



Arboricultural Report
Hillcrest Avenue Jericho Plantation
Whitehaven
January 2025

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1.0 Terms of Reference

1.1 This Hillcrest Avenue Jericho Plantation Arboricultural Report has been commissioned by Cumberland Council, Parks and Open Spaces, Allerdale House, Workington. CA14 3YJ.

1.2 The inspection commissioned to assess 3 No. semi mature Sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, and 1 No. semi mature Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*, situated in an amenity woodland known as Jericho Plantation to the rear, east, of residential properties at Hillcrest Avenue, Whitehaven. CA28 6ST. The inspection being undertaken from ground level with no exploratory excavation works undertaken.

1.3 This Arboricultural Report, site visit, assessment and investigation have been undertaken by Mr Daniel Bold M.Arbor.A, N.C. Arb., H.N.D. Arb., N.E.B.O.S.H. General Certificate, of Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy.

1.4 The site investigations, assessments and arboricultural report on the trees inspected has been established by implementing the following:

National Tree Safety Group.

Common Sense Risk Management of Trees. Forestry Commission 2011.

British Standard 5837:2012.

Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction –Recommendations.

British Standard 3998:2010.

Tree work – Recommendations.

Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) methods, and Cumbria Tree Surveys protocols.

1.5 The arboricultural inspection and report are an assessment of the tree specimens on the date of inspection. Trees are living organisms and undergo alterations in structure and physiology throughout their live stages and as a result of wind, storm and drought weather events, insect, animal and human activity. As such, no tree can be considered as completely risk free. The arboricultural report being valid for a period of 12 months from the date of inspection. No liability will be held by the surveyor or Cumbria Tree Surveys for events that occur post survey date.

1.6 The site survey being undertaken on the following date:

9th January 2025. Weather: Bright, sunny clear with no breeze.



2.0 Arboricultural Inspection Constraints, Details and Observations

2.1 The trees inspected and assessed to establish the following details.

2.2 Species.

Common name first, with the scientific botanical name in italics.

2.3 Age Class, Life Stage.

Four age classes as defined in British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations, are available for use for the purpose of this arboricultural inspection report. That is, Young, Semi Mature, Mature and Over Mature. This system represents the tree specimen within its life cycle.

Young being in the early formative years and still with the potential for future vigorous extension growth.

Semi Mature being in essence middle aged with growth having slowed.

Mature is regarded as the stage in the life cycle of the tree specimen when extension growth has virtually ceased and the tree specimen is, in the main, sustaining the life cycle with little or no extension growth.

Over Mature is that stage in the life cycle of the tree where the specimen is in decline.

2.4 Arboricultural Observations and Comments.

Observations and comments regarding the health and safety status, structural condition and overall physiological condition of the specimen.

2.5 Arboricultural Condition.

An assessment of the overall condition of the specimen taking into account the factors identified in 2.4 and classified as follows: Good, Fair, Poor, Dead.

Good. Trees generally free of defects, structural faults and showing good health shape and form for age and species.

Fair. Trees with minor defects, structural faults and usually of average shape and form for age and species.

Poor. Trees in decline with impaired condition and generally of poor shape and form for age and species and / or with significant structural defects.

Dead. Trees with no indication of life or in advanced stages of decline.

2.6 Arboricultural Recommendations.

Recommendations required for the benefit of good tree care management, sound arboricultural practice and to abate any potential health and safety issues arising from the specimen.



