

Mr David Hewitt
Tree and Countryside Officer
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Council Offices
Church Walk
Clitheroe
Lancashire
BB7 2RA

28th April 2016

**Tree report for one Oak tree located in a Conservation Area,
Inspected by: Richard Davis BSc (Hons), RFS certified Arborist**

On Behalf of: Mr Alistair McDonald
Morningside
Eastham Street
Clitheroe
BB7 2HY

Site Address: 4Holme Hill
Clitheroe
BB7 2NF

Objectives

This report is for a Sycamore in a Conservation Area. The report will assess the trees overall condition, preservation value and give recommendations should future work be required.

Tree Information

Species: 1x *Quercus robur* (English Oak)

Tree Height: 15 metres

DBH: 100cm estimated.

Age Class.: Over-mature

Description

Mature oak tree with significant value within the landscape. Large canopy, showing reasonable vigor, with some dieback in places. Some deadwood present as would be expected in mature oak. Very large basal cavity present facing the drive. Inspection has found that although it is partially occluded, the decay is extensive, and likely to form a column throughout the entire stem and into the root-plate. No decay fungi present but decayed wood was soft in places, unlike healthy heartwood on oak that is very strong.



Recommendation

The cavity and decayed wood is in a critical area of the tree needed to support the canopy. I have been monitoring this tree since 2009 and believe it has reached a stage whereby remedial action needs to be taken. The loss of strength in the main stem makes the tree susceptible to whole tree failure by wind-throw.

I recommend that the tree is crown reduced by 30-40%. This will lessen the canopy's sail area and reduce the loading on the main stem. The tree has good vigor so should tolerate this level of retrenchment pruning as Oak trees are known for living a very long time in over-maturity.

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Picture depicting maximum 40% retrenchment prune.

All tree work should follow BS3998 recommendations, ensuring branches are reduced to adequate pruning points wherever possible.

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