

# Picus: Hatfield Police Station



## Client:

Alan Randall  
The Blue Tree Company  
50 Bunyan Road  
Hitchin  
Herts

## Tree Expert:

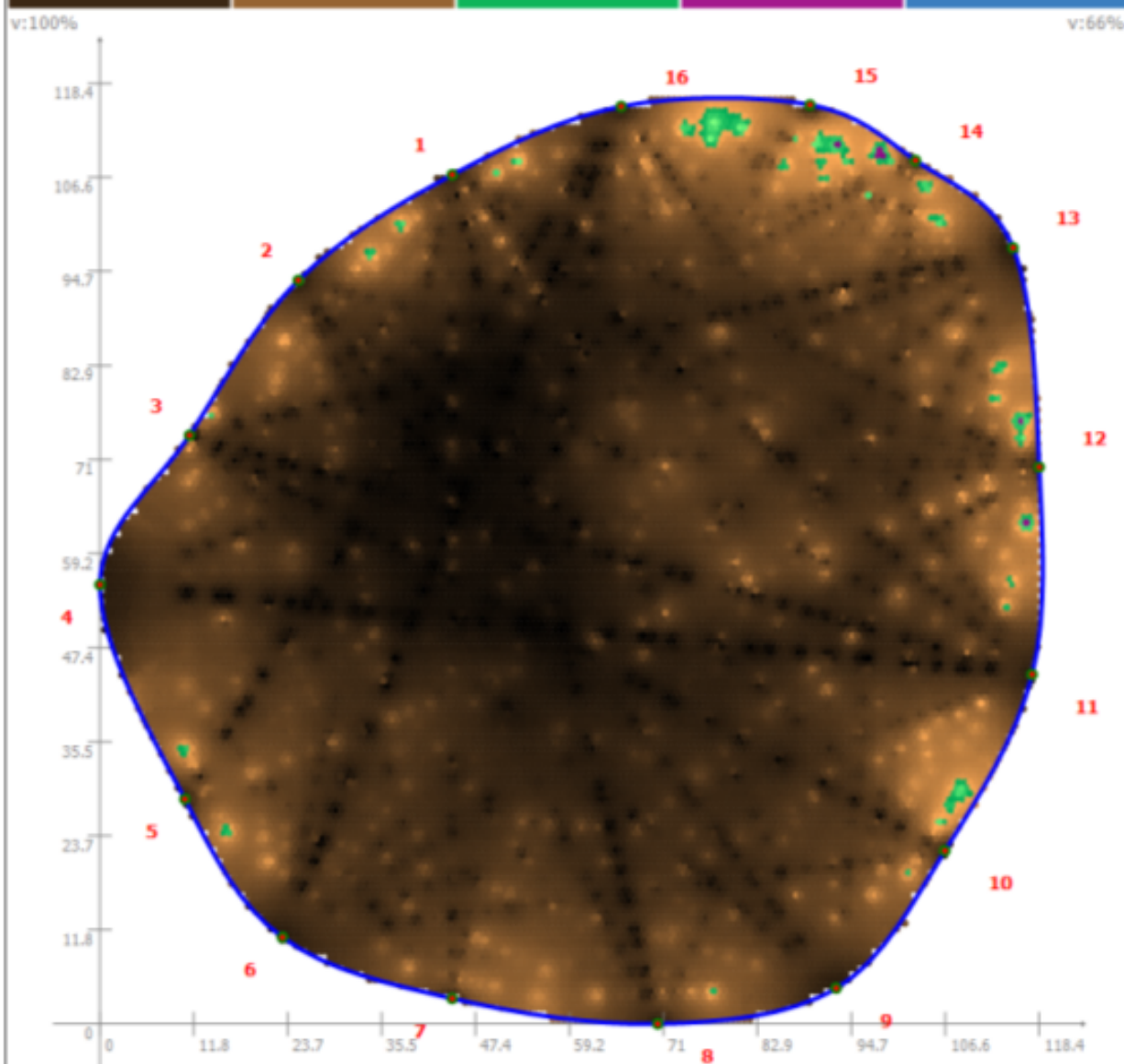
Richard Wilson  
Glasfryn Croeslan  
Llandysul Ceredigion  
SA44 4SJ UK

