RGS – Arboricultural Consultants

Tree Assessment & Decay Diagnostic Survey

Land adjacent No.2 Church Lane, Ellington, Hunts.

Robert C Yates
10-31-2024

1. Terms of Reference

1.1 We are instructed by Nigel Fovargue to undertake detailed assessments and diagnostic surveys, using appropriate decay detection equipment i.e. Resistograph™ micro-drill, and if necessary, by other means, in respect of one Sycamore and one Walnut tree.

1.2 The inspections and relevant diagnostic tests were undertaken by Robert C Yates. Robert Yates holds the formal qualification Tech.Cert.(Arbor.A) and the LANTRA certificate in Professional Tree Inspection, and is a member of the Arboricultural Association, the Consulting Arborist Society and the Royal Forestry Society. He has over 35 years' combined industry experience.

1.3 It should be noted that any tree, irrespective of its current health or condition, can be subject to a major failure given sufficiently severe weather conditions. The conclusions made in this report, and any subsequent recommendations, are based on the assumption of 'normal' seasonal weather patterns.

2. Methodology

2.1 One specialist diagnostic method was employed: The IML Resi-PD400 micro-drill (Resistograph); this device measures the strength of the wood by its resistance to an electrically powered drill, up to a depth of 40cm.

2.2 The overall visual assessments were made according to the principles of VTA (Visual Tree Assessment); an internationally recognised method for Phase I tree inspections.

3. Findings

3.1 The inspections were undertaken on 31st October 2024. The findings, conclusions and recommendations for the subject trees are set out in table format below. For site & tree location, see Appendix 1.

Tree ID. T1 tag: n/a	**Species:** Common Walnut	**Comments:** approx. 10m high. 900mm dia. (estimated). Extensive & advanced internal stem decay from base to limit of truncated main stem at 5.5m. Large open cavity with visibly degraded wood. Pronounced lean to South + heavily biased crown. Vitality low.

Photo 1: Looking East



Photo 2: Close-up view of main stem



Conclusion/Recommendations: Very high risk of imminent structural collapse; removal of large branch to South would mitigate failure risk, but would also result in >70% crown loss, followed by further decline in vitality / Recommend to remove tree, subject to protected species regulations.

Tree ID. T2 tag: n/a	**Species:** Sycamore	**Comments:** approx. 15m high. 950mm dia. at ground level. Heavily Ivy clad, though recently severed. Moderate basal cavity to West. Vitality good. Resistograph used at three locations.

Photo 1: Looking Northeast



Photo 2: basal cavity



North, South & East drillings, respectively 29cm, 28cm & 36cm of solid wood (including bark)



Conclusion/Recommendations: Adequate residual wood at each measurement location. No evidence of active wood decay fungus. Wound wood likely to at least partially occlude cavity over time / No further action to be recommended.

APPENDIX 1 : Tree Location Plan (Not to Scale)

