

Tree report for 23 Arundel road, Angmering

Species: - Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*)

Height: - Approx 18m

Age class: - Mature

This tree is located at the front of the above property and is very close to the pavement and public highway (B2225) (Picture 1)

The tree forks at about .5m from ground level into 2 stems, and the southern stem then splits again at 2.5m into multiple stems. This seems to be an old pollarding point.

The south stem did shed a large branch causing damage to the householder's car in the summer of 2014. The loss of this branch is unlikely to be caused by the phenomenon called 'summer branch drop'. This is associated more with Horse Chestnut and Willow trees, and it is very rare to occur in Holm Oak. On further inspection of the place where the branch broke off from it can easily be seen that the cause of the problem was the weak fork union on the main stem commonly called a compression fork. (Picture 2)

All of the forks on the south stem are compression forks and according to Claus Matthecks book 'The Body Language of Trees' are suicidally programmed to fail. This is because as the tree grows and annual rings are formed the ones inside the acute fork act like a wedge driving to two stems apart. The chance of failure increases the larger the branch and the more exposed the location.

There is evidence of some water seepage on one of the large forks very low down indicating that this fork has not fused together and is a potential failure point. This is a large branch and does lean over both pavement and highway. (Picture 3)

After removing the Ivy a cavity was found in the south stem at about 1m going from East to West. (Picture 4, 5, 6)

There was also a cavity at the join of the two forks which I was able to insert a metal rod about 20cm, this and the formation of the bark would seem to indicate that the tree actually forks from actual ground level.

Due to the nature of the south stem fork formation I would recommend that all the branches on this stem are removed back to the old pollard points at 2.5m. The structural nature of this stem make the chance of future failure highly likely, and due to its position the chance of damage to property, vehicles or pedestrians is very high.

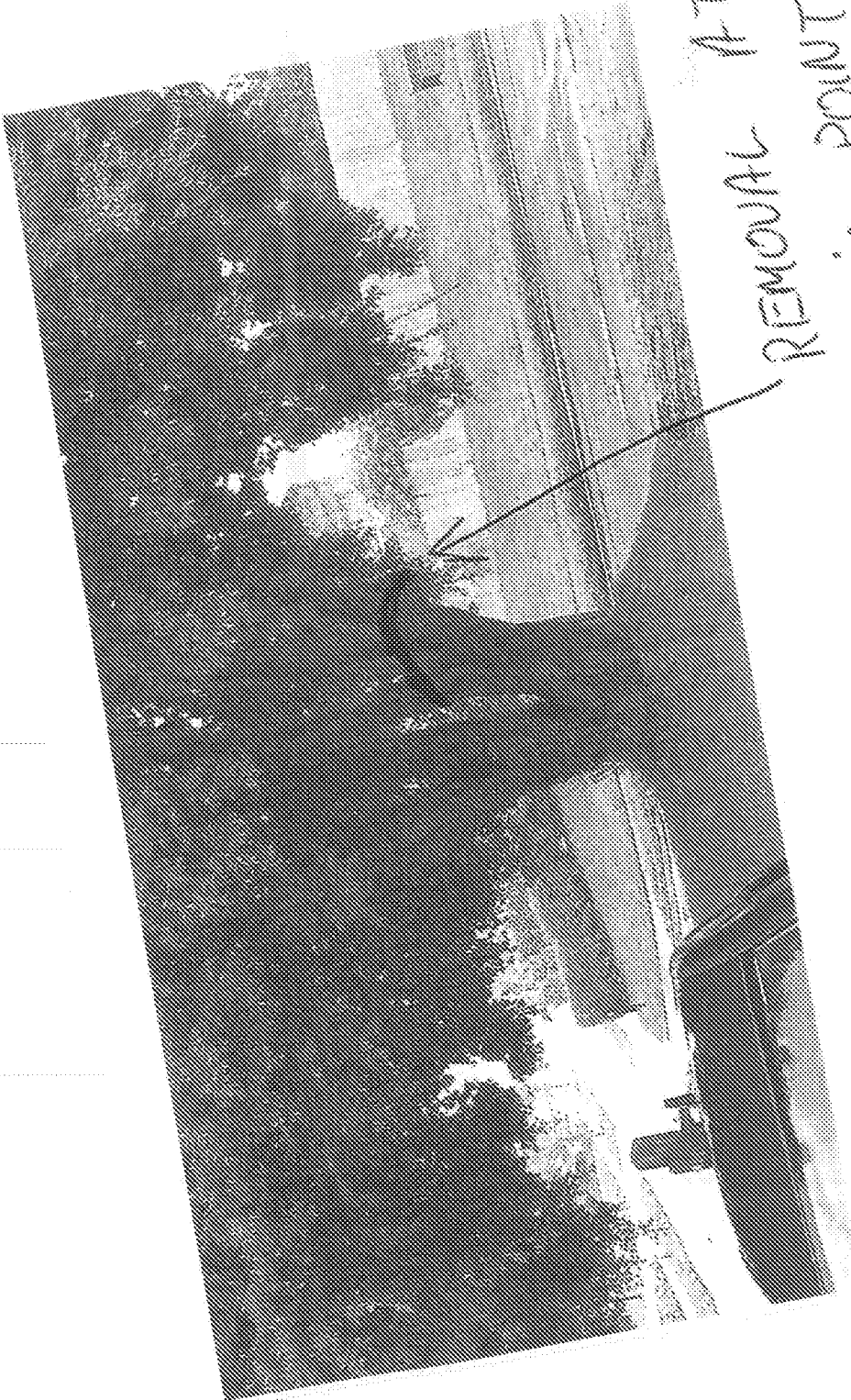
Holm Oak is a species that responds well to pruning and there should be some regrowth from the stems cut back to the previous pollarding points.

The North stem is of far better form and if work is carried out on the South stem it would be advisable to crown reduce this at the same time and also carry out some reshaping work

to compensate for the removal of the south stem. The degree of crown reduction would have to be agreed with the local planning authority which is Arun.

I would recommend that the tree is then reduced further in 5 years dependant on the recovery rate.

M.Aldridge

REMOVAL AT
THIS POINT.