

DAC Chelmsford – Arboricultural Inspection Report

Location: St Mary the Virgin Church

Parish: Ardleigh

Requested Works:

Deodar Cedar - Dismantle the tree to leave a stump and provide replacement tree

Date of Site Inspection: 21st July 2021

Inspector: David Carmichael

Accompanied: No

Findings

This tree is clearly in rapid and apparently irreversible decline. No cause for this is given in the supplied tree report from Mr Fryer. My examination showed considerable and unexpected volumes of resin bleeding on the stem as shown in the photographs. This symptom, together with the death of selected branches and overall decline in vigour is very similar to the effects of “Sirococcus blight” (*Sirococcus tsugae*) – a disease that has only been identified in the UK since 2014. This disease is notifiable to the Forestry Commission as it is potentially a matter of national concern. I cannot be certain of my diagnosis but am obliged to complete a “Tree Damage Alert” to the Forestry Commission which I have done – putting myself and Archdeacon Ruth as contacts. I attach a copy of the form of notification for your records. The details of the disease can be found here <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/sirococcus/>.

Irrespective of whether *Sirococcus* blight is the cause of the disease, I do not believe that the tree will recover and therefore it should be felled. This may well happen before the Forestry Commission are able to investigate as they are extremely behind their investigations owing to Covid.

Recommendations

Allow the tree to be felled but cooperate with any enquiries that may come from Forestry Commission. They will accept and understand if the tree is felled in advance of their investigation and the matter is overtaken by events as public safety must come first. I have no advice at present on how the material should be disposed of but suggest it should be either burnt or quarantined at the tree surgeons’ yard unless we are advised that it is not this disease.



22nd July 2021

Photographs



Location of Deodar Cedar showing discoloured, dead and dying branches



Resin bleeding on stem



Resin bleeding on stem