



Arboricultural Consultant: Kim Gifford

Tree Report 61 Compayne Gardens, London NW6 3DB.

1.1 Test dates: 12th July 2022 by Mr. Kim Gifford, undertaken in the area of test and at the time of inspection.

1.2 Method: using Picus 3 sonic decay test and Resistograph micro drill PD 400 Pro, in accordance with manufacturers manual. *Visual Tree inspection references, Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management by David Lonsdale and The body language of trees by Claus Mattheck and Helge Breuer. The Arboricultural Association guidance note 7 tree surveys a guide to good practice. Lantra award Professional tree inspection.*

1.3 Instruction: I Kim Gifford Arboricultural Consultant (see profile page)

My brief is to carry out decay detection/assessment using the Picus 3 sonic testing & Resistograph PD.

The test will involve taking readings at an appropriate level determined by the requirements of the specimen defect. I am to make recommendations on the immediate and future management of the subject tree based on the test findings.

1.4 Background: I understand that there has been concerns about the safety of these specimen. As a result of this inspection, it was felt that further investigation was required to determine the extent of decay so that he could make an informed decision on the future management of the Acacia.

14th July 2022

1.5 Resistograph Tests Methodology.

The test was conducted using an IML- RESI PD-Series. The IML Resistograph is used to establish the strength of wood, without the need for destructive testing. It consists of a hand-portable, electrically powered drill, the auger end of which is 'spade-bit' shaped and extremely narrow. As the subject tree is drilled sound wood being denser than decayed wood offers greater resistance to the drill bit as it passes through the wood. This resistance is recorded electronically across the radius of the section being tested. The depth of drilling is dependent on the drill length and dimension of the tree part being tested. The measurement depth is recorded in centimetres while the amplitude (resistance) reading is given as a percentage across a range of 0 to 100%. The readings allow the Arboriculturist to assess the internal condition of the subject tree. As with all diagnostic tools, considerable experience in use and interpretation of data is required to ensure that an accurate conclusion and or recommendation is made.

Final analysis of the graph has been undertaken to see the following recommendations below. Note: All recommended works should be undertaken in accordance with British Standard Institutes Recommendations for Tree Works B.S.3998:2010

1.6 Picus Test Methodology:

The method of decay detection is based on the fact that solid wood is a better sound waveconductor than wood that is decayed or structurally damaged. The Picus Sonic Tomographconsists of a set of sensors which are strategically placed around the area of the tree previously identified as potentially having decay or a structural fault. Each sensor is connected to a nail which is tapped through the bark into contact with the wood. This process is virtually non-invasive to the tree's system. The sensors are connected by a data cable to a power supply and laptop computer. Each nail is tapped in turn and the sound wave flight paths are measured by each of the sensors. The test data is compiled by the Picus system software algorithm into a matrix of collected values. This results in a dense network of sound velocities through a cross-section.

The velocity of sound through wood depends on the degree of elasticity and density of the material. Tree damage such as white rot, brown rot, soft rot, cavities, and cracks reduce theelasticity and density of the wood.

The data from the sensors is translated by the computer software into a representative colour tomographic image of the cross-section of the tree. This tomogram gives informationabout the presence of decay, cavities, and faults in the tree. Features such as remaining wallthickness, the opening angle of cavities and percentage of solid, decayed or altered wood can be measured by the computer.

Final analysis of the tomogram has been undertaken to see the following recommendation below. *Note: All recommended works should be undertaken in accordance with British Standard Institutes Recommendations for Tree Works B.S.3998:2010*

1.7 Resistograph Micro drill: At 20cms.

1.Test – Results north side: low reading.

KG ROB1

Inspection of 14 July 2022
ID: KG ROB1



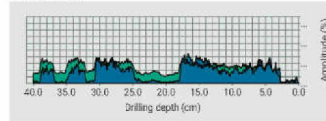
Location Species Modified
14 July 2022

Measurements of 12 July 2022

Measurement 10 at 13:13: ID: KG ROB1

Drilling Depth	Drilling Speed	Tilt	Diameter
40.06 cm	2,500rpm	-90.0 °	100.0
Feed Speed	Needle State	Offset	
50.00 cm/min	---	60/263	

•Feed •Drill



2.Test – Results South side: low reading.

