



RGS – Arboricultural Consultants

Decay Diagnostic Survey

'The Hey Way', High Street, Dadford, Bucks.

Robert C Yates
2-1-2023

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1 We are instructed by Mr Erikas Pranevicius, to undertake a detailed assessment and diagnostic survey, using appropriate decay detection equipment (PiCUS® Sonic Tomograph), of one Ash tree, located at the property known as 'Hey Way', High Street, Dadford, Bucks.
- 1.2 The inspection and relevant diagnostic tests were undertaken by Robert C Yates, who holds the formal qualification Tech.Cert.(Arbor.A) and the LANTRA certificate in Professional Tree Inspection. He is also a member of the Arboricultural Association, the Consulting Arborist Society and the Royal Forestry Society, and has over 20 years' experience in the use and interpretation of the particular diagnostic device.
- 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 method of specialised internal decay detection and assessment was used i.e. the PiCUS® Sonic Tomograph; this device uses low frequency sound to create a coloured image of the internal composition of the tree (usually the main stem); this indicates the relative amounts of solid and decayed wood, as well as incipient or early stage decay.
- 2.2 The overall visual assessment was made according to the principles of VTA (Visual Tree Assessment); an internationally recognised method for Phase I / preliminary tree inspections.

3. Findings

- 3.1 The inspection was undertaken on 1st February 2023. The findings, conclusions and recommendations for the subject tree are set out in table format below. A location plan is also appended.

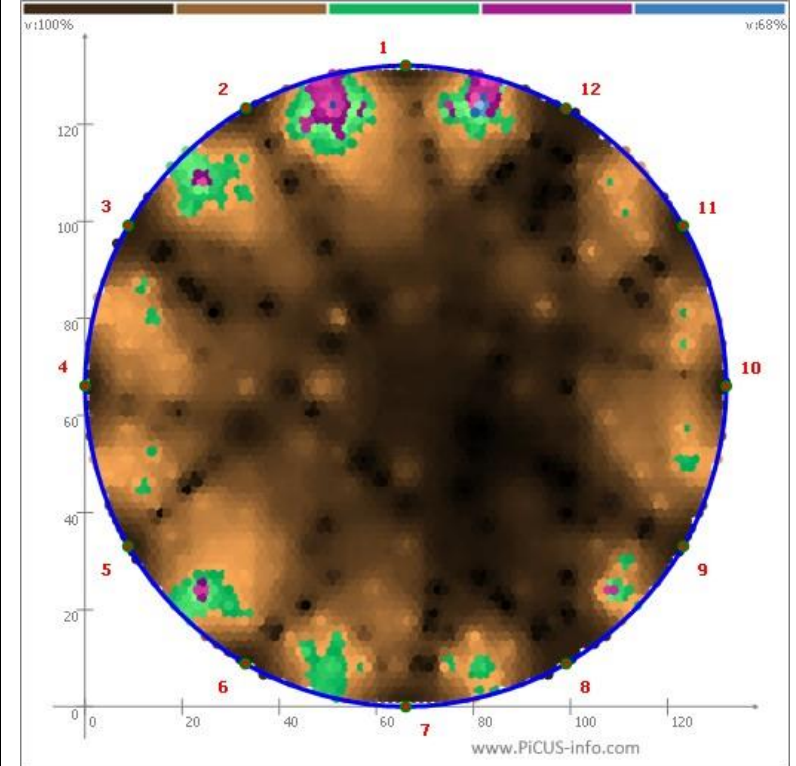
Tree No. T1	Species: Narrow leaved Ash (<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>)	Comments: Large (26m), over-mature, grafted, co-dominant specimen tree with pronounced crown dieback (not thought to be the result of <i>Chalara</i> 'Ash Dieback', but more general decline). East stem also bifurcates at approx. 6 metres
TPO? YES Ref. 1996 No.20	Location: Rear garden / within falling distance of house	

Photo 1: Overview of subject tree (looking southeast)



Photo 2: Sonic device in-situ

Sonic test carried out at 2.0m above ground level – See image below (North to top)



Conclusion/Recommendations: No detectable decay in main stem at point of graft union. General dieback and presence of major deadwood poses a risk to those resident at the property, and potentially to the building – pre-emptive remedial action required

Recommend a reduction in the overall height of the tree to 18 metres, plus removal of any remaining deadwood (all in accordance with current industry best practice and guidance ref. BS3998 (2010) and subject to formal LPA approval) – Re-assess in 5 years' time.

Hey Way, High St. Dadford MK18 5JX – Tree decay diagnostic survey – February 2023

Tree Location Plan (Not to Scale)

