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Report on trees near Austin House, Waddington

Remit

Stephen Bialeki requested me to make a report on these trees to aid with a planning application as an initial tree report following BS5837, trees in relation to construction.

The trees were viewed from ground level using normal VTA (visual tree assessment) methods supplemented by acoustic hammer investigation techniques.

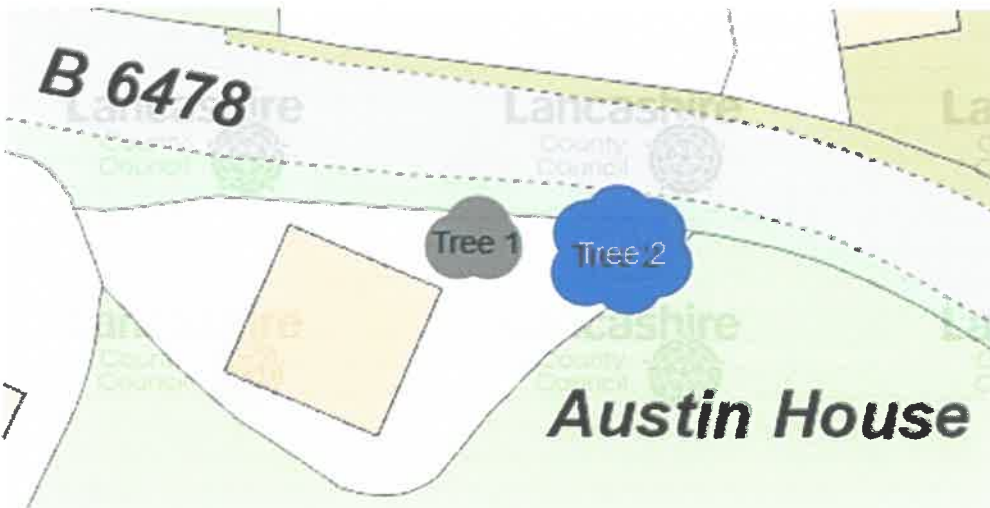
Weather

Showers, breezy.

Site & Situation

The trees are to the east of Austin House in a grassed area, tree 1 is 1m from the boundary wall and 4m from the corner of the house but its lean means it touches the roof. Tree 2 is also 1m from the wall and is 3m from the corner of the site. A buddleia bush grows between them.

Map of Trees near Austin House, Waddington



Trees

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

EXAMPLE

Tree no.	Species	Height	DBH	Branch spread	Crown height	Age	Physiological Condition	Structural condition	Preliminary management	Useful Life	Grade
	EXAMPLE						EXAMPLE				
1	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	16	0.45	N 3 E 6 S 4 W 3	4	FM	Fair, some deadwood	Fair, double stem from 1.5m 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 near Austin House, Waddington

Tree no.	Species	Height	Stem diameter	Branch spread	Crown height	Age	Physiological Condition	Structural condition	Preliminary management	Useful Life	Grade
1	Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia)	7	23	N3 E3 S4 W3	1	SM	Poor, crown thin, small sparse leaves, deadwood,	Fair, leans, unbalanced crown	Monitor for further deterioration	5	C2
2	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	12	40	N5 E5 S6 W5	3	M	Good	Good,	N/A	20	B1

Further comments

These trees are to the rear of the house but are beside the road in the village and are therefore highly visible. Tree 1 is not healthy and although no obvious pathogen is visible it appears to be deteriorating and may need removal. Tree 2 is a young mature sycamore and appears to be doing quite well and could be a good feature for many years to come.

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

Report prepared by Andrew Piercy (Qualified Arboriculturist).