Tel: 07535 105829

Fax:

Domain: [www.wilsonsreesurveys.co.uk](http://www.wilsonsreesurveys.co.uk)  
email: [richard@wilsonsreesurveys.co.uk](mailto:richard@wilsonsreesurveys.co.uk)

Tree species:	Tree of Heaven	Tree height [m]:	16
Town:	Hatfield	North at measuring point:	1
Neighbourhood:	Police Station	Crown spread [m]:	10
Road:	Comet Way	Position of measuring point 1:	0
		Trunk circumference (130cm height)[cm]:	278
Number of tree:	1	Tomography level at height [cm]:	15
Measure date:	6/1/2018 9:01:00 AM		



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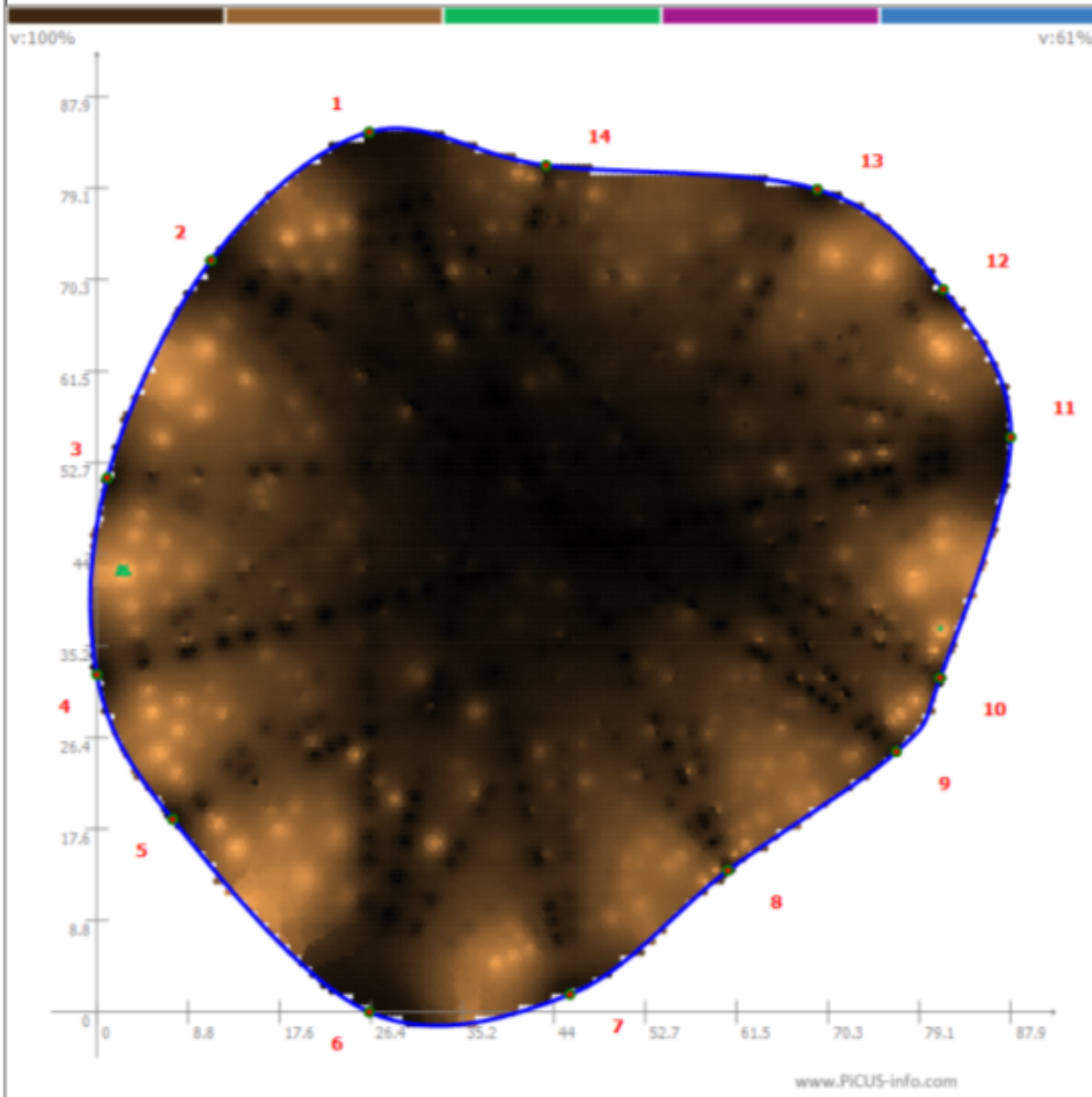
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 SG5 1NN

