

## **Resistograph Tree Report**

**For**

**Vivid Housing Limited**



**At**

**12-64,**

**Beauworth Close,**

**Eastleigh,**

**Hampshire,**

**SO50 5AN**



A trading name of RG Consultancy Ltd

**Prepared by  
Richard Daubeney Our Ref 0724-RD  
3rd of July 2024**

## **1.0 Introduction.**

- 1.1 Ruskins Tree Consultancy have been instructed by Vivid Housing Limited to undertake resistograph decay detection to English Oak T4801 growing at 12-64, Beauworth Close, Eastleigh, Hampshire. The resistograph inspection was undertaken by Richard Daubeney who visited the site on 02/07/24.

## **2.0 The Benefits of Trees**

- 2.1 Trees have many benefits are integral to natural ecosystems, providing a wide range of related benefits to humankind (ecosystem services), including mitigating the harmful effects of climate change. Trees are an important part of the economy, providing timber and non-timber forest products.
- 2.2 With urban trees these benefits can often be amplified with trees contributing to the landscape and character of an area, creating a sense of place with mature trees providing a link to the past. They help reduce the impacts of extreme weather by providing shade and intercepting rainfall, help reduce air pollution by removing particulates, help absorb CO<sub>2</sub> whilst providing habitat for wildlife and associated bio-diversity benefits.
- 2.3 Trees can also contribute to society by having a positive impact on health, reducing anti-social behaviour and having a positive impact on the quality and value of the built environment.
- 2.4 Their importance is recognised in national and local government policies, and many non- governmental organisations have policies dedicated to conserving trees and their biodiversity.

## **3.0 The risks from trees**

- 3.1 The risk, per tree, of causing fatality is around one in 150 million for all trees in Britain or one in 10 million for those trees in, or adjacent to areas of public use. This is clearly significantly less than the 1 in 1 million thresholds that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) considers 'broadly acceptable', within the Tolerability of Risk Framework.
- 3.2 The HSE have developed the Tolerability of Risk Framework which has been incorporated into the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) guidance. Risks above 1/10,000 per annum are generally considered unacceptable when placed on the public. Risks between 1/10,000 and 1/1,000,000 per annum are tolerable, but consideration should be given to managing them 'as low as reasonably practicable' (ALARP), where it is cost effective to do so.
- 3.3 This risk therefore represents an extremely small proportion of the background risk that we commonly accept in our everyday lives, and the ongoing removal and general management of trees is probably the most important factor in keeping this figure at such a low level. However, there can be pressure to remove trees because of a perception of risk, which may be much greater than any actual risk a tree poses.
- 3.4 Trees are growing dynamic structures. No tree is ever absolutely safe due to the unpredictable laws and forces of nature. As a result of this, natural failure of intact trees will occur; extreme climatic conditions can cause damage to even apparently healthy trees.

#### **4.0 Statutory Protection of Trees.**

- 4.1 We have been informed that there is a Tree Preservation Order and no Conservation Area protection relating to this English oak tree T4801 at this site for Eastleigh Borough Council. (TPO 600-E)
- 4.2 Before any tree works are carried out the presence of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) or Conservation Area status should be established with the Local Planning Authority and permission obtained from the tree owners if required.
- 4.3 All tree works should be carried out by qualified, trained and fully insured operators in accordance with BS 3998: 2010 'Recommendations for Tree Works'.

#### **5.0 Tree Inspections**

- 5.1 To maintain trees in a reasonable condition and reduce the risk of personal injury to acceptable levels trees should be inspected by a suitably trained and competent person using the Basic or Professional Level tree surveying methodology, which can be undertaken by an arboriculturist as set out by LANTRA utilising visual tree assessment (VTA) methodology (Lonsdale 1999).
- 5.2 Where the visual tree assessment finds features that merit further inspection then the trees should be inspected using appropriate methodology. This might range from climbing inspections, root collar excavations to use of resistograph and/or tomographs to help determine the structural integrity of the wood within the tree. For the trees at this site our VTA identified issues that we considered should be assessed by use of a resistograph.
- 5.3 T4801 English oak tree has highlighted area of large column of decay within readings of No.3 East and No. 5 South sides within the stem, following the testing carried out to this tree. The decay is likely linked to the fruiting bodies of *Gymnopus fuipes* (Spindle shank) located to the North and East sides at ground level, the fungus is known to act as parasite to the rooting area of the tree. The fungus can and may impact upon the physiological and structural condition of the host tree. However, the remaining residual wood within stem, show there is moderate sound and live wood present within readings 1 and 2 and 6. Southwest, West and North sides. The stem has a cavity located 4m above ground level to the West side, depth is unknown, with potential as wildlife nesting location. The crown has had a historic and heavy reduction, with noticeable crown dieback.