KG ROB2

Inspection of 14 July 2022
ID: KG ROB2



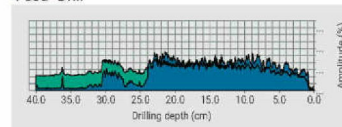
Location Species Modified
15 July 2022

Measurements of 12 July 2022

Measurement 11 at 13:15: ID: KG ROB2

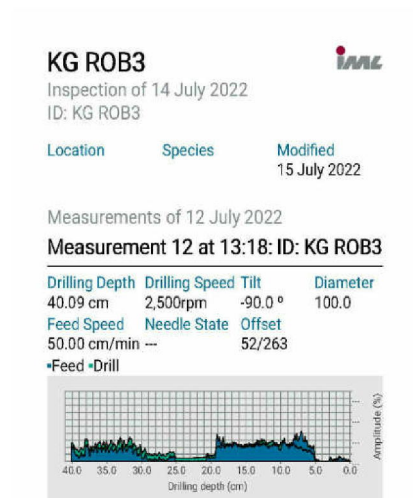
Drilling Depth	Drilling Speed	Tilt	Diameter
40.08 cm	2,500rpm	-90.0 °	100.0
Feed Speed	Needle State	Offset	
50.00 cm/min	---	52/259	

•Feed •Drill

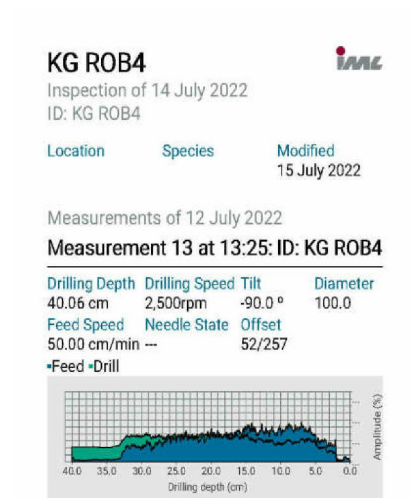


14th July 2022

3.Test – Results East side: low reading.



4.Test – Results West side: high reading.

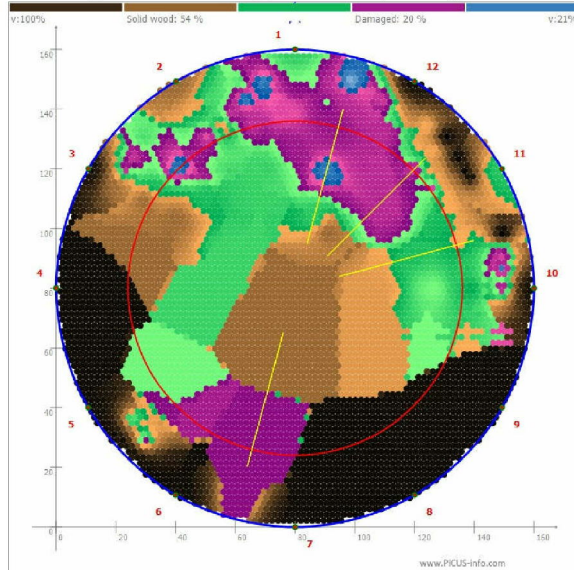


14th July 2022

1.8 Robinia pseudoacacia -

Test undertaken in fine weather conditions.

Test 1 @ level: 50cms approximately from ground level.



Test point 1 orientation

North.

1.9 Picus Test Analysis:

The measuring point readings give evidence of low velocities overall in the area of test representation showing as sound timber. The tomographic images shown above has a percentage amount of altered timber. With reference to the 'colour chart see figure 2', the slower sonic speed of sound is represented by three bands of data representation blue/violet/white being the slowest altered/decayed timber, green being faster altered timber, brown being fast sonic-speeds solid timber.

(see Picus sonic representation chart figure 2).

The resulting Picus test is of unacceptable limits in relation the altered timber. This ratio called a 'trunk ratio' TR (*reference Claus Mattheck*) has been calculated to be a guideline in terms of stability and rigidity of cylindrical structure. Although a debated theory in arboriculture in general terms the TR of 30% is an average.

14th July 2022

2.0 Recommendation:

This specimen has extensive structural defects as shown in both tests. It is recommended that on the grounds of health and safety that the Robinia is completely removed within the near future.

