



WILDING ARB

PROFESSIONAL TREE CARE



Sonic Tomography Survey

Conducted by: Finn Wilding

Client: David West

Site Location: 6, Maur Close,
Chippenham, Wiltshire,
SN15 2NJ

Date: 02/12/2025

Tree Information:

Species: English Oak (*Quercus Robur*)

DBH: 119 CM

Height: 15M

Age class: Mature

Canopy Spread: Unable to obtain due to access constraints

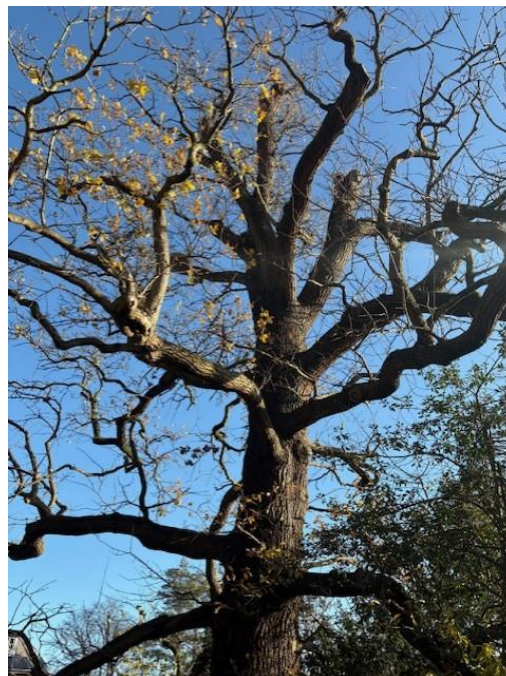
Tree location, W3W: wisley,drill,remove

Condition: Poor

Work Specification :

To carry out a sonic tomogram survey on a mature English Oak tree located in Chippenham, Wiltshire as instructed by client; David West and contracted by Adam Roberts of 'Acer Tree Surgeons LTD'.

The survey was carried out in order to accurately determine the internal structural integrity of the tree in the interest of future arboricultural management and long term preservation of the subject tree.



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Managing Director: Finn Wilding



Sonic Tomography:

The Picus 2 is a sonic tomogram that measures the time taken for soundwaves to travel through the tree between sensors which are placed around the trunk at appropriate measuring points.

The soundwaves travel faster through sound timber and slower through softer, less structurally sound wood. On the tomogram imagery the faster sound waves are indicated with darker colours (browns and blacks) whilst more compromised wood (or cavities) are displayed in lighter colours (blues, greens & pinks) depending on the severity of decay.

As a result the process has the ability to show us the structural makeup of any individual tree as well as highlighting potentially damaging features or indeed fungi that has the ability to breakdown timber.

Environment:

This mature tree is situated in the rear garden of a domestic property on the NE boundary. It occupies a hole in a boundary fence line of which has been nailed into the trunk of the subject tree.

It is surrounded by smaller shrubs and trees including a semi mature neighbouring yew tree all of which it dominates in stature. The ground on which the tree has grown would appear to fall away down a bank towards the neighbouring property on the eastern side of the tree.

Comments & Findings:

Upon entry into the property the subject tree dominates its environment with its sheer size and striking, stark appearance. From an arboricultural point of view the most clear and obvious feature of this tree is the drastic management that has been undertaken in the past. It would appear that a high framework pollard has been conducted, tree work of which it seems to have not responded well to.

Within the canopy of the tree it appears evident that there are notable levels of dieback. The tree lacks vigour, particularly when compared to the neighbouring mature oak tree of which has had similar levels of tree work.

Towards the lower stem and base of this tree a multitude of defects become apparent. It seems there is significant bark flaking on the N side of the stem underpinned by a softening cambium layer. Accompanied by a multitude of small holes this is very likely to be the work of a species of boring beetle. (See Fig 2.)

Upon further inspection there is also evidence of isolated white rot on 2-3 of the flared buttresses on N side of the tree. (See Fig 3.) The sole cause of this is unclear but it is potentially damning for the future of the tree.

One of the most striking features that occupies the base of this tree is the presence of a multitude of old and new bracket fungi. (*Ganoderma Resinaceum*). With a particularly large bracket found between measuring points 7 & 8 (See Fig 4.)

