Richardson's Botanical Identifications

Root identification
Vegetation surveys
Tree/Building investigations
Plant taxonomy

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Dear Sirs

Root ID

The samples you sent in relation to the above have been examined. Their structures were referable as follows:

TH1, 1.00m		
3 no.	Examined root: could well be QUERCUS (Oak).	Alive, recently*.
TH1, 1.50m		
2 no.	Examined root: QUERCUS (Oak) or the related CASTANEA (Sweet Chestnut). Less than 0.2mm in diameter.	Dead*.
TH2, 1.00m		
1 no.	Examined root: could be either ACER (Maples, Sycamores), CARPINUS (Hornbeam) - or - AESCULUS (Horse Chestnut and related Buckeyes). Under 0.1mm in diameter.	Dead* (note this 'dead' result can be unreliable with such thin samples).
1 no.	Examined root: an herbaceous (non-woody) plant.	Inconclusive Iodine test* on this occasion.
1 no.	Microscopic examination showed insufficient cells for recognition.	
TH2, 1.50m		
1 no.	Examined root: again, similar in many ways to ACER (Maples, Sycamores), CARPINUS (Hornbeam) - and also - AESCULUS (Horse Chestnut and related Buckeyes). Again, very THIN; also without BARK.	Dead*.
2 no.	Both samples revealed too few cells for microscopic identification.	

Click here for more information: ACER AESCULUS CARPINUS CASTANEA QUERCUS

I trust this is of help. Please call us if you have any queries; our Invoice is enclosed.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Dr Ian B K Richardson

* Based mainly on the Iodine test for starch. Starch is present in some cells of a living woody root, but is more or less rapidly broken down by soil micro-organisms on death of the root, sometimes before decay is evident. This result need not reflect the state of the parent tree.

Identified with no information on vegetation, on or off site.

Report commissioned by auger