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3.0 Arboricultural Inspection Data Table and Analysis

3.1 Hillcrest Avenue Jericho Plantation Inspection Data Table.

Tree Number	Species	Life Stage	Arboricultural Observations and Comments	Condition	Arboricultural Recommendations
T1	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Semi Mature	Specimen of poor shape and form. Upper crown dying back. Crown stag headed with extensive deadwood present. Specimen situated at rear of properties on Hillcrest Avenue being within falling distance of garden boundary.	Poor	Prune to remove entire crown leaving 3-4 metre high standing stem to create "Monolith" wildlife habitat. The applicant should reserve the option to fell the standing stem should this be required over the period of consent
T2	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Semi Mature	Specimen of poor shape and form. Upper crown dying back. Crown stag headed with extensive deadwood present. Specimen situated at rear of properties on Hillcrest Avenue being within falling distance of garden boundary.	Poor	Prune to remove entire crown leaving 3-4 metre high standing stem to create "Monolith" wildlife habitat. The applicant should reserve the option to fell the standing stem should this be required over the period of consent.
T3	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Semi Mature	Specimen of poor shape and form. Upper crown dying back. Crown stag headed with extensive deadwood present. Specimen situated at rear of properties on Hillcrest Avenue being within falling distance of garden boundary.	Poor	Prune to remove entire crown leaving 3-4 metre high standing stem to create "Monolith" wildlife habitat. The applicant should reserve the option to fell the standing stem should this be required over the period of consent
T4	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Semi Mature	Specimen of poor shape and form being in advanced stages of decline. Base of specimen with extensive decay as a result of <i>Kretchmaria deusta</i> , commonly known as Brittle Cinder. Upper crown dying back. Crown stag headed with extensive deadwood present. Specimen situated at rear of properties on Hillcrest Avenue being within falling distance of garden boundary.	Poor	Fell.

3.2 T4, Sycamore is clearly in decline with deadwood throughout the crown. At the base of the specimen on the main stem is evidence of *Kretchmaria deusta*, commonly known as Brittle Cinder.

3.3 Brittle Cinder often establishes on tree specimens following damage / wounding to the stem and or rooting system and is particularly associated with Sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus*.

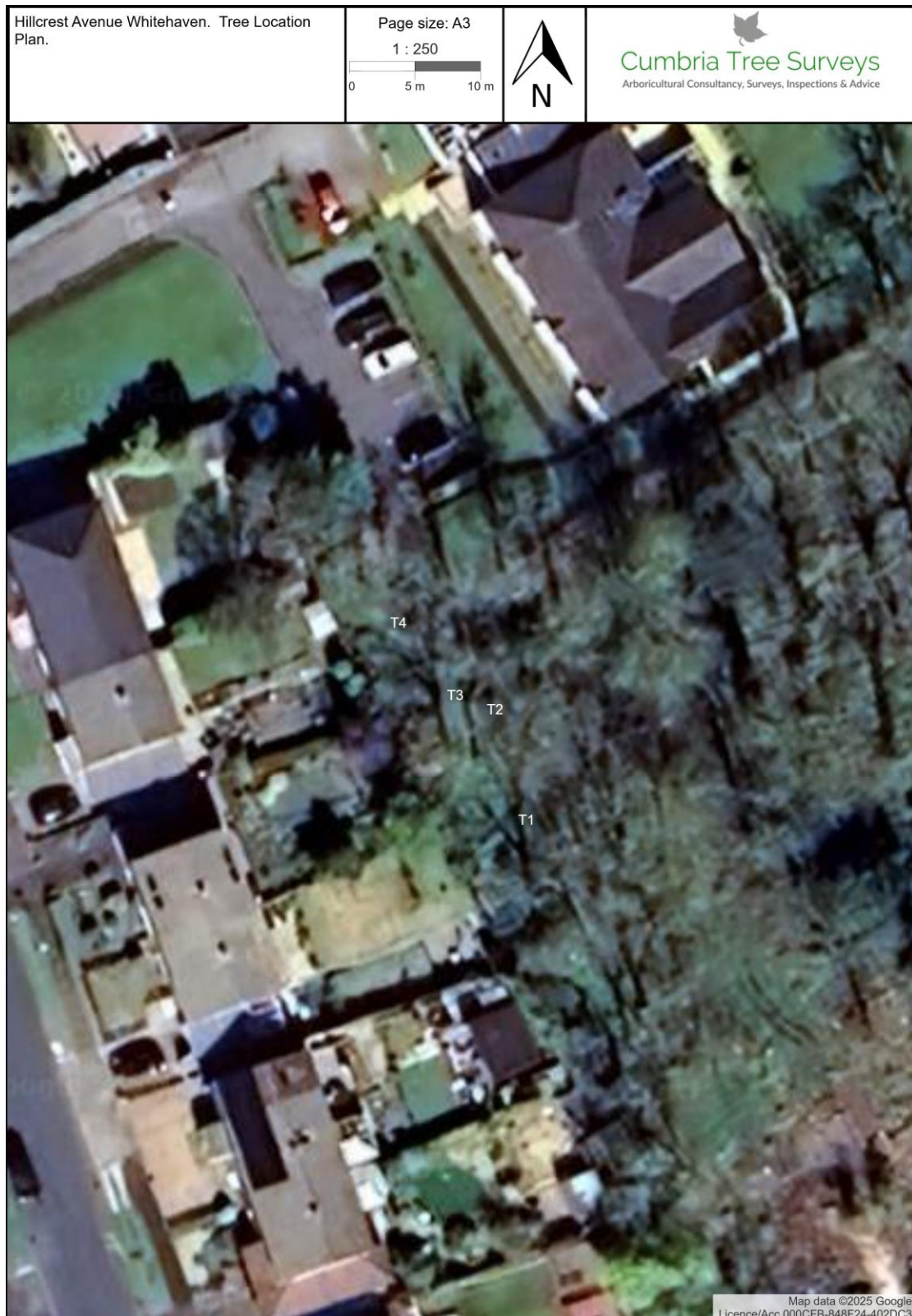
3.4 Generally regarded as a Soft Rot. Brittle Cinder degrades both lignin and cellulose. Lignin being the main cell structure associated with tree rigidity providing structure, support, and acts as a barrier to insects and pathogens. Cellulose is also a cell structure associated with tree and plant strength and rigidity.