Ganoderma Resinaceum: A parasitic, white rot fungi. This fungus has the potential to cause basal cavities. It strips the lignin from the timber leaving a structurally compromised makeup of the internal wood.

Upon reviewing the imagery from the picus sonic tomogram (See Fig1.) It would appear that this oak has succumbed to the effects of the *Ganoderma*. Displayed by the very large blue colouring on the image which indicates potentially compromised timber via slower sound wave detections. The yellow lines on the imagery would suggest a sound barrier i.e. a potential cavity of which the sound has been unable to travel through and thus not detected by other sensors.

Conclusion & Recommendations:

In conclusion to the observations and tests made it would appear that this mature oak is in a state of decline. The heavy handed management and fast acting fungi may have attributed to this. The apex of this apparent decline is centred in the wellbeing of the buttresses and large supporting stem.

Having reviewed the information obtained and taking into account the size of this tree and its proximity to targets and neighbouring properties the recommendation is to have this tree removed within 6 months. This timeframe should allow for it to be worked on before becoming too compromised to do so.

Another option to retain ecological and sentimental value would be to leave a monolith at no higher than 3 metres.

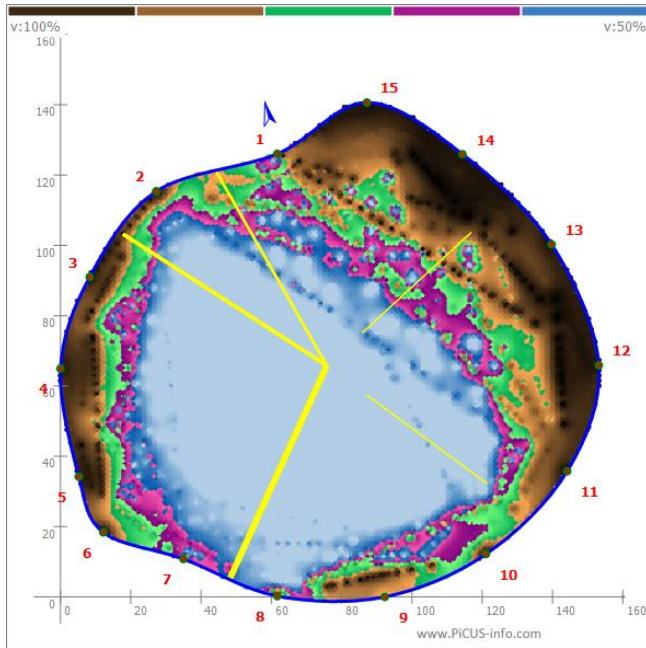


FIG 1



FIG 2



FIG 3



FIG 4

Terms of report:

1. *Purpose and Scope*

This report has been prepared solely for the client and for the purpose stated within the document. It is valid only for the site and trees assessed on the date of the survey. The report should not be used for any other purpose without the express written consent of the author.

2. *Limitations*

- *Trees are living organisms and subject to change over time due to external and internal factors (weather, disease, construction, etc.).*
- *This report reflects the condition of the trees at the time of inspection. No liability can be accepted for defects or changes occurring after the date of survey.*
- *Dense foliage, ivy, or other obstructions may have limited visibility.*
- *Weather conditions at the time of survey may have affected the accuracy of observations.*

4. *Legal and Planning Constraints*

The presence of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), Conservation Area restrictions, or other statutory designations was not verified unless specifically stated. It is the client's responsibility to confirm any legal constraints before undertaking any works.

5. *Ownership and Boundaries*

This report does not determine ownership of trees or land boundaries. Trees have been referenced and recorded as per the site information provided by the client or observed on-site.

6. *Recommendations*

Any tree management recommendations are based on the arborist's professional opinion and current industry best practices. They do not constitute a guarantee of safety. Trees should be re-inspected regularly, particularly after severe weather events or if site conditions change.

7. *Third-Party Use*

This report is confidential to the client for whom it was prepared. No liability is accepted for its use by third parties unless expressly authorized in writing.

8. *Validity*

This report remains valid for 12 months from the date of inspection, or until site conditions significantly change—whichever is sooner.



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