

Absolute Arboriculture
Maple Lodge
Brighton Road
Lower Beeding
West Sussex
RH13 6PS



Aerial Tree Inspection Report

Client: Natasha Peskin

Location: 37 Torton Hill Road, Arundel, BN18 9HF

Date of inspection: 16th October 2025

Inspector: Max Ferretti ND Arb, TechArborA

Our reference: ATIR/NP/10/25

Instructions received:

I am instructed by Ms Natasha Peskin to carry out an aerial inspection of an Oak tree situated at 37 Torton Hill Road, Arundel. This instruction follows an initial assessment and report of the tree, along with others on the property (our reference: TIR/NP/9/25) and is intended to enable a closer inspection of a cavity that was noted on the tree and to determine the extent of internal decay.

The survey was undertaken with full consideration for tree safety and the safety of people and property in the vicinity.

I am further required to provide recommendations for any remedial works considered necessary in response to specific defects identified during the inspection.

Tree number/identification:

The tree subject to this inspection is referenced as T2 – Oak, and its position is shown on the Tree Location Plan accompanying the Tree Inspection Report (our reference: ATIR/NP/10/25).

Scope of inspection:

The inspection should be read in conjunction with tree inspection report: Our reference: ATIR/NP/10/25

T2 Oak tree was subject to an aerial inspection following the principles of the 'Visual Tree Assessment' method explained by Mattheck and Breloer (The Body Language of Trees, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994).

In assessing the potential risks posed by defective trees, recommendations for appropriate action are made in consideration of the guidance provided in '*Common Sense Risk Management of Trees*)' produced by the National Tree Safety Group (published by The Forestry Commission, 2011).

All dimensions were estimated. Cavities were probed with a steel rod to determine depth of ingress as well as resistance of wood which can provide insight to stages of decay and structural strength. Areas surrounding cavities were tapped with a plastic-headed hammer to check for indications of further decay. The differing sounds made during this type of assessment can often reveal areas of hollowing, dead bark and other defects.

Trees often provide valuable habitats for a range of wildlife species and the retention of deadwood or standing dead stems, where safe to do so, can be particularly beneficial. Therefore, although deadwood or structural defects may be present in a tree, they may only be recorded where it is considered that there is an unacceptable risk to people or property.

Cavity observations:

Old pruning wound on central stem at 6m above ground level. approx. 30cm depth with an opening of approx. 7cm at the widest part. The limb diameter at the position of the cavity is approx. 80cm. Acoustic test proved hollow sounding around the cavity and loose bark as expected.

Cavity dimensions - 7cm diameter with opening of 4cm at it's widest



Photo 1. Old pruning wound where branch has been removed



Photo 2. Decay cavity



Photo 3. The opposite side of the stem, relative to the branch wound and decay. Shown from the north and exhibits no signs of decay.

Structural ratio assessment:

Stem diameter = 80 cm → radius $R = 40$ cm

Cavity depth = 30 cm → remaining sound wood thickness $t = 40 - 30 = 10$ cm

$$t/R = \frac{t}{R} = \frac{10}{40} = 0.25$$

t/R ratio	Risk
> 0.3	Low
0.2 - 0.3	Moderate
< 0.2	High

$t/R = 0.25 \rightarrow$ moderate risk

Summary:

The limb has been structurally reduced but retains a reasonable safety margin. This is due to the cavity being relatively small in proportion to the limb and the stem being centrally located and upright within the crown. It is partially protected by two neighbouring stems, helping reduce wind loading.

It is recommended that the tree be subject to monitoring and load management, such as pruning to reduce weight and leverage on the central stem and around the cavity. These measures will minimise the risk of failure while maintaining the structural integrity of the limb.

Recommendations:

Reduce crown height by 3 meters and reduce south, east and west aspects by 1 meter. This will reduce weight and sail of the crown to lessen stress on the stem.

All works should be carried out in accordance with the principles set out in British Standard 3998:2010 'Tree work – Recommendations' and by a suitably qualified and insured tree contractor.

Should the site lie within a Conservation Area, or any trees are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), it will be necessary to consult the local planning authority before works are carried out.

Where specific recommendations are not made, it is normally advised that in exercise of your duty of care in terms of tree safety, trees should be re-inspected by a competent and experienced arboriculturist no less than every two years.

Signed:



Max Ferretti ND Arb, TechArborA

Date: 17th October 2025