

Our Ref: 45/20118795

16th March 2012

Mr K Jaques
2 Lambert Fold
Dodworth
Barnsley
S75 3SX

Dear Mr Jaques

Re: Subsidence Insurance Claim

I write with reference to the above and further to previous correspondence.

After a slight misunderstanding, I have now received the soil and foundation data report as provided by Geoinvestigate Ltd.

The investigation comprised a trial pit with borehole extension adjacent to the rear right corner and a remote borehole. In brief summation the investigation found:

1. The underside of the foundation to the rear right corner was located at 1200mm below ground level.
2. Directly below the foundation, natural firm to stiff, sandy, gravely clay was seen to 1450mm below ground level with sandstone bedrock being encountered from 1700mm to termination of the investigation at 2100mm.
3. Subsequent analysis of recovered soil samples found the clay to be of intermediate to high plasticity according to BS5390 meaning it would have a propensity for volumetric change dependent on moisture content.
4. The limited horizon of the clay band meant that no meaningful moisture analysis was possible.
5. Root activity was noted within recovered soil samples to a depth of 1600mm below ground level.
6. Roots recovered during the investigation were subsequently (tentatively) identified as emanating from a Quercus (Oak).

Taken as a whole, the results of the investigation support my initial opinion that the cause of structurally minor subsidence damage to your property is vegetation induced clay shrinkage.

That said, the evidence is not as robust as I would have liked and I am mindful that only a thin band of clay is present below foundation depth.

Level monitoring of your property is likely to be the key evidence in support of any application which may be made to remove the adjacent Oak Tree.

In this respect, I have recently received the second set of readings which record further upwards movement indicating the founding soils are currently in recovery mode. It is expected that future readings will record downward movement as the adjacent tree becomes more active and this will provide firm evidence of its influence.

Copies of the data obtained to date have been forwarded to Arboricultural consultants, MWA Arboriculture Ltd, for their information and in support of any future application they issue in regards the tree.

Whilst writing I confirm my concern regarding heave within the founding soils should the tree be removed is now not an issue given the band of clays limited depth.

I trust the above is clear and acceptable and will write to you again as the situation develops.

However, should you have any queries or questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

Mark W Golding ND BTEC MFPWS
For and on behalf of
B MAULE & CO LTD
45/bc