Kim Gifford

Picus and Resistograph Testing Service

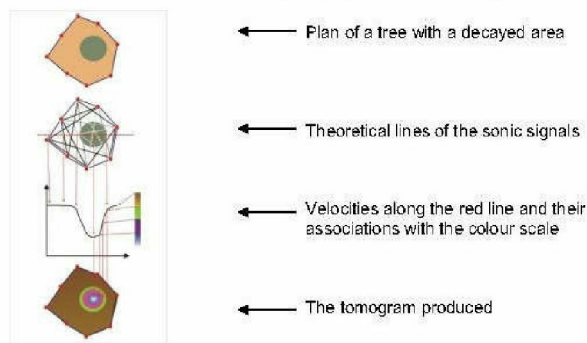


14th July 2022

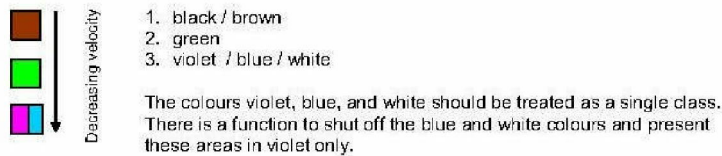
7.13.1. Tomogram colours

To display different acoustic conductivity of wood, the PICUS program uses set colours, assigning one colour to each point of the tomograph. Areas of high velocity are represented in black or dark brown. Areas of low velocity appear in violet, white or blue, and these are the areas that indicate problems. Green areas mark those sections which could not be classified as being either fast or slow, and these areas must be interpreted together with the overall damage.

The colour scale (black, brown, green, violet, blue, white) ranges from 100% velocity (brown) to the slowest velocity (blue). Colours are switched as specific special trigger levels to show the differences, as shown in the following sketch (not drawn to scale):



There are three main colour groups to be considered:



Warning!

In order to read a tomogram correctly, you need **sound knowledge of trees and their diseases**, and you must be familiar with the **working principles of measuring instruments**. **DO NOT** fell a tree based solely on a tomogram reading. You must first analyse all possible reasons for slow acoustic conductivity, and you will have to apply different investigative methods as needed.

Unfortunately, the results of sonic measurements cannot give information about the exact type of structural loss in a tree. This means a tomogram does not tell us if the violet or blue areas are caused by a cavity, a crack, or by decay – it can only display the levels measured.

Figure 2 Picus test chart.

Consultant Mr Kim Gifford: Profile

Prior to starting GTS Kim Gifford completed a 4-year apprenticeship in 1972 with the Royal Parks at Hampton Court Palace acquired City and Guilds Horticulture and Arboriculture. In addition to these qualifications Kim Gifford continued his professional development by attending seminars, conferences, studying for the professional diploma and foundation degree in Arboriculture. Further work experience during pre-business period included sub-contracting for Arb. Companies. Work as a lead Arborist for London Borough of Ealing and Arborist in Berlin Germany.

Kim Gifford t/a Gifford Tree Service started trading as a sole trader in 1980 and in 1985 became a partnership. The company specialises in all aspects of Arboriculture. From 2007 Kim Gifford now again, trades as a sole trader in his own right. In 1988 Kim Gifford became an approved contractor with Arboricultural Association after a comprehensive assessment and reassessments in 2002/2007 Kim Gifford served on committees of the Arboricultural Association for 10 years and became the National Chairman of the Arboricultural Association in 2001. Kim Gifford is now an honorary member of the Arboricultural Association.

Kim Gifford personally undertakes Picus sonic decay tests for local authorities and other Arboricultural contractors all over the Southern area of England. Kim Gifford owns the Picus equipment treetesting.com for 13 years and completed over 3000 tests, so he has considerable experience in the analysis of the tomographic images. He provides this service to compliment other consultant reports, this is combined with my 42 years' knowledge in Arboriculture.

The whole Picus system has been updated and maintained to the recent Picus manufactures improvements.

Kim Gifford has undertaken many Tree Surveys including Mortgage reports and BS5837 surveys to meet planning authorities' requirements during development proposals plus Tree Preservation applications and planning inspectorate appeals.

Kim Gifford was certificated recently by Lantra training awards with Professional Tree Inspection Certificate 30th November 2013 and Arboricultural Association Certificate BS5837 – Advanced Tree Assessment for Planning 4th May 2016.

Kim Gifford also provides quotations for recommended works, Risk Methods Statements, Health & Safety Policies, Site Specific procedures operation supervision and management services.