



Gale Tree Consultancy

Tree Condition Report

Belwethers, Pulborough, RH20 2DR

February 2026

Ref: TCR/727/26

Gale Tree Consultancy

Tel: 01798 875731 | Email: office@galetreeconsultancy.co.uk | Web: galetreeconsultancy.co.uk

<u>Contents</u>	Page Number
<u>Summary</u>	3
1.0 <u>Introduction</u>	4
2.0 <u>Scope of Report</u>	4
3.0 <u>Results of Inspection</u>	5
4.0 <u>Summary of Results</u>	6
5.0 <u>Recommendations</u>	7
6.0 <u>Appendices</u>	
Appendix 1 Method of Inspection	8
Appendix 2 Survey Key	9
Appendix 3 Beaufort Scale	10
Appendix 4 Site Photos	11

Director: Andrew Gale - Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A
Registered Office: 34 Carpenters Meadow Pulborough West Sussex RH20 2HQ
Gale Tree Consultancy is a trading name of Andrew Gale Tree Surgery Ltd.
Registered in England & Wales Company Number: 4915639 VAT No. 831 3224 66



Executive Summary

- A mature Copper beech growing within a beech hedgerow alongside a lane that serves a number of properties
- Three areas of *Meripilus giganteus* (Giant polypore) were recorded on the east, southwest and north buttress roots
- Extensive deadwood and declining branches noted throughout the crown
- A recommendation to fell the tree has been made
- If retained, the deadwood and declining branches should be removed
- A formal tree preservation order application to the local planning authority will be required ahead of any work commencing



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Client and Address

- Tanja Gusetti, Belwethers, Old Mill Place, PLBOROUGH, RH20 2DR

1.2 Site Address if Different from the Above

- As above

1.3 Date of Inspection

- 17th February 2026

1.4 Name of Inspector

- Andrew Gale *Dip Arb L6 (ABC) MICFor M.Arbor.A*

1.5 Our Reference

- TCR/727/26

1.6 Instructions Received

- I have been instructed by the Tanja Gusetti to undertake a ground level visual tree assessment of a mature tree growing within the grounds of the above property
- I am to provide my findings in the form of a report detailing any remedial work that may be necessary

2.0 Scope of the Report

- Trees are dynamic living organisms and their health and condition can be subject to rapid changes, depending upon a number of internal and external factors
- The conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are based on information gained at the time of inspection and are subject to the limitations of the specialist nature of this survey
- Therefore, the likelihood of failure is considered for six months from the reports date based on the information gained on the day of the report and on the assumption that any recommended work will be undertaken in the time frame specified
- It should be noted that even completely sound, healthy trees, can fail given sufficiently severe weather conditions therefore this report is not valid in adverse or unpredictable weather conditions or for any failure due to Force Majeure
- The trees were not assessed for wildlife which would include birds or bats



3.0 Results of Inspection

3.1 Tree Species and Dimensions

No.	Species	Scientific Name	H (m)	Crown Spread (m)				Age	Phys. Con.
				N	E	S	W		
//	Copper beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 'Purpurea'	12.5	8.5	8.0	8.0	8.5	M	Poor

3.2 General Description

- The tree is located along the western boundary line of the property and is growing within a beech hedgerow. Old Mill Place, a no through road, runs directly alongside the hedgerow in a north-to-south arrangement
- To the immediate north of the tree is an unused drive entrance with a brick pier being located to its northeast
- The tree is c.17m above sea level¹ (ASL) with the landscape being very open to the east, south and southwest. The ground rises to Lower Street at c.21m ASL to the north with the village of Pulborough to the west and north
- On the east, southwest and north buttress roots are degrading remains of the decay polypore *Meripilus giganteus* (Giant polypore) - see Photos 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Appendix 4
- Access around the lower stem area was limited due to the hedgerow but where access was possible, no audible changes in tone were heard when the nylon headed sounding mallet was used
- The tree forks at c.2m forming 2 x primary stem sections (PSS) and two secondary stem sections (SSS) in an east and central, and southwest and west arrangement respectively
- Throughout the crown there is extensive deadwood and declining branches with the west SSS being the only part of the crown that appears free from any significant decline - see Photo 5 in Appendix 4
- The tree is subject to a tree preservation order - TPO/1332

¹ www.calcmaps.com



4.0 Summary of Results

- The decay fungus *Meripilus giganteus* (Giant polypore) causes a white rot² to form on the underside of the structural roots, root crown³ and lower stem area. During its early colonisation, the fungus can also form a "soft rot"⁴
- The fungus also has the ability to degrade the pectin, the substance that binds or glues the cells together within the wood fibres
- The resulting decayed wood becomes brittle and liable to fracture both longitudinally and across the grain which makes the tree prone to failure
- The extent of dead and declining branches is, in my opinion, the result of the fungus impacting on the tree's ability to perform the basic function of moving water and nutrients around the system and as such further decline should be expected
- Based on this, my recommendation is for the tree to be felled within six months of the report's date
- However, if the tree is retained, the dead branches should be removed and the declining branches pruned back to sound wood within six months of the report's date and reassessed in two years from the report's date

² White Rot - cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin broken down

