

ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

TREE SURVEY REPORT/ INSPECTION

AUTHOR :ANDREW MCCLOY

JUNE 2019



SITE : LYMINSTER COURT, LYMINSTER, WEST SUSSEX, BN17 7QF

CLIENT : MRS DORA REGAN

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Andrew McCloy: phone: [REDACTED]*

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Instruction

- 1.1.1** I have been instructed by Mrs. Dora Regan to carry out a detailed tree inspection of four (4) mature Holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) at Lyminster Court, Lyminster, West Sussex, BN17 7QF
- 1.1.2** The reason for the inspection is due to the concerns from Mrs. Regan that the trees had not been inspected for a number of years and that she now thought it prudent and under her Duty of Care to have the trees inspected.
- 1.1.3** The inspection has been commissioned to ascertain the condition and health of the trees.

1.2 Background Information

- 1.2.1** The four mature Holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) are historic lapsed pollards by 8-9 meters approximately. These works would have been carried out 20-25 years ago
- 1.2.2** The trees are growing within a raised area of soil running south length of driveway, public highway and footpath to the north, boundary stone wall separating neighbours property and clients cottage.
- 1.2.3** There are significant defects which will be highlighted in more detail on each individual trees Visual Tree Assessment further in report.
- 1.2.4** The author holds a National Diploma in Arboriculture and the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector (PTI) qualification. He has worked in the Arboricultural industry for 23 years as a Local Government Tree Officer.
- 1.2.5** A site visit was undertaken by the author unaccompanied on 24th May 2019. The weather conditions were dry and

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overcast. These conditions posed no constraints to the site observations or tree inspection.

2.0 Report Limitations

- 2.1.1** This report relates specifically to the condition of the trees upon the day that the inspection was carried out.
- 2.1.2** Inspection was carried out from ground level, with use of binoculars where necessary, no climbing inspection was conducted.
- 2.1.3** No analysis of soil samples was undertaken. Root areas where investigated insofar as a surface visual inspection.
- 2.1.4** The report is valid only for typical weather conditions. Healthy trees, or parts of healthy trees, may fail in unusually high or unpredictable winds or violent storms and as such the consequences of such weather phenomena are unforeseeable. It follows that Andrew McCloy Arboricultural Consultancy Services cannot be held liable for any such failures.
- 2.1.5** There is no such thing as a safe tree. The law recognises this and focuses upon the concept of 'reasonably foreseeable' incidents. In commissioning this report you fulfil part of your duty of care under common law and the Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 & 1984. Other legislation may also apply.
- 2.1.6** These trees fall under the protection of the Local Council's Tree Preservation Order for this property. As such, permission will be required to carry out any works. It should be noted that the Local Council may not share the views presented in this report.
- 2.1.7** All rights in this report are reserved. No part of it may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means; electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or

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otherwise, or stored in any retrieval system of any nature, without the written permission of the author. Its content and format are for the exclusive use of the addressee in relating to the site. It may not be sold, lent, hired out or divulged to any third party not directly involved with the trees in question without written consent from author.

3.0 Methodology

3.1.1 Visual Tree Assessment

3.1.2 The visual inspection of the trees was carried out as per the recognised systematic approach, known as VTA (Visual Tree Assessment) as conceived by Mattheck & Breloer and subsequently popularised by Dr David Lonsdale et al. This may include the use of simple tools, such as a soft mallet/sounding hammer and metal probe, to detect areas of potential decay or wood dysfunction.

3.1.3 VTA will be used for all four trees, that is from ground level upwards.

3.1.4 The trees are numbered from T1-T4 on the enclosed drawing, this map is not to scale but merely an approximate guide for location of the trees in question.

3.1.5 Each tree will be described in detail and will include pictures of any structural defects and ill-health found on day of inspection.

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4.0 Historic Lapsed Pollards

- 4.1.1 All four trees in question are historic lapsed pollards at between 7-8 meters, which would have been cut approximately 20-25 years ago judging by the regrowth that they have now established. The Holm oak, Quercus ilex, is an evergreen broadleaf tree, although it grows fairly slowly it can reach heights of 20m and will live around 400 years.**
- 4.1.2 A Lapsed pollard is a pollarded tree that is not re-pollarded so that its growth gets bigger indefinitely, developing high loadings on its typically indeterminate or defective union with the pre-existing framework. Lapsed pollards can be prone to biomechanical failure.**
- 4.1.3 Although the attachment points throughout the crown of all four trees appear to be sound at these unions, there are some visible structural weaknesses at some of the unions.**
- 4.1.4 All four trees are showing good signs of vitality with a full crown of foliage.**

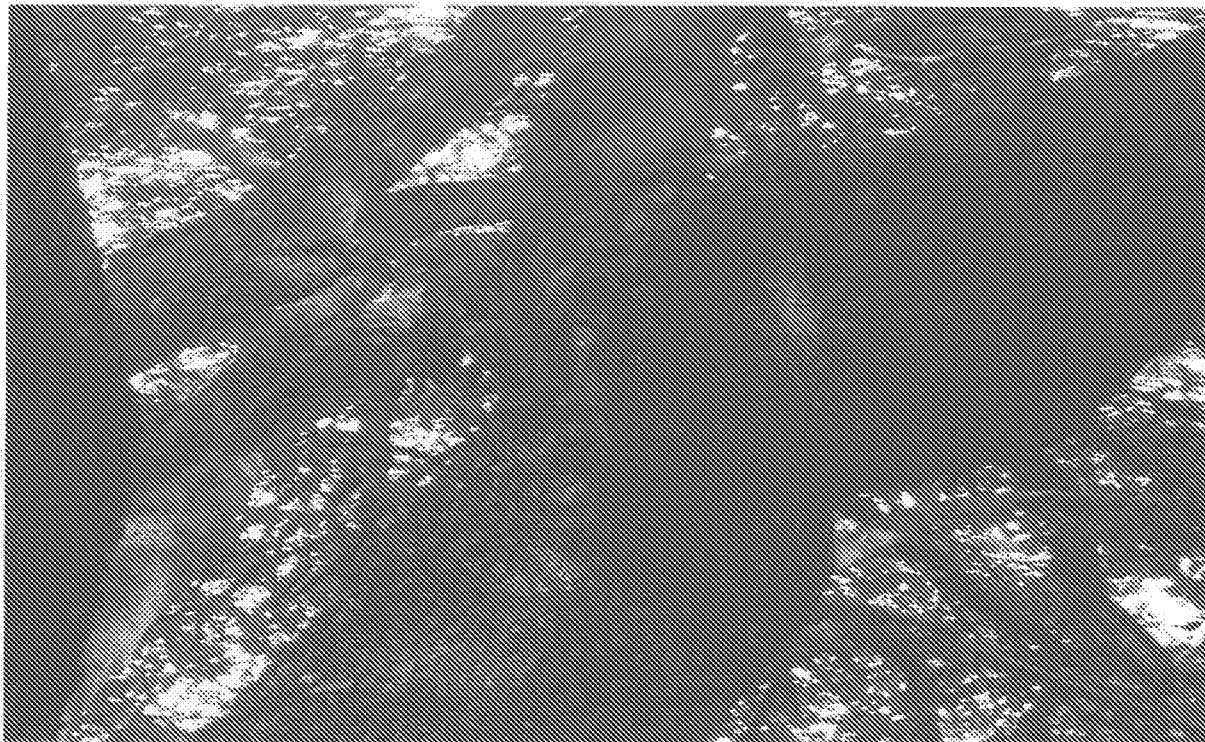
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T1



Structural weakness at attachment point, high risk failure of detachment.

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T2 – Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*). Has an approximate diameter at breast height (DBH) of 62cm, it stands 15m tall and has a mean crown spread of approximately 13m. Tree bifurcates at 3m. Cavity at base North side of stem, sounding indicating hollowing of stem above, metal probe inserted at this point to a depth of 0.5m clearly indicating stem is hollow at certain points. Cavity on East side of stem at 1.8m, sounding around this area indicating hollowing below cavity. Historic Lapsed pollard by 8m.



Cavity at base North side of stem, metal probe inserted above decaying wood, inserted 0.5m, stem is hollow.

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T2



Major cavity swelling East side of stem, probe inserted inwards and upwards at 0.3m, sounding clearly indicating hollowing of stem.

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T3 – Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*). Has an approximate diameter at breast height (DBH) of 70cm, it stands 17m tall and has a mean crown spread of approximately 20m. Co-dominant fork. Major cavity at base up to 1m x 0.5m, sounding indicating hollowing of stem, decay migrating into buttress roots East side of stem. Included bark at forked union at 1m. Major stem fracture/ defect on central leader, central column of decay spreading downwards into forked union, high risk failure point at 5m, sunken areas on stem. Cavities at unions of re-growth points making attachment points weak. Historic lapsed pollard by 8m.



Major cavity at base up to 1m, sounding indicating hollowing of stem, decay migrating into buttress roots.

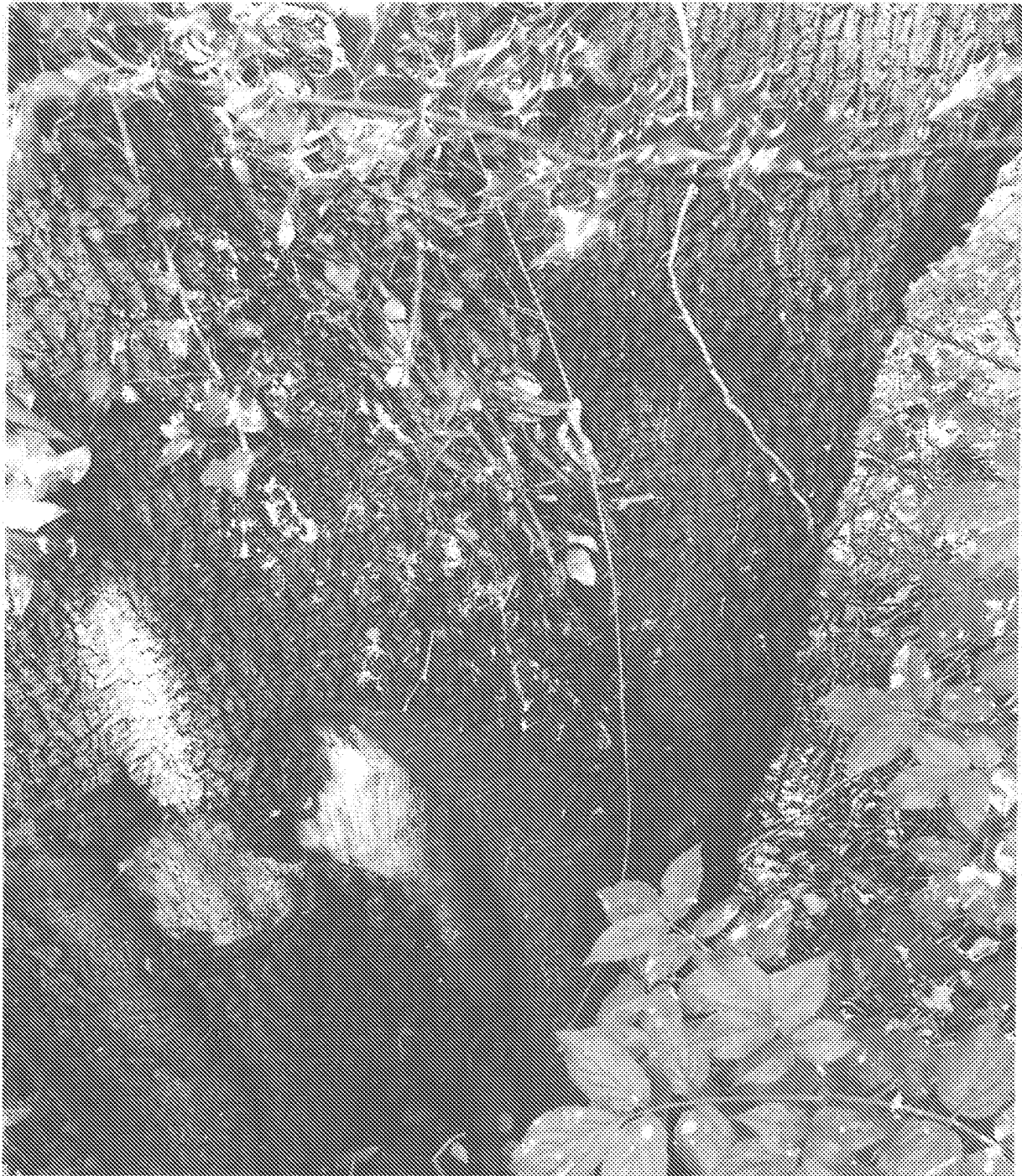
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T3



Cavity 1m tall, poor non shape optimised compression union to right, more prone to failure.

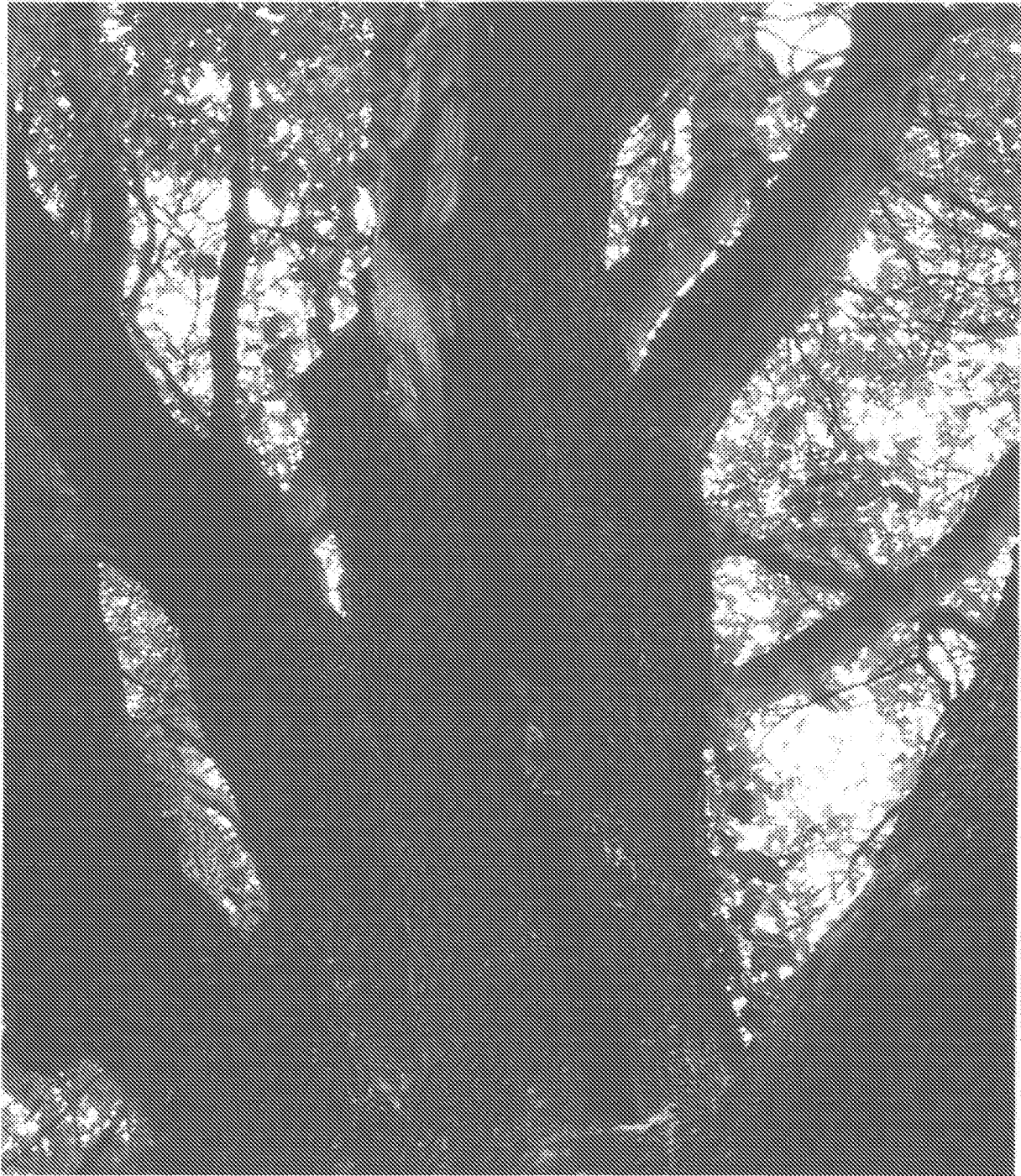
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T3



Severe stem fracture, central column of decay migrating into forked union, tree will fail at this point.

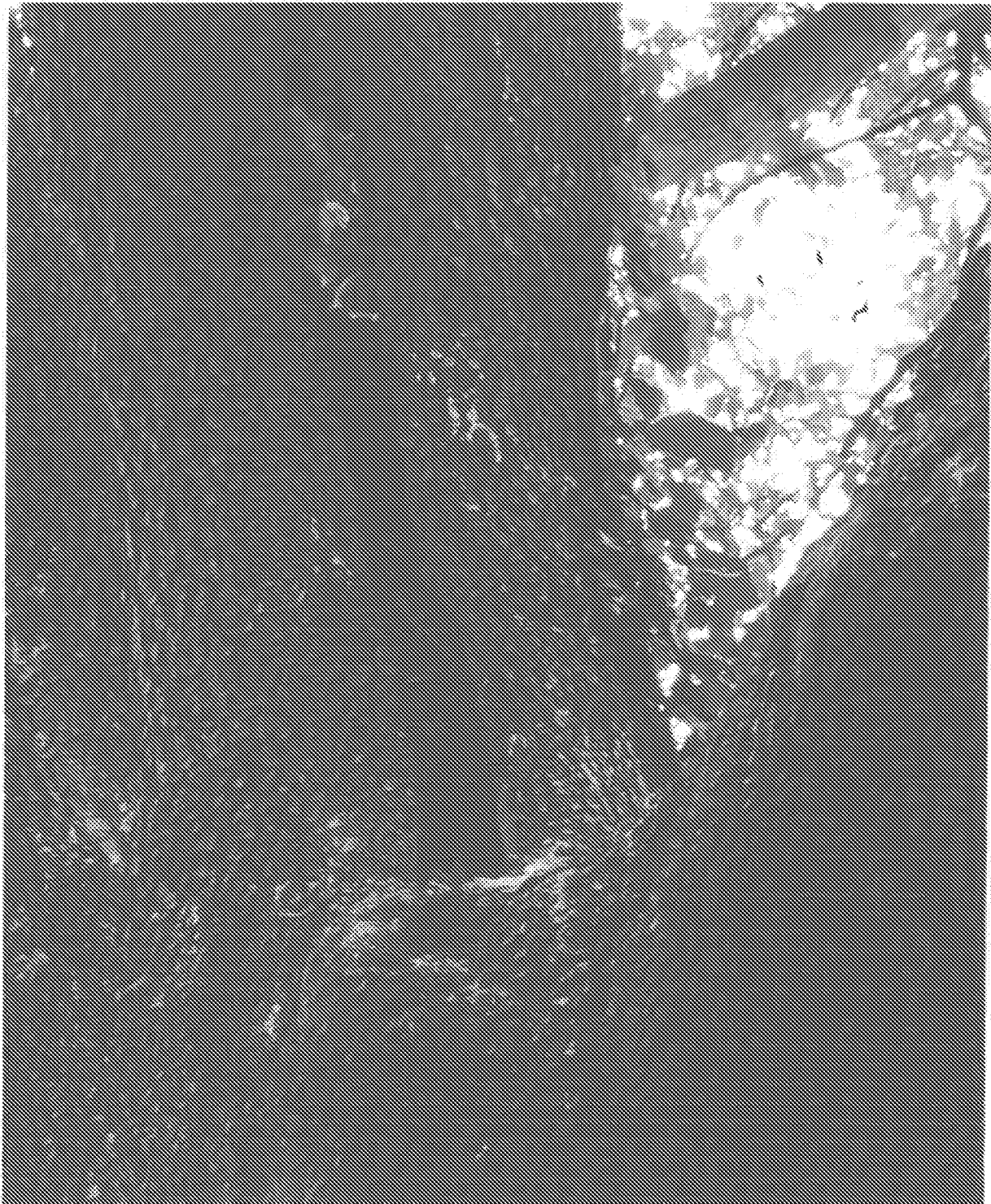
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T3



Clear visible hollow stem at forked union. High risk failure point.

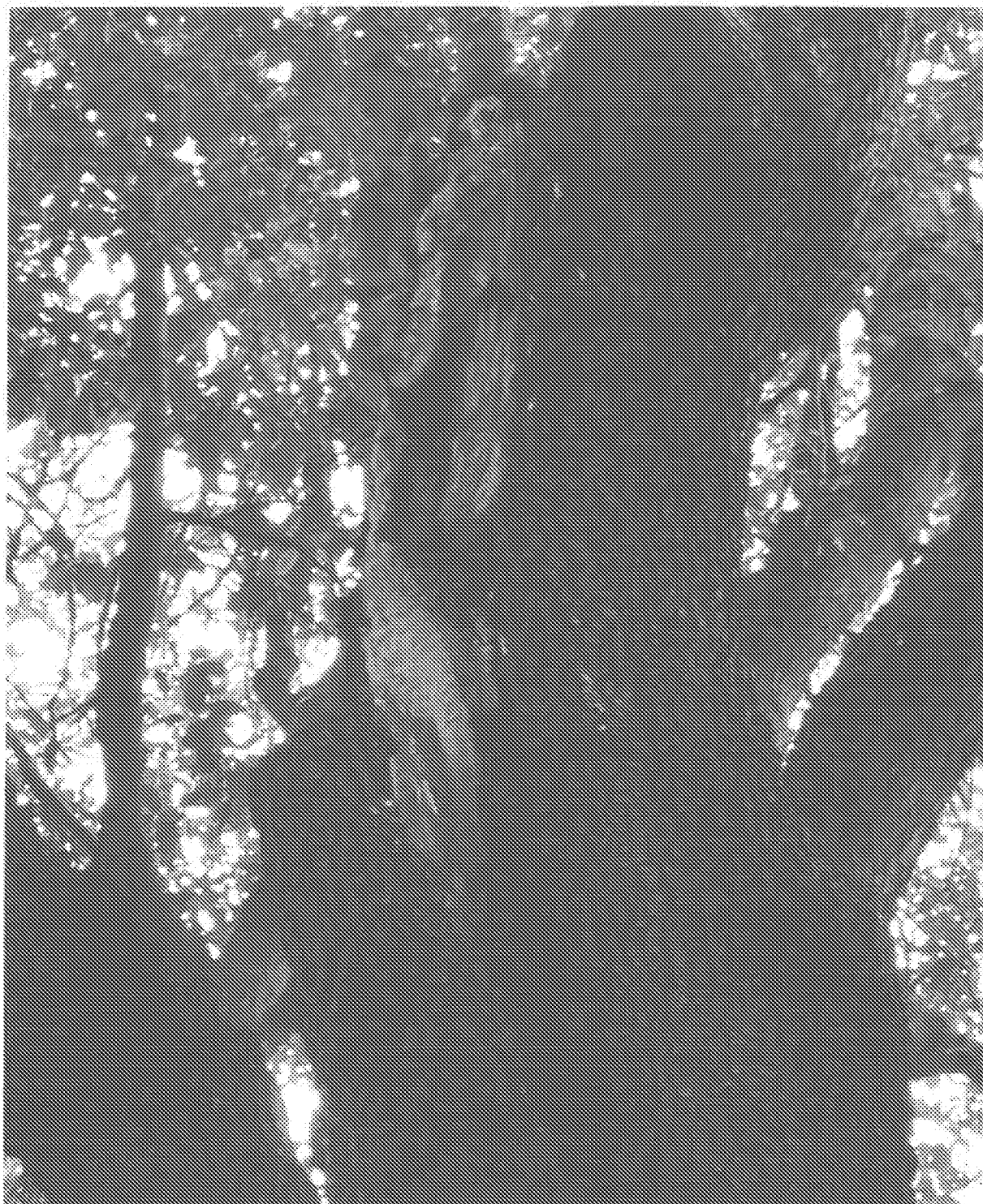
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T3



Central leader stem fracture, decay spreading upwards.

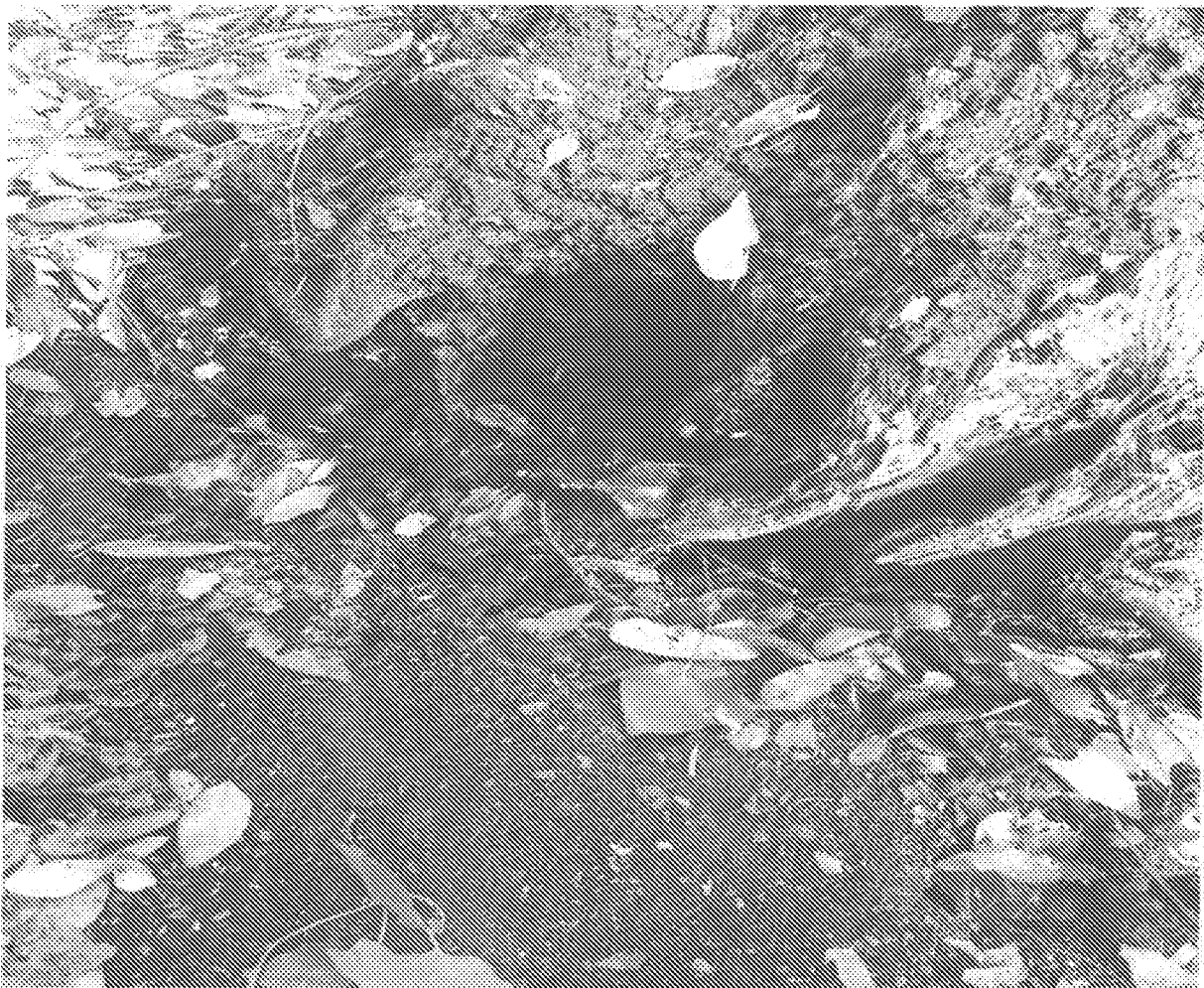
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T4 – Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*). Has an approximate diameter at breast height (DBH) of 77cm, it stands 15m tall and has a mean crown spread of approximately 14m. Major basal decay migrating in to root system, buttress roots have completely been decayed on North west side of stem. Visible signs of *Kretzschmaria deusta* in and around base of decaying roots and stem, white rot visible into stem, sounding indicating hollowing at points north side base of stem. Wound/ limb loss at east side of stem at 1.5m, swelling/ bulge indicating internal decay. Cavity at 3m south side of stem. Tree is within falling distance of cottage 8m.



Major buttress root decay, decay spreading inwards and migrating around root system, *Kretzschmaria deusta* clearly visible. High risk failure at this point.

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T4



Major loss of buttress supporting roots north side of stem.

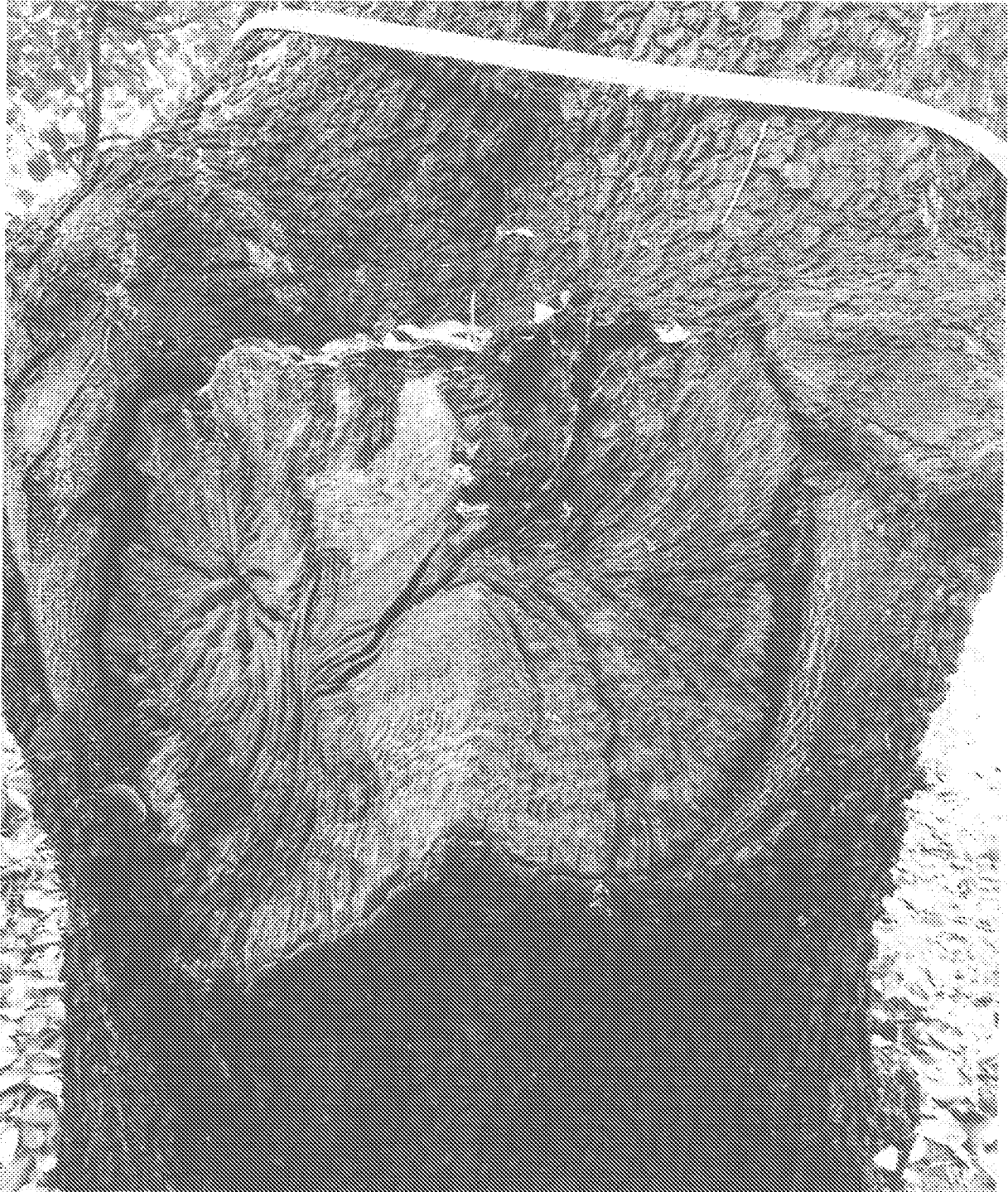
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T4



Limb loss east side of stem at 1.5m, bulging both sides of wound indicating internal decay.

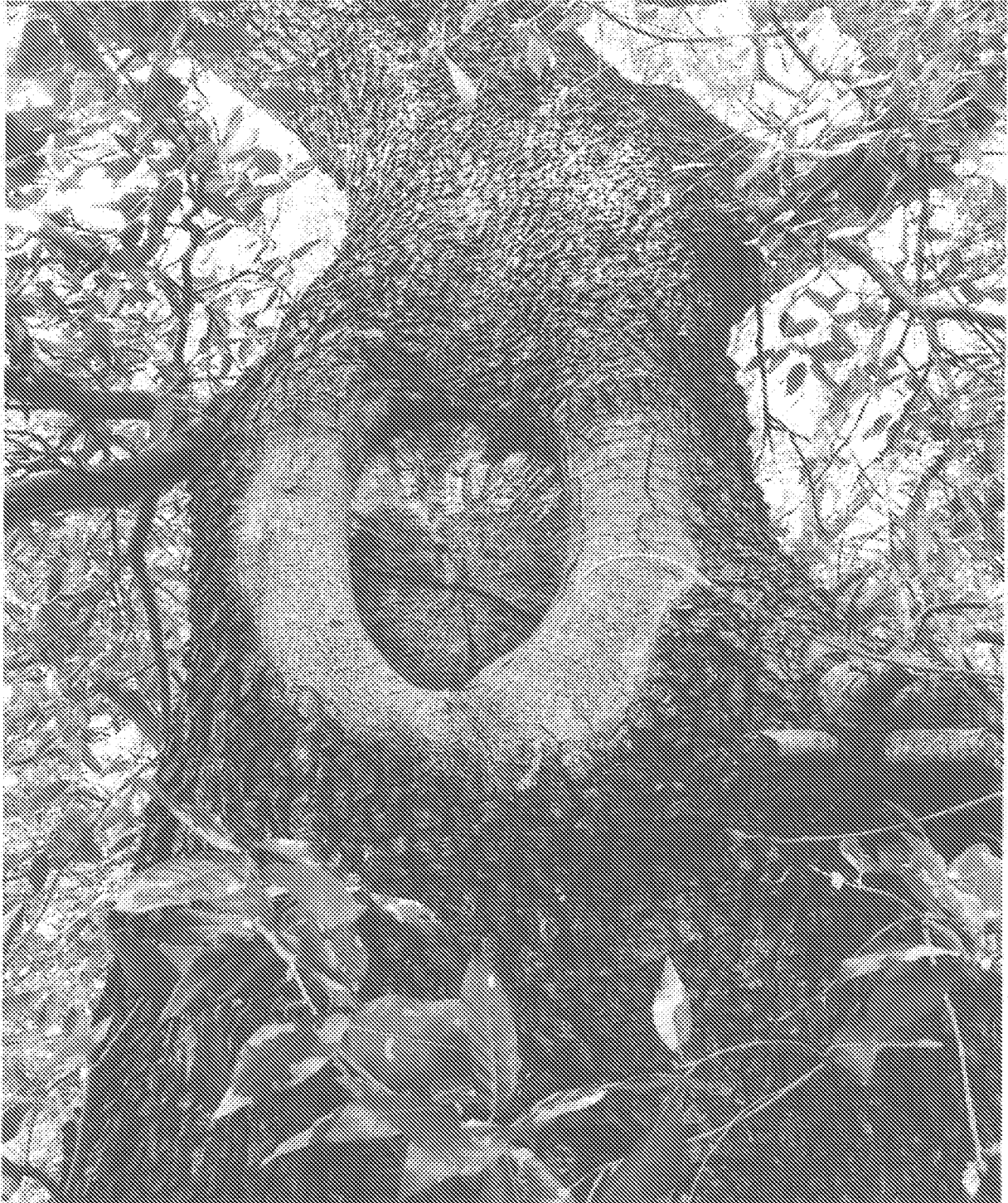
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T4



Cavity by 3m south side of stem, decay visible.

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6.0 Recommendations

Tree numbers T1, T2 and T3 must be either re-pollarded back to original points or a substantial crown reduction to reduce the weight load within the crown structure. Due to all defects listed above within the tree inspection section these works will minimise failure of the trees and ultimately prolong their life expectancy. This tree management must be carried out as all structural defects identified will lead to failure.

Tree number T4 must be removed due to the fungus *Kretzschmaria deusta* colonisation and the extent of decay at the base of the tree and buttress roots. This decay will progressively spread and failure will occur at the base. The cottage within the grounds is directly in falling distance of the tree as is the boundary neighbouring wall and oil tank.

7.0 Bibliography

Claus Mattheck and Helge Breloer (1994). *The Body Language of Trees, A handbook for failure analysis.* Department of the Environment.

Lonsdale D. (1999). *Principles of tree Hazard Assessment and Management.* 2007 Reprint. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, London

Strouts G. R & Winter. G. T. (2005) *Diagnosis of ill-health in trees.* Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, London

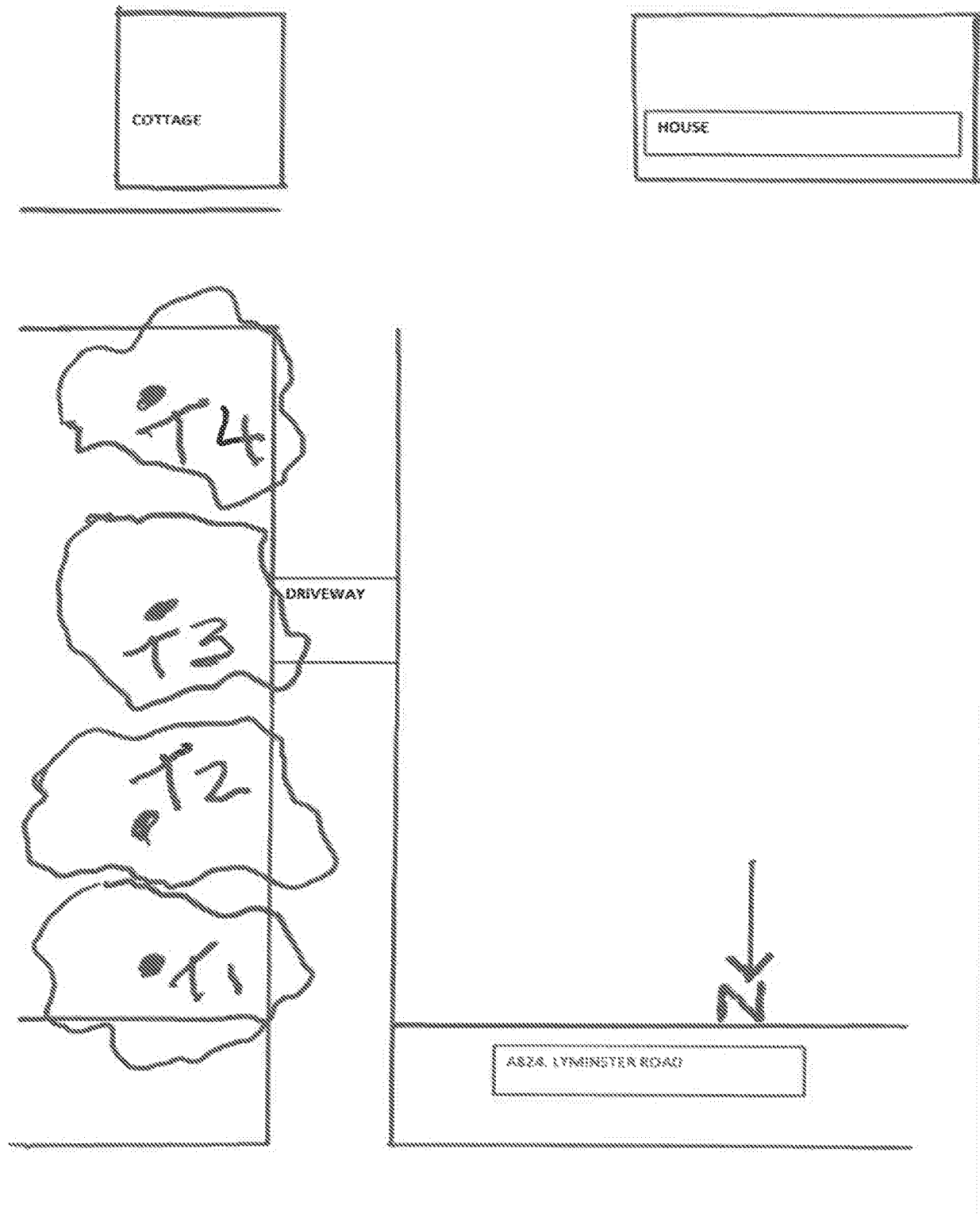
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