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2nd May 2016

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Stephen Bialeki
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Dear Stephen

Please find enclosed a report on the trees on the site in Chatburn and my invoice. I hope you find it useful. I am also including an exert from BS 5837 which explains the grading used, I have highlighted a note at the bottom relating to the category C trees however one of the large trees on the site is a category B and will probably have to be worked round.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Piercy

✝

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Report on trees between The Croft and the railway line in Chatburn

Remit

Stephen Bialeki requested me to make a report on these trees to aid with a planning application as an initial tree report and to devise a tree constraints plan following BS5837, trees in relation to construction. The trees were examined on 29/4/2016 and were viewed from ground level using normal VTA (visual tree assessment) methods supplemented by acoustic hammer investigation techniques.
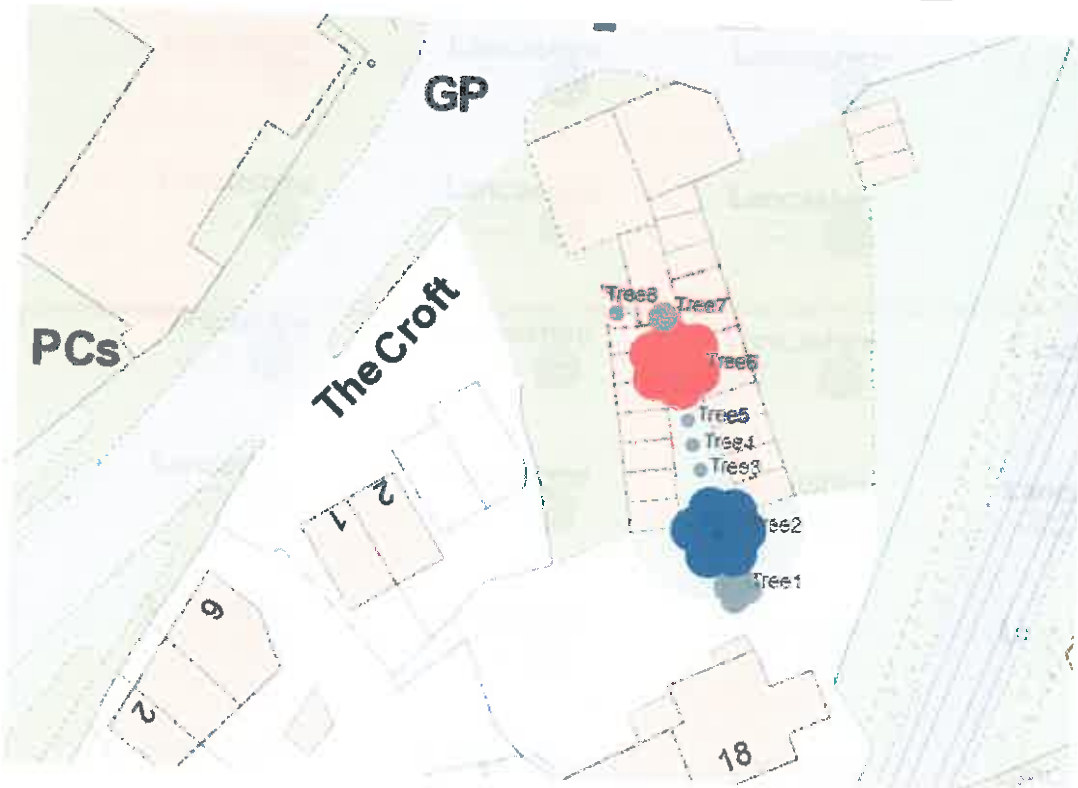
Weather
Cold, light rain with little wind.

Site & Situation
The trees are near old garages, trees 1-7 are between two rows of garages and appear to have grown through an old dry stone wall the vegetation on site is mostly unkempt. Tree 8 is in a shrubbery to the west of tree 7.

Map showing trees between The Croft and the railway line in Chatburn

Trees

The trees are recorded on a survey schedule an example of which is shown below, with a brief explanation in the following paragraphs.

Tree no.	Species	Height	DBH	Branch spread	Crown height	Age	Physiological Condition	Structural condition	Preliminary management	Useful Life	Grade
1	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	16	0.45	N 3 E 6 S 4 W 3	4	FM	Fair, some deadwood	Fair, double stem from1.5m slight crown imbalance	Remove dead wood. Improve balance?	20	B1

Tree no   The trees can be identified which relates to their position on the above plan

Species   Common name and (botanical name).

Height   Indicates the full height of the tree in meters.

DBH   Diameter of trunk at breast height in meters, or on multi stemmed trees the basal diameter.

Branch spread   These distances are measured from the trunk of the tree to the branch tips in meters and give an indication of the size of the crown.

Crown height   Height in meters of crown clearance above adjacent ground level.

