

S.A.W. Tree Surgeons and Landscapers

NPTC qualified, RFS Certified in Tree Surgery Operations

19 Hollands Way
Warnham
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 3RH
Tel: 01403 262188
sawtreesurgeons@hotmail.co.uk

Tree Inspection

Old Park, Horsham

Inspection undertaken by Stuart Worsfold

Some text and data have been extracted from the previous report undertaken by Jon Cornford.

This report, is related to a tree inspection of a large mature oak tree within the rear garden of Old Park House

1 Reason for inspection:

The tree was surveyed on the 22/11/21 to assess the tree health, as recommended by Jon Cornford who carried out a previous survey on the 24/7/20.

2 Survey methodology:

This survey was conducted as a visual ground-based survey only.

Inspection was carried out and no invasive/non-invasive decay detection equipment was used (other than a probe to measure the extent of decay).

The root network was not excavated as part of this survey.

This survey is carried out following current best practice guidance, namely the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) guidelines in *Common Sense Risk Management of Trees* (2010).

3 Limitations:

Trees, being living organisms, are subject to change and best practice dictates that they should be inspected on a cyclical basis such as annual or biennial etc, (subject to recommendation) for reasons of safety.

Although every effort has been made to detect defects that could result in harm, no guarantee can be given to the absolute safety of any individual tree.

The recommendations stated within this report are in the context of the current condition of the tree.

4 Survey data:

Diameter at breast height (DBH): 1200cm

Height: 21 m

Age: Very Mature

Species: Oak

Crown Spread: South: 9m, East: 9.5m, North: 9m, West: 9m

General overall condition:

This is an impressive and large English oak tree. It has a well- developed with a generally even canopy spread, which is visible in the landscape. The canopy appears in good health with no significant

dieback within the crown. There is evidence of historical pruning and associated wounds and evidence of some compaction to the root network. A new building has been constructed within the root area of this tree within the last three years. There are some small cavities within the base and a deep cavity @ 2.4m.

5 Detailed observations:

Root area and lower stem

The tree roots are partially covered by a block paved driveway to the east and south-east (adjacent property) and a path and woodshed to the south and west. The northern area of roots are located mainly within an area containing other vegetation and conifer trees. The lower root flare on the southern side has had some damage although no decay is present. The northern area of root flare has limited buttress root formation.

On the southern side of the tree base there is a cavity which extends approximately 300mm into the tree, and has some decay present within, but this decay does not appear to be extensive. A fungal fruiting body has been found at the entrance of this cavity. Unfortunately, no fruiting body was present at the time of inspection. On the northern side at the base of the tree, there is also a smaller cavity that extends approximately 250mm into the tree, but does not appear to have active decay. The lower stem on the southern side has signs of exudations (slime flux) with several small black fluid patches. These areas are very small 10mmx 20mm. This could be symptomatic of some minor root damage.

Main stem

The main stem is well formed with no inclusions or weak forks at branch unions. There is a cavity at 2.4 m on the western side. This cavity has no signs of fungal fruiting bodies present. The cavity extends to a height of approximately 650mm with a diameter of approximately 250mm. there was some loose material but no signs of significant active decay. This cavity is occluding well, with good callus wood development and good surrounding residual wall.

There is a second wound at 3m on the southern side. This wound is showing occlusion and good callus wood formation. The decay is limited with no active decay fungi present.

There are further old pruning wounds on the northern side at 2.5m, 3m, 3.2m, 3.5m and 6m. All of these wounds have occluded and closed up with good callus wood formation.

Upper stem and crown

The upper stem has a reasonable structure with no included or obviously weak branch unions present.

The crown is in a good condition with even growth and spread. age. There is virtually no dieback within the crown and very little deadwood present.

6 Discussion

In terms of the main observable issues, the cavity on the stem at 2.4m, although deep, is occluding at present and no notable change since the last survey. The fungi *Inonotus dryadeus* is very likely to be the fungus that has been noted commonly known as Eiffel Tower Bracket which is a decay fungus. The tree has had some crown reduction recently which would be a recommendation with Eiffel Tower Bracket.

7 Recommendations

1. Re-inspect in eighteen months-time from date of this inspection.
2. Allow the fungal fruiting body to re-develop, to enable a positive identification.