3.5 The presence of Brittle Cinder is an indicator that the structural integrity of the infected tree specimen has been compromised. Fell is therefore recommended.



4.0 Tree Location Plan

4.1 Hillcrest Avenue Tree Location Plan. Jericho Plantation.



5.0 Arboricultural Inspection Recommendations

5.1 Following the site visit, assessment and investigation the following arboricultural recommendations and those as listed in the Arboricultural Inspection Data Table are proposed.

5.2 It is understood that the Jericho Plantation including the four trees subject to this arboricultural report are subject to statutory tree protection in the terms of a Tree Preservation Order.

5.3 The presence of a tree preservation order requires an application to undertake the arboricultural recommendations shall need to be submitted to the administrator of the tree preservation order, Cumberland Council. Work must not commence until such time as written consent has been received.

5.4 The arboricultural work recommended, often referred to as tree surgery, should only be undertaken by a trained, competent and fully insured arboricultural contractor. All arboricultural works to be undertaken in accordance with the standards as required by British Standard 3998:2010, Tree work - Recommendations.

5.5 In accordance with good arboricultural practice and for reasons of Health and Safety. It is recommended, if retained, the tree stock as listed in this Hillcrest Avenue Jericho Plantation Arboricultural Report be inspected on an annual basis from the anniversary of the Arboricultural Report inspection date by a professional, trained, experienced and competent fully insured Arboricultural Consultant following Cumbria Tree Surveys protocols.



6.0 Photographic Evidence

T1. Upper crown dying back with deadwood present.



T2. Upper crown dying back with deadwood present.

