



21st January 2020

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Brief report on tree near 31 Cunliffe Lane Wiswell BB7 9BT.

Remit

The inspection was carried out to aid with an application for tree felling.

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

Weather

Overcast light drizzle.

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Site & Situation

The tree is in the front garden of a detached property 9m from the house 1m from the public highway, it is in a raised garden area in the apex of a tight junction corner of the highway, The garden has a retaining wall 1.6m tall in places on this corner, the soil level up to 0.1m from the top of the wall by the tree. The wall has 5 significant cracks probably caused over the years by the tree, the force of the soil and the tree has pushed it so it now leans over the road.

Trees

The trees statistics are recorded on the survey schedule 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	Beech (<i>Fagus silvatica</i>)	19	58	N7 E 6 S 6 W6	6	FM	Good	Good. Though double stemmed from 2m	Consider removal as it is damaging the retaining wall	25	B

Tree no Self explanatory

Species Common name and (botanical name).

Height Indicates the full height of the tree in meters.

DBH Diameter of trunk at breast height in centimeters.

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 to the points of the compass.

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, trees may survive for many times longer than this figure but their condition may mean they are unsuitable.

Grade U 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 U: 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.

NB. Directions measurements etc. are approximate.

Tree

This large tree appears to be generally sound and in good health however it is damaging the retaining wall over the road, attempts to patch this wall have been ineffective so it is likely to need replacing and to replace the wall the trees roots will be significantly cut back to install foundations.

Comments and Recommendations

Although this tree is a highly visible feature on the street the damage by the tree to the retaining wall is such that the tree should be removed to prevent further deterioration and possible failure of the wall. The owner is particularly concerned that the wall may fall on the road.

The wall itself needs proper assessment to ascertain the best course of action as when the tree is removed there will still be further soil movement.

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

Report prepared by Andrew Piercy (Qualified Arboriculturist).

