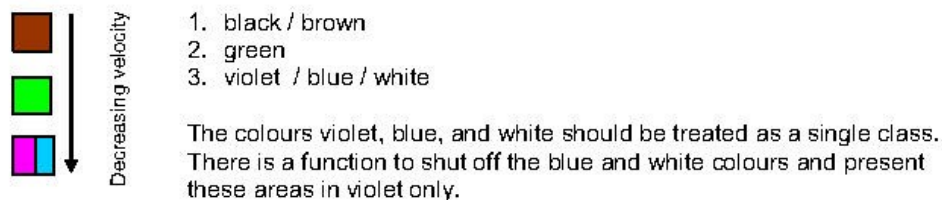
7.13.1. Tomogram colours

To display different acoustic conductivity of wood, the PiCUS program uses set colours, assigning one colour to each point of the tomograph. Areas of high velocity are represented in black or dark brown. Areas of low velocity appear in violet, white or blue, and these are the areas that indicate problems. Green areas mark those sections which could not be classified as being either fast or slow, and these areas must be interpreted together with the overall damage.

The colour scale (black, brown, green, violet, blue, white) ranges from 100% velocity (brown) to the slowest velocity (blue). Colours are switched as specific special trigger levels to show the differences, as shown in the following sketch (not drawn to scale):



There are three main colour groups to be considered:



Warning!

In order to read a tomogram correctly, you need **sound knowledge of trees and their diseases**, and you must be familiar with the **working principles of measuring instruments**. **DO NOT** fell a tree based solely on a tomogram reading. You must first analyse all possible reasons for slow acoustic conductivity, and you will have to apply different investigative methods as needed.

Unfortunately, the results of sonic measurements cannot give information about the exact type of structural loss in a tree. This means a tomogram does not tell us if the violet or blue areas are caused by a cavity, a crack, or by decay – it can only display the levels measured.

Figure 2 Image Colour Representation

Consultant Mr Kim Gifford: Profile

Prior to starting GTS Kim Gifford completed a 4-year apprenticeship in 1972 with the Royal Parks at Hampton Court Palace acquired City and Guilds Horticulture and Arboriculture. In addition to these qualifications Kim Gifford continued his professional development by attending seminars, conferences, studying for the professional diploma and foundation degree in Arboriculture. Further work experience during pre-business period included sub-contracting for Arb. Companies. Work as a lead Arborist for London Borough of Ealing and Arborist in Berlin Germany.

Kim Gifford t/a Gifford Tree Service started trading as a sole trader in 1980 and in 1985 became a partnership. The company specialises in all aspects of Arboriculture. From 2007 Kim Gifford now again, trades as a sole trader in his own right. In 1988 Kim Gifford became an approved contractor with Arboricultural Association after a comprehensive assessment and reassessments in 2002/2007 Kim Gifford served on committees of the Arboricultural Association for 10 years and became the National Chairman of the Arboricultural Association in 2001. Kim Gifford is now an honorary member of the Arboricultural Association.

Kim Gifford personally undertakes Picus sonic decay tests for local authorities and other Arboricultural contractors all over the Southern area of England. Kim Gifford owns the Picus equipment treetesting.com for 13 years and completed over 3000 tests, so he has considerable experience in the analysis of the tomographic images. He provides this service to complement other consultant reports, this is combined with my 42 years' knowledge in Arboriculture.

The whole Picus system has been updated and maintained to the recent Picus manufactures improvements.

Kim Gifford has undertaken many Tree Surveys including Mortgage reports and BS5837 surveys to meet planning authorities' requirements during development proposals plus Tree Preservation applications and planning inspectorate appeals.

Kim Gifford was certificated recently by Lantra training awards with Professional Tree Inspection Certificate 30th November 2013 and Arboricultural Association Certificate BS5837 – Advanced Tree Assessment for Planning 4th May 2016.

Kim Gifford also provides quotations for recommended works, Risk Methods Statements, Health & Safety Policies, Site Specific procedures operation supervision and management services.



Figure Holm Oak Crown



Figure Overextended branches



Figure main unions poor attachments



Figure Picus testing