

- 6.4 The taller trees in the grounds are exposed to the prevailing winds, with the low-level housing to the south-west not providing significant shelter, however; there was no evidence of recent large tree removal that could have increased exposure of the surveyed trees.

7.0 APPRAISAL

- 7.1 Individual tree details, comments, recommendations and re-inspection dates are listed in the appended survey sheets. Details of the trees that I consider require further explanation or comment are noted below.

- **Holm oak** (T1) – a broadly spreading mature tree with the crown more fully developed to the north; old pruning wounds were visible on the main stem at 3.5m and 4.5m, a climbed inspection showed that decay extended in a column between the wounds.
- **Horse chestnut** (T3) – longitudinal strips of exposed sapwood extended from ground level to 6m and 10m; well-developed rolls of new wood and bark are developing at the wound margins; in places dry black exudates were visible on the bark.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The tree survey did not identify any significant structural weakness or hazard representing a risk that requires urgent remedial action.
- 8.2 The work recommended in the previous report (**Beechdown ref: B/0071/13**) has been completed; two trees, a Norway maple (T12) and a strawberry tree (T23), have also been felled.
- 8.3 Conclusions for the trees highlighted in the appraisal are detailed below.
- **Holm oak** (T1) – pruning to decrease the end loading of the branches and reduce the likelihood of stem or branch failure was undertaken in 2009, the combination of subsequent development of vigorous regrowth at the branch tips with continued decay at the pruning wounds could increase the risk of structural failure of the stem extending to the north; a further crown reduction by removing 2m-3m from branch tips over the car-park should be undertaken.
 - **Horse chestnut** (T3) – the longitudinal strips of exposed sapwood and dry black exudates are symptomatic of *horse chestnut*