

Committee: Planning

Agenda Item

Date: 12th February 2025

Title: UTT/24/2840/TCA: Notification of intent to carry out tree works within a conservation area at Saffron Walden Museum and within Walden Castle Grounds.

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Item for decision

Summary

1. This item seeks the Committee's consideration of the proposed 30% Crown Reduction on 15 trees situated within a conservation area in the grounds of the Saffron Walden Museum Yard as well as crown reduction and branch removal to 3 trees located within Walden Castle Grounds. The trees are in the ownership of UDC.

Recommendations

2. No objection be raised to the proposed tree works.

Financial Implications

3. The cost of undertaking the proposed tree work would be drawn from existing budget provisions.

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

UTT/24/2840/TCA.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Details of the decision to be entered on to the public register of TCA notifications.
Community Safety	none
Equalities	none

Health and Safety	none
Human Rights/Legal Implications	none
Sustainability	none
Ward-specific impacts	none
Workforce/Workplace	none

Situation

6. Notification of intent to carry out the proposed tree works has been submitted on behalf of UDC's Assistant Director ICT & Facilities. This followed concerns raised over reduction in natural light to property numbers 21 – 36 Castle Street Saffron Walden and risk of trees falling onto properties. Crown reduction and removal of branches within Castle Grounds to rear of no 54b Castle Street Saffron Walden are proposed to prevent branches snapping and falling in garden of property. The trees are in the ownership of UDC. Refer Appendix 1: Location plan below for location of trees.
7. Saffron Walden Museum – trees consist of the following species (refer Appendix 2: Photo 1 below):
 - 3 No *Taxus baccatta* (Common yew)
 - 8 No *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore maple)
 - 2 No *Aeculus hippocastanum* (Horse chestnut)
 - 1 No *Fraxinus excelsior* (Common ash)
 - 1 No *Carpinus betulus* (Common hornbeam)
8. Castle Grounds - trees consist of the following species (refer Appendix 2: Photos 2-3 below):
 - 2 No *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore maple) - branches to be removed to prevent them snapping and falling in garden of property
 - 1 No *Tillia X europaea* (Common lime) - crown reduction to previous points. Tree is growing heavily over the property, reducing back to previous points will reduce risk of limbs breaking at growth point and falling onto property
9. The visibility of these trees from the public realm is limited. They can be briefly glimpsed from the driveway entrance to the museum on Museum Street (refer Appendix 2: Photo 4 below) as well as from 36 Castle Street (refer Photo 5 below)

Risk Analysis

1.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
3 There is a significant risk of a major failure/collapse of these trees.	3 The likelihood of a major failure particularly in high winds requires action.	4 The location of the trees within a public area and adjacent to residential properties makes the impact of a failure/collapse of these trees potentially catastrophic.	Proposed tree works as per schedule should go ahead – 30% crown reduction and removing affected branches

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.

Appendix 1: Location Plan



Appendix 2: Photo 1



Looking north to variety of tree species within Museum Yard

Photo 2



Tree 16

Photo 3



Trees 17 and 18

Photo 4



Looking east to the trees from museum driveway entrance on Museum Street

Photo 5



Looking south to the trees from 36 Castle Street