

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

FOR

HAVANT BOROUGH
COUNCIL

24 JUL 2013

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**The Lodge
Lavender Lane
Waterlooville**

Produced for: Guinness Hermitage
Prepared by: Nicholas van Pelt Dip Arb (RFS), MRAC, Dip REM (Cirencester)
Reference: NvP3245
Date: 12th July 2012

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Introductory Details

Site Address: The Lodge, Lavender Lane, Waterlooville, Hants.
Client: Guinness Hermitage
Report Reference: NvP3245
Inspection Date: 20th May 2013
Inspected By: Nick van Pelt

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Further to instructions, a site visit and tree inspection were carried out on 20th May 2013, weather conditions were dry and still on both occasions.

2.0 Objectives and Scope of Report

- 2.1 This report concerns the continued monitoring of the health/condition and safety status of a mature oak tree in the curtilage of The Lodge.
- 2.2 The tree was assessed with a view to prescribing future management i.e. necessary arboricultural works and/or further investigations, if required.
- 2.3 This is not a detailed dimensional report and measurements are approximate and taken from ground level. No climbing inspection was carried out but inspection was aided by the use of a Picus Sonic Tomograph decay detector.

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 The appearance of large bracket fungi at the base of the oak had alerted the employees of Parchment Property Services to the fact that serious decay might be present in the trunk of the tree and subsequent inspections in 2009 revealed severe fungal decay but that the decay appeared to be within accepted limits.
- 3.2 Shortly after the inspections, the tree was crown reduced to reduce top weight and sail area
- 3.3 The tree stands in close proximity to The Lodge which is a residential care home. Both the staff and the Residents had become concerned for the future safety of the tree.

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4.0 Site Description

4.1 The tree stands in an area of lawn to the rear of The Lodge.

4.2 The ground slopes gently down from north to south and although it is possible that some levelling or landscaping works may have been carried out during the construction of The Lodge the ground levels around the base of the tree appear to be natural.

5.0 Tree Details

Approximate Height (metres):	Height of the tree from ground level.
Approximate Stem Diameter (centimetres):	Diameter of the stem/trunk measured at 1.5m above ground level (an average is given of twin-stemmed trees).
Approximate Crown Spread (metres):	The average radius of the crown canopy
Condition:	Visual appraisal of tree vitality expressed as having Low or Intermediate or Normal Vigour
Age Range:	Describes the tree's relative age to its species and is expressed as Young (< 1/3 lifespan), Semi-mature (1/3 to 2/3 lifespan), Mature or Over Mature.
Vigour	Vigour refers to the condition of the tree and is either Normal (N), Intermediate (I), Low (L) or Dead (D)
BS Category	BS Category refers to BS5837:2005 where A category is most desirable and R category is least desirable (remove)
Priority	Priority VH before 7 days, H within 3 months, M within 1 year to 18 months, L before 3 years



5.1 T1 English oak (*Quercus robur*)

Approximate Height:	21m
Approximate Stem Diameter:	156cm
Approximate Crown Spread:	North 9 South 10 East 10 West 11
Age Range:	Over mature
Vigour:	Intermediate
BS5837 Category	U

5.2 Inspection

Rooting Area:

The area around the tree is primarily laid to mown grass. The ground levels appear to be natural around the base of the tree and there were no visible signs of abnormalities in the rooting area at the time of inspection.