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Road:	Comet Way	Position of measuring point 1:	0
		Trunk circumference (130cm height)[cm]:	278
Number of tree:	1	Tomography level at height [cm]:	220
Measure date:	6/1/2018 10:00:00 AM		



#### Comments:

Initial inspection 04/05/18 at 17:30. Tree stands in wide grass area at front of Hatfield Police Station and to W of Comet Way; unsurfaced parking area 8m to S. Tree arises as a single stem with well-developed buttresses except on E side where a girdling root was observed at ground level. Marked helical stem creasing is visible from ground level to 3m with bark cracking on the ridges. Abnormal hammer sounds observed from ground level to 2m on E side; taps observed to produce ground vibration to the N side; lead shot damage at 1.5m N. Bole at 4m with four major ascending boughs and a pruning stub with open heartwood decay. Large canker visible on stem associated with abnormal hammer taps to E, extending from NE to SE quadrants, starting at ground level and extending upwards through bole and for 2m along bough projecting S/SE. Bark absent at 2-2.5m with some callus formation and linear bark cracks to either side. Seven old brackets of the primary decay fungus *Pleurotus ostreatus* associated with the canker between 4 and 6m; further bracket at 6m in branch union. Additional old, black *Inonotus*-like bracket at 4m S, above bole. Major limbs rubbing at 7m NW. Bark inclusion at 4m E directly above worst damage.

Second inspection 01/06/18 at 08:30. Significant distribution of toadstools of the saprophytic fungus *Marasmius oreades* associated with the buttresses and roots to the W and E of the stem. Crown fully flushed and healthy except for dieback on limb projecting S / SE. Bark delamination associated with canker appears to be superficial with hard wood behind. Sonic tomography at 15 and 220cms did not reveal the presence of decayed wood, however this was below the area primarily affected by the *Pleurotus* infection. Interpretation: Tree is suffering from at least three fungal infections creating two primary risks: 1. Primary decay of bough to S / SE by *Pleurotus ostreatus* and an unidentified *Inonotus*-like fungus at 4-6m which has compromised function of vascular wood, created a localised dieback condition and which is likely to have significantly compromised the structural integrity of this bough (sonic tomography was carried out below this level; further examination from rope and harness would be needed to explore this point). THREATS analysis: target = parking area;  $8 \times 25 \times 6 = 1200$ ; SIGNIFICANT; remediate within 4W; branches should be removed as indicated in the attached photo and the remaining crown reduced by up to 30% by volume to maintain shape and form. 2. A secondary infection of the roots by the saprophytic fungus *Marasmius oreades* and which indicates the presence of dead root material below the ground. Combined with the observation of hammer-induced ground vibrations to the N, this suggests the presence of a relatively wide-spread root pathology which has not yet affected crown vitality but which can be expected to produce symptoms in the foreseeable future. The health and prognosis of the tree could be improved by decompacting the soil using a Terravent or similar device.



View of bough extending S / SE taken from E looking W.  
Solid red lines – cut points.  
Dashed red line – optional cut point – to be assessed by climber  
at time of pruning – retain if possible.