#### **6.0 Conclusion**

- 6.1 Following the results of T4801 English oak tree mentioned within this report, we now provide our conclusion.
- 6.2 The testing to T4801 English oak tree showed that there is extensive column of decay present within the stem which has likely linked to the fruiting bodies present at the base of the tree, however there is moderate residual sound wood present to the North and Southwest side within the stem. It is clear when looked at from a distance the tree is in decline, with crown dieback throughout canopy. The canopy is also unbalanced

and weighted towards the East side. It is considered likely that the tree has suffered as a result of the historic building works that took place within the grounds where the tree is located. This is the only large and mature substantial tree within this area of the site, with prominent view towards the tree from all sides. The tree is positioned within a high risk area, with targets such as main road, public footpath, and communal area all within striking distance of tree. With this information to hand, we recommend that English oak tree T4801 is crown reduced by 3-4m all round, by doing so will ensure that the tree can be retained at a smaller and more compact canopy whilst still retaining the features that this tree provides for this area including reducing the risk to the targets surrounding the tree. We recommend this tree works is carried out within 3 months from date of this report.

- 6.3 All works to date is to be undertaken within the requirements of the tree table works schedule. The trees listed in this report to be reinspected as outlined within the tree tables.



Richard Daubeney  
Arboricultural Consultant  
4th of July 2024

## Tree Data

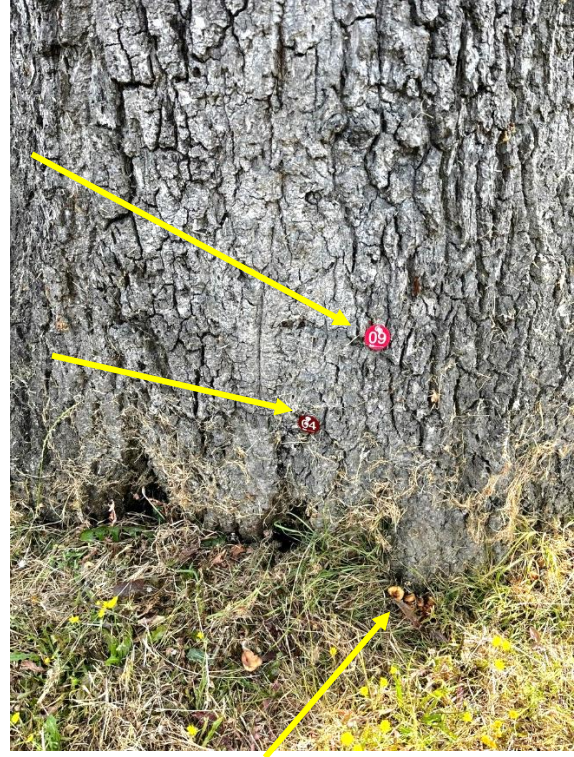
| Tree No.<br>Tree Tag.      | Tree Species | Hgt (m) | Past Management              | Age Class | Risk Target                | Defects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Works                                                                                                                                              | Work Priority          |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------|------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| T4801<br>Tree tag:<br>3060 | English oak  | 10-15m  | Historic reduction to crown. | Mature    | High/<br>reinspect in 2027 | Gross Defect Noted.<br><i>Gymnopus fuipes</i> (Spindle shank) located in multiple locations around the base of the tree.<br>Hollow sound when tapped to East side at 70cm above ground level.<br>Possible basal decay within this area, further investigation required by means of decay detection.<br>Multiple pruning wounds on main stems. Decay pocket located at 4m above ground level to South side.<br>Crown weighted towards the Southeast. Historic reduction to crown. | Crown reduce by 3-4m all round.<br>Check cavity on stem at 4m for potential nesting site.<br><br>(All tree works to be carried out to BS3998 2010) | Urgent within 3 months |

## Photographs

T4801 English oak looking East towards Drill location No.1.