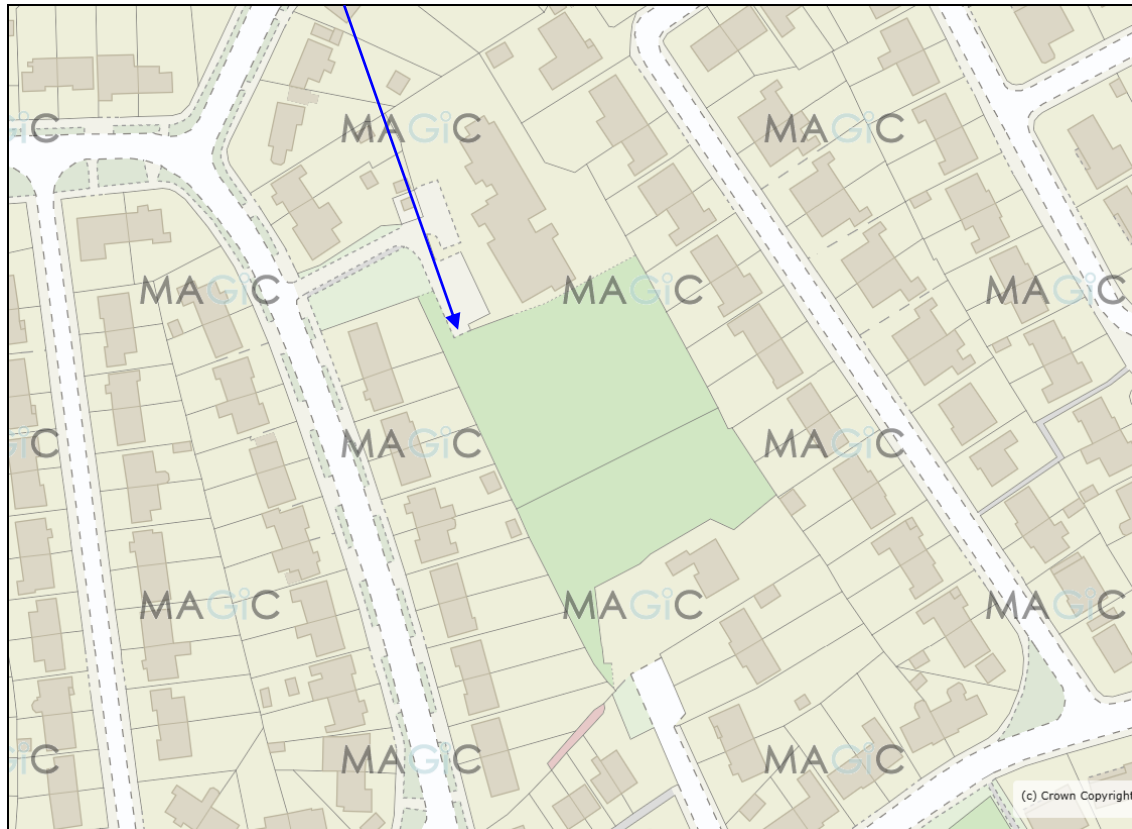




T4. Base of specimen with evidence of Brittle Cinder.



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Jericho Plantation access location, from nursing home.



Signed: *Daniel Bold*

Date: 14th January 2025

Daniel Bold M.Arbor.A., N.C.Arb., H.N.D. Arb., N.E.B.O.S.H. General Certificate.
Cumbria Tree Surveys Arboricultural Consultancy.

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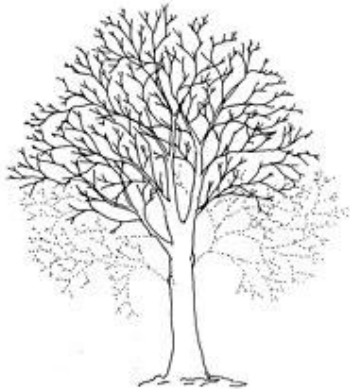


Definitions

The following definitions are based on British Standard 3998:2010, Tree work - Recommendations, British Standard 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations and Arboricultural terminology.

