

Proposed Felling of 1no. Sycamore Tree in The Grounds of The Museum Saffron Walden: Within a Conservation Area

Development Control, Item 7

Committee: Development Control

Agenda Item

Date: 2 September 2009

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Title: Proposed Felling of 1no. Sycamore Tree in The Grounds of The Museum Saffron Walden: Within a Conservation Area.

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Summary

- 1 This item seeks Members' consideration of the proposed felling of 1no. Sycamore tree in the grounds of the Museum, Saffron Walden. The tree is within the town conservation area.

Recommendations

No objection is raised to the proposed felling of the Sycamore tree.

Background Papers

PT/6/8/Saffron Walden

Impact

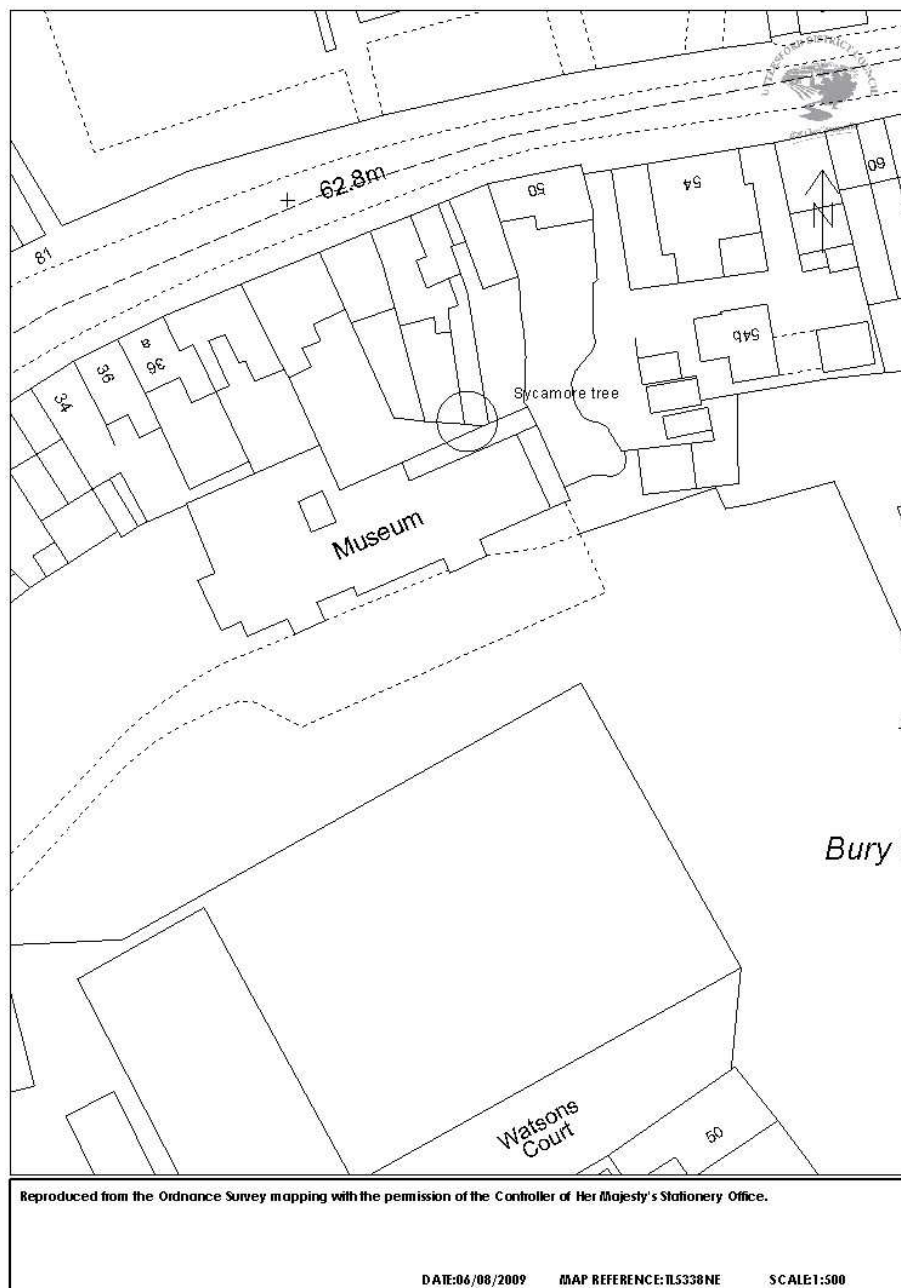
Communication/Consultation	Neighbour notification of proposed works. Entry on register of proposed works to trees in a conservation area.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Finance	Cost of work to be drawn from existing budget provisions for tree works/ground maintenance.
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

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Situation

Notification of intent to fell a Sycamore tree on ground immediately to the north of the Museum building has been made by Environmental Services. The reason for carrying out this work is that the tree is in close proximity to the Museum building and has the potential to damage the fabric of the building and an adjacent retaining wall.



The tree has been inspected by the Council's landscape Officer and found to be a self-set specimen of some 10 metres in height. The tree is situated on the higher level immediately adjacent to a 2 metre high retaining wall at the northern boundary of the Museum grounds. The tree's main stem is approximately 5 metres from the northern façade of the Museum building.

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It is considered highly likely that if the tree is retained it will cause structural damage to the retaining wall. In addition, the close proximity of the tree to the Museum building may give rise to problems of damp penetration in the brick work.

Whilst it is considered that a significant reduction in crown would alterinte the potential problems, this would not consitute a medium or longterm solution.

The tree is not readily visble from any public vantage points and has little amenity value in its own right.



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Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
1	1	1	Standard health & safety procedures to apply to undertaking tree works.

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.