REF: B/11/PEV/2

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TREE CONDITION REPORT

HOMESTEYNE HOUSE, BROADWATER ROAD, WORTHING, WEST SUSSEX

Beechdown Arboriculture Ltd

February 2011

VAT Registration no. 867 1140 25
Registered Office as above Registered in England & Wales no. 5355859 Directors: Jonathan Rodwell NCH (arb.) Catherine Bevington ACMA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Beechdown Arboriculture Ltd has received instruction to undertake an inspection of a holm oak *(Quercus ilex)* at Homesteyne House, Broadwater Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 8AJ.

1.2 The purpose of the instruction was to provide a report assessing the condition of the tree to accompany an application to undertake works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

2.0 SURVEY FORMAT

2.1 The tree was inspected from the ground only, no climbing or specialised decay detection was undertaken. The tree's basic parameters were measured to include species, height, stem diameter at breast height (DBH) and age class.

2.2 A visual inspection of the tree was undertaken to assess the crown for any weak structures, deadwood, cavities, poor branch unions or other defects that might affect its stability and safety. The base of the tree was also visually inspected, together with tapping and probing to search for signs of decay, bark death and root lifting.

2.3 Photographs were taken to illustrate particular points within the report.

3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Although the potential risk to someone passing beneath a tree when the tree, or part of it, fails is relatively remote the risk is present. This increases significantly in areas of regular or consistent use, such as gardens, footpaths and roads. Where static structures exist the risks become constant and assessment is made as to whether total or partial failure of a tree could lead to damage of such structures.

3.2 Within the scope of any tree survey it is a fact that not all crown or stem failure can be covered, particularly in relation to extreme weather conditions when even healthy trees can suffer structural failure or wind-throw. There is also the potential for mature trees to occasionally shed large branches for no discernible reason, even on calm days. Although a relatively rare occurrence this should be acknowledged as a risk that can not be entirely mitigated.

4.0 TREE DESCRIPTION

4.1

Tree No.	1
Species	Holm oak *(Quercus ilex)*
Height	8m
DBH	550mm
Age class	Mature

A mature holm oak in raised ground behind a retaining wall just inside the western boundary of Homesteyne House. The tree's canopy overhangs gardens of properties to the west and the regularly used car-park of Homesteyne House to the east. At 0.9m the tree divides into two stems that have been pollarded at approximately 4.5m and the subsequent re-growth reduced again at approximately 6.0m. The crown is full and balanced to the north, south and west but branch loss or pruning has resulted in a raised canopy to the east **(Fig.1)**.



5.0 TREE CONDITION

5.1 Foliage throughout the crown appeared vigorous and healthy with no apparent dieback at the branch tips.

5.2 Other than typical minor deadwood there were decayed branch stubs at pruning points within the crown, one dead stem at approximately 4m on the stem to the south-west and a small dead branch overhanging the car-park.

5.3 There was extensive squirrel damage to the bark of young branches throughout the crown.

5.4 A large wound on the north-east stem extended from approximately 1.8m down to ground level **(Fig.2)**. Fungal mycelium was noted within the decayed wood but no fungal fruiting bodies were in evidence. A probe extended 50cm into the main stem at the base of the wound.



5.5 A further wound extended from the main union approximately 2m up the south-west stem. There was extensive decay present and limited development/or decay of occluding tissue along the southern edge of the wound **(Fig.3)**.