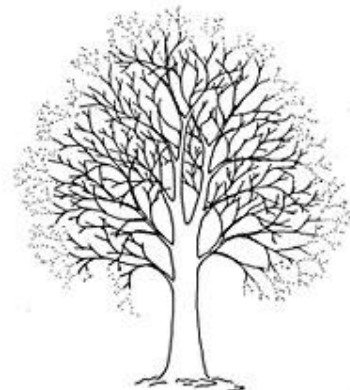
Tree Structure

- Stem:** Main supporting body / truck of the tree and crown.
Scaffold Branch: Main supporting branches for the crown and lead off the main stem.
Secondary Branch: Branches that lead off the scaffold branches.
Tertiary Branches: Those branches that lead off the secondary branches are usually small in diameter and contain the leaf cover.



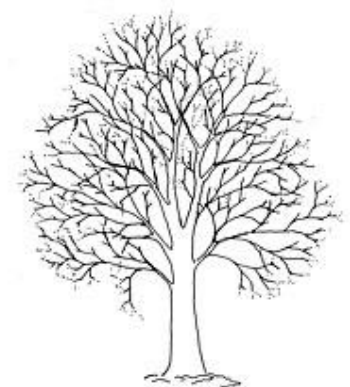
Crown Raising / Crown Lifting

Crown Raising / Crown Lifting is the removal of the lowest branches. Crown Raising is an effective method of increasing the height of the crown over a given target / hazard or obstacle. Crown Raising also enables light transmission to areas closer to the tree. At least two thirds of the total height of the tree should remain. Crown lifting should be specified with reference to a fixed point, e.g. "Crown Raise" to give 5.5 metres clearance above ground level'.



Crown Reduction

Crown Reduction is the reduction in height and / or spread of the crown. The final result should retain the main framework of the crown, and a significant proportion of the leaf bearing structure, leaving a similar, although smaller outline. Not all species are suitable for this treatment and crown reduction should not be confused with 'topping', an indiscriminate and harmful treatment



Crown Thinning

Crown Thinning is the removal of a portion of smaller / tertiary branches, usually at the outer crown, to produce a uniform density of foliage around an evenly spaced branch structure. It is usually confined to broad-leaved species. Crown thinning does not alter the overall size or shape of the tree. Material should be removed systematically throughout the tree, should not exceed the stated percentage and not more than 30% overall. Common reasons for crown thinning are to allow more light to pass through the tree, reduce wind resistance and reduce weight. It is rarely a once only operation particularly on species that are known to produce large amounts of epicormic growth.



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Crown Balance

The method of pruning branches to develop an evenly distributed and weighted crown.

Crown Clean

The method of pruning those branches that are dead, dying, dangerous and deemed to be of poor quality including crossing and rubbing branches.

Side Prune

Method of pruning branches on one side of a tree crown to achieve a clearance from object / obstruction. Similar to Crown Raise.

Coppicing

Cutting trees close to ground level with the intention of encouraging regrowth of multiple shoots. This practice is species and age dependent.

Deadwood

The pruning of dead, dying branches from the crown of the tree. This may be for the entire crown or specific branches are specified in the Arboricultural Report.

Epicormic Growth

The growing of a previously dormant bud on the main stem or limb of a tree. Often as a result of defoliation or radical pruning.

Fell

The felling or dismantling in sections, of a tree to ground level.

Hedge Laying

The established practice of making and or establishing a hedge by correct cutting and pegging techniques. Stems are cut part way through, laid horizontally and pegged to hold them in position.

Pollarding

Quite a specific process that involves pruning a tree so as to encourage formation of numerous branches arising from the same height on a main stem or principal branches. Important. This process ought to be undertaken on a cyclical basis on trees that have not reached maturity.

Root Protection Area

The minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability and where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority.

Windblow / Windblown

Complete failure of the tree due to a wind or storm event.

Bibliography

National Tree Safety Group.

Common Sense Risk Management of Trees. Forestry Commission 2011.

British Standard 5837:2012

Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations.

British Standard 3998:2010

Tree work – Recommendations.