Age   As it is not possible to accurately estimate the age of trees they are categorized into age groups, each group are represented by a code symbol. Several systems of coding may be used and this report uses the system outlined below.

Y: Young tree
SM: Semi mature tree
M: Mature tree
FM: Fully mature tree
OM: Over mature tree
V: Veteran

Physiological condition,   eg. good, fair, poor, dead, this gives an indication of the trees health.

Structural condition   This briefly shows the structural condition of the tree including physical defects.

Preliminary management   These are preliminary management recommendations, including initial action necessary or further investigation of suspected defects that require a more detailed assessment

Useful life   Estimated remaining number of years that the tree will give a useful contribution. (eg. under 10, 10-20, 20-40, over 40).

Grade R or A to C category grading shows the overall quality of the trees which are categorized into quality groups, each group are represented by a code symbol. (See BS 5837: 2005 section 4.3)

Category R: Trees in such a condition that any existing value would be lost in a few years and which should, in the current context be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.

Category A: Trees of high quality and value in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested.)

Category B: Trees of moderate quality and value in such a condition as to be able to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested.)

Category C: Trees of low quality and value currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established. (A minimum of 10 years is suggested.) Or young trees with a DBH under 15 cm.

Specific further comments and necessary actions are then also noted.

Nb Directions measurements etc. are approximate.

Survey schedule of trees between The Croft and the railway line in Chatburn

Tree no.	Species	Height	Stem diameter	Branch spread	Crown height	Age	Physiological Condition	Structural condition	Preliminary management	Useful Life	Grade
1	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	9	30	N1 E2 S4 W3	3	M	Good	Fair, cavities in trunk, unbalanced crown	N/A	10	C2
2	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	13	96	N4 E4 S5 W7	3	FM	Good	Good, Ivy on tree	Sever Ivy	20	B1
3	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	7	14	N2 E2 S0 W2	2	Y	Good	Fair, suppressed	N/A		C2
4	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	7	14	N2 E2 S2 W2	2	Y	Good	Good	N/A		C2
5	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	6	12	N1 E1 S1 W1	2	Y	Good	Fair, ivy on tree	Sever ivy		C2
6	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	14	97	N6 E8 S4 W7	2	OM	Fair	Poor, Large wound at 4m near tight fork & swollen stems	Remove tree before it fails	0	R
7	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	6	28	N3 E3 S0 W4	3	M	Good	Fair, cavities in trunk, unbalanced crown	N/A	10	C2
8	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	5	14	N1 E0 S1 W2	2	Y	Good	Fair, slightly suppressed	N/A		C2

Further comments

The trees have grown on the line of an old wall, a wire fence has grown into several of them too. Trees 2 and 6 are the dominant trees on site the others are young and/or suppressed by them.

Tree 6 has long term structural problems as a large wound is near a major tight fork in the tree, also there is noticeable swelling in the trunk in this area and included wood. These features show that this tree should be removed before structural failure occurs.

Tree 2 appears generally sound and is the best tree on the site though there is some wire from a fence at its base.

Trees 1 & 7 are trees suppressed by 2 & 6 and will be unlikely to mature into good structured trees as they have structural weakness too.

Trees 3,4,5 & 8 are young self seeded trees.

For further details refer to BS 5837 trees in relation to construction.

Report prepared by Andrew Piercy (Qualified Arboriculturist).

Table 1 — Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

TREES FOR REMOVAL

Category and definition	Criteria	Identification on plan
Category R Those in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management	• Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other R category trees (i.e. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby (e.g. Dutch elm disease), or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality NOTE Habitat reinstatement may be appropriate (e.g. R category tree used as a bat roost: installation of bat box in nearby tree).	DARK RED

TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION

Category and definition	Criteria — Subcategories			Identification on plan
	1 Mainly arboricultural values	2 Mainly landscape values	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
Category A Those of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual, or essential components of groups, or of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands which provide a definite screening or softening effect to the locality in relation to views into or out of the site, or those of particular visual importance (e.g. avenues or other arboricultural features assessed as groups)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	LIGHT GREEN
Category B Those of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested)	Trees that might be included in the high category, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of remediable defects including unsympathetic past management and minor storm damage)	Trees present in numbers, usually as groups or woodlands, such that they form distinct landscape features, thereby attracting a higher collective rating than they might as individuals but which are not, individually, essential components of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. trees of moderate quality within an avenue that includes better, A category specimens, or trees situated mainly internally to the site, therefore individually having little visual impact on the wider locality)	Trees with clearly identifiable conservation or other cultural benefits	MID BLUE
Category C Those of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Trees not qualifying in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater landscape value, and/or trees offering low or only temporary screening benefit	Trees with very limited conservation or other cultural benefits	GREY

NOTE Whilst C category trees will usually not be retained where they would impose a significant constraint on development, young trees with a stem diameter of less than 150 mm should be considered for relocation.