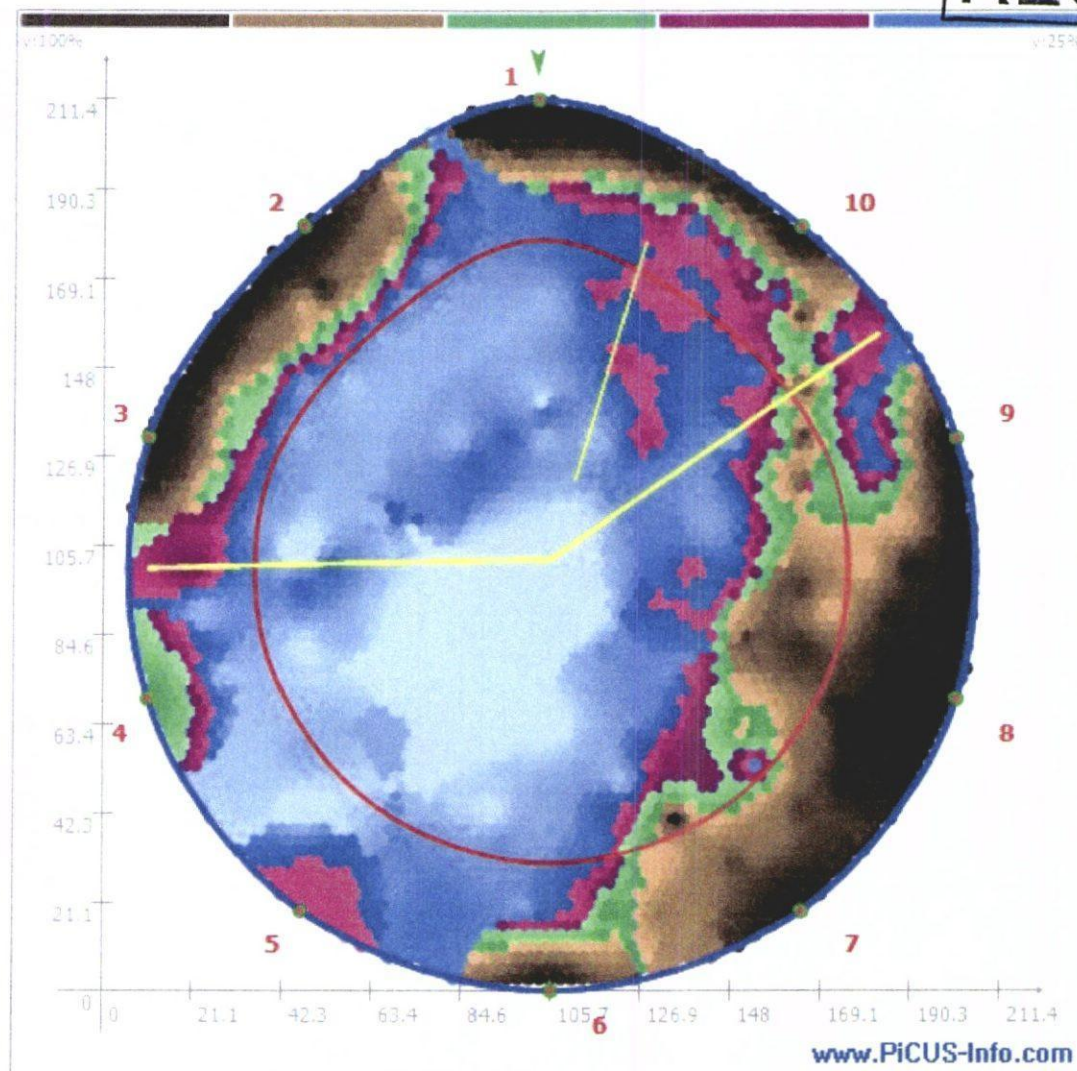
Base/Trunk:

The presence of Ganoderma brackets are immediately noted in an area to the south east from just above ground level to about 75cm.

Testing with a Picus Sonic Tomograph decay detection device was subsequently carried out in 2009 which indicated that the safety limits of sound to decayed tissue (30 to 35%), had not yet been exceeded

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Picus Sonic Tomograph Test 2013

Tests undertaken: 20th May 2013 using Picus software Q72std, 10 modules in accordance with manufacturers manual.

Test 1. level: 85cm approximately from ground level.

Picus Test Analysis: The Tomographic image shows the sonic representation, high velocity readings across the timber depicted as brown and green. Lower readings in the central column depicted as the blue and mauve colours and indicate severe decay.

This indicates decay beyond accepted limits.

6.0 Conclusions



- 6.1 It is my conclusion is that the tree is now significantly decayed and has reached a degree of stem decay percentage which is beyond acceptable safety levels.
- 6.2 There is no realistic work or action that can be undertaken that can render the tree safe.
- 7.0 **Recommendations**
- 7.1 It is recommended that the tree is carefully felled and that the stump is ground out.
- 7.3 This work should be carried out before autumn 2013/14.
- 7.4 The area around the tree should be entirely fenced off until the tree has been felled and only experienced and competent arboricultural personnel should be allowed in that area.

Before authorising these, or any other tree works, it is advised as a matter of courtesy that you should contact your Local Planning Authority at least 5 days in advance, to forewarn them that under Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, it is intended to remove the tree because it is dangerous. The Local Planning Authority may ask you to make a formal Tree Work application but there is no legal requirement to do so under these circumstances.

You can make a suggestion for a replacement tree, which need not be planted in exactly the same position, but could be the same species (*Quercus robur*) and should be an advanced nursery stock of at least heavy standard. The Local Planning Authority would be likely to request a replacement.

It is considered likely that this tree was damaged when Lavender Lodge was built and the grounds landscaped. It can take many years for *Ganoderma* fungi to affect a large oak to the extent that is seen in this particular specimen, but there is no reason to suggest that a new tree will be likely to get infected. It is quite likely that there will be millions of spores from the fungus and similar fungi all around the area so it will make almost no difference where a new tree is planted, but due to the way tree stumps are removed, if all the chippings are not taken out and replaced by good topsoil then it is unlikely to be suitable to plant in exactly the same spot

This concludes my report but if I can be of any further assistance, or should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

N. J. S. van Pelt

Nick van Pelt
Honey Arboricultural Consultant