T4801 English oak tree looking to Southwest towards drill location No. 4 and 9 and fruiting body of *Gymnopus fuipes* at ground level against stem.



T4801 English oak looking west

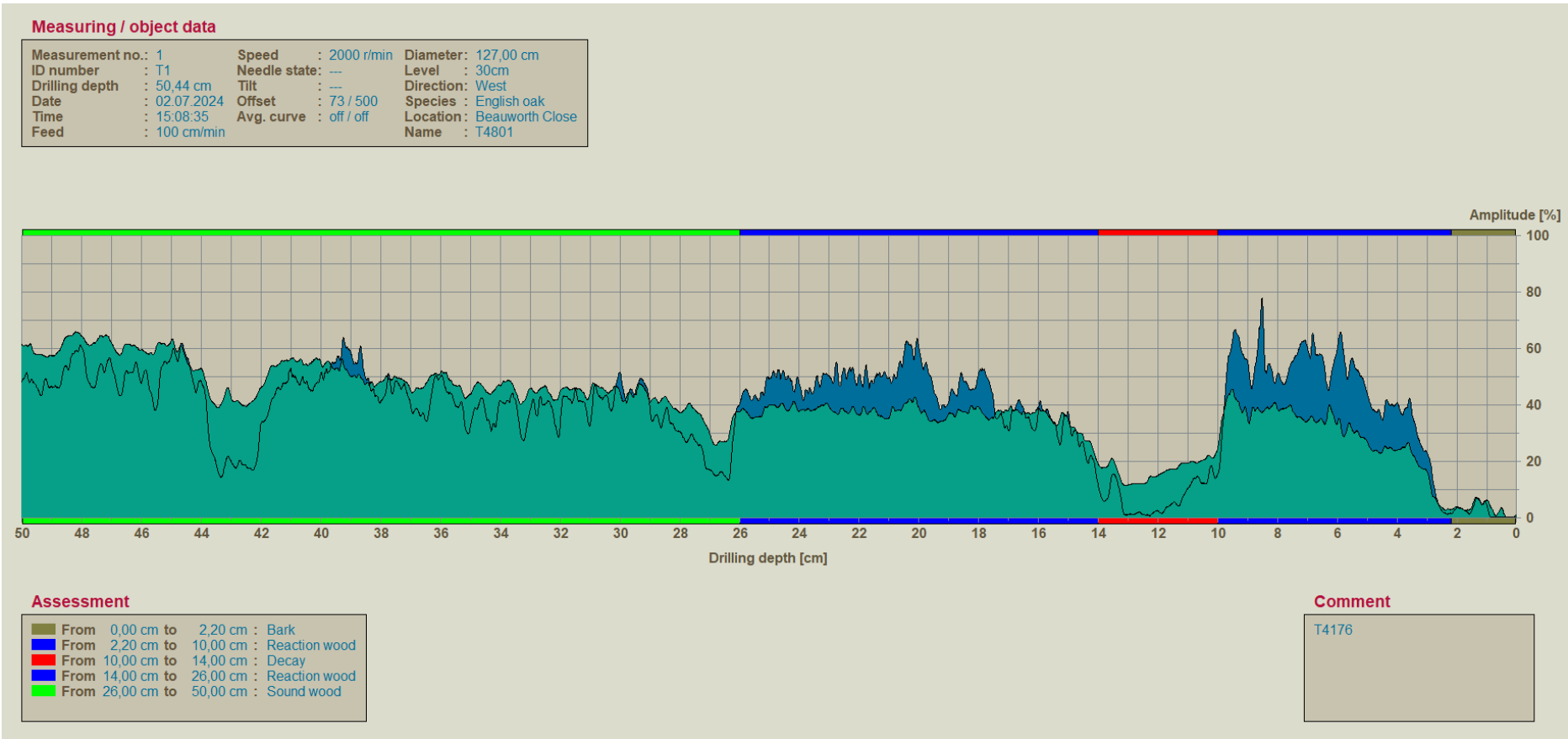


T4801 English oak Looking East

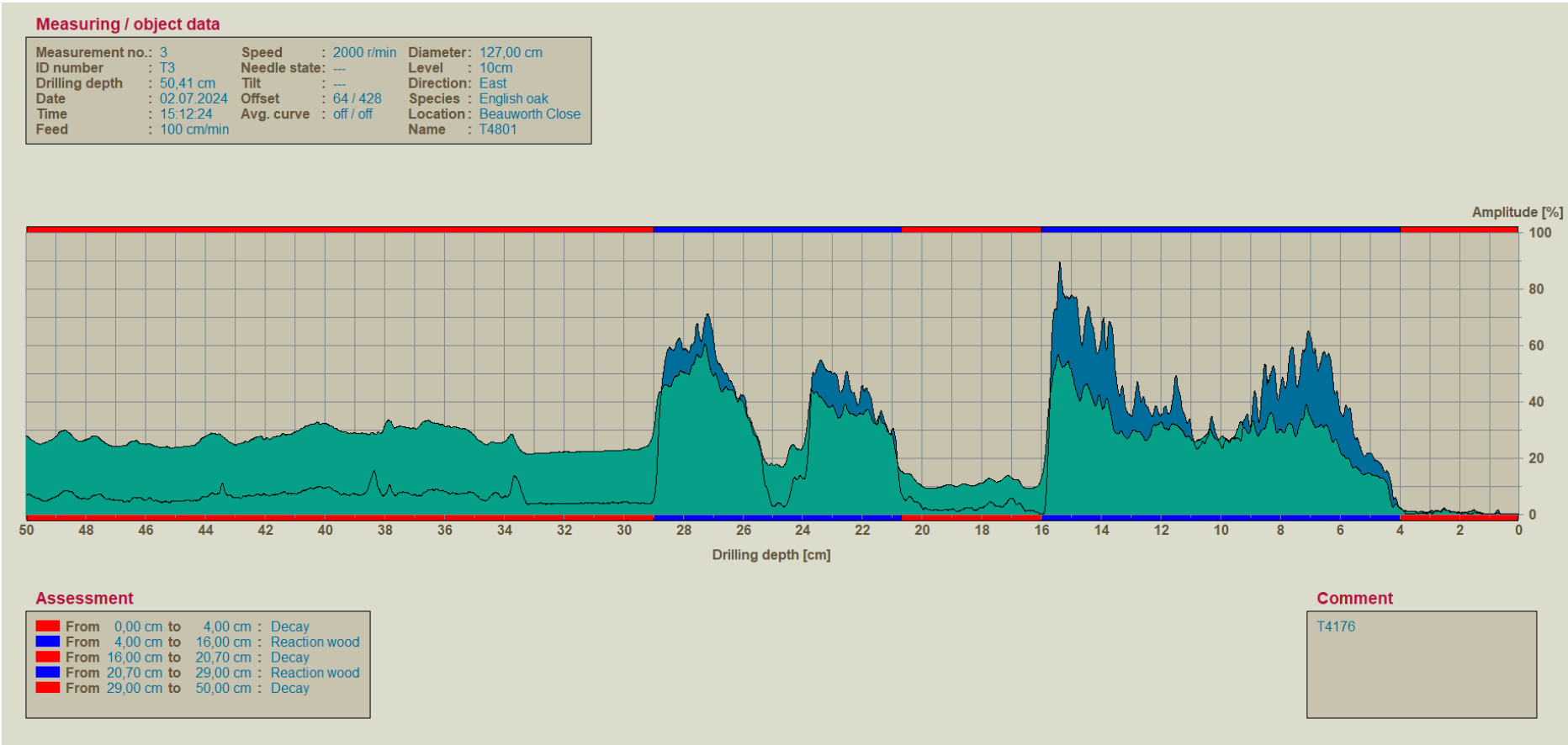


Resistograph Readings

