

Dear Chris and all

I would be grateful if you could please forward the following correction to the members, and to Jon Stokes, who yesterday attended the demonstration and discussions about Ash on the journey to the Crowhurst yew, where I stated that the term "paradontis effect" refers to the loss of damping effect of differing oscillation periods of lower branches lost either through natural or arboricultural pruning, or in this case the death of lower branches in Ash with Chalara leaving a "clumpy" effect, which results in greater oscillation of the clump at the end of the stem, leading to breakage.

First, the word used was incorrect, it is 'paradontosis', and second it actually refers to the root plate slippage of trees on saturated soils which are oscillating more than they would had they still got their lower branches to dampen the frequency of oscillation.

Please accept my apologies for the incorrect usage of the term.

From an HSE Research report : "Evaluation of current rigging and dismantling practices used in arboriculture" [2008] which may be found at:-

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr668.pdf>

on page 66 of the document [or page 73 of the pdf][my italics]:-

### 2.6.3

#### Slenderness and susceptibility to oscillation

If slender trees have been deprived of their lower branches, they may be susceptible to strong sway during rigging operations. The harmonic response of the tree stem may lead to increased loads and, thus, to a greater likelihood of failure (Lonsdale 1999, James 2003). The so-called '*paradontosis-effect*' occurs when the water-saturated root plate of a tree begins to slip, which often occurs on impermeable layers in the soil.

Regards [hanging head in shame....]  
Anthony Mills