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Professional Tree Care

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ref:R/S BialeckiB11

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Report on tree at Three Lane Ends, Chipping.

Remit

This report was commissioned for Stephen Bialecki to support an application for development on the site.

Weather

Warm and sunny.

Site and situation.

The tree is in an unkempt garden area 7m from the house, 6m from a concrete panel garage and 12m from the road on the line of a dry stone wall which it has pushed over, a concrete path runs parallel to the wall 2m to the south it too is badly damaged by the tree. To the north of the tree the ground has been cleared of vegetation, some digging has been done too.

The proposed development is south and east of the tree.

Tree.

The tree is a mature Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) 14m tall and has a DBH (trunk diameter at breast height) of 0.53m with a broad but unbalanced crown with some branches of up to 10m. The roots are lifting surrounding features (a dry stone wall and a concrete path). The main trunk appears sound with a major fork at 1.5m a bird box is attached to it and some lower limbs have been chopped back leaving long truncated branches, a particularly long limb stretches towards the house. In the high crown several branches have snapped out and at least three are still hung up. The tree appears to have grown quite vigorously in the last year.

Comments and recommendations.

This tree is an important aesthetic feature of the area and an asset to the site.

Although healthy and vigorous this tree has structural problems as its broad crown appears quite fragile and it has a tendency to lose heavy limbs.

The plan of the proposed development shows a new drive installed 6m from the tree to the south and east, if this is done sensitively and soil levels are not altered this should not have significant detrimental effects on the stability or long term health of the tree. However it would be wise to erect a protective fence and create a root protection zone before contractors come on the site with heavy plant (see BS 5837 trees in relation to construction).

The construction of the garage could also be affected by the tree as building regulations specify minimum foundation depths when large trees are nearby, this would probably be assessed during a site visit by a building inspector referring to NHBC Standards.

This tree would benefit from some pruning work to minimize risk of further limb loss and to improve crown balance. Light thinning and crown reduction of some long heavy limbs would be effective and although no guarantees of total safety can be given this will improve the safety and shape of the tree.

For further details of care for trees on development sites please refer to BS 5837 trees in relation to construction.

Work should be carried out by a competent Arboriculturist to BS 3998.

N.B. All measurements and directions are approximate.

This Tree Report was prepared by A. Piercy (Qualified Arboriculturist).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Piercy', is located below the text of the report.