³ Root Crown/Root Flare - the upper part of the rooting system at which point the stem arises

⁴ Soft Rot - cellulose is degraded, and wood becomes embrittled

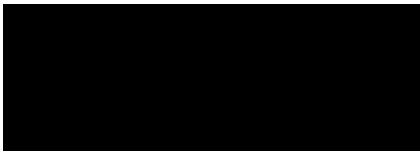


5.0 Recommendations

- Implement the tree work in the time period specified
- Reassess in two years of the report's date if the tree is retained
- This time frame should be shortened in the event:
 - The tree's local environment changes significantly
 - Further fruiting bodies emerge from anywhere on the tree
 - After extreme weather events such as:
 - Wind gusts in excess of Force 8 on the Beaufort Scale - see Appendix 3
 - After named extreme weather events
- The removal of deadwood from a tree subject to a tree preservation order does not necessitate a formal application, although I always recommend informing the local planning authority of your intentions. However, the removal of declining branches back to sound wood will require a formal application to be made
- If the intention is to remove the tree, a formal application to the local planning authority will also be required
- In both cases, work cannot commence until permission has been granted

This concludes my report.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Gale *MICFor Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A*

 Institute of
Chartered Foresters
Registered Consultant

 Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION
Professional Member

Date: 18th February 2026



6.0 Appendix 1

Method of Inspection Visual Tree assessment – VTA

- A nylon headed mallet is used to sound the stem as an initial indication of the presence of decay
- Dull tones and changes in resonance indicate areas of lifted and moribund bark, and areas where decay is forming within the main body of the stem
- A thin steel rod is used, where necessary, to assess the depth of any decay in cavities and concavities between buttress roots
- A pair of binoculars are used to inspect features within the upper crown, such as extension growth, bud size and distribution and cracks and splits in the structural branching
- Where applicable, a magnifying glass can be used to assess beetle emergence holes, and other microscopic details that would otherwise be too small to assess with the naked eye



Appendix 2

Survey Key

Tree No.	Relating the tree being assessed	
Species	Common name in English	
Scientific name	The current scientific name will be used	
Stem Diameter	Measured at 1.5m on the highest side and shown in centimetres (cm)	
Height	Measured using a TruPulse digital clinometer and shown in metres (m)	
Crown Spread	Measured using a TruPulse digital clinometer and shown in metres (m)	
Age Class	Young [Y]	recently planted or established within the last 5 years
	Semi Mature [SM]	a well-established youngish tree but far from full maturity
	Early Mature [EM]	long established nearing its full size but not fully mature
	Mature [M]	fully mature tree that has met its full size
	Late Mature [LM]	a fully mature tree that has passed its peak; may exhibit areas of decline
	Veteran [V]	a tree with the physical characteristics of an Ancient tree but is not ancient in years compared to other trees of the same species
	Ancient [A]	a tree that has past full maturity and is old or aged in comparison to other trees of the same species
Physiological Condition	GOOD	No significant physiological problems
	FAIR	Some physiological problems
	POOR	Significant physiological problems
	MORIBUND	In a serious and irreversible decline
	DEAD	Not alive
Tree Structure	Main Stem	The stem, from ground level up to the point at which it bifurcates
	Primary Stem Section (PSS)	The larger stem sections that emanate from the main stem after bifurcation; form the main crown structure
	Secondary Stem Section (SSS)	The stem sections that emanate from the primary stem sections that contribute to the inner crown structure
	Tertiary Stem Section (TSS)	The stem sections that emanate from the secondary stem sections that contribute to the inner and outer crown structure
	Subordinate Branch Structure (SBS)	The smaller diameter branches that help form the inner and outer branch structure; leaf bearing twigs emanate from these to form the crown



Appendix 3

Beaufort Number	Name	Knots	MPH	Effects Observed on Land
0	Calm	Under 1	Under 1	Calm, smoke rises vertically
1	Light Air	1-3	1-3	Direction of wind is shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes
2	Light Breeze	4-6	4-7	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, ordinary wind vane moved by wind
3	Gentle Breeze	7-10	8-12	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion, wind extends light flag
4	Moderate Breeze	11-16	13-18	Raises dust and loose paper, small branches are moved
5	Fresh Breeze	17-21	19-24	Small trees in leaf begin to sway, crested wavelets in inland waters
6	Strong Breeze	22-27	25-31	Large branches in motion, whistling heard in telegraph wires, umbrellas used with difficulty
7	Near Gale	28-33	32-38	Whole trees in motion, inconvenience felt in walking against the wind
8	Gale	34-40	39-46	Breaks twigs off trees, generally impedes progress
9	Strong Gale	41-47	47-54	Slight structural damage occurs - chimney pots, slates removed
10	Storm	48-55	55-63	Seldom experienced inland, trees uprooted, considerable structural damage occurs
11	Violent Storm	56-63	64-72	Very rarely experienced, accompanied by widespread damage
12	Hurricane	64 and over	73 and over	



Appendix 4

Site Photos



Meripilus giganteus fruiting bodies, circled red, on the east, southwest and north buttress roots





Photo 5



Extensive decline clearly visible throughout the crown of the tree