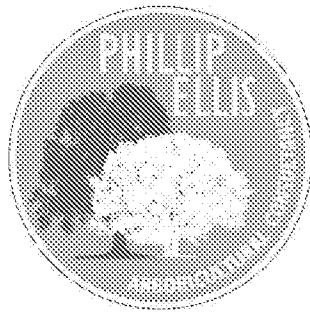




ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

PREPARED BY: Phillip J. Ellis Tech Arbor A. MCI Hort

Reference: 140/OS/18

On behalf of:
Mr & Mrs Olby

Site:

Oakside, 1 Old Rectory Drive, Eastergate, West Sussex, PO20 3XH.

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"E lstead", 61 Alinora Avenue, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 1LR.

E mail: [REDACTED] Web page: [REDACTED]



Summary

- 1.1 The report is concerned with the Arboricultural aspects of one tree, an over mature English Oak located in the rear garden. I am instructed by Mr & Mrs Olby to inspect and report on condition of tree as there are concerns over its safety.
- 1.2 The site inspection was carried out on Friday 24th August 2018 by P. J. Ellis. Weather conditions at the time were overcast and dry.
- 1.3 Any observations made regarding the condition of built structures are from a layperson's view. Comments and advice in this report are only from an Arboricultural perspective not as a building surveyor or a structural engineer who would have knowledge of the structure and whether it is strong enough to withstand damage from trees in terms of heave or subsidence.
- 2.1 The site is located Old Rectory Drive, Eastergate, accessed off Church Lane close to the A29 Bognor to London road. A residential area of detached houses on level ground, built in the 1970's.



Fig 1 Google view of Subject tree

- 2.2 Soil type and bedrock has been identified from the National Geographical Survey as superficial being of clay, silt and sand, the bedrock is London clay silt and sand.
- 3.0 Subject Tree
- 3.1 The tree is a large English Oak located in the rear garden approximately 10 metres from the house and 14 metres from neighbouring property 'Hornbeam'. The tree and those nearby are protected by a Tree Preservation Order, reference TPO/EG/1/79 confirmed by Arun District Council. Before any work can be carried out to the tree an application has to be made to Arun District Council Planning Department. Should the tree become dangerous, dead or dying, 5 days written notice must be given before any remedial work is carried out or a phone call in an emergency.



Subject Tree behind house

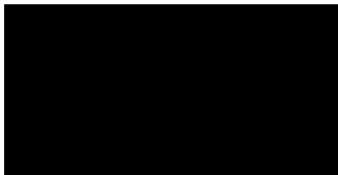
- 3.2 The subject tree in my opinion is becoming potentially dangerous and needs to be managed to reduce risk of failing in total or part. Removing tree by felling is an option but it can be given more year's life by selective work to reduce risk.
- ✓ There are several old pruning wounds on the stem that have fully occluded and wounds may go back before house was built.
 - ✓ Four fungal brackets around base of tree stem, plus one dead indicating heartwood decay. Buttress roots appear sound using a Thor hammer. I am informed by the tree surgeon Stuart Power who has cared for the tree since the mid-1970s told me that at least one bracket has always been there and now more appearing. These brackets appear at present to be not growing rapidly indicating slow decay.
 - ✓ At 4 metres, up the stem on south side there is a cavity resulting from a torn branch. The cavity is becoming larger and the photographs in fig 2 to 7 shows decay by staining and dead bark. As it develops it will weaken tree and weight of crown may result in a heavy branch falling. Pushing a metal probe into the cavity reveals decay own and up the stem by 450mm in each direction. The side wall appears sound at present. Although the opening is sound decay is showing to each side see photograph at fig 2, eventually the opening will become larger, weakening the stem further.
 - ✓ The crown I understand was badly damaged in the October 1987 storm and was repaired by judicious pruning. This may have resulted in some large wounds that have not occluded resulting in decay see photographs in fig 10 & 11 that will further weaken crown structure. The crown currently has a good form and appears healthy.
 - ✓ To further confirm my findings in this report it may be worth having the tree tested using a Picus Sonic Tomograph to detect extent of decay in the stem and suggest carrying out at two points, buttress and at the top of the cavity that will show intensity of decay as a picture and is none invasive. We are fortunate in Sussex in having one of the most experienced Picus operators using the latest up to date device. Contact John Harraway 01903 756153 or 07831 651090. If you decide to remove tree over the next 12 months I am confident that you will need this evidence to justify removal to Arun District Council.



Crown reduction showing likely reduction to old pruning points within red line

Conclusions

The tree is now in a condition that requires careful consideration and a decision whether to fell now or manage by pruning by retrenchment. If the tree is to be retained I recommend reducing the crown to previous pruning points to reduce weight. In any event an application will have to be made to Arun District Council. My personal view would be to retain tree and manage until further obvious decline and consider a Picus test but important to make the tree safe.



Signed:

Phillip Ellis MCI Hort, Tech Arbor A
Date: 29th August 2018

Photographs



Fig 1 subject tree in rear garden



Fig 2 Tree trunk showing cavity entrance.
Green oval shows estimated extent of cavity



Fig 3 Entrance to cavity, note adjoining dead bark & decay



Fig 4 deteriorating bark and wood at side of cavity



Fig 5 Loose decayed wood removed from inside cavity



Fig 7 Inside cavity



Fig 8 Fig 8 Fungal bracket at base of stem



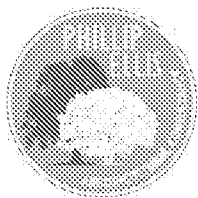
Fig 9 Woodpecker damage on occluded wound



Fig 10 Decay cavity in crown on north east side of crown



Fig 11 decay in old pruning wound on east side



Tree schedule: `Oaksid_ , 1 Old Rectory Drive, Eastergate, West Sussex, PO20 3XH.

Species Name	Ht m	Stem diameter DBH mm	Crown Spread radius	Distance from properties	Age	Life Exp yrs.	PC	Condition Comments	Recommended work
English Oak (Quercus robur)	20	1530	N 7.2 E 8.5 S 5.1 W 7.1	10m Oaksid_ 14m Hornbeam	Over mature	<10	Declining see report	Declining with large cavity in stem increasing in size. Fungal brackets at buttress. Woodpecker damage over occluded wound on west side of stem. Two large pruning wounds on east side of crown have obvious decay forming cavity.	Reduce crown to previous pruning points to reduce weight and remove decayed branches within three months and consider having a Picus inspection to assess decay at base of stem and at cavity.

Key: Ht m: height in metres DBH; stem diameter measured in mm at breast height, Crown Spd m: diameter of crown spread in metres, PC: Physical condition, Life Exp yrs., Remaining estimated life > more than, < less than, Priority: Period when recommended work is to be completed.