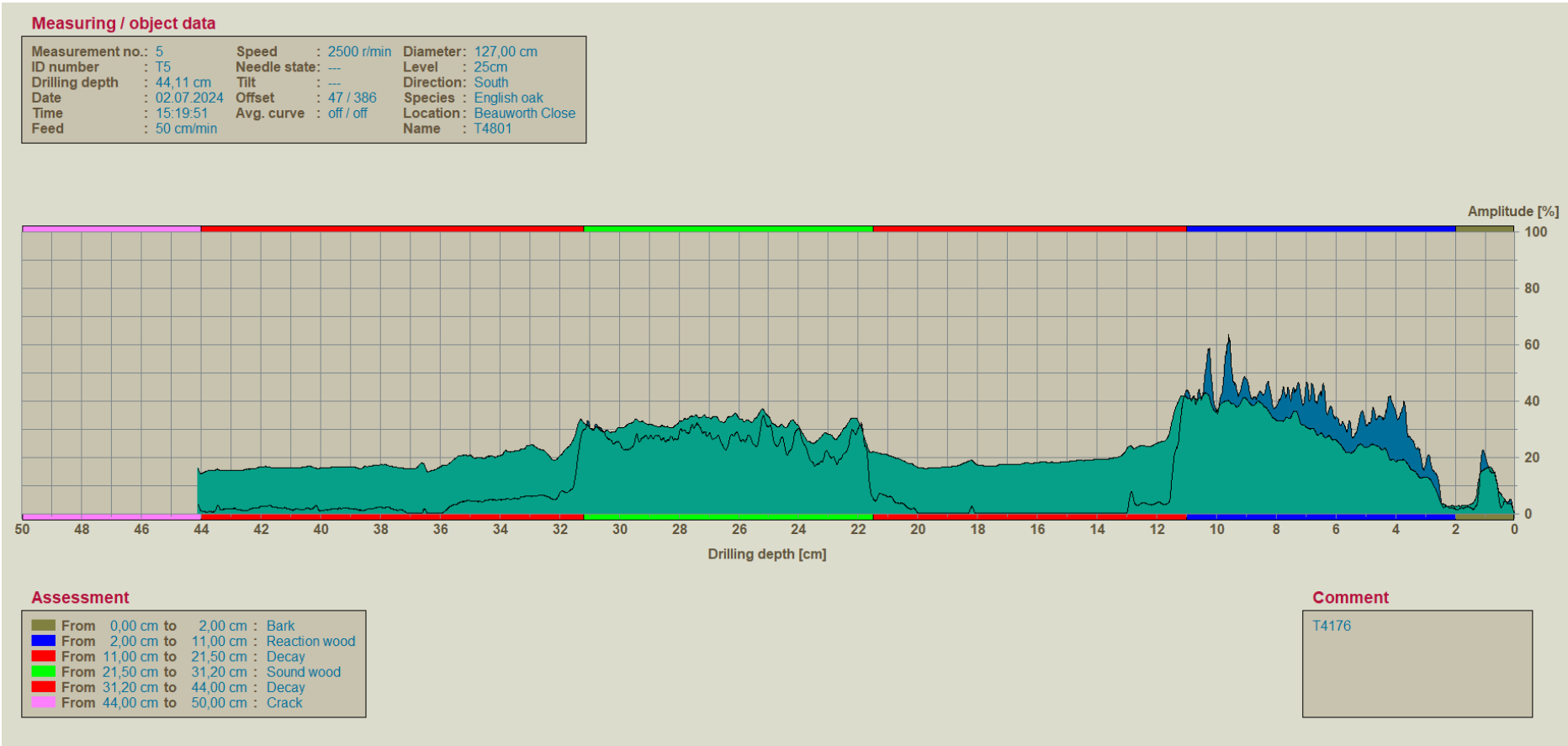
T4801 English oak measurement 1



T4801 English oak measurement 2



T4801 English oak measurement 3



Site Plan

