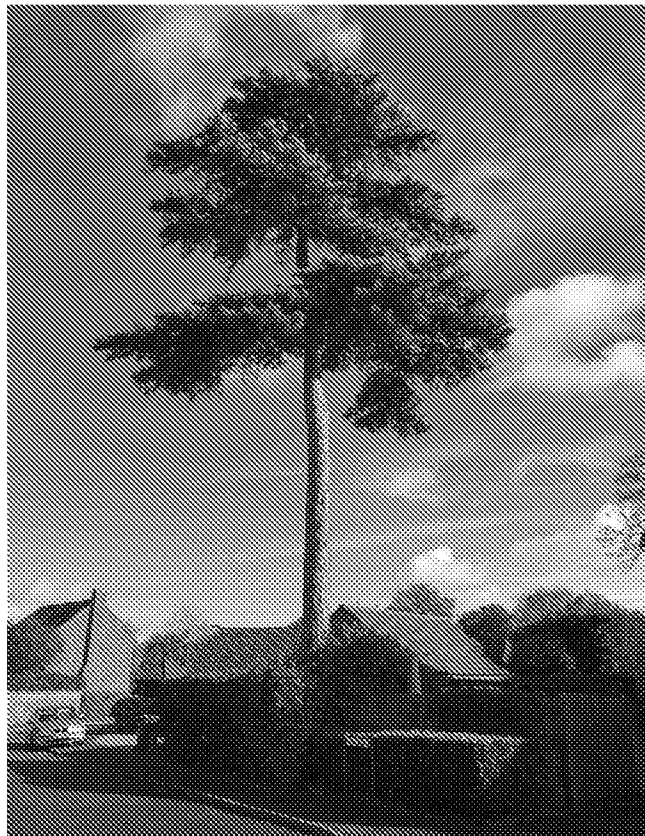


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A Tree Condition Report carried out at:

23 Margaret Close, Aldwick,
Bognor Regis,
PO21 3AA

Prepared for Susan Battison,
Home/land owner



Report prepared by Mr Sam Hoar,

ABC Level 4 Certificate in Arboriculture

Lantra PTI, Certificate No: 921795

Arboricultural Association Membership Number
AS8090 (Technician Membership)

Date 09/11/2021

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 An instruction was received by Susan Battison, Homeowner of 23 Margaret Close, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, PO21 3AA, in October 2021, to survey 1x Pinus nigra 'Laricio' tree across the entire site for the purpose of a tree condition report with recommendations of remedial works to be carried out.

1.2 No previous survey information was provided. Photographic evidence of an historical failure of a major co-dominant stem, reported to have failed from the southern side of a union where the tree stem formed a codominant stem in 1987

1.3 The Inspector, Sam Hoar holds the ABC Level 4 Certificate in arboriculture and the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection Certificate and has been conducting tree condition surveys since 04/10/19. Mr Hoar is currently employed as an Arboricultural Survey Technician at Surrey County Council Highways department conducting risk based inspections and remedial works recommendations on a day to day basis.

1.4 The tree was inspected by Sam Hoar on 30/10/2021 and the monitoring of their tree stock shows a commitment from the land owner to maintain their duty of care in line with the Occupiers Liabilities Act 1984.

Report Limitations

1.5 The report highlights defects identified during the survey, recommended works to mitigate risk and appropriate timescales within which recommended works should be carried out. The main body of the report is contained in the inspection data spreadsheet (23 Margaret Close_Report_Inspection Data). A selection of maps and Images relevant to identified tree/s is recorded in, 23 Margaret Close Maps, Pages (1-2) and Images (1-12)

1.6 Trees are dynamic, living organisms, and are as such susceptible to climatic conditions and changes to the environment surrounding them. Every property Owner/Manager has a duty of care to maintain their trees in a safe condition in order to protect their liabilities.

1.7 Sam Hoar has confirmation from the Local Authority that the tree is protected by means of a Tree Preservation Order under the jurisdiction of Arun District Council (no tree preservation order number was given).

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2.0 The Inspection

2.1 The inspection took place on Saturday 30/10/2021 weather conditions were sunny with moderate wind on the day of the survey

2.2 A total of 2 inspections were recorded. Consisting of 1 single trees and 0 group/s of trees. 1x inspection from the ground level and another 1x aerial inspection of suspect aerial decay using sounding mallet and probe

2.3 Trees were inspected utilising the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method devised by Claus Mattheck, an internationally recognised system for identifying tree defects (Mattheck, Breloar 1994).

2.4 Trees were inspected from ground level and a detailed climbing inspection of a suspect decay pocket.

2.5 Survey data is valid for one year from the date of inspection, after which time the trees should be reassessed. The trees should also be visually assessed if subjected to storm-force winds in between subsequent surveys. Any tree/s recorded on the survey should be re-inspected every 3 years as a minimum.

2.6 All recommended works should be carried out following BS 3998: 2010 Recommendations for Tree Work.

2.7 The following data was recorded for the tree:

Ref: Individual tree identification number: T1

Species: Botanical and common names: Pinus nigra `Laricio` / Corsican Pine

Structure: Singletree

Num. Stems: Measured in single units

Height Class: Measured in 1 metre (m) increments.

Stem Diameter: Measured at breast height (DBH) in millimetre (mm) increments.

Life Stage: Mature

General

Observations: Good overall physiological condition with decay pocket found at 12m from an historic pruning wound following a large failure.

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Identified Defects: A record of identified defects that may pose a risk. Positions on trees are recorded using abbreviated compass points (e.g. NW-North West). Distances and heights are given in metres.

Recommended Works:	Works that are required to mitigate risks posed by identified defects.
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Timescale:	The timescale within which recommended works should be carried out to ensure mitigation of risks.
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Notes:	Detailed descriptions of trees, defects, site conditions etc.
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Physiological Cond:	Good
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Structural Cond:	Physical Defect
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3.0 The Aerial Inspection

3.1 This was carried out by Connor Dempsey, a competent and qualified tree surgeon of 6 years under the instruction of Sam Hoar to assess the extent of decay seen at the site of an historical pruning wound from a previous failed co-dominant stem. Connor holds the NPTC certificates 30.1, 30.2, 31, 38, 39, 40

3.2 The aerial inspection took place on 06/11/21 and the weather was calm and dry but cloudy.

3.3 The pruning wound was probed to over 30cm to the full length of the probe but could have easily probed further (please see 23 Margaret Close, Images (9,10, 11, 12).

3.4 No evidence of bats or nesting birds at time of the inspection

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4.0 Glossary of Terms

Aerial inspection:	An above ground level inspection of the tree. The crown is accessed utilising suitable climbing equipment or a mobile elevated work platform (MEWP).
Branch Union:	Region formed where branches are attached to the main stem or other branches.
Co-dominant stems:	Two or more stems that emerge from the same point on a trunk, that is roughly the same size and grows equally as the tree matures, without one becoming dominant. They may form compression forks as they mature.
Crown:	The main foliage bearing part of the tree.
Decay:	The breakdown of lignin or cellulose (or both) within the wood, resulting in weaknesses or cavities. Predominantly caused by pathogenic fungi.
Deadwood:	Dead branches within the crown that pose an overhead falling risk.
Fell:	The controlled cutting of a tree to bring it safely down to ground level.
Occluding wound:	A wound on a tree that is healing normally and callusing over as expected.
Stem/trunk:	The major above ground woody structure of the tree that supports the crown.

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5.0 Site Plan and Tree Location

An aerial view of the site and tree locations. Please refer to 23 Margaret Close Maps, What3words location : filer.trip.burns

The tree is situated as such that a large portion of the crown overhangs two separately owned garages and the highway and is within falling/failing distance of the low usage highway, two residential homes and the separately owned garages.

Conclusion

It is my conclusion that this tree be felled for the purpose of safety due to the findings upon the aerial inspection which when probed found a decay pocket of over 30cm depth vertically down into the main stem and over 30cm when probed horizontally into this decay pocket. Due to the stem being measured at 520mm stem diameter at 12m this gives the tree stem a T/R ratio of less than 30% therefore compromising this trees structural integrity.

Justification

The tree is in an exposed location with no shelter from any surrounding trees or buildings and will continue to take the full force of any high winds that may occur. The whole crown of the tree is above this point of decay giving extra force on the fulcrum of where the decay is situated. There is evidence of biomechanical features, such as adaptive growth and swelling on the opposite side of the decay which indicates internal decay. To reduce/prune the tree would take away its ability to dampen the force from high winds and therefore in my opinion would be more likely to cause failure but also because of the species they do not respond well to pruning and are rarely aesthetically pleasing when pruned and again due to the location I feel it would be somewhat of an eyesore because of the amount that would need to be pruned in order to retain the tree.

References

Mattheck, Breloar (1994). The Body Language of Trees: A Handbook for Failure Analysis. London, HMSO.