

Andrew Gale Tree Surgery

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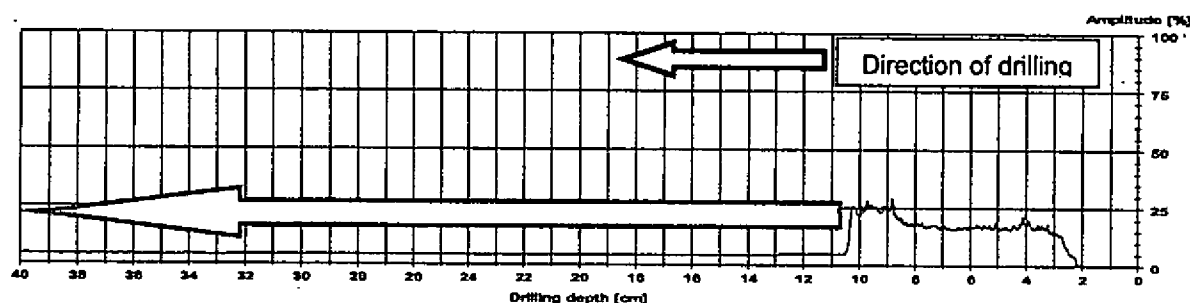


Tree Condition Report for 5 Admiralty Road Felpham

March 2017

A nylon headed hammer was used to sound the stems as an initial indication of the presence of decay and a thin steel rod used, where required, to assess the depth of decay in cavities and concavities between buttress roots.

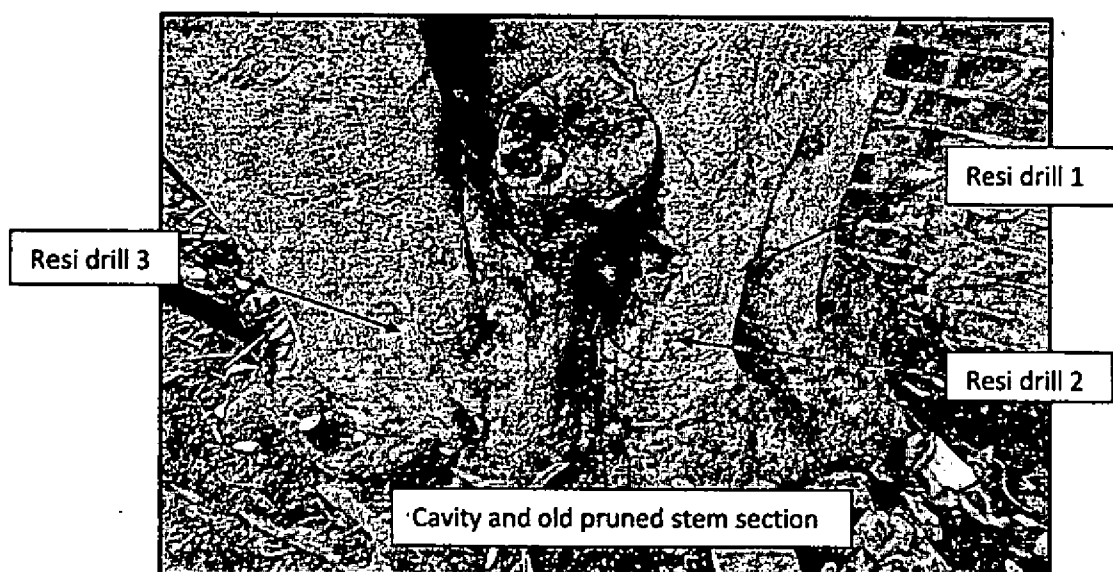
For further clarification an IML Resi F400 decay detecting drill, which measures the drilling resistance of a very fine drill bit (to a maximum depth of 40cm), was used. Significant drops in drilling resistance are indicative of decay or hollowing. On the example shown overleaf decay is indicated at a depth of 10cm and highlighted by the red arrow:



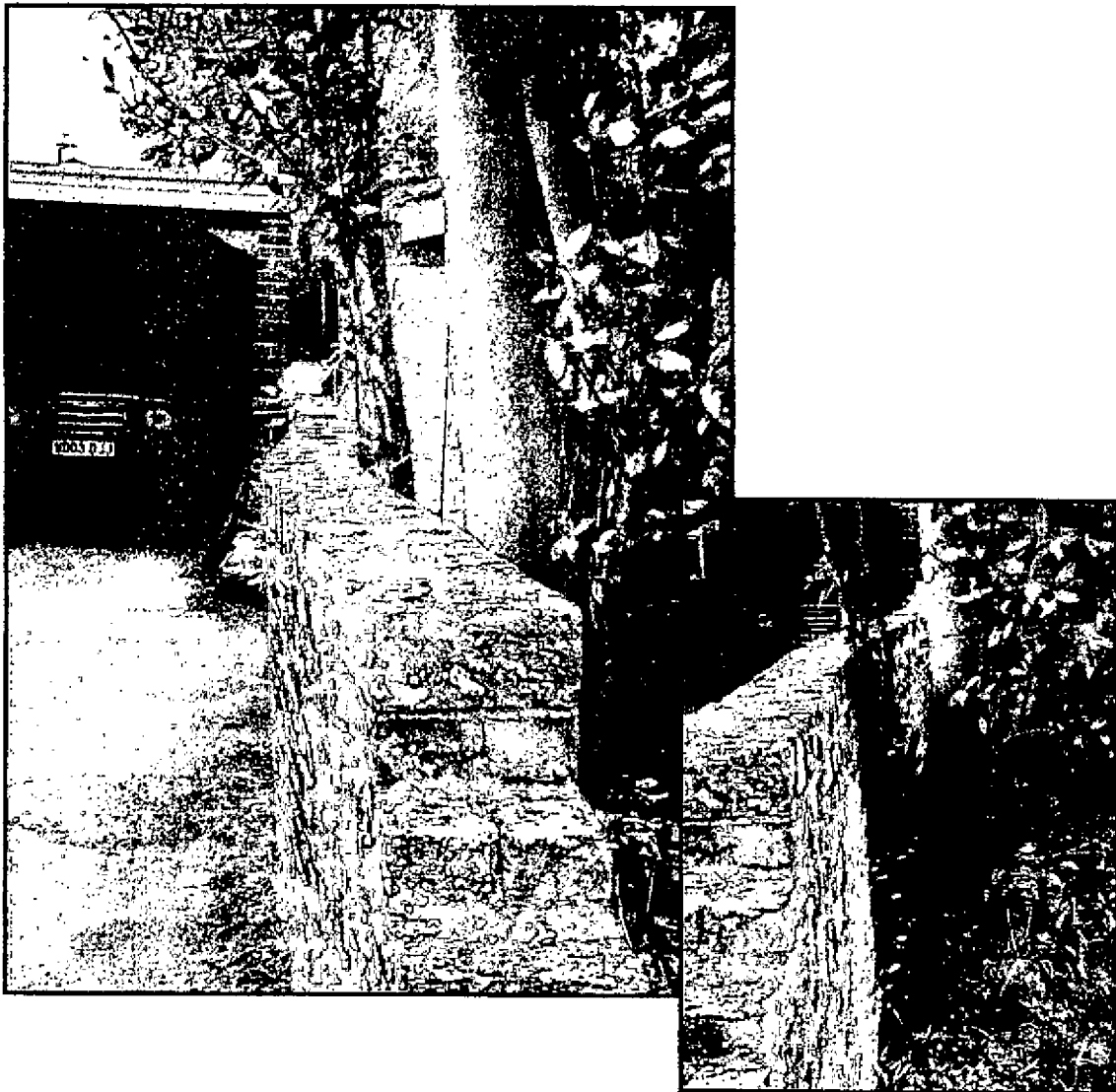
Results of inspection:

The cavity on the east stem section appears to be the result of an old stem section decaying back to its source. The cavity opening is small with an aperture size of approximately 4cm x 7cm with a depth of 20cm that is angling down towards the centre of the tree. The inner walls of the cavity are soft suggesting decay is present however there was no audible change in tone when tested with the nylon headed hammer.

The Resi was used in three locations to determine the extent of the cavity (see Photo 1 below). The stem diameter at the point of assessment was approximately 60cm; the Resi drill traces follow overleaf:



The boundary wall that bisects the 5 Admiralty Road with 3 Admiralty Road is being pushed over by the western buttress root and sucker growth tree as the Photo 2 below shows.



Observations:

The extent of cavitation and dysfunctional wood appears to be currently restricted to the north east area of the tree; however, the Resi drill traces indicate that the decay is incipient in nature and as such this may not always be the case with the potential for the decay to spread radially.

It is evident that the crown has a bias north east towards the property which is 5m away and as such any failure at the point of cavity would cause stems sections to fail onto the property. To alleviate the risk and to lessen the loading on the decaying stem base, a significant reduction of approximately 3.5m – 4m would be advised. This would leave a finished height that would fall short of the property should the stem sections fail in that direction.

