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7th May 2026

Tree Survey:

Arboricultural Assessment To assess the physiological and structural condition of one mature Oak tree following reports of significant decline and fungal activity.

Species: Oak (*Quercus robur*) (T1).

Age Class: Mature

Physiological Condition: Poor (Severe Decline)

Structural Condition: Poor (Potential for failure at the base/stem).

Observations & Findings Crown Condition: The specimen failed to produce significant live growth during the current season. This follows a reported 5–10-year period of progressive chronic decline.

Stem Bleeding: High volumes of sap exudation ("bleeding") were observed on the main trunk during the previous summer. This is a primary symptom of Acute Oak Decline (AOD) or *Phytophthora* bleeding canker.

Fungal Activity: A fungal bracket (fruiting body) was present at the base/trunk. Based on the "bleeding" and decline, this is likely *Inonotus dryadeus* (Oak Bracket) or *Ganoderma* species, both of which cause internal white rot and compromise the tree's structural integrity.

Analysis: The tree is suffering from a complex of biotic and abiotic stressors. The combination of historical chronic oak decline and recent acute symptoms (bleeding) suggests the tree's vascular system is failing. The presence of a fungal bracket indicates that decay has progressed internally, significantly increasing the risk of "basal failure" (the tree falling from the root plate).

Yours sincerely

Chris Matthews

All works are carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 recommendations for tree work. We maintain public liability insurance up to £5 million. Please note that Conservation Area Planning rules or Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) may be applicable to some trees, requiring local authority consent. We always verify the absence of restrictions prior to commencing any work. If planning permission is necessary, please allow up to eight weeks for a decision.