5.6 A wound was also noted at 3m on the south-west stem **(Fig.4)**.

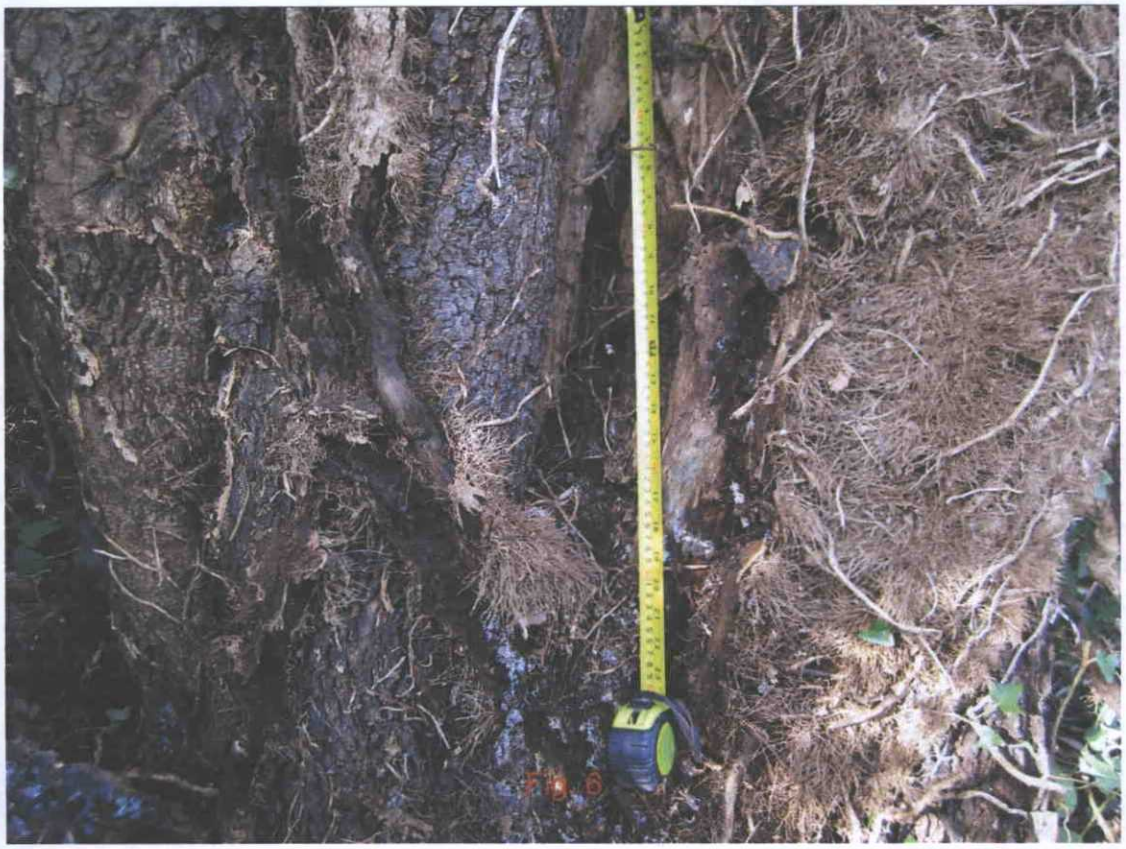


5.7 Dead, lifting bark and decay were present in the main branch union **(Fig. 5)** where a probe extended over 1m down and into the north-east stem.



5.8 There was further dead bark below the main union and at the base of the south-west stem.

5.9 Reaction wood and dead bark were also present at ground level **(Fig.6)** where tapping with a mallet produced a hollow sound.



6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Although supporting a vigorous outer crown of healthy foliage, careful examination of the base of the tree, including tapping and probing, indicate that there is extensive decay at and below ground level, at the base of both stems and within the main branch union.

6.2 I believe there is a relatively high risk for the partial or complete structural failure of the tree - the likelihood of which may well be exacerbated by excessive wind loading of the full crown.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Due to the location of the tree, in close proximity to static structures and a regularly used car-park, the extent of the decay and the potential for full or partial structural failure I believe the tree should be removed.

7.2 A replacement tree or trees of an appropriate species should be planted to retain screening and maintain levels of tree cover.

8.0 REFERENCES

8.1 Principles of tree hazard assessment and management – D. Lonsdale

8.2 Diagnosis of ill health in trees – R. Strouts, T. Winter

8.3 The body language of trees – a handbook for failure analysis – C. Mattheck , H. Breloer

8.4 Arboricultural Association guidance note 7 – Tree surveys: a guide to good practice

8.5 Pathology of trees and shrubs – T. R. Peace

9.0 Details

9.1 Date of inspection - 17th February 2011

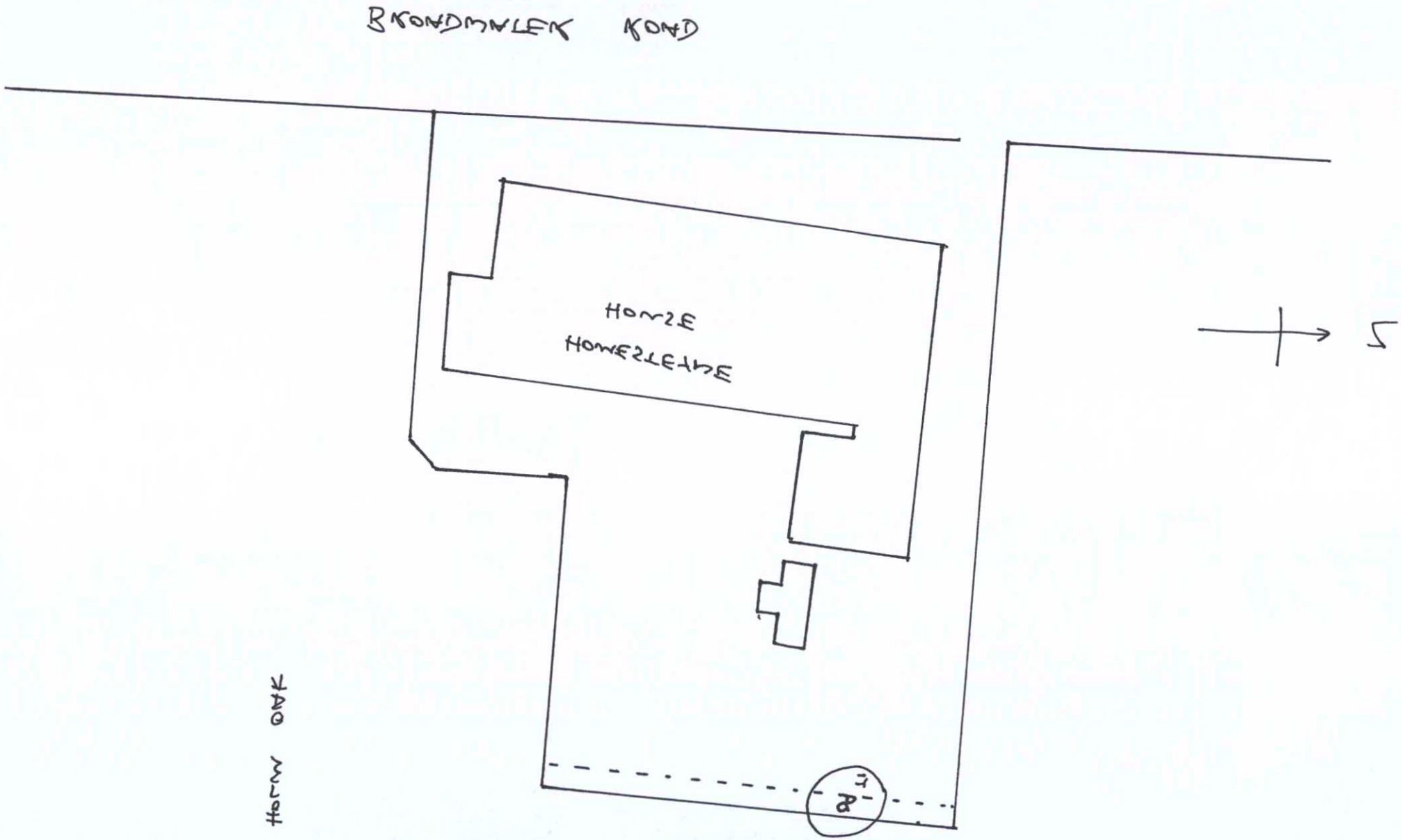
9.2 Present at inspection - Jonathan Rodwell

9.3 Weather conditions - Bright

9.4 Date of report - 21st February 2011

Jonathan Rodwell NCH (Arb)
Beechdown Arboriculture